

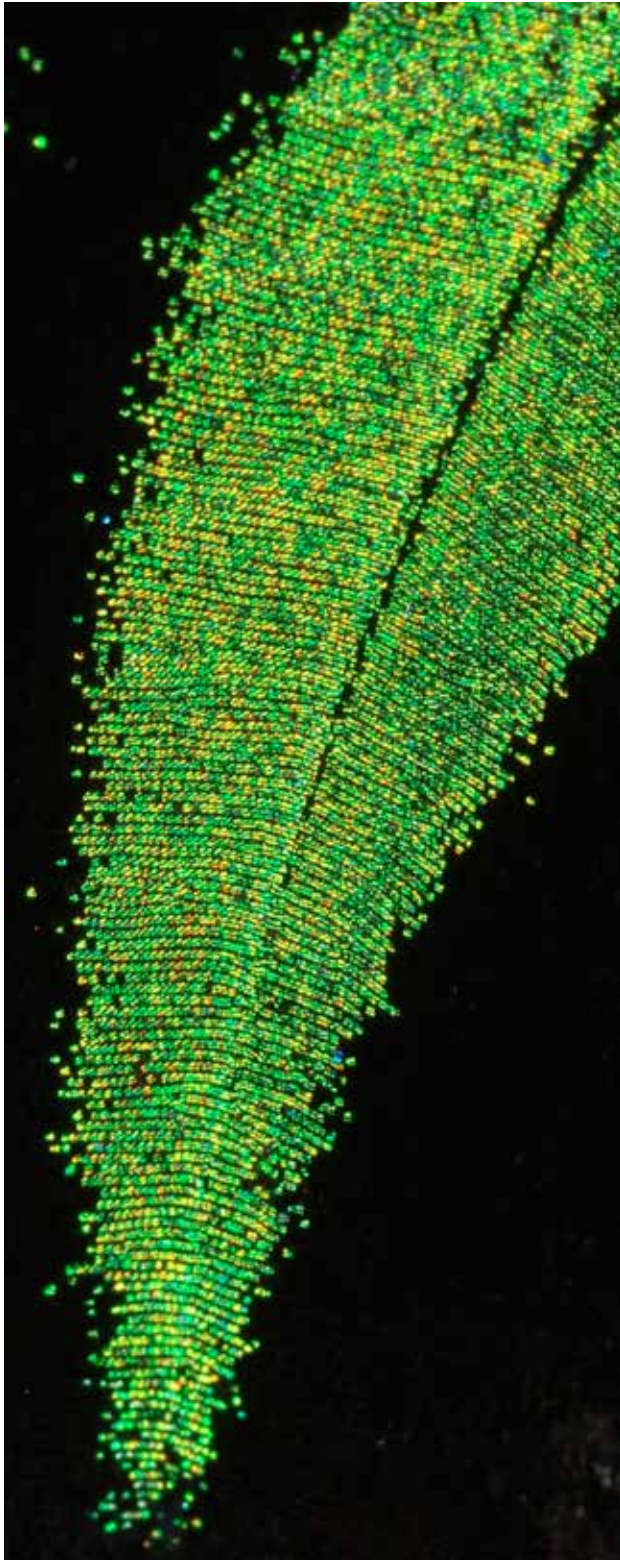
ROBIN DES BOIS

# ON<sub>the</sub> TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling

n°12 / 1<sup>st</sup> January - 31<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Published on June 13, 2016



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ORIGINAL VERSION IN FRENCH

# Rhinoceroses

The white rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* and black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* ranging in Africa are listed in Appendix I, except for the white rhinoceros populations of Swaziland and South Africa which are listed in Appendix II for trade of live animals and hunting trophies.

The 3 Asian rhinoceros species are in Appendix I: *Rhinoceros unicornis*, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*.

## "On the Trail" n°12 The value of horn on the black market, according to media or official sources

Continent	Pays	US\$/kg	Réf.
Africa	Namibia	5043	44 bis

### EASTERN AFRICA

#### KENYA

**January 11, 2016**

**Mombasa, Mombasa County, Kenya**

The 2 men in illegal possession of 1.4 kg of horn will not be released. They were arrested on December 27, 2015 (cf. "On the Trail" n° 11, p.56). The examination of their cellphones suggests connections with drug trafficking and terrorist funding.<sup>1</sup>

**January 25, 2016**

**Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Kenya**

Seizure of rhinoceros horn bracelets worth an estimated 80,000 shillings (\$ 780 US) and a necklace with a lion tooth worth an estimated 20,000 shillings (\$ 200 US). Arrest of 2 Vietnamese passengers and one Chinese passenger. They came from Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Destination: China via Nairobi.<sup>2</sup>

**February 5, 2016**

**Maasai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya. Border with Tanzania**

A 15- to 20-year old black rhinoceros was poached. Before it was killed and stripped of its horns, the peaceful pachyderm had gone across the informal border between Kenya and Tanzania. It left its traces in the tall grasses of Sand River.<sup>3</sup>



© Jorge Aguilár

**Laikipia County, Kenya**

**- February 23, 2016. Ol Pejeta Conservancy.**

She was 12 months pregnant. The gestation lasts 22 months. A little 2-year-old rhinoceros was following her. This did not stop the discreet poachers from targeting her with a poisoned arrow. The 2 horns of the female black rhinoceros were found in the home of one of the 5 suspects. Their estimated worth on the local black market is \$ 60,000 US.

**- March 1 and 7, 2016. Nanyuki.** Until further notice, the gang is behind bars. The lawyer recalled that release on financial bond is a constitutional right. The prosecutor is of a different opinion. He considers that if the suspects are released, they could continue their activities, disturb the investigation, and evade legal summons.<sup>4</sup>



#### MOZAMBIQUE

**March 11, 2016**

**International airport of Maputo, Mozambique**

Seizure by the police and customs of 76.6 kg of rhino horns and 6 kg of claws and teeth of lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) in 2 suitcases bound for Kenya. The police director considers that "the 25 rhinos from Mozambique are under protection 24/24" and infers that the stock comes from poaching in the Kruger Park. The owner of the suitcases was not identified. A big channel is on operation, it lost \$ 4.6 million US there.<sup>5</sup>

**March 25, 2016**

**Massingir district, Gaza Province, Mozambique**

Spectacular seizure of 2 horns, 9.5 kg and 2.4 kg, aboard a bus to Maputo. Two arrests. Chivambo, 26, says he is unemployed and poacher. He was carrying the equivalent of one million dollars in his suitcase. Mongue, 19, is a bus ticket controller.<sup>6</sup>

#### ZAMBIA

**February 10, 2016**

**Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Southern Province, Zambia**

Daring rescue of a female whose two back legs were entangled in the steel wires of a trap. She pulled it along for almost two days. It had already happened to her 2 years ago.<sup>7</sup>



## ZIMBABWE

January 5, 2016

### Matobo National Park, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe

The 4 men, including the brother of the MDC-T (Movement for Democratic Change) general secretary and a female deputy from the same movement were arrested in Matobo National Park. They were tracking a female rhinoceros. Apparently, a gun was spotted in their vehicle. Park rangers arrested them. They claimed they were going a bit farther to purchase a used car. The local judge exculpated them due to lack of evidence.<sup>8</sup>

January 19, 2016

### Masvingo, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

Sentencing of 35 years in prison for Munashe Mudenge Murwira, a secret service agent, for having poached in an organized group 4 rhinoceros between February 2014 and April 2015 (cf. "On the Trail" n° 11, p. 57). Under certain conditions, such as the return of the monetary value of the rhinoceros poached to Zim Parks, the penalty could be reduced to 20 years.<sup>9</sup>



March 27, 2016

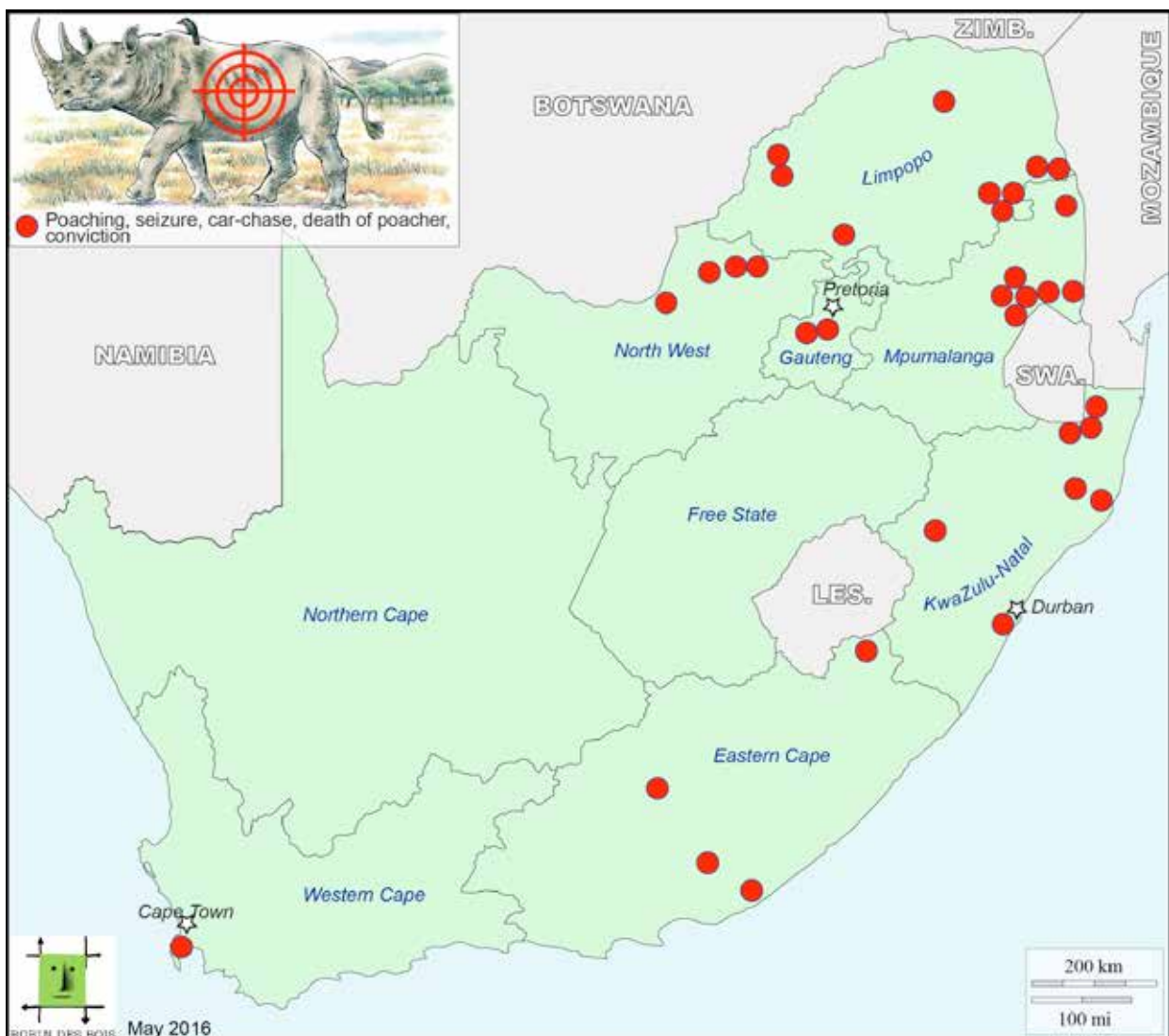
### Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe

Légende The 2 cow horns were presented as rhinoceros horns.<sup>10</sup>



SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA



Rhinos under pressure in South Africa

**January 1 and 28, 2016**

**Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

**1 – January 1. eZulu Game Reserve.** A rhinoceros was poached. This spectacular start to the year was announced by the coordinator of Indalo, which combines a dozen hunting reserves in the province. The objective is to combat poaching and encourage responsible and ecological wildlife management. The 10 hunting reserves cover approximately 100,000 ha. The eZulu reserve promotional brochure says that the reserve offers the best and most exciting hunting safari in a malaria-free region.

**2 – January 28. Oceana Beach and Wildlife Reserve.** A 15-year-old female was shot dead and was found in some bushes. As a preventive measure, all the rhinoceroses of the reserve had been dehorned a year ago. In the best case for the poachers, they were able to grab the stump of a horn.<sup>11</sup>

**January 13, 2016**

**Kruger National Park, South Africa**

The rangers were set on the trail of 2 gunmen by tourists. A helicopter overflight spotted them. The poachers were identified on the ground and did not respond to the summons. A firefight ensued, the 2 poachers were killed, a gun of large caliber was seized. The press service of the Park qualifies it as a successful operation but no rhino horn was found on site.<sup>12</sup>



**Mid-January 2016**

**Kruger Park, Marloth Park Conservancy, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa**

The first shots were heard at around 2 in the morning. They were fired by poachers and targeted rhinoceroses. The rangers surrounded the zone and waited. The clash happened at dawn. One poacher was killed, 2 were wounded, and another one fled. The latter was arrested on site. He was unarmed. The rhinoceros has not been confirmed dead. The tourists staying at Marloth Nature Reserve, and squatters in a camp witnessed the scene. There was also a helicopter that fled over with the head ranger of South Kruger on board. The enclosure of the park and Crocodile River separated the bystanders from the rangers and poachers. One of the poachers worked in the farm next door. The villages, farms, and streets are filled with people who don't do anything in the daytime. Or they do odd jobs and take the poaching plunge at night. If the harvest is good, they will be able to sell the goods. Poaching in this South African park is not just about Mozambicans.<sup>13</sup>



**Mid-January 2016**

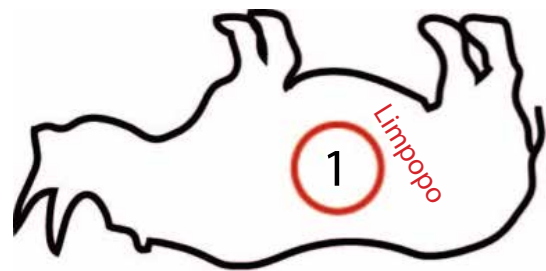
**Somkhanda Game Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

Early in the morning, the NGO Wildlife Act Fund drove out the poachers in action. They came to shoot a rhino. The rhino was wounded and received care. It is safe now.<sup>14</sup>



**Mid-January 2016**

Hoedspruit surroundings, Limpopo Province, South Africa  
-1.<sup>15</sup>



**January 18, 2016  
Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Two female rhinoceroses were put to sleep with M99 injections. The elder one was pregnant and was fatally wounded after her horns were pulled off. The younger survived the mutilation. She was transferred to a specialized treatment center.<sup>16</sup>

**OPERATION RINGLEADER**

**January 19, 2016**

**Roodepoort, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Release on bail was refused for 4 of the 12 traffickers and poachers arrested at the end of 2015 (cf. "On the Trail" n° 11 p. 59). Activists for Animals Africa (AAA) attended the trial. 3 police officers mixed up in the business have already been released on bail.<sup>17</sup>

**January 19, 2016  
Nylstroom, Limpopo Province,  
South Africa**

This rhino was brave. He had already survived 2 ambushes. Unfortunately, he did not survive the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt.<sup>18</sup>



© Palala Rhino Sanctuary

**January 20, 2016  
Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province,  
South Africa**

The trial of "Big Joe" Nyalunga and his 10 co-accused has been delayed again (cf. "On the Trail" n° 6, p. 62 and n° 9, p. 66). He was arrested in March 2012 with 4 horns and a large quantity of dagga (marijuana). His trial is scheduled for July 7. He and his 4 South African accomplices were released on bail. Four Mozambican accomplices are in prison. Only one of them has been released on bail. A member of the gang, the Vietnamese Ngoc Cuong Pham, was already sentenced to 5 years in prison without remission ("On the Trail" n° 7, p. 62). "Big Joe" is a former policeman turned rhinoman.<sup>19</sup>

**January 22, 2016  
Hoedspruit, Limpopo  
Province, South Africa**

Late at night on Friday, a mother and her little one were killed. The horn of the little one, who was about one year old, was not stolen.<sup>20</sup>



**January 25 and March 29, 2016  
Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

New court appearances for poaching, of Leonard Buti Mashego, a former army soldier, and of Michael Sithole, his co-accused (cf. "On the Trail" n°10, p. 48). The investigation accuses them of killing 6 rhinoceroses between June and September 2010. One of them was armed to the teeth and was surveying the Bristol section in Kruger Park, "in search of lost cattle". The other one was "looking for medicinal herbs" in the middle of the night. The public prosecutor considers that the photographic evidence, fingerprints, knives, and horns found near them when they were arrested are damning, and leave no room for doubt about their guilt. The trial is scheduled for May. The 2 individuals have been released on bail.<sup>21</sup>

**January 26, 2016  
Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

Seizure of a horn and arrest of a 41-year-old man in his home in the Lotus River neighborhood. The horn was concealed in a blue plastic bag, in a closet. Two cell phones were also seized.<sup>22</sup>



© SA Police Services

**January 2016  
Pilanesberg National Park, North Western  
Province, South Africa**

Four dead including a female with many fractures who did not survive and 3 wounded.<sup>23</sup>

**January 28, 2016  
Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Court appearance of Simon Nogmane, interrogated on September 2, 2011 in Kruger Park. He was wounded in a shoot-out with the rangers. Two of his underlings fled the scene. A detection dog helped to find a bag with 2 major pieces of evidence: the pair of horns. The carcass was found by a helicopter later.<sup>24</sup>



© Maluti Police

**End of January 2016  
Maluti, Eastern Cape  
Province, South Africa.  
Border of Lesotho**

The man fled when the border police came toward him. He left the horn on-site, in a sports bag.<sup>25</sup>

**February 5, 2016  
Ingwavuma, KwaZulu-Natal  
Province, South Africa**

Two foreigners, a Zimbabwean and a Mozambican, were sentenced to 26 years in prison. Ten years for rhinoceros poaching, 10 years for illegal possession of weapons, and 6 years for illegal possession of ammunition. They had already been arrested last July in Tembe Park in northern Zululand.<sup>26</sup>



**February 6, 2016  
Steenbokpan, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Arrest of 2 armed poachers.<sup>27</sup>



© Die Spoorsnyers

**February 9, 2016  
Berg-en-dal, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga  
Province, South Africa**

A female was poached 10 m from the road. The little one disappeared.<sup>28</sup>

**February 10, 2016  
Jozini, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

An eventful car chase between 3 private reserves in Zululand. Arrest of 4 suspected poachers released on bail.<sup>29</sup>

**February 10, 2016**  
**Mafikeng Game Reserve, Province of North West, South Africa**

The body of the rhinoceros could be seen from the road.<sup>30</sup>

**Mid-February and March 18, 2016**  
**Tam Safaris Game Reserve, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

The province is distraught. Poaching is spreading to the west of Kruger. Five rhinoceroses since the beginning of the year. Tam Safaris is offering 400,000 rand (\$ 28,000 US) to anyone who will help arrest the murderers. The mother and a young 4-year-old pregnant female were dehorned. A 9-month-old survivor was found on the scene of the crime.<sup>31</sup>

**February 22, 2016**  
**Umbilo, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

There are 4 of them. They would be made of wood. He said he bought them for 3500 rand (\$ 234 US) at a market. The valuations are pending. For the moment, they are considered to be worth R 588,000 (\$ 39,300 US). He was released on bail of 5000 R.<sup>32</sup>

**February 25, 2016**  
**Matlabas, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Arrest of 2 suspects. A 3<sup>rd</sup> suspect had fatal wounds. They were spotted in Marakele National Park by rangers and members of the local community, and then targeted by Heritage Protection Group, a group of professionals dedicated to combating poaching and crime.<sup>33</sup>



**February 25, 2016**  
**Mbombela, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Beaten with baseball bats and sjamboks, the business man was attacked in his home and was forced to open the safe. Sjamboks were straps traditionally made of hippopotamus or rhinoceros hide. They are now made of plastic. There were 6 horns and weapons inside.<sup>34</sup>

**End of February 2016**  
**Pilanesberg National Park, North Western Province, South Africa**

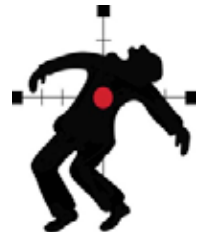
Poaching of two males. An adult and a young of 2 years. Treated urgently. Help arrived on the scene just after the shooting.<sup>35</sup>



A bullet near the eye

**March 6, 2016**  
**Houtboschrand section, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

One ranger wounded. One poacher killed. Two others on the run. Hotline: 013 735 0197.<sup>36</sup>



**March 8, 2016**  
**Cyrlidene, Johannesburg suburbs, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Three horns and a piece of ivory seized in a hotel.<sup>37</sup>

**March 8, 2016**  
**Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

Shots were fired in the night. The rangers rushed to the scene. The 2 suspects threw down a bag while they were escaping. There was a horn in the bag. In the morning, the poacher hunt continued. A white Toyota bakkie was intercepted. The 2 occupants were wounded. A 2<sup>nd</sup> horn and guns were found.<sup>38</sup>



- 31 since the beginning of the year

**March 9 and 22, 2016**

**Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

Justice on the line in KwaZulu-Natal.

Is the pair Ngcobo, judge, and Z.W. Ngwenya, lawyer, tipping the scales of justice to the wrong side? The journalist Jamie Joseph has taken stock of the judicial records of the province. It is clear.

In December 2013, poachers defended by Ngwenya who appeared before Ngcobo at Hluhluwe Court got away with a small fine.

In June 2014, 3 more men were arrested for poaching as part of an organized gang. One of them, Ngubane, pleaded guilty. Ngwenya defended him. He was released on bail and sentenced to a trivial fine. His 2 accomplices, Sikali and Mdule, pleaded not guilty. As of March 7, 2016, they were still in prison, and were denied release on bail. Ngwenya did not defend them. They were referred to a judge other than Ngcobo.

In August 2014, 4 men were arrested inside a Zululand reserve, and indicted for hunting rhinoceroses as part of an organized gang. Ngwenya defended two of them, Siphon Hlope and Zakhele Joko Khumalo. They pleaded guilty. They appeared in front of Ngcobo in Mtubatuba Court. They were sentenced to pay fines with deferred and adjusted payment. The 2 others pleaded not guilty. They appeared in another court, with a different judge, not Ngcobo. They were sentenced to 8 years in prison. The payment of a fine could not substitute for imprisonment.

In December 2014, when Gwala, a big name in horn trafficking, appeared before Ngcobo, after a rough arrest, he was released on a trivial bail of 10,000 rands (\$ 600 US). As a bonus, Ngcobo ordered the adjournment of the seizure of Gwala's 5 luxury cars. Gwala stated that his profession was unemployed. Ngwenya is Gwala's defense attorney. This attorney protects many horn traffickers from the province of KwaZulu-Natal. There is hardly any doubt that Gwala is guilty. He bought horns from undercover secret service agents, five times.

In January 2015, the affair of the police officer Christopher Gumbi is probably the best example of the efficiency of the Ngcobo-Ngwenya twosome. They were involved in horn trafficking on board a police vehicle, and accused of armed robbery, illegal possession of horns, and defeating the ends of justice. Gumbi was released on bail of \$ 32 US, and was acquitted of all the charges in January 2016. The police made up the story, according to the deliberation. At the time, the police spokesperson condemned the infiltration of the legal system by poaching organizations (cf. "On the Trail" n° 8 p. 58).<sup>39</sup>

**GANG**

**March 11, 2016**

**Louis Trichardt, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, South Africa**



Six people, the gunman, his assistants, the transporters, and the seller received prison sentences running from 10 to 15 years for rhinoceros poaching in Mapungubwe National Park in 2014. (cf. « On the Trail » n° 11, p. 57).<sup>40</sup>

**March 11, 2016**

**Ladysmith, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**



The Bonnie and Bonnie of poaching (cf. "On the Trail" n° 3 p. 49) have been given the benefit of some leniency. Two years in prison without remission each. A social worker was designated to take care of their children.<sup>41</sup>

**March 25, 2016**

**Sibuya Game Reserve, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**



Three rhinoceroses were poached. Two young orphans are in danger. Apparently, they were recovered and transferred to a safe place.<sup>42</sup>



After several hours of wandering about and death pangs, the only solution was to kill it.

**March 28, 2016**

**Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Next to Satara Camp. The rangers confirm that the horn most certainly left Mozambique. The border is very close, and protected by an iron wire.<sup>43</sup>

**NAMIBIA**



## January – February 2016

### Namibia

34 rhinoceros poached in the first 2 months of the year. 29 carcasses have been found in the Etosha National Park and around, 5 in the Palmwag region and the Klip River. The air and land patrol have joined forces to count the violent deaths. The rate is accelerating. Last year (2015), the final toll was 80. It was 2 in 2012. As promised, the minister Pohamba Shifeta is leaving no stone unturned. He holds that the large Etosha Park (22,275 km<sup>2</sup>) is home to a lot of squatters and activities that have nothing to do with the protection of ecosystems, trafficking of drugs and alcohol, gambling and breeding animals. There would be number of spies in the Park that give poachers the information on the movements of pachyderms and other high-value animals.

One bright spot in this dark overview. Elephants are less threatened. No known poaching since the beginning of the year. The origin of 3 tusks that a Zambian citizen had in his possession in January 2016 near Kongola remains unknown.<sup>44</sup>

### February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

#### Windhoek, Khomas Region, Namibia

Seizure of 1.15 kg of rhino horn (29 pieces) worth an estimated 91,000 Namibian dollars ( \$ 5800 US) and of 79.2 kg of abalone (Haliotis genus). Cf. p. 4 of this issue. <sup>44 bis</sup>

## REPEATED OFFENSE

### March 11 and 12, 2016

#### Windhoek, Khomas Region and Opuwo, Kunene Region, Namibia

Four of them are in the dock for poaching and possessing rhinoceros horns. Two of them were released on bail for rhinoceros poaching and rape. They will be taken to the scene of the crime in Etosha Park.<sup>45</sup>



### March 11 to 15, 2016

#### Omaruru, Région d'Erongo, Namibie

Légende Fear, and then satisfaction for the district watch committee. Two poaching attempts failed due to the quick action of the lookout and the veterinarian. The 2 rhinoceroses fled after poachers attacked them. They were found in another area, cared for on the spot, and pulled through. The police heard the 4 suspects. Omaruru District Watch was created one year ago.<sup>46</sup>



OMARURU DISTRICT WATCH

"with the community for the community"

## AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### January 13, 2016

#### Minneapolis, State of Minnesota, United States of America

Yiwei Zheng aka Steve Zheng is a philosopher in the daytime and a mafioso at night. This professor at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota (cf. "On the Trail" n°8, p. 68) pleaded guilty for carved ivory trafficking and the export of horns in breach of the Lacey Act of 1900, the first federal law for wildlife protection. The value of all the animal parts, offered for sale, sold, and exported to China by the professor is \$ 1,500,000 US. The decision will be rendered in May.<sup>47</sup>

### January 13, 2016

#### Waco, Texas State, United States of America

Conviction of Patrick Sheridan to 12 months in prison for rhino horn trafficking in organized gang. Patrick Sheridan is a Rathkeale Rovers member (cf. "On the Trail" n°1 p. 22, n°2 p. 48, 49, 50, 52, n°4 p. 67, p. 69-70, n°5 p. 76, n°7 p. 75, n°8 p. 66, n°9 p. 69, n°10 p. 49). The US justice was actively looking for him. He was arrested in the United Kingdom, as he was disembarking a ferry coming from Ireland. He was then extradited. With several accomplices, he used underhanded and illegal methods to buy 2 black rhinoceros horns in Texas, and had transported them to the State of New York. One of his associates from Rathkeale Rovers had more luck in France. The border police arrested him in the port of Cherbourg as he was disembarking a ferry from Ireland. He was arrested and put under house arrest as he awaited the extradition request from the Texas judicial system. The Court of Appeal of Caen, in the department of Calvados, considered this request was valid despite the support of a weeping family. He pretends have come to France for a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and to cure his serious psychological breakdown. The Paris Court of Cassation then canceled the decision of the court of Appeal of Caen. John Slattery, also known as John Flynn, is free. He has family in France, in a campsite north of Paris. Wildlife traffickers, come take refuge in France! You will receive the best welcome in France. However, John could not attend the trial of his friends and parents in London. To be continued in the next issue.<sup>48/49</sup>





INDIA

**12, 24 and January 27, 2016  
Kaziranga National Park,  
Assam, India**

**1-Sunday night.** Poaching of an adult female rhino, shot dead (AK-47). The 12 men left with horn, skin fragments and hoofs. They arrived in the park by boat on the Brahmaputra.

**2-Sunday to 2am. Burapahar sector.** Second rhino poached in 2 weeks. 30 empty cartridges of automatic weapons are found on the spot near the body. Disappearance of the horn.

**3-Wednesday, 1 am. Burapahar sector.** A third one killed by firearms.

The officer in charge of the sector has been mutated. Last months the majority of rhino poaching occurred on the Burapahar side. The guards are still under-equipped and understaffed. Since 2012 nearly 150 rhinos were killed by bullets in the Park.<sup>50</sup>



**February 5, 2016  
Orang National Park, State of  
Assam, India**

Two poachers died. Their guns were recovered. Three accomplices vanished into the mist.<sup>51</sup>

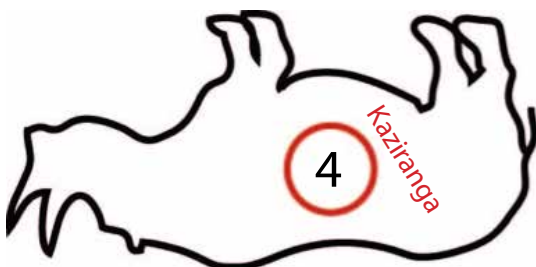


.303 British Jungle Carbine

**Kaziranga National Park,  
State of Assam, India**

**February 9, 2016.** Poaching of one female.

**March 22, 2016.** Poaching of one female. A .303 rifle and 18 cartridges were found at the scene.<sup>52</sup>



- 4 in the Park since the beginning of the year.

**February 14, 2016**

**Natun Para, Jalpaiguri, State of West Bengal,  
India**

Sattar Mia, the thinking man of the gang operating in Jaldapara National Park, didn't think enough. He didn't realize that the potential buyers were real police officers.<sup>53</sup>

**February 26, 2016**

**Kaziranga National Park, State  
of Assam, India**

Another confrontation between the guards riding on elephants and poachers. Two deaths in the camp of the poachers. Three slipped by the Brahmaputra.<sup>54</sup>



NEPAL

**January 17, 2016**

**Nepal**

Mr. Agni Sapkota, the Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation, returned from a trip to China with strings attached. He promised his Chinese counterpart who had invited him to deliver 2 rhino couples. The Chinese request must however be endorsed by the Prime Minister of Nepal. In the protocol trip, both countries are committed to a concerted control of wildlife trafficking on border roads. China plans to contribute financially and technically to the opening of a laboratory in Nepal specialized in the investigation of wildlife trafficking and participating in the creation of a wildlife sanctuary near Kathmandu. In a more or less distant past, Nepal has already offered a rhinoceros or a couple in Bangladesh, Pakistan, the United States of America, Germany. The latest donation was to Austria in 2006.<sup>55</sup>

**From 1 to 5 March 2016**

**Chitwan National Park, Development of Central  
Region, Nepal**

Five rhinos including 2 males and 3 females were transferred in Bardia National Park, in the central Region. The operation is costing more than 8 million rupees (\$ 75,800 US) and mobilized several elephants in the Chitwan Park, about 20 rangers and a truck.

The program provides for the transfer of 30 specimens in 3 years including 25 females. The transfer is disputed by NGOs. They emphasize that the Bardia National Park is exposed to poaching and that the removal of 83 individuals in 1985 have not borne fruit. It remains now only 29. According to NGOs, rhinos decline in Bardia and thrive in Chitwan. The 2 parks are separated by 200 km. The Conservatives biological heritage temporise : « After the first phase of relocation, we will study whether Bardiya is suitable for rhinos ».<sup>56</sup>

## OCEANIA

**March 29, 2016**

### Australia

Subject to obtaining CITES permits and financing available, the "Australian Rhino Project" will begin this year, will last 4 years and involves 80 white rhinos. \$ 75,000 rhino per head for transport between South Africa and Australia, 15 flying hours. In May, the first 6 white rhinos were quarantined in Johannesburg. Upon arrival in August in Australia, new quarantine in the Dublo zoo. After that, they would be welcomed in a zoo near Adelaide. The developer wants to save the rhinos from extinction.<sup>57</sup>

## Rhinos and Elephants

### AFRICA

#### KENYA

**January 7, 2016**

### Ruiru and Githurai, Kiambu County, Kenya

A man, Fredrick James Muchina, was killed in his car. He was shot 6 times as he was going home. Since then, the rumor has spread. He was linked to a poaching operation in 2013. He apparently has something to do with the suspension of 32 KWS officers, and about a hundred elephants killed in Tsavo Park, with a major operation at Solio Ranch. He went into exile in South Africa for some time, to stay safe. The KTN documentary *Poachers and Butchers* indicated that he was the one calling the shots in ivory and horn trafficking in Kenya. One truck driver told the national newspaper *The Standard* that Muchina wanted to hire him to transport ivory and horn cargo to Mombasa. He would have been paid \$ 5,000 US, but he turned down the offer. He thought this was too risky. There have been a few violent deaths that remain a mystery about James Muchina.

He ran 3 gas stations, a sawmill, and had a real estate business. In Gitumbi, his village, rumor has it that he had close ties with China. It's unsettling when everyone's talking about someone who is dead and buried.<sup>1</sup>

**March 22, 2016.** Two months later, in the same county, a few kilometers from where the supposed poaching and trafficking kingpin was living, the police got a hold of 39 tusks in Thomas Ngata's home. 112 kg of ivory taken from old and young elephants. Value: 11 million shillings, or \$ 973 US per kilo. Ngata was Muchina's friend. Police found an invitation for his funeral, and a weighing machine in his home.<sup>2</sup>



**March 30, 2016**

### Kenya

Return and destruction of illegal ivory and horns.

Another 21 days have been granted to everyone who is in illegal possession of ivory or rhinoceros horn, in any form whatsoever. The trophies and objects can be taken to the KWS headquarters in Nairobi and to the branches in Mombasa, Voi, Nyeri, Marsabit, Kitale, Nakuru, and Meru.

The government guarantees the impunity of donors. In Nairobi on April 30, the destruction of at least 105 t of illegal ivory and 1.5 t of rhinoceros horn is planned. There are already special safety measures that have been implemented to protect the stocks and prepare the transfer to the locations where they are destroyed afterwards.<sup>3</sup>

#### UGANDA

**February 6, 2016**

### Entebbe, Central Region, Uganda

Five Vietnamese were sentenced to 3 years in prison, and to pay a fine of 10,000,000 Ugandan shillings (\$ 2950 US) for attempted smuggling of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns, and for illegal possession of parts of protected species. They instigated an attempt to massively export ivory and horns (cf. "On the Trail" n° 11, p. 66).<sup>4</sup>



#### TANZANIA

### FAMILY AFFAIRS

**March 16, 2016**

### Serengeti District, Mara Region, Tanzania

Thomas Nchagwa, 29 years old, Abraham Nchagwa, 25 years old, and Nyageti Magasi, 50 years old, were sentenced to 30 years in prison each for poaching a black rhinoceros and elephants (cf. "On the Trail" n° 4, p. 62). Ten years for poaching, 10 years for possession of trophies of protected species, and 10 years for illegal possession of firearms. This last sentence may be replaced by the payment of a fine of 300,000 shillings (\$ 1394 US). No information on a possible confusion of sentences. The 50-year-old man says he has AIDS, and that his wife died of AIDS 17 years ago.<sup>5</sup>



## CHINA

**March 29, 2016**  
**Fangchenggang, Autonomous Region of Guangxi, China**

A man was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 50,000 yuan (\$ 7740 US) for the illegal transport of 2.2 kg of ivory, 690 g of rhinoceros horn and 190 g of lion teeth. He was arrested on March 16, 2015 in Fangchenggang. He is from Dongxing, a city that shares a border with Vietnam. The goods were valued at 260,000 yuan (\$ 40,130 US).<sup>6</sup>



## INDIA

**February 9, 2016**  
**Station of Jaipur, Rajasthan State, India**

Seizure of a horn and carved ivory tusks. Arrest of Sav Shankar, he had collected the horn in Mumbai and was to deliver it in Jaipur. He is an employee of Himalayan Export Company specialized in trading and export of furniture and antiques. The leader of the company, Anurag Tiwari, is on the run since the arrest of its employee. The police got hold of ivory in one of its stores and warehouses.<sup>7</sup>

## INDONESIA

**February 16, 2016**

**Indonesia**

**Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta**  
 Two months of seizures presented by the Customs General Directory:

- Five tusk sections for a total weight of 109.15 kg estimated worth 3.27 billion Rp (\$ 246,795 US), i.e. \$ 2260 US/kg inside the luggage of a Chinese passenger coming from Abu Dhabi.
- 163 tusks and 2 rhino horns inside a Zambian traveler's suitcases.

The tusks and horns would be coming directly from Zambia via Hong Kong. They should be sent back to the country they are from.<sup>8</sup>



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