



WCCB Newsletter

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From Additional Director's Desk

New Delhi: As we enter the new year (2022), with it follows hope, aspirations, as well as challenges. The world continues to grapple with Covid-19, a zoonotic disease, a stark reminder, a caution to mankind of its misadventure with wildlife.



As the world comes closer by virtue of new age technology and scientific advancements, we see a rise in online wildlife trafficking across the globe, clearly posing a new challenge for law enforcement officials world-over. This new trend needs a quick, concerted response from the law enforcement agencies, globally and in unison. WCCB has confronted the issue in all seriousness and is taking stringent measures to curb online wildlife crime in the country.

WCCB is also expanding its outreach to develop cooperation, cohesion among different enforcement agencies across the country with its aim towards a focused attention to tackle this online wildlife crime. We have received considerable support from all law enforcement agencies so far, and would like to thank them for their continued support to WCCB in its endeavor towards countering the menace of wildlife trafficking.

This is the 5th edition of the Newsletter. We look forward to your suggestions to help improve it further. Jai Hind!

— Ms. Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, WCCB

Picture in Focus



Students of the 'Kheria Shabar Community' one of the oldest indigenous Tribal Community of West Bengal, were taken on a tour to Alipore Zoo and were sensitized towards wildlife conservation, during a program organized by WCCB in partnership with WWF-India, on 25-03-2022.



"We don't own
the planet Earth,
we belong to it.
And we must share
it with our
wildlife."

-Steve Irwin

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and The Wildlife Saga

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is the apex anti-smuggling agency of the Government, which was established in the year 1957 with the primary mandate of countering smuggling of contraband items like Gold, NDPS, FICN, wildlife, environmentally hazardous products as well as detecting Customs related commercial frauds. Historically, while the focus of DRI on enforcement in non-fiscal areas such as environmental crime is relatively recent, DRI has achieved major success in its efforts to curb the smuggling of sensitive goods at the borders such as wildlife, hazardous waste, toxic chemicals, and ozone depleting substances.

Environmental crime is globally recognized as a serious organized crime threatening the existence of many species across the globe, pushing them to the brink of extinction and adversely impacting entire ecosystem having wide ramification on national & international security, social and economic development, global health, biodiversity, and habitat. These crimes are also closely interlinked with money laundering, hawala transactions as well as financing of terrorism.

To fight against these crimes, the international community has concluded a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (ODS), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity etc. The World Wide Fund (WWF) estimates the illegal trade in wildlife to be around £ 15 billion and the fourth largest

transnational illicit activity in the world after drugs, human trafficking & counterfeiting.

Cross-border and international cooperation, communication, and coordination are essential to effectively respond to wildlife crime and address the entire illegal trade chain. From India's perspective, DRI is one of the lead agencies which is engaged in addressing this challenge.

DRI mainly derives its mandate to regulate such illegal trade, particularly the species covered in CITES, mainly through provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Foreign Trade Policy and the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA, 1972). The WPA, 1972 has divided the protection status of various plants and animals under the following six schedules. Schedule I covers endangered species that need rigorous protection. The species are granted protection from poaching, killing, trading etc. Animals under Schedule II are also accorded high protection with the prohibition on their trade. Species that are not endangered are included under Schedule III and IV. This includes protected species in respect of which hunting is prohibited. Foreign Trade policy is announced periodically by the Ministry of Commerce in compliance with the provisions of the CITES and WPA, 1972 and it stipulates the conditions for import/export of all goods including wildlife.

Some of the significant detections of illicitly traded wildlife and wildlife items by DRI in recent past are as follows:

- Red Sanders;
- Tortoise & Turtles;
- Elephant Ivory;
- Exotic Birds & Animals



Sh. Alok Tewari
Pr. Director General
Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
(DRI)

Among numerous challenges faced by the enforcement officers, the biggest one is to tackle the sheer volume of international traffic, and the ever-changing methods that smugglers use, like blending illegal consignments with the huge volume of legitimate trade. New ways of concealment and novel modus operandi are being evolved by the international crime syndicates.

To counter the illicit trade, DRI has been participating in various global operations such as Operation Thunderstorm, Demeter, Gamma, INAMA, etc. to keep up with the global practices. DRI, being the premier anti-smuggling agency, is in the forefront of this fight and remains committed to the conservation and protection of nature and natural resources, both flora and fauna, as part of Green Customs initiative of World Customs Organization. The Green Customs Initiative, launched in 2004, is an unprecedented informal partnership of international organisations cooperating to prevent the illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities and substances and to facilitate the legal trade.

Major Wildlife Seizures by DRI

Red Sanders

Red sanders (scientific name: *Pterocarpus santalinus*) is also known as red sandalwood/ ruby wood and as rakta chandan/laal chandan, vernacularly. It is endemic to India and found only in Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges region of Andhra Pradesh. Red sanders are highly valued and prized in East Asia, especially in China and Japan. Red sanders has a wide variety of uses, from carving beautiful traditional musical instruments and grandiose furniture, to using it for preparation of traditional medicines and edible dyes. Red sanders was classified as 'near threatened' in 2018 and has now joined the 'endangered' category in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List in 2021. The latest IUCN assessment stated: "Over the last three generations, the species has experienced a population decline of 50-80 per cent". It is protected under Red Sanders and Sandalwood Transit Rules of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967 and is also classified as a "reserved tree" under the Andhra Pradesh Preservation of Private Forest Rules, 1978.

The Red sanders smuggling syndicates typically attempt to substitute the declared export cargo with red sanders after Customs clearance. In recent years, there has been a surge in smuggling through various seaports, especially Chennai. Despite all efforts and layering of smuggling activities by the syndicates, the DRI has seized approximately 580 MT of red sanders (2018- Feb 2022), which is valued at hundreds of crores in the illicit market.

The seizures made are mainly in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra.

The seizures of Red Sanders indicate that despite being sourced from a unique natural habitat in Andhra Pradesh, there is an organized cartel of operators who are involved in its smuggling and who attempt to illegally export it through all the major ports in the country.

Tortoise & Turtles

Tortoises and Turtles have long been the target of organized crime syndicates, both for satisfying demand abroad and a growing demand within India. Smuggling occurs for local and global pet trade, mainly to Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, and to some other countries in Southeast and East Asia. The Indian Star Tortoises found in the areas of north-western India falls amongst the top three species of freshwater turtles and tortoises, most commonly seized in the region. Some other seized species of turtles and tortoises include Tricarinate Hill Turtle, Indian Roofed Turtle, Indian Pond Turtle (spotted), Red eared slider, African spurred Tortoise etc.

The proactive vigilance of the officers of DRI has led to large number of interdictions from 2017 to 2021 resulting in seizure of approximately 17,738 turtles and tortoises - including 9546 Indian Star Tortoises in the year 2020. After, the seizure, as per the Foreign Trade Policy, read with the Wildlife Protection Act and relevant Appendix of CITES, they are being handed over to the concerned jurisdictional forest department officials for releasing them in their natural habitat.

Elephant Ivory

Elephants are one of the most poached mammals on the planet, primarily for their tusks, but also for their skin, meat, and hair, resulting in decline of their large population in India. DRI has been at the forefront in the counter-trafficking efforts across borders. There have been numerous attempts to poach and indulge in illicit trading activities in tusks, skin, etc. In February 2021, the officers of DRI Kolkata seized 12.95 kg of elephant tusks valued at about Rs 1.30 crores. Similarly, in January 2019, 4 cut pieces of elephant tusks weighing 16.96 kg were seized at Siliguri, West Bengal and in Dec 2018, 6 cut pieces of elephant tusks totally weighing 10.45 kg were seized by the DRI officers at New Jalpaiguri (Railway Station), West Bengal.

In March 2019, DRI officers apprehended two persons near Santragachi Railway Station, Howrah, West Bengal and recovered elephant tusks weighing around 3 kg. Further, follow up action at a residential premises resulted in the recovery of sculptures, jewelry etc. made from ivory. The value of the seized articles in this operation is around Rs. 1.45 crores.

Exotic Birds and Animals

Exotic live species are animal or plant species moved from their original range (location) to a new one. Globally, there is a huge demand for exotic animals for keeping as pets, for meat, skin, body parts etc. As exotic species cannot be traded as they are under various international protections, they are smuggled across borders at high premium.

DRI has, many a times, encountered such trade and multiple seizures of hundreds of exotic birds, animals, reptiles of foreign origin in the last four years. The seized species include Red and Blue Macaw, Grey and Blue Eclectus, Grey and White Pigmy Falcon, black necked Aracaris, Cockatiels, Java Sparrows, Star Finches, Gouldian Finches, Blue & Yellow Macaw, Kookabura, Cockatoos, Knobbed Hornbill, Grey Parrots, Blue Gold Macaw, Silver Macaw, black and white Ruffed Lemurs, Yellow tailed Black Cocktail, Cassowary Chicks, Marmoset, Birds of Paradise, Hollock Gibbons etc. Further, 800 nos. of "Dried Shark Spinal Bones", and 336.9 kg of Pangolin scales were seized by DRI officers.

In June 2020, DRI, Kolkata busted a major wildlife smuggling syndicate and seized 22 exotic birds which were being illegally brought into India from Bangladesh. In yet another operation in January 2021, DRI Aizawl regional Unit in coordination with the forest department, seized Guenon Monkey of West African Origin and several exotic birds, which were being smuggled across Indo-Myanmar border.

(Report based on data supplied by DRI)

Enforcement Operations



West Bengal: WCCB carried out a joint operation with Lataguri Forest Range, Jalpaiguri and seized Approx. 1.5 kg. of Pangolin Scales and one Leopard skin and arrested two persons at Batabari area of Jalpaiguri District, on 04-01-2022.

Tamil Nadu: On intelligence, a cargo of mud-crabs meant for transportation to Malaysia was detained and 1326 live Star Tortoises packed in thermocol boxes were seized by joint team of WCCB and Customs Authorities, from Chennai Airport, on 04-01-2022.

West Bengal: A joint operation, conducted by WCCB team in association with 34 Bn. SSB, led to seizure of one dry-skin of Leopard-cat & one dead Tokay Gecko and arrest of 01 person from Alipurduar, on 06-01-2022.

Maharashtra: Based on information, Joint team of WCCB and Maharashtra Forest Department conducted search at a religious place in Nanded and rescued 05 Black Bucks from the premise, on 07-01-2022.

Madhya Pradesh: WCCB conducted a joint operation in association with M.P Forest Department and arrested three persons with 13 Tiger claws and 02 Tiger canines, at Panpatha buffer area of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, on 08-01-2022.

West Bengal: A joint operation, conducted by WCCB and West Bengal Forest Dept. at Natun Bazar in North 24 Parganas District, led to seizure of 72 live Indian Softshell Turtles, on 09-01-2022.

Madhya Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB and M.P Forest Department seized a spotted Deer skin & a pair of Deer antlers and arrested 01 person from Bijadandi area of Madhya Pradesh, on 13-01-2022

Madhya Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB & Mandla Police seized a Leopard skin and arrested two persons from Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, on 20-01-2022



Enforcement Operations



Assam: WCCB conducted a joint operation with Assam Forest Department at a Resort in Sonapur, Assam and seized 4.100 kg. of Pangolin Scale and arrested seven persons, on 27-01-2022.

Uttar Pradesh: An intelligence led operation, conducted by WCCB and STF, U.P Police, led to arrest of one person with 200 live Turtles from Hardoi, on 28-01-2022.

Assam: WCCB conducted a joint operation with Digboi Forest Division and seized 6.3 kg. of Pangolin scales and arrested 03 persons from Makum area of Tinsukia, Assam, on 07-02-2022.

West Bengal: WCCB conducted a joint operation with Bagdogra Forest Range Office & 08th Bn SSB and seized 02 Tokay Geckos & arrested one person at Kestopur near Bagdogra, on 12-02-2022.

Uttar Pradesh: On intelligence of WCCB, STF, U.P Police arrested 03 persons while they were transporting Indian soft-shelled turtles stuffed in bags to West Bengal by train, at Varanasi Railway Station, on 15-02-2022.

Gujarat: Joint team of WCCB and Surat Forest Division conducted raid at a Pet Shop at Surat, Gujarat and seized 07 live Parakeets, on 16-02-2022.

Assam: One live Chinese Pangolin was seized and two persons were arrested, in a joint operation of WCCB and Assam Forest Department from Barpeta, on 19-02-2022.

West Bengal: 30 Alexandrine Parakeet Chicks were seized and 02 persons were arrested. by joint team of WCCB and WCCU of West Bengal, on 20-02-2022.

Uttarakhand: Joint team of WCCB, STF, Uttarakhand Police and Officials of Nandhaur Forest Range arrested a person with 1.66 Kg. of Pangolin Scales at Sitarganj-Chorgalia Road in Haldwani District, on 22-02-2022.

West Bengal: Joint team of WCCB and Howrah Forest Division seized 02 Snake Venom jars and arrested one person, on 24-02-2022.

Madhya Pradesh: A joint operation by WCCB, STSF, STF, M.P Police and Forest Department, led to seizure of a Leopard Skin and arrest of two persons at Shahpur area of Dindori District (M.P), on 03-03-2022.



Enforcement Operations



Bihar: WCCB carried out a joint operation in association with 19 Bn. SSB & Bihar Police and arrested three persons with two Snake Venom Jars from Thakurganj area of Kishanganj, Bihar, on 05-03-2022.

West Bengal: Joint team of WCCB, FRO, Ghoshpukur and Special Operation Party of 41 Bn. SSB, Ranidanga seized an Elephant tusk (approx. 136 gm.) and arrested two persons at Bagdogra, West Bengal, on 08-03-2022.



Tamil Nadu: Joint team of WCCB and Tirunelveli Forest Range seized one live Red Sand Boa Snake & arrested six persons from Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, on 08-03-2022.

Maharashtra: A joint operation conducted by WCCB and Maharashtra Forest Department, resulted in seizure of a Leopard skin & arrest of 03 persons from MIHAN area of Nagpur, Maharashtra, on 06-03-2022.

Madhya Pradesh: WCCB conducted a joint operation in association with M.P Forest Dept., STF, M.P Police & STSF and seized a live Pangolin & arrested 06 persons from Baihar area of Mandla District, on 12-03-2022.



West Bengal: WCCB conducted a joint operation with Ghoshpukur Forest Department & Special Operation Party of 41 Bn, SSB, Ranidanga and seized a Leopard skin from the possession of two persons, on 11-03-2022.

Tamil Nadu: WCCB and Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) conducted a joint operation at Madurai and seized 08 Parakeet Chicks & 02 Deer Antlers along with the arrest of three persons, on 13-03-2022.



Delhi: Joint team of WCCB and CBI conducted a search operation at a garment shop/ gowdown in Okhla area of Delhi and seized total of 57 Shawls, Stoles & running fabrics containing guard hair of Tibetan Antelope (Shahtoosh), on 16-03-2022.

Assam: WCCB conducted a joint operation with Assam Forest Dept. and 27th Bn. SSB, which led to seizure of around 02 kg. of Dry pangolin scale and arrest of four persons from Guwahati, Assam, on 16-03-2022.

Tamil Nadu: A two-day long joint operation, conducted by WCCB & Tamil Nadu Forest Dept., led to seizure of four ivory pieces from Tirrupur (T.N), on 18-03-2022.



Enforcement Operations

Big seizures of wildlife contrabands

Tamil Nadu



A well-coordinated operation was conducted by WCCB with Tamil Nadu State Police and Forest Dept. teams, in which several wildlife articles including 150 Kg. of processed Sea cucumbers, 650 Kg. of Shark Fins & 1500 Kg. of Turmeric were seized from Mandapam, District Ramnad, Tamil Nadu, on 01-01-2022.

Uttar Pradesh



In a major operation conducted by WCCB in association with STF Uttar Pradesh, a total of 1878 live flapshell turtles, stuffed in gunny bags, were seized from a truck and two persons were arrested from Kanpur in the wee hours of 06-02-2022

Chhattisgarh



In a two-day long joint operation conducted by WCCB with Chhattisgarh Forest and Police Department, several wildlife articles including 05 Leopard claws, 19 Kg. of Pangolin scales & 04 Star Tortoise were seized and five persons were arrested, at Jagdalpur and Dantewara area of Chhattisgarh, on 11 & 12 Feb, 2022.

Maharashtra



10 Snakes of different species & 01 live Softshell Turtle were seized and one person was arrested from Kundalwadi area of Biloli in Maharashtra by joint team of WCCB and Maharashtra Forest Dept, on 07-01-2022.



Snakes seized were 05 Indian Cobra, 02 Trinket Snake, 01 Rat Snake (dead), 01 Russell's viper and 01 Checkered Keelback.

Assam



In a major joint operation, conducted by WCCB in association with Police & Forest Departments of Assam & Arunachal Pradesh, several wildlife contrabands including 01 Royal Bengal Tiger Skin, 04 Tiger Canine, 18 Tiger Nails & Tiger bones with skull (14.4 kg.) were seized and 03 persons were arrested from Banderdewa, Assam, on 08-02-2022.



Enforcement Operations

Delhi



A joint operation of WCCB and Delhi Forest Dept. led to seizure of 432 protected species of Birds including 134 Plum Headed Parakeets, 112 Rose Ring Parakeets, 02 Alexander Parakeets & 184 Red Avadavat (Munia) and arrest of one person from Jama Masjid area of Delhi, on 27-02-2022.

Tamil Nadu



A major operation was conducted by joint team of WCCB & DFO Madurai, TNFD, in which several elephant ivory articles were seized and one person was arrested from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on 13-03-2022

Big seizures of wildlife contrabands

Rajasthan



A joint operation was conducted by WCCB & SOG, Rajasthan Police, resulting in seizure of 35 pieces of elephant ivory (weighing 30 Kg.) along with 01 car, 01 licensed revolver, 06 bullets, 1.5 lakhs rupees cash and arrest of 03 persons from Jaipur, Rajasthan, on 13-03-2022.

Maharashtra



WCCB conducted an operation with Raigad Forest Division at a house in Kharghar area of Navi Mumbai and seized several Ivory artifacts like Bangles, Idols, Swings, Necklaces, Boxes, Bracelets (raw pieces), one Tiger/Leopard Canine, 04 Sea Shells, & one piece of Hatha Jodi, on 25-03-2022.

Assam



A major joint operation, conducted by WCCB Guwahati with Nameri Forest Range Office, led to seizure of Leopard bones (109 pcs.), 04 Canine & 12 Nails and arrest of one person from Assam, on 29-03-2022.

Hon'ble Environment Minister releases WCCB Publication- 'A field guide on Shahtoosh'

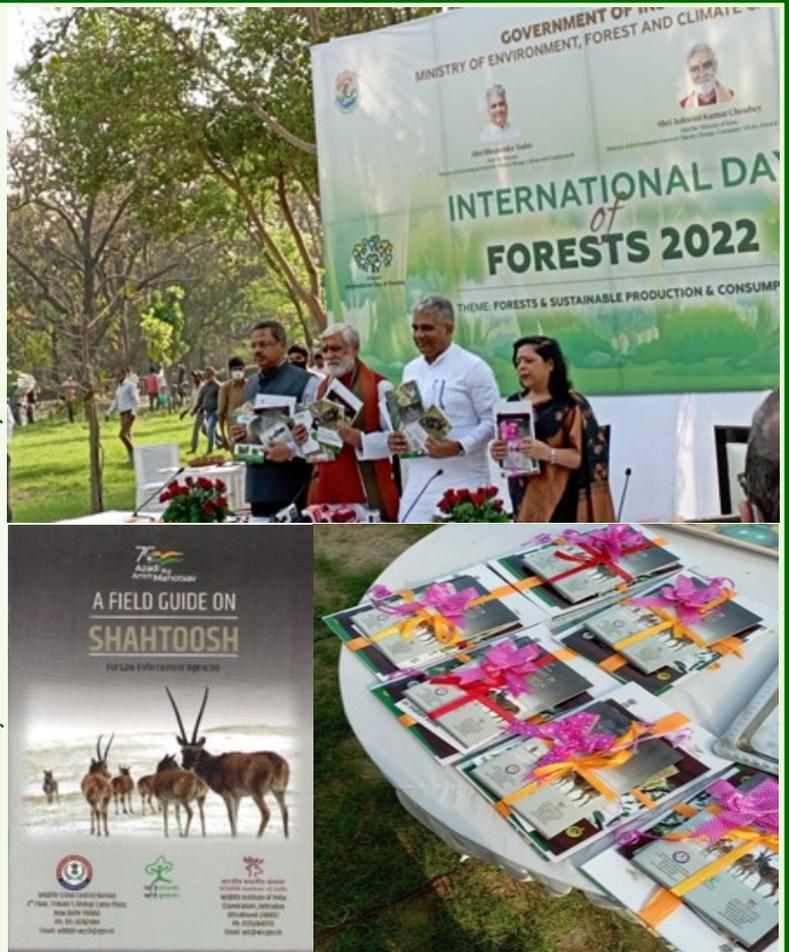
March, 2022: On International Day of Forests, Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sh. Bhupender Yadav and Hon'ble Minister of State, MoEF&CC Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey along with Secy. MoEF&CC and DG MoEF&CC released a booklet titled 'A Field Guide on Shahtoosh' published by WCCB for law enforcement officials, on 21-03-2022.

Book: 'A Field Guide On Shahtoosh'-

The book has been prepared and published by WCCB in collaboration with WII, to spread awareness of illegal Shahtoosh trade among wildlife law enforcement officials about the species and its identification methods.

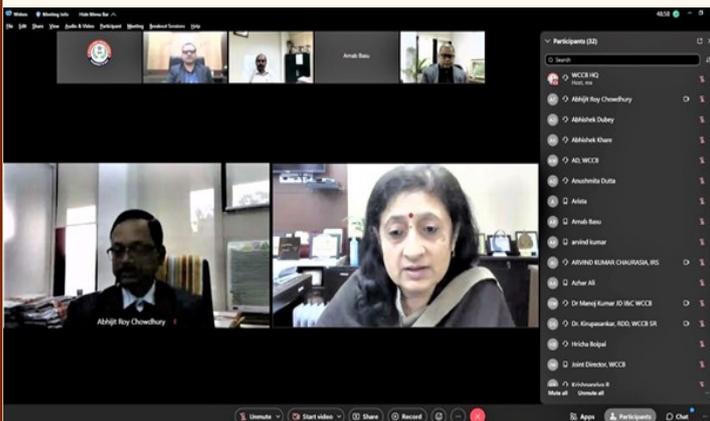
Shahtoosh is regarded as the king of wool extracted from a hunted Tibetan Antelope (Chiru) which is endemic to Tibetan plateau and parts of Ladakh. Chiru is protected under Schedule – I of the wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and under Appendix – I of CITES.

Shahtoosh products are highly priced owing to their light weight, warmth and also as a status symbol. This guide will be handy for the enforcement officials to help identify the Shahtoosh handicrafts in trade.



Additional Director inaugurates Second Batch of 'WCCB Winter Internship Programme 2021-22'

Jan, 2022: The Second Batch of 'WCCB Winter Internship Programme 2021-22' was inaugurated by Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma, on 10-01-2022, virtually. This was followed by a presentation on 'Overview of Wildlife Crime and Illegal Wildlife Trade and functioning of WCCB' by Joint Director, WCCB, Dr. Manoj Kumar. All senior officers of WCCB and Interns from across the country participated in the programme.



WCCB Internship Programme: WCCB conducts the 'WCCB Internship Programme' for students so as to motivate them to work on wildlife conservation issues. Internship at WCCB provides an excellent opportunity for students and researchers to familiarize with various issues related to wildlife, wildlife crime and its illegal trade, and functioning of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Under the programme the interns are assigned specific areas of work related to wildlife. They report to and work under the close supervision of concerned Regional Deputy Directors. Interns file and present a report on completion of their internship under this program. Study reports by

Interns give deep insight into specific issues related to wildlife crime and wildlife conservation.

Field Programmes/Trainings



A session by WCCB Official on "Illegal trade in Wildlife, identification of wildlife articles & role of WCCB in combating WL trade", in a training organized by Karnataka Forest Training Center, on 04-01-2022, attended by 27 RFOs.



A session by WCCB Official on "Prevention of Wildlife Crime, Wildlife Smuggling in NE India and Intelligence collection and implementation", in a workshop organized by SSB Guwahati, on 11-01-2022, attended by 60 Officials.



RDD/ER, WCCB delivered a session on "Smuggling of Illegal wildlife articles through Indian Border", in a workshop organized by Frontier Head Quarter SSB Siliguri, at SHQ Ranidanga, on 12-01-2022, attended by 62 SSB personnel.



A 02-day Capacity Building Training program for forest officials was organized by WCCB and Darjeeling Wildlife Division, jointly, at Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, Siliguri, on 13 & 14 Jan, 2022, attended by 31 Wildlife Officials.



A training session on identification of wildlife articles for SSB Officials was organized by WCCB at ITS, SSB, Kolkata, on 21-01-2022, attended by 30 SSB Officials including Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables.



A Capacity Building Training Program for Forest Investigating Officers was conducted by WCCB and Assam Forest Dept., at Kaziranga National Park, on 21 & 22 Jan, 2022, attended by 48 Officer of the Rank of Forester to ACF.



Over 100 CISF Air Security Group personnel posted at Kempegowda International Airport, Bangalore, were sensitized on Wildlife Crime related issues by WCCB, on 31-01-2022.



30 Postal and Customs Officials posted at Foreign Post Office, Delhi were sensitized on Wildlife Crime related issues by WCCB team, during a sensitization program conducted on 08-02-2022.

Field Programmes/Trainings



A 02-day Capacity Building Training programme was organized by WCCB and Panchet Forest Division, Bankura, at Division Office, Bishnupur, Bankura, West Bengal, on 11 & 12 Feb, 2022, attended by 32 Forest Officers.



WCCB Official took a session for forest officials on illegal trade of turtles and tortoises and Modus Operandi of smuggling, on 17-02-2022, attended by Range Officers, Dy. Rangers & Forest Guards of Gorakhpur Forest Division.



A two-day Capacity Building Training Program was organized by the WCCB in partnership with Maharashtra Forest Department, at Aurangabad, Maharashtra, on 16 & 17 Feb, 2022, attended by 60 forest and police officials.



Tamil Nadu Forest Dept. and WCCB jointly conducted a Workshop on "Nuances of Intelligence gathering, Forest Crime Detection & Protection of Forestry Resource", on 21-02-2022, attended by 40 Officials of TN Forest Dept.

WCCB in association with Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), Vandalur, conducted a sensitization program for the Preventive Officer Trainees of NACIN Chennai, on 24-02-2022, attended by 51 Officials.



WCCB/SR conducted a Sensitization programme for the CISF Officials posted at Coimbatore International Airport Tamilnadu, on 04-03-2022, attended by 20 officers in the rank of Dy. Commandant to Constables.

WCCB Official took sessions on 'Species in Illegal WL Trade, Modus Operandi & Interrogation', during a 02-day Workshop organized by SSB for Intelligence Branch officials, at Barhani (U.P), on 09/10-03-2022, attended by 50 officials.



WCCB conducted a two-day Capacity Building Training Program for Range Forest Officer trainees at Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore, on 11 & 12 March, 2022, attended by 47 Trainees from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Field Programmes/Trainings

A 02-days Capacity Building Training program was jointly organized by WCCB and West Midnapore Forest Division for forest officials of West Bengal, on 11 & 12 March, 2022, attended by 36 Officers.



Practical Sessions on "Identification of wild animals" for in-service SSB officials were conducted by WCCB Official, at Intelligence Training School (ITS), SSB, Kolkata, on 14-03-2022, attended by 30 officials.

WCCB conducted a two-day Capacity Building Training program for the Police and Forest Officials of Madhya Pradesh, at Jabalpur on 14th & 15th March, 2022, attended by 62 Official from M.P. Forest and M.P Police Department.



WCCB Official took a lecture on "Identification of Animal Articles" in a 03-day training program on 'Rescue, Capture & Rehabilitation of Wildlife' conducted by T.N Forest Academy from 16 to 18 March, 2022, attended by 30 Officers.

WCCB Official took a session on "Wildlife crime in Northeast and role of SSB to prevent wildlife crime", during a workshop organized by 54 Bn. of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), on 23-03-2022, attended by 43 SSB Personnel



A 02-day Capacity Building Training program was organized by WCCB and West Bengal Forest Dept., at Namkhana, (W.B), on 21 & 22 March, 2022, attended by 40 Forest Officers.

Sessions on wildlife related issues were taken by WCCB Official, in a one-week compulsory training course for IFS officers on 'Utilizing Forensics for Wildlife Offences' organized by Assam Agriculture University, on 21 & 22 March, 2022.



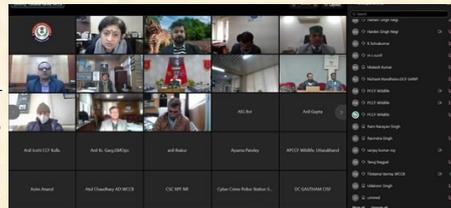
JD (I&C), WCCB, gave a lecture on "Efforts of WCCB to counter Illegal WL Trafficking at Airports in India" during Project Launch of "Deterring & disrupting WL trafficking in the air transport sector in India" at NACIN, on 25-03-2022.

Co-ordination

Inter-Agency Coordination Meet

As part of its efforts towards combating wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade, WCCB conducts inter-agency coordination meetings with law enforcement agencies across the country, regularly. Several of such meets were organized by WCCB in this quarter as well, with notable participation from senior law enforcement officials from across the country. A glimpse below:

A virtual inter-agency coordination meeting was jointly organized by WCCB, Himachal Forest Department and UNDP India, under the GEF- MoEF&CC – UNDP India SECURE Himalaya Project, on 21-01-2022. The meet was chaired by PCCF (Wildlife), Himachal Pradesh and addressed by Additional Director, WCCB. Senior officials of different enforcement agencies participated in the meeting.



WCCB organized another inter-agency coordination meeting at Kolkata, West Bengal, on 23-02-2022. The meet was chaired by CWLW, West Bengal and addressed by Additional Director, WCCB. Senior official from various enforcement agencies participated in the meet.

WCCB organized another such meet at Patna, Bihar, on 25-02-2022. The meet was held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bihar and attended by CWLW Bihar and Additional Director, WCCB apart from senior law enforcement officials.



Another IACM meet was held under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan, at Jaipur, on 25-03-2022. PCCF(WL) & CWLW gave inaugural remarks followed by a presentation on Wildlife Crime Scenario by the Additional Director, WCCB. Senior officials of various enforcement agencies attended the meet.

WCCB conducted another IACM meet at Karnataka, under the Chairmanship of the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Karnataka, on 25-03-2022. PCCF (WL) & CWLW delivered the inaugural address followed by presentation on 'Wildlife crime scenario' by Joint Director, WCCB. ADG (DRI) & ADGP (CID-Forest) explained about their role in control of illegal wildlife trade



Last IAC meeting of the quarter was organized by WCCB at Mohali, on 30-03-2022. The meeting was chaired by PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Punjab and addressed by Additional Director, WCCB. Senior officials of enforcement agencies of Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh (UT) participated in the meet.

Senior Officials of Enforcement Agencies viz. State Forest Department, Police Departments, WCCB, DRI, ED, Customs, CISF, IWST, NTCA, Zoological Parks and Tiger Reserves, CBI, BSF, RPF, SFSL, Forest, Prosecution Dept., Electricity Dept., Road Transport Dept., etc. from across the states participated in inter-agency coordination meetings, held during the quarter.

Training Programs by WCCB in Collaboration with Other Agencies (During the Quarter)

Agency	Month	Course Name
NCRB	January, 2022	Cyber Crime and Digital Forensics– Responder Track (CCDF-RT)
CASFOS	February, 2022	Role of Judiciary in Forest & Wildlife
NCRB	March, 2022	Cyber Crime and Digital Forensics– Investigation Track (CCDF-IT)

PANGOLIN SCALES EMERGING AS RHINO HORN SUBSTITUTE

Jan 2022: The State Government's success in curbing poaching of the one-horned rhinoceros seems to have turned the attention of poachers to another unique animal species of the North-East, the pangolin. This turn of events was proved by the recent seizure of 4.1 kg of pangolin scales from the possession of some persons at Sonapur.

According to a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) source, the market for pangolin scales is increasing steadily in China and certain Southeast Asian countries. He mentioned out that WCCB was involved in the seizure of 48 kg of pangolin scales along with four live pangolins in Shillong in April last year and the recent seizure at Sonapur was linked to that incident. Eight persons had been arrested in connection with the seizure at Shillong, including an Assam Rifles jawan. The poachers not only kill pangolins themselves, but also collect the scales from rural folk who kill pangolins for their meat.

The source said that some people believe that as in the case of rhino horn, the keratin contained in pangolin scales possess aphrodisiacal properties. As a result, pangolin scales are emerging as the substitute for scarce rhino horns. According to the source, most of the pangolins are collected from Meghalaya. Assam is mainly used as a transit route to carry the pangolin scales to the international border at Moreh in Manipur. In Assam, pangolins are mainly found in Karbi Anglong, Goalpara and Kokrajhar. According to the source, an average -sized pangolin yields only 400-500 gm of scales. It may be mentioned that after the big haul at Shillong, 5 kg of pangolin scales was seized at Khanapara in May last year and one person was arrested, followed by seizure.....

News Source: sentinelassam.com

INDIA AND NEPAL SITES WIN TX2 AWARD FOR DOUBLING TIGER POPULATION SINCE 2010

Jan, 2022: Bardia National Park in Nepal, and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in India, have won this year's TX2 Award for doubling their population of wild tigers since 2010. A second award for Tiger Conservation Excellence will be presented to Khata Forest Conservation Area in Nepal which secures transboundary connectivity for tigers between Nepal and India.

The awards celebrate the upcoming launch of the 2022 Lunar Year of the Tiger. In September tiger range countries will convene at the second Global Tiger Summit in Vladivostok to assess progress towards the ambitious TX2 goal - to double the number of tigers in the wild - and to identify tiger conservation priorities for the next 12 years.

The tiger population of award winner, Bardia National Park, increased almost five-fold from less

than 20 tigers in 2009 to almost 90 in 2018 - an astounding achievement given it is situated in one of the most densely populated regions of the world.

Sathyamangalam, designated a Tiger Reserve in 2013, was home to only 25 tigers in 2011 but today there are an estimated 80 individuals in the area. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, located in the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot, connects with two other protected areas, supporting one of the most important and largest tiger populations in the world.

The associated award for Tiger Conservation Excellence is presented to the incredible transboundary Khata corridor where community based conservation efforts, including a network.....

News Source: devdiscourse.com

PASSENGER WITH 11 RHINO HORNS NABBED EN ROUTE TO MALAYSIA

Feb 2022: A 40-year-old suspect was apprehended for rhino horn smuggling at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport as he was about to board a Qatar Airways flight to Malaysia this week. "Authorities discovered suspicious objects in his luggage at a check-in point," said Hawks spokesperson Capt Ndivhuwo Mulamu. Police officers discovered five rhino horns wrapped in foil and concealed in sweets and green tea boxes. The passenger's second item of luggage was searched on the aeroplane and another six rhino horns were found. "The suspect was immediately arrested and charged. Investigations continue and more charges cannot be ruled out."

News Source: timeslive.za

Pangolin Kidnapped And Held To Ransom In Congo Amid Fears Of 'New Trend' In Wildlife Crime

Jan, 2022: An endangered pangolin has been taken hostage by a group of rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo who sent a ransom request to conservationists for the animal's release. It sparks fears that the kidnap could lead to a trend in using wildlife as bargaining power, the activists negotiating with the kidnapers are attempting to rescue the pangolin without payment.

"This is something new and alarming," Adams Cassinga, founder of Conserv Congo, said after "proof of life" photographs of the prized animal were sent to community conservationists. "If we pay them, then we are doomed, the whole park and all the apes would be taken hostage. "They have seen how much money is spent on conservation issues and that rare animals are prized by the

international community, and they would say even more so than the poor communities who live in the same area," he added, after the pangolin was captured on the border of the eastern rainforests of the DRC.

According reports, the mammal is.....

News Source: independent.co.in

DNA ANALYSIS OF ELEPHANT IVORY REVEALS TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

Feb 2022: As few as three major criminal groups are responsible for smuggling the vast majority of elephant ivory tusks out of Africa, according to a new study. Researchers used analysis of DNA from seized elephant tusks and evidence such as phone records, license plates, financial records and shipping documents to map trafficking operations across the continent and better understand who was behind the crimes. The study was published Monday in the journal Nature Human Behavior. "When you have the genetic analysis and other data, you can finally begin to understand the illicit supply chain – that's

absolutely key to countering these networks," said Louise Shelley, who researches illegal trade at George Mason University and was not involved in the research. Conservation biologist Samuel Wasser, a study co-author, hopes the findings will help law enforcement officials target the leaders of these networks instead of low-level poachers who are easily replaced by criminal organizations.

"If you can stop the trade where the ivory is being consolidated and exported out of the country, those are really the key players," said Wasser, who

co-directs the Center for Environmental Forensic Science at the University of Washington. Africa's elephant population is fast dwindling. From around 5 million elephants a century ago to 1.3 million in 1979, the total number of elephants in Africa is now estimated to be around 415,000. A 1989 ban on international commercial ivory trade hasn't stopped the decline. Each year, an estimated 1.1 million pounds (500 metric tons) of poached elephant tusks are shipped from Africa, mostly to Asia. For the past two decades.....

News Link: foz4news.com

Tanzania opens auction for hunting of old wildlife

March, 2022: Tanzania is allocating wildlife hunting blocks through auction in a bid to raise more revenue. Tourism Minister Damas Ndumbaro said successful hunters would be allowed to kill aged elephants, lions and other big game considered unproductive. The East African country is aiming to raise \$30m (£23) from the auction. About 25% of the proceeds will be spent in helping communities living near the hunting blocks. The rest will be used on anti-poaching programs, game patrols, transportation, surveillance and prosecution of offenders. Revenue from wildlife dropped from \$48m (£36m) in 2019 to \$19m (£14m) last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Tanzania is Africa's leading country for big game hunting in unfenced areas. It has approximately half of the world's wild lions population and the third largest elephant population in Africa. According to a 2019 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) report, 72% of big hunting zones game.....

News Source: clubofmozambique.com

Man Charged With Smuggling More Than 1,700 Reptiles Into U.S.

March, 2022: A California man is facing decades behind bars for his alleged involvement in illegal wildlife trade.

According to the Justice Department, 30-year-old Jose Manuel Perez—aka "Julio Rodriguez"—was arrested last month after he tried to smuggle dozens of reptiles from Mexico into the U.S. Federal agents say the Oxford resident was stopped at the border, and was found with approximately 60 critters in small, tied-up bags concealed under his clothes. When questioned

about the animals, which included snakes and lizards, Perez allegedly told customs they "were his pets," however, prosecutors say it was eventually determined that Perez had spent years trafficking reptiles into the country from Mexico and Hong Kong.

On Thursday, Perez was hit with additional charges in a superseding indictment, which also lists his sister, 25-year-old Stephany Perez, as a co-defendant. Authorities accused the siblings and their co-conspirators....

News Source: complex.com

Koalas Listed As Endangered Species By Australian Government

Feb, 2022: The Australian government has officially listed the iconic koala as an endangered species. Sussan Ley, the Minister for the environment, on Friday announced that the government has accepted the Threatened Species Committee's recommendation that the



status of koala populations in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Queensland be rated as endangered. It comes 10 years after koalas were first listed as vulnerable as a result of land clearing and bushfires significantly reducing the marsupials' habitat. The announcement was made weeks after the government committed 50 million Australian dollars (35.7 million US dollars) in funding to help the species. Environment groups have campaigned for koalas to be listed as endangered since the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires when 60,000 koalas were killed or affected

News Source: uniindia.com

Disclaimer: News/information in the 'Major Global Development' Section has been taken from open source and WCCB holds no responsibility for its content. The news contents are not verified by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and thus will not be responsible for any loss to any person caused by inaccuracy in the information in any news item.

Exit-Point Detections by WCCB



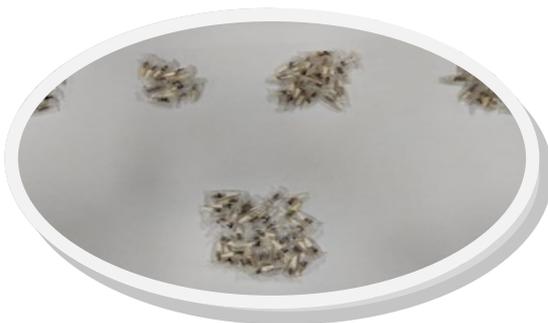
WCCB detected 11.75 Kg. of Red Sanders wood at Courier Terminal of IGI Air Cargo, Delhi, which were misdeclared as teakwood paper weights and destined to Hong Kong, on 23-02-2022 .



During examination at the IGI Air Cargo, New Delhi, WCCB detected 20 Kg. of Jatamansi powder (CITES Appendix II) with other medicinal herbs, attempted to be exported to Czech Republic without a CITES Permit, on 28-02-2022.



WCCB detected 03 Shahtoosh Shawls containing Tibetan Antelope Guard Hair and misdeclared as Pashmina Shawls, which were attempted to be exported from Courier Terminal, Air Cargo, Delhi destined for China, on 21-03-2022.



WCCB team examined a Foreign Post Office Parcel referred by Customs, 24-03-2022. The parcel was containing 101 vials. In each vial one little Tarantula (spiderling) was kept. These vials were ingeniously concealed inside a book. The FPO Parcel came from Bangkok.

WCCB participates in Science Expo



Feb, 2022: WCCB participated in the Mega Science & Technology Expo, 2022, at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium, from 22 to 28 February, 2022.

This Expo was conducted as part of 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate', a nationwide week-long festival highlighting the achievements of India in science and technology over the last 75 years, as part of Government of India's year-long program "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav"—marking 75 years of India's independence.

The event saw a large number of visitors thronging up at the WCCB stall and taking utmost interest in knowing activities undertaken by the agency in preserving India's wildlife heritage. People from all walks of life including school children, youngsters &

Science Expo at the Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium, in New Delhi
professionals visited WCCB stall at the event. A pictorial view below:



World Wildlife Day 2022

World Wildlife Day 2022 was celebrated by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with full enthusiasm across its all regional offices in the country. The celebration held on 03rd March, 2022, saw an overwhelming response from across the country. People from all walks of life including general public, students, community members and government officials took part in the programs & activities organized by WCCB. Activities viz. quiz competitions, lectures, training programs & awareness drives, etc. were held during the period. A glimpse below:-

A mega celebration on the occasion was organized by WCCB at Edens Gardens in Kolkata, in association with WWF-India (West Bengal) and West Bengal Forest Dept. and Bonya India Foundation.



More than 100 college students and volunteers of WWF-India participated in activities such as poster presentation, extempore talk, wildlife quiz, organized during the program, held under the theme "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration".

WCCB organized another program at Hotula Kerala School, Khamaria, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh and organized several activities viz. quiz contest, drawing competitions, awareness campaign & plantation drive, etc..



Around 65 persons including students & teachers, wildlife activists, NGO members participated in the program

WCCB Official delivered a lecture on 'Role of Citizen in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade' for students of Sri Sarada College for Women, Salem, attended by 55 students.



WCCB conducted a program about wildlife crime, endangered species and importance of wildlife, at Saroj Central Academy, Gorakhpur.

RDD/NR, WCCB, participated as a key speaker in a program organized by Customs Zone, Delhi at the IGI Airport, attended by senior officials of Customs, CISF and other agencies at the Airport.



WCCB and Aranyak NGO, jointly organized an awareness program at Mayong Anchalik College in Morigaon district in Assam, Total 80 participants of different villages of Mayong Area including college students and Professors participated in the program.

WCCB organized a sensitization program for Maharashtra Forest Dept. Officials on "Wildlife crime scenario, modus-operandi, illegal trade in wildlife, CITES, and identification of wildlife products", attended by 25 officials.



WCCB conducted a sensitization program for forest officials at Tamil Nadu Forest Academy on "WLPA & Court proceedings", "Intelligence collection and interrogation techniques" and "Wildlife Species in illegal trade & identification of Wildlife articles".

WCCB organized a lectures on "Recovering Key Species for Ecosystem Restoration, Role of WCCB and Customs in controlling illegal wildlife trade", at Tuticorin Port, attended by 55 Customs officials viz. Commissioners, inspectors & Superintendents,



Virtual activities: WCCB Official delivered a lecture on Role of Citizen in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade for Students of Dev Samaj College for Women, Ferozepur, Punjab, attended by 42 students.; WCCB Official delivered a lecture on "Illegal Trade of Wildlife in India" in a program organized by Institutions Innovation Council & Central University, Jammu, jointly, attended by 48 students.; WCCB & Lakshya NGO conducted a session on 'Role of Citizens in Combating Wildlife Crime' for the officials and staff of Lucknow International Airport.; Organized a discussion on 'Forest Owlet – a key forest species & its conservation', attended by 25 participants.; Organized session on 'Recovering Key Species for Ecosystem Restoration, Role of WCCB in curbing wildlife crimes' attended by 30 students of Jawahar College of Science, Neyveli, Tamilnadu.

Online Sensitization/Training Programs

RDD/WR, WCCB delivered a lecture on “Wildlife Crime Scenario” in the online training program on ‘Wildlife Management’ organized by Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun for in service ACFs, SFS Officers and Forest Range Officers, on 04-01-2022, attended by 25 participants from all over the country.

WCCB Official delivered lecture on “Illegal smuggling and export of medicinal plants from the state” during a training program on ‘Conservation of medicinal plants’ organized by the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy under the CAMPA training activity for the Forest Range Officers, on 05-01-2022, attended by 40 Forest Range Officers.

WCCB Official sensitized the general public & students towards illegal wildlife crime during an online program organized by Kolhapur Forest Division and Sahyadri Tiger Reserve in association with NGOs, celebrating 12th Foundation Day of Sahyadritiger Reserve, on 05-01-2022, attended by 100 people.

RDD/SR, WCCB gave lecture on "Overview of Wildlife Crimes" in a Workshop on "Wildlife Crime Control in Cyber Space" organized by Wildlife Trust of India for the students of Pondicherry University, on 06-01-2022.

WCCB and Maharashtra Forest Department organized a 02-day virtual training program jointly for State Forest and Police Department personnel, on 11 & 12 Jan, 2022.

WCCB Official conducted a virtual session on "Role of Police In Curbing Wildlife Crime & Managing Crisis Situations", in a 02-day training program organized by CASFOS Dehradun for Police Officers, on 20-01-2022.

WCCB conducted a two-day Virtual Training Module on “Combatting Wildlife Crime” for Forest Officials of Punjab on 24-25/01/2022, attended by total 39 Forest Officials in the rank of Forest Guard, Forester, Deputy Ranger, Ranger, DFO & Filed Director.

WCCB conducted a two-day online capacity building training program for the Forest Officials of Odisha, on 03 & 04 Feb, 2022, attended by 40 Officers in the rank of ACF and Range Officers.

Dy. Director (C&T), WCCB, Mr. A.K Chaurasia gave lectures to Customs Officials posted in various Customs formations (Exit Points) in Odisha like Sea Ports, ICDs, ACC & Airport on "Role of Indian Customs in Tackling the Menace of Wildlife Trafficking", on 07-02-2022.

WCCB and ECO CLUB of Shri Venkateswara College (Delhi University) organized a joint virtual sensitization programme on “Illegal Wildlife Trade”, on 09-02-2022, attended by more than 55 college students and faculty members.

Ms. Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, WCCB, took a session on 'Insight into Wildlife Related Offence', in a two-day training course on 'Role of Judiciary in Forest & Wildlife' for Judges of District & Subordinate Courts, organized CASFOS, Dehradun, on 10-02-2022.

WCCB Official delivered a lecture to Customs Officials on "Wildlife crime scenario, Identification of species & wildlife articles in trade, CITES, Modus-operandi, Trade route and Exim policy", at NACIN, Chennai, on 08-02-2022, attended by 40 Customs examiners.

RDD/ER, WCCB, delivered a session on "Search and Seizure for Wildlife Cases - Procedure & Documents", in a Workshop on "Legal Issues in Forest & Wildlife" organized by CASFOS, Dehradun, on 15-02-2022, attended by 26 DCF, ACF and Forest Range Officers.

Dy. Director (Customs & Training), WCCB, Mr. A. K Chaurasia took two virtual sessions for the Customs and CGST Officials on "Role of CBIC Officials in Tackling the Menace of Wildlife Trafficking", on 24-02-2022.

Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma gave lecture to Paramilitary personnel in a two-day training program on “Wildlife Trade & Trafficking” organized by CASFOS Dehradun, on 02-03-2022.

DD (C&T), WCCB, Mr. Arvind Kumar Chaurasia took sessions for the Customs & CGST Officials on "CITES & Wild Life (P) Act, 1972" and "WCCB & SWIFT and Interface between Customs & WCCB", on 02-03-2022.

WCCB Official delivered a lecture on “Wildlife Trade: Intelligence Gathering and Covert Operations”, during a training program on “Wildlife Trade & Trafficking” organized by CASFOS, Dehradun, on 03-03-2022.

RDD/ER, WCCB delivered an online lecture on "Salient Features of Wild Life (Prot.) Act, 1972" for officers undergoing training at NACIN, Kolkata, on 04-03-2022.

WCCB Official gave a lecture on “Overview of Illegal trade in wildlife” in a workshop organized by CASFOS, Coimbatore, on 07-03-2022.

WCCB Official gave lecture on “Overview & Salient features of the WLPA, CITES and prohibition of trade & commerce in wild animals & articles” in a induction training program, organized by NACIN, Mumbai for Customs Officials, on 14-03-2022.

Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma gave lecture to serving Police Officers on “An overview of Wildlife crime” during an e-course session on “Investigation of Wildlife Crime Cases” organized by CDTI, Jaipur, on 21-03-2022.

Activities/Programs at WCCB

RTI Training for WCCB Staff



With an aim of equipping its officials with knowledge of 'RTI Act' and its various provisions, WCCB conducted a training program on RTI Act, at its Bureau Headquarter in New Delhi, on 18-02-2022.

Senior Advocate and RTI Consultant Mhabir Kasana was the key speaker, who delivered lecture on the RTI Act, 2005, attended by all senior officials and staff members of WCCB headquarter, with officials of WCCB Regional Offices participating virtually.

Official Visits

MoEF&CC team visits WCCB Headquarter, inspects Hindi Work



A team of Senior officials from MoEF&CC led by Deputy Director, Hindi Rajbhasha visited WCCB Headquarter in New Delhi, on 25-03-2022, to take stock of activities being undertaken by WCCB to promote use of Hindi Language in the organization. Joint Director, Sh. Manoj Kumar briefed the visiting team about the activities being undertaken by the Bureau and its regional offices.

PRI/ Sensitization /Awareness Programs



A Sensitization program for PRI/Village Council Members was conducted by WCCB in collaboration with Aaranyak NGO, at Kokrajhar, Assam, in which sessions on "Prevention of wildlife crime and role of PRI member, Global perspective on wildlife crime and Man animal conflict" were organized, on 07-01-2022.

72 persons, including Village Council members, Pradhans, and local NGO members participated in the program.



WCCB Official conducted a lecture for community members on "Illegal trade in Marine Wildlife, identification of wildlife articles and role of WCCB in combating wildlife crime", during an awareness program organized by Kerala Coastal Police at Kochi, on 15-01-2022.

35 Members of Kadalora Jagratha Samithi participated in the program.



WCCB, in association with Akhil Bhartiya Jeev Raksha Bishnoi Sabha, conducted a virtual PRI Sensitization Programme for members of the Bishnoi Community, on 01-02-2022.

More than 80 persons including Sarpanch (Village Heads), Advocates, Academicians and Bishnoi Community members from many States attended the program.



WCCB organized an awareness-cum-sensitization program for members of Panchayat Raj Institutions at Jalki Vasai Village, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, in association with Maharashtra Forest Department, on 17-02-2022 and sensitized villagers regarding wildlife crime issues.

The program was attended by around 120 persons including villagers and School Students. Sarpanch, Up-Sarpanch, Police Patil. Zilla Parishad Teachers were also present during the program.

PRI/ Sensitization /Awareness Programs



On 28-02-2022, an awareness program for Village Defence Party members on "Combating wildlife crime through awareness" was organized by WCCB in collaboration with Aaranyak NGO, Assam Police and Assam Forest Dept., at Silghat, Nagaon, Assam.

45 VDP member participated in the program and attended a session on "Role of VDP members to prevent wildlife crime".



WCCB conducted an awareness program for PRI Members & Villagers residing around Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, on 09-03-2022.

The program was attended by 50 PRI members and villagers and frontline staff of Forest Department. Participants were sensitized about the importance of wildlife and their role in combating wildlife crime.



WCCB and WWF-India organized a PRI program for students and teachers from the Kheria Shabar Community of West Bengal, jointly, on 25-03-2022.

Students were sensitized towards wildlife conservation and were urged to aware their community members against hunting. They were also encouraged to report incidences of hunting in their

Digital Awareness Drive at City Mall, Gorakhpur



WCCB organized a wildlife awareness drive at the City Mall in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and placed several digital posters on wildlife related subjects at different strategic location at the Mall, to generate awareness and sensitize general public regarding wildlife issues, marking the celebration of World Wildlife Day, 2022





5 तस्करों से 18.9 किग्रा. पेंगोलिन स्केल, 4 कछुए, तेंदुए के 6 नाखून बरामद

2 दिन में 4 स्थानों में छापेमारी

जबलपुर। इन्वॉसीसी बी मध्य क्षेत्र जबलपुर, जगदलपुर वन विभाग एवं पुलिस विभाग ने संयुक्त कार्रवाई करते हुए पांच तस्करों को गिरफ्तार किया है। जिनके कब्जे में 18.9 किलो पेंगोलिन स्केल, आधा दर्जन तेंदुए के नाखून, 4 कछुए, 2 पहिया याहन, 1 बुलेटो जैत की गई है।

तस्करों के खिलाफ आगे की कार्रवाई जगदलपुर परिक्षेत्र कार्यालय में की गई जहाँ उनके खिलाफ वन्य जीव संरक्षण अधिनियम 1972 के तहत प्रकरण दर्ज किया गया।

यह हूए गिरफ्तार आरोपी मदन मुंडानो पिता स्व. जोगा पाडावो 25 वर्ष निवासी गंजनार जिला दतेवाड़ा, धान कुआ कोंज, सहदेव कुंजाम पिता शुरभा कुंजाम 30 वर्ष निवासी गंजनार जिला दतेवाड़ा, धान कुआकोंजी, यामु कर्मा पिता स्व. भासीराम कर्मा 35 वर्ष निवासी जगदलपुर, डीएफओ सुश्रो स्याहलो मंडावो, सुपमा नेताम

निवासी सांडवा कोदेनार जिला बस्तर धाना कोडेनार, रसु राम कश्यपपिता मनीराम कश्यप 32 वर्ष निवासी कारली जिला देवनागरी धाना कारली को पकड़ रहीं।

इनकी रही अहम भूमिका कार्रवाई में इन्वॉसीसी टीम जगदलपुर, वन विभाग से निर्मल देवानग, अधिकारी श्रीवास्तव, देवेन्द्र सिंह वर्मा, रंजर जगदलपुर, अमित कुमार झा, ललन शिवारी, गोपाल नाग, कल्ल, उमरदेव, उप निरीक्षक योगेश बरोल, जोगा बर मंदेले गावडी, प्रसाद तारम, युवावज सिंह ठाकुर को अहम भूमिका रही।

रायपुर - मुख्य संस्करण 14 Feb 2022

सदाप मालिक आ आरोपी ह। पेंगोलिन की 19 किलो... तेंदुए के नाखून के अलावा चार जिंदा स्टर कछुआ भी जब्त किए हैं। जगदलपुर सीसीएफ मोहम्मद शाहिद के मुताबिक खाल, नाखून तथा कछुआ तस्करों करने के आरोप में दतेवाड़ा निवासी संतूराम कश्यप, सहदेव कुंजाम, मदन मंडावी, बस्तर निवासी हड़मो तथा बीजापुर निवासी यामु कर्मा को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। पाँचों तस्करों को संयुक्त टीम ने 11 तथा 12 फरवरी को तीन अलग-अलग जगहों में छापेमारी कर गिरफ्तार किया है। अफसर वे तस्करों के अंतर्राज्यीय संपर्क होने की आशंका व्यक्त की है।

सोशल मीडिया में वाहक खबर संपर्क किया : वन्यजीवों के तस्करों को पकड़ने संयुक्त टीम के सदस्यों ने सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से तस्करों से संपर्क साधने की कोशिश की। इसके बाद संयुक्त टीम को सोशल मीडिया में वन्यजीव तस्करों के इंटर स्टेट नेटवर्क का पता चला। इसके बाद उनके माध्यम से उन्हें तस्करों के लोकल गुणों के बारे में जानकारी मिली।

TheHitavada Jabalpur City Line | 2022-02-14 | Page-1 ehitavada.com



Pangolin scales and leopard nails confiscated by the joint team.

stopped their motorbike, they tried to flee but caught due to alertness of the team members who later found around 12 kgs of pangolin scales in their bag. Wildlife Trust of India and Conservation Core Society played a significant role in entire action. The joint team was led by Devendra Singh Verma, Ranger, Jagdalpur. Both the persons when carried to Jagdalpur Range Office for further investigation, they disclosed more details. Following the lead, the joint team conducted four raids on February 11 and February 12, 2022. The team found around 6.9 kg Pangolin scales during second raid, nails of 06 leopards in Jagdalpur during third raid and 04 star turtles during fourth raid in Dantewada. (Contd on page 2)

WCCB arrests three persons with two canine teeth, 13 nails of tiger

Staff Reporter

IN A joint operation of WCCB Jabalpur and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, three accused were arrested with two canine teeth and 13 nails of tiger, two mobile handsets and a motorcycle in buffer area of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR). The arrested have been identified as Nakul Soni, a resident of Indavar; Tukaram Vishwakarma, a resident of Barhi and Santosh Kol, a resident of Bhareva village.



Seized canine teeth and nails of tiger from three accused.

During a special campaign against Wildlife Crime, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Regional Office Jabalpur received information about some suspects who were trying to sell wildlife in Bandhavgarh area.

Taking prompt action on the information, a team was constituted under the direction of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Field Director, B S Annigeri and WCCB Jabalpur, Deputy Director, Abhijit Roy Choudhary. Continuing a thorough

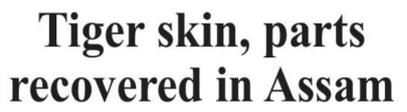
search, team succeeded in trapping three suspects in Panpatha buffer area of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. In their search, combine team retrieved two canine teeth and 13 nails of tiger and two mobile handsets and a motorcycle from the accused.

Forest Department has registered a case against the accused under relevant Sections of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

The accused were arrested with help of team comprising Virendra Jyotishi, Circle Officer, Panpatha Buffer, Ranjan Parihar, Circle Officer Tala, Brij Meena, Circle Officer Tourism, Vipin Chaturvedi, Murad Khan and Panpatha Circle, Manpur Circle, WCCB and Tiger Strike Force Jabalpur's personnel.

TheHitavada tyLine SATURDAY, January 15, 2022 EXCLUSIVE FOR THE READERS IN JABALPUR

The Shillong Times Tiger skin, parts recovered in Assam



The detained persons along with the tiger parts seized during the operation. (WCCB Guwahati)

GUWAHATI, Feb 8: A joint operation led by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Guwahati led to the recovery of skin of a full grown Royal Bengal tiger and multiple tiger body parts from a petrol depot near the national highway at Banderdeewa in Assam on Tuesday. The other tiger body parts seized by the teams include four canines, 18 nails, bones and a skull weighing 14.400kg, WCCB sources said.

Three persons - Tape Yomcha and Naynag Yomcha from Arunachal Pradesh and Subhen Doley from Assam - were detained by the joint teams in connection with the recovery of the tiger parts. The operation was guided by inputs developed by WCCB sub-regional office, Guwahati.

Accused arrested with skin of spotted deer, antler from Bijadandi



Seized skin of spotted deer and antler from an accused.

A COMBINE team of WCCB Jabalpur and Madhya Pradesh Forest nabbed an accused and seized skin of spotted deer and antler from him in Bijadandi. The accused has been identified as Ganemat Marco (58), resident of Tarvanit Udaypur village, Bijadandi in Mandla district.

During a special campaign against Wildlife Crime, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Regional Office Jabalpur received information about a suspect who possessed skin of wild animal. Taking prompt action, a team was constituted under the direction of WCCB Jabalpur, Deputy Director, Abhijit Roy Choudhary. A combine team of WCCB

Jabalpur and MP Forest star a search and succeeded in trapping the suspect at Udaypur village on Mandla road in Bijadandi area of Mandla district. In search, team seized the skin spotted deer and an antler. Forest Department has registered a case against the accused under relevant Sections Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

हरिभूमि रायपुर - मुख्य संस्करण 14 Feb 2022

WCCB, Forest Deptt Jagdalpur, police nab two with 12 kg of pangolin scales

पेंगोलिन की 19 किलो खाल, तेंदुए के नाखून और जिंदा कछुओं के साथ धरे गए तस्कर

हरिभूमि न्यूज रायपुर/जगदलपुर वन विभाग ने बस्तर इलाके में पहली दफा एक साथ 19 किलो पेंगोलिन खाल जब्त की है। इस जन्दी के साथ ही बड़े पैमाने पर शिकार के संकेत मिल रहे हैं। वन विभाग के साथ कार्रवाई में पुलिस व केंद्रीय एजेंसी वाइल्ड लाइफ क्राइम कंट्रोल ब्यूरो, वाइल्ड लाइफ ट्रस्ट ऑफ इंडिया तथा पनजीओ केजवेंशन कोर सोसायटी भी शामिल हैं। तस्करों से टीम ने छह नग



तीन महीने के सर्वािलांस के बाद कार्रवाई

वाइल्ड लाइफ क्राइम कंट्रोल ब्यूरो के अफसरों से जो जानकारी मिली है, उसके मुताबिक उन्हें मुखबिरो के माध्यम से तीन महीने पहले छत्तीसगढ़ में शेरभूमि-1 प्रजाति के वन्यजीवों की अंगों की तस्करों होने की जानकारी मिल गई थी। इसके लिए पेंज 4 पर

■ Staff Reporter A JOINT team of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Forest Department Jagdalpur and Jagdalpur Police caught two persons with 12 kilograms of pangolin scales. The concerned officers received a tip-off on February 11, 2022, that some persons were trying to sell wildlife products in Jagdalpur. Responding to the tip-off, Tilotama Verma (IPS) Additional Director, WCCB, CCF Mohammad Shahid (IFS), Forest Department Jagdalpur, DFO, Stylo Mandavi, (IFS) Sushma Netam SDO and Superintendent of Jagdalpur Police, Jitendra Singh Meena constituted a joint team all respective departments. The team reached the spot disclosed by the source and observed two suspected persons on a motorcycle near Hata Ground in Jagdalpur. They had a plastic bag. When the joint team

Indian Leopard

Scientific Name: Panthera pardus fusca

Key Facts

The Indian leopard is one of the big cats found in the Indian subcontinent, along with the Asiatic lion, Bengal tiger, snow leopard and clouded leopard.

Indian Leopards are good climbers and rely on trees for cover, so are found in various forested habitats, including rainforest, dry deciduous forest, temperate forest and northern coniferous forest.

The average typical life span of a leopard is between 12 and 17 years.



Interesting Facts

Leopards don't need much water. They tend to rely more on the blood of their prey. That is why leopards can successfully thrive even in arid and mountainous regions.

A male leopard can drag a carcass twice its own body weight. They will often drag their prey on trees to hide it by other scavengers like vultures, hyenas and pack hunters like dholes.

Leopards' tails are longer than any other big cat, playing a very important role in supreme agility: balancing, jumping, turning sharply, leaping or running.

Leopards can see seven times better in the dark than humans. Being nocturnal animals, they are more active at night and spend their days resting, camouflaged in the trees or hiding in caves.

Conservation in India

Indian Leopards are listed in Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

It is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List

CITES: Appendix I

Threat

The biggest threats facing the common leopard in India are increasing conflict with humans, poaching for illegal trade in body parts and loss of habitat.

Leopards also die due to accidents on roads passing through & around protected areas. Increasing demand of leopard body parts in illegal trade has contributed to its rampant poaching.

WCCB has also seized several body parts and skins of leopards in wildlife enforcement operations undertaken by it, from across the country, since its inception.

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