

ROBIN DES BOIS

ON the TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling
n°4 / 1st January - 31th March 2014

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Introduction

Here now the 4th edition of « On the Trail », 112 pages, 468 events, 352 information sources. All dials are in the red. On the endangered species market prices are soaring. China and the world exotic pet trade are weighing heavily. The red-fronted parrot in Congo smuggled by Blue Helmets are sold for 800 US\$ on Internet. Rhino horns reach 100,000 US\$/kg, leopard skin more than 30,000 US/\$. Mumbai golden youth gets high on cobra venom (180,000 US\$/l). Isilo, the elephant who became a symbol of South Africa, is dead. His 2 tusks worth 600,000 US\$ have disappeared. Poachers were the first to find his body by spotting the vultures. Suspicion lingers. Daytime rangers become night-time poachers. Prices go wild, the violence does also. Animals, thieves and rangers fall. Traffickers kill each other like traffickers of a drug cartel. Gangs rule, gangrene thrives. This is war. Justice is incoherent. From severe punishment to set an example to a mere bail, justice sometimes goes astray. Traffickers are often very young. Poachers ride BMWs. Killing methods are both modern and archaic.

Good news is rare but good wills are steadfast and countless. Customs manage some grand catches. Inspired by the Koran, the Indonesian Council of Oulemas pronounced a fatwa addressing the 200 million Muslims in the Country according to which poaching and smuggling species endangered of extinction is forbidden. The fatwa mentions tigers, rhinos, elephants, birds, reptiles, and orangutans. The look on «Mademoiselle Chinoise's» eyes when she was freed is more good news, that « On the Trail » be on the right track is another.

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*.

From 1st January to 31th March
220 rhinoceros killed
in South Africa, Kenya and India

AFRICA

6 rhinos poached
Kruger Park, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa
January 2014
In 6 days, 6 rhinos killed.

4 rhinos poached
Palala Rhino Sanctuary, Mookgophong, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
January 3, 2014
4 rhinos in one night.

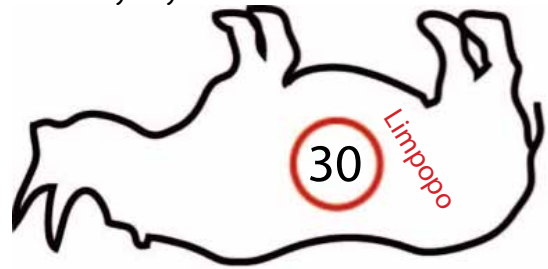


One white rhino poached
UMkhuze Game Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
January 2014
The de-horned carcass was found 3 days after the slaughter. This is the first rhino of the year in this province.

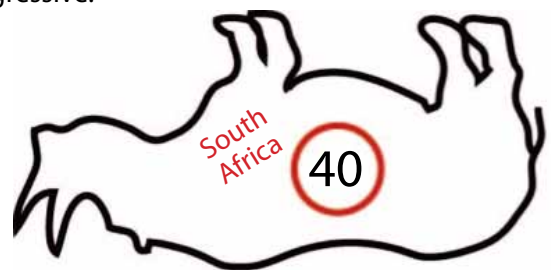
3 rhinos poached
Gravelotte, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
January 6 and 7, 2014
A male was killed during the night of the 6th. The next night it came their turn for a female and her calf.



30 rhinos poached
Province of Limpopo, South Africa
1st half of January, 2014
30 rhinos were killed and mutilated in 15 days in the province of Limpopo, north of the capital Pretoria. 2 every day.



Seizure of 2 rhino horns
Kruger National Park, Provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo, South Africa
January 17 and 18, 2014
7 poachers killed in Kruger Park over the week-end. 11 have been killed since the beginning of the year, 40 rhinos have also. "Its getting rougher, the hunters go by groups of 4 or 6. They are more and more aggressive."



One black rhino poached
Serengeti National Park, Region of Mara, Tanzania
January 18, 2014
The day before, near Serengeti, 3 armed bandits probably poachers had attacked a minivan around 3 p.m. and robbed the passengers. Just after, reinforcement was sent on site to carry out road checks. That night, a black rhino was killed and his horn taken nearby. According to witnesses the 3 gangsters could come from one of Kenya's neighbour countries and the poaching could have been organized by a criminal network. As a result there are now only 35 black rhinos left in Tanzania. The newest victim was one of the 5 rhinos who had been transferred by a Hercules C130 aircraft from South Africa in attempts to rebuild populations. The Serengeti National Park is listed by UNESCO one of the world heritage sites. It is also listed a priority site by poachers.



M. Lazaro Nyalandu, Minister of natural resources and tourism has much to do with ivory, horns, and a possible new launch of operation Tokomeza.
 "We are loosing 2 elephants a day."

5 rhinos poached
Private reserve, Province du KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
January 2014

5 more rhinos in this province.

6 rhinos poached
Hoopstad, Province of Free State, South Africa
Around January 23, 2014

6 in the Free State.

2 rhinos poached
Private reserve in the Hoedspruit area, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
January 23, 2014

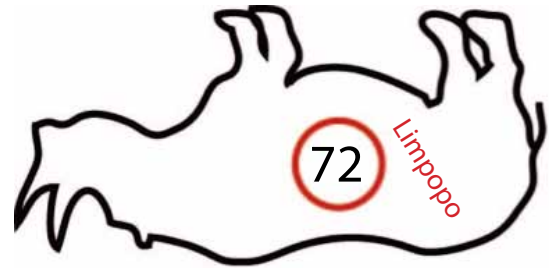
5 policemen arrested for rhino horn trafficking
Massingir, Province of Gaza, Mozambique
January 2014

The policemen had received information concerning rhino horns held at the home of a suspect. Without any warrant, they searched the place and found a horn. The chief of police for the Province of Gaza apparently then directly negotiated its price. The amount is unknown but he would then have given out 300,000 meticaïs (9930 US\$) to his accomplices, the chief of police of the Massingir district, the chief of the Crimes Investigation Police Brigade of Massingir (PIC), a PIC officer, a traffic policeman and the car driver that took the whole team on site. Information revealed by the Savana weekly have been confirmed by the highest authorities of the Province of Gaza's police force.

One rhino poached
Nairobi National Park, County of Nairobi, Kenya
January 2014

The rhino was killed and his horn taken in the Nairobi National Park, the fortress of all national parks, where the KWS is based, 7 kilometers from the capitals' towers. The emblematic park had already received such a blow in august 2013.

One rhino poached
Thornybush, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
January 24, 2014



One rhino poached
Mossel Bay, Province of Western cape, South Africa
January 27, 2014

The 7-year-old male named Sir Fabian was found dead and mutilated. The Nyaru Game Lodge Reserve had sold all its other rhinos for fear of poachers. Maybe to his misfortune, Sir Fabian had been seen on television last year because of his friendship with a small dog named Madam Gigi. "We think it happened in the middle of the afternoon. We are devastated."



Death and arrest of poachers
Kruger National Park, Provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo, South Africa
January 29, 2014

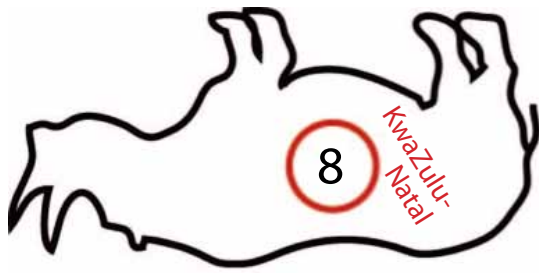
A Winchester Magnum with a silencer, ammunition and other hunting material were found by police. One of the poachers was killed during the fight, a second one was arrested, a third one got away.

One rhino poached
Olifants Game Reserve, Hoedspruit, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
January 31, 2014

2 poachers arrested
Phinda Game Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
February 5, 2014

The guards had sighted the intruders in the late afternoon. The crossfire ended with the death of 2 poachers and the arrest of 2 others. A big caliber gun equipped with silencer, an axe, a knife and 8 telephones were discovered on the spot. 8 poachers

and 8 rhinos: in this province, so is the toll for the horn war as of the 5th of February.



**Seizure of a rhino horn
Lephalale, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
February 10, 2014**

A rhinoceros was slaughtered; another one was wounded. 4 people, aged from 30 to 48 years old, were arrested. A big caliber gun, ammunition, a saw, a car and a rhino horn were seized. One of the poachers is a local guy. Request for bail will be examined at the end of March. While waiting, they will stay in jail.

**Seizure of a rhino horn
Bela-Bela, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
February 11, 2014**

5 of them have been arrested. They are between 23 and 34 years old. The group was in possession of a horn apparently stolen some months ago.

**Poaching of 2 white rhinos
Ol Jogi Ranch, County of Laikipia, Kenya
February 11, 2014**

Slaughter at nightfall. One horn torn off despite the electrified fence.

**Conviction for rhino poaching
Lehurutshe, Province of Northwest, South Africa
February 13, 2014**



Arrested after having poached a rhinoceros in the Botsalano Game Reserve, he was sentenced to 10 years of prison, 5 of which are suspended. He was also sentenced to a 5 years prison term for having an unregistered weapon. The 2 penalties are combined. The severity of the judgment is considered a judicial progress. Outside the Courtroom, there was a protest in favor of rhinos. One accomplice will be judged at a later date. Not having been paid, his lawyer withdrew at the last minute, a procedure for judiciary assistance is launched and another lawyer should be assigned in the weeks to come.

**Poaching of 4 rhinoceros
Solio Ranch, Nyeri County, Kenya
And Nakuru National Park, Nakuru County, Kenya
February 2014**

Kenyan press mentions the existence of a tycoon in ivory and rhino horn trafficking which would radiate from the County, a mysterious character in a high position to whom agents or former agents from KWS would be submitted. He would pull the strings of the traffic from Nyeri County with connections in Uganda, throughout Eastern Africa and Central

Africa. On the ground, the poachers would in turn be murdered to prevent «leakage», confidences or incriminating confession. For now, the «revelations» of the press portray a ghost. Maybe one day he will become a being of flesh and bone.



2 rhinos less in Solio Ranch



and 155 km farther, 2 rhinos less in the Nakuru National Park

**Poaching of one rhino
Kruger National Park, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa
February 2014**

Belgian tourists signaled the presence of an rhino, amputated of his horn, wandering along the road. The rangers of South African National Parks began looking for him. It took them several days to find the animal again. Because of strong rains, it was impossible for a helicopter to take off and locate the injured rhino who had left the road tracks. After finding him thirty kilometers further, veterinarians have assessed his condition. It turned out that the rhino had a bullet lodged in his brain. To end his suffering, they decided to kill him.



**One white rhino poached
Nakuru National Park, County Nakuru, Kenya
February 28, 2014**

The rhinoceros was slaughtered 200 meters from the Rangers' General headquarters. In only a week, this makes 3 rhinos murdered in a reserve deemed to be well guarded. Has the rot set in? Are the poachers well connected ?

**Poaching of a black rhino
Musiyara Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya
March 5, 2014**

He was killed in the night, the poachers escaped with its horn. He has bullet wounds and wounds from a poisonous arrow. This second ambush in one month in the famous park Masai Mara worries and threatens tourism that carries to the region revenue, jobs and reputation.

"Regarding ivory, we've reached the catastrophic levels of poaching as in 1980."
"Regarding rhino horns, this has never been seen."

**Poaching of a black rhino
Masai Mara Reserve, Narok County, Kenya
March 6, 2014**

The guide and the tourists fell nose to nose with the dead black rhinoceros. The main horn had been equipped with an electronic microchip presumed to facilitate monitoring of the rhinos and if necessary the itinerary of the stolen horn. For the moment, more classical means such as the intervention of dogs has not enabled to find the shooters.

**Poaching of 2 rhinoceros
Nakuru National Park, Nakuru County, Kenya
March 4 & 6, 2014**

In broad daylight, 200 m from the Park Rangers headquarters! Surveillance units are on alert 24/24h but they do take from time to time a siesta with earplugs. Motivation is wearing down. 20 guards had recently been transferred to other parks. The Kenyan NGO Save the Rhino would have preferred that they be laid off. The population of some dozen rhinos of the lake Nakuru National Park is melting like snow in the sun.

**Conviction for illegal possession
of rhino horns
Richards Bay, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
March 2014**



"What is in the black bag at your feet?" This was March 15, 2013. The officers had just stopped a car on the road between Vryheid and Dundee. Inside the bag, there were 2 horns. The 2 passengers, one year later, were sentenced to 6 years of prison for trafficking. One of them will still have to appear for poaching, this time in front of the Richards Bay Court.

**Poaching of a white rhino
Thanda Private Game Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
March 14, 2014**

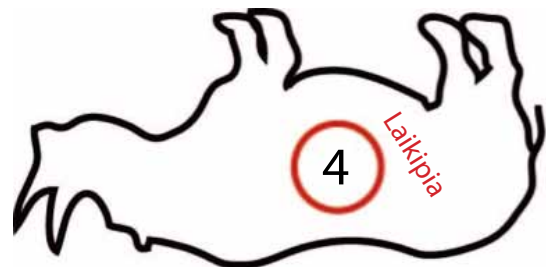
The horn would not have been taken.



Thanda private game reserve

**Poaching of rhinoceros
Conservancy de Ol Pejeta, Laikipia County, Kenya
March 16, 2014**

4 here so far since the beginning of the year. "The carcass without the horn was found in the thicket."



**Poaching of a rhino
Nguila Sanctuary, Tsavo Park, Taita Taveta County, Kenya
March 16, 2014**

It happened at night. The horn and an ear disappeared. The trail followed by the dogs from the crime scene led to the Mombasa Road. The suspects probably had a car waiting. During an entire year- March 2013 to March 2014- the Tsavo National Park had to be protected from horn hunters. It's a hard blow for the surveillance team's moral. Since the beginning of the year, Kenya has lost 11 rhinoceros brought to a violent death.



**Poaching of a white rhino
Weenen Game Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
March 16, 2014**

The horn has disappeared.

**Poaching of a white rhino
Ol Jogi conservancy, Laikipia County, Kenya
March 18, 2014**

6 years old, named Dennis, he was slaughtered around 7:00 p.m. The shooting was reported by 4 ranger stations: dogs, security agents were deployed and thermal cameras were used. The carcass was found in the morning thanks airplane searches. The poachers were not able to take the horn.

**Poaching of 2 rhinos
Mkhuze Private Reserve and the private reserve
in Zululand, Province of KwaZulu-Natal,
South Africa
March 2014**

Despite the dissuasive interventions of the new anti-poaching helicopter, a rhino has been killed in each reserve.

**Poaching of one rhino
Chyulu National Park, Makueni County, Kenya
March 2014**

The rhinoceros died after being caught in a trap. He was found by the guards before the hunters had come to retrieve the horn.

**Rhino poaching
Mkhaya Game Reserve, Lubombo District, Swa-
ziland
March 2014**

It was 23 years since the park had not known rhino poaching. A reward of 50.000 Emalangeni (4715 US\$) was announced for information leading to the arrest of poachers.

**Poaching of 3 rhinos
Reserve Pumba, Eastern Cape Province, South
Africa
March 21, 2014**

2 dead young rhinos were found in the morning by a guide and tourists. The horns were cut with surgical precision. The next day, a third adult victim was found. The horn was still in place.

**Poaching of 3 white rhinoceros
Spienkop Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal,
South Africa
March 23, 2014**

The white rhinoceros were killed on Sunday. Poisonous arrows hit them. The bodies were found on Wednesday without the horns. 19 have been killed since the beginning of the year.



**Seizure of 14 rhino horns and a leopard skin
(Panthera pardus)**

**Hosea Kutako International Airport, Windhoek,
Khomas Region, Namibia
March 24, 2014**

9th in China. 10th in Zambia. 12th in Namibia. 23th in the can.

3 men were taken at the main airport in Namibia with 14 rhino horns and the feline skin. They were leaving for Johannesburg, final destination Hong Kong. One of 3, speaking Mandarin, says he has nothing to do with this story. The court denied provisional release on bail. «The risks are too great to see them run away.»

The Hosea Kutako International Airport of Windhoek had a reputation of sieve.



Hosea Kutako International Airport

**Conviction for illegal activity in
the natural reserve, illegal pos-
session of guns and ammunition
and illegal entry in the national
park**



**Louis Trichardt, Province of Limpopo, South
Africa
March 24, 2014**

In October 2013, the suspect aged 27 years old was caught with a .375 Winchester and ammunition in the process of prowling through the Punda Maria area. He then argued that he was simply looking for small game and bushmeat.

The prosecutor expressed his surprise that he wanted to hunt "the small" with a strong calibre usually used to hunt elephants or rhinos. The suspect had been sentenced to a R 20,000 fine (1886 US\$) and 4 years of prison suspended sentence. The fine will be given to the fund for the preservation of the rhinoceros managed by the Natural Park.

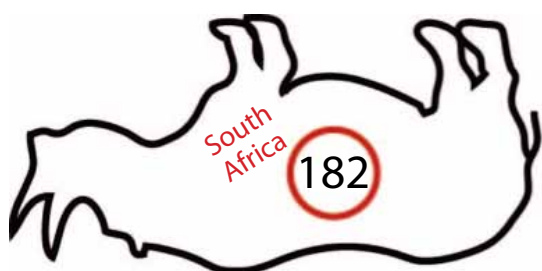
Rhino poaching
Nakuru National Park, County Nakuru, Kenya
March 27, 2014

The 3 year old rhino was killed by poachers in the night. This is the 19th in Kenya since the beginning of the year.



Arrest of 5 suspected of rhino poaching
Gravelotte, Limpopo Province, South Africa
March 27, 2014

It was the early morning. The Isuzu pickup was in a parking lot in the center of Gravelotte. Police decided to check the driver and 2 passengers. At that time, a black BMW X5 parked to the side and 3 occupants of the pickup tried to jump it and escape. Everyone was arrested. Inside the Isuzu pick-up a shotgun whose number was erased, cartridges, 3 butcher knives and 2 coveralls were recovered and will be used as evidence. The intention of poaching rhinos is liable of a conviction in South Africa. One of the suspects has a poaching criminal record.



AMERICA

Conviction for rhino horn trafficking
Brooklyn, State of New York, United States
January 10, 2014

The well known Michael Slattery, member of the Rathkeale Rovers followed by « On the Trail » for many months has been sentenced to 14 months prison term and 3 years probation, to a 10,000 US\$ fine and to pay back 50,000 US\$, the equivalent of his earnings in illegal trade.



ASIA

One rhino poached
Bihpukhuri, State of Assam, India
January 8, 2014

Officially this is the first rhino killed in or around the Kaziranga Park. He was first severely wounded by gunshot. Despite the veterinarians care he died the next day.



Seizure of one rhino horn (800 g)
Tezpur, State of Assam, India
January 13, 2014

5 days later in the same district 2 men leaving a bus were arrested by police acting on information they had been given. They were carrying on them a 800 grams rhino horn whose value is estimated at Rs 50 lakh, that is 80,000 US\$.



Seizure of 8 pieces of black rhino horns and conviction (21,5 kg)
Singapore Changi airport, Singapore
January 10, 2014

The young 22-year-old from Vietnam tried to pull a big one off. 22 kilos of black rhino horn. The equivalent of 2.2 million US\$ according to the Bloomberg agency. He had bought the package in Mozambique, the initial origin probably being South Africa. His flight plans led him from Uganda to Vietnam via Dubai, Singapore and Laos. It was interrupted in Singapore where customs noticed the 22 kilos of keratin locally worth an estimated 1.3 million US\$. The horns were seized. May they be burned! The smuggler was arrested and sentenced to 15 months prison term.

One rhino poached
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
January 16, 2014

Poaching by night in Kaziranga. The horn has disappeared.

Seizure of 9 rhino horns (21,8 kg)
Suvarnabhumi Airport, Province of Samut Prakan, Thailand
January 19, 2014

It's the Bangkok airport's turn this time to find in a Vietnamese passengers luggage heading for Hanoi from Nairobi 21.8 kg of rhino keratin. May they be burned! The total value is estimated by customs at 21 million Bahts- or 640,000 US\$- nearly half what was estimated by the Singapore customs for the same quantity.



**One rhino poached
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
January 25, 2014**

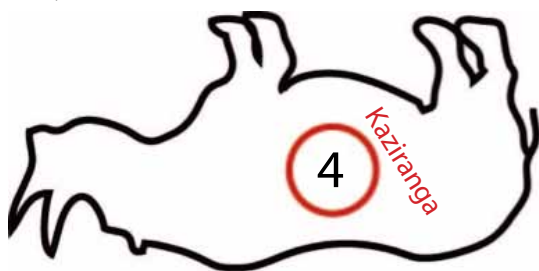
The female rhino was killed around 3:20 a.m. The forest guards found the carcass without the horn at 3:50. The suspect was arrested with the help of a sniffer dog who followed his trace over 15 km over hills all the way to the Amguri village. The horn wasn't found. It isn't known how many poachers participated in the forfeit but at least 2 weapons were used. AK47 and .303 rifle cartridges were found on the crime scene. The dog named Jorba, a Belgian Shepherd, had been given by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation in cooperation with the Aaranyak NGO. The female was with her calf. The park employees have localized him and are following his movements.



Jorba

**Poaching of one rhino
National Park of Kaziranga, State of Assam, India
February 1, 2014**

That makes 4 in the park. The crime scene is near Brahmapoutre but according to investigators the killers came by the road.



**Seizure of a rhino horn
Napam, State of Assam, India
February 3, 2014**

3 people were arrested. The horn that weighed 500 g was found. It came from one of the 4 rhinos poached in the Kaziranga Park since the beginning of the year.

**Poaching of one rhino
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
February 15, 2014**

"Poaching is not nearing extinction in the Kaziranga Park". The press of Assam relays the worry of the civil society.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
February 23, 2014**

The tragic series of events continues. One more victim of an AK 47, despite installation of 8 cameras in the park (430 km²) that detect the movements of animals and intruders.

**Poaching of one rhino
Kaziranga, State of Assam, India
February 27, 2014**

2 deaths among the poachers. One death among the rhinos. 3 poachers escape with the horn.

**Seizure of 3.19 kg of rhino horn
Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Autonomous Municipality of Shanghai, China
February 2014**

The keratin valued at 180,000 € was uncovered in an express package coming from South Africa containing, according the accompanying declaration, 5 ceramic plates with a total value of 1,222 yuans (199 US\$).



REPEATED OFFENCE

**Arrest for rhino poaching and horn smuggling
Shaktikhor, Central Region of Development,
Nepal**

February 23, 2014

In 2006, a complaint had been filed by the administration of the Chitwan Chepang National Park for poaching and smuggling. The trafficking senior had relapsed. He is in prison for the moment. He is waiting for what will come. If declared guilty, he risks 15 years of prison or a fine of RS 100,000 (1000 US\$) or both.

**Seizure of 5 rhino horns (13.1 kg)
Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Ho-Chi-Minh-City, Vietnam
March 12, 2013**



705,000 US\$. Estimation of Vietnam customs

Rhino poaching
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
March 17, 2014

Gunshots were heard in the distance and 3 days later the carcass of a male without his horn was found in a secluded area of the park. A local NGO member is appalled: «poaching becomes a regular affair in the National Park.»

Poaching of rhinoceros
Kaziranga, State of Assam, India
March 19, 2014

Since the beginning of the year, the toll is 17.



Seizure of a rhinoceros horn
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
March 22, 2014

2 poachers were killed by rangers after an exchange of gunfire that lasted nearly an hour. The horn was found on site. Violence increases.

Rhino poaching
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
March 23, 2014

Kaziranga has lost a third rhino in 5 days. Poachers will take any kind of risk in this pre-election period. The political climate is tense and all police and administration focus on the organization of elections.

Rhino poaching
Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India
March 26, 2014

8 poachers, a sawed horn, a 30 minutes shootout. 2 dead poachers. Others fled with the horn under cover of darkness.



Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Seizure of a rhino horn
Attariya, Region of development Extreme West, Nepal

March 31, 2014

2 officers dressed as civilians had an appointment with 2 sellers of a 25cm long horn. The contract was concluded on the base of Rs 5.5 millions (56,600 US\$). The 2 sellers became nervous when the 2 buyers wanted to take a photo. The 2 traffickers were arrested when police reinforcement arrived on scene.

EUROPE

Conviction for attempt to auction
3 elephant tusks and 2 rhino horns
Copenhagen, Region of Hovedsta-
den, Denmark

January 20, 2014

In 2012 the Danish auctioning company Bruun Rasmussen had already been sentenced to a 50.000 crowns fine (9140 US\$) brought down to 10,000 crowns (9180 US\$) following negotiations after the trial for having sold a rhino horn without a CITES permit. Bis repetita. Bruun Rasmussen is brought once again before court for having put for sale in the same conditions 2 rhino horns and 3 elephant tusks. The Danish auctioneers are getting off with a good deal. The fine is only of 14,000 crowns (2570 US\$). Rasmussen had withdrawn the illegal goods after being called upon by CITES authorities and the Danish administration.



A rhino horn stolen
Cork, Province of Munster, Ireland
January 27, 2014

The theft took place in Michael Flatley's mansion, the American dancer and choreographer of Irish descent. The Rathkeale Rovers is suspected to be the perpetrators. One African rhino horn, estimated worth a half a million dollars and other objects from the collection were taken. The artist and his family were present in their home when the theft happened, they only saw 2 shadows running and escaping by car. It was then found out that the safari room had been broken into.

Sentencing of a man to 16 months
of prison for theft of a rhino horn
Nottingham, Region of the East
Midlands, United Kingdom
February 2014

On June 11 2011, Daniel O'Brien, 43 years old, fixed a meeting with the antiquarian on a fast food parking lot in Newark. Him and his accomplice grabbed the horn and fled in a 4 wheeler. The antiquarian attempted to stop them by clinging to the car. He spent weeks in the hospital to recovering from his injuries. Spotted and identified thanks to video surveillance and his mobile telephone, O'Brien was arrested in Cambridge at the end of 2011, charged and released in the wait of judgment. He then left the UK. In his escape, he toured Europe and was the subject of a Europol arrest warrant. Signaled in Germany and Spain, he was intercepted at the Alicante airport in Spain. His accomplice, Michael Kealy, 27 years old, was arrested in Kilkenny



(Ireland). Extradited by Ireland, he served 3 months in prison for gang robbery. The 2 Irish hoodlums are members or followers of Rathkeale Rovers. The antique dealer is not completely cleared either. The victim had accepted a shady appointment on a McDonald's parking lot with rhino horn of unknown origin worth, he says, of 20,000 £ (33,000 US\$). The antique seller had been put in contact with his 2 aggressors by a colleague.



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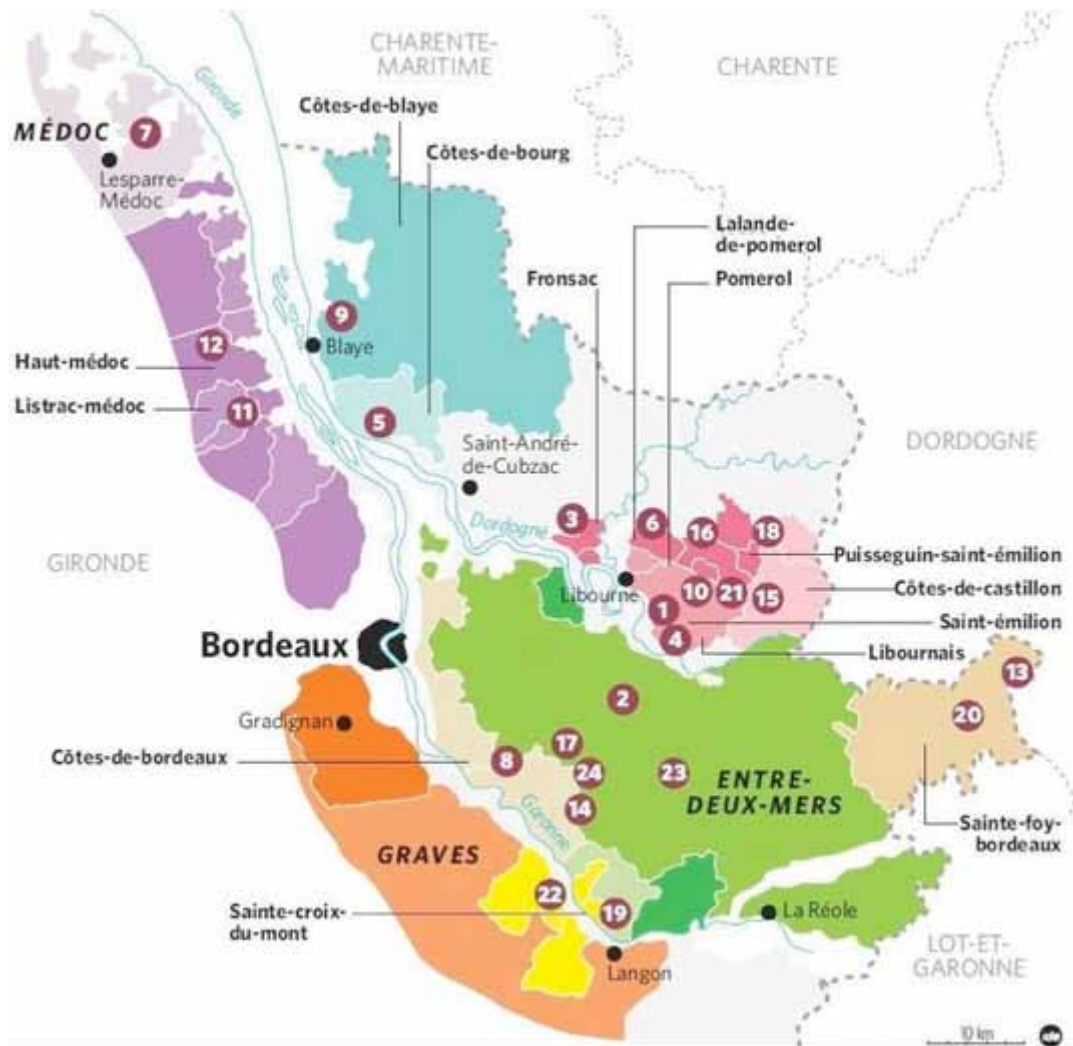
Daniel O'Brien

**Seizure of 10 rhinoceros horn parts (9.5 kg)
Poitiers, Poitou-Charentes Region, France
February 28, 2014**

Customs officers in Poitiers struck again. In the trunk of the car driven by a Chinese national and heading towards Bordeaux they dug up 10 rhinos horn parts for a total weight of 9.5 kg. The driver, placed in custody, explained that he wanted to negotiate their sale in Bordeaux. This specialist of great Bordeaux wine exports to China explained that he had been burdened by someone he knows to find a buyer for the fraudulent horns. This sensational arrest opens the way to a great rhino vintage worthy of Chinese traffickers' inventiveness. This seizure of almost 10 kg of rhino horn sheds new light on colonization of the Bordeaux vineyards by the Chinese tycoons. Private jets, experts' trips, direct expeditions of big and small vintages between the airports of Bordeaux-Mérignac and China. Economic interests, red carpet and white wine, St. Emilion rhyming with millions, everything is truly place to slip in between the bottles a few rhino horns. Robin des Bois believes that the illegal export industry exists. One does not lug around 700,000 € of keratin in a trunk without being sure that they can be delivered. The conveyor was taken. The exporter hasn't been yet. Will he ever be or will he benefit from oenological immunity?



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The beginning of the Chinese investments in Bordeaux. April 2012.

DR. Source l'Express.

1. Haut-Brisson (Saint-Emilion) by Peter Kwok from Taiwan in 1997 in Vignonet.
2. Latour-Laguens (Entre-Deux-Mers) by Haiyan Cheng (Longhai Group) in 2008 in Saint-Martin-du-Puy.
3. Richelieu (Fronsac) by A & A (Hongkong) en 2009 in Fronsac.
4. Vieux-Brondeau (Libournais) by Zhejiang Cy in 2009 in Sainte-Terre.
5. Chenu-Lafitte (Côtes-de-Bourg) by Group Hai-chang in 2010 in Bourg-sur-Gironde.
6. Viaud (Lalande-de-Pomerol) by Cofco in 2011 in Lalande-de-Pomerol.
7. Laulan-Ducos (Médoc) by Richard Shen (Tesiro) in 2011 in Jau-Dignac-et-Loirac.
8. Lagarosse (Côtes-de-Bordeaux) by Carlico (Hongkong) in 2011 in Tabanac.
9. La Salle (Côtes-de-Blaye) by Zhongai in 2011 in Saint-Genès-de-Blaye.
10. Monlot (Saint-Emilion) by Zhao Wei and Huang You Long in 2011 in Saint-Hyppolyte.
11. Lafon (Listrac) by Marvelake Wine in 2011 in Listrac-Médoc.
12. Barateau (Haut-Médoc) by Marvelake Wine in 2011 in Saint-Laurent-Médoc.

13. La Bourguette (Sainte-Foy-Bordeaux) by Beverly Koo (Hongkong) in Saint-Philippe-du-Seignal.
14. Lezongars (Entre-Deux-Mers) by Dashang in 2011 in Villenave-de-Rions.
15. La Roche-Pressac (Côtes-de-Castillon) by Skyvast Properties (Hongkong) in 2011 in Saint-Magne-de-Castillon.
16. La Patache (Pomerol) by Peter Kwok (Taiwan) in 2011 in Saint-Emilion.
17. Grand-Branet (Entre-Deux-Mers) by Cheng Qu in 2011 in Capian.
18. Branda (Puisseguin-Saint-Emilion) by Cheng Qu in 2011 in Puisseguin.
19. Laurette (Sainte-Croix-du Mont) Cheng Qu in 2011 in Sainte-Croix-du-Mont.
20. Thébot (Sainte-Foy-Bordeaux) by Cheng Qu in 2011 in Saint-André-et-Appelles.
21. Tour-Saint-Christophe (Saint-Emilion) by Peter Kwok (Taiwan) in 2011 in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes.
22. Bertranon (Sainte-Croix-du-Mont) by Meng Gao in 2012 in Loupiac.
23. Cugat (Entre-Deux-Mers) in 2012 in Blasimon.
24. Grand-Mouëys (Entre-Deux-Mers) by Jinshan Zhang (Ningxiahong) in 2012 in Capian.