

"The gaur then formed a phalanx, heads lowered, with their horns in the direction of the tiger. The herd bull was snorting, controlling the others. The tiger was a young male 28 months of age, the newly independent offspring of the resident tigress, that had successfully raised a litter of four. The young male's sister appeared at 12.30, but she was lost sight of until she returned at 15.30 and again at 16.20. The male could be seen five minutes later on the opposite side of the gaur herd. The female appeared to be trying to manoeuvre the gaur toward her sibling. We

could see the young male, but he was hidden from the gaur. But the ruse was unsuccessful and no second attack materialized. The tigers disappeared at 16.45."

"All the visitors to the camp saw the gaur and the manoeuvring tigers, but only one person besides Dhan Bahadur witnessed the actual attack. By the next morning both the gaur and the tigers had disappeared."

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US Strengthens Powers to Fight Illegal Trade in Tiger and Rhino

Anyone in the USA handling items purporting to contain tiger or rhinoceros products now faces prosecution following a new product labeling provision included in the renewed Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1998, signed into law by President Clinton on 30 October 1998.

This removes the necessity for enforcement authorities to carry out lengthy and expensive tests to see if products actually contain tiger and rhinoceros products. Similar legislation is in force in several European countries.

The new provision says that, "A person shall not sell, import, or export, or attempt to sell, import, or export, any product, item, or substance intended for human consumption containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, any substance derived from any species of rhinoceros or tiger."

The reauthorization of the Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act and its funding through financial year 2002 ensures that the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service can continue to award grants to on-the-ground projects in countries where wild rhinos and tigers are found. Grants, which are matched with contributions from partners in those African and Asian countries, provide financial support to help them build the capacity to conserve the species and their essential habitats.

Congressional appropriations to the fund went from \$200,000 in FY 1996 to \$500,000 in FY 1999. Thus far, 56 projects in 12 nations have received \$970,000 in funding. This money has been tripled by matching funds, provided in most cases by the grant recipients, bringing the total to almost \$2.7 million.

A Fish and Wildlife Press Release said educational outreach would be emphasized in early implementation of the law in order to get the word out to shopkeepers and give them a chance to voluntarily remove offending products from the marketplace. The Service will also be working with the

Interaction Between a Male Tiger and his Cubs

The following observations were made of a male tiger *Panthera tigris*, Banka, a tigress, Sita, and their cubs in Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh, over a period of 30 months.

Banka was seen mating with Sita on 28 May, 1986, when she was nearly three years old. Three cubs were seen with Sita in November 1986 and it is assumed that they were sired by Banka.

It was also determined, by plotting on a 1:50,000 scale map, locations where Banka and Sita were seen or where their tracks were positively identified, that Banka's territory encompassed Sita's.

On 1 December 1986 when the cubs were about 10 weeks old, Banka was seen at a kill along with Sita and the cubs. Neither the cubs nor Sita showed any apprehension at the presence of the male.

On 25 February 1987, only two cubs were seen with Banka and Sita at a kill. On being disturbed, Sita dragged the kill and hid it under a bush on top of a hill and went to collect the cubs. When she had brought them up, she was reluctant to go the kill because of the presence of our elephant, which the cubs were not willing to pass.

In the meantime, Banka got to the kill, which was about 70m behind us and began making the high nasal *aeun* sound, which seems to be both a contact call and summons. Sita and the cubs reacted to this, but, again, the cubs were unwilling to go past the elephant. After a few minutes Banka

called louder and gruffer than before, and this time we moved the elephant away, whereupon Sita and the cubs went to the kill immediately.

By mid-February 1988, when the cubs were approximately 17 months old, Sita showed signs of disassociating herself from the cubs and was not seen with them for long periods. After 23 March, she was not seen with them until 13 April. On 15 March, Banka was seen in company with the cubs and the female cub was seen playing with him. They would also follow him around wherever he moved. All three tigers were seen together the whole day, and, on 18 March 1988, they were seen together again, with the male cub close to Banka and the female cub 100 m. away. There was no sign of Sita on any of these occasions.

On 13 April 1988, Mr H.S. Pabla, the then Director of the Park, and Mr Vivek R. Sinha, saw Sita behaving aggressively towards her cubs. The cubs were then approximately 19 months old. Possibly this marked the beginning of the period leading the cubs to independence.

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Hashim Tyabji

Reference

Tyabji, H. 1991. Interaction between a male tiger and his cubs in Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, Vol.88(1):107. Bombay.

United Kingdom and other CITES member countries at upcoming CITES meetings to encourage implementation of similar programs worldwide.

MORE ILLEGAL TRADE NEWS

LONDON – An 80-year-old tiger skin, which inspired the jingle “Would you like to sin, with Elinor Glyn, on a tiger skin?” was seized by British customs when the Glyn’s great grand-daughter brought it from Los Angeles to adorn her home in Wales. Unlicensed international movement of tiger parts is banned under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

In one of her books, Elinor Glyn, a British society novelist, described a passionate love scene on a tiger skin, giving rise to the jingle. She gave the skin to actress Gloria Swanson, who used it when posing for publicity photos. Customs released the skin for display at the National Museum of Merseyside for educational purposes.

CALCUTTA – Three illegal traders in tiger skins were sentenced to four years imprisonment on 7 November 1998. They are believed to be the first traders to have been convicted in India, as opposed to small-time poachers. The men, Mohammed Abdul Khalique, Nakul Mondal and Mohammed Jaynal Laksar, were arrested in 1992 with a tiger skin at Port Canning on the northern edge of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve. The case against them was conducted by Advocate Bhaskar Bannerjee, who was commissioned by the Wildlife Protection Society of India.

Belinda Wright, Executive Director of WPSI, said similar cases were pending in many courts throughout India, including 200 in Delhi. WPSI is pursuing 59 cases.

NEW DELHI – Raj Kumar, wanted for several cases of illegal wildlife trade, was arrested on 19 June after being tracked down by the Wildlife Protection Society of India. Kumar is the brother of the most notorious wildlife trader, Sansar Chand, who, despite 14 cases pending, is free and was interviewed by CNN in a luxury Delhi hotel in April. Kumar, also known as “Pappu”, had evaded arrest since being accused after a dead tiger was found in Sariska Tiger Reserve, followed by the recovery of a

leopard skin and bones. He evaded arrest when linked with the poaching of a tiger in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in 1992. But he was arrested in May 1993 with his brother-in-law, Kishanlal, when in possession of six leopard skins. He was also charged in case in which narcotics were being smuggled through Delhi airport for another country.

Police arrested a husband-and-wife attempting to sell a tiger skin to foreigners in a 5-star hotel. The man, Mohseen Ali, was already wanted on 13 charges of illegal trade in animal parts, while his wife, Rameshwari, has one case against her. An accomplice, Sham Babu, was arrested at the hotel gate with a leopard skin.

Earlier police seized a tiger and a leopard skin from the home of Romesh Sharma, a politician and businessman.

MUMBAI (BOMBAY) – Six leopard skins, 1,912 snake skins and 44 snake skin bags and purses were put to the flames by the Maharashtra State Minister for Forests and Environment on 5 June to mark World Environment Day. The purpose was to indicate that the skins are valuable only as long as they are on live animals, but worthless when they are dead.

GUWAHATI – Three persons were arrested in the Garo hills while transporting tiger, otter and leopard skins, as well as pangolin scales. The items were destined for China via Myanmar, according to Aaranyak Nature Club.

KUALA LUMPUR – A tiger, killed by a bus, was stripped of its whiskers, claws, teeth and testicles before wildlife staff could recover it. Tiger parts are sought after for medical use.

A restaurateur pleaded guilty to keeping parts of a leopard, marbled cats and leopard cats, as well as other animals, in his fridge, allegedly for medical purposes. He was fined 9,000 Ringits (US\$2,250).

CANBERRA – Sale of products in Australia claimed to include extracts from endangered species will lead to possible fines of up to the AU\$550,000 and up to 10 years imprisonment if proposed changes in the Wildlife Protection Act are approved. Labels on products will be considered as legal declaration of the contents and sufficient proof for prosecution. At present, costly DNA

tests have to be carried out to prove that products contain extracts from species, such as tigers and rhinoceroses.

HONG KONG – An art dealer who bought an antique Tibetan box lined with leopard skin in Nepal, ended with a HK\$25,000 fine when he imported it to Hong Kong. Shaun Kelly said the box was a work of art, meant to hold statues of the Buddha, and the leopard skin should not be treated as though it was like those used for coats or medicine. Despite his plea, the magistrate refused to reduce the fine, but said the box should be put in a museum, rather than destroyed.

WINDHOEK – Members of a CITES specialist group on rhinos leaving a bar found two men taunting three leopards in a truck with lighted cigarettes. They blocked the truck and called the police, who arrested Willem Adriaan Nel and Johan Knoesen. They were found guilty of illegal possession of the leopards and fined 500 Rand each. Investigators found that the leopards came from a game farm where the rhino specialists had been meeting. The owner, Jan Oelofse, a former member of the Natal Parks Board in South Africa, had applied for an export permit, but sold the animals for 3,000 Rand each and allowed them to be taken away before the paperwork had been completed. The leopards were to be taken to Stone Safaris, a hunting and tourism enterprise, in the Orange Free State, South Africa.

TOKYO – Angry protests arose when the Japanese Fuji television company’s stars were shown at a Shanghai restaurant being served Cantonese-style stir-fried Bengal tiger. WWF Japan pointed out that international trade in tigers was prohibited, but Fuji claimed that the tiger had died in a Chinese zoo and been preserved in the restaurant’s freezer.

UTRECHT – Zhi Lin Dong was fined 10,000 florins (US\$5,000) and his company, Chinese Medical Centre, 80,000 florins for trading packages claiming to contain tigerbone and extracts from other endangered species. Eight lorry-loads of traditional Chinese medicines were seized in a raid on the company after investigation by WWF/IUCN-sponsored TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring organization. Forensic tests confirmed that some packets did contain extracts of endangered species.