

ON_{the} TRAIL

The defaunation bulletin
n°35. Events from the 1st January to the 31th March, 2022



Quarterly information and analysis report on endangered
animals poaching and smuggling
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ON_{the} TRAIL

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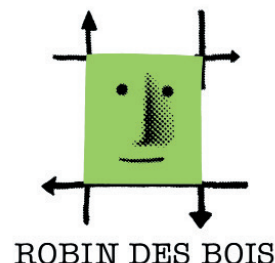
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NOTE AND ADVICE TO READERS

"On the Trail", the defaunation magazine, aims to get out of the drip of daily news and to draw up every three months an organized and analyzed survey of poaching, smuggling and worldwide market of animal species protected by national laws and international conventions. "On the Trail" also relates ongoing trials and the evolution of regulations and sanctions.

"On the Trail" highlights the new weapons of plunderers, the new *modus operandi* of smugglers, rumours intended to attract humans consumers of animals and their by-products. "On the Trail" gathers and disseminates feedback from institutions, individuals and NGOs that fight against poaching and smuggling. End to end, the "On the Trail" are the biological, social, ethnological, police, customs, legal and financial chronicle of poaching and other conflicts between humanity and animality. No continent is spared.

- A single event may refer to several species (e.g. simultaneous seizure of ivory, bear bile and snake skins); it is then analysed in the "Multi-species" chapter, with the exception of events that bring together the following species and which have their own chapter:

- Pangolins + elephants / rhinos / felines
- Elephants + rhinos / hippos / walruses / sperm whales
- Marine and freshwater multispecies (simultaneous seizure of several aquatic species)
- Multi-species reptiles (simultaneous seizure of several reptile species)

- Geographic regions at the continental scale are based on the UN classification.

- The main sources are indicated at the end of each event. Each event reported and/or analysed is from a recension of one or more articles or press releases. This critical review eliminates inconsistencies in date, price and quantity if necessary, and if possible mistakes or looseness about the description of the species. The original source(s) are sometimes enriched by cross-checking and additional information from previous issues of "On the Trail", by Robin des Bois' investigations and archives, and by international bibliography and iconography. The US\$ conversion rates used are those applicable during the month of the event.

Robin des Bois thanks the Species Survival Network, the NGO Save the Elephants and the Eagle Network for their alerts which enrich the daily monitoring carried out by the "On the Trail" team.

- When a species is CITES-listed, the Appendix is specified after its scientific name.

CITES APPENDICES

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

Appendix I : species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and under import and export permits.

Appendix II : export permit required in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the species survival. Import permit if required by national law.

Appendix III : species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. In the case of trade from a State that included the species in Appendix III, an export permit of that State is required.

PICTOS



Human death. Guard, ranger, policeman, poacher... by firearm or other means.



Judgment and sanction. Condemnation, acquittal, fine...



Trapping. Poaching by jaw trap, snare, net ...



Poisoning. By chemicals, pesticides and medicines: cyanide, carbofuran, diclofenac, M99 ...



Full moon. Moonlight poaching

ACRONYMS

EAGLE : Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement

ENV : Education for Nature – Vietnam

IBAMA : Instituto brasileiro do meio ambiente e dos recursos naturais renováveis

IEW : Iran Environment and Wildlife Watch

KWS : Kenya Wildlife Service

LAGA : The Last Great Ape Organization

OIC : Orangutan Information Centre

PROFEPA : Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente

SAPS : South African Police Service

SPCA : Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

SSB : Sashastra Seema Bal

SVW : Save Vietnam Wildlife

SWT : Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

USFWS : United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WCCB : Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

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ELEPHANTS, RHINOS / HIPPOS / WALRUSES / SPERM WHALES

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

March 3, 2022

Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa



Sentence of Cosmus Ziwande for transporting and possessing raw ivory and hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) teeth to a fine of 10,000 rand (660 US\$) suspended for 5 years (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.58). The individual is already serving a 7-year prison sentence for tampering with essential infrastructure in Clanwilliam in July 2021. SAPS, March 4, 2022.¹

AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 8, 2021 and January 24, 2022

San Diego, State of California, United States of America

Chess sets, carved tusks, statuettes... Stephen Shu Wang, aged 53, was selling ivory stored in his garage in Carmel Valley via the Internet. Undercover agents from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife twice bought ivory from him before seizing 200 carved pieces of ivory at his home, as well as walrus tusks (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) and hippopotamus teeth (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II).

The trafficker was charged with 15 counts. The seizure of his entire collection, valued at more than 100,000 US\$, and the requirement to perform 100 hours of volunteer work with a non-profit animal conservation organization kept him out of jail.

Times of San Diego, September 8, 2021; NBC 7 San Diego, January 27, 2022.²

ASIA

CHINA

March 3, 2022

Tianhe District, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Sentence of Su (not his real name) to 6 years in prison and a fine of 50,000 yuan (7,920 US\$) for knowingly fraudulently purchasing 4 carved ivory items worth 18,360 US\$ and a rhino horn worth 160,000 US\$ from a stall in the flower and bird market between 2017 and 2019. He said he wanted to use them for medical purposes. The sellers are being prosecuted separately.

Xiaoxiang Morning Herald, March 4, 2022.³

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM

March 19, 2022

Derby Unitary Authority, England, United Kingdom



Ngie Law was sentenced to 2 years in prison suspended for 2 years and the confiscation of 61,266 £ (82,060 US\$) worth of cash and assets.

The money that is seized under POCA (Proceeds of Crime Act) is split between the police and the government and is often used to fund community projects. Ngie Law's Internet trafficking covered newly manufactured elephant, walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) and hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) ivory (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.60).

The ivory will now mostly be distributed to other forces, including the National Wildlife Crime Unit trainer, Border Force CITES Team, and the Museum of Scotland for training purposes. The remaining quantity will be destroyed to prevent it from going back into the trade.

Derbyshire Police, April 22, 2022.⁴

March 28, 2022

Londonderry, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom



A former cannabis dealer and repentant alcoholic is fined 500 £ (670 US\$). He is accused of trafficking in elephant and sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) ivory.

He says he inherited his father's collection and his passion for antiques. He said that in ancient times everything contained ivory, that if he had a sperm whale tooth in his house, it was because the English had killed thousands of sperm whales in the last centuries. There was ivory everywhere, he insists, in glove stretchers, cocktail holders, teapots. "I had bought bovine bone for arts and crafts. I didn't know it was ivory." "I even reminded the judge that during the terror attack in London didn't a hero use a narwhal tusk to fight off a man with 2 knives but he wasn't interested." "I'll be honest on Monday night I nearly opened a bottle of brandy."

The Irish News, October 18, 2021; Sunday World, April 2, 2022.⁵

RHINOCEROSSES



Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and cattle egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*). Photo Karoconniff

The white rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* and black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* ranging in Africa are listed in Appendix I, except for the white rhinoceros populations of Eswatini and South Africa which are listed in Appendix II for trade of live animals and hunting trophies.

The 3 Asian rhinoceros species are in Appendix I: the Indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*, the Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, and the Javan rhinoceros *Rhinoceros sondaicus*.

On the Trail n°35

Black market horn quotation from media or official sources
The values were estimated at the time of the seizures

Value of 1kg of raw horn

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref. (year)
Africa	South Africa	7400	14 (2022)

EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA

March 23, 2022

Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro Ecosystem, Kenya

Arrest of 2 suspects in possession of 3 pieces of suspected rhino horn.

Big Life Foundation, March 23, 2022.¹

MOZAMBIQUE

REPEATED OFFENSE

January 18, 2022

Maputo, Maputo Province, Mozambique

Admiro Ananias Salvador Chauque was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He is said to be a repeat offender and leader of a gang of rhino poachers in the Magude and Massingir districts and in the Kruger Park.

Carta de Moçambique, January 19, 2022; Club of Mozambique (with Lusa), January 19, 2022.²



ZIMBABWE

Early January 2022

Savé Valley Conservancy, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

Arrest of a man armed with a large gun and an axe. He was chased by the dog squad of the 25,000-km² private game reserve, one of the largest in southern Africa. Two accomplices who were waiting for him in a getaway car were later arrested. The reserve's anti-poaching squad is reinforced by 11 Belgian Malinois shepherds.

Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, January 6, 2022; Zim Morning Post, May 18, 2022.³

February 2022

Savé Valley Conservancy, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

Fatal poaching of a pregnant female rhino. One horn was cut off by the poachers. Zim Morning Post, May 18, 2022.⁴



February 7, 2022

Matobo District, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe

A black rhino died. Both horns were amputated. A metal detector recovered as evidence a bullet lodged in the skull and 2 sensors of unknown origin to record the speed of movement, posture of the animal, and its location. A manhunt is underway. The Sunday Mail, February 10, 2022.⁵

February 20, 2022

Bikita, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

A white rhino died. His body was found in a pit, covered with a black tarp and branches. The body has 2 large calibre bullet holes in the shoulder. The 2 horns were missing.

The Herald, February 24, 2022.⁶

End of March 2022

Makotami, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe

Discovery of a dead rhino in Matobo National Park. Poisoning is suspected. The poachers did not have time to amputate the horns. EnviroPress Zimbabwe, March 31, 2022; Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, March 31, 2022.⁷



SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

Early January 2022

Barberton Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Rescue of a very young orphan whose 2 small horns were not amputated by the poachers who killed and dehorned his mother. The survivor was handed over to the Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary. The Aspinall Foundation, January 8, 2022.⁸



January 24, 2022

Marataba Conservation Camps, Limpopo Province, South Africa

On September 24, 2016, the opening day of the 17th CITES plenary meeting in Johannesburg, 6 rhinos were attacked by a gang in a northwestern reserve. Only Seha, a 12-year-old male, survived, but in very bad condition. The tearing off of his 2 horns had opened a wound measuring 49 by 26 cm. For 5 years, Seha ("have mercy on us" in Zulu) was cared for and pampered, and his face was even reconstructed. A shepherd was assigned to him. He accompanied him on all his outings, guided him, and reported on how he was doing. "He had walked over 2 km, he has rested in the deep bush, he has drunk, he looked peaceful." In the year 2018, he was introduced to 2 females and in 2019 a cub was born. Seha was, before the hurricane of cruelty that fell on him and his companions in 2016, remarkable for his stature and profile. Dr. Johan Marais, director of Saving the Survivors, wanted his gene pool to be passed on. According to Saving the Survivors, rhinos rescued from poaching should be respected despite their infirmities and they should still contribute to the survival of the species. At the end of January, Seha left his convalescent paddock and was transferred to a reserve in the Waterberg Mountains, far from the cities and bustling countryside. He has every chance of living there until the natural end of his life.

Saving the Survivors, January 21 and 25, 2022.⁹



January 28, 2022

Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa

7,800 hectares. 1,800 and some white rhinos. Yet John Hume says he is on the verge of ruin. His Buffalo Dream Ranch is turning into a nightmare because of the drop in value of live rhinos, the continuing closure of the international horn trade and the skyrocketing costs of caretaking and feeding.

John Hume has suffered a setback in court. "I want my horns back" he said in August 2019 (see "On the Trail" n°29 p.46). He was referring to the 181 horns [initially the SAPS in their statement mentioned 167 horns] seized by the Hawks from Petrus Steyn and Clive Melville on April 13, 2019 (see "On the Trail" n°25 p.76). The Pretoria High Court did not grant his application. The judgment sheds some new light on this utterly incredible and surreal case. On April 11, 2019, Hawks Colonel Johannes Smit received information that 3 individuals who had applied for permits to purchase horns from John Hume and transport them would be picking them up the following day from the "Centurion" vault. The confidential information claims that a number of horns could be sold on the black market. An undercover operation was mounted on the morning of April 12 and 3 individuals were observed entering the vault to complete the formalities. The first left without any horn. The second was a South African citizen of Chinese origin, he was in possession of a transport permit for 2 horns to the Western Cape. After the horns were handed over, he left the scene. The third individual was Steyn. He took delivery of 181 horns and left the scene. Melville joined him in a storage facility and they both left the next day for North West Province where they were arrested even though the transport permit they held was only for Gauteng Province. The 181 horns were then seized. The judge is puzzled by Hume's version of events: "It is astounding that a self-professed businessman would voluntarily release valuable assets, such as rhino horns, from his control and custody, entrust them to a "potential buyer" he has never personally met for inspection in the hope that the potential buyer becomes a buyer of the 181 horns at a reasonable price to be agreed. It defies logic why the potential buyer could not inspect the horns at the Centurion vault. This would firstly have obviated the need for a transport permit, and secondly would have eliminated the risk of loss of valuable rhino horns. It is implausible that any person, let alone a self-professed businessman, would release from his control and custody not a few but all 181 horns, each valued at around 60,000 rand (4,080 US\$) to a potential buyer without any assurance that the potential buyer intended buying one of them, let alone 181."

The Hawks' lawyers agree. According to them, Rossouw, the alleged buyer, had absolutely no intention of taking possession of John Hume's 181 horns. If he accepted that the transport permit be in his name, it was in exchange for a fee. In fact, Rossouw and Hume were complicit in facilitating an illegal transaction of 181 horns, the lawyers said. According to them, the issue of the return of the horns to John Hume should be examined not by a civil court but by a criminal court.

Relying on case law regarding seizures and their return, the judge effectively held that pending the judgment of a criminal court, the Hawks are not only entitled, but are obliged to retain the 181 horns.

High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, January 28, 2022; Sunday World, February 6, 2022.

January 31, 2022

OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Seizure in the luggage of a Malayan passenger about to fly to Kuala Lumpur on a Qatar Airways plane of 11 rhino horns wrapped in aluminium foil and hidden under boxes of chocolate candy and green tea.

SAPS, February 1, 2022; Save the Beasts, February 1, 2022.¹¹

February 2022

South Africa

Two Saving the Survivors vets rushed by helicopter to a game reserve where 4 rhinos had been poached and dehorned overnight. Fearing that the killers were still in the area, the reserve management wanted the remaining rhinos dehorned as a precaution. "Trimming the horns of rhino is never something we relish doing, but in certain cases it is the most immediate and effective way to protect individual rhinos."

Council of Contributors, March 22 and April 3, 2022; Saving the Survivors, March 24 and April 1, 2022.¹²



February 8, 2022
Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

His drive-off in 2018 was reported in "On the Trail" n°23 p.103. The policeman had in his car 2 freshly cut horns and a firearm. He has just been sentenced to 10 years in prison. SAPS, February 9, 2022.¹³



February 16, 2022
Ekurhuleni, Gauteng Province, South Africa

The arrest in September 2021 of Stephanus Peter Peters and Lina Zhang for attempting to export 30 horns to Malaysia in May 2019 (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.52) put investigators on the trail of a 49-year-old woman. At her home, they discovered 29 horns weighing 51.94 kg and valued at 6 million rand (384,400 US\$ or 7,400 US\$/kg). The horns, wrapped in aluminium foil, were stored in her garage and ready to be shipped. News24, February 17, 2022.¹⁴



February 19, 2022
Northern Cape Province, South Africa

The little orphan was found cuddled up to her mother who had been shot and dehorned. Her ordeal lasted at least 3 days. Somehow she was lucky: lions could have eaten her. She is now in the care of the Wild Hearts Wildlife Rehab Centre. Wild Hearts Wildlife Rehab Centre, February 21, 2022.¹⁵

February 24, 2022
Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Michael Chauke and Americo Mathonsi were caught in the act of poaching in the Satara section of Kruger Park in May 2019. Next to them were 2 rhinos in agony. They have been sentenced to 23 years in prison for breaking and entering a national park, killing a protected species, and possessing a weapon without a license. SAPS, February 25, 2022; Daily Dispatch, February 26, 2022.¹⁶



March 2022
KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Bloodbath in the province. Between January 1 and April 4, 75 rhinos were fatally poached and dehorned, almost all of them in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. On the condition of anonymity, the guards don't mince their words. "We are in the same boat as Kruger." "There are not enough boots on the ground." "Poachers must be getting inside information from corrupt staff." "I would not be surprised if some of the poachers are coming straight through the gates using the 'drop and shoot' method seen in Kruger." Between Hluhluwe-iMfolozi and Kruger, there are only 650 km, a short trip in a Mercedes or BMW. The mafia understood that in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, it was self-service and that in Kruger it was becoming more and more difficult due to the shortage of rhinos and the number of rangers. Helping Rhinos, March 23, 2022; Daily Maverick, April 5, 2022.¹⁷

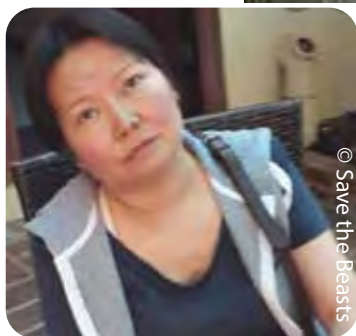
March 2022
South Africa



Saving the Survivors is at the bedside of a white rhino who had his nasal horn cut off alive by poachers. The wound has been treated and covered with a fiberglass bandage secured with orthopaedic screws to prevent oxpeckers from delaying the healing process. Saving the Survivors, April 5, 2022.¹⁸

March 1, 2022
Tembisa, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Ping Wu, age 49, is sentenced to 5 years in prison for money laundering. She is part of a syndicate of rhino horn traffickers in Gauteng. After exploring all paths, on July 23, 2019 the Hawks arrested Ping Wu at the Emperors Palace Casino in Kempton Park. She was carrying large sums of cash from a recent "deal" of horns. She was denied bail. Kempton Park is a major wildlife trafficking site, see "On the Trail" n°27 p.73, n°28 p.102, n°31 p.46 and n°32 p.12. SAPS, March 2, 2022; Save the Beasts, March 2, 2022.¹⁹



March 11, 2022
Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Sentence of Sibusiso Mahlaule and George Manyise to 2 years in prison for trespassing and entering the Kruger Park, 5 years for attempted poaching in conspiracy, and for Rodrigues Ngobeni, a Mozambican national, to an additional 8 years for contravention of the Immigration Act. On April 18, 2021, they were tracked by rangers and a helicopter in the Pretoriuskop section, surrounded, and handcuffed. They were carrying a .375 H&H rifle with silencers and cartridges. There were 10,621 white rhinos in Kruger Park in 2011, in 2020 there were only 2,607. There were 507 black rhinos in Kruger Park in 2017, in 2020 only 202 (these numbers are midway between the low and high estimates). Africa Geographic, January 20, 2022; SAPS, March 12, 2022.²⁰



March 14, 2022
Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Arrest at 10 p.m. of a 29-year-old man carrying a shotgun, ammunition, a cutlass, a silencer, and a backpack with food. An accomplice fled. They were not there for a picnic. SAPS, March 15, 2022.²¹

March 18, 2022
Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Sentence of Mike Nyathi to 25 years in prison. On September 17, 2017, he fatally wounded a rhino in the Kingfisherspruit section of the Kruger. He later evaded court summonses after being released on bail and on May 13, 2019, he attempted to poach a rhino in the Satara section. He had been spotted by rangers, chased by the dog squad, and was found hiding under a dead tree. He was armed with a .458 Win Mag CZ 550 bolt-action rifle without serial number and an axe. SAPS, March 19, 2022; News24, March 20, 2022.²²



March 22, 2022
Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Sentence of Brain Phiri, a Mozambican national, to 1 year in prison for contravention of the Immigration Act, 3 years in prison for trespassing in Kruger Park, 7 years in prison on the count of possession of a prohibited firearm, 2 years in prison on a count of possession of unlicensed ammunition, and one year in prison on a count of possession of an axe which in these places and circumstances was considered a dangerous weapon. The sentences run concurrently. Brain Phiri will spend 7 years in prison. With his accomplice who fled, he obviously had the intention and the means to poach one or more rhinos, but the duo, when neutralized by the rangers, had not yet taken action. SAPS, March 23, 2022.²³



March 22 and 24, 2022
Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

- Sentence of Sam Nyagumbi Thobela, 50, and Ezekiel Solomon Mafuyeka, 27, to 16 years in prison for poaching and amputating both horns of a rhino in the Malalane section of the Kruger on January 30, 2020.
- Sentence of Simon Solomon Mhlanga, 43, and Morris Paul Chauke, 41, nationals of Mozambique, and Sam Jack Maluleke, 48, to 18 years in prison for fatally wounding and attempting to amputate the horns of a white rhino in the Pretoriuskop section of the Kruger on September 3, 2015. SAPS, March 28, 2022.²⁴



NAMIBIA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

July 2021 and January 31, 2022

Windhoek, Khomas Region, Namibia

The Windhoek High Court ordered the release of Kenneth Tebuho, a school principal, on bail of 15,000 \$ (950 US\$). He must report every Monday and Friday to the police station in Katima Mulilo and is not allowed to leave the city without informing the police. In July 2021, with his wife Joyce Libuku, a mother of 7 children and a vegetable seller, he was stopped at a roadside checkpoint and initially refused to comply before stopping after warning shots were fired. In the car, a bag with 2 rhinoceros horns was found. His wife claims that he was not aware that the bag contained horns and that she herself was not sure that the horns were rhino horns.

Allgemeine Zeitung Namibia, February 2, 2022; Republik, February 2, 2022.²⁵



EASTERN ASIA

TAIWAN

March 2022

Taiwan

"On the Trail" mentioned it in n°16, 19, and 29. Hsiao Jen-se and Chen Pei-hsun, Taiwanese nationals, who were sentenced to 11 years in prison in Eswatini for attempting to smuggle 35 kg of rhino horns, were extradited to their home country under a bilateral agreement between the 2 countries. The transfer was delayed for a year due to Covid-19. Hsiao Jen-se and Chen Pei-hsun are likely to benefit from this. At the time of the incident, the offense they were guilty of was punishable by 5 years' imprisonment in Taiwan.

Liberty Times Net, March 17, 2022.²⁶

SOUTHERN ASIA

INDIA

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Dispur, Kamrup District, State of Assam, India

Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma announces that only one rhino was poached in Kaziranga in 2021. "It's a huge milestone in our efforts to eliminate the menace of poaching from our State. Kudos to our forest guards and officials of Kaziranga National Park for their sincere efforts to protect Assam's beloved icon."

Hindustan Times, January 20, 2022.²⁷

KAZIRANGA

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Kaziranga National Park, Golaghat District, State of Assam, India

This is the first drag of the year in the park. An adult female rhino between 20 and 25 years old was poached one km from the Hilekhonda camp. Her body is riddled with bullets. The horn had been removed. The death occurred several days ago. The park management believes that the poachers entered the park via Biswanath district.

Hindustan Times, January 20, 2022; The Times of India, January 21, 2022; India Today, January 21, 2022.²⁸



January 24, 2022

Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India

A senior police official announces that commandos equipped with satellite phones will be deployed at night in vulnerable areas of the park, drone overflights will be increased, and a suspect has been arrested in connection with the recent poaching of a rhino in Kaziranga.

Northeast Now, 24 2022.²⁹

Saturday, January 29, 2022

District of Biswanath, State of Assam, India

Diluwar Hussain is arrested by the police. It is again the follow-up of the recent poaching of a rhino. In the evening, he pretends to take the police to a cache where poachers usually store the horns. When he got out of the police van, he ran off. After the customary summons, the police had no other option than to shoot. He was wounded in the left leg and was taken to Tezpur Hospital.

Northeast Now, January 30, 2022.³⁰

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

State of Assam, India

The poaching of January 20 - continued. A reward of 200,000 rupees (2,664 US\$) to anyone who enables the arrest of one of the 3 men whose photographs and identities are published. The total reward is thus 600,000 rupees. Asmat Ali alias Nalco, Aatur Rahman alias Bassa and Abdul Matin alias Kala live in Biswanath District. An additional bonus of 500,000 rupees (6,661 US\$) will go to whoever can recover the rhino horn.

The Times of India, February 3, 2022; Northeast Now, February 2, 2022.³¹

KAZIRANGA - followed

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Golaghat District, State of Assam, India

Police reinforced by a CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) team attempt to arrest suspects still in connection with the poaching of a rhino on January 20. Around 3:00 a.m., they fled. An exchange of gunfire took place. One of the suspects is seriously injured. During his transport to the hospital and before he died, he allegedly confirmed his involvement in the poaching and gave information on his accomplices. East Mojo, February 4, 2022.³²



Monday, February 7, 2022

Golaghat District, State of Assam, India

Uttam Khaklary was arrested on February 7. He is suspected of being the one who shot the rhino on January 20. He pretends to take investigators to the place where he hid the weapons, ammunition, and a dinghy. At some point, he evaded the patrol's surveillance. He jumped into the river and managed to escape. His body was recovered on Friday, February 11. Northeast Now, February 11, 2022.³³

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Nilambur, Malappuram District, State of Kerala, India

Arrest of Asmat Ali, one of the 3 men for whom a warrant was issued and a reward of 200,000 rupees was offered, 3,500 km from the park and his home. Amir Kusmu who accompanied him was also arrested.

Hindustan Times, February 18, 2022; The Times of India, February 18, 2022.³⁴



Thursday, February 17, 2022

Biswanath District, State of Assam, India

Asmat Ali (alias Nalco), after being escorted back to Assam, allegedly managed to escape during a poaching scene reconstruction by jumping into the Brahmaputra River at nightfall. He was handcuffed. He claimed that the rhino horn was kept safe in a sandbank. A search is underway to find him. East Mojo, February 22, 2022; The Times of India, February 22, 2022.³⁵

February 3, 2022

Biswanath District, State of Assam, India

Six arrests, 5 men and one woman. Seizure of a suspected rhino horn weighing 528 grams. The traffickers wanted 7 million rupees (93,260 US\$). After examination, it was found to be fake.

Northeast Today, February 4, 2022; The Sentinel, February 4, 2022; The Times of India, February 4, 2022.³⁶



March 8, 2022

Maubandha, Jorhat District, State of Assam, India



Seizure of a suspected rhinoceros horn. Its weight is about one kilo. The 2 traffickers were drinking tea in a hotel when the police, on the basis of confidential information, surrounded them. Janta Yojana, March 9, 2022.³⁷

NEPAL

January 21, 2022

Tarakeshwar, Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, Nepal

He had killed a rhino in 1998 when he was 35 years old. 23 years later, he was arrested. He was hiding in the Kathmandu Valley. He had been sentenced to 10 years in prison and a fine of 100,000 Nepalese rupees (1,346 US\$ at that time) in February 2001. Khabarhub, February 8, 2022.³⁸