

ON_{the} TRAIL

The defaunaion bulletin
n°44. Events from the 1st January to the 31th March, 2024



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

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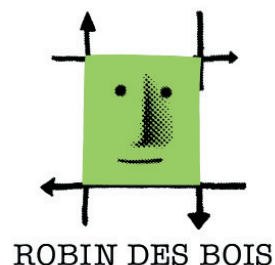
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Cover : Pichi also called pygmy armadillo (*Zaedyus pichiy*) © Francisco Gambino (CC BY-NC).

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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.

• 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 / felines / hippos
- Various reptile species (simultaneous seizure of several reptile species)
- Various marine species (simultaneous seizure of several aquatic species)

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

• The US\$ conversion rates used are those applicable during the month of the 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 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.

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 at the time of the event, the Appendix is specified after its scientific name.

CITES APPENDICES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (184 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

KWS : Kenya Wildlife Service

LAGA : Last Great Ape Organization

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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February 13, 2024

Prato, Province of Prato, Region of Tuscany, Italy

Following a tip-off, police seized a copious assortment of carved pieces of ivory, dominated by 2 raw ivories, from an 80-year-old woman in a house in the centre of town, without any document, invoice, photo, or certificate attesting to their legal importation into Italy or their dating. She says she inherited it several years ago from a relative working in Somalia.¹⁰¹



ELEPHANTS, RHINOS, FELINES AND HIPPOPOTAMUSES

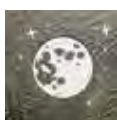
AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

March 28, 2024

Letsitele and Maake, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Interception based on a tip-off on route 529 and seizure of a bolt-action rifle in the car, followed by the seizure of an ivory tusk from a villager. Five arrests. They are charged with conspiracy to poach rhinoceroses in a reserve near Phalaborwa, possession of undeclared weapons and ammunition, possession of raw ivory and, for 4 of them, contravention of the Immigration Act.¹



GABON

March 6, 2024

Lambaréné, Moyen-Ogooué Province, Gabon

Arrest by the Lambaréné judicial police, with the support of the NGO Conservation Justice, of Obanel Saniah Oussounda Moussounda and Parfait Idoundou Nzatsi in a hotel, and seizure of raw ivory (12.4 kg) and the skin of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I).

On March 1, the NGO Conservation Justice signed partnership agreements with the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Lékédi Biodiversity Foundation, and logging companies to set up Wildlife Brigades in Koumameyong, Ogooué-Ivindo Province, and Botosso, Haut-Ogooué Province.²

KENYA

January-March 2024

Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro Ecosystem, Kenya

The Big Life Foundation claims to have seized nearly 237 kg of ivory during the first quarter, including tusks cut into 2, 3, 4, or into small pieces, and a fragment of hippopotamus tooth (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II), and to have made 21 arrests in 9 operations.³

February 2, 2024

Nairobi, Nairobi County, Kenya

Following a botched, flawed, and narrow-minded investigation, and a trial peppered with astonishing twists and turns such as the participation in the first hearings of a bogus lawyer recommended by the Chinese community as defence counsel, Hoang Thi Diu, whose precise age remains unknown and whose dual Vietnamese and Chinese nationality is assumed, was acquitted of charges of trafficking in endangered species, the parts of which were estimated at the time of their discovery and seizure at 20 million shillings (166,000 US\$). Barring exceptional circumstances, we won't know whether she was an escort girl at the East-Land Hotel casino, or a mule in a major wildlife trafficking operation between Africa and Asia, or, as she presents herself, a humble and deserving young woman who left Angola, where her parents ran a photocopying business, and arrived in Nairobi to look for her sister, who had secretly left the family home with her boyfriend.



.../...

The enigma began on November 16, 2022, when, in a luxury Nairobi apartment building largely owned by the government of South Sudan, Mr. Yang Changgui, age 58, was discovered dead at around 10 a.m. in his bedroom by Hoang Thi Diu and guards of the residence (see "On the Trail" n°38 p.38, ref.2).

The distressing news for Nairobi's Chinatown and for the victim's brother, a resident of China and declared tenant of the apartment, was brutally transformed into a (muffled) scandal when the police came to confirm the death and discovered 3 suitcases full of ivory under the dead man's bed, in the room lent to Hoang Thi Diu for a time (as a favour to her) 225 lion teeth and claws and a square of rhinoceros skin, and in the suite occupied by a certain Ali Hussein, presumed to be a medical doctor of Egyptian nationality, abroad at the time of death, 2 rhinoceros horns, 2 carved pieces of ivory, 3 passports, 2 safes, 6 walkie-talkies, and a pair of binoculars. In the dining room, 3 cell phones and a printer were also seized, in the small room reserved for the household staff an electric saw and on one of the 2 balconies 4 hacksaws.

The results of Mr. Changgui's autopsy have not been released. Mr. Ali Hussein has not been summoned. The trophies have not been subjected to genetic analysis or, as would have been desirable for a case of this magnitude, carbon-14 dating. For once, the police, the justice system, and the ministries had at their disposal, in a closed location, a panoply of clues and evidence that were clearly the result of international trafficking. Even the cell phones were not searched to find out the victim's contacts and exact occupation. Everything was there to find out the truth, starting from the top and working down to the roots of the trafficking. While the cell phones of traffickers of 4 kg of zebra are seized and examined to find out the addresses of intermediaries and butchers, the cell phones found at Yang Changgui † were not considered as sources likely to shed light on the conditions of the trafficking and determine responsibility. Hoang Thi Diu's charge sheet mentions the involvement of other individuals in the vast trafficking operation, but these "others" were never summoned.⁴

March 26, 2024

Bisil, Kajiado County, Kenya

Arrest of Joel Kimorosh Mosinko, age 25, in possession of 7 tusk sections (24 kg) and a hippopotamus tooth (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) (0.5 kg), stored in kraft paper bags. Total value: 3.6 million shillings (24,490 US\$ or 1,000 US\$ /kg).⁵

MOZAMBIQUE

March 21, 2024

Maputo, Maputo Province, Mozambique



Sentencing of Chabane Adamuge Assuba "Kudiazanga," age 51, to 30 years in prison. He was arrested on December 6, 2022, after seizing 9 kg of rhinoceros horns in the centre of Maputo, on his way to deliver it to an Asian client. 280 kg of raw ivory and 340 kg of lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) bones, claws, and skulls (12) were also seized from his home (see "On the Trail" n°38 p.38, ref.3).⁶

ZIMBABWE

Beginning of February 2024

Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe. Border with Zambia.

A street vendor selling lion claws and elephant hair bracelets was arrested at a tourist place. The products were seized. The vendor was released on parole after a reminder of the law, and his employer was identified and arrested. An investigation has been launched to establish the scale of the network.⁷



Hippopotamus, see also page page 100, ref. 1 and 5.

RHINOCEROSES



Black rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis*). Photo Ken Simonite

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°44

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

1kg of raw horn

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref. (year)
Africa	Kenya	7,670	2024 (2)
Europe	Portugal	64,850	2024 (28)

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

March 19, 2024

Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon

Sentencing of Benoît Boundouma on appeal to pay 3,040,000 CFA francs (5,000 US\$) in damages. He had been arrested on August 3, 2020 in possession of a rhinoceros horn.¹



EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA

January 2, 31, and February 13, 2024

Minjila, Tana River County, Kenya

Arrest of Abdi Noor Hussein and Dominic Mwashao. They were trying to sell 2 rhino horns weighing a total of 3.3 kg and with an estimated value of 3.96 million shillings or 25,320 US\$ and 7,670 US\$/kg. They are suspected of poaching the black rhino between December 10 and 17 of 2023 in the Ngulia sanctuary, 200 km from Minjila. They are eligible for release on bail of 6,400 US\$ each. On February 19, they were still in prison in Kiambu. Three alleged accomplices were arrested on January 31 and February 13, 2024.²

January 19, 2024

Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, Tsavo West National Park, Taita Taveta County, Kenya

Discovery of a dead black rhino in the Ngulia Reserve. Two vets from the KWS and the SWT's (Sheldrick Wildlife Trust) Amboseli mobile unit, along with 3 stevedores, were mobilised to help turn the carcass over for autopsy. The rhino was around 10 years old. He was in good health before being shot through and fractured by 6 bullets, one of which severed the jugular vein and flooded the 2 lobes of the lungs and the rib cage with blood. The 2 horns had been ferociously hacked off with an axe. The death is recent. There was only a small amount of vermin on the neck.³

ZIMBABWE

March 21, 2024

Beitbridge, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe. Border with South Africa.

Seizure from Lameck Shumba of 2 black rhinoceros horns, 574 and 212 grams. Prosper Zengeya and Abelina Nangai fled.⁴

End of March 2024

Gwanda, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe



Sentencing of Greater Nyoni to 9 years in prison for killing a black rhinoceros in the Buby Valley Conservancy on July 14, 2022 in conspiracy with Prince Mudenda, former ZimParks ranger (see "On the Trail" n°40 p.41, ref.4), and 2 other accomplices.⁵

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

January 19, 2024

Abaqulusi, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Under the hood of the luxury car owned by Alves Chongo, aka "Thu Bobo," age 51, and Bonginkosi Mvuba, age 64, was a firearm (stolen from Kabega National Park in Eastern Cape Province) and 2 fresh horns of a dead and mutilated rhino found the same day in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. "Thu Bobo" was on parole after serving time for murder and theft. Mvuba was wanted in other provinces for common crimes. "Thu Bobo" is an old stager of car and wildlife trafficking in South Africa, where until now he had benefited from the indifference of justice thanks to his ex-wife, who was a minister in the anti-apartheid governments of Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki.⁶



January 19, 2024

Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa



Sentencing of Million Masilane to 34 years' imprisonment for trespassing in the Kruger National Park (2 years), the killing of 2 white rhinos (10 years), possession of unlicensed firearm (5 years), possession of a prohibited firearm (no serial number) (6 years), possession of a firearm with the intention to commit a crime (4 years), possession of unlicensed ammunition (2 years), possession of a dangerous weapon (the axe) (1 year) and conspiracy to commit a crime (4 years). Since some run concurrently, the effective sentence is 16 years. In March 2020, Masilane was caught in the act in the Pretoriuskop section of Kruger. Together with Lot Baloyi, his poaching partner, they were released on bail and vanished into the wild without answering court summonses. Masilane was arrested in October 2023. Baloyi is still at large.⁷

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Gravelotte, Limpopo Province, South Africa



Harmony Farm is in turmoil. Gunshots were heard on Saturday night and the guards, together with the Hoedspruit anti-poaching militia and the Gravelotte police, stopped a Ford Ranger on route 36 near the Makutsi river bridge on Sunday afternoon. In the Ford Ranger, 2 South Africans and 2 Mozambicans were in possession of 2 clandestine firearms with silencers, 458-calibre bullets, an axe and cutting pliers. Fanuel Mnisi, Godfrey Nukeri, Ceremao Baloyi and Eddy Sithole are aged between 36 and 62.

In December 2023, the Hawks discovered at least 26 rhino carcasses and seized 17 horns from a safe at Harmony Farm. See "On the Trail" n°43 p.25 (ref.7).⁸

January 29, 2024

Modimolle and Radium, Limpopo Province, and Sky City, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Police received an alert from Farm Watch about the poaching of a rhino in a private reserve in Modimolle. Two cars, a white Kia and a Chevrolet Spark, were seen leaving the scene of the crime at 7 a.m. The Kia was stopped at the Kranskop toll plaza. A man and a woman managed to escape, but the police were able to get another man and found a rhinoceros horn wrapped in aluminium foil. Major resources were deployed to arrest the fleeing couple. The woman was caught at 10 p.m. in Radium, 50 km away. She was waiting for a car along Highway 101. The Chevrolet Spark was then located in Sky City, in a residential area. Two men with an unlicensed shotgun and knives were inside. They were taken to the police station. One man is still at large.⁹

February 6, 2024

Thabazimbi, Limpopo Province, South Africa



Amos Moyane, Senzo Tshabalala, Mandla Mbosheni, and Edias Chippa were sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment for attempted poaching of rhinos in conspiracy, 15 years for committing prohibited acts against wildlife, 15 years for prohibited use of firearms, 15 years for possession of prohibited weapons, 10 years for possession of ammunition, 5 years for possession of dangerous weapons (knives and axes) and 90 days for illegal residence in South Africa. As some sentences run concurrently, the effective sentence for the 4 men who were arrested on October 30, 2021 on the verge of committing rhino poaching is 15 years of imprisonment. According to the case file, genetic analyses proved that they were linked to an earlier poaching incident in Gravelotte.¹⁰

February 20, 2024

Thabazimbi, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Two rhinos shot dead, their horns cut off.¹¹

March 8, 2024

Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa



20 years in prison for Terrence Patrick Makhubela. On December 3, 2023, rangers from the Pretoriuskop section spotted the movements of a gang. They arrested Makhubela, while 3 accomplices fled. He was carrying 6 rounds of ammunition. On the outskirts, the rangers discovered a bag with a horn and an axe, a weapon, and the fresh carcass of a rhinoceros. Makhubela has always pleaded not guilty to the crime of poaching, and the evidence was considered conclusive beyond reasonable doubt.¹²

March 9, 2024

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Arrival at the Rhino Orphanage sanctuary of a male rhinoceros aged between 1.5 and 2 years, orphaned when his mother was poached.¹³

March 14, 2024

Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa



Sentencing of Mbongeni Selephi Ngobeni to 17 years in prison. He was arrested in Kruger Park on June 21, 2016 after poaching a rhinoceros (see "On the Trail" n°13 p.72, ref.35). Released on bail, he failed to respond to court summonses and was subject to an arrest warrant. He was arrested on December 22, 2023. In detail, Ngobeni was sentenced to 10 years for rhinoceros poaching, 2 years for trespassing in the park, 4 years for possession of a weapon with the intent to commit a crime in conspiracy, 5 years for possession of a firearm, 2 years for possession of undeclared ammunition, and one year for possession of a dangerous weapon (an axe), for a total of 28 years. Since some sentences are combined, the effective sentence is 17 years in prison.¹⁴

March 14, 2024

Kathu, Northern Cape Province, South Africa



Sentencing of David Mecwi, Kethamile Kooper, and Tebogo Megare, Botswanans aged 26 and 27, to 41 years in prison, 12 years for illegal immigration, 5 years for possession of a weapon, 5 years for possession of an undeclared weapon, 5 years for possession of illegal ammunition, 2 years for trespassing with a weapon in an area where wild animals live, 2 years for trespassing in an area where endangered species in captivity live (rhinoceros), and 10 years for murder through negligence. Some sentences are combined. The effective sentence is 25 years. They were arrested in April 2020. Their South African accomplice was killed in the exchange of fire with the rangers (see "On the Trail" n°29 p.7, ref.1).¹⁵

REPEATED OFFENCE

March 14, 2024

Mookgophong (formerly Naboomspruit), Limpopo Province, South Africa

Another escape artist arrested. Suspicious police seized a firearm and ammunition from the Volkswagen roaming near the rhino farms, questioned the 2 occupants and searched their criminal records. One of them is Thomas Chauke alias Thabo (53). Sentenced to life imprisonment for robbery with violence, rape and hostage-taking, he escaped from Kgosi Mampuru prison in December 2020. He was recaptured in October 2021 in North West Province after taking part in a rhino poaching operation, and escaped during a court transfer. In May 2023, he was yet again arrested in possession of a clandestine weapon in KwaZulu-Natal and escaped escort before appearing before the prosecutor. The other defendant, Simon Mlambo, 37, does not yet have the notoriety of Thabo.¹⁶

March 15, 2024

Rustenburg, North West Province, South Africa

Arrest of Raheer Mahomed (age 27), Joao Seven (age 39), Abraham Khoza (age 49), and Usuf Mikilo (age 51) who were caught in the act of selling a rhinoceros horn for 65,000 rand (3,380 US\$).¹⁷

March 16, 2024

Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa



Sentencing of Essey Dlamini and Samson Maluleka of Mozambique to 15 years in prison for violating the Immigration Act, for possession of a 375-calibre firearm and appropriate ammunition, for entering the park by deception and preparation of a crime in conspiracy, namely the poaching of a rhinoceros with a vague dream of making a fortune or a lucrative contract with a so-called intermediary. They had fraudulently entered the Stolznek section of the Kruger Park with 2 hunting knives and a firearm (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.56, ref.37).

On March 28, 2024, the South African government called for a reduction in the risk of domestication of rhinos (a direct reference to the former John Hume herd purchased by African Parks in September 2023), for the sequential removal of farmed rhinos from their ghettos, for the preservation of the genetic diversity of both species, and for the export of live specimens only to range countries or to countries on the African continent with suitable habitats.¹⁸

NAMIBIA

Mid-March 2024

Maltahöhe, Hardap Region, Namibia



The rhinoceros had a healed wound on the lower left hind leg, which was beginning to become infected again. Upon X-ray examination, the veterinarians realized that the noose of the wire was under the flesh, close to the bone. While under anaesthesia, the wound was opened, the trap was exposed, cut out, and removed. After administration of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, a clay-covered bandage was wrapped around the wound. Favourable prognosis confirmed by good behaviour in the 15 days following rescue.¹⁹

March 29, 2024

Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Poaching of 4 white rhinoceroses. The bodies were found with their horns removed, thanks to the vultures circling over the mass grave.²⁰

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

March 2024

Luohu Border Post, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

While attempting to enter Chinese territory, a man with an arm in a sling who was walking suspiciously caught the attention of customs officials. Upon inspection, they discovered a 1.4 kg black rhinoceros horn concealed under the bandage.²¹



SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

SINGAPORE

January 26, 2024

Singapore

Gumede Sthembiso Joel, a South African national, was sentenced to 2 years in prison. In transit for Laos, he was arrested at Singapore Changi Airport on October 4, 2022 with 20 rhino horns (32 kg) in a suitcase, 18 from 15 white rhinos and the last 2 (2.7 kg) from a black rhino. See "On the Trail" n°38 p. 46 (ref.33).²²



SOUTHERN ASIA

INDIA

Sunday, January 21, and Friday, January 26, 2024

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



- Discovery of a dead rhino in the Agaratoli sector of Kaziranga National Park near the Maklong guard post.



- Discovery by an elephant patrol of a 2nd dead rhino in the same Agaratoli sector, near the Mohmara guard post.

The 2 victims had been shot with AK-47s and had had their horns amputated. One horn was found buried in the yard of Jogu Pegu, one of the killers. The other is still being looked for. Jogu Pegu and Haren Kaman, who had the AK-47, are believed to have recruited a third man named Robin Pegu, a specialist in rhino shooting in the Karbi Anglong district. Their plan had been underway for a year. They took advantage of the low waters of the Brahmaputra to infiltrate the Kaziranga and foiled a surveillance team that was not on the alert. Haren Kaman and Robin Pegu are on the run.²³



March 2, 2024

Guwahati, Kamrup Metropolitan District, State of Assam, India

Arrest of Ikram Hussain (age 36), Rajab Ali (age 62), and Amirul Islam (age 40) in a hotel room where they had hidden a rhinoceros horn weighing 714.5g.²⁴

REPEATED OFFENCE

March 19, 2024

Ambikagiri Nagar, Kamrup Metropolitan District, State of Assam, India

Arrest of Rikoch Narjari alias "Damra," who is rumoured and investigated to have been directly or indirectly involved in the poaching of more than 50 rhinos in Assam and West Bengal. After his release from prison in 2019, he returned to poaching. A well-connected man, he speaks several languages, and is able to recruit poachers in Assam, Manipur, and West Bengal, as well as supplying arms and logistical solutions to get to and from crime scenes.²⁵

NEPAL

January 6 and 9, 2024

Bharatpur Metropolitan City; Ichchhakamna and Rapti, Chitwan District, Bagmati Province, Nepal

- Arrest of Ganesh Kumal on suspicion of poaching a rhinoceros in Bhusarghat on November 5, 2020 and horn trafficking.
- Arrest of Sonam Singh Waiba on suspicion of poaching a rhinoceros around Simalgaihari on August 13, 2006 and horn trafficking.
- Arrest of Chakka Jetha and Mukta Lal Pun Magar on suspicion of poaching a rhinoceros around Nandantal on February 3, 2004 and horn trafficking.²⁶

January 23, 2024

Hetauda, Makwanpur District, Bagmati Province, Nepal

Arrest of Tikaram Bohora. He is accused of killing a rhinoceros and stealing his horn in September 2019 in the Amaltari section of Chitwan National Park. He lives in Chitwan District (720,000 inhabitants).²⁷

SOUTHERN EUROPE

PORTUGAL

March 27, 2024

Humberto Delgado Airport, Lisbon District, Portugal

Seizure by customs of 7 African rhinoceros horns weighing 7 kg and worth 423,000 € (457,000 US\$ or 64,850 US\$ /kg) in a package bound for Paris.²⁸



WOOLLY RHINOCEROSES

EUROPE

RUSSIA

End of January and June 3, 2024

Blagoveshchensk, Amur Oblast, Russia. Border with China.

- FSB arrests a female Chinese citizen attempting to smuggle the horn of a woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*) cut into 3 pieces (over 3 kg in total) into China. The authenticity of the horn has been confirmed by paleontological experts at the Russian Academy of Sciences. The value of this culturally important item is estimated to be 1.8 million roubles, or around 19,660 US\$.
- The trafficker was fined 50,000 roubles (560 US\$). Similar arrest in Blagoveshchensk, see "On the Trail" n°43 p.23 (ref.1).¹

