

Wildlife Times



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government should work with the community to save the forests.

The bio trail between Dudhuwa Wildlife Reserve and Bardia has been interrupted at various places. The minorities and encroachers have taken the land on the bio trail. The bio trail have been disturbed in Lalgovi, Ratanpur, Khailad and Pahalmanpur VDCs.

CITES: Resolution from UN Crime Commission

CITES Secretary-General welcomes Resolution of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

During its meeting in Vienna, from 11-15 April 2011, the United Nations' Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted a Resolution on "Crime prevention and criminal justice responses against illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora" which was proposed by Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and the Philippines.

Organized criminal networks are known to be involved in the poaching of rhinoceroses, as one example of illicit trafficking in endangered species. Organized criminal networks are known to be involved in the poaching of rhinoceroses, as one example of illicit trafficking in endangered species.

The Resolution expresses concern about the involvement of organized criminal groups in the trafficking of endangered species, recognizes the work being conducted at international levels, for example by the recently-established International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and urges the Member States of the United Nations to strengthen international, regional and bilateral cooperation. The Commission also invites States to make trafficking in endangered species a serious crime and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide assistance in combating such crime.

John E. Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES, said, "Although the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has previously acknowledged the serious level of crime associated with the illegal trade in endangered species, this Resolution could not be clearer in recognizing the involvement of organized criminal groups in illicit trafficking of fauna and flora. And I'm delighted that our partner agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with which we are already collaborating very closely, has been provided with a strong mandate to continue its efforts in helping countries to combat such crimes.

The Resolution also reflects the wishes of the CITES community that its enforcement officials receive support, and capacity

building, with regards to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of illicit trafficking in endangered species.

Rhino head, snow leopard sold in U.S. auction

The mounted head of an endangered white rhinoceros and the stuffed remains of a highly endangered snow leopard, remnants of the fortune amassed and lost by an Alaska real-estate titan, have been auctioned off to pay some of his debts, officials said.

The wildlife trophies were part of the estate auctioned off in Anchor age to settle the bankruptcy case of Robert Kubick, a once-wealthy businessman and big-game hunter who was imprisoned after being convicted of defrauding his creditors.

Buyers of the endangered animal trophies had to be Alaska residents and were required to keep the items in Alaska, said Bruce Woods, spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Endangered Species Act forbids commercial trafficking in endangered species' animal parts, but the auction was allowed as part of a deal reached in the bankruptcy case.

The buyers fit those qualifications, said auctioneer Jim Hill. The rhinoceros head sold for \$9,250, the snow leopard for \$1,850 and the other leopards went for \$750 and \$1,700.

Kubick made his fortune during the Alaska pipeline oil boom in the 1970s and early 1980s. He lost it when oil prices crashed in the 1980s, and got in legal trouble for hiding his assets from creditors.

Federal prosecutors said Kubick buried cash and diamonds in the ground, illegally transferred items to family members and stashed his wildlife trophy collection in a container.

He was sentenced in 1998 to serve 58 months in prison. At the time, it was the longest prison sentence ever issued in an Alaska white-collar crime case. He died in 2006.

For the past decade, Kubick's rare animal trophies traveled to various federal offices, where they were used to educate wildlife agents, said Woods.

White rhinoceroses, native to southern Africa, currently number about 20,150, but are at risk of depletion by poachers trafficking in their horns, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Snow leopards, native to the mountains of central Asia, number only 4,080 to 6,590, according to the IUCN.

Three poachers nabbed, cash reward for cops

Dehradun, 12 April. Three persons were arrested with three leopard pelts and weapons by a joint team of the Uttarakhand STF and Cantonment Thana

police in Dehradun. The three persons, one of whom hails from Himachal Pradesh and two from Uttarakhand, were nabbed by police on Chakrata Road near Forest Research Institute.

According to police, during checking of vehicles on Chakrata Road the joint team arrested three persons including the driver of the jeep they were in and seized from them three leopard skins, one firearm, two bullets and one knife. The three have been identified as Atar Singh Chauhan of Shimla District in Himachal Pradesh, Subhash Dobhal and Mahendra Panwar, both from Tyuni Tehsil in Chakrata region of Dehradun district.

According to Dehradun ASP BJ Singh, the three informed the police that they had poached the leopards in the jungles of Tyuni in Chakrata area and were in the process of selling the pelts and body parts in Delhi. The leopard pelts belonged to one male and one female cat and a cub and are estimated to be worth about Rs 10 lakh in the international market.

The Dehradun SSP and STF have each announced a reward of Rs 2,500 for the 11-member joint team, which arrested the three poachers.

Bolivia to 'make world history' by granting rights to Mother Nature

12 April. Bolivia is preparing to pass a new law that could

lead to citizens challenging environmental destruction in court.

A Ley de Derechos de la Madre Tierra (The Law of Mother Earth) would grant nature the same rights as humans, according to The Guardian.

The country will establish 11 new rights for nature, including: the right to exist, the right to continue natural cycles, the right to clean water and air, the right to be free of pollution, and the right not to have cellular structures altered or genetically modified.

The law will also give nature the right "to not be affected by mega-infrastructure and development projects that affect the balance of ecosystems and the local inhabitant communities."

"It makes world history," Bolivian Vice-President Alvaro García Linera said. "Earth is the mother of all."

"It establishes a new relationship between man and nature, the harmony of which must be preserved as a guarantee of its regeneration."

The law enjoys the support of Bolivian President Evo Morales and his Move Toward Socialism party. Not coincidentally, he is Latin America's first indigenous president.

As a part of the indigenous Andean philosophy, the earth deity known as the Pachamama is at the center of all life.