

ROBIN DES BOIS

ON_{the} TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling
n°2 / 1st July - 30th September 2013

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Introduction

Every three months, Robin des Bois wishes to present a universally open panoramic viewpoint into the poaching of animals protected by international conventions and national laws. The trafficking of animals, their parts, and their derivatives is shrouded in darkness; but just like the trafficking of arms, drugs, and counterfeit money, it is passing through all possible corridors and routes.

The aim of On The Trail is to shed some light on the transboundary movements of horns, ivory, feathers, scales, antlers, and live animals, these unwilling migrants taken out of their habitats.

On The Trail follows, step by step, the tactics and the techniques of poachers and traffickers. Hand in hand with other actors defending wild fauna, On The Trail will help unmask poachers and ruin their schemes.

After the publication of On The Trail # 1, encouragement and positive feedback was forwarded to us from different realms – CITES delegates, NGOs, Customs, researchers - all from countries where wildlife is endangered, near or far.

CITES* Appendices

Appendix I : species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and under import and export permits.

Appendix II : export permit required in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the species survival. Import permit if required by national law.

Appendix III : species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. In the case of trade from a State that included the species in Appendix III, an export permit of that State is required.

* Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. 179 Member States.

**Seizure of a bear gall bladder
Dharchula, State of Uttarakhand, India
July 24, 2013**

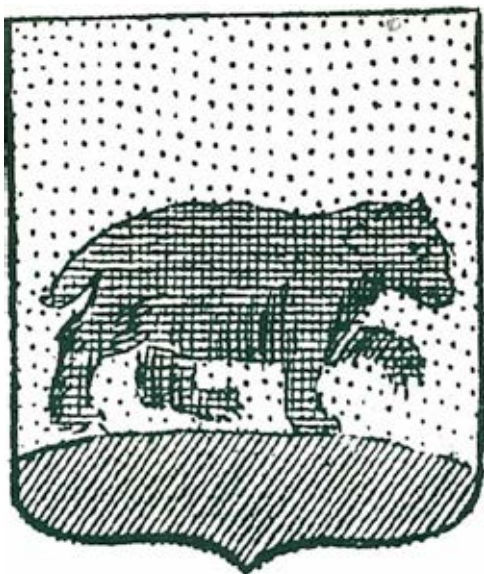
The Indian town of Dharchula is on the border with Nepal. The person arrested is of Nepalese nationality and lives in the district of Humla (North-West of Nepal), bordering Tibet. The gall bladder probably came from a bear in India and was destined for the Chinese market. In India live the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II in India) and the Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I).

**Seizure of 169 brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I or II) and 31 Asian black bear paws (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I)
Heilongjiang Province, China
July 2013**

Customs had been informed of the arrival in early June of an illegal delivery of bear paws in the city of Tongjiang, at the Russian-Chinese border. The cargo was supposed to be subsequently transported to the provincial capital, Harbin, on July 11th. Customs officers have arrested 3 suspects in Tongjiang, one in Harbin and a fifth one in the Raohe County. On the Trail Bulletin # 1 already recounted seizure of 213 bear paws on May 22nd. They came from Russia same as this new batch of 169 paws.

**Seizure of 3 live sloth bear cubs (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I)
District of Giridih, State of Jharkhand, India
19th September 2013**

The little sloth bears were kidnapped in India in a protected area. They were then taken to Nepal to be bred and tamed and finally resold in India to be exploited by bear-leaders. Dead and chopped up, sloth bears are used in the preparation of traditional medicinal potions and in obscure rituals. When the poachers and the bears were surrounded by the police force, a display of support from the villagers got out of hand and the police vehicles just escaped being torched. The eventful rescue of the 3 bears was supported by the NGO Wildlife SOS.



Rhinoceros

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*.



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

September 4, poachers at dawn arrived in a boat ...

**Poaching of a rhinoceros
Kukurakata Forest Reserve, Assam, India
1 July 2013**

The bullet riddled and de-horned carcass was found by a patrol in the Kukurakata forest reserve to the west of Kaziranga National Park. The rhinoceroses are moving into the hilled forests away from the park to avoid monsoon flooding. Poachers know that.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

**Conviction with 5 to 15 year prison sentence and from US\$ 520 to US\$ 1,035 for rhinoceros poaching and horn contraband
District of Chitwan, Nepal
3 July 2013**

A man, his 2 wives, his sister and his aunt were condemned for the poaching of 9 rhinos and contraband between 2006 and 2010. The head of the family denied the facts and presented himself as a simple transporter, employed by a famous smuggler: Raj Kumar Chepang, who fled abroad with false papers. Chitwan National Park with an area of 93,200 hectares has been inscribed on the list of UNESCO world heritage sites since 1984. It shelters one of the last populations of the one-horned Indian rhinoceros.

**3 suspected rhino poachers arrested
Hoedspruit, Limpopo district, South Africa
July 7th 2013**

The 3 suspects, a South African man and 2 yet to be identified Mozambicans, were on their way to the rhinos sanctuaries in Phalaborwa. They carried several guns and could be charged for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition and conspiracy to commit rhino poaching crime. The National

Environmental Biodiversity Act specifies that the fact to get equipped for, organize and plan rhino poaching is an offence. According to the South African Government News Agency, Limpopo police offers a reward up to US\$ 50,000 to any person who can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction in court of rhino poachers.

Conviction of 3 people to 6 year in prison each, one of which was a suspended sentence, for rhinoceros poaching

**Makhado, Limpopo, South Africa
July 10th, 2013**

The 3 convicted people, originally Mozambican, were arrested in May 2013 for poaching rhinoceroses near Polokwane (Limpopo) near Kruger National Park.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceroses

Rhenosterfontein Game Farm, Cullinan, Gauteng, South Africa

July 11th, 2013

Early in the morning, the owners heard gunshots and immediately called the police. Despite searches, the poachers were not apprehended. Large calibre bullet casings were found next to the carcasses.

The total count at this point is of 480 rhinoceroses poached in 2013 in South Africa. To stop the carnage, the government just reiterated its intention to proceed with an official sale of 18 tons of rhinoceros horns that the country holds from seizures or retrieved in other circumstances. Many experts are sceptical about the capacity of this measure to pump out the black market on horns. The proposal could be discussed at the next full meeting of CITES that should take place at the Cape in South Africa in 2016.

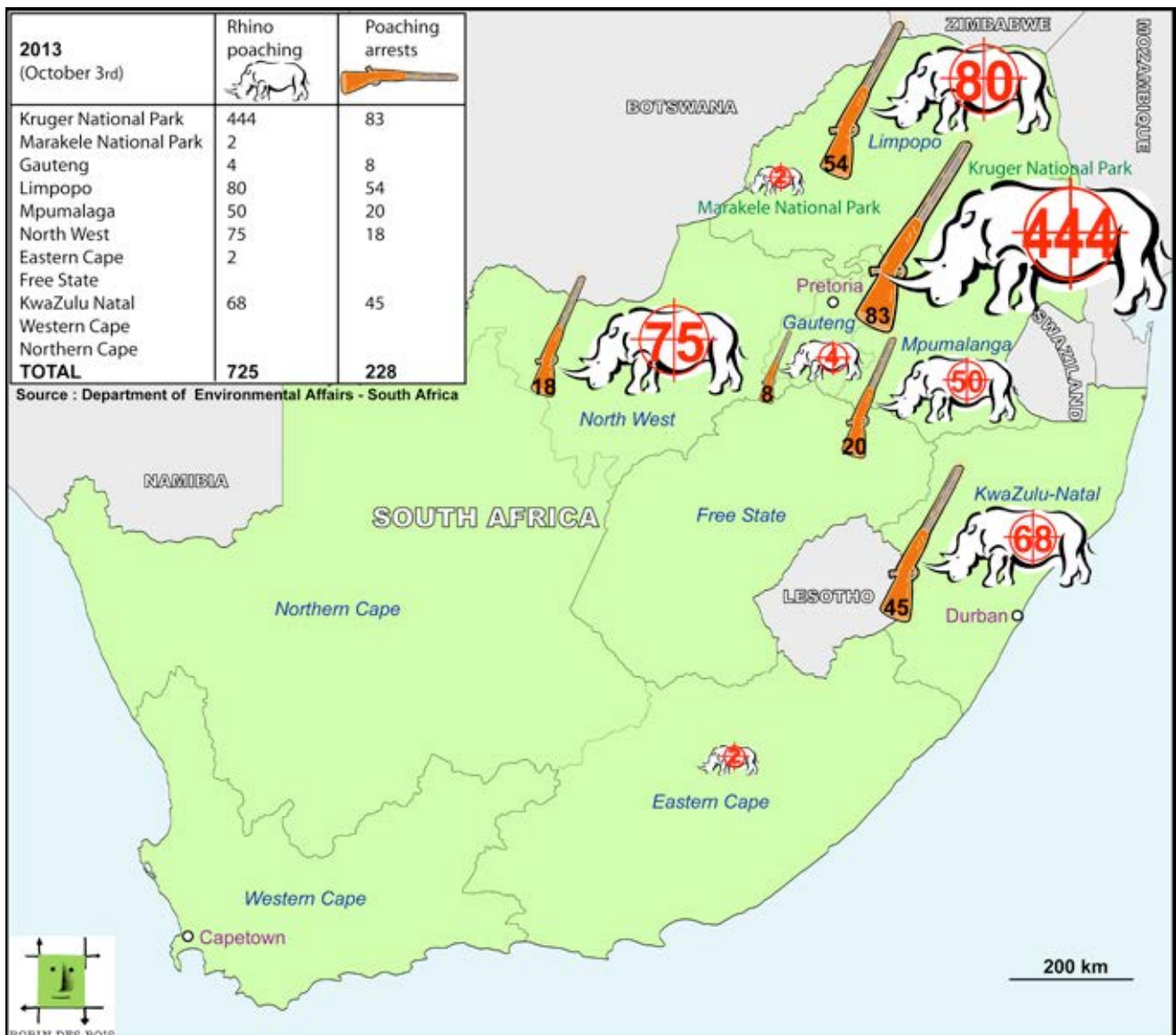
Arrest of 4 suspects for rhinoceros poaching and possession of an unregistered firearm.

Maremani Nature Reserve, Province of Limpopo, South Africa

July 12, 2013

The Maremani reserve covers an area of 41,000 ha. The reserve is owned by the International Aage V. Jensen, Foundation for the "preservation of nature in all its diversity". Its mission is to restore the natural environment. Starting in 1999 the Foundation bought different lots of the reserve. Of the 4 arrested, 2 were released on bail set at US\$ 150. The police are still searching for the fifth accomplice who got away with the horns.

Poached rhinoceros and arrested poachers from 1st January to 3rd October 2013 in South Africa



**Poaching of rhinoceroses
Marakele National Park, Province of Limpopo,
South Africa
July 17, 2013**

Twitter message: «A fresh rhino carcass was found in the Northern section of Marakele National Park yesterday with its horn removed.» Marekele means sanctuary in the local Tswana language.

**Poaching of 2 rhinoceroses
Stella, Province of North West, South Africa
July 24th, 2013**

The rhinoceroses were domesticated, having been recovered by a family of farmers after their own mothers were poached in 2009 near Thabazimbi. The family named the female Savuka and the male Juluka. Savuka was expected a baby. Juluka was killed first. Savuka, who attempted to flee, was found 150m away. The poachers took the horns from both bodies. The farmers found them in the field and made a pyre. "Afterwards, we returned home so we wouldn't have to see the vultures finishing them off."



© Mientjie Erasmus

**Poaching of a male rhinoceros
Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, State of Assam, India
July 24, 2013**

The sanctuary is located in the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River. The floods force rhinoceroses to take cover in the hills where they are exposed to poachers during the transit.

Pobitora was declared a sanctuary in 1987 and covers 40km². It is home to many species of migratory birds and over 80 leopards and rhinoceroses; the number is too high for only 40km². Transfers to the Manas National Park (Assam) are carried out under the supervision of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 programme. On April 2, 2013 a female who had been transferred under this programme was shot by poachers. She had given birth only 15 days earlier (see On the Trail # 1).



Rhinoceroses freed in Manas National Park
© Bibhab Talukdar - International Rhino Foundation

**4 poachers arrested
Kruger National Park, South Africa
July 24 and 25, 2013**

The arrests took place in 2 different areas of the park. The first event, on July 24, happened near the border to Mozambique. One man wounded during gunfire exchange was arrested. The other 2 fled to Mozambique. An A.458 hunting gun, ammunition and poaching equipment were found. The same day rangers found the remains of a destroyed poachers hut.

The second event was the arrest of 3 poachers. They carried hunting guns, AK 47, ammunition and 2 axes. The Parks Anti Poaching Patrol had spotted their camp fire. The chief of operations in charge of security in South Africa's national parks encourages his troupes to be especially vigilant during full moon periods, a moment when incursions, footprints and other clues of poaching activities are plenty. Since the beginning of the year, 67 alleged poachers have been arrested in Kruger National Park.

**Poaching of 4 rhinoceros
Gravelotte and Timbavati, Limpopo Province,
South Africa
July 25, 2013**

A rhino was killed in Gravelotte and another one in Timbavati. 2 other rhinos were killed in a reserve that's location was not revealed. In all 4 cases the horns were removed.

**Sentencing of 2 poachers to 6 years in prison
Makhado, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
July 29th, 2013**

The poachers, one of them a citizen of Mozambique, were apprehended in Kruger National Park in March 2013. They had 2 rhinoceros' horns in their possession and were equipped with 3 firearms (A.458, AK 47, and .375), ammunitions, 2 axes, and a knife.

**Arrest of 10 people
District of Magde, Province of Maputo, Mozambique
July 2013**

Of the 10 questioned, there are 3 policemen, 4 forest rangers, and a "healer" (a traditional herbalist). They are implicated in the delivery of automatic weapons and the poaching of rhinoceroses in South Africa. Rhinos are almost extinct in Mozambique. Since 2008, 279 Mozambique citizens have been killed by the South African police during poaching events, especially at Kruger National Park. Many among them were part of the Mozambique army or border police.

**GANG
Seizure of 24 rhinoceros horns
Prague, Region of Central Bohemia, Czech Republic
July 2013**

The inquiry opened at the beginning 2011. The operation led by border police and the Environmental Inspection Agency led to dismantle a criminal network. 15 of the 16 people arrested were kept

in detention. The network's organisers recruited hunters locally. Using the pretext of trophy hunting in South Africa, they would then kill rhinos with an official permit. Back home with their "trophies", they then sold the horns to Asia. Rhinoceros populations in South Africa and Swaziland are listed under Appendix II for live animals and hunting trophies. This new case of "pseudo sport hunting" proves once more that legal hunting feeds the illegal market of rhino horns. The estimated value of the seizure totals 3.85 million euros.

4 poachers arrested
Near the Pongola Game Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
July 2013

The 4 suspects were arrested on Route National 2 near the Pongola reserve carrying significant clues: a shotgun, ammunition and 2 silencers. Charges held against them are to be illegal possession of an unregistered fire arm and poaching of rhinos. The Pongola reserve is near the border with Swaziland. It was made a reserve in 1984 by Paul Kruger and is the oldest reserve in South Africa.

Poaching of 7 rhinoceros
Province de KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
End of July, 2013

2 rhino carcasses were found in Imfolozi on July 28th. Another was killed on July 24th in the Tembe Elephant Park. In that same park 4 rhino carcasses were found on July 30th. The number of individuals poached since the beginning of the year in this province mounts now to 51, against 66 for the whole of 2012. The Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park covers 360km². The Tembe Elephant reserve covers 300 km². Along with black and white rhinos, it is known to harbour a few dozen old elephants with long tusks, lions and leopards.

8 poachers arrested
Province of North-West, South Africa
July and August

This time it is the Province of North-West that was targeted by horn hunters. 8 poachers were arrested with weapons and saws. They were driving a stolen car. Surveillance operations are also on the rise on roads and sideways leading to the Highveld and Botsalano Game Reserves. The Botsalano Game Reserve covers an area of 5 800 ha. White rhinos, antelopes and giraffes live there.

Mutilation of 2 white rhinoceros
Schotia Private Reserve, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa
August 1st, 2013

The 2 rhinos, whose nicknames were Bonnie and Clyde, survived a hyper specialized poaching operation calling on both veterinarian and surgical skills. Carrying each a good-sized horn (around 7 kg), the 2 individuals were firstly targeted by darts poisoned with M99 (Etorphine). Then, while they were knocked out by the heavy anesthetic, the horns were cut with extreme precision, without causing haemorrhage. The 2 rhinos survived. M99 causes total paralysis and is used under strict

control as anaesthetic for large size mammals such as elephants. The feared side effects are cardiac arrest or lethal damage to the liver, kidney and lungs. It's possible that the bandits "in white coats" also injected to the animals other veterinarian substances in order to lessen the M99 side effects. Bonnie had a miscarriage after the mutilation. Clyde is half blind. Damage to vital organs is being treated by specialized veterinarians. According to the head of this medical group, specialists in rhinoceros anatomy and professionals are giving treatment to the 2 survivors. "This is the first time we've witness an M99 attack on rhinos."



M99 in orange and its antidote in blue
© etorphine.co.uk

Poaching of 11 rhinoceros
Kruger National Park, Provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga, South Africa
From August 1st to 8, 2013

A massacre. In one week, 11 rhinoceros carcasses were found in the park.

Poaching of a male rhinoceros
Manas National Park, State of Assam, India
August 4, 2013

This is the third rhinoceros killed in the Manas Park since the beginning of the year. The carcass was found near the Katajhar camp. He was 6 years old. Poachers took his horn, his ears, his nails and his tail. The animal had been transferred with his mother from the Kaziranga Park in 2012 in accordance to the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program.

A coordination committee composed by 15 members has been recently created. Its object is to enable the exchange of information to ensure security in the park. An action plan is to be put in place. A local volunteer of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program is allegedly involved in this poaching operation. He is now wanted by police. His brother's home was searched and the meat, bones, teeth and skin of a rhino killed in January this year was found. A second man was arrested. At the foot of the Himalayas, the Manas National Park is listed by UNESCO as one of the Natural World Heritage Sites.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceros
Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
August 4 and 5, 2013

The carcass was found in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. Rhinoceros may have been killed by a poacher arrested and wounded during a clash with police forces in the district of Zululand (KwaZulu-Natal). His accomplice escaped. In the same province, a black rhinoceros was shot in the Tembe Elephant Park. This is the sixth rhinoceros killed in this park within a fortnight.

2 poachers arrested
Zululand Rhino Reserve, Province of Kwa- Zulu Natal, South Africa
August 9, 2013

Authorities had received information and had set up a trap. 3 men from Nigeria drove to the edge of the reserve. 2 of them climbed the fence behind which the policemen were waiting. The first one, carrying a .303 shotgun with a silencer, was arrested. The second carrying an axe escaped. The driver was also arrested. The private reserve was founded in 2004 and is part of the WWF Black Rhino Range Expansion Project.

Poaching of a white rhinoceros
Nairobi National Park, Nairobi, Kenya
August 9, 2013

The last time poaching happened in this park dates back 6 years. With the Governmental Agency Kenya Wildlife Service's headquarters there, the park was considered to be safe. This sanctuary for rhinos is the ideal place for their reproduction. With transfers of some individuals, this enables re- population of parks throughout the country. It covers 117 km² and is almost completely surrounded by barriers. This is the only protected area in the world to be so close to a capital city. From January until half way through August 2013, 35 rhinos were poached in Kenya, against 29 for the whole year of 2012.

Poaching of a white rhinoceros
Ruma National Park, Migori and Homa Bay Counties, Kenya
August 10, 2013

The poachers managed to escape with the horns.

One man sentenced to 14 years prison term for poaching
Nelspruit, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 15, 2013

He is 21, and from Mozambique. He was arrested on the 19th of January 2013 in the Kruger National Park. He killed a female black rhinoceros and her baby and took their horns. A second man, let out on bail, disappeared. The third suspect, who owns the rifle, escaped during the arrest. According to the man condemned, he had been "invited" by one of the 2 on the run to come work in South Africa. It was only after their intrusion into the park that

he realised his companions' intentions- according to what he says. He pleaded for a fine but was sentenced to 4 years prison term for illegal entree into the National Kruger Park, 10 years for poaching of the adult rhinoceros and 8 for the baby, the 10 and 8 year will run concurrently.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceros
Area of Lephale, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
August 17- 18, 2013

That makes 576 victims of horn hunters since the beginning of the year.

Seizure of rhino horns
Crocodile Bridge, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa
August 19, 2013

Kruger Park rangers in the area of Crocodile Bridge intercepted 2 suspected poachers. One was shot; the other managed to cross the border to Mozambique. A gun and rhino horns were seized, according to South African National Parks announcement.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceros
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
August 21, 2013

Poachers took the female's horn but were unable to retrieve the male's one. 4 empty AK 47 cartridges were found on the premises. Events took place near the Chirang forest, 50 m away from a control unit on route NH-37. The criminals waited until midnight, the end of the ranger's shift, to act.

3 poachers arrested
National Kruger Park, Provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 24- 25, 2013

The arrests followed a shoot-out between rangers and the culprits, 3 of whom were killed. 2 guns, ammunition and poaching material were seized. On august 24th, another poacher was shot near Crocodile Bridge (Province of Mpumalanga).

Poaching of a male rhinoceros
Great Kudu Game Reserve, Tshipise, Limpopo Province, South Africa
August 26, 2013

It was while accompanying a U.S. client on a hunt that Knott, father and son, owners of a private ranch, found the carcass of a male rhino killed several hours earlier. A rhino horn said to be 78 cm long and a value of U.S. \$ 100,000 according to the local press had been collected. It was not possible to follow the trail of fugitives «who wore socks over shoes». «We were victims of experienced specialists". The Knott family advocates for the immediate opening of an official market for rhino horns, which should, they say, pull the rug from under the poacher's feet. «If we wait for the next CITES [2016, South Africa] we have no more rhinos by then.»

**4 suspects arrested for alleged poaching
Kruger National Park, Provinces of Limpopo and
Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 27 and 29, 2013**

On August 27, the 2 suspects were arrested in the park. Investigations led to the arrest of 2 people on the 29th. Ammunition, a semi automatic hunting gun and special equipment were found.

In a different area of the park, rangers caught 3 poachers red handed. One of them was mortally wounded. The others escaped. A .458 shotguns and ammunition were seized.



.458 Rifle

**Poaching of 2 rhinos (one male and one female)
Central Province, Kenya
August 28, 2013**

The couple of rhinos was shot dead. Only the horn of the male was removed. No gunshots were heard. Police and judges say anonymously that the security officers of the wildlife reserve are sometimes poachers' accomplices. «They cover their ears and look elsewhere.»

**Poaching of a female rhinoceros
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
August 30, 2013**

She was 6 years old. The poaching happened near the Bagori area. Despite the rapid intervention of guards, the culprits managed to take the horn and escape.

**Conviction of 3 poachers to 16 years prison term each
Nelspruit, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 30, 2013**

The 3 men convicted are from Mozambique. They were arrested on May 10 2011 in the Crocodile Bridge area (National Kruger Park) with 3 rhino horns. The rangers chased the 4-person gang by helicopter as they tried to escape. One of the poachers was mortally wounded. They had shot a female rhino and her calf with an automatic weapon and chopped of the horn with an axe. During trial, the 3 men acknowledged the seriousness of their actions. They placed most of the blame on their dead accomplice. According to them, he was the one that hired them, and the one that killed the rhinos. He is said to have promised US\$ 193 to each of them for their participation. The court took no account of these explanations and they were decla-

red entirely guilty. The judge confirmed that hereon rhino killers of Mozambique nationality would be arrested in their country in the case they managed cross the border escaping South Africa and Kruger Park after committing their forfeit. "South Africa and Mozambique have decided to reinforce cooperation against this traffic."

**Conviction of a man to 30 years in prison for trafficking in rhino horns
Kempton Park, Gauteng Province, South Africa
August 30, 2013**

In November 2012, Lemtongthai had been sentenced to 30 years prison term, a sentence that is pronounced against those convicted of murder or rape. The convicted party, his lawyers and the general attorney in Johannesburg formed an appeal. They joined together to denounce a "disproportionate punishment". In appeal Lemtongthai was sentenced to 30 years prison. His lawyers were requesting 10 and put forward the fact that a long prison term for their client would cost the South African taxpayer about US\$ 350,000. The judge found, meanwhile, that «the sentence to 30 years in prison will help the Asian community understand that these traffics will not be tolerated anymore.»

Lemongthai had admitted to having organized 2 biased rhino trophies hunts for the benefit of Xaysavang Trading, established in Laos. The network benefitted from flaws in South African law to spread dozens of kg of horn on the black market. Young Thai women were played US\$ 600 to pose next to the killed rhino. In fact the animals were killed by snipers recruited by a South African farmer, Marnus Steyl, originated from the Province of Free State, historically called the Orange Free State. M. Marnus Steyl is liable for 29 indictments and his trial set for end of October. He first was discharged along with his handymen. This judicial capitulation had caused much upset and sadness faced with the long whail rising to the sky from rhino mortally wounded by Marnus Steyl's mercenaries. The video published by the Killingforprofit.com site is overwhelming and deafening.



© Freeland Foundation

**Seizure of 2 pieces of rhinoceros horns (227g)
Sheffield, South Yorkshire County, England
August 2013**

The man arrested had tried to sell the pieces of rhinoceros horn to Chinese herbalists for several hundred £. One of the 2 denounced the man to the authorities. The pieces were buried in his garden, 6 feet under. 52 years of age, he was previously a goldsmith. His former boss had given him them when he left the company. Rhinoceros horn appears to traditionally be used in goldsmithing to shape the metal without leaving marks. Now a landscaper, the man has been condemned to 240 hours of community service, US\$ 23 in fines and house arrest from 8pm until 6am!

**2 men sentenced to 25 and 26 months in prison
for rhino horn theft**

**Waldshut-Tiengen, State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany
September 3, 2013**

The spectacular theft of 4 rhino horns took place on the night of May 5 in the Nature Department at the Golf-Welt Hochrhein leisure complex (Golf World Haut-Rhin) near Bad Säckingen (Baden-Württemberg) on the border between Germany and Switzerland. The 2 Polish horn robbers were sentenced on appeal to 25 and 26 months in prison, a reduced sentence compared to the first lawsuit. During the robbery, one of the thieves had broken a fingernail. The fingernail was found on the site by the investigators allowing, after a DNA search, the positive identification of one of the robbers. The duo was arrested in Denmark on August 2012, where they were planning to commit a similar crime. During their testimonies at the court of appeal, they both expressed regret. Despite long criminal records in Poland and Germany, they benefited from a certain leniency by the court. They claimed to have received 10,000 Euros for the theft whereas the value of the horns stolen, and never recovered, is estimated to be 300,000 Euros. Their links with the Rathkeale Rovers of Irish travellers origin, was not mentioned. Their tactics are the same. In 2011, the museums in Bamberg (Bavaria), Erfurt (Thuringia) and Hamburg had already been robbed and pillaged by horn "lovers". An ivory carving was stolen at the same time.



**Poaching of a rhinoceros
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
September 4, 2013**

Wednesday morning, at dawn, far off gun shoots coming from the flooded area of the park, poachers arrived in a boat from the northern banks of the Brahmaputra River with a .303 rifle. Such were the first elements of the investigation after another rhinoceros was killed in the Kaziranga National Park. 5 days earlier another attack took place. Activists from Karbi Anglong (a district in Assam) were involved. 200 protesters from the All Assam Student Union (Aasu) blocked the express highway 37 at Bokakhat to protest against the massacre of the rhinoceroses in Kaziranga and to demand the resignation of the Forest Minister of Forests "he should resign he has failed to protect the rhinos of Kaziranga".

**Poaching of a black rhinoceros
Ruma National Park, County of Migori and Homa Bay, Kenya
5th September 2013**

In the Ruma National Park, zebras have recently been introduced to attract tourists. Black rhinoceroses continue to attract criminals. Another individual was killed, a complete waste as the horn was found.

**Death of 3 poachers during an intervention by
Kenya Wildlife Service
Kyulu, Kajiado County, Kenya
September 8, 2013**

The terrible event occurred at night. A patrol ranger surprised 4 suspected poachers. Warning shots and an exchange of gunfire followed. The poacher was in fact an attendant at the Ngulia rhino sanctuary. Through his job, he knew the best way to enter into the park and locate rhinoceroses. In the recent past, 5 rhinos were killed and had their horns extracted. The second poacher was a former Kenyan army officer. The profession of the third is unknown. The fourth offender escaped. 3 pangas, an axe, 3 different types of poison, a pair of gloves and hoods were found at the scene of the violent event but also pineapples. Rhinos like to eat pineapples and so do elephants. Before feeding to pachyderms, poachers coat them with poison.



**Seizure of 2 white rhino horns
Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
September 8, 2013**

The clash between rangers and poachers took place

around 6 am Sunday morning. Of the 3 poachers, 2 escaped and a third one of Mozambican nationality was injured. In his backpack an axe, a flashlight and a pair of rhino horns were found. The following day, the carcass of a white rhino was discovered in the park.

**Arrest of 4 poachers
State of Assam, India
September 8-9, 2013**

In 2 separate interventions, rangers arrested 4 poachers. To date the number of rhinoceroses killed in the Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Sanctuary in 2013 totals 28.

**Arrest of nineteen people involved in rhinoceros horn thefts from museums
United Kingdom and Ireland, Operation Oakleaf
September 10, 2013**

At dawn 800 members of different British police forces and the Gardai (police forces of the Republic of Ireland) backed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), carried out several searches, with warrants, in London, the county of Sussex, Cambridge, Essex, the West Midlands and Northern Ireland. Solicitors' offices and properties in Cork and Limerick in the Republic of Ireland were also «raided». Twenty people including 2 women and a child under 15 are in custody waiting to be interviewed by investigators.

This big bust was carried out under the framework of a Europol investigation on an important number of thefts of Chinese antiques and rhino horns in museums and auction houses. Some offenders had been arrested, tried and jailed in Britain but they were considered to be only «small fish.» The big fish of the gang whose total loot is estimated to be worth U.S. \$ 60 million are still on the run. The operation on September 10, 2013 failed to recover the stolen objects and horns but seized bank statements that will enable the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and equivalent offices in Europe and across the globe to better understand the organization's network. The suspects are believed to be linked to the Rathkeale gang who have specialized in the theft and counterfeiting of antiques for 3 generations. In the 1970s and 1980s, the gang made their fortune robbing silverware from historic houses in Ireland and England and reselling it on the international market. Different branches of the underground organisation operate in Australia, North America, South America, Asia and South Africa. The Rathkealers or Rathkeale Rovers also dubbed the Dead Zoo Gang have adapted to the global market. Within the framework of "Operation Crash", the United States and more specifically the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are closely following the gang's movements ever since 2 Irish citizens were arrested in the United States while trying to buy 4 rhino horns. Officials in the U.S. are closely monitoring events in Britain and Ireland. They, however, note that the business of rhino horn in the United States consists of at least 2 branches:

1 – Rathkeale Rovers or similar gangs look for the good goods and sell them to Chinese correspondents in the United States.

2 – Other gangs look for horns and deliver them to Vietnamese correspondents who ship them to their country of origin.

Via the exchange of the information gathered by "Operation Oakleaf" in Europe and "Operation Crash" in the United States, it just might be possible to strike a fatal blow or at least a very serious blow to the international trade of rhino horns ... and ivory. Who steals a horn steals a tusk. To show the way the American administration decided to dry up the black market and to avoid any temptation decided to destroy all rhino horns, the raw and the carved ivory that their different agencies seized over the last 25 years. Cf. Septembre 14, 2013.



**Seizure of 2 rhinoceros horns
Matsapha, District of Manzini, Swaziland
September 10, 2013**

The 3 suspects were caught in the parking lot of a shopping center. They came there to negotiate very specific items: 2 rhino horns. The arrests came at a time when «Big Game Parks» unions had organized an information campaign offering a reward of U.S. \$ 4,900 to anyone who could provide information which would lead to the conviction of poachers.

**Arrest of 4 rhinoceros poachers
Bhekabantu, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
September 10, 2013**

A silencer, a 375 rifle, ammunition, an axe, the quartet were arrested near Tembe Elephant Park.

**Poaching of 6 rhinos
The Sabi Sands Reserve in the province of Mpumalanga, the province of KwaZulu Natal and the private Mafeking Reserve in North-West Province, South Africa.
September 11, 2013**

6 new rhinoceroses were slaughtered. The number of horns removed is unknown. To date the killing toll for 2013 is 627.

**Poaching of a white male rhinoceros
Oserian Sanctuary, Naivasha, County of Nakuru, Kenya
September 12, 2013**

The poachers shot the white male rhinoceros 12 times. The incident occurred near the scene where 2 of his male counterparts were killed 2 months earlier when the poachers did not have the time

to seize the horns. This time, they succeeded. The rhino's absence was noticed by the rangers who found his carcass several days later. A knife was found a few meters for the scene.

Arrest of 15 people for trafficking in rhinoceros horn

**Chitwan National Park, District of Chitwan, Nepal
12th September to 1st October 2013**

Nepal is taking action. Operation. «Unicorn» led to the arrest of Chepang, a well-known rhino horn smuggler. He is said to have killed 12 rhinoceroses since 2005. He has already been sentenced to 15 years in prison, but was on the run. 14 of his associates were also arrested.

The weapons were bought in India. The rhinoceroses were stalked in the Chitwan National Park, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Indian one-horned rhinoceros population is estimated at a few hundred. The rhinoceros horns were next collected together in Kathmandu and then exported to third countries by smugglers who were members of an international network.

Poaching of a rhinoceros

Walmansthal, Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa

13th September 2013

A fifth rhinoceros was killed in the north of Pretoria, the administrative capital city of South Africa. "No shot was heard". The rhinoceros was hit by a poisoned arrow. "The horn was cut off down to the last millimetre using very sophisticated methods". The "techno" poachers are still on the run but all hope of catching them has not been lost.

Arrest of a man for trafficking 4 black rhinoceros horns

Brooklyn Federal Court, New York State, United States of America

18th September 2013

One of the Rovers from Rathkeale had travelled from London to Houston to buy 2 horns from a taxidermist. Noting that only Texas citizens were entitled to make the transaction, Michael Slattery had recruited someone else for the day's work. For a payment of US\$ 500, this person agreed to act as a front man. A little later, Slattery met a Chinese collector in the Queens District of New York to sell him 4 rhino horns, including 2 which were marked with the stamp of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He sought to sell the batch for US\$ 50,000. The origin of 2 of the horns is unknown. The Irish citizen, was arrested at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International airport.

Poaching of a rhinoceros

Askari Lodge, Magaliesberg area, South Africa

16th September 2013

She was due to calf in 2 months. A rhinoceros's gestation period lasts 16 months. Her patience was not rewarded. She was cut down by a high calibre weapon and then paralysed by an axe blow to the back into the spinal cord. "Looking at her prints on the ground, you can see that she fought right to the end.»

Conviction of a person for having poached 2 greater one-horned rhinos and arrest of 4 persons suspected of rhinoceros poaching.

Bharatpur, Central Region, Nepal

16th September 2013

In 2008, he was sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison. He had been found guilty of trafficking in horns in 2005. In 2013, he was roaming around the Chitwan National Park and arrested by a police patrol.

Poaching of a rhinoceros

Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India

17th September 2013

Around 8 am, shots rang out. This lasted for 1 and a half hours. Empty AK47 and 303 rifle cartridges were strewn across the ground next to the carcass with the horn removed. 31 rhinoceroses have died violent deaths since the beginning of the year. 9 have died naturally. The fate of the horns in these circumstances is not mentioned and 2 died in the flooding of the Brahmaputra River and its oxbows.

Seizure of rhinoceros parts

Cork Trust, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa

17th September 2013

A man whose identity has not been revealed and who is said to have been sought for a long time by the South African police for his involvement in the trafficking of rhino horns has been arrested. A .308 rifle, 2 pistols and a wide range of ammunition was seized.

In another action, 3 other poachers were subdued. One of them was wounded. Firearms and the usual horn hunting gear were collected from the premises.

Seizure of 5 rhinoceros horns (20.1kg)

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya

17th September 2013

The young Vietnamese was arrested at the airport. In his hand luggage he was carrying rhinoceros horns hidden amongst mattress cuttings. He was getting off a flight from Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, and getting ready to board a Qatar Airways flight to Doha before returning to Hong-Kong.

Poaching of a white rhinoceros

Oserian Sanctuary, Naivasha, Nakuru County, Kenya

22nd September 2013

The poachers escaped into the dark. They were disturbed by the guards. The horn had been removed. The rhinoceros had been shot dead. The Maasai and the ranch and reserve managers have agreed to work together to limit the damage.

Poaching of 5 white rhinoceroses

Weenen Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Week of 23rd September 2013

The 5 white rhinoceroses were hunted down in the week from Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th September

2013. The carcasses were found at the end of the week. If they had not been slaughtered, the 5 white rhinoceroses could have lived for 50 years. Their death was undoubtedly due to an overdose of M99, the drug used by the poachers to immobilise the rhinos. The arrows were coated in the anaesthetic substance which is manufactured particularly by Novartis.

2 other white rhinoceroses with their horns removed and covered in blood were found in the reserve a few days later. The vets will give their opinion in the coming days on the best option: either capture the wounded animals and transfer them to a specialist centre or take care of them and let them recover on site.

On 21st September, World Rhino Day, Edna Molewa, the Minister for Water and Environmental Affairs, asked everyone to get involved: "protecting the rhino is your responsibility", «protecting the rhino is my responsibility», "protecting the rhino is a joint responsibility".



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**Seizure of 3 rhinoceros horns
Dhoopguri, State of Assam, India
24th September 2013**

3 horns were discovered in the poacher's backpack. The overall weight was 3 kg.

Court appearance of 2 men suspected of poaching

**Nyeri, Nyeri County, Kenya
25th September 2013**

The police of Nyeri County suspect them of having intended to attack a white rhinoceros in the middle of the night. The 2 men, including one Tanzanian, were in possession of 2 high calibre firearms. They deny the allegations.

REPEATED OFFENCE

**Arrest of 6 poachers
In the vicinity of the Kaziranga National Park,
State of Assam, India
26th September 2013**

The 6, of which 2 were previous offenders, were taken by surprise in a villager's house, well-known for his shooting prowess. At first he managed to flee. A few days later, the police arrested him in a neighbouring village. His furtive presence had been announced. The police thanked the local communities for their cooperation. The house of the gang leader was ransacked by villagers unhappy about his complicity with the poachers. Weapons and ammunition and other rhinoceros hunting equipment were seized from the site. The gang was getting ready to go marauding in the Kaziranga National Park.



**Arrest of a poacher
Niuland, State of Nagaland, India
28th September 2013**

The smuggler, a 65 year old veteran well versed in the trafficking of protected animals and their products between India, Nepal and Bhutan was being «hunted» by the Assam authorities. A large reward was announced for anyone who helped in his arrest.



Rati Ram Sharma © The Telegraph

**Arrest of 5 poachers
Rietvlei Nature Reserve, Province of Gauteng,
South Africa
30th September 2013**

On the point of entering the reserve, the 5 poachers attempted to flee in their car. The special Hawks squad shot the tyres of the 3 vehicles. The passengers fled on foot. They were joined by police reinforcements. Ammunition, 3 firearms and an axe were seized at the location.

The Rietvlei Nature Reserve is 18 km from Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa.

The white rhinoceroses had been de-horned in March 2010, after the first poaching campaign. The poachers came back for more. They know that horns regrow by 4 to 7 cm per year. One of the poachers had already been arrested for rhinoceros poaching at the beginning of the year and released on bail. At the end of September the toll had reached 725 rhinoceroses killed and 228 suspected poachers arrested.

3 numbers are available for reporting acts of poaching or passing on useful information: 0800.205.005, 08600.10111 or Crime-Line on 32211.

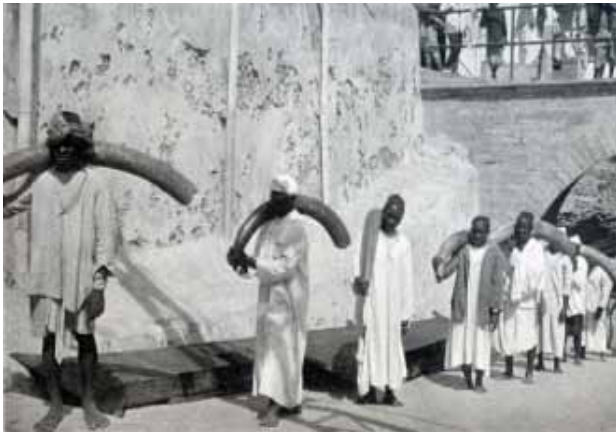


The Port of Mombasa



One of the most ancient city in Eastern Africa and the second largest one in Kenya, Mombasa lies on the Indian Ocean coastline, 400 km away from the capital city Nairobi. The old town was founded on Mombasa Island, a small 16 km² island at the confluence of the estuaries of Mwashu and Shimba, 2 rivers unsuitable to commercial navigation.

Mombasa has been a prosperous center in gold, ivory and spices trading for many centuries, even in the pre colonial times; its trading routes used to link Africa, the Middle East and the Far East. Owing to its strategic location on the sea route to India, the coast island has been coveted and successively ruled from the 16th century on by the Portuguese, the sultanate of Oman and the British. After the arrival of the Europeans, ivory caravans became the main economic contributor of the region.



1922, ivory loading



2013, ivory seizing

The laying of the first rail of the Uganda Railway, from the Indian Ocean to the Eastern shores of Lake Victoria, began in 1895. Steel and heavy equipment were imported in vessels with a deep draft; the old port had to be dropped and a new natural harbour was developed at Kilindini ("deep" in Swahili language) on the island's west coast in 1896. Mombasa was then the capital of the British Eastern African protectorate and its main port. Today the city has been expanded to the mainland and is still the gateway to the East African region thanks to its bulk berths, oil jetties, container terminals and cruise terminals.



The early days of Kilindini-Mombasa Port



2013, container hub in Mombasa harbor

In terms of tonnage, Mombasa is the second largest port on the East African coast, after Durban, South Africa; it serves the markets of Kenya, Uganda, Southern Sudan, the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia. The cargo volume has doubled over the last 10 years. The first container terminal which began operation in 1979 was planned to handle 250,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) but received more than twice this throughput in 2009. The port of Mombasa, victim of its success, is congested; it is a bottleneck for the regional economy of Eastern Africa, according to the World Bank. In 2010, the Kenyan Presidency launched the project of a new container terminal to increase the port capacity up to 1.2 million TEU. The project was mainly financed by Japanese loans. The first berth was delivered in 2013; dredging work in the main entrance channel has been completed by the Dutch Van Oord Dredging and Marine Contractors to reach 15 m in depth and allow bigger vessels carrying 4500 boxes against 2500 up to now. Transport infrastructure also has to be upgraded; Chinese companies have expressed their interest in the construction of a new railway track bound to smooth the flow of goods.

The port of Mombasa

On the security side, an ISS project (Integrated Security System) in line with the ISPS code requirements (International Ship and Port Facility Security code) will be implemented in the new terminal. This 21.4 million dollars project is jointly funded by the Kenyan Government and the World Bank. Will the fixed surveillance camera network, the long range thermal cameras and the recognition systems for identifying container and trucks be able to block the traffickers' plans? Seizures around the world point out East Africa as a major source for the illegal ivory trade and Mombasa, hub port in the region, is their favorite crossing point. So far, the traffickers have been able to benefit from a high level complicity. A former member of the KPA (Kenya Port Authority, managing the sea ports including Mombasa along Kenya's coastline) has just been charged with multiple facts of smuggling dating back to 2012; the ivory cargoes were bound for Thailand and Vietnam.

Despite the adversity, there are still righteous men in Kenya and Mombasa is the only African port where ivory containers are steadily discovered prior to the departure of the ships.

Elephants

The African elephant, *Loxodonta Africana*, is listed in CITES Appendix I, except populations from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe which are in Appendix II. The Asian elephant, *Elephas maximus*, is listed in Appendix I.

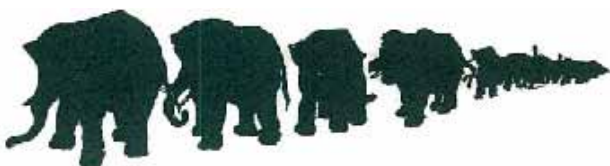
The seizure of ivory from 1st July to 30th September is equal to 2.147 éléphants

Taking the average weight of 4.5kg per tusk. The 907 seized ivory articles of which the weight was not communicated have not been included in the total.

Seizure of 775 pieces of ivory (1,292.2 kg of raw ivory and 194.2 kg of worked ivory)

**Mombasa, Kenya
2 July 2013**

The container originating from Uganda was tracked from its entrance to Kenya 2 weeks earlier. The Bajje Investments Uganda Ltd. Company expected its export to Port Klang, the principal port of Malaysia situated in the narrows of Malacca. The joint team of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Kenya Ports Authority and Port Police thwarted those plans. The declared merchandise mentioned swim bladders of dried fishes. Their odor perturbed the work of the sniffer dogs. The container was intercepted on the parking lot of a gas station at Jomvu. The value of the ivory is estimated at 250,000 Euros. The transport was Giesenya Freight Logistics Ltd of Nairobi. The port of Mombasa is a well-known place for contraband. The contraband ivory also hides beneath wood, fruit, electronics, tires...



© KWS



Dried fish swim bladders

**Seizure of 4 elephant trophies
Archers Post, Samburu County, Kenya
3 July 2013**

The pick-up transporting the trophies, hidden underneath the back seats, was intercepted on the road between Isiolo and Moyale at the border with Ethiopia. The agents from Kenyan Wildlife Service followed the vehicle from Isiolo. Although one of the 2 suspects fled, the second accomplice indicated to have been paid US\$ 57 for clandestine transportation in the rented vehicle. His "employer" regularly organized this type of smuggling, under the cover of mundane highway transport. The town of Isiolo is near the Buffalo Springs, Samburu, and Shaba National Reserves.