

TRAFFIC

NEWSLETTER

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TRAFFIC **POST**

NEWSLETTER ON WILDLIFE TRADE IN INDIA

A vibrant yellow pufferfish with numerous black spots is swimming in a clear blue ocean. The background is a colorful coral reef with various shades of red, orange, and green. The fish is positioned in the lower half of the frame, facing left.

**India's ornamental marine fish
trade in deep water:
IN FOCUS**

TRAFFIC Post

TRAFFIC's newsletter on wildlife trade in India was started in September 2007 with a primary objective to create awareness about poaching and illegal wildlife trade .

Illegal wildlife trade is reportedly the fourth largest global illegal trade after narcotics, counterfeiting and human trafficking. It has evolved into an organized activity threatening the future of many wildlife species.

TRAFFIC Post was born out of the need to reach out to various stakeholders including decision makers, enforcement officials, judiciary and consumers about the extent of illegal wildlife trade in India and the damaging effect it could be having on the endangered flora and fauna.

Since its inception, TRAFFIC Post has highlighted pressing issues related to illegal wildlife trade in India and globally, flagged early trends, and illuminated wildlife policies and laws. It has also focused on the status of legal trade in various medicinal plant and timber species that need sustainable management for ensuring ecological and economic success.

TRAFFIC Post comes out three times in the year and is available both online and in print. You can subscribe to it by writing to trafficind@wwfindia.net

All issues of TRAFFIC Post can be viewed at www.trafficindia.org; www.traffic.org

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CONTENTS

A

TRAFFIC Updates (India)

Adding teeth to wildlife law enforcement: 13 new dog squads commence training **6**

Early success for 16 newly trained wildlife sniffer dogs: TRAFFIC applauds their efforts **7**



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Don't Buy Trouble: TRAFFIC's initiative in India warns against buying illegal wildlife products **8**

Local communities learn about wildlife protection: Pledge their support to help curb illegal wildlife trade **9**

“Snaring crisis devastating Asia's wildlife”—the unequivocal voice on Global Tiger Day **11**

B

Outpost

Malaysia's traditional Chinese medicine practitioners support using alternatives to threatened wildlife **13**

C

CITES Update

IATA and CITES to co-operate on reducing illegal wildlife trade **15**

D

TRAFFIC Alert

Wildlife officials seize 25,000 paintbrushes made from mongoose hair in Coimbatore shops **17**

Poachers find lucrative business in selling endangered Tokay Geckos **18**

Shark fins weighing 6,000 kg seized in Kochi **19**



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E

In Focus

India's ornamental marine fish trade in deep water **21**



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F

Wild Cry

Highlighting the illegal trade in “Hatha Jodi” in India: A conservation crisis that plagues the King of Lizards **25**

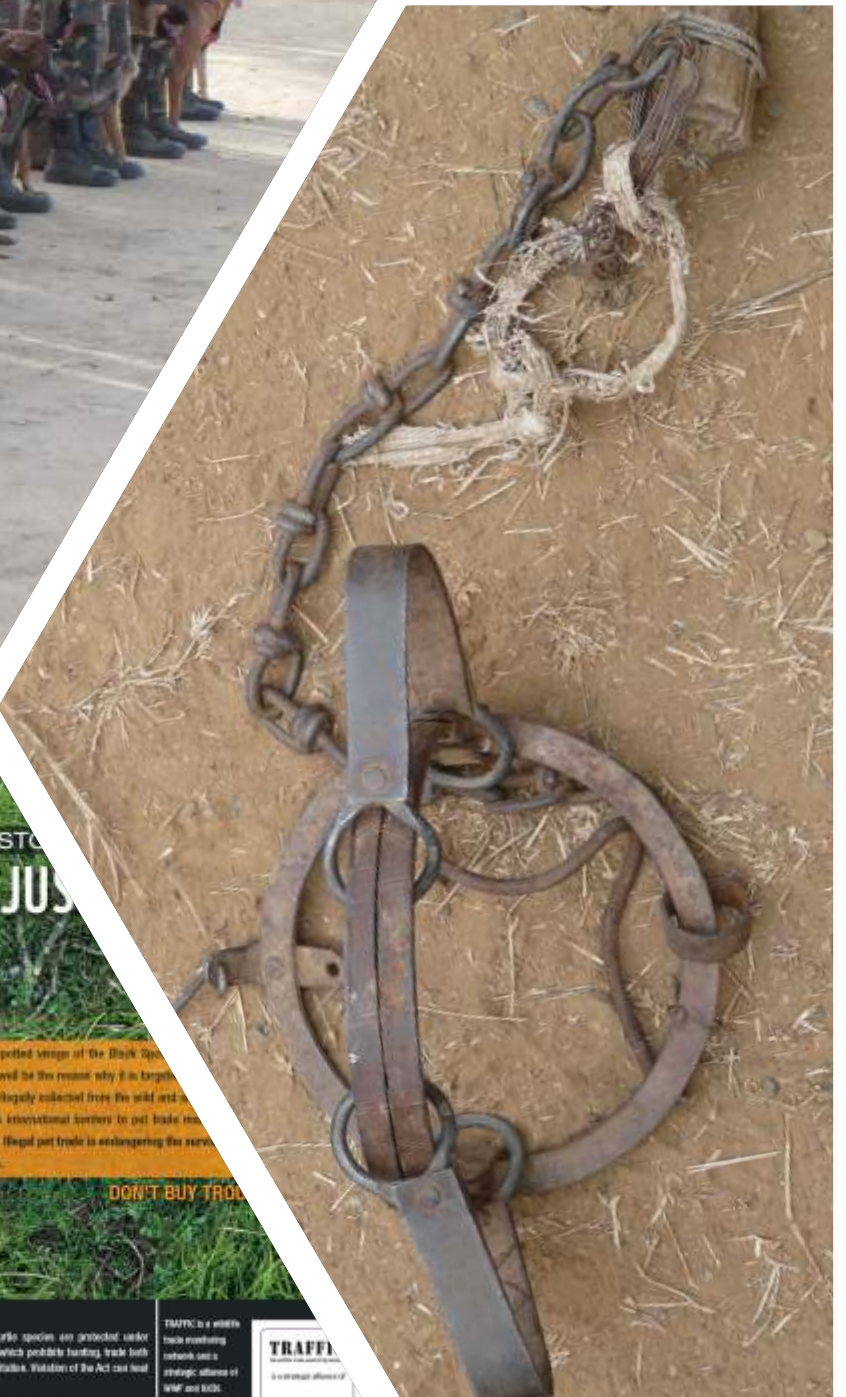


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TRAFFIC Updates (India)

- 1. Adding teeth to wildlife law enforcement: 13 new dog squads commence training**
- 2. Early success for 16 newly trained wildlife sniffer dogs: TRAFFIC applauds their efforts**
- 3. Don't Buy Trouble: TRAFFIC's initiative in India warns against buying illegal wildlife products**
- 4. Local communities learn about wildlife protection: Pledge their support to help curb illegal wildlife trade**
- 5. “Snaring crisis devastating Asia's wildlife”—the unequivocal voice on Global Tiger Day**



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

IN DANGER OF BECOMING JUST WORDS IN HISTORY
DON'T LET THEIR FUTURE BE JUST WORDS

TURTLES

The attractive spotted plastron of the Black Spotted Turtle may well be the reason why it is targeted. Individuals are illegally collected from the wild and their numbers across international territory to pet trade markets across Asia. Illegal pet trade is endangering the survival of this species.

DON'T BUY TROUBLE

In India, large number of turtles and tortoises are illegally caught in the wild and smuggled to pet trade markets elsewhere in Asia. Turtles and tortoises can also be traded for their meat, falsely considered a delicacy and also served as a delicacy. Demand for the pet trade and for food and medicine threatens many tortoise and freshwater turtle species in India including the Black Spotted Turtle, Indian Star Tortoise, Galapagos Tortoise, and others.

DON'T BUY TROUBLE

Black Spotted Turtle and many other tortoise and freshwater turtle species are protected under Schedule I, II and III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, of India, which prohibits hunting, trade both domestic and international, or any other form of utilization and exploitation. Violation of the Act can lead to severe penalties of imprisonment, a heavy fine or both.

TRAFFIC is a wildlife trade monitoring network with strategic offices in WWF and IUCN.

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

Adding teeth to wildlife law enforcement: 13 new dog squads commence training

In April 2017, 13 young dogs aged 6–9 months old and their 26 dog handlers began their training to become wildlife sniffer and tracker dog squads. Once trained, the dog squads will be deployed by the forest departments of eight Indian States—West Bengal (3), Sikkim (2), Uttarakhand (2), Uttar Pradesh (2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1), Assam (1), Odisha (1) and Kerala (1).

The dogs are part of the sixth phase of the wildlife sniffer dog training programme organised by TRAFFIC and WWF-India in collaboration with the National Training Centre for Dogs (NTCD), BSF Academy, Tekanpur, Gwalior. The dog squads will join forces after completion of their nine month long training schedule in December 2017.

Merwyn Fernandes, Coordinator, TRAFFIC's India office said: "Over the years, wildlife sniffer and tracker dogs—popularly known as TRAFFIC's Super Sniffers—have been successful in over 180 wildlife seizure cases involving skins and bones of tigers, leopard parts, bear bile, ivory, star tortoises, deer antlers, live birds, porcupines, pangolin scales and more. The dogs have been



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Thirteen dog squads at the training centre

successful in finding snares, traps and weapons and have helped in the arrest of about 100 alleged poachers and wildlife smugglers".

Dr Dipankar Ghose, Director of WWF-India's Species and Landscape programme, said "Use of wildlife sniffer dogs is a proven practice and we are happy that this approach has been adopted by enforcement agencies and state forest departments in India. We wish success to the 13 dogs and their handlers on their new journey".

Dr G.S Nag, Chief Veterinary Officer, Commanding Officer of the NTCD said "NTCD recognizes the important role of sniffer dogs in wildlife crime prevention and detection and therefore has partnered with TRAFFIC in India for training wildlife sniffer dog squads. We hope to see many more state forest departments deploying sniffer dogs for use in wildlife law enforcement initiatives".

TRAFFIC pioneered the wildlife sniffer dog training programme in India in 2008. Since then, 43 dog squads have been trained with support from WWF-India. It is for the first time that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim will be deploying trained wildlife sniffer and tracker dog squads for curbing wildlife crime.

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Wildlife sniffer dog in training

Early success for 16 newly trained wildlife sniffer dogs: TRAFFIC applauds their efforts

Sixteen wildlife sniffer and tracker dog squads, trained in 2016 under the 5th phase of TRAFFIC's wildlife sniffer dog training programme in India are enjoying early successes. After joining the forces in October 2016, the dog squads have been successful in facilitating a number of wildlife seizures and the nabbing of poachers.

Nirman, the dog stationed at Satna Wildlife Division, Madhya Pradesh along with his handler Raj Kishore helped conduct a wildlife seizure that led to the recovery of leopard bones, skin, claws and other body parts. On arriving at the crime scene, Nirman led the enforcement officials to the spot where the leopard body parts were hidden. Since deployment, Nirman and his handlers have helped in nine seizures of illegal wildlife parts and derivatives.

Qwipper, another newly trained wildlife sniffer and tracker dog stationed at Kali Tiger Reserve, Karnataka along with his handler S. B. Venkatesh has helped the department in solving a Mouse Deer poaching case. Qwipper not only helped to find the arms used for poaching but also led the

enforcement officials to the crime scene and discovered the evidence that led to the arrest of the alleged offender. Qwipper and his handler have conducted 10 wildlife seizures which have included wild boar meat, sandalwood, rosewood and have also helped in getting credible information in other cases.

Nirman, Qwipper and the other 14 wildlife sniffer and tracker dogs were trained at the National Training Centre for Dogs (NTCD), BSF Academy, Tekanpur Gwalior and have joined seven States—West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

WILDLIFE SNIFFER DOG SQUADS TRAINED: 43	STATES OF DEPLOYMENT: 13	WILDLIFE SNIFFER DOG TRAINING CENTRES:	TRAINED TO DETECT: tiger bone and skin, leopard bone and skin, elephant tusks and bear bile	NUMBER OF SEIZURES CONDUCTED: 180+
WILDLIFE SNIFFER DOG SQUADS UNDER TRAINING: 13	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> National Training Centre for Dog (NTCD), BSF Academy, Tekanpur Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh 23rd Battalion Special Armed Force Police Dog Training Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh National Dog-training Centre at Indo-Tibetan Border Police camp, Panchkula, Haryana 	Besides detecting Tiger and Leopard skins and body parts, Red Sanders and bear bile, the dogs have adapted their skills sets and are detecting array of other wildlife parts and derivatives including deer meat, live birds, snakes, porcupines, red sanders, turtles and tortoises etc.	

TRAFFIC's Wildlife Sniffer Dog Training Programme

Don't Buy Trouble: TRAFFIC's initiative in India warns against buying illegal wildlife products

Four new posters under the “Don't Buy Trouble” banner have been released by TRAFFIC and WWF-India in an effort to help curb illegal wildlife trade in some of the most traded wildlife species in India.

Their message—In danger of becoming just words in history. Don't let their future be just a memory—comes with a clear warning against buying illegal wildlife products. They highlight some of the country's most heavily poached and trafficked wildlife species—Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*, Black Spotted Turtle *Geoclemys hamiltonii* and Pangolins (*Manis spp.*) All of the species are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Targeted at domestic and foreign tourists and other potential buyers of wildlife products, the Don't Buy Trouble posters send a clear message that it is not only the poacher or trader of endangered wildlife who is liable for punishment under India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, but also those who purchase and use such items as ignorance of law is not considered a valid excuse.



The posters are part of TRAFFIC's ongoing awareness efforts to curb the demand that fuels poaching and illegal wildlife trade in India.

Asian Elephant populations were once widely distributed throughout the country but currently have fragmented populations in only 14 States. Elephants have been killed as a result of human-wildlife conflict or for their tusks, used to make ivory bangles, rings, name seals, statues, chess pieces and many other items.

Greater One-horned Rhinoceroses are targeted for their horns, which are mainly smuggled to Viet Nam where they are consumed by businessmen as a display of wealth and as lucky charms or gifted to strengthen professional and personal relationships.

Pangolins are shy, nocturnal animals that live in burrows. There are two species in India—Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* and Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla*. Today, pangolins are among the most trafficked wildlife species globally. Pangolin meat is considered a delicacy and tonic food, while pangolin scales are used as an ingredient in traditional Asian medicines.



In India, large numbers of turtles and tortoises are also illegally caught in the wild and trafficked in the pet trade markets in India and elsewhere in Asia. Turtles and tortoises are also traded for their meat, considered a tonic food, and often served as a delicacy. Some of the commonly traded turtle and tortoise species include the Black Spotted Turtle, Gangetic Softshell Turtle *Nilssonina gangetica*, Indian Flapshell Turtle *Lissemys punctata*, Indian Tent Turtle *Pangshura tentoria* and Indian Star Tortoise *Geochelone elegans*.

“The scale and frequency of wildlife crime in India needs to be urgently addressed. In addition to strengthening enforcement and regulation, awareness of the law and the issues behind wildlife conservation need to be made explicitly clear to members of the public to help stem demand for wildlife products and curb involvement in illegal trade,” said Merwyn Fernandes, Coordinator, TRAFFIC in India. “Initiatives such as these contribute to changing consumer perceptions.”

Dipankar Ghose, Director - Species & Landscapes Conservation Programme, WWF-India said, “Making consumers aware about illegal wildlife trade and garnering their support is crucial to addressing this problem. It is important that buyers understand the gravity of the threat and support the fight against wildlife crime by refusing to purchase or acquire illegal wildlife products. The Don't Buy Trouble campaign is a step in this direction”.

The Don't Buy Trouble campaign has been running successfully at airports, hotels/resorts, wildlife reserves and other significant hotspots through hoardings, posters, films, and leaflets. It has received tremendous support and response from various audiences since its launch in 2008 and has been crucial towards spreading awareness about this important cause throughout the country.

Local communities learn about wildlife protection: Pledge their support to help curb illegal wildlife

Communities living in and around forest areas have a significant role in wildlife protection and conservation. Since these communities have co-existed with wildlife around forest areas and have been dependent on it for sustenance, their support and involvement is crucial to protecting the forests and wildlife.

Many communities have traditionally been hunter communities and therefore direct consumers of wild animal meat and other parts, while others have engaged in poaching of wildlife for trade. Over time, the livelihoods may have changed for some but many still continue to hunt

and illegally trade in wildlife products. These communities can become accomplices to poachers and wildlife smugglers, thus their cooperation is crucial in helping to curb wildlife crime in any given area. TRAFFIC in India has therefore been working towards raising awareness among these communities about wildlife laws and protecting wildlife.

Awareness programme for the local communities around Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar: TRAFFIC organised awareness programmes for 13 villages around the Valmiki Tiger Reserve during

20–26 May 2017. These villages were strategically chosen based on wildlife crime records i.e. either the poachers were arrested from these villages or illegal wildlife parts and derivatives were recovered. The outreach activities were organised with the help of the chiefs (village head) of these villages and Eco Development Committee members. Issues related to conservation of flora and fauna, ecotourism and livelihoods, wildlife laws and crime were discussed with the communities during the programme and this generated considerable interest among the participants. Nearly 900 individuals participated in the week long awareness programme.

On 22 May 2017, TRAFFIC in India also participated in the World Biodiversity Day celebrations at Valmiki Nagar organised jointly by WWF-India and Bihar Forest Department. TRAFFIC spoke about local issues related to poaching and illegal wildlife trade during the programme which was attended by many school children for whom special activities such as a painting competition were organised.



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Awareness programme for the communities around Amangarh Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh: On 25 June 2017, TRAFFIC organised a wildlife conservation and protection awareness campaign at Kehripur village on the outskirts of Amangarh Tiger Reserve for the community members as well as the local forest staff. The programme included screening films on poaching and illegal wildlife trade, talks, a wildlife quiz, and slogan and poem writing competitions on the theme of wildlife protection and conservation. Children and adults together participated in the programme and enthusiastically discussed local issues related to poaching and wildlife trade. A similar programme was also organised

at Piprola village around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh on 26 June 2017.



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World Environment Day celebrations at Haldwani near Corbett Tiger Reserve: On 5 June 2017, World Environment Day, TRAFFIC and Haldwani International Zoo Cum Safari (HIZCS) organized an awareness programme for visitors at the HIZCS premises. Over 160 participants included schoolchildren from Haldwani and Bhimtal areas, forest guard trainees from the Forest Training Institute, Haldwani and staff of Haldwani forest division. As special guests, 15 children from the National Association for the Blind (NAB), Haldwani were also invited. Various senior dignitaries of the forest department were present during the day. The participants took pledges for wildlife protection and conservation, participated in activities such as a wildlife quiz, and drawing and slogan writing competitions on the theme of curbing poaching and illegal wildlife trade.



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“Snaring crisis devastating Asia's wildlife”—the unequivocal voice on Global Tiger Day

On Global Tiger Day, TRAFFIC and WWF urged governments in tiger-range countries to strengthen anti-poaching efforts and crack down on a severe wildlife snaring crisis that is threatening wildlife across Asia, especially the world's remaining wild tigers, which number only around 3,900.

Easy to make from widely available material such as bicycle cable wires and quick to set up, wire snares are deadly traps that are fast becoming the plague of Asia's forests. Driven by the growing demand for illegal wildlife products across Asia, poachers are increasingly using snares to trap wild tigers, elephants, leopards and other wildlife.

“Snares are dangerous, insidious and quickly becoming a major contributor to the wave of extinction that is spreading throughout Southeast Asia—and tigers are being swept up in this crisis” said Mike Baltzer, Leader of WWF Tigers Alive.

On the rare occasion that a wild tiger is able to free itself from a snare, it suffers debilitating injuries that prevents it from hunting, eventually causing it to die of starvation or infection. In addition, such snares maim or kill other animals that get caught, the prey base tigers need for their sustenance and survival.

India, last year witnessed an all time high in the number of reported tiger mortalities due to poaching and in all probability these figures only represent a fraction of the actual mortality. Snares have been one of the most commonly used methods of poaching for illegal wildlife, others being electrocution and poisoning. Wildlife traps/snares are usually embedded deep into the ground or hidden among debris, making their detection almost impossible by the forest guards on patrol. Therefore, to deal with this problem, in 2008, TRAFFIC in India began

providing Deep Search Metal Detectors (DSMD) to Tiger Reserves across the country. Nearly 60 DSMDs have been provided to key Tiger Reserves and Forest Departments in eight States. DSMDs help in detecting traps/snares buried even up to seven feet below the ground or debris and have proved useful and effective for detecting snares during patrol.



“Removing these silent traps is not enough. Rangers on the ground must be supported by greater resources and strong legislation to take action against illegal poachers with snares,” said Rohit Singh, wildlife law enforcement expert at WWF.

Speaking about the importance of community involvement to reduce poaching, Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India said, “WWF-India has been working with communities on holistic approaches to conservation. Making them primary stakeholders in the protection of forests and its wildlife can go a long way in enhancing anti-poaching efforts in the country.”

In 2010, tiger range governments committed to an ambitious conservation goal – TX2, or the aim to double the number of wild tigers by 2022. WWF-India, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Global Tiger Forum, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Wildlife Trust of India organized Global Tiger Day celebrations at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi where over 1,000 school children participated.

B

Outpost

Malaysia's traditional Chinese medicine practitioners support using alternatives to threatened wildlife

Malaysia's traditional Chinese medicine practitioners support using alternatives to threatened wildlife

Malaysia's traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners and TRAFFIC have come together to find solutions to reduce the use of threatened wildlife in traditional medicines.

Through a joint one-day conference, organised on 9 July 2017, the Federation of Chinese Physicians and Medicine Dealers Associations of Malaysia (FCPMDAM) and TRAFFIC highlighted various substitutes to wildlife parts used in traditional medicine, discussed laws and enforcement aspects that govern wildlife use and the threats posed by the demand for wildlife-based medicines.

A major focus of the conference titled Alternatively Effective was the ongoing use of bear bile and gall bladder in the country's TCM industry and the threat this posed to Asia's wild bears.

Previous TRAFFIC surveys have shown the high availability of bear bile and gall bladder in the country's TCM shops. Analysis of bear-related seizures across Asia from 2000–2011 also found the country to be a key source and consumer of bear parts and derivatives.

“The TCM community of practitioners and users in Malaysia can be one of the strongest allies to ending illegal wildlife trade, and we are very glad to

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be partnering with Malaysia's largest TCM community. The good news is that effective substitutes for bear-based products are available and being used worldwide and it's important for the Malaysian community to know of these alternatives and work towards incorporating them into practice,” said Kanitha Krishnasamy, Acting Regional Director for TRAFFIC in Southeast Asia.

As part of the conference, practitioners were also invited to take a pledge to use only wildlife permitted under Malaysia's laws, use only legally-sourced ingredients and support efforts to reduce the demand for wildlife-based medicinal products involving threatened species. A total of 46 practitioners signed the pledge on the day.

“This community of practitioners and physicians play a critical role in the sourcing and dispensing of wild plants and animals for medicines. A commitment to use only legal wildlife resources and educate their customers about sustainable alternatives will help reduce the tremendous pressure on bears and many other wild animals now in demand as cures,” said Lalita Gomez, Programme Officer for TRAFFIC in Southeast Asia.

Federation President Mr Ting KaHua, who also signed the pledge said: “It is the responsibility of each of us to cherish and protect wild resources. Chinese medicine practitioners and retailers should choose the legitimately produced medicines, pay attention to the contents of the products, should not buy medicinal ingredients of unknown provenance, and consciously resist illegal items.”

Over the past year, FCPMDAM has distributed information prepared by TRAFFIC on wildlife species threatened by demand for traditional medicine to its member associations. About 80 practitioners, physicians, TCM lecturers and government officials attended the conference.

Read more at <http://www.traffic.org/home/2017/7/10/malaysias-traditional-chinese-medicine-practitioners-support.html>



CITES Update

IATA and CITES to co-operate on reducing illegal wildlife trade



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IATA and CITES to co-operate on reducing illegal wildlife trade

“CITES and IATA have long co-operated to ensure that legitimately-traded animals and plants are carried as safely and comfortably as possible. This MoU formalizes our work programmes. The responsibility for enforcement of the rules governing international wildlife trade is clearly with governments. But well-trained airline staff can be an invaluable source of information on suspicious passenger behaviour and unusual shipments. Airlines are good corporate citizens. Our collaboration with CITES will help the industry to play a role in stopping the terrible scourge of illegal trade in wildlife that threatens some of the most precious animal and plant life on our planet,” said Tony Tyler, IATA's Director General and CEO.

John E Scanlon, the Secretary-General of CITES, who addressed the IATA Annual General Meeting, added: “We live in an interconnected world where the great benefits of global air transport are also being abused by criminals to transport illegally traded wildlife. IATA and its member airlines can play a critical role in assisting Customs and other enforcement agencies by gathering valuable intelligence of suspicious activities and raising awareness among customers, passengers, and staff of the devastating impacts of this illegal trade”.

<http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2015-06-08-05.aspx>

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to co-operate on reducing illegal trade in wildlife and their products, as well as on ensuring the safe and secure transportation of legally traded wildlife.

Under the MoU, IATA and CITES will have a formal framework for their ongoing co-operation on the implementation of standards and best practices such as the IATA Live Animals Regulations, the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations, and the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants. They will also support joint training and communications activities.

Over recent years, there has been a surge in the illegal trade of wildlife and their derived products such as elephant ivory, rhino horn, and rare timbers, with many smugglers misusing the complex international aviation system to evade Customs and other enforcement agencies.

D

TRAFFIC Alert

Wildlife officials seize 25,000 paintbrushes made from mongoose hair in Coimbatore shops

Poachers find lucrative business in selling endangered Tokay Geckos

Shark fins weighing 6,000 kg seized in Kochi

TRAFFIC
ALERT



1

Wildlife officials seize 25,000 paintbrushes made from hair in Coimbatore shops

In July 2017, the forest department and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) in Coimbatore seized around 25,000 paintbrushes, allegedly made from mongoose hair, from six stationery shops in the city. The team had been conducting searches in various shops in the city after receiving a tip-off and finally raided the six shops where they found the mongoose hair brushes on sale.

TRAFFIC adds.....

There are six species of mongoose found in India: Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*; Ruddy Mongoose *Herpestes smithii* Gray; Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* Illiger; Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* Hodgson; Stripe-Necked Mongoose *Herpestes vitticollis* Bennett and Brown Mongoose *Herpestes fuscus* Waterhouse. The Indian Grey Mongoose is listed in Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 while all the other five species are listed in Schedule IV. Their international trade is monitored under CITES with all six species listed in Appendix III with zero quota for commercial trade.



© Ravi Singh/WWF-India

Despite their legal protection, reports have indicated that thousands of mongooses are killed every year to meet the demand for hair for making paintbrushes. Since 2014, according to news reports nearly 62,000 mongoose hair brushes and an additional 5.5 kg of mongoose hair have been seized across India.

The mongooses are trapped and beaten to death so that their hair can be extracted for commerce. It is estimated that for a kg of mongoose hair at least 50 animals are killed (each animal yields about 40 g of hair but only 20 g is usable for making paintbrushes). Make-up artists, painters and even children in many countries are unwitting accomplices to such trade practices in India. India is considered a major source of mongoose hair, trade of which is conducted through illegal means, while the species have also been severely affected by habitat degradation and loss.

Sources:

<http://www.thenewsminute.com/article/wildlife-officials-seize-25000-painting-brushes-made-using-mongoose-hair-coimbatore-shops>

<http://indiasendangered.com/beware-your-paint-brush-might-be-made-from-mongoose-hair/>

2

Poachers find lucrative business in selling endangered Tokay Geckos

The northeastern states of India have been a hub for poachers engaged in trafficking body parts of tigers, rhinoceroses and elephants, but some trappers have also found a lucrative business in selling Tokay Gecko lizards. Each live animal, usually 40 cm long, carries a substantial price tag in the international market. According to security agencies and wildlife officers working in the northeastern States, hundreds of local traders are now selling Tokay Geckos to international wildlife traffickers, who smuggle them to centres of Chinese medicine across Asia.

TRAFFIC adds.....

Tokay gecko *Gecko gecko* is the second largest gecko species, weighing between 150–400 g. They have a bluish or grayish body with spots from light yellow to bright red. Until 2013, the Tokay Gecko was not protected in India and the species was exploited in huge numbers. However, today it is listed in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 but this has not deterred its poaching or trade.

TRAFFIC found that most poached animals are sent to Southeast Asian countries. The animals are popular in the global pet trade and have long been traded—both legally and illegally—for use in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in the belief they can cure various maladies including diabetes, asthma, skin disease and cancer although there is no evidence of their efficacy in any of these uses. In parts of Asia, tokay wine or whisky is consumed, supposedly to increase strength and energy. Unwarranted claims as a cure for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) are also contributing towards a boom in the trade of Tokay Geckos.

With no clear knowledge about its population status, the current levels of poaching and trade may be having a severe impact on the species. Therefore, it is prudent that strict enforcement initiatives are immediately implemented to control the unabated poaching of Tokay Geckos in India.



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Sources:

TRAFFIC POST, November 2012,
http://awsassets.wwfndia.org/downloads/traffic_post_nov_2012__issue_16.pdf
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/poachers-tokay-gecko-endangered-asian-lizard-trafficking/1/992748.html>



3

Shark fins weighing 6,000 kg seized in Kochi

The Kochi city police seized suspected shark fins weighing around 6,000 kg. Acting on a tip-off, the police team led by Sub-inspector Honey K. Das effected the seizure during a raid at an export agency operating at Karivelippady. The contraband was being smuggled from Kochi under the guise of fish product exports. According to the forest officials, no one has a licence to export or possess the fins that are often collected from the sharks while they are alive. Removal of fins renders a shark immobile, and it dies of suffocation or gets eaten by other predators.

TRAFFIC adds.....

Growth in international demand for shark fins and other shark products has been the main driver of shark fisheries operating out of India, raising concerns about the future of many shark species. Sharks are sought for their meat, leather, liver oil, cartilage and fins.

More than 70 species of sharks have been sighted in Indian waters and over 20 of these are reported to be caught for commercial trade. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), India was the world's second biggest shark catcher. In 2015, India banned the export of all shark fins. Prior to this, in 2013, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a "fins naturally attached" policy, requiring sharks to be landed with their fins still attached. The 2015 ban was announced in an effort to protect threatened shark species as well as better monitor how many and what species were being caught.

The international trade in some shark species is further regulated through CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) to which India has been a Party since 1976. In 2013, five species of sharks—the Oceanic Whitetip *Carcharhinus longimanus*, Scalloped Hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini*, Great Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna mokarran*, Smooth Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna zigaena* and the Porbeagle Shark *Lamna nasusa* and two species of manta rays (*Manta* spp)—were listed in Appendix II of CITES. In October 2017, the Silky Shark *Carcharhinus falciformis* and all three species of thresher shark (Pelagic Thresher *Alopias pelagicus*, Bigeye Thresher *Alopias superciliosus*, Common Thresher *Alopias vulpinus*) were also included in that Appendix.

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 prohibits hunting, trade and any other forms of exploitation of 10 species of sharks and rays: Narrow Sawfish *Anoxypristis cuspidata*; Pondicherry Shark *Carcharhinus hemiodon*; Ganges Shark *Glyphis gangeticus*; Speartooth Shark *Glyphis glyphis*; Ganges Stingray *Himantura fluviatilis*; Largetooth Sawfish *Pristis microdon*; Longcomb Sawfish or Green Sawfish *Pristis zijsron*; Giant Guitarfish *Rhynchobatus djiddensis*; Porcupine Ray *Urogymnus asperrimus*; and Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus*.

In order to secure the future of sharks in the wild there is a need to curb illegal trade and regulate legal trade by implementing sustainability and traceability measures to ensure the trade is not a threat to their conservation status. In India, TRAFFIC in collaboration with WWF-India is working to understand the local demand and consumption of sharks and their body parts and also the international demand for all shark species and products in trade. This will be used as a basis for making recommendations to enhance protection measures and develop shark conservation policies in India.



In Focus

India's ornamental marine fish trade in deep water



India's ornamental marine fish trade in deep water

In a move to streamline and regulate ornamental fish trade in India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued new rules and regulations that also include a complete ban on trade in the majority of marine ornamental fishes in India.

Over the years, trade in India's marine ornamental fish (attractive and colourful fish which are kept as pets in an aquarium or pool) has grown manifold. However, some conservationists have been concerned that a lack of oversight and regulation has the potential to have a serious impact on the wild fish populations and their habitat.

Most marine ornamental fish are inhabitants of coral reefs, lagoons and rocky areas. In India, the Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands; Andaman and Nicobar islands; Okha-pin Tan; Gulf of Kutch complex; Gulf of Mannar; Coast of Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and Tamil Nadu; Cape Comorin and Palk Bay are home to a wide variety of such fish.

Unlike many freshwater ornamental fish species, most of the trade in ornamental marine fish is supplied through wild collection, raising concerns about the levels of exploitation and the long term sustainability of the trade. Commonly used harvesting techniques include the use of sodium cyanide, which can be disastrous for the coral reefs. A sodium cyanide mixture is sprayed onto the water surface to stun the fish and in the process kills the coral polyps and algae, turning the coral reef which are the “rainforests of the oceans”, into marine deserts. Furthermore, the relatively high number of fish caught leads to chronic over fishing.

The post harvest mortality in marine ornamental fishes is also high, mainly due to poor handling techniques leading to stress and death low resistance to diseases, poor water quality and the collection of juveniles.

Recognizing these threats, the amended Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Aquarium and Fish Tank Animals Shop) Rules, 2017, were published by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960) through a notification dated 23 May 2017. The amendment makes it mandatory for all aquariums to acquire recognition and ornamental fish retailers to acquire registration from the Animal Welfare Board of India.

The amended rules also state that all aquariums are prohibited to keep, house or display cetaceans, penguins, otters, manatees or sea or marine turtles, artificially coloured fish, species protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, or listed in Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). More than 150 species are listed in Schedule II of the amended rules, including popularly traded marine ornamental fish such as butterfly fish, angel fish, damsel fish, trigger fish, pipe fish, razor fish, batfish, eels, wrasses, gobies, parrot fish, anthias, groupers, tangs, lionfish, anglers, scorpion fish, box fish and many more.

The new rules state that no aquarium or ornamental fish retailer is permitted to source stock caught by destructive

fishing practices such as bottom trawling, cyanide fishing, use of explosives or dynamite to kill or stun fish, those trapped from coral reefs or from any protected areas. No aquariums will be allowed in public areas such as airports, railway stations or schools nor in markets or exhibitions unless permanent facilities are available. The rules prescribe, for aquariums, standards for veterinary and infrastructure facilities. They mandate maintenance of inventories (records of births, acquisitions, deaths), feed register and health register, fish retailers in addition to the aforementioned records must also maintain an inventory of animals traded (sold, bought exchanged) during the previous year. Rules prohibit the physical handling or performances by fish tank animals as an educational activity.

The rules also clearly state the repercussions of non-compliance by the aquariums or fish retailers and also set out welfare standards for maintaining an aquarium, such as prescribing the conditions for maintenance of fish tanks, enrichment to be provided in fish tanks and standards for the upkeep and healthcare of fish tank animals.

The new amendment prohibiting trade in the majority of marine ornamental fishes in India was unexpected and is proving unpopular with many fish shop owners and traders according to reports. Mr Atul Kumar Jain, Director of the Rajasthan-based Ornamental Fisheries Training and Research Institute, while addressing the audience at an aquaculture event—Aqua Aquaria India 2017—organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority in Mangaluru in May 2017 said, “The ornamental fish industry provides jobs to around 50,000 people through 5,000 aquarium retail outlets and

an equal number of production units. All these put together amount to a domestic aquarium trade of around INR300 crore with the market even expected to grow further.”

TRAFFIC considers there is a strong need to monitor and regulate the ornamental fish trade sector in India. Everything from the methods of collection, to transportation, sale and upkeep of the fish requires standards to be set and maintained. A lack of legal regulations and wildlife law enforcement in the marine sector has led to over exploitation of many marine species besides ornamental fish. Reports have shown continued trade in protected wildlife such as seahorses, sea cucumbers, sharks and rays, corals etc with little knowledge or skills to enforce the wildlife laws. There is also very little awareness among the buyers of such wildlife.

Management of fisheries must be in a manner that is biologically sustainable with minimal post harvest mortality, while damage to habitats and ecosystems through collection and trade needs to be curbed and buyers must be made aware about the legal aspects of dealing with protected wildlife species.

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LIST OF PROHIBITED FISH SPECIES IN ORNAMENTAL FISH TRADE

Butterfly Fish: Copperband Butterfly *Chelmon rostratus*; Marginalis Butterfly *Chelmon marginalis*; Larvatus Butterfly *Chaetodon larvatus*; Saddle Butterfly *Chaetodon ehippium*; Myer's Butterfly *Chaetodon myeri*; Pearlscale Butterfly *Chaetodon xanthurus*; Mertensil Butterfly *Chaetodon mertensii*; Falcula Butterfly *Chaetodon falcula*; Black Back Butterfly *Chaetodon melannotus*; Blue Spot Butterfly *Chaetodon plebius*; Blue Stripe Butterfly *Chaetodon fremblii*; Burgess Butterfly *Chaetodon burgessi*; Dot-Dash Butterfly *Chaetodon punctatofasciatus*; Double Saddle Butterfly *Chaetodon ulietensis*; Falcifer Butterfly *Chaetodon falcifer*; Foureye Butterfly *Chaetodon capistratus*; Fourspot Butterfly *Chaetodon quadrimaculatus*; Coradion Butterfly *Coradion altivlis*; Goldenstripe Butterfly *Chaetodon aureofasciatus*; Gunther's Butterfly *Chaetodon guentheri*; Latticed Butterfly *Chaetodon rafflesii*; Lined Butterfly *Chaetodon lineolatus*; Melon Butterfly *Chaetodon trifasciatus*; Mitratus Butterfly *Chaetodon mitratus*; Mulleri Butterfly *Chelmon mulleri*; Ocellated Butterfly *Parachaetodon ocellatus*; Ornate Butterfly *Chaetodon ornatissimus*; Painter Reef Butterfly *Chaetodon sedentarius*; Pakistan Butterfly *Chaetodon collare*; Paucifasciatus Butterfly *Chaetodon paucifasciatus*; Raccoon Butterfly *Chaetodon lunula*; Rainfordi Butterfly *Chaetodon rainfordi*; Reticulated Butterfly *Chaetodon reticulatus*; Semion Butterfly *Chaetodon semeion*; Speculum Butterfly *Chaetodon speculum*; Spot-fin Butterfly *Chaetodon ocellatus*; Spot-Tail Butterfly *Chaetodon ocellicaudus*; Spotted Butterfly *Chaetodon guttatissimus*; Teardrop Butterfly *Chaetodon unimaculatus*; Triangle Butterfly *Chaetodon baronessa*; Truncates Butterfly *Chaetodon truncates*; Yellowhead Butterfly *Chaetodon xanthocephalus*; Yellownose Butterfly *Chaetodon flavirostris*; Moorish Idol *Zanclus canescens*; Branded Butterfly Fish *Chaetodon striatus*; Atlantic long-nosed Butterfly Fish *Chaetodon aculeatus*

LIST OF PROHIBITED FISH SPECIES IN ORNAMENTAL FISH TRADE

Angel Fish: Heraldi Angel *Centropyge heraldi*; Flame Angel *Centropyge loriculus*; Lemonpeel Angel *Centropyge flavissimus*; Bicolor Angel *Centropyge bicolor*; Multi-color Angel Fish *Centropyge multicolor*; Golden Angel Fish *Centropyge aurantia*; Shepardi Angel *Centropyge shepardi*; Passer Angel *Holocanthus passer*; Rock Beauty Angel *Holocanthus tricolor*; Clarion Angel *Holocanthus clarionensis*; Conspiculus Angel *Chaetodontoplus*; Conspiculus *Apolemichthys*; Goldflak Angel Fish *Xanthopunctatus*; Flagfin Angel *Apolemichthys trimaculatus*; Regal Angel Fish *Pygoplites diacanthus*; Emperor Angel Fish *Pomacanthus imperator*

Filefish and Triggers:

Orange-sport Filefish *Oxynonacanthus longirostris*; Undulate Triggerfish *Balistapus undulates*; Queen Triggerfish *Balistes vetula*; Clownfish; Damsels Chromis, Pseudochromis; Red Saddle Clownfish *Amphiprion ephippium*; Latezonatus Clownfish *Amphiprion latezonatus*; White Cap Clownfish *Amphiprion leucokranos*; Maroon Clownfish *Premnas biaculeatus*; Jewel Damsel *Microspathodon chrysurus*; Neon Velvet Damsel *Paraglyphidodon oxyodan*; Garibaldi Damsel *Hypsypops rubicundus*

Batfish: Pinnatus Batfish *Platax pinnatus*; Tiera Batfish *Platax tiera*

Eels:

Ribbon Eels *Rhinomuraena quaesita*; Ghost Ribbon Eel *Uropterygius concolor*; Banded Snake Eel *Myrichthys colubrinus*; Leopard Snake Eel *Myrichthys maculosus*; All other so-called snake Eels: Garden Eel *Taenioconger hassi*

Wrasses:

Christmas Wrasses *Halochoeres* species; Anampses Wrasses *Anampses* species; Leopard Wrasse *Macropharyngodon meleagris*

All other Macropharyngodon Wrasses: Orange-line Wrassen *Stethojulis balteata*; Most Pencil Wrasses *Hologymnosus* species; Laboute Fairy Wrasse *Cirrhilabrus laboutei*

All cleaner (labroids and other species) Wrasses: False Cleaner Wrasse *Aspidontus taeniatus*; Lunare Wrasse *Thalassoma lunare*

Blennies, Dragonettes and Gobies: Mandarin Dragonette *Pterosynchiropus splendidus*; Target Dragonette *Synchiropus picturatus*; Scooter Dragonette *Synchiropus* species

Parrot Fish: Parrotfish *Scarus* species; Parrotfish *Cetoscarus* species; Parrotfish *Cirrhilabrus* species

Anthias (fairy nasslets): Creole Anthias *Paranthias* species

Blue Diamond Anthias: Hawaiian Anthias *Miroabrichthys bicolor*; Purple Queen Anthias *Mirolabrichthys tuka*; Queen Tiger Anthias *Mirolabrichthys imeldae*; Female Squareback *Pseudanthias pleurataenia*

Basslets, Groupers, Grunts (sweetlips): Clown Sweetlips *Plectorhincus chaetonoides*; Macolor Niger Grunt *Macolor niger*; Oriental Sweetlips *Plectorhincus lineatus*; Striped Sweetlips *Plectorhincus diagrammus*

Tangs: Achilles Tang *Acanthurus achilles*; Powder Blue Tang *Acanthurus teucosternon*; Powder Brown Tang *Acanthurus japonicas*; Clown Tang *Acanthurus lineatus*; Chevron Tang *Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis*; Shoal Tang *Acanthurus shoal*

Lionfish, Anglers and Scorpionfish: Fu Manchu Lionfish *Dendrochirus biocellus*; Zebra Dwarf Lionfish *Dendrochirus zebra*; Volitan (Peacock) Lion *Pterois volitans*; Antennata Lionfish *Pterois antennata*; Radiate Lionfish *Pterois radiate*; Fuzzy Dwarf Lionfish *Dendrochirus brachypterus*; Sphex Lionfish *Pterois sphex*; Miles Lionfish *Pterois miles*; Stonefish *Syanceia* species; Sculpins *Scorpaenopsis* species; Leafish *Taenianotus tricanthus*; Rhino Scorpionfish *Rhinopias frondosa*; Angler Fish *Antennarius* species; Threadfin Anglerfish *Nemanthias carberryi*; Sea Goblins *Prionotus carolinus*

Seahorses and Pipefish: Seahorses *Hippocampus* species; Sea Dragon *Phycodurus eques*; Sea Dragon *Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*; Pipefish *Corythoichthys* species; Pipefish *Doryrhamphus* species; Pipefish *Syngnathoides* species; Trumpetfish species *Aulostomus* species

Sharks, skates and Rays: All sharks, skates, Rays and Sawfish *Chondrichthyes*; Remora *Echeneis nanocrates*

Boxfish and Cowfish (Trunk Fish): Blue Boxfish *Ostracion melegris* (male); Black Boxfish *Ostracion melegris* (female); Scribbled Boxfish *Ostracion solorensis* (male); Scribbled Boxfish *Ostracion solorensis* (female)

Other fish Species: Shrimp (Razor) Fish *Seoliscurs strigatus*; Pinecone Fish *Cleidopus gloriamaris*; Pinecone Fish *Cleidopus japonicas*; Flashlight Fish *Photoblepharon palperbratu*; Barracuda *Sphyraena barracuda*



Wild Cry

Highlighting the illegal trade in “*Hatha Jodi*” in India: A conservation crisis that plagues the King of Lizards

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Highlighting the illegal trade in “*Hatha Jodi*” in India: A conservation crisis that plagues the King of Lizards



Superstition and sorcery drives poaching and illegal wildlife trade in various protected wildlife species in India. Many birds, mammals and reptiles become victims of this sinister trade each year. This article describes the serious conservation challenge posed by poaching and illegal trade of monitor lizards, domestic demand for which is driven by occult practices.

Distribution

Of the 79 species of monitor lizards found worldwide, India is home to four—the Bengal Monitor *Varanus bengalensis*, Desert Monitor *V. griseus*, Yellow Monitor *V. flavescens*, and Water Monitor *V. salvator*. The Bengal Monitor is the most widely distributed and is known by more than 20 local names, a popular one being Goh. The Desert and Water Monitors live in the western and eastern parts of the country respectively. Among the most elusive and threatened of the Indian monitors is Yellow Monitor, which inhabits marshy areas of the Indus and Ganges floodplains.

Population Status

The current population status of each species is poorly known.

Legal Status

All four monitor lizard species are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 under which poaching, trade and any other forms of utilization are banned. International trade from India is further prohibited or restricted under CITES with three species—Bengal Monitor, Desert Monitor and the Yellow Monitor—listed in Appendix I of the Convention, and the Water Monitor listed in Appendix II.

Threats

Besides habitat loss and degradation, the monitor lizard is threatened by illegal trade for both domestic and international markets. The meat of monitor lizards is consumed locally in their ranges and considered a delicacy while the skins of monitor lizards are often smuggled. The tough skin is much sought after particularly for making Ghumat—a traditional musical instrument made with an earthen vessel and a monitor lizard skin in Goa. However, the latest spike in monitor lizard poaching has been linked to an increasing demand for *Hatha Jodi*.



Hatha Jodi

Hatha Jodi is derived from the Hindi '*Hath Jod*'—meaning “clasped hands” that superficially appear like dried bark or root of a plant, but is actually the dried male sexual organ of the monitor lizard scientifically referred to as the Hemipenis. Market surveys have found that many wildlife products from protected wildlife species are marketed by occult practitioners prescribing them to clients seeking solace or wanting to change their life by fulfilling their desires. They include *Shalampanja* (the genitals of the Ganges Softshell Turtle *Aspideretus gangeticus*), *Shyal Singhi* (made from the fleshy organ located on the upper side of the forefoot of the Jackal *Canis aureus* and other mammals), and *Hatha Jodi*, are of which all used as objects of enchantment and for fetishes. The *Hatha Jodi* is deliberately advertised as a rare and holy plant root, purported to be collected with great difficulty from remote hill areas of the Himalayas, especially Nepal, to allay any suspicion about it being derived from a protected wild animal (there is no evidence for the existence of such a plant: *Hatha Jodi* is simply a codeword for illegally obtained monitor lizard parts).

Several tribes across India collect *Hatha Jodi* either after killing the monitor lizard or removing the genitals while the animal is still alive. Monitor lizards are diurnal and hunted when they are out of their burrows in search of food. The hunters, usually in groups of four to seven, carry spears and search areas with their dogs, which sometimes even enter burrows and drag the monitor lizards out. Sometimes the hunters themselves dig out burrows to capture the lizards. The eggs of monitor lizards are also collected for food by digging out termite mounds (Walia 2001).

During wildlife trade surveys across India by the author during 2006–2013, a minimum of 200 live monitor lizards were observed for sale in most Indian states, particularly in Nagaland, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The trade in body parts of monitor lizard was most prominent around railway stations, bus stations, temples, courts and old markets in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

There have also been reports of *Hatha Jodi* being offered online from retailers including Amazon, Alibaba and eBay, in India as well as in the USA, the UK and elsewhere in Europe. Fake *Hatha Jodi* is also supplied, mainly prepared and marketed to clients with low budgets but strong superstitious beliefs. Fake *Hatha Jodi* is often plastic moldings of monitor lizard’s genitalia or sometimes made simply made of sieved flour, plaster of Paris and coloured orange.

Several books, including *Vashikaran* authored by Pramod Sagar and published in the Jalandar district of Punjab, prescribe recipes using *Hatha Jodi* and *Shyal Singhi* among other wildlife products.

A number of nomadic tribes scattered throughout India are largely dependent on selling wildlife produce for their living including the Badiya, Kanjar or Ghayira, Dey, Mogia, Kalbeliya or NathSaperas, Pardi, Pashe-pardi, Santhals, Karori, Magai-doms, Hakki-pikki, Narrikorva, Madaris and Kalanders. Family members may act as roadside vendors displaying a number of astrology related and religious items including products derived from wild animals such as quills from the Indian Porcupine *Hystrix indica*. Some tribal men disguise themselves as *Sadhus* (holy men) in saffron clothing or as beggars to transport banned wildlife items. In the guise of religious followers, they sell their products in annual melas (fairs), festivals or near large worship sites such as Shirdi, Kamakhya, Ajmer Dargah, Kali Mandir that are frequented by many tourists throughout the year.

Action needed

The pressure on monitor lizard populations from habitat destruction and degradation is already high, while illegal trade driven by utilization of the species for food and skin is an ongoing wildlife law enforcement challenge. The new threat from *Hatha Jodi* trade underlines the need to increase awareness among enforcement agencies about new trends in illegal wildlife trade. This, coupled with enforcement actions, could help address the situation although it would be prudent to link it to an awareness campaign for the users of these wildlife products. Exposing the fallacy of superstitious beliefs may prove to be effective and help curb the demand for not just *Hatha Jodi* but a number of other wildlife products for sale.

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Signpost

Other significant news stories

Gang of peacock poachers busted

Kingpin Held, Sold Body Parts For Unani Medicine

They are evaded and caught in a trap set for poachers, selling and buying peacock feathers and body parts. The kingpin of the gang was arrested and sold the body parts for Unani medicine. The kingpin was arrested and sold the body parts for Unani medicine.

Killed 12 birds and sold parts

The kingpin of the gang was arrested and sold the body parts for Unani medicine. The kingpin was arrested and sold the body parts for Unani medicine.



WHAT NATIONAL BIRD IS KILLED FOR

Wildlife experts say poachers kill peacocks for their feathers, legs and tail to treat rheumatism and other ailments for hefty sum.

They are evaded and caught in a trap set for poachers, selling and buying peacock feathers and body parts.

The kingpin of the gang was arrested and sold the body parts for Unani medicine.

The kingpin was arrested and sold the body parts for Unani medicine.

The kingpin was arrested and sold the body parts for Unani medicine.

117 kg meat, animal parts and arms seized from ret'd colonel's home

MEERUT

At least 117 kg of meat of wild animals, birds and animal parts and arms were seized during raid at the residence of a retired colonel in Meerut.

Officers of the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Forest Department and Wildlife Conservation Department raided the home of a retired colonel in Meerut on Tuesday.

The raid was conducted in the presence of the District Collector, Meerut, and the District Forest Officer, Meerut.

The raid resulted in the seizure of 117 kg of meat of wild animals, birds and animal parts, and arms.

The raid was conducted in the presence of the District Collector, Meerut, and the District Forest Officer, Meerut.



Retired colonel, 60, is seen with the seized items.

The Times of India, Chandigarh; 14/6/2017

DISCUSSION BOARD 25 MINUTES



Save them from the trap

Tiger deaths related to poaching reached an all time high in 2016.

Elimination and poisoning of the big cats have the worst record across tiger habitats. With wildlife traps and electric wires embedded deep into the ground or laid among debris, the detection of these devices is often difficult and caused by forest guards who mistakenly point out to the poachers.

Experts seek a way out with the tiger.

Pioneer, New Delhi; 29/07/2017

Indian Express, Lucknow; 01/05/2017

Two arrests that expose poachers' look-east policy

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Two arrests that expose poachers' look-east policy.

The arrests were made in the presence of the District Collector, Lucknow, and the District Forest Officer, Lucknow.

The raid resulted in the seizure of 117 kg of meat of wild animals, birds and animal parts, and arms.



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The raid resulted in the seizure of 117 kg of meat of wild animals, birds and animal parts, and arms.

Mail Today, New Delhi; 11/05/2017

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS WORLD'S FOURTH LARGEST ILLEGAL TRADE

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS WORLD'S FOURTH LARGEST ILLEGAL TRADE

Wildlife trafficking is the world's fourth largest illicit trade, according to a new report.

The report, published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), states that the global wildlife trade is worth an estimated \$200 billion annually.

The report also highlights the impact of wildlife trafficking on biodiversity and the environment.



Absolute India, Mumbai; 30/07/2017

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#StopIllegalWildlifeTrade



TRAFFIC
The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network

is a strategic alliance of

