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# TRAFFIC

BULLETIN

HAWKSBILL TURTLE  
TRADE IN  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

IVORY IN THAILAND  
AND VIET NAM

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THE TRAFFIC BULLETIN SEIZURES AND PROSECUTIONS SECTION IS SPONSORED BY THE FORESTRY BUREAU, COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, TAIWAN: COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING CITES ENFORCEMENT

The cases reported below represent a selection of recent seizures and prosecutions that have taken place around the world. The sources of this information are cited at the end of each country section. The CITES Appendix-listing for each species is placed in parentheses, where appropriate.

## EUROPE

### FRANCE

On 20 January 2009, Customs officials at Viry, Haute-Savoie, stopped a vehicle travelling in the direction of Geneva. Inside the boot they discovered 33 carcasses of smoked animals, including three pythons, three monkeys and 22 porcupines (all reportedly CITES species). The goods originated from Central Africa, had entered the country through Roissy Airport, and were destined for restaurants in France and Switzerland. All items were seized and the case was referred to the Public Prosecutor's office.

On 7 April 2009, some 15 Parisian jewellers appeared before a Magistrates' court accused of having illegally traded in bracelets made from elephant (CITES I) hair between 1998 and 2008. The police were alerted to the sale of the bracelets on the internet auction site e-Bay, where they were directed to the jewellers and a wholesale dealer. During the course of their inquiry, the police seized more than 700 bracelets, and around 100 rings. The outcome of the case was not reported.

Similar cases have taken place in recent months, with another Parisian jeweller receiving a three-month suspended prison sentence and a fine of EUR3000 (USD4000) for selling elephant hair jewellery. In February, another individual appeared at Créteil Magistrates' Court and received a suspended fine of EUR1500.

*Tribune de Genève, 13 February 2009; www.tdg.ch:80/genève/actu/saisie-boas-porcs-epics-fumes-2009-02-13; www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gfC\_z0Sjwk-idohPOENAR00WtVQ, 7 April 2009*

### NETHERLANDS

In January 2009, police officers, acting on information received from TRAFFIC, seized 249 veneer sheets of Brazilian Rosewood *Dalbergia nigra* (CITES I) from two companies based in Rotterdam and 's-Gravendeel. Neither company was able to provide documentation to prove the wood had been legally imported or that it had been legally obtained.

"The Rotterdam police are to be congratulated for their vigilance and decisive action against illegal timber imports," commented Rob Parry-Jones, Director of TRAFFIC Europe.

Brazilian Rosewood is used for making musical instruments and furniture, but is threatened by habitat loss. It is endemic to Brazil and is classified as Vulnerable by IUCN.

### CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

establishes international controls over trade in wild plants and animals, or related products, of species that have been, or may be, threatened due to excessive commercial exploitation. Parties have their own legislative vehicle by which to meet their obligations under CITES. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need:

**APPENDIX I** includes species threatened with extinction which are or may be threatened by trade.

Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. An export permit from the country of origin (or a re-export certificate from other exporting countries) and an import permit from the country of importation are required.

**APPENDIX II** includes species not necessarily yet threatened, but which could become so if trade is not strictly controlled. Species are also included in Appendix II if they are difficult to distinguish from other species in Appendix II, in order to make it more difficult for illegal trade to take place through misidentification or mislabelling. An export permit from the country of origin (or a re-export certificate from other exporting countries) is required, but not an import permit.

**APPENDIX III** includes species that any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation and as needing the co-operation of other Parties in the control of trade. Imports require a certificate of origin and, if the importation is from the State that has included the species in Appendix III, an export permit is required.

*19 February 2009, www.traffic.org/home/2009/2/19/rotterdam-police-score-musical-wood.html; IUCN 2009. 2009 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.1. www.iucnredlist.org. Downloaded on 4 June 2009.*

### RUSSIA

On 11 November 2008, traffic police from Milkovo District, Kamchatka, stopped a lorry carrying 38 Gyr Falcons *Falco rusticolus* (CITES I), a species in demand for use in falconry, particularly in the Middle East. Under Russian law, possession of a Gyr Falcon from Kamchatka is illegal. This was the biggest such case recorded in recent years, according to Alexey Vaisman of TRAFFIC Europe's Russia office.

The smugglers claimed to have bought the birds from an unidentified source in the town of Ossora in Karaginsky District in the northern part of Kamchatka. Experts said that collection of such a large number of birds would have taken several months, which indicated a highly organized criminal smuggling operation.



S. ARAMILEV / WWF RUSSIA

THE AMUR LEOPARD SKIN SEIZED BY RUSSIAN POLICE IN PRIMORSKY PROVINCE; NO MORE THAN 20 ADULT AMUR LEOPARDS ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN EXISTENCE.

Enforcement officers and representatives from the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources (Rosprirodnadzor) travelled to Milkovo to carry out further investigations.

Following veterinary inspection, three of the birds were kept for treatment, but the remainder were released.

According to local ornithologists, as many as 100 Gyr Falcons are smuggled from Kamchatka each year and overall numbers in the region have dwindled to 500 pairs.

On 11 January 2009, at Domodedovo International Airport, Moscow, Customs officials seized a parcel containing hides, skulls and horns. The expertise of TRAFFIC Europe-Russia, in collaboration with the Russian CITES Scientific Authority, was called upon to identify the trophies, which were found to consist of two sets (two skulls; two pairs of horns) of Markhor *Capra falconeri* (CITES I), six sets (six hides; six skulls; six pairs of horns) of Argali or Marco Polo Sheep *Ovis ammon polii* (II), and one set (hide, skull and pair of horns) of Ibex *Capra sibirica*.

All trophies had been transported from Tajikistan with fake CITES permits. Hunting of Marco Polo sheep was closed this year by the decision of the President of Tajikistan. Trophy hunting of Markhor is allowed only in Pakistan, and is restricted to six elderly male specimens and under strict international supervision.

On 3 April 2009, police officers inspecting a car in Ussuriisk, in Primorsky Province in the Russian Far East, discovered the skin of an Amur Leopard *Panthera pardus orientalis* (CITES I). Only an estimated 14 to 20 adult Amur Leopards and five or six cubs survive in an area of just 2500 km<sup>2</sup> in Russia's south-western Primorye region, according to the IUCN Red List, which classifies this subspecies as Critically Endangered. It is extinct in China and the Korean Peninsula.

The skin's identity was confirmed by experts from the Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine of the Primorsky State Agricultural Academy, experts from Primorsky Province Hunting Department and WWF-Russia. They noted damage to the skin indicating that the animal, probably an adult male, had been shot, most likely in 2008.

Photographs of the skin may help identify the Leopard by comparing it against a database of known surviving Amur Leopards.

TRAFFIC Europe, 12 November 2008; [www.wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/4475](http://www.wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/4475), 15 January 2009; [www.traffic.org/home/2009/4/17/amur-leopard-skin-seized-by-russian-police.html](http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/4/17/amur-leopard-skin-seized-by-russian-police.html), 7 April 2009; Jackson, P. and Nowell, K. 2008. *Panthera pardus ssp. orientalis*. In: IUCN 2009. 2009 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.1. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). Downloaded on 4 June 2009

## SWEDEN

On 5 November 2008, at Varberg district court, nine fishermen were found guilty of illegally fishing more than 100 t of Atlantic Cod *Gadus morhua* in the country's largest-ever poaching case. The species is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN. They were accused of incorrect book-keeping of catches in the spring of 2005 in the Kattegat Strait.

The fishermen were all fined between SEK3740 and 70 000 (EUR375–7016, USD486–9096), and one of them, who was also found guilty of other crimes, was sentenced to five months in prison.

In all, 16 fishermen were charged with catching 109 t of Atlantic Cod and passing it off as unquoted Pollack *Pollachius pollachius* (a member of the cod family), in what appeared to be a ploy to circumvent EU quotas limiting cod fishing.

The court however found that they had not exceeded the permitted quota for 2005, and decided to drop charges against seven fishermen who had not been captains on their ships at the time.

The court also dropped the case against a purchaser of fish who had been accused of facilitating the scam.

According to the Swedish Board of Fisheries, the case is serious since the illegal fishing of this species puts further pressure on dwindling cod stocks in the Kattegat Strait.

Enforcement action against illegal caviar traders in Sweden is paying dividends, with just two tins of illicit caviar discovered by county regulators between 2006 and 2008, and the conviction on 19 December 2008 of two fishmongers and a retailer. At the Court of Uppsala, they were convicted of illegally selling 21 tins of caviar in 2005 and were fined a total of SEK22 200 (USD2500).

The clampdown on illegal caviar in Sweden began in 2005, mainly in Uppsala and Stockholm. In November 2005, the 21 tins of osetra (roe, most commonly from the Persian Sturgeon *Acipenser persicus*), sevruga (from the Stellate Sturgeon *Acipenser stellatus*) and beluga caviar (from Beluga *Huso huso*), were confiscated in Uppsala. In court, it was revealed that the caviar had come from Estonia via Finland, was half the normal price, and lacked appropriate documentation.

In Gothenburg the same month, police confiscated 12 tins of caviar from three different retailers, who were similarly unable to produce the correct documentation. All were subsequently convicted of selling illegal caviar and fined a total of SEK11 400 (USD1300).

The cases attracted high profile media attention, with fish retailers claiming that they were unaware of the legislation. Subsequently, the relevant Swedish trade association contacted its members to inform them about the rules covering the caviar trade.

"Thanks to the authorities and the high profile media coverage, fish retailers and traders in Sweden are all aware of the regulations concerning caviar, and the illegal trade has been reduced significantly," commented Mats Forslund, TRAFFIC Europe's representative based in Sweden.

5 November 2008, <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hCcdCRIwOEBHJsZ4sElbLP0X71Fg>; IUCN 2009. 2009 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.1. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). Downloaded on 4 June 2009; TRAFFIC Europe, 3 March 2009; TRAFFIC Bulletin 19(1)

## UK

In November 2008, UK Border Agency officers at Dover Ferry Terminal intercepted a British-registered vehicle driven by two Vietnamese individuals and found over 100 kg of meat concealed inside a stereo speaker system and in bags. Further examination by the CITES Team and the removal of samples for DNA testing revealed that the produce was a mixture of Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis* (Annex A; CITES I), freshwater turtle, dog and cat meat. Investigations are continuing.

In November 2008, UK Border Agency CITES team officers at Heathrow Airport examined a shipment of tropical fish and seized 86 Banggai Cardinal Fish *Pterapogon kauderni*, a species recently listed on Annex D of the EU regulations and therefore in need of an import notification. Following the seizure, it was discovered that the ornamental fish trade had not been informed of this listing.

In January 2009, UK Border Agency officers at the airport intercepted a Chinese national arriving from Shanghai after a positive reaction from a detection dog of the passenger's baggage. Further examination revealed a cooked bear Ursidae (CITES I/II) paw amongst other food items. Use of dogs specializing in detection of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) has recently provided a large number of CITES-related seizures, including traditional medicines, sea-horses *Hippocampus* (CITES II), ginseng *Panax* (II) and Houbara Bustards *Chlamydotis undulata* (I).

In February 2009, UK Border Agency officers at the airport seized two boxes of unaccompanied baggage containing nine dead Houbara Bustards imported from Morocco. The baggage was unclaimed and all the specimens were confiscated. One of the dead birds was wearing a leg ring indicating it had been bred at a conservation centre in Morocco.



DEAD HOUBARA BUSTARDS IMPORTED FROM MEXICO AND SEIZED AT HEATHROW AIRPORT, UK.

G. CLARKE / UKBA

In March 2009, the UK Border Agency CITES team at the airport seized 26 Royal Pythons *Python regius* (CITES II/Annex B) being imported from the USA without correct import documentation.

In December 2008, UK Border Agency officers at Manchester Airport seized a shipment of live reptiles imported from the USA which were not accompanied by CITES import permits. Forty-four specimens were seized including African Spurred Tortoises *Geochelone sulcata*, Common Iguanas *Iguana iguana*, Royal Python *Python regius* and East African Spiny-tailed Lizards *Cordylus tropidosternum* (all CITES II).

In January 2009, UK Border Agency officers at the airport examined an air cargo shipment of 1000 kg of Hoodia *Hoodia gordonii* (CITES II) powder imported from South Africa. Follow-up checks revealed that a UK CITES import permit had not been issued for the shipment, which was confiscated. Hoodia is a succulent in the Apocynaceae family of flowering plants and is in demand for its purported appetite-suppressant properties.

In December 2008, UK Border Agency officers at Coventry International Parcels Hub detected one complete tusk of African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* (CITES I) in a postal parcel in transit from Lesotho to China. No CITES permits were available and the tusk was seized.

In February 2009, UK Border Agency officers at London Gatwick Airport seized two kilogrammes of unlicensed beluga caviar (roe from Beluga *Huso huso*, CITES II) being imported in baggage accompanied by passengers arriving from Turkey. The caviar tins had no CITES labels. DNA forensic testing of the caviar revealed that it was from the Siberian Sturgeon *Acipenser baerii* (II).

On 14 May 2009, at Shrewsbury Crown Court, David Neville Johnson, of Telford, was gaoled for eight months and became the first person in the UK to be given a three-year Serious Crime Prevention Order (SCPO) for wildlife offences. Johnson was charged with the illegal sale of 191 Hermann's Tortoises *Testudo hermanni* and seven Spur-thighed Tortoises *T. graeca* (both CITES II and EU Annex A, trade in which is subject to the strictest controls), making false statements to obtain permits and the prohibited purchase of 200 Hermann's Tortoises.

The SCPO bans Johnson from possessing any EU Annex A species for three years. The judge also ordered an inquiry under the provisions of the *Proceeds of Crime Act*.

In March 2008, Johnson applied to the UK CITES Management Authority (Animal Health) for permits to sell 100 Hermann's Tortoises. Owing to anomalies in information provided, an AH Wildlife Inspector, accompanied by an officer from NWCU, conducted an inspection at his Telford address in order to examine the specimens that were the subject of the application. As a result of the inspection and anomalies discovered, the application was refused.

In November 2008, following a protracted investigation and based on intelligence which suggested that Johnson had sold tortoises illegally, NWCU officers, AH Wildlife Inspectors and UK Border Agency Officers, supported by officers from West Mercia Police and West Midlands Police, executed search warrants at various addresses associated with Johnson. He was subsequently arrested and a large quantity of documentation was seized.

Whilst on police bail, Johnson bought a further 200 Hermann's Tortoises illegally, which were sold on without valid permits.

UK Border Agency CITES Team; NWCU press release, 15 May 2009

## AFRICA

On 15/16 November 2008, dozens of suspected dealers in illegal wildlife products were arrested and one tonne of raw, powdered and processed ivory seized in an operation encompassing five African countries. The raids, which were the culmination of a four-month undercover operation code-named Operation Baba, co-ordinated by INTERPOL and involving the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, targeted local ivory markets, airports and border crossings in Kenya, Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. Fifty seven people were arrested. Also seized were teeth of Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* (CITES II) and skins of Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* (I), Leopard *Panthera pardus* (I), Serval *Leptailurus serval* (II) and python Pythonidae (I/II).

Some 36 of the suspects were arrested in Kenya, and included three Chinese nationals.

INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble said that Operation Baba was the first in a series of such operations being planned worldwide [see also under Indonesia].

The German Government was one of the major funders of the operation.

[www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/241972,massive-african-operation-traps-scores-of-illegal-ivory-dealers.html](http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/241972,massive-african-operation-traps-scores-of-illegal-ivory-dealers.html), 17 November 2008; *Africa World News*, 17 November 2008; [www.blueridgenow.com/article/20081117/APII811171996](http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20081117/APII811171996)

## DEMOCRATIC REP. OF THE CONGO

On 26 April 2009, a suspected trafficker was caught and arrested at Goma International Airport while disembarking from a flight from Walikale (in the interior of the country and close to gorilla habitat). In his possession was a young female Eastern Gorilla *Gorilla beringei* (CITES I). The animal was concealed in a bag and was suffering from over-heating and dehydration after having spent over six hours in transit.

The seizure follows a three-month undercover investigation by the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN) to bust an international wildlife smuggling ring in the country. According to Emmanuel de Merode, Director of Virunga National Park, there has been a significant upsurge in the trafficking of baby Gorillas in recent months. Investigations have yet to reveal where these animals are being sent and who is buying them.

<http://liccn.gorilla.cd>

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

On 19 March 2009, in Brazzaville, a Congolese national was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment and fined XAF100 000 (USD145) and ordered to pay a further one million francs to the Ministry of the Forestry Economy. Another suspect fled before he could be brought to court.

The pair was apprehended by the authorities on 20 December 2008 as they prepared to sell a live Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes* (CITES I and protected in Congo).

[www.brazzavilleadiac.com/index.php?action=depeche&de\\_p\\_id=28217&oldaction=liste&regpay\\_id=0&them\\_id=0&cat\\_id=3&ss\\_cat\\_id=54&LISTE\\_FROM=0&select\\_month=03&select\\_year=2009](http://www.brazzavilleadiac.com/index.php?action=depeche&de_p_id=28217&oldaction=liste&regpay_id=0&them_id=0&cat_id=3&ss_cat_id=54&LISTE_FROM=0&select_month=03&select_year=2009)

## KENYA

On 23 January 2009, at Makadara law courts, three Chinese men were charged with illegal possession of government trophies following their arrest, in three separate cases the previous day at Jomo Kenyatta Airport, in possession of ivory. All suspects, who were travelling to different destinations in China, were also found with Lion *Panthera leo* (CITES I/II) teeth, ivory bracelets and necklaces.

Kenya Wildlife Service sniffer dogs detected two processed ivory carvings weighing 2.5 kg and one necklace concealed in a bag. The second suspect was arrested by Customs officials in possession of two necklaces, four Lion teeth and four bracelets, while the third was in possession of 380 g of carved ivory.

Two of the suspects were travelling from Kenya, while the third had arrived from Uganda.

On 31 January 2009, a Nairobi businesswoman was arrested with 74 kg of bushmeat at a popular meat-eating market in downtown Nairobi.

On 27 April 2009, at Kajjido court, south of Nairobi, a Kenyan and a Tanzanian pleaded guilty to charges of illegally possessing 512 kg of elephant tusks in what is believed to be the largest seizure of illegal ivory in recent years.

The ivory had been seized from the car the pair was travelling in at Mbirikani on the Mali-Lokitoktok road, some 50 km from the border with Tanzania, on 25 April. The ivory was estimated to have derived from 70 elephants, based on the weight of the tusks seized.

*Kenya Wildlife Service*, 23 January 2009; [http://africasciencenews.org/asns/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=973&Itemid=2](http://africasciencenews.org/asns/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=973&Itemid=2), 1 February 2009; [www.coast-week.com/3218-05.htm](http://www.coast-week.com/3218-05.htm)

## MADAGASCAR

On 9 December 2008, Jo van Niekerk, a zoology student from Pretoria, South Africa, was sentenced to one year in gaol. He was arrested in November at Antananarivo Airport in possession of some 388 animals, including around 100 lizards and frogs that were found in the lining of his jacket. Among the specimens were several species only found on Madagascar, including a fanged snake and the nocturnal leaf-tailed gecko [species not reported]. Van

Niekerk insisted his interest in the animals was for research purposes and that he would be appealing the ruling.

A separate arrest warrant was issued for an alleged accomplice who was reported to be on the run. All the recovered animals are now at Antananarivo's main zoo. It is not clear whether they will be returned to their natural habitat.

*Associated Press*, 9 December 2008

## SOUTH AFRICA

On 6 February 2009, three Chinese businessmen appeared in the Middelburg Regional Court in connection with the smuggling of around 50 rhino horns, mainly out of Kruger National Park. It is the largest rhino-horn poaching event in South Africa's legal history. The trio, who were arrested in January 2009, were part of an illegal hunting ring also consisting of South African and Mozambican members.

At the end of March/early April 2009, the skipper of a Taiwanese-flagged vessel, the *Chien Jui No 102*, was fined R1.5m (USD166 000) for contravening permit conditions for foreign vessels entering the South African Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This is the highest fine ever imposed for such a transgression. Shark skin and shark trunks confiscated from the vessel were also forfeited to the State.

The *Chien Jui No 102* was seized by fishery control inspectors of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) on 14 March 2009 and more than 1.6 t of dried shark fins and 5.1 t of shark trunks were seized. The proportion of fins reported was in excess of the 15% tolerance limit permitted by the permit conditions. In addition, the permit conditions for foreign vessels entering the South African EEZ require such vessels to conduct fishing activities in accordance with the management and conservation measures of the relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The *Chien Jui No 102* had on board approximately 1.6 t of shark fins without the appropriate corresponding quantity of shark trunks present. The variance of the shark fin to trunk ratio was more than five percent in contravention of ICCAT recommendations.

The vessel's owner applied to amend the permit after the discrepancy was discovered. The South African-based representatives for the owner of the vessel communicated to the department on behalf of their client that "the delay in applying for the amended EEZ permit was due to a misunderstanding as to when the amended permit ought to be applied for".

The vessel will be blacklisted on the IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing list of vessels involved in illegal fishing practice.

On 6 April 2009, DEAT officials arrested a man near Hermanus, after more than 2000 abalones *Haliotis* were found in the vehicle he was driving.

On 4 April 2009 another person was arrested in Hermanus and a total of 2474 abalones and a vehicle were confiscated. Court hearings are pending.

In April 2009, the Master and First Officer of two Korean-flagged vessels, the *MFV Oryong 371* and the *MFV Oryong 373*, were each sentenced to a fine of R500 000 (USD60 000), or five years' imprisonment. The sailors were guilty of contravening the permit conditions for foreign vessels entering the South African EEZ. Both vessels had discharged quantities of fish other than what was stipulated in their respective applications for an EEZ permit as well as exceeded the limit as set out in the application.

The *MFV Oryong 371* discharged a total of 18.5 t of fish although their application states they only had 7.5 t of fish on board the vessel for discharge. A total of 667 kg undeclared shark fins was also confiscated. The vessel was found guilty of transhipping 18.1 t of fish illegally without a valid permit.

The *MFV Oryong 373* discharged a total of approximately 10 t of fish. In their application they declared a total of 17.5 t of fish on board the vessel for discharge. Upon investigation, DEAT inspectors found that the species did not match the species stated on the application in addition to the lesser amount of fish discharged. Approximately 10 t of fish had been transhipped illegally without a valid permit. The vessel discharged a total of 389 kg of shark fin which exceeded the 15% tolerance limit permitted by the permit conditions. The crew also did not discharge shark trunks.

In addition to the sentences meted out, all the fish confiscated by the department was forfeited to the State. The department is in the process of providing all the details of both vessels to the appropriate international and regional fisheries organizations for consideration for further sanctions.

*Drie Chinese in hof in SA se grootste renostersaak Dieburger.com, 8 February 2009; Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism media statement, 14 March/6 April/29 April 2009: www.deat.gov.za; www.environment.gov.za/NewsMedia/MedStat/2009Mar16/14032009MedStatmnt.html; www.environment.gov.za/NewsMedia/MedStat/2009Apr6/medStatmnt06042009.doc*

## ZAMBIA

On 2 March 2009, four people, including two police officers, were arrested in Kafue for trading in 72 pieces of elephant ivory and five pieces of rhino horns. The items were packed in trunks with pieces of amethyst gemstones.

Officials of the Zambia Wildlife Authority (Zawa), Zambia police and Chilanga traffic officers carried out the arrests following information received from a member of the public.

Zawa Director General, Lewis Saiwana, said that for such a large amount of ivory, the poachers had killed 36 elephants but he said it was suspected that the animals were killed in neighbouring countries and not in Zambia.

"In our continued effort to clamp down on the scourge and illegal trafficking of wildlife products, Zawa stepped up its operations to arrest the situation."

Dr Saiwana said all Zambian rhinoceroses were safe and not endangered because of the stringent 24-hour security services provided by Zawa.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200903021407.html>

## ASIA

### EAST ASIA CHINA

On 25 February 2009, at Yunnan Provincial Higher People's Court, Li Miwei was sentenced to life imprisonment for smuggling, over a period of several years, tablets containing pangolin *Manis* (CITES II) ingredients. Li, who ran a smuggling ring, was also fined CNY300 000 (USD44 000).

He was arrested in March 2007 along with other gang members, who received gaol terms of between three and five years.

At the Intermediate People's Court of Kunming City, Yunnan Province, on 21 August 2008, Li and seven others were charged with smuggling more than 20 t of pangolin scales. Li, who managed an internet bar in Menglian County, Pu'er City, as a front, was responsible for contacting buyers and purchasing pangolin scales from sellers in Myanmar which were then transported by his gang to Menglian County. He also bribed two post office clerks and posted the scales to buyers across the country.

The court said the gang had been smuggling pangolin scales on the border with Myanmar since 2001. The scales were mostly brought from India, Thailand, Nepal and Lao PDR before being transported to Yunnan via Myanmar.

In March 2009, at Dehong Prefecture Intermediate People's Court, Yunnan Province, Chinese businessman, Mr Yu, was sentenced to life imprisonment and his property confiscated after being found guilty of smuggling 78 python Pythonidae skins (CITES II and national Grade I protected wildlife). Yu was asked by his Burmese partner to transport the skins from Myanmar to Ruili City in Yunnan. Police seized the snakes from a taxi in Husa Village, Longchuan County, in July 2008. Yu's partner is still at large.

On 26 March 2009, at Ningbo Middle People's Court, Zhejiang Province, Cen Zhangyao was sentenced to death for smuggling Saker Falcons *Falco cherrug* (CITES II). Others involved in the smuggling—Wu Zheng, Zhang Hao and Qian Wenbin—were sentenced to life imprisonment.

All the birds had been transported to Ningbo by Cen Zhangyao for short-term feeding while illegal paperwork for their export was being prepared. Zhang Hao, a Ningbo Customs staff member, applied to export the birds under a false name. Wu Zheng and Qian Wenbin, who were responsible for security in Shanghai Pudong International Airport, allowed the falcons to be exported illegally. During the past year, the gang have smuggled 82 Saker Falcons.

[www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-02/26/content\\_7514712.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-02/26/content_7514712.htm); 26 February 2009; [www.chinaview.cn/index.htm](http://www.chinaview.cn/index.htm); [www.chinaview.cn/2008-08-22/07:35:32](http://www.chinaview.cn/2008-08-22/07:35:32); <http://foster.aweb.com.cn/2009/04/02/658101539380.shtml>, 8 April 2009; [www.cwca.org.cn/Article/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=14862](http://www.cwca.org.cn/Article/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=14862)

### Seizures in China involving ivory:

On 5 January 2009, border soldiers at the Hengjiang checkpoint, Fangchenggang City, Guangxi Province, confiscated 150 kg of suspected elephant tusks from a coach in Dongxing City, on route to Xiamen City, Fujian Province. The material was to be identified by the relevant authority.

On 6 January 2009, Kunming forest police seized 31 Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus* (CITES I) tusks (36 kg) that had been purchased in Yingjiang City, on the border with Myanmar. Two suspects were detained.

On 21 May 2009, at Chongqing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, Chongqing City, a man, surname Cao, was sentenced to three years in gaol for smuggling ivory into the country which he had obtained while working in Japan; he sold 1.5 kg of ivory to two buyers over the internet.

Customs police officers found the ivory in the post in September and arrested Cao in October when he arrived in Shanghai from Japan.

The two buyers, named Qin and Zhang, were sentenced, respectively, to one year of imprisonment (with a one-year reprieve) and a six-month gaol term (with six-months' reprieve).

<http://news.sohu.com/20090107/n261621955.shtml>; [http://lyn.yunnan.cn/html/2009-01/08/content\\_189454.htm](http://lyn.yunnan.cn/html/2009-01/08/content_189454.htm); [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-05/23/content\\_11424030.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-05/23/content_11424030.htm)

## HONG KONG

On 9 February 2009, at Hong Kong International Airport, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department personnel, in collaboration with the Customs and Excise Department, foiled an attempt by a Hong Kong resident to import in his luggage two Angonoka (Ploughshare) Tortoises *Astrochelys yniphora* (CITES I), 21 hedgehogs and 23 sugar gliders [species not reported] from Thailand.

The man will be charged under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap 169)*, the *Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap 586)*, and the *Rabies Ordinance (Cap 421)*.

A total of 59 wildlife seizures have been made at Customs checkpoints from January to March this year, compared to 44 cases for the same period last year, according to a department spokesman.

*Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department press releases, 10 February/9 April 2009*

## TAIWAN

On 12 February 2009, at Taipei International Airport, luggage from Indonesia was seized after it was found to contain, in baskets and tubes, two Slow Lorises *Nycticebus coucang* (CITES I) and eight CITES II parrots (Moustached Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*, Moluccan Lory *Eos bornea*, Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*, and Green-naped Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*).

In March 2009, Customs officials intercepted a parcel arriving by post from Tanzania. Inside they found 84 Leopard Tortoises *Geochelone pardalis* (CITES II).

The reptiles were destroyed owing to quarantine regulations. Since 2002, Taiwan has banned the importation of three tortoise species—Leopard Tortoise, African Spurred Tortoise *G. sulcata* (CITES II), and Bell's Hinged Tortoise *Kinixys belliana* (II)—owing to the risk of heartwater disease.

On 11 May 2009, at Taipei International Airport, two people returning from Jakarta, Indonesia, were stopped by Customs after 27 kg and 14.9 kg of agarwood *Aquilaria* (CITES II) was discovered in their respective luggage; no CITES permit could be presented. The agarwood was seized and the case has been sent to the district prosecution office.

[www.libertytimes.com.tw/2009/new/feb/14/today-life4.htm](http://www.libertytimes.com.tw/2009/new/feb/14/today-life4.htm); Customs and Forestry police, Taiwan; <http://news.chinatimes.com/2007Cti/2007Cti-Rtn/2007Cti-Rtn-Content/0,4526,110105+112009051100884,00.html>

## SOUTH ASIA INDIA

In the latter part of 2008, Kerala State Forest Department officials became aware that some 11 species of owl were being smuggled from Kerala to Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, north India and Gujarat. The eyes of the birds are reportedly used in black magic rituals in the belief that consumption will improve eyesight; the blood is also consumed. Investigations to locate agents trading in owls are now under way in the light of the findings that there is a well-established smuggling chain. Owls are fully protected under Schedule I of the *Wild Life Act*.

On 7 January 2009, personnel of the Customs Preventative Force stationed at Palle Gate, Chandel district, Manipur, seized 58.4 kg of deer [species not reported] horn antlers and 116 kg of pangolin *Manis* scales from a lorry travelling from Imphal towards Moreh, Manipur, on the border with Myanmar.

On 9 January 2009 it was reported that as many as 43 people were sentenced in Katni, Madhya Pradesh, for poaching and smuggling animal parts, including skins of Leopard *Panthera pardus* (CITES I) and Tiger *P. tigris* (I). Eleven people were sentenced to three-years' imprisonment, prominent among them known poachers Shabbir Qureshi, Darya Singh and Ashok Pardhi, who were arrested in June 2004. Singh had cases registered against him in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. A further 18 people were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and the remainder to one year in jail.

On 22 January 2009, more than five tonnes of tortoises—some 3000 animals—were seized in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, by the Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh police. This is one of the largest freshwater turtle hauls ever recorded. Three species listed in Schedule I of the *Wild Life (Protection) Act* were identified: Indian Softshell Turtle *Aspideretes gangeticus* (CITES I), Black Pond Turtle *Geoclemys hamiltonii*

(I) and Indian Flapshell Turtle *Lissemys punctata punctata* (II). The reptiles were contained in 60 jute sacks, some 50–55 specimens in each. They were released under a court order on the banks of the Yamuna, in the presence of STF officers, Uttar Pradesh State Forest Department officials, and two representatives from the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) who assisted in the case. Three people, who were transporting the turtles in a lorry, were arrested and sent to Naini Jail.

On 7 February 2009, a jeep carrying three tonnes of live tortoises [species not reported], again sourced from Uttar Pradesh and bound for Kolkata, was seized at a forest checkpoint near Barachatti in Gaya, Bihar.

On 31 January 2009, the north-east district police of Delhi confiscated a large consignment of art brushes made out of mongoose hair at a factory in the Bhajanpura area. Police officers arrested two people and the owner is being sought. All species of mongoose *Herpestes* are protected under Schedule 2 Part II of the *Wildlife Protection Act, 1972*.

According to Saurabh Gupta, wildlife officer from People for Animals, who notified the police about the consignment, more than 30 000 brushes were confiscated, part of a consignment to be sent by road from Delhi to Mumbai. Gupta states that to make the brushes, the live mongoose is killed by placing it in boiling water where it remains for several hours, after which time its skin and hair is removed by machine. Between one and five grammes of hair are recovered from one mongoose, which means that this consignment was derived from over 100 000 specimens. The brushes are made in the Sherkot area of Bijnor district, Uttar Pradesh, and are sold worldwide. The owner of the factory has similar cases registered against him following raids at outlets belonging to him in other parts of the city. A case under the *Wildlife Protection Act* has been registered and investigations into the matter continue.

On 16 February 2009, personnel from Assam Rifle's 20th battalion in Chandel district, Manipur, seized animal parts, including skulls of two Tigers *Panthera tigris* (CITES I), two Tiger paws, 16 kg of Tiger bones, 340 kg of pangolin *Manis* (CITES II) shell and 191 deer antlers from a lorry at a checkpoint in Bongyang village. The vehicle was heading towards Moreh, on the border with Myanmar. Sources said that the consignment was to be smuggled to Myanmar from where it would have headed to East and South-east Asian markets.

According to Pranabesh Sanyal, former director of the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, it is possible that the animals were poached in eastern Uttar Pradesh. "This seems to be a new route that the poachers are using to smuggle animal parts to South-east Asia," he said.

The Moreh-Myanmar and Assam-Siliguri routes are the major conduits for trade in illegal wildlife parts from the north-eastern region and, reportedly, from other States in the country, including Red Sandalwood *Pterocarpus santalinus* (CITES II) from Andhra Pradesh (see below).

On 26 February 2009, at Bhavnagar Court, in Gir, Gujarat, Prabhakar Keshav Gajakosh was sentenced to five years' 'rigorous' imprisonment (or hard labour) for poaching Asiatic Lions *Panthera leo persica* (CITES I). Others, members of a gang of which Gajakosh was leader, and who are already in prison for an earlier Lion smuggling case, were sentenced to terms of up to five years' 'rigorous' imprisonment and fines of Rs2000 (USD40). They will serve both sentences concurrently and were also each fined Rs2000. This is a landmark judgement in the country for a wildlife poaching case.

Gajakosh, well known to the police and with national and international links, was arrested on 13 December 2007 following information passed on to Karnataka police officials by the Gujarat police force. In his possession were skins of 23 Leopards *Panthera pardus* (CITES I), three Tiger (I) skins and 20 river otter skins.

On 20 March 2009, in one of the biggest operations to combat the illegal trade in wildlife parts, officers of the Assam police, the Central Reserve Police Force and State Wildlife officials carried out search operations near Manas National Park in Barpeta district where they recovered skins and bones of animals including Leopard *Panthera pardus* (CITES I), Tiger *P. tigris* (I), Gaur *Bos gaurus* (I), and deer. Sixteen people were arrested.

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Earth/Kerala\\_Smuggling\\_of\\_owls/articleshow/3749664.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Earth/Kerala_Smuggling_of_owls/articleshow/3749664.cms), 24 November 2008; *The Sangai Express*, 12 January 2009, [www.e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=3.130109.jan09](http://www.e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=3.130109.jan09); [http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health\\_Science/Earth/43\\_jailed\\_for\\_smuggling\\_animal\\_parts\\_in\\_MP/articleshow/3962751.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health_Science/Earth/43_jailed_for_smuggling_animal_parts_in_MP/articleshow/3962751.cms); Wildlife Protection Society of India, [www.wpsi-india.org/news/25012009.php](http://www.wpsi-india.org/news/25012009.php), 25 January 2009; [www.zenews.com/states/2009-02-07/505638news.html](http://www.zenews.com/states/2009-02-07/505638news.html); [http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Delhi/30000\\_mongoose\\_hair\\_brushes\\_seiz ed\\_2\\_held/articleshow/4057990.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Delhi/30000_mongoose_hair_brushes_seiz ed_2_held/articleshow/4057990.cms); [www.thestatesman.net/page.arcview.php?clid=10&id=276710&usress=1,14](http://www.thestatesman.net/page.arcview.php?clid=10&id=276710&usress=1,14) February 2009; [http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health\\_Science/Earth/Tiger-skulls-drugs-bound-for-China-seized-in-Manipur/articleshow/4152868.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health_Science/Earth/Tiger-skulls-drugs-bound-for-China-seized-in-Manipur/articleshow/4152868.cms), 19 February 2009; <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/16-poachers-get-5-yr-jail-for-killing-Gir-lions/rssarticleshow/4198248.cms>; <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/Rajkot/From-timber-to-tiger-skin-trade-Gajakosh-did-it-all/articleshow/4197270.cms>, 26/27 February 2009; [www.theshillongtimes.com](http://www.theshillongtimes.com), 23 March 2009; Akhilesh Kumar, *TRAFFIC India*, in litt., 16 April 2009

## Seizures involving Red Sandalwood *Pterocarpus santalinus* (CITES II)

In December 2008, personnel of Assam Rifles 20th battalion (a paramilitary force) at Bongyang village, Chandel district, Manipur, seized 75 kg of Red Sandalwood *Pterocarpus santalinus* (CITES II), along with elephant (I) tusks, trunks and jaw parts, deer skins and deer antlers. The consignment had been on its way to Myanmar through Moreh, Manipur, on the border with Myanmar.

On 9 December 2008, officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Coimbatore, seized 10.5 t of Red Sandalwood logs. The consignment was bound for Kochi from Bangalore and was intended for export. The logs have been deposited at the Inland Container Depot at Singanallur, Tamil Nadu.

On 24 December 2008, a joint raid conducted by the police and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) (a border guarding force) at Gossaigaon, in Kokrajhar district, Western Assam, yielded around 630 deer antlers and nearly 3000 kg of Red Sandalwood. No arrests were made. The raid was carried out at a saw mill that had closed down several years earlier following a Supreme Court ban on tree-felling in the north-eastern region in 1996. Kokrajhar Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife), Sonali Ghosh, said the recovery of such a huge consignment had confirmed that a powerful international racket was at work in the area.

On 3 April 2009, police and forest personnel seized an undisclosed amount of Red Sandalwood from a lorry at Kurunji Nagar checkpoint, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu. There were three arrests.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health-Science/Earth/Tiger-skulls-drugs-bound-for-China-seized-in-Manipur/articleshow/4152868.cms>; [www.thehindu.com/2008/12/12/stories/2008121260250800.htm](http://www.thehindu.com/2008/12/12/stories/2008121260250800.htm); [www.indianexpress.com/news/huge-haul-of-animal-parts-in-assam/403031/](http://www.indianexpress.com/news/huge-haul-of-animal-parts-in-assam/403031/); [www.hindu.com/2009/04/05/stories/2009040558940800.htm](http://www.hindu.com/2009/04/05/stories/2009040558940800.htm); Akhilesh Kumar, TRAFFIC India, in litt., 16 April 2009

## PAKISTAN

In March 2009, Sindh Wildlife Department officials seized a consignment of some 550 Horsefield's Tortoises *Testudo horsefieldii* (CITES II) from the cargo compartment of a Quetta-Karachi bound train. The Pakistan Railways must check before registering any cargo to see what it holds; these boxes had been officially registered as normal cargo. Daulat Khan was arrested and fined Rs2000 (USD40). He was ordered to sign an agreement that he will stop capturing and trading tortoises; if he reoffends he will be fined Rs0.5 million.

The tortoises were to be released in the wild. They had been collected from the apple and grape orchards of Quetta, Naushaki and other districts of Balochistan; they were to be sold at market in Karachi. Fish aquaria in Karachi have apparently started to keep this species as showpieces and the reptile is also in demand in the pet trade.

[www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C03%5C05%5Cstory\\_5-3-2009\\_pg12\\_6](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C03%5C05%5Cstory_5-3-2009_pg12_6), 5 March 2009

## SOUTH-EAST ASIA

In the last six months of 2008, law enforcement action against illegal wildlife traders throughout South-east Asia was stepped up and resulted in the seizure of more than 24 175 specimens of protected species destined for restaurants, tanneries, the pet trade and other industries, and led to more than 100 arrests. This action reflects the commitment and increasing capacity of the ASEAN-WEN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network) to fight wildlife crime. Under ASEAN-WEN, more officers are being trained to detect, investigate and act against illegal trade.

"The number of illegal wildlife shipments being seized shows that authorities throughout South-east Asia have stepped up their efforts to stop trafficking in protected species this year," said Dr Chumphon Suckaseam, Senior Officer for the ASEAN-WEN Program Co-ordination Unit (the

Bangkok-based operational headquarters of ASEAN-WEN).

In total, 25 major wildlife law enforcement actions have been reported by local authorities since July 2008, eclipsing the 16 reported for the same period in 2007. Where possible, rescued animals were placed in rehabilitation centres. Over 14 t of dead animals were also recovered by authorities in the second half of 2008, most of which were destroyed.

[ASEAN-WEN PressRelease\\_ASEANStepsupFightAgainst-WildlifeCrim.pdf](http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86), 18 December 2008

## CAMBODIA

On 9 November 2008, Cambodia's Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRRT) rescued hundreds of live reptiles from traffickers in Kg Chnnang Province. More than 485 kg of turtles, tortoises and snakes, including Burmese Pythons *Python molurus* (CITES II) and Yellow-headed Temple Turtles *Hieremys annandalii* (II) were recovered from two vehicles headed for the Viet Nam border. Two people were arrested.

[www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86](http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86)

## INDONESIA

On 16 November 2008, sea port police seized some 150 kg of frozen pangolin *Manis* (CITES II) meat found in boxes in an empty taxi at Bahauheni Port, Lampung.

On 23 March 2009, police in Bali arrested a Czech national wanted internationally for his alleged leading role in a wildlife smuggling network in Brazil. The arrest came after intensive investigative and surveillance work by Indonesian police officers who were able to locate and arrest him on the basis of an INTERPOL Red Notice (issued to seek the provisional arrest of a wanted person with a view to extradition based on an arrest warrant or court decision), and international law enforcement intelligence after he entered the country. The operation followed information received from the Czech police and involved collaboration between INTERPOL's National Central Bureaus (NCBs) in Brasilia, Jakarta, Prague, Malaysia and Qatar, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, Austrian authorities, and INTERPOL's Fugitive Investigative Support (FIS) unit in Geneva.

"All crimes with an international dimension call for international law enforcement co-operation. The arrest of this wanted individual demonstrates the results that can be achieved when the fight against crime is taken to the frontline as part of concerted international action using global law enforcement networks and resources," said INTERPOL's Executive Director of Police Services, Jean-Michel Louboutin.

[www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86](http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86); Interpol media release, 24 March 2009: [www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/PressReleases/PR2009/PR200925.asp](http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/PressReleases/PR2009/PR200925.asp)

## MALAYSIA

On 2 November 2008, marine police based in Sandakan seized 10 000 Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* (CITES I) eggs that had been abandoned on Kampung Forest beach; four people escaped by speedboat. This is the largest seizure of turtle eggs by local authorities in 2009 to date.

On 29 April 2009, 15 t of Red Sandalwood (CITES II) *Pterocarpus santalinus* was seized at the Westport Free Zone, following weeks of surveillance by the Port Klang Authority and the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB). The wood was exported from Haldia Port in Orissa, India (where it is found only in Cuddhpah and Chittoore, in Andhra Pradesh), and was on its way to China where it is in high demand.

MTIB Director-General Dr Jalaluddin Harun said the huge demand for the rare sandalwood had enticed smugglers to use Westport as a transshipment route in the illegal trading of the exotic wood.

"The sandalwood was declared as galvanized iron. Cut as logs measuring 1.2 m to 3.4 m with a width of 20 cm, all the 269 Red Sandalwood logs were stacked in a container," he said. He added that smugglers had attempted to use Malaysia, Singapore and even Myanmar as transshipment hubs to bring the wood to China.

Red Sandalwood does not yield oil and is fragrant when fresh. It is used in the carving of statues of Chinese deities, altars, traditional musical instruments and furniture.

Dr Jalaluddin said that MTIB had uncovered seven smuggling cases involving Red Sandalwood this year to date.

Port Klang Free Zone manager R. Sri Muhunan said the port risk management team would continue to be on high alert for such smugglers.

"We will work with the authorities and neighbouring ports to ensure that illegal trading of exotic wood is curbed."

[http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86](http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86)<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/5/20/nation/3944561&sec=nation>

## Pangolin seizures in Malaysia:

On 19 October 2008, marine police seized 42 pangolins *Manis* (CITES II) from a vessel in the Malacca Straits and arrested two people who are being investigated under Sections 64 and 66(2)(a) of the *Wildlife Protection Act 1972*. The boat was handed over to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

On 25 November, Malaysian marine police from Maur seized 65 pangolins in a raid on a house in Bukit Pasir. Three people were detained. On 3 December 2008 they seized a further 44 pangolins from a fishing boat near Sungai Balang. Two suspects were detained.

*The New Straits Times (Malaysia)*: [www.nst.com.my/Current\\_News/NST/Sunday/NewsBreak/2008/01922072/1/Article/pppull\\_index.html](http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Sunday/NewsBreak/2008/01922072/1/Article/pppull_index.html); 19 October 2008; [http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86](http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75:major-wildlife-law-enforcement-actions-southeast-asia-july-december-2008&catid=34:law-enforcement-actions&Itemid=86)