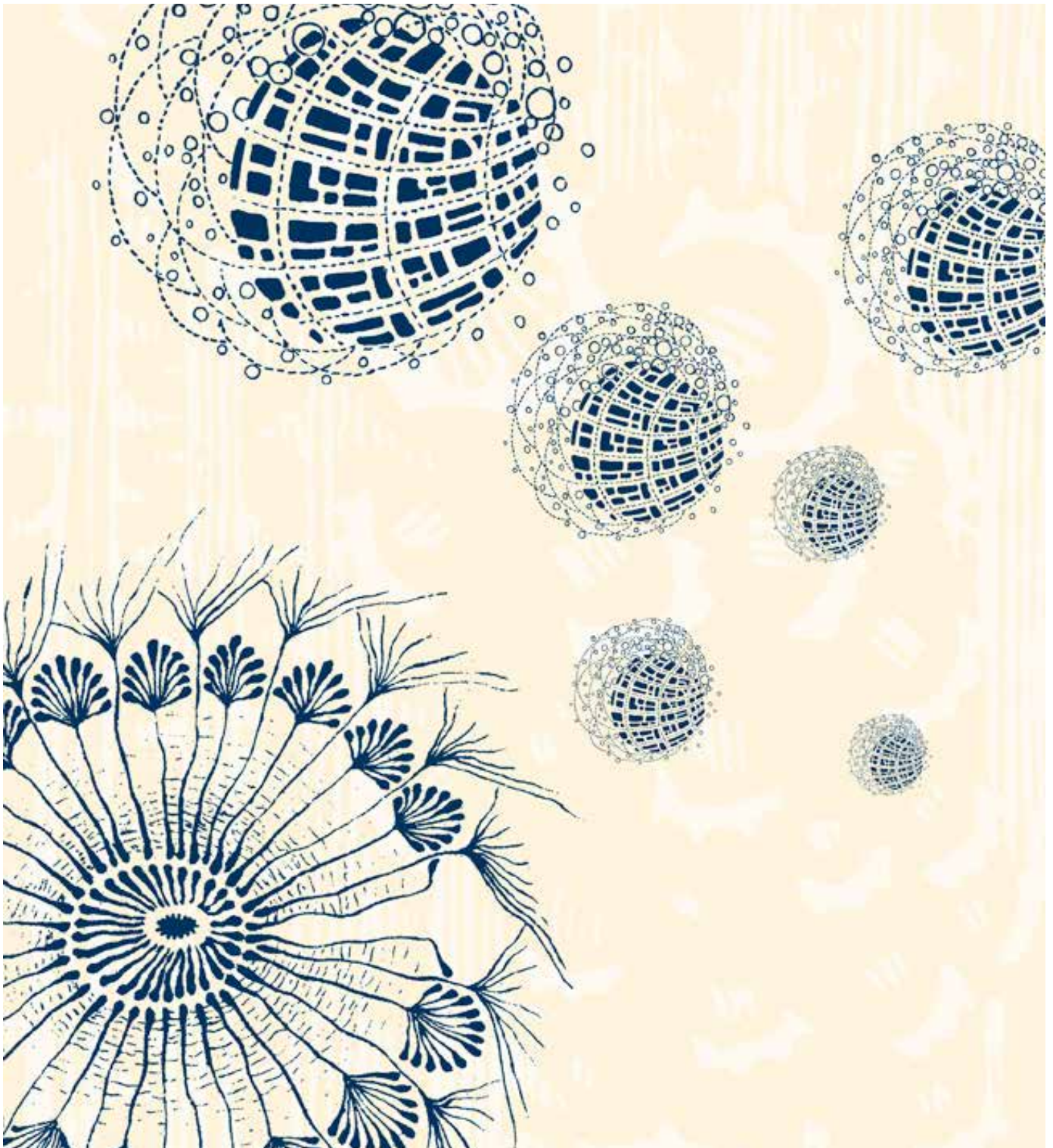


ROBIN DES BOIS

ON the TRAIL

The defaunaation bulletin
Quarterly information and analysis report on animal poaching and smuggling
n°22. Events from the 1th July to the 30 of September 2018
Published on November 29, 2018

Original version in French





“On the Trail”, the defaunation magazine, aims to get out of the drip of daily news to draw up every three months an organized and analyzed survey of poaching, smuggling and worldwide market of animal species protected by national laws and international conventions.

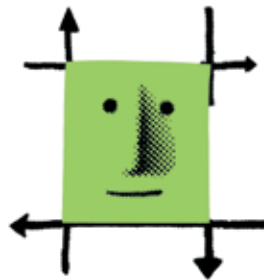
“On the Trail” highlights the new weapons of plunderers, the new modus operandi of smugglers, rumours intended to attract humans consumers of animals and their by-products. “On the Trail” gathers and disseminates feedback from institutions, individuals and NGOs that fight against poaching and smuggling. End to end, the “On the Trail” are the biological, social, ethnological, police, customs, legal and financial chronicle of poaching and other conflicts between humanity and animality.

Previous issues in English

<http://www.robindesbois.org/en/a-la-trace-bulletin-dinformation-et-danalyses-sur-le-braconnage-et-la-contrebande/>

Previous issues in French

<http://www.robindesbois.org/a-la-trace-bulletin-dinformation-et-danalyses-sur-le-braconnage-et-la-contrebande/>



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Contents

Seahorses	4
Corals	4
Abalones	5
Giant Clams and Conches	7
Sea Cucumbers	8
Sea Urchins	9
Fishes	10
Marine Mammals	15
Marine Turtles	17
Various Marine Species	19
Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles	21
Snakes	26
Sauria	28
Crocodylians	30
Various Reptile Species	31
Amphibians	34
Insects of Arachnids	34
Birds	35
Pangolins	50
Pangolins and Elephants	55
Primates	56
Vicuñas	61
Felines	62
Wolves and Indian Wild Dogs	72
Bears and Red Pandas	72
Hippopotamuses	74
Giraffes	75
Deer	75
Rhinoceroses	77
Rhinos and Elephants	85
Elephants	86
Other Mammals	103
Multi-Species	106
Donkeys	125

Dear readers,

We asked you for your opinions and suggestions. We would like to thank all those - about fifty correspondents to date - who have taken the time and liberty to reply to our letter.

Your feedback confirms that «On the Trail» is appreciated by those in customs, ministries, universities, national parks, and CITES bodies who analyze and are trying to slow down wildlife trafficking, habitat destruction and corruption.

«On the Trail» is also appreciated by national and international NGOs.

Our readers perceive «On the Trail» as a transversal knowledge tool («it is important to see what is happening elsewhere»), a training tool, a synthesis and decision-making aid.

To date, comments have been received primarily from Southern Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, North America, Europe, Oceania and even less so from Asia and South America.

Some of you tell us that reading «On the Trail» can lead to a certain «depression». By its very nature, the world of poaching and smuggling is a cruel place. On the other hand, we note with wonder that everywhere and always there is a worldwide unflinching resistance and this is, for us, an antidote to discouragement.

Your suggestions are studied in detail and will be taken into account as far as possible.

CITES Appendices

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. 182 Member States

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.

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*.

EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA

DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
Mid-July 2018	Tsavo East National Park	Other bad news	In July, the death of 11 black rhinos transferred from Nairobi and Nakuru parks (400 and 500 km to the south).	2 deaths occurred during transfer. 8 were due to high salinity of the water in their new habitat. The last one, when in a state of vulnerability, was fatally attacked by lions. All 20 horns are safe. Stirs in KWS (6 suspended agents) and WWF co-responsible for the relocation.
July 31, 2018	Lake Nakuru National Park	Poaching	1 male black rhinoceros (about 12 years old) killed, his 2 horns have been cut off.	Aden Abdi Mata, alleged poacher, later arrested at Archers Post in possession of a firearm and 6 worked ivories. Pending his trial, release on 5,000 US\$ bail and 5,000 US\$ surety.

MOZAMBIQUE

August 22, 2018	Sabie Game Park	Arrest	Attempted poaching of rhinoceros	1 arrest. Seizure of 1 firearm with silencer, ammunition, axe, 2 pairs of shoes to blur footprints and food for several days.
Early September 2018	Limpopo National Park	Poaching / Arrest	2 rhinos killed at night in Kruger Park (South Africa).	Manhunt to Mozambique (60 km) and arrest of the 2 suspected poachers thanks to the new digital communication tools shared by rangers from South Africa and Mozambique. Brought before the court.

ZAMBIA

Mid-July 2018	Lusaka, Lusaka Province	Justice	Illegal possession of 32.5 kg of rhino horns.	Confirmation on appeal of the conviction of 3 Chinese (Wan Qian, Huang Qingzhon and He Qingmao), and acquittal of 2 Zambians (Lovemore Kamwendo and Oberty Simwanjata). See "On the Trail" n°19 p.83.
End of September 2018	Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park	Poaching	2 white rhinos	1 horn found a week later.

ZIMBABWE

DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
July 9, 2018	Save Valley Conservancy	Sentence	Attempted poaching in January 2018	Godfrey Makechemu (47 years old), Ignatius Maiga (30 years old), Farai Chauno (27 years old), Celestino Shate (35 years old): 9 years in prison. Save Valley Conservancy was defended by Prisca Daka, a member of Speak out for Animals (SOFA).
Mid-July 2018	Bulawayo	Sentence	Murder of 1 ranger with a Remington 870 express magnum and use of traps.	Bino Ndou (42 years old): 15 years in prison. See "On the Trail" n°17 p.73.
August 28, 2018	Bubye Valley Reserve	Arrest	Attempted poaching of rhinos	Celestine Shate, Faso Moyo and Godfrey Makechemu, who was on bail for poaching at the time.
September 15, 2018	Bubye Valley Reserve	Death/ Poaching	Poaching of rhinos, seizure of one .303 rifle equipped with sights and silencer.	1 poacher, Ndabezinhle Majajama, 44 year old teacher, killed in a shooting incident, 1 accomplice escaped.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

July 2, 2018	Pilanesberg National Park	Seizure / Arrest	3 pairs of rhino horns, 1 rifle, 1 axe, 1 Mazda pick-up truck	Arnelo Mhlanga, 39 years old. 2 runaways.
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Early July 2018	Pretoria	Justice	Poaching	Groenewald case. Dismissal of the Nardus Rossouw's request aiming to cancel the proceeding due to overtime appearance period. A professional hunter, he is the only one to remain in prison since 2010. His bail was revoked. Protraction of the investigation due to the accused and lawyer maneuvers according to the court. See "On the Trail" n°21 p. 74.
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DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
July 4, 2018	Kimberley	Seizure / Arrest	Possession of rhino horns	3 suspects arrested, between the ages of 27 and 47.
July 7, 2018	Shamwari Reserve	Poaching	1 female and her calf, horns torn off.	10 since the beginning of the year in the Eastern Cape province. Killed by firearm.
Mid-July 2018	Eastern Border of Kruger National Park	Seizure / Arrest	Weapons, ammunition, axes and poaching equipment.	Night arrest of 3 poachers due to Annie's nose, member of the canine brigade, who followed the trails. Successful even though the poachers wore socks over the shoes to hide the footprints.
Mid-July 2018	South Africa	Poaching	Poaching and smuggling of rhino horns	"Wanted": Wang Yanping (53 years), Lin Quingsheng (50 years), Sun Bin (31 years). Notice issued by the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) Forensic Investigations.



July 14, 2018	Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province	Justice	Petrus Sydney Mabuza, alias "Mr. Big", involved in the poaching of at least 6 rhinos, released on bail for 19,000 US\$.	Under obligation to report to the police station every Friday and to report his movements to the police. According to the NGO Saving the Wild, jubilation in the streets of Hazyview, his hometown. See "On the Trail" n°21 p. 77.
July 19, 2018	Kruger National Park	Murder	1 ranger.	Skirmish with poachers. Respect Mathebula - "Etlela hi kurhula" (Rest in peace).



Respect Mathebula

July 21, 2018	Johannesburg	Other bad news	Air transfer of 5 rhinos to China (Shanghai), via Madagascar and Istanbul.	On a Turkish Airlines Cargo flight. Stuck at Tambo airport for three days before leaving Africa.
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DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
July 24, 2018	Pilanesberg National Park	Good news	Rescue of one orphan.	No information on the mother.
July 26, 2018	Kruger National Park	Justice	Suspension of an SIU (Special Investigation Unit) investigator.	Rabelani Ndou, suspected of poaching in the park.
July 26, 2018	Great Fish River Natural Reserve	Poaching	A young black rhino found dead and dehorned.	Since the beginning of the year, 11 cases of poaching reported in the Eastern Cape province.
July 31, 2018	Between Peddie and Grahams-town	Arrest	Suspicion of rhino poaching	OPERATION FULL MOON Francis Chitiyo, Trymore Chauke, Misheck Chauke, Simba Masingo, Nhamo Muyambo and Abraham Moyane, all from Zimbabwe, between 25 and 30 years old, in possession of weapons, ammunition, money, knives, in 2 cars. Bail denied.
July 2018	Local Municipality of Lephalale, Waterberg District, Limpopo Province	Seizure / Arrest	Calibre .375 with silencers, ammunition, butcher knives, phones...	Socks over the shoes to hide the footprints. Attempted poaching. 3 arrested.
Early August 2018	Tala Manzi Reserve	Poaching	2 rhinos poached in 2 days.	7 cases of poaching in 4 years.
August 2, 2018	Saselamani	Sentence	Poaching in Kruger Park in 2014.	Joseph Molapo and Sebastian Mbhombhi: 15 and a half years in prison. See "On the Trail" n°7 p.66.
Early August 2018	South Africa	Poaching	Lhétabo, female rhinoceros about 6 years old.	Healed from a gunshot wound and fracture to the right front knee. Intervention by Saving the Survivors. Prognosis reserved.
Mid-August 2018	Kruger National Park	Poaching	2 dehorned rhino bodies, including 1 female, 1 km away.	1 orphan.
August 21, 2018	Kruger National Park	Poaching	1 rhino.	Poaching warning thanks to circling of vultures. The fourth in two weeks.
August 25, 2018	Kruger National Park	Arrest	Intrusion of a shady car in the Park. Seizure of 1 high-caliber rifle, ammunition and all the poaching gear.	Arrest of Absalom Manyike, SanParks agent (South African National Parks) since 2014. 3 accomplices on the run.
End of August 2018	Richards Bay	Justice	August 26, 2009, blatant offence of transporting 2 horns. Suspicion of poaching.	Arrest warrant for Muntugokwakhe Khoza, 49 years old, released on bail. No longer responding to court summons.
August 28, 2018	Thulama-hashe	Sentence	Poaching of rhinos in Kruger Park in 2014.	Joao Langa (48 years old), Mozambican, 18 years in prison.

DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
September 6, 2018	KwaZulu-Natal Province	Poaching	Poaching and dehorning a female white rhinoceros of about 20 years old. A gunshot wound to the shoulder for her 6-year-old child.	On-site care and transfer to an orphanage. 90 rhino poachings in the province since the beginning of the year. Decreasing compared to last year.
September 11, 2018	Pretoria	Other bad news	Organization of at least 50 fake games hunting for the export of trophies, including horns. Shooting of at least 26 rhinos, and horns smuggling into Asia by tens of kilos.	Incredible granting of hunting licenses to Thai prostitutes. After a 40-year prison sentence, a reduction to 30 years at second instance, then a reduction to 13 years on appeal, Chumlong Lemtongthai was released after 6 years and sent back to Thailand. See "On the Trail" n°2 p.47 and n°6 p.68.
September 11, 2018	Paulpietersburg	Arrest	Poaching of 1 pregnant female	As a preventive measure, she has been dehorned to avoid poaching. 4 arrests. Suspected of having poached a mother and her calf three weeks earlier.
September 14, 2018	South Africa	Poaching	"Spartacus", male black rhinoceros	Death as a result of 1 gunshot wound to the left front paw with a broken humerus bone, dating back July. Despite the "Saving the Survivors" care.
Mid-September 2018	Hluhluwe-Umfolozi, Acornhoek Reserve and Phalaborwa	Seizure / Arrest	1 rhinoceros horn, bones of lions, prohibited weapons, silencers, ammunition, and other poaching equipment.	Rhino 9 team operation. 27 arrests.
Mid-September 2018	Mpumalanga Province	Arrest	Rhino poaching and horn smuggling.	Breaking news! Arrests in several places of Mr. Big, birth name Petrus Mabuza (released on bail in July), 3 ex-police officers, a female member of the Acornhoek Stock Theft Unit and Big Joe (birth name Joe Nyalunga) who has been released on bail and awaiting trial since 2012. Hawks intervention in cooperation with Counter intelligence, SANParks, the Department of Environmental Affairs, the National Prosecution Authorities, SARS Debt and Customs. La Totale! See "On the Trail" n°12 p.69, n°21 p.77 and the event of July 14, 2018 in South Africa above.
September 20, 2018	Standerton	Seizure / Arrest	20 rhino horns	Value: 522,390 US\$. 2 suspects arrested (41 and 55 years old), released on bail of 2130 US\$.
September 28, 2018	Sun City	Arrest	Suspicion of rhino poaching. Seizure of 1 heavy weapon with silencer, ammunition, axes and fleshing knives and 3 mobile phones.	Road check: 3 arrests. Driver escaped.
September 30, 2018	East London	Arrest	Suspicion of poaching	3 suspects arrested (between 28 and 50 years old) with a typical poaching kit.

BOTSWANA

DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
July 19, 2018	Botswana	Justice	International trafficking of rhino horns	Release on bail of Dumisani Moyo in question ("On the Trail" n°21 p.78). Summons to appear before the Francistown court after an appeal by the prosecutor. In a camera hearing. Release on bail confirmed at the end. See "On the Trail" n°21 p.78.
End of July 2018	Ghanzi District	Poaching	Poaching of 1 female, death of her calf from hunger and distress.	Second poaching case in the district since the beginning of the year.
August 18, 2018	Okavango Delta	Poaching	1 white rhinoceros brutally dehorned.	Discovered by a patrol joining the DWNP (Department of Wildlife and National Parks), NGOs and soldiers.
September 3, 2018	Okavango Delta	Poaching	5 white rhinos in 3 months.	Spotted by Elephant Without Border aerial survey.

NAMIBIA

September 1, 2018	Namibia	Other bad news	Storage of rhino horns in the State vaults. Weights and values not disclosed for "security reasons".	No to the destruction of the stock. Officials wish to obtain authorization from CITES to sell it.
September 13, 2018	Divundu	Seizure / Arrest	3 rhino horns.	In their white BMW. Liebelo Erick Manja (31 years old) and Aldrian Masule Musisanyani (41 years old).

CENTRAL AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Early September 2018	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Delocalization	Reintroduction of at least 8 rhinos into a 15,000 ha reserve of which name has not been revealed for safety reasons.	Directed by Wildlife Vets Namibia.
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ASIA

See also page 121, 50 horns seized in Malaysia on 13 August 2018.

CHINA

July 2018	Banmen, Jiangxi Province	Seizure / Arrest	A 5.5 kg horn and, it's a first in "On the Trail", 121 slices of skin (272 kg).	In 2 off-road cars. 4 suspects.
Mid-August 2018	Dongxing border crossing, border with Viet Nam	Seizure	1 piece of rhino horn 298.2 g.	Hidden in an umbrella. Questioning of 1 Vietnamese suspect.

INDIA

DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
July 22, 2018	Kachomari Sonari	Seizure / Arrest	Attempted poaching of rhinos in Orang National Park. Seizure of two .303 rifles, 2 loaders, 1 silencer, 4 cartridges, one pistol a 1 loader.	Nur Hussain alias Lengra (age 50), Abul Hussain (age 45), 2 villagers, who housed and provided logistical support to Daniel Yepthomi (age 28) and Alobo Kipa (age 23), snipers. 6 rhinos poached since the beginning of the year in the park.
August 5, 2018	Orang National Park, Assam State	Justice	Release of the young Ikramul Hussain Rahman (12 years old), who was held as a "bond" for 2 months by a gang of traffickers for the loan of a rifle. 303.	Arrest of his father Noor Zamal Rahman and two accomplices, Sadikul Islam and Niyamat Ali, who would poach in the park. Running away of the "pawn" lenders presumed to be members of the Nagas tribe. If the poaching was successful, they would have bought the horn(s) under the terms of the "contract".
August 8, 2018	Sootea	Arrest	Attempted poach in May 2018	Saidul Islam alias Borbabu, a repeat offender.
August 29, 2018	Rongagara	Seizure / Arrest	1 horn	Attempted sale after poaching. Fazar Ali, Abdul Kadir and Azizul Haque.

JAPAN

September 8, 2018	Hiroshima Zoo	Other bad news	Death of 1 rhino. Death of Hana, 52 years old, the oldest rhinoceros in captivity She arrived from Kenya at Hiroshima zoo at 5 years old on July 14, 1971, 26 years after the nuclear bomb, when the fatal leukemia rate was still high among the survivors. Hana gave birth to 10 black rhinos sold in zoos around the world.	
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TURKEY

August 7, 2018	Istanbul Atatürk Airport	Seizure	9 rhino horns	Value: 245,000 US\$. From South Africa. The passenger ran away leaving his luggage.
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VIET NAM

DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
July 2018	Hanoi	Seizure / Arrest	100 g of horns	Joint operation by the police and the NGO Education for Nature - Viet Nam. 1 arrest.



July 13, 2018	Tan Son Nhat Airport / Ho Chi Minh City	Seizure / Arrest	12 horns with a total weight of 7.2 kg.	Hidden in cartons of powdered milk, in other food packaging and clothes. A Vietnamese citizen, V.X.D, 41 years old, on arrival of one Emirates flight from Angola via Dubai.
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EUROPE

CZECH REPUBLIC

Mid-July 2018	Prague	Sentence	Smuggling of 24 rhino horns between Africa, Czech Republic, and Asia. See "On the Trail" n°2 p.44.	Declared value: 3.85 million €. One of the 16 accused, Mao Nguyen Hue, to 2 years suspended in prison and a fine of 26,730 US\$. Acquittal of 15 others.
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Rhinos and Elephants

AFRICA

ANGOLA

DATE	PLACE(S)	CATEGORY	TYPE / QUANTITY / GROUNDS	DETAILS / MODUS OPERANDI / VALUE
End of August 2018	International Airport and Sao Paulo district, Luanda	Seizure / Arrest	- 27 pieces of rhino horns (20kg), - 535 kg raw ivory, 263 kg of worked ivory, 895 kg of pangolin scales, 10 kg medicinal plants.	- At the airport in toy, lamp, and dried fruits packaging, - In the Sao Paulo district, in 2 illegal workshops. 5 Vietnamese covered by temporary work visas. Smuggling to Asia.

ZIMBABWE

September 21, 2018	Hurungwe District	Death / Arrest 	Elephant and rhinoceros poaching	Artwell Siyonda, 22 years old, killed in a firing with rangers, 2 others arrested.
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AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

August 14, 2018	State of Illinois	Good news	Enactment of the law prohibiting the importation and trade of ivory and of rhinoceros horns in Illinois, 9th State with anti-rhino and anti-ivory rules.	71% of the population in favour of the law. According to the Animal Welfare Institute, there were more than 1000 seizures of ivory between 2010 and 2015 in Chicago.
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ASIA

CHINA

July 13, 2018	Hong Kong	Sentence	Smuggling of rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory from South Africa.	Liu Xin jail time doubled on appeal: 4 months closed. See "On the Trail" n°21 p.81.
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LAOS

September 18, 2018	Xaysettha District, Vientiane Province	Seizure / Arrest	Alleged pieces from ivory and rhino horns and diverse parts of animals, including patches of elephants and rhinoceros skin. Total weight: 13.5 kg.	Search and seizure by the DCNEC (Department of Combating Natural Resource and Environmental Crime) in a furniture store. Second seizure of rhino skin in this "On the Trail" issue. See the chapter Rhino, China, July 2018.
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VIET NAM

August 27, 2018	Hanoi	Sentence	Theft of customs seizures: 240 kg of ivory and 6.1 kg rhinoceros' horns, replaced by plastic and wooden imitations.	Pham Minh Hoang, director of Hanoi Customs Warehouse, and Tran Trong Cuong, customs officials: 16 years in prison. Hoang Van Dien, reseller: 2 years in prison. See "On the Trail" n°18 p.81.
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