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# TRAFFIC

B U L L E T I N

HARVESTING CHINESE  
CATERPILLAR FUNGUS AND  
SCHISANDRA PLANTS

TRADE IN  
SUGAR GLIDERS

CHIMPANZEES ON SALE  
IN GUINEA-BISSAU

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## Zero poaching of rhinoceroses hailed in Nepal . . .

In 2011, for the first time in 20 years, not a single rhinoceros is known to have been killed in Nepal during the course of a year—a landmark achievement that can be attributed to collaboration of effort between the Government of Nepal and conservation partners, local communities and, most importantly, the security forces in that country. More than 250 poachers and traders, some 20% listed as high profile wildlife criminals for whom arrest warrants have been pending for 10 years or more, have been arrested over the past 18 months.

Among the factors contributing to this success is the establishment of a number of institutions, including the National Tiger Conservation Committee, Nepal (NTCCN), chaired by the Prime Minister of Nepal; the Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee (WCCCC), chaired by the Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) which includes representation of all the enforcement agencies involved in policing wildlife crime. Wildlife Crime Pillar, established under the Central Investigation Bureau of Nepal Police, has also played an important role. WWF-Nepal has been able to raise the issue of wildlife crime at the highest political level which has contributed to these developments. Additionally, in order to combat poaching more effectively, strict protection measures in the country's national parks have been taken that include 24 hours patrolling, the strengthening of existing security posts and the establishment of new security posts in strategic locations.

Today, controlling wildlife crime in Nepal remains a priority of the enforcement agencies and their dedication to this cause has clearly proved to be highly effective. Provided these efforts continue and the human as well as institutional capacity of the enforcement agencies is strengthened, and there is effective co-ordination among and between the various law enforcement agencies, wildlife poaching can continue to be more effectively controlled.

In order to celebrate this special achievement, on 7 January 2012 the Government of Nepal, WWF and various conservation organizations marked the occasion with a programme—Zero Poaching Year—at Chitwan National Park to acknowledge the unrelenting efforts of the key institutions who helped bring about this success.

*Diwaker Chapagain, Co-ordinator,  
Wildlife Trade Monitoring, WWF-Nepal*



Great Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*

JEFF FOOTT / WWF-CANON

## . . . as numbers poached in South Africa continue to climb

Despite increased anti-poaching efforts by authorities in South Africa, the toll of rhinoceroses poached during 2012 to date (30 April) has reached 199. Kruger National Park (KNP) continues to bear the brunt of these losses, with the number of rhinoceroses poached in the park at 119. The problem has become a matter in which all law enforcement agencies are involved and, reflecting this co-ordinated approach, a total of 122 arrests have been made of which 104 were poachers, 10 receivers/couriers and two couriers/buyers. According to a statement by the country's Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, on 4 April 2012, the Government would continue to look at new initiatives that can assist in the fight against rhino poaching. She announced that the first group of 75 of the 150 new rangers to be deployed in KNP were undergoing a six-week intensive paramilitary training course. Discussions for the establishment of a buffer zone between KNP and the private reserves/farms in Mozambique—similar to the one in place on the north-eastern boundary of KNP—are under way with the authorities in Mozambique.

The South African population of the White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* is listed in CITES Appendix II for the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations and hunting trophies. The Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has been asked if it could conduct inspections and verify that the White Rhinoceros trophies exported from South Africa to Viet Nam are still in the possession of the hunters. This follows an investigation by the National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit (NWCRU).

“We are consulting at the diplomatic level and the outcome of this process will allow us to refuse all applications for White Rhinoceros hunting by foreign hunters whose state of usual residence is Viet Nam”, Molewa said.

An inventory of the rhino horn stockpiles in the possession of conservation agencies in South Africa has been completed and private landowners have been urged to comply with the law and register their rhino horn stockpiles with their respective provincial conservation authorities.

*South African Government Department of  
Environmental Affairs: [www.environment.gov.za/](http://www.environment.gov.za/),  
4/30 April 2012*