

ROBIN DES BOIS

ON the TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling
n°10 / 1st July - 30th September 2015

Contents

Fires flare up, a species goes extinct	3	Various Reptile Species	21
Seahorses	5	Amphibians	21
Queen Conch	6	Birds	22
Sea Cucumbers and Sea Urchins	6	Pangolins	28
Corals	6	Primates	31
Fishes	7	Vicuñas	36
Marine Mammals	8	Felines	36
Marine Turtles	9	Bears	43
Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles	13	Rhinoceroses	45
Snakes	18	Rhinos and Elephants	52
Sauria	19	Elephants	54
Crocodylians	20	Other Mammals	68
		Multi-Species	70



"She is tossed about and does not sink"

This is the latin motto of Paris town. In a way it is also relevant for Robin des Bois. Facing the intensifying storms of violence, it could also be in all the languages of the world the motto of mankind and biodiversity. 9 of the 16 contributors of "On the Trail" n° 10. Canal Saint-Martin, Paris, November 23, 2015.

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°10
The value of horn on the black market, according to media or customs sources

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref.
ASIA	Vietnam	133,000/kg	3*
	China	25,762/kg	55
		25,806/kg	60
	India, Assam	30,229 / horn	59

* Cf. chapter “Rhinoceros and elephants”



AFRICA

July 5, 2015
Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Poaching of a rhino, horns torn out. ¹

Dying at the H7 side.



July 6, 2015
Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

“I did not know where I was.” He was nevertheless sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for illegal possession of weapons and ammunition and illegal intrusion into the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi National Park in 2014. He is from Mozambique. ²



FAMILY AFFAIRS
July 2015
Ingwavuma, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

3 suspended sentencings of 6 years in prison for carrying prohibited arms and munitions and a fine of R60,000 (US\$4895), payable in monthly installments of R2000 (US\$163). One of those sentenced is Madoda Gumede (aged



35), brother of a traditional Zulu chief and son of an ex-member of the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Administrative Council, the organization responsible for the conservation of animals in the province. The 2 others are brothers. The trio had been arrested in May 2013 at the Phinda Private Game Reserve after an exchange of fire with rangers. This is not the first time that a public figure has been incriminated for rhinoceros poaching in KZN (see “On the Trail” n° 5 p 74). Phinda is a hot spot. See “On the Trail” n°4 p. 63, n°6 p. 61, n°7 p. 65 and p. 67. The Democratic Alliance has demanded an investigation into the “leniency” of this sentencing, which according to them is due to political interference. ³



July 13, 2015
Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

The carcass had been there for 15 days. ⁴

July 13, 2015
Esikhotheni Private Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of a female black rhinoceros. Transfer of her surviving 10-month-old calf to a specially protected zone. ⁵

July 16, 2015
Balule Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa

The carcass had been there for 8 days. ⁶

July 24, 2015
Kruger National Park, South Africa

Discovery and rescue of a 2 month-old baby. The body of her poached mother was discovered the next day. ⁷



He was wandering along a trail. He was spotted by tourists.

July 28, 2015
Zululand Rhino Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

A 22 year-old poacher shot dead, 2 others on the run. 4th incursion since the beginning of the year. ⁸



July 30, 2015
Pilanesberg Game Reserve, North Western Province, South Africa

A 4 year-old rhino with both horns amputated but still alive was taken care of by vets from the NGO Saving the survivors. ⁹



July to August 2015

Namibia

Rhinocrisis in Namibia #2. Pohamba Shifeta, the new Minister of the Environment and Tourism is keeping his commitment for the moment. He had promised that “not a stone would remain unturned” in order to find those responsible for the indiscriminate rhino poaching. 36 presumed poachers were arrested between the 1st of June and mid-July. 14 of them were released for lack of proof. But police are keeping an eye on them. 22 were indicted and are being kept in pre-trial detention. Namibian rhinos are said to be under the control of 4 gangs based in Omusati and one gang based in Kunene. In August the vice-director of Fishing and Marine Resources for the Erongo region was arrested along with 2 police officers. The Rhino Minister deplored the fact that one of them was let out on bail for 25,000 Namibian dollars, i.e. US\$1806. 32 fire arms were seized in the vicinity of Etosha National Park. A N\$60,000 reward has been promised to anyone who gives police valid and useful information. Village leaders remain quite uncooperative. One of them when sent to jail nevertheless admitted that his horses, without his consent, had been used in the wild escapades. Many bodies were buried. 3 tons under the sand. It’s almost a perfect crime. The police have vowed to dig.¹⁰

1st August 2015

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Discovery of 2 rhinos wounded by bullets, one in the abdomen, the other in the leg. They both died during the rescue operation.¹¹

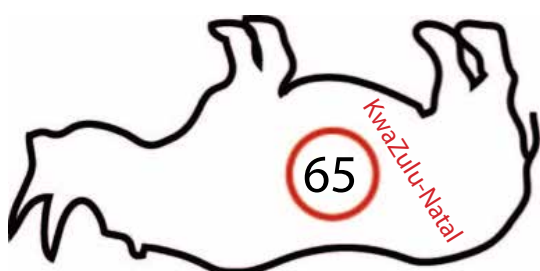
2, 3 and 4 August 2015

KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of a rhino in a private reserve of Hluhluwe, a second one near Pietermaritzburg and a third one in a private reserve in Mahlalela. Since the beginning of the year 65 rhinos were poached in KwaZulu-Natal Province.¹²



© News 24



August 3, 2015

Willem Pretorius Nature Reserve, South Africa

Discovery of 3 rhino injured by bullets. One of them is in a critical condition. The horns were not removed. No one was arrested.¹³

August 3, 2015

Mahlalela Private Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of a pregnant female and her 5 year-old youngster. The horns had been removed. The mother survived despite a bullet in the head. Veterinarians applied



© Kfaru wildlife Veterinary Services

a piece of elephant skin to the wound. This new surgery technique was implemented on Hope. See “On the Trail” n9 p. 62.¹⁴

August 2 and 5, 2015

Chipinge, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe

3 poachers arrested in the Intensive Protection Zone in Chipinge.¹⁵

August 5, 2015

Kruger National Park, South Africa

8 arrests at 2 different times. One poacher wounded. Since the beginning of the year there have been 223 arrests for poaching in South Africa including 129 in the Kruger Park.¹⁶

August 7, 2015

Louis Trichardt, Stockport Farm, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Night-time arrest of 3 suspected poachers after a chase.¹⁷

August 8, 2015

Solio Ranch, County Nyeri, Kenya

They were climbing a fence to access a rhino sanctuary. 2 were killed while trying to escape the rangers. The third managed to flee.¹⁸



August 13, 2015

KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Commutation of a sentence from 20 years to 12 years imprisonment.

The poacher had appealed in November 2014 (see “On the Trail” n°7 p. 69). The judges approved it, but ordered that the sentences for illegal possession of arms and ammunition should run concurrently.¹⁹



August 21, 2015

South Africa

Caught in a trap, the black rhino was freed and its back left foot amputated. It died 2 and a half hours after the operation.²⁰



© Saving The Survivors

August 23, 2015

Wesselsbron, Free State, South Africa

Poaching of a male and female in a game reserve. In a hopeless state, the two were destroyed.²¹

August 23 and 27, 2015

Epacha Game Reserve, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Discovery of an injured rhino, which had to be killed, and of an old carcass, approximately one month old, without a horn.²²

August 25, 2015

Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Poaching of 4 rhinoceros during the night.²³

August 26, 2015

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Arrest of 4 poachers approaching the Thabazimbi Game Reserve. Seizure of a gun with a silencer, bullets, and an axe.²⁴

August 23, 25, and 28, 2015

Karibib and Swakopmund, Erongo Region, Namibia

Since May, 4 rhinoceros have been poached in the Sney River hunting reserve (see "On the Trail" n°9 p 61 et p 65): the last was killed at the beginning of August. 3 poachers arrested. They were returning from a fruitless expedition – the rhinoceros they were targeting had been preventatively dehorned. They were arrested in Karibib, 200 km from the reserve. Two days later, a middleman was caught in the same city. 3 days later, it was the buyer, 39-year-old Tanzanien Rex Goodwill Mwalugelo's turn to be arrested, in Swakopmund, near Walvis Bay.²⁵

August 28, 2015

Private reserve near Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching. 3 down.²⁶



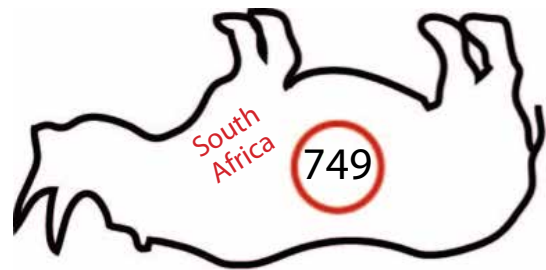
Rhino trapping around 1970

August 31, 2015

White River, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Sentencing of 2 Mozambicans to 11 years imprisonment each for the prohibited carrying of arms and munitions and for illegally entering Kruger Park. The intrusion took place on October 27, 2014.

Toll: 749 rhinos between January 1 and the end of August, 716 for the same period in 2014.²⁷



August 31, 2015

Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Discovery of a carcass and 3 dehorned rhinos in a state of shock including a youngster. 75 rhinos have been poached since the beginning of the year in this reserve.²⁸



**Beginning of September
Pretoria, South Africa**

Another denial of the release on bail for Hugo Ras, the head of a gang of horn traffickers and poachers (see "On the Trail" n° 6, p 67, n° 7 p 71). He and his brother-in-law, Abraham Smit, are the last of the 10 defendants still being kept behind bars. The others, including his brother, Anton Ras, and Christopher Scheepers, were released on bail.²⁹

July to September 2015

Windhoek, Region of Khomas, Namibia

"On the Trail" is following the movements and declarations of the 3 indicted Chinese caught red handed attempting to export 14 horns and a leopard skin on 24 March 2014 at Windhoek airport (see "On the Trail" n°4 p 66, n°5 p 73, n°6 p 65, n° 9 p 62) and a 4th who holds a higher rank in the trafficking hierarchy than the first 3. The shadow of an invisible 5th man, can be imagined hovering in the Windhoek court room. This would be a certain Wu Zhong who is said to have promised US\$3000 to one of the accused for the successful transportation from Namibia to China of the 15 trophies. In front of the judge Li Zhibing's line of defense changed. He admitted to having been informed of the nature of the goods to be transported inside the

nefarious suitcases. The other 2 accused would be in no way to blame, said Li. They simply agreed to take care of one of the cases, so that Li would not exceed the authorized weight limit on boarding. Regarding the 4th accused, Wang Hui, it was he who paid for the plane tickets for the 3 smugglers and who paid for the overnight hotel stays for the 3 purported tourists at the Windhoek Country Club Resort and Casino. The 4 suspects are natives of the province of Jiangsu. Wang Hui is the manager of a company, specializing in the import and export of wood in Zambia.³⁰



Wang Hui

**September 1st, 2015
Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Appearance of an ex-soldier of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and his accomplice for poaching. Shortly after the discovery of a dehorned carcass in September 2010, the Kruger National Park rangers arrested 2 suspects. They had 2 horns on them, a gun and a knife. They said they were there to collect fodder and to look for lost cattle.³¹

**September 1st, 2015
Isimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

- 1.³²

**September 4, 5, and 6, 2015
Limpopo National Park, Mozambique**

For 3 consecutive days, the police found themselves face to face with three bands of poachers. 9 were arrested, 5 fled, and one other was killed.³³



**Beginning of September 2015
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

For alleged poaching, possession of weapons and prohibited ammunition, 3 men were sentenced to jail terms or fined. The first one to 9 years imprisonment or a R96,000 (US\$ 6903) fine, the others to 2 to 4 years imprisonment or a R80,000 (US\$ 5752) fine each.³⁴



**Beginning of September 2015
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

Rescue and intensive treatment for a female rhino immobilized by an anaesthetic arrow and with her horns removed. Her baby is safe and sound.³⁵



On The Trail #10. Robin des Bois/Robin Hood

**September 10, 2015
Madikwe Game Reserve, North Western Province, South Africa**

Poaching of 2 white rhinos. One baby has disappeared despite aerial and ground searches. A difficult year, 3 rhinos were killed, 2 survived.³⁶

**12 and September 13, 2015
Timbavati Private Game Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Poaching of 4 rhinos during the weekend.³⁷

**September 14, 2015
Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy, Central Province, Zimbabwe**

Poaching of a 26-year-old male in this 850 km² reserve founded by 15 farmers near the town of Kwekwe. Sport hunting of antelope and other game is allowed. This enclave that housed until now a population of 6 black rhinos had experienced no poaching in 6 years. The victim was going to be preventively dehorned the following week. The poaching timing casts suspicion on internal staff. 6 arrests.³⁸

**September 14-18, 2015
Tsavo National Park, Kenya**

A video surveillance camera captured the image of a young orphaned rhino strangled by a wire snare. The rangers who left to find Bahati ("good luck" in Swahili), located him 4 days later. In spite of their care, he succumbed to septicemia.³⁹



**September 20, 2015
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

Rescue of a young 7 year old male. Having had his main horn removed by poachers, he is in the hands of veterinarians. The prognosis is favorable.⁴⁰



**September 21, 2015
Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Arrest of 2 suspected poachers. They were on their way to the Kruger Park with a gun and an axe. The police received information and immobilized their vehicles in the ditch. To date there were 544 rhinos killed in the park.⁴¹

September 22, 2015
Thanda Game reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Death of a presumed poacher in a clash with the police. He was in possession of a rifle, a silencer, bullets, and an axe.⁴²



September 24, 2015
Polokwane, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Arrest of a 65 year old man. He had offered a R15,000 (US\$ 1079) bribe to a police inspector not to object to the release on bail of 3 rhino poachers.⁴³

September 25, 2015
Chitwan, Central development region, Nepal

66 people convicted of poaching. The penalties range from 5 to 15 years imprisonment and fines ranging from Rs 50,000 (US\$461) to Rs100,000 (US\$922). 6 of them were guilty of multiple counts of poaching, 2 to 6 rhinoceros each, according to some sources. On the contrary, the country's official line is that rhino poaching is nonexistent in Nepal. The total fine amounts to Rs4.6 million (US\$42.428).⁴⁴



Weekend of September 26, 2015
Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

The red supermoon was fatal for wildlife. 3 attacks in the park. 8 rhinoceros dead, one survivor. The brightness of the full moon and related superstitions served to double the poachers' nocturnal activity.⁴⁵



September 29, 2015
Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

2 men were judged guilty for the poaching of a rhinoceros in Kruger Park in January 2013. Killer, the detection dog, had participated in the arrest. Originally his "job" was to detect explosives in Belgium. He was subsequently transferred to South Africa in order to help in the fight against poaching. Killer is in some ways a political refugee: a price was put on his head in Belgium after he had helped bring down criminal networks. See n°8 p.63.⁴⁶



End of September 2015
Massinga District, Inhambane Province, Mozambique

3 men arrested. Several horns seized.⁴⁷

End of September 2015
Etosha National Park, Kunene Region, Namibia

Poaching confirmed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of a rhino and her calf.⁴⁸

Late September 2015
Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Seizure of 2 horns. Piracy on the road. 2 vehicles across the road. One vehicle, with a flashing light, blocked a Mini Cooper car. The driver was made to disembark and escorted to his house, which was thoroughly ransacked. R200,000 (US\$14,381) were stolen. The bandits were chased and spotted. Police found at their home 2 rhino horns. 4 suspects were arrested, of which one was a Mozambican national. They ranged in age from 21 to 31 years.⁴⁹



AMERICA

Rhino network
Extradition of Patrick Sheridan to the United States

Patrick Sheridan, Irish citizen member of Rathkeale Rovers, was arrested in Wales, UK in January 2015. He was wanted by the US law for participating in the illegal export of black rhino horns purchased in Texas with his accomplices Michael and John Slattery in 2010. Michael Slattery had been arrested in September 2013 in Newark Airport, New Jersey and was sentenced to 14 months in prison.

John Slattery had been arrested in Cherbourg, western France, on April 6 2015 and placed under strict judicial control. On July 8, the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal of Caen gave a favorable opinion to his extradition to the United States. His lawyer immediately appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeal which invalidated the decision on the ground that at the time of the offense perpetrated in the United States, there was no legal definition allowing his indictment in France. The case was referred to the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal of Paris. According to legal circles, it is likely that the opinion of the Supreme Court will be followed.^{49 bis}

See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 69, n° 1, 2, 3, 4.

ASIA

July 4th, 2015
Jaldapara National Park, State of West Bengal, India

Discovery of a rhino carcass with horn torn out. 2 arrests. The incessant rains had interrupted the ranger patrols. This is the seventh case of rhino poaching in the park in one and a half years. Similarly, 9 elephants have died allegedly of unknown causes but each time the tusks had disappeared.⁵⁰

July 16, 2015
Assam, India

Death of an 18-year-old poacher. His accomplice had fled. A female rhinoceros was injured in the dispute.⁵¹



July 2015

Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India

Good news and bad news : rescue of a baby found starving and alone, who was released into the care of CWRC (Center For Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation) and is now on the path to recovery, and discovery of 2 rhino carcasses in the park and surrounding areas.⁵²



© International Animal Rescue Foundation World Action India

**July 21, 2015
Kaziranga National Park,
Assam State, India**

At 3:15 am 2 poachers in possession of a 303 rifle and ammunition were shot by rangers, 2 others fled. Since the beginning of the year, 15 poachers have been shot dead in the park and 35 arrested.⁵³



© Demotix

**July 21, 2015
Darrang District, State of
Assam, India**

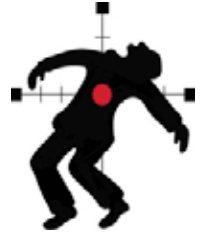


Sentencing of 2 people to 2 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs25,000 (US\$ 390) for poaching a rhino in the Orang National Park on January 9 2011. The two poachers were filmed by cameras placed there to take a census of tigers.⁵⁴

August 20, 2015

**Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary,
Assam, India**

An ex-poacher turned rhino protector was assassinated on the night of August 19 by 5 individuals while on his way home. For 15 years, he had greatly aided the Assam State forest service and other governmental agencies with his knowledge of the terrain. He had helped save 15 rhinoceros in and around the Pobitora sanctuary. In 1998, he was



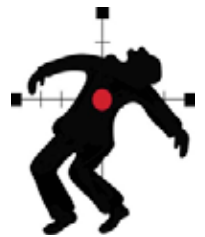
© Bibhab Talukdar

part of a group of 18 poachers who had given up their arms. The management of Pobitora suggested that they switch sides and protect the rhinos instead of poaching them. Before dying at the hospital, Esob Ali revealed the names of his murderers to the police.⁵⁶

August 27, 2015

**Kaziranga National Park,
Assam, India**

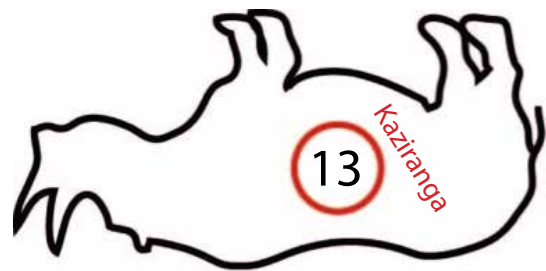
Nighttime clash between the rangers and the rhinoceros killers. 3 poachers were killed and 2 fled.⁵⁷



Late August 2015

**Kaziranga National Park,
Assam, India**

Discovery of a dehorned carcass. This is the 13th killed this year in the park.⁵⁸



September 4th, 2015

Guwahati, Assam, India

Seizure of a horn estimated at 20 Lakh Rs (US\$30,229). 5 arrests.⁵⁹

THE JIGSAW PUZZLE NETWORK

July 27, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 2 rhinoceros horns cut into 10 pieces (6.71 kg), divided among 3 packages, declared to be "wood samples," and transported on 2 flights from Pemba, Mozambique via Johannesburg. Valued at US\$172,865. See "On the Trail," n° 2 p. 64, n° 6 p. 84, n° 7 p. 83, n° 8 p. 63, seizures in Pemba, arriving from Pemba, or en route to Pemba.⁵⁵



Wood samples.

September 21, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 10 kg of horns, total value of HK\$ 2 million (US\$258,064) and arrest of two men and one woman aged between 30 and 56 years. The 3 horns, cut into pieces, were found in the luggage of the 3 passengers coming from Johannesburg. This is called the puzzle technique.⁶⁰



EUROPE

August and September 2015

Genoa Museum of Natural History, Liguria and Zoological Museum of Naples, Campania, Italy

- Theft of a fake rhino horn at Genoa in August. Information signs, however, indicate that the horns had been replaced by fakes made of polystyrene and plaster.

- In Naples in September, theft of 5 genuine horns that were 2 or 3 centuries old, 2 among them almost a meter long. Italy is experiencing a wave of horn thefts:

- July 29, 2014. Theft from the Macerata Natural History Museum. The two large horns from two heads were stolen.

- January 20, 2015. A 1 meter long horn weighing over 5 kg was stolen from the University of Modena Museum of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy.

- March 9, 2015. Theft of a horn from the Museum of Natural History at the University of Pisa (see "On the trail" n° 8 p. 10).

- June 2, 2015. Theft of a horn from the Bologna Zoological Museum.⁶¹



Genoa. It was a polystyrene horn.



Rhinos and Elephants

AFRICA

July 6, 2015

Maputo, Mozambique

Destruction of 2400 kg of ivory and 86 sections (193.5 kg) of rhinoceros horn, originating in part from a seizure at the home of a Chinese citizen living in Maputo on May 2 2015. See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 70. The South African political party Democratic Alliance denounced the lack of cooperation between Mozambique and South Africa. In fact, no DNA sample had been sent to Pretoria, which harmed the inquiry and prevented the identification of the rhino's exact origins.²



© WCS Mozambique

August 12, 2015

Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, Vietnam

Seizure of 49 sections of elephant tusks (95.54 kg) and of a rhinoceros horn (4.76 kg) from 4 packages coming from Africa via South Korea. Customs estimated the value of the horn at US\$633,080 or US\$133/g and the overall value of the ivory at US\$ 200,634 or US\$2100/kg.³



© Thanh Nien News

Mid-September 2015

Tsavo East National Park and Chyulu Hills, Ma-kueni, Kenya

2 operations led by teams from the Big Life Foundation and Kenya Wildlife Service.

1-Seizure of 2 tusks, elephant meat, poisoned arrows, a bow, and an AK-47 magazine. Suspects arrested.

2-Raid at the home of an individual suspected of poaching a rhinoceros. Arrest. Suspicion of using traps. Seizure of poison, poisoned arrows, and two small tusks.⁴



© Big Life Foundation

The modus operandi of Luo in Maputo



© Interpol

Luo's official job was to recycle aluminum cans. Ivory and rhino horns were mixed with compressed aluminum cans in bags and boxes. This is not the first time that illegal animal parts have been mixed with items to be recycled (see "On the Trail" n°3 p. 59, n°5 p. 50, n°7 p. 7).⁵



© Interpol

ASIA

August 13, 21 and 25, 2015

The Da Nang triplets
Tien Sa Seaport terminal, Port of Da Nang, Vietnam

CÔNG TY CỔ PHẦN VẬN TẢI BIỂN VAN AN
VAN AN SHIPPING CORPORATION (VASHIPCORP)
As Ship's Operating and Ship's Chartering

1- Seizure of 603 kg of elephant tusks and 142 kg of rhino horns inside 2 containers. The marble shipments were fake. Each block had wildlife valuables hidden inside. Transport between Mozambique and Vietnam via Malaysia was under the responsibility of Van An Shipping Corporation, a large Vietnamese maritime company, owner of 20 cargo ships and logistics partner of the French ship owner CMA-CGM, owner of at least one of the two intercepted containers.



© Lao Dong



© info-net



© dtnnews



© Nguyen Tu

2- Seizure of 2.2 tons of ivory tusks hidden behind hundreds of boards in the back of a container the consignee of which was, once again, Van An Shipping Corporation. State services estimated the cargo's value at US\$4.44 million, or US\$2018/kg.



© N.B



© Andi Stahli



© Hong Vy

Document: Wildleaks

Part of loading / transshipment	Abidjan (Cote D' Ivoire (Ivory Coast))	Port Klang / Malaysia	Port Klang / Malaysia	Port Klang / Malaysia
Shipper	ETS DAO ADAMA	ETS DAO ADAMA	ETS DAO ADAMA	ETS DAO ADAMA
Consignee	NAN HAI LUEN FAT METAL TRADING CO.	HONEST TRADING CO.	LUNG FUNG TRADING CO.	LUNG FUNG TRADING CO.
Port of discharge	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Shipping Company	CMA CGM (HONG KONG) LIMITED	CMA CGM (HONG KONG) LIMITED	CMA CGM (HONG KONG) LIMITED	CMA CGM (HONG KONG) LIMITED
Declaration / Declared Weight	191 Bags of SOYBEAN MEAL 15,480 KG	202 Bags of SOYBEAN MEAL 18,180 KG	222 Bags of SOYBEAN MEAL 18,400 KG	222 Bags of SOYBEAN MEAL 18,400 KG
Seizure	65 Nos. (231.30 KG) of Ivory tusks	52 Nos. (314.50 KG) of Ivory tusks	22 Nos. (222.84 KG) of Ivory tusks	22 Nos. (222.84 KG) of Ivory tusks
Estimated Seizure Value	HK\$ 3,469,500	HK\$ 4,717,500	HK\$ 3,342,900	HK\$ 3,342,900
Port of information	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Inspection by Cargo Selector of PMC

In the course of routine cargo profiling, the cargo selector vigilantly scrutinized cargo information regarding shipments originating from West African countries

3- Seizure of 1023 kg of elephant tusks and 4002 kg of pangolin scales (*Manis spp.*, Appendix II) hidden inside a load of red beans coming from the port of Pasir Gudang, Malaysia. This is the 3rd seizure in Da Nang. Smuggling is flourishing and involves multiple species. 4002 kg of scales from at least 10,000 pangolins. Hung Huy Bao and the mother company Van An Shipping Corporation were the designated recipients. After Mong Cai and Hai Phong which have the advantage for traffickers of being close to China, Da Nang appears to be a fallback solution but customs are vigilant. Major maritime companies such as CMA-CGM based in Marseille in France are too often, for lack of vigilance and stringency, involved in serious trafficking cases and could one day be brought to justice. The CMA-CGM name was cited in a document published by Wildleaks in September 2015 as being the transporter of a supposed 15,480 tons of soy beans. The container was seized in autumn 2013 in the port of Hong Kong. Along with the soy, there was also 769 kg of ivory.¹