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## NEPAL DESTROYS LARGE STOCKS OF WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

For many years the Nepalese authorities have been collecting wildlife trophies from animals which have died in and around royal Chitwan National Park. Those products found outside the Park are stored in the Forest Department's rooms at Tikauli (Chitwan District) which

come under the jurisdiction of the District Forest Officer at Bharatpur; those products found inside the Park are deposited at the headquarters of the Park at Kasara.

Until the early 1990s some of the rhino products such

*Table. Wildlife trophies recorded in government storerooms in Tikauli and Kasara, Nepal, as of 9 November 1998.*

Product	Tikauli	Kasara	Total
Rhino skin pieces	994 (3,475kg)	207 (869.5kg)	1,201 (4,344.5kg)
Rhino horns	32(23.11kg)	51(35.33kg)	83(58.44kg)
Rhino nails	498	865	1,363
Rhino teeth	0	2	2
Rhino skulls	3	6	9
Fake rhino skin pieces	2	7	9
Tiger and leopard bones	144kg	99.4kg	243.4kg
Tiger skin pieces	9	4	13
Fake tiger skin pieces	10	0	10
Elephant tusks	1 (5.7kg)	63 (66.38kg)	64 (72.08kg)

\* Most of these ivory tusks are derived from domesticated elephants owned by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation; they are cut to reduce the chances of people being injured.

Source: Gopal Prasad Upadhyay, Chief Warden, Royal Chitwan National Park, unpublished statistics.

as the horns and nails were sent regularly to the Royal Palace in Kathmandu. With the advent of multi-party democracy and the subsequent decline in the power of the King, the horns and nails have remained in the stores at Tikauli and Kasara.

By late 1997 the stockpile of wild animal products had reached significant amounts (see Table) with the world's largest collection of skins and nails from the greater one-horned rhino. A debate raged in Nepal amongst conservationists on what to do with these items.

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Some officials believed that it was becoming too much of a security risk and too expensive to look after these products and therefore they should be destroyed. Others thought that some of these items such as rhino skin should be sold to the local people who use it for religious purposes, earning money to help conserve endangered species in Nepal. Still other conservationists commented

that many of these trophies ought to be distributed to museums and schools to educate the general public on wildlife matters.

Finally, on 22 March 1998 at Tikauli, the Nepal government authorities burnt most of these trophies, but not the potentially very valuable horns.

Photot: Esmond Martin



*The former Assistant Warden of Chitwan National Park in Nepal examines various rhinoceros products at the Parks' Headquarters at Kasara.*

Source: Esmond Bradley Martin, c/o WWF PO Box 62440, Nairobi, Kenya

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## **POURQUOI UNE STRATEGIE DE GESTION POUR LES ELEPHANTS D'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST?**

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Les plus importantes populations d'éléphants en Afrique de l'ouest partagent des habitats situés à la lisière des limites des frontières des Etats de l'aire de répartition. Dans ce contexte, aucun Etat ne dispose de sa propre population d'éléphants si on tient compte des mouvements transfrontaliers des pachydermes. De même, aucun Etat ne peut individuellement asseoir une politique efficace de gestion à long terme de ses éléphants et parvenir à des résultats escomptés sans associer l'engagement manifeste et la détermination de ses voisins. Les éléphants évoluant à l'intérieur des frontières d'un pays peuvent éventuellement

bénéficier d'une protection suffisamment efficace, mais lorsqu'ils franchissent les limites territoriales de ce pays, cette protection devient caduque. Ceci compte tenu de la diversité des textes réglementaires en la matière, de leur degré d'application, des différences d'approches de gestion auxquels s'ajoute la culture des peuples. Certains pensent qu'il suffit d'une protection et d'un aménagement appropriés pour immobiliser les éléphants dans une aire donnée. Cet approche peut paraître réaliste, mais elle n'est pas suffisante car de nombreux autres facteurs influent sur le mouvement des éléphants. C'est pourquoi, le