



WCCB Newsletter

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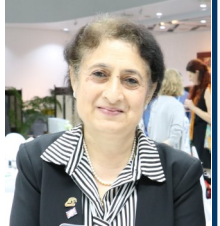
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From Additional Director's Desk

New Delhi: At the outset, I would like to thank all the law enforcement agencies for their continued support to us in helping curb organized wildlife crime and its illegal trade. This joint effort has proven to be an important step towards achieving the national goal of wildlife protection and an example of 'Strength in Unity'.



However, there has been a paradigm shift in the way illegal wildlife products are traded, globally. Smugglers are now using advanced and modern technologies, coupled with camouflage techniques, for transporting illegal wildlife products, thereby posing new challenges to the law enforcement agencies across the globe. WCCB, recognizing these trends and new modus-operandi is imparting training to enforcement personnel in modern trade practices/tools, in order to upgrade their skills. Similarly, we also need to work in unison to curb rising trend of exotic illegal wildlife trade in the country. We will not let smugglers to get away with harming our wildlife. Preservation of wildlife is our onerous responsibility. The secret of winning laurels lies in not resting and WCCB will continue to set new standards in wildlife enforcement.

As WCCB presents sixth issue of the newsletter, I would like to draw your attention towards endangered and critically endangered species. Continued species loss is a serious threat to our rich biodiversity. Let's make every possible effort to conserve and safeguard the wildlife. Each step taken by us in this direction will have a lasting impact on our future. Jai Hind!

— Ms. Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, WCCB

"The good man
is the friend of all
living things."

Picture in Focus



Students and community members enjoying spectacular view of avian species during a Bird-Watching session organized by WCCB at Pallikaranai Marshland Eco-Park, Chennai, marking the World Environment Day, on 05-06-2022.

-Mahatma Gandhi

वन्यजीव अपराध से निपटने में भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान के वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक और संरक्षण आनुवंशिकी सेल की भूमिका

अवैध वन्यजीव व्यापार को जैव विविधता की स्थिरता और समाज की सुरक्षा के लिए वैश्विक खतरे के रूप में पाया गया है। 'वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक' पिछले दो दशकों में फोरेंसिक की तेजी से विकासशील शाखा के लिए जाना जाता है। इसलिये वन्यजीव अपराध की जांच तेजी से वन्यजीव संरक्षण कानूनों के कार्यान्वयन का न्यायिक समर्थन कर रही है। दो मुख्य विधियों रूपात्मक परीक्षा (Morphological examination) और आणविक विश्लेषण (Molecular examination) ऐसे मुद्दों से निपटने के लिए सबसे प्रभावी तरीकों के रूप में सिद्ध हुए। माइटोकॉन्ड्रियल जीनोम ने जीन पर स्थित संरक्षित क्षेत्र से डिजाइन किए गए प्राइमर्स (Molecular markers) से डीएनए आधारित वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक से निपटने में बहुत मदद की है।

वन्यजीव अपराध को 'राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनों के उल्लंघन में दुनिया की जंगली वनस्पतियों और जीवों का व्यापार करने, शोषण करने या रखने' के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है। इस तरह के अपराध वैश्विक स्तर पर होते हैं और कानून प्रवर्तन के लिए एक गंभीर चुनौती है। अवैध अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के तहत वन्यजीवों के उत्पादों का परिवहन अन्य पहलुओं जैसे रोग संचरण पर गंभीर प्रभाव डाल सकता है। पौधों और वन्यजीव उत्पादों का अवैध व्यापार लोगों की आजीविका और उनके संसाधनों को प्रभावित करता है। यह लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों की घटती आबादी के लिए भी खतरा है। जंगली प्रजातियों का दोहन पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में प्रकृति के सूक्ष्म संतुलन को बिगाड़ सकती है।

लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के अवैध व्यापार, वन्यजीव शिकार और जंगली और पालतू जानवरों के प्रति क्रूरता के अलावा, आर्थिक लाभ के लिए वन्यजीव उत्पाद का मिथ्याकरण (duplication) भी आपराधिक गतिविधियों का एक हिस्सा है और कानून के तहत निषिद्ध है। लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों का व्यापार जैसे कि चीनी दवा के लिए बाघ, पैंगोलिन, भालू, कस्तूरी हिरन और राइनो इत्यादि जैसी संरक्षित प्रजातियों का अवैध शिकार वन्यजीव अपराध के सामान्य उदाहरण हैं। वन्यजीवों से प्राप्त विभिन्न भागों और उत्पादों की मांग अवैध शिकार का एक प्रमुख कारण है, जो वन्यजीव प्रबंधन के लिए एक गंभीर मुद्दा है। यह तब और अधिक चुनौतीपूर्ण हो जाता है जब वन्यजीव उत्पादों को आम ट्रेडिंग प्लेटफॉर्म या ऑनलाइन मार्केटिंग पर अपनी पहचान छुपाकर बेचा जाता है। वन्यजीवों के शरीर के अंगों का सजावटी, अंधविश्वासी उपयोग और अन्य पारंपरिक उपयोग वन्यजीव अपराध के नियंत्रण में प्रमुख चुनौतियां हैं।

उपलब्ध जैविक सामग्री से प्रजातियों की सटीक

पहचान वन्यजीव अपराध को रोकने का एक प्रभावी तरीका है। वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक, फोरेंसिक विज्ञान की एक आवश्यक शाखा के रूप में विकसित हुआ है, जो उपलब्ध जैविक अवशेषों से प्रजातियों की पहचान से संबंधित है। पिछले दो दशक में वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक ने बहुत तेजी से प्रगति की है और जैव विविधता संरक्षण में इसका बहुत प्रभावी उपयोग है। जब जब्त की गई सामग्री में रूपात्मक विशेषता (Morphological features) उपलब्ध होती है, तो जैविक सामग्री की रूपात्मक विशेषताओं की जांच परिणाम देने की तीव्र विधि होती है। मॉर्फोमेट्री में बालों की रूपात्मक विशेषताओं की तुलना और रूपात्मक अस्थि विज्ञान शामिल है।

वन्यजीव अपराध जांच में डीएनए टाइपिंग आणविक फोरेंसिक के लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्रोटोकॉल में से एक है, जिसे डीएनए वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक के रूप में भी जाना जाता है। डीएनए टाइपिंग में कुछ आवश्यक बुनियादी कदम (steps) शामिल हैं उदाहरण के लिए डीएनए निष्कर्षण (DNA extraction), पी.सी.आर. प्रवर्धन, डीएनए अनुक्रमण (DNA sequencing) और अनुक्रम सत्यापन (Sequencing verification)। माइटोकॉन्ड्रियल डी.एन.ए. में मौजूद विभिन्न जीन फाइलोजेनेटिक्स (विकासवादी इतिहास) और वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक के लिए कुशल आणविक मार्कर (molecular marker) हैं। अधिकांश प्रजातियों में यह मां से विरासत में मिलता है। पीड़ित जानवर के प्रजाति की पूर्व सूचना के बतौर टेम्पलेट डीएनए से पीसीआर प्रवर्धन में यूनिवर्सल प्राइमर्स का उपयोग शोधकर्ता के सफलता की संभावना को बढ़ाता है।

स्रोत प्रजातियों की सटीक पहचान प्राप्त करने के लिए स्रोत से उत्पन्न डीएनए अनुक्रम (DNA sequence) की तुलना उपयुक्त डेटाबेस से की जाती है। अंत में मृत प्रजातियों की सटीक पहचान हो जाती है। जो वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में मदद करता है। विशेष मामलों में लिंग-विशिष्ट मार्कर भी वन्यजीव अपराध से निपटने में उपयोगी होते हैं, जोकि एशियाई हाथी के अवशेष से मृत्यु के कारण की पुष्टि के लिए लिंग की पहचान करने के लिए उपयोगी होते हैं, जिसमें हाथीदांत के लिए नर को चुनिंदा रूप से मार दिया जाता है।

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान में वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक और संरक्षण आनुवंशिकी सेल (WFCG Cell) की स्थापना भारत के वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 के प्रवर्तन को मजबूत करने के लिए की गई थी। सेल के मुख्य कार्यों में वन्यजीव के विभिन्न भागों और उत्पादों से प्रजातियों की पहचान और फोरेंसिक जांच शामिल हैं, साथ ही

नए फोरेंसिक तकनीक, वन्यजीव संदर्भ नमूनों और अनुसंधान एवं विकास का विस्तार करना शामिल है।



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Member Secretary, NTCA and
Director,
Wildlife Institute of India (WII),
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अब वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक और संरक्षण आनुवंशिकी सेल न्यायपालिका प्रक्रिया का समर्थन करने के लिए वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक अनुसंधान और केसवर्क करने के लिए एक मान्यता प्राप्त प्रयोगशाला है। अब तक लगभग 4700 मामले डब्ल्यूएफसीजी सेल में विभिन्न प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों द्वारा अग्रेषित किए गए हैं। इनके अलावा, यह सेल नियमित प्रशिक्षण और कार्यशालाओं के माध्यम से अपराध स्थल की जांच और साक्ष्य के उचित संग्रह में प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों को संवेदनशीलता बनाने में भूमिका निभाता है।

दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई क्षेत्र में एक फोकल एजेंसी होने के नाते, यह पड़ोसी देशों के वैज्ञानिक संगठनों को वन्यजीव अपराध विश्लेषण के लिए उन्नत प्रशिक्षण भी प्रदान करती है। अवैध वन्यजीव व्यापार से निपटने के लिए यह प्रकोष्ठ डब्ल्यू.सी.सी.बी. के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है। भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान, भारत में वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक की सुविधाओं के पुनः विकास के लिए एक वैश्विक स्तर के उत्कृष्ट केंद्र (excellent center) की स्थापित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

(**साभार** वन्यजीव फोरेंसिक और संरक्षण आनुवंशिकी प्रकोष्ठ, भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान)

Enforcement Operations



Madhya Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB, Katni Police and M.P Forest Department seized 03 Kgs. of Pangolin scales and arrested a person from Katni, on 03-04-2022.

West Bengal: Joint team of WCCB and Howrah Forest Division (WB), seized 06 live Star Tortoises from an aquarium shop at Dasnagar, Howrah, on 04-04-2022.

Odisha: Joint team of WCCB, Odisha STF, CID, CB & Odisha Forest Dept. seized a Leopard skin and arrested 05 persons from Jashipur, on 05-04-2022.

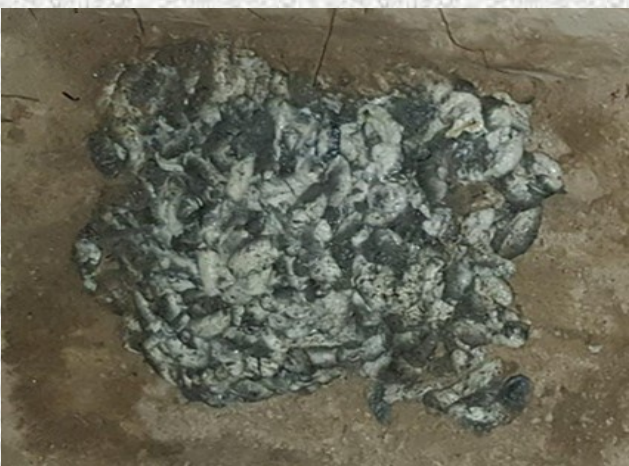
West Bengal: Joint team of WCCB and Directorate of Forest, WB seized 31 Ringneck Parakeets and arrested one person from Kolkata, on 08-04-2022.

Tamil Nadu: Joint team of WCCB, Indian Coast Guard and TNFD seized Approx. 500 Kgs. of Sea Cucumbers packed in Cement Bags near Kunjarvalasai area of Rameshwaram (T.N), on 12-04-2022.

Jammu & Kashmir: Joint team of WCCB, J&K Forest and J&K Police Dept. seized one Leopard skin, one chain locket containing leopard claw, a used bullet and arrested a person from Jammu, on 12-04-2022.

Uttarakhand: On intervening night of 21-22 April, 2022, joint team of WCCB & SOG, Uttarakhand Police seized 3.1 Kgs. of Pangolin Scales and arrested 02 persons at Khatima,

Chhattisgarh: On intelligence inputs of WCCB, one live Pangolin was seized and three persons were arrested by Forest Department from Bastar District of Chhattisgarh, on 25-04-2022.



Enforcement Operations



Uttar Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB and UP Police seized 8.5 Kgs. of dried Turtle Calipee and arrested three persons at Kashimpur in Amethi, on 04-05-2022.

Rajasthan: Joint team of WCCB & Rajasthan Forest Dept. seized two Wild Boar Tusks & a Car and arrested three wildlife traffickers at Udaipur, on 06-05-2022.

Tripura: On intelligence inputs of WCCB, lutino morphs of Rose Ringed Parakeets were seized by Tripura Forest Department at Agartala Railway Station, on 06-05-2022.

Assam: Joint team of WCCB and Assam Forest Dept. seized 08 live Parakeets and arrested 01 person from Panbazar area of Guwahati, on 18-05-2022.

Assam: Joint team of WCCB and Assam Forest Dept. seized 10 live Parakeets from a person at Khetri area of Kamrup in Assam, on 24-05-2022.

Assam: Joint team of WCCB and Assam Forest Dept. seized 2.800 Kgs. of dry pangolin scales and arrested two persons from Boko area of Kamrup, on 26-05-2022.

Uttarakhand: A joint operation of WCCB, SOG (Uttarakhand Police) and Uttarakhand Forest Dept. team led to seizure of one Bear Bile from a wildlife trader near Rudrapur Bus Stand in Uttarakhand, on 26-05-2022

Tamil Nadu: Seven mutated Parakeets were seized from a person by joint team of WCCB and T.N Forest Dept. from Tirunelveli Forest Division, on 31-05-2022.

Tamil Nadu: Two mutated Parakeets were seized & one person was arrested from a Pet Farm in Thanakankulam Village in Madurai by joint team of WCCB & T.N Forest Department, on 01-06-2022.

Bihar: Joint team of WCCB and Bihar Forest Dept. seized 1.8 Kgs. of dry Pangolin Scales and arrested one person from Aurangabad, on 07-06-2022.



Enforcement Operations



West Bengal: On intelligence inputs of WCCB, 20 live Indian Softshelled turtles & 08 live Peacock Softshelled turtles were seized by West Bengal Forest Department at Jogendra Nagar, North 24 Parganas, on 21-06-2021.

Madhya Pradesh: 25 Tiger whiskers were seized and two persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and M.P Forest Dept. at Paraswada, Balaghat, on 22-06-22.



Big seizures of wildlife contrabands

West Bengal



04 pieces of Elephant ivory idols were seized and 01 person was arrested by joint team of WCCB and Howrah Forest Division of West Bengal Forest Directorate, from Begampur, Hoogly on 20-04-2022.

Punjab



In a big seizure, 03 Leopard skins were seized and one person was arrested by joint team of WCCB and Police & Forest officials of Punjab, on intervening night of 25 & 26 April, 2022, at Ludhiana, Punjab.

West Bengal



Joint team of WCCB and West Bengal Forest Department seized 527 Indian Softshell Turtles (439 live & 88 dead) and arrested 02 persons from Swarup Nagar area of North 24 Parganas (WB), on 29-05-2022.

WCCB combats illegal trade in Turtle Calipee

New Delhi: Illegal trade in turtles/tortoises in India is thriving as driven by high profit margins due to which turtles are now amongst the most threatened wild species. Turtles are nature's integrated part in keeping the rivers and water bodies clean, breaking down rotting organic matter in lakes, ponds and rivers including dead animals. Main reasons for the decline of turtles worldwide include habitat destruction, over-exploitation for pets, food and medicine. The alarming rate of turtle disappearance could profoundly affect how ecosystems function as well as the structure of biological communities, thus could have serious ecological consequences.



Calipee trade is a new and thriving business with chains connected from UP to West Bengal to Bangladesh. Turtle Calipee is a fatty gelatinous layer found next to a turtle's lower shell and is sold at exorbitant rates in Southeast Asian countries. The soft shell calipee is cut, dried and trafficked through Etawah, Etah, Mainpuri, Auraiya, Sultanpur, Amethi and Farrukhabad to Bangoan or other border areas of West Bengal from where the calipee is carried to Bangladesh. From Bangladesh, it finds its destination to South East Asian countries where it is considered as a delicacy and of medicinal value.



Most traders are from West Bengal who pay a petty amount to fishermen and members of nomadic tribe 'Kanjari' for catching turtles from downstream of Ganga plains. The Turtle meat is consumed or sold locally while their calipees are removed, boiled and dried for further transportation. The calipee is carried by carriers in plastic sacks/carrybags mostly through passenger trains. The trains are usually boarded by the carriers at various halting points before the main station or junction to avoid luggage checking. Railway ticket is booked online or arranged by associates at Stations. During checking by law enforcement officials specifically, Railway Protection Force or Government Railway Police, the calipee is misinformed by carriers as tree's Bark being used for making local herbs. A recent trend of using women carriers by the calipee traders has been observed. The consignment is carried by women carriers being accompanied by male counterparts.

What is astonishing though is the scale of operation that continues even today. Since 2018 to 2021, as per available inputs, 565 Kgs. dried Turtle Calipee was seized across the country. The major chunk was seized from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal at Railway Stations or inside the trains. A consignment of 09 Kgs. of Tortoise shells enroute to Bangladesh was seized near Border Post under PS Gangarampur of Dakshin Dinajpur district, West Bengal. In December 2021, 80 Kgs. of Turtle Calipee were seized from Sultanpur, UP. In 2022, 03 cases of smuggling of Turtle Calipee were detected. All such seizures indicate that the Calipee is collected from UP and then transported from UP to West Bengal by carriers mostly from the Kanjar Community by Trains to be finally smuggled to Bangladesh.

Dried Turtle Calipee Seizures (from 2018 to 2022)

S. No.	Year	Number of Seizures	Total Quantity seized
1.	2018	07	409 Kgs.
2.	2019	05	53 Kgs.
3.	2020	02	23 Kgs.
4.	2021	01	80 Kgs.
5.	2022	03	23.5 Kgs.

Sensitization/Training Programmes



RDD/ER, WCCB took 02 sessions on "WLPA, 1972 - Wildlife Crime and Role of Police Officers" for Trainee Sub-Inspectors, at Swami Vivekananda State Police Academy, Barrackpore, on 04-04-2022, attended by 520 Officer Trainees.



170 ASIs from various units deployed on Indo-Nepal & Indo-Bhutan Borders, attended a lecture on "Species in Illegal Wildlife Trade & Modus Operandi" given by WCCB Official at SSB Training Centre, Gorakhpur, on 06-04-2022.



WCCB official conducted a meeting and discussed about Turtle/Tortoise trade and other illegal wildlife trade through trains, at Intelligence Branch (RPF) Gorakhpur, on 21-04-2022, attended by RPF and Forest Dept officials.



In a 5-day Intelligence Course organized by Maharashtra Intelligence Academy, WCCB officials gave lecture on wildlife crime related issues, on 27-04-2022, attended by 35 Forest officers



WCCB conducted a sensitization-cum-training programme for RPF Officers of East Coast Railway and organized sessions on issues related to illegal wildlife trade through Railways, attended by 45 Officers, at Bhubaneswar, on 05-05-2022.



WCCB conducted a hands-on training session on Identification of wildlife articles for SSB officers at ITS, SSB, Kolkata, on 04-05-2022, attended by 28 SSB officers.



WCCB provided faculty support in the intelligence training programme conducted by Odisha Police Academy for Forest Officials at Bhubaneswar, on 06-05-2022, attended by 45 Officials of the ranks of ACF and Range Officers.



WCCB, TRAFFIC-India and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Dept. jointly organized a 02-days Capacity Building Training program for forest officials of Arunachal Pradesh, on 10/11-05-2022, attended by 34 Officers.

Sensitization/Training Programmes



WCCB official gave lecture on wildlife crime related issues for forest Officials during a 5-day Intelligence Course organized by Maharashtra Intelligence Academy, Pune, on 11-05-2022, attended by 23 officials.



WCCB organized a 2-days Capacity Building Training program for Trainee RFOs on wildlife crime related issues, at Karnataka Forest Academy, Dharwa, on 11th & 12th May, 2022, attended by 73 Trainee Officers.



WCCB official gave lecture on organized wildlife crime and intelligence tradecraft at Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the Trainee Officers of Odisha State Forest Department, on 11-05-2022.



WCCB conducted a sensitization program for AAI, CISF & Airlines Security officials posted at Bhubaneswar Airport, Odisha and conducted lectures on organized wildlife crime related issues, on 12-05-2022.



45 personnel, including CISF, AAI and Airlines Security Officials, posted at Ranchi Airport attended a Sensitization Programme on prevention of wildlife crime & smuggling organized by WCCB, on 18-05-2022.



WCCB organized a training/sensitization program for newly recruited Batch of 212 Inspectors of customs & CGST on wildlife crime related issues, at NACIN, Faridabad, on 18-05-2022.

WCCB official conducted a sensitization program and gave lecture on wildlife crime related issues during a training course organized by Forest Training Center, Karnataka, on 18-05-2022, attended by 25 officials in the rank of ACFs.



40 Frontline officials of Gujarat Forest Department attended a sensitization program on wildlife crime related issues jointly organized by WCCB and the O/o DCF, Jamnagar Territorial Division, Gujarat, on 20-05-2022.



Sensitization/Training Programmes

85 SSB personnel attended session on "Wildlife crime in Northeast, identification of wildlife species, and hands-on session of identification of species" taken by WCCB officials, in a workshop organized by 27 Bn SSB, Howly, on 24-05-2022.



Dy. Director, WCCB, Sh. Arvind Kumar Chaurasia conducted two sessions for the officials of Customs from SIIB and Docks, Inland Container Depot, Tughlakabad, on 25-05-2022, attended by 35 Officers.



WCCB official delivered lectures on wildlife crime related issues, during an Intelligence Course organized by MIA, Pune for the 4th batch of Foresters and Forest Guards of Maharashtra Forest Department, on 25-05-2022.



90 RPF personnel attended a sensitization program organized by WCCB on issues related to wildlife crime and its illegal transportation through Railways, at RPF Training Centre, Trichy, Tamilnadu, on 30-05-2022.



RDD/NR, WCCB, Sh. A.K Chaurasia gave lecture to Police officials on "Combating Cyber Wildlife Crime", at CDTI Jaipur, on 01-06-2022, attended by 17 police officials in the rank of SI, Insp., Dy. SP & Addl. SP of various States.



A 5-day long Capacity Building Training Program on "Investigation of wildlife crime cases" was organized by WCCB and CDTI, Jaipur, from 30-05-22 to 03-06-22, attended by police officials from various States across the Country.



WCCB official gave lecture on wildlife crime related issues, during an Intelligence Course organized by MIA, Pune, on 08-06-2022, attended by 22 Officials of Maharashtra Forest Department.



20 SSB officers attended a training program and hands-on practical session on Identification of wildlife articles conducted by WCCB Official at ITS, SSB, Kolkata, on 21-06-2022.

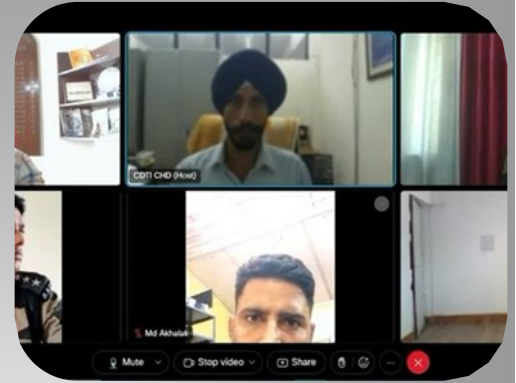


Sensitization/Training Programmes



WCCB and Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy conducted a 3-day long capacity building program for frontline forest staff of HP from 21st to 23rd, June, 2022, attended by 27 forest officials and 84 trainee Range Officers.

RDD/ER, WCCB delivered an online lecture on "Wildlife Crime, Laws and Intelligence Collection" for Officers of Central Armed Police Forces during a program organized by CDTI, Chandigarh, on 23-06-2022.



WCCB organized a Sensitization Program for the CISF Personnel posted at Aurangabad Airport and conducted lecture on wildlife crime related issues, on 24-06-2022, attended by 65 CISF officials.



WCCB and WTI jointly organized a sensitization program at Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and conducted session on "Wildlife Contrabands in Trade" and "Identification of Wildlife Contrabands", on 25-06-2022.



Mega Sensitization Program

WCCB and Delhi Customs organize “*Workshop on Wildlife Trafficking*” at IGI Airport

June, 2022: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) in partnership with Delhi Customs, IGIA organized a two-day long workshop on “Combating Wildlife Trafficking” at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), Delhi, on 30th & 31st May, 2022. The program was aimed at training officials of enforcement agencies and other officials deployed at Airport regarding wildlife crime related issues. WCCB officials conducted several sessions on the subject along with a quiz competition on wildlife.

Sh Surjit Bhujbal, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Delhi Zone inaugurated the Workshop. Sh. Satya Prakash Yadav, Member Secretary, NTCA was the Chief Guest of the program whereas Ms. Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, WCCB was Guest of Honour in the inaugural session. Ms. Varma addressed the gathering on issue of ‘Combating Wildlife Trafficking’ as the key Speaker. The workshop saw an overwhelming response from the participants. Senior officials from various agencies including FRRO, Immigration, various Airlines, Police, BCAS, CISF, Customs, GMR/DIAL, and other Airlines staff attended the workshop.



Four Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings conducted by WCCB

As part of its efforts towards combating wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade, WCCB conducts Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings with law enforcement agencies across the Country, regularly. Several of such meets were organized by WCCB in this quarter as well, with notable participation from senior law enforcement officials from across the country.



WCCB organized an Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting of law enforcement agencies, at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 21-04-2022. PCCF Wildlife, Odisha, Sh. Shashi Paul chaired the meeting and delivered inaugural address while the Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma addressed the meet and gave lecture on 'Wildlife crime scenario, modus-operandi, species in trade, and case studies'. The agency conducted another Inter-Agency Meeting at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and discussed wildlife crime issues pertaining to the region, on 25-04-2022. Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma Chaired the meet. Sh. Kamal Datta, APCCF, Andaman & Nicobar Island was also present at the meet.

Another Inter-Agency Coordination Meet was conducted by WCCB at Ranchi, Jharkhand, on 19-05-2022. The meet was chaired by PCCF & HoFF, Jharkhand, Sh. Ajay Rastogi and key note address was given by Additional Director, WCCB. The last IAC Meet of Enforcement Agencies was organized at Indian Coast Guard Station, Ramanathapuram (TN), on 23-06-2022. The meet was chaired by Dr. Manoj Kumar, Joint Director, WCCB.

Senior Officials of law Enforcement Agencies viz. State Forest Department, Police Departments, WCCB, DRI, ED, Customs, CISF, IWST, NTCA, Zoological Parks and Tiger Reserves, CBI, BSF, RPF, SFSL, Forest, Prosecution Dept., Electricity Dept., Road Transport Department, etc. participated in Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings, held during the quarter.

Additional Director inaugurates WCCB Summer Internship Programme, 2022

June, 2022: The Second Batch of 'WCCB Summer Internship Programme' (2022-23) was inaugurated by Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma, in a virtual ceremony held on 01-06-2022. Senior officials of WCCB also interacted with the participants and apprised them of wildlife crime related issues. All senior officers of WCCB and Interns from across the country participated in the programme.



WCCB Internship Programme: The Internship Program conducted by WCCB is designed to inculcate knowledge and motivate Students and Researchers in the field of Wildlife Crime and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). Interns having had deep insight in the field of wildlife crime and IWT would be promising resource persons in future and expected to be eyes and ears of WCCB. During the program, they are made aware of the national and international scenario in wildlife crime & IWT and each intern is assigned a specific topic to study, to prepare a report and give a power point presentation, under the supervision of senior officials of WCCB.

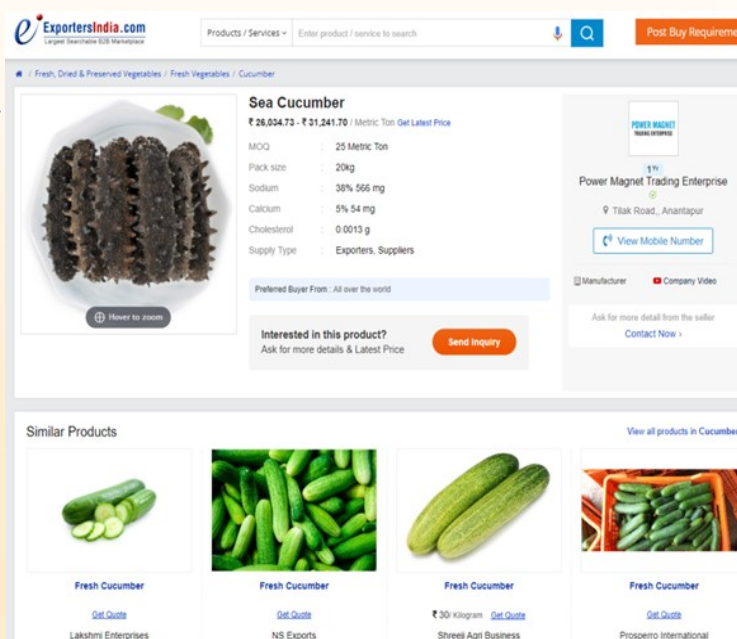
Under the guidance and supervision of Sh. H.V Girisha, IFS, Joint Director, WCCB, the program has further evolved and streamlined to benefit both the organization as well as the interns. During Summer Internship Program 2022, applications were received from 66 educational Institutions and Universities from all across the Nation, consisting of 105 Students and Researchers. The Bureau officials are consistently endeavoring to improve the structure and design of internship program to make it more beneficial to the interns, WCCB, and to the cause of wildlife conservation at large.

WCCB swings in action, curbs illegal online trade of Sea Cucumbers

April, 2022: Online wildlife crime patrolling, conducted by Wildlife crime Control Bureau (WCCB), has started yielding results. In a recent such case over 300 advertisements for sale of Sea Cucumbers on online portals were detected by WCCB and taken off the website with active intervention of WCCB.

WCCB regularly monitors activities of online trade portals and intermediaries for checking online wildlife trade so as to curb the illegal online trade of the species. It was noticed that the Sea Cucumber, which is listed under Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, was offered for sale on an online portal 'Exportersindia.com'.

Combating such illegal activity, WCCB team swung into action and initiated an investigation in the matter. Evidences were gathered by Cyber Cell of WCCB and details of such sellers/persons were collected from the company 'Weblink.In Pvt. Ltd', which owns and manages 'Exportersindia.com'. Details were shared with the primary enforcement agencies for enforcement of the Act.



The screenshot shows a product listing for 'Sea Cucumber' on the ExportersIndia.com website. The listing includes a price range of ₹ 26,034.73 - ₹ 31,241.70, a pack size of 20kg, and nutritional information. The seller is Power Magnet Trading Enterprise. Below the main listing, there are four 'Similar Products' listed as Fresh Cucumbers from different suppliers.

WCCB also ensured that the web company Weblink.In Pvt. Ltd. takes down/removes advertisements for sale of Sea Cucumbers from their website 'Exportersindia.com' to curb illegal online trade of the species. There were total 335 listing on the portal out of which 22 listings were from India. Besides this, Weblink .In Pvt. Ltd. has added Sea Cucumber to negative list on their 'Exportersindia.com' portal which will not allow further advertisement of Sea Cucumber for sale on their portal. WCCB is exploring the possible linkages and sourcing areas of these listings.

Pattern of listings were examined and it revealed that maximum listings, i.e. 5, are from Delhi, which is not a coastal city and Sea Cucumbers are not found in or around Delhi. In Uttar Pradesh, areas Like Ghaziabad, which is in Delhi-NCR, is named in these listings. Other such listings include listings from Panchkula (Haryana), Chandigarh, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Sikkim and Bhojpur (Bihar). Kerala, with three listings, stood at second spot among such listings. Other listings from coast areas includes listings from Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep Island, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

Sea cucumbers are seabed cleaners and are food for others marine species. They have complex symbiotic relationships with other organisms. Sea cucumbers are essential for preserving seabed ecology of our Indian Ocean.

Training Programs by WCCB in Collaboration with Other Agencies (During the Quarter)

Agency

Month

Course Name

CDTI, Jaipur

May-June 2022

Investigation of Wildlife Crime Cases

Nigeria Launches New Strategy to Combat Wildlife Crime

April, 2022: On April 11, 2022, Nigeria's Minister of State for the Environment, Hon. H.E. Sharon O. Ikeazor, launched the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria (2022-2026). This is the first strategy of its kind in Nigeria, and Born Free USA warmly congratulates the Nigerian Government for this extremely important initiative.

Nigeria is increasingly recognized as a major transit hub for illegally trafficked wild animals and plants. This trafficking is carried out by organized criminal groups, which use sophisticated methodologies and have access to advanced weapons and technology.

These criminal groups link poachers in West Africa to consumers, buyers, and sellers in Asia, Europe, and the United States, and often are the same groups that carry out other

forms of transnational organized crime, such as trafficking of drugs, weapons, and humans.....

Combating this illegal trade requires a coordinated collaborative response. Born Free USA has supported capacity building initiatives for enforcement authorities in Nigeria for several years, including a Train the Trainer initiative for customs authorities in 2020.

From April 19-21, 2022, a team of experts from Born Free USA will travel to Nigeria to facilitate a workshop at which Nigerian enforcement authorities will discuss the establishment of a Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force. This task force will be an elite unit focused solely on the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife & Forest Crime in Nigeria.

News Source: bornfreeusa

SPAIN SEIZES HUNDREDS OF STUFFED ENDANGERED ANIMALS

April, 2022: Spain said on Sunday it seized over 1,000 taxidermied animals, including hundreds of endangered or extinct species, in one of the largest hauls of its kind. The Civil Guard said the private collection, estimated to be worth nearly 29 million euros (\$32 million), was discovered in a shed in Betera, near Valencia in eastern Spain. Among the 1,090 animals seized, 405 are classified as protected, endangered or extinct, including the scimitar-horned oryx once found in parts of Africa.

A stuffed Bengal tiger, considered near extinction, was also found, along with cheetahs, lynxes, polar bears, white rhinos and 198 elephant tusks. The Civil Guard said on Sunday it was the country's "largest haul of nationally-protected taxidermied animals and one of the largest in Europe".

The owner of the collection is under investigation for smuggling and several environmental crimes.

News Source: mixpointy.in

UNEP: New Initiative Combats Wildlife Trafficking In India's Airports

April, 2022: Elephant tusks, pangolin scales, tiger skins and Indian star tortoises are just some of the wildlife parts and derivatives that have been confiscated at Indian airports, part of a growing trend exploiting airports to traffic illegal wildlife.

With the growth in traveller numbers and increase in efficiency of air travel it has become easier than ever for traffickers to use air travel to move illegal wildlife goods across the globe. The World Wildlife Report 2020 found that between 1999 and 2018, 6,000 different species of flora and fauna were seized. Suspected traffickers from 150 citizenships were identified, illustrating that wildlife crime is a global issue.

"India is among the top ten countries in terms of using the airline sector for wildlife trafficking, this is an unwanted accolade" said Atul Bagai, Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in India.

High Flying: Insight into Wildlife Trafficking Through India's Airports, the latest report by UNEP partners, TRAFFIC found that between 2011 and 2020, over 70,000 native and exotic animals and their derivatives were trafficked through 18 Indian airports. Among the species groups seized, reptiles were the most common, making up 46 per cent of all seizures. Mammals, 18 per cent, were second with timber, 13 per cent, third. The most common native species seized was the Indian Star Tortoise, a threatened species, followed by the Black Pond Turtle. The most reported airports for trafficking were Chennai International, followed by Mumbai and Delhi.

In response, UNEP and partners including TRAFFIC, WWF-India and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) have joined forces and launched a new dedicated project called Detering and Disrupting Wildlife Trafficking in the Air Transport Sector in India.

India is among the top ten countries in terms of using the airline sector for wildlife trafficking, this is an unwanted accolade.

Atul Bagai Head of UNEP in India TRAFFIC's study of wildlife seizures at Indian airports reinforces the need to strengthen enforcement efforts to curb the exploitation of the airline sector for conducting illegal wildlife trade," said Dilpreet B. Chhabra, Senior Manager, TRAFFIC's India Office.

"Airports have emerged as a popular mode for transporting wildlife contrabands due to the shorter travel time and extensive reach," said Tilotama Varma, a Director at the Indian WCCB "Traffickers smuggle wildlife and their derivatives through checked luggage and personal baggage, which makes detection cumbersome for enforcement agencies."

News Source: theenergia.com

More than 600 endangered or prohibited animals seized at Suvarnabhumi Airport

May, 2022: Wildlife officials and the Thai Customs Department have seized more than 600 endangered or prohibited animals at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok. The animals were delivered from a middle east country via Egypt Air. The information about the sender hasn't been reported at this stage of the investigation.

Yesterday, the Manager of the Wildlife Checkpoint at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Yossathon Kongngen, told Thai media that the officers had seized 636 endangered reptiles and insects which

were delivered from a middle east country by Egypt Air with a flight number MS507/30. The animals were different species including 35 living snakes like Sahara vipers and Arabian boa together with many chameleons, skinks and scorpions, many of them prohibited for import into Thailand.

According to the report, the sender and receiver could face at least 3 charges, including violating the Wildlife Preservation and.....

News Source: thethaiger.com

109 live animals found in women's luggage at airport in Thailand

June, 2022: Two women were arrested in Thailand after they were caught with 109 live animals in their luggage at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, the Department of National Parks said in a press release.

The airport's X-ray machines found two suspicious objects in their bags and authorities found two white porcupines, two armadillos, 35 turtles, 50 chameleons and 20 snakes, according to news release.

The women, who were traveling to Chennai Airport in India, were arrested.

The two women were identified as Nithya Raja, 38, and Zakia Sulthana Ebrahim, 24, according to the Bangkok Post. They were charged with violating Thailand's Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 2019, the Animal Disease Act of 2015 and the Customs Act of 2017.

News Source: cbsnews.com

Assam: Golden Tiger Spotted In Kaziranga In Rare Sighting

May, 2022: Guwahati: In a rare sighting, a golden tiger was spotted by a tourist from Bengaluru in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam. It is to be noted that this happened



to be the first sighting of the golden tiger in Kaziranga in over two years and it was spotted alongside rhinos, wild buffaloes and deer. The tourist who captured the moment has been identified as Vishwajit Chhetri and he confessed that he was startled to see the tiger together with rhinoceros and added that never in his wildest of dreams did he imagine that he would come across such a rare sighting.

News Source: sentinelassam.com

SG unveils AI app to stop illegal trade of shark and ray fins

June, 2022: Singapore National Parks Board (NParks), Microsoft and Conservation International yesterday unveiled Fin Finder, touted to be Asia's first mobile application that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to visually identify illegally traded shark and ray species.

"Sharks and rays play an important role in maintaining marine ecosystems by keeping other fish populations in check. If stripped from our oceans, there would be dire consequences for ocean health, which would affect us, and our food security," said Dhanushri Munasinghe, project coordinator at the Conservation International Singapore.

He added: "As one of the world's most significant transshipment hubs, Singapore is well positioned to combat illegal wildlife trade. Conservation International, supported by Microsoft and other partners, is excited to support Singapore and the Singapore National Parks Board's leadership in conservation through the creation of Fin Finder". The mobile app was created by a Singapore-led team from

Conservation International in consultation with NParks with support from the Microsoft AI for Earth program. It will be used by officers from the Singapore National Parks Board to combat illegal wildlife trade.

Fin Finder, a complex AI and cloud based mobile application that runs on Microsoft Azure, was created in just nine months to address a pressing need. The project was supported by a highly collaborative consortium of global experts in conservation and technology, with resources, data, and volunteer contributions from Microsoft, Conservation International, the NParks, Sineurope, Rumah Foundation, Coastal Natives and Wild Me.

There are approximately 1,000 species of sharks and rays in the world, of which over 30 species are listed under the appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

News Source: futureiot.tech

Disclaimer: News/information in the 'Major Global Development' Section has been taken from open source and WCCB holds no responsibility for its content. The news contents are not verified by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and thus will not be responsible for any loss to any person caused by inaccuracy in the information in any news item.

Exit-Point Detections by WCCB



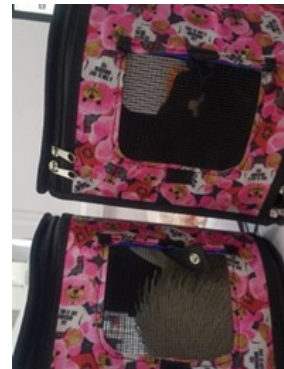
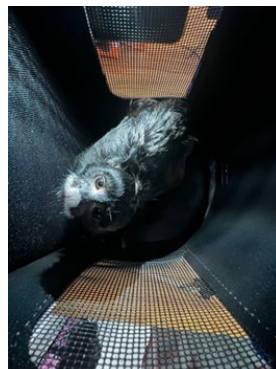
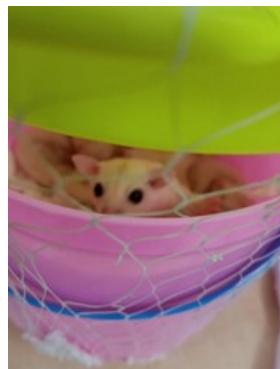
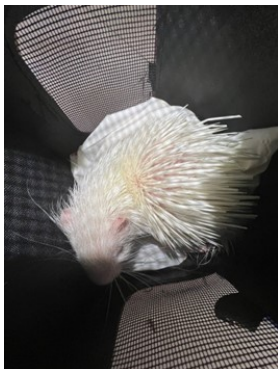
WCCB examined a Customs referred consignment at Foreign Post Office, Delhi, on 02-05-2022. The consignment was found to contain 04 pieces of finished fur, 04 pieces of fur stripes, 02 pieces of fur balls and 01 trimmed piece of Fox Fur (*Vulpes Spp.*) covered under Schedule II of WPA, 1972 and Appendix III of CITES. The parcel came from Finland,



WCCB detected 15 litres of Agar Wood Oil misdeclared as OUD HINDI destined for Kuwait, at IGI Air Cargo Complex, New Delhi, on 06-05-2022.



WCCB team provided identification and preliminary investigation support to Customs Preventive Unit of IGI Airport in detecting 02 Antlers seized from a Russian National travelling from India to Moscow, on 13-05-2022.



On intelligence of Air Intelligence Unit, Chennai, WCCB team inspected the check-in baggage of passengers arriving from Bangkok and detected smuggling of exotic animals identified as 01 Albino Porcupine, 01 White Lipped Red chested Tamarin Monkey, and 09 Albino Sugar gliders, on 15th & 16th May, 2022.

International Yoga Day celebration at WCCB

June, 2022: In line with Government of India's vision to promote the Yoga and to give boost to India's quest for a healthy India, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau celebrated 08th International Day of Yoga with full enthusiasm, on 21-06-2022. Marking the event, officials and staff members of WCCB from all its regional offices (i.e Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern and Central Regional Units) across the country practiced several yoga aasanas (postures) at their homes and offices premises. A glimpse below:



Celebrating International Yoga Day, WCCB organized a Yog aasanas session at Government HS School, Saliwada, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, attended by school students.



80 people including Students, teachers, and WCCB Staff members participated in Yoga session conducted by WCCB, marking International Day of Yoga 2022, at Olcott Higher Secondary School in Chennai.

World Environment Day 2022

Several programmes were conducted by WCCB across the country, to mark the World Environment Day 2022. The event, held on 05th June, 2022 saw an overwhelming response from public across the country. People from all walks of life including public, students, community members and government officials took part in programs & activities organized by WCCB. Activities viz. tree plantations, quiz competitions, lectures, training programs & awareness drives, were conducted during the period. A glimpse below:

World Environment Day 2022 was celebrated at WCCB/CR Office campus at Jabalpur. Drawing competition for local students on this year's WED theme "Only One Earth" and a plantation drive were organized to mark the occasion.



In another event, WCCB organized a mass awareness drive for school children and general public at Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) Borivali, Mumbai in coordination with Maharashtra Forest Department and NGO PAWS.



WCCB organized WCCBHQ organized a 'Beach Cleaning Drive' with Kerala Coastal Police & NGO ORMA, at sea shore Fort Kochi, Ernakulam.



Huge heap of garbage particularly plastic pollutants were collected from the beach and handed over to Health Dept. for appropriate disposal. The team also distributed plant saplings to the participants on this occasion.

Over 200 tree saplings, distributed by WCCB, were planted at the Kendriya Bhavan campus during a program organized by WCCB and WAKE (Welfare Association of Kendriya Bhavan Employees) jointly, at Kochi.



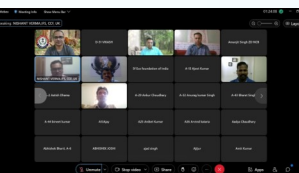
RDD/ER, WCCB delivered a lecture on "Wildlife Conservation in India: Role of Indian Citizen" at JD Women's College, Patna, Bihar, on the occasion, attended by 40 students & faculty members of the college and few members of Zoological Garden.



110 college students and faculty members attended a lecture on "Wildlife Conservation in India: Role of Indian Citizen" delivered by RDD/ER, WCCB during a session organized at Saradapith College, Belur, West Bengal.



Celebrating the Day, WCCB conducted a Webinar on "Synergy Among Enforcement Agencies To Combat Wildlife Crime" with panelists from Forest Dept., CBI; NCB, DRI, ED, Customs, UP STF, WII, and Wildlife Conservation field, on 05-06-2022, attended by total 115 participants.



RDD/ER, WCCB organized a practical session on 'Care and Conservation of Endangered orchids' for botanical Section staff of Sanjay Gandhi Zoological Park, Patna, Bihar



Hon'ble Environment Ministers visit WCCB Stall at NBA Exhibition



Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav & Hon'ble Minister of State Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey visited the WCCB Lounge at the International Biodiversity Day Exhibition organized by NBA at Chennai, on 22-5-2022. Visiting dignitaries had a look at wildlife articles on display by WCCB at the stall to create awareness regarding illegal wildlife trade and its adverse impact on biodiversity.

DGF&SS, MoEF&CC visits WCCB Headquarter



Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, Sh. Chandra Prakash Goyal along with Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Sh. Satya Prakash Yadav and Addl. Director General (Wildlife), Sh. Bivash Ranjan, visited WCCB Headquarters in New Delhi, on 02-06-2022. Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma welcomed the dignitaries and presented them Mementos. Visiting officials were taken on a tour of the WCCB Headquarter and were also briefed about key activities undertaken by the Bureau by senior officials of WCCB.

Observations at WCCB

Anti-Terrorism Day Celebration



Paying tributes to brave Heroes who died fighting against terrorism, WCCB observed the Anti-Terrorism Day at its Bureau Headquarter in New Delhi on 20-05-2022. Joint Director, Mr. H.V Girisha administered 'anti-terrorism pledge' to officials and staff members of the Bureau and paid tribute to the brave patriots who have devoted their lives to protect the motherland while fighting against terrorism.

Earth Day Celebration



WCCB in partnership with Howrah Forest Division (W.B.) Forest Directorate celebrated Earth Day, 2022 event and organized several programs viz. Nature Walk, Quiz, Extempore competitions, on 22-04-2022. Over 75 College students & community members participated in the program.

PRI/ Sensitization/Awareness Programs



WCCB and Odisha Forest Dept. jointly organized a sensitization-cum-awareness program for PRI/ EDC Members, Sea-shell Traders and representatives of the local Fishing Community, at Puri, Odisha, on 22-04-2022.

Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma inaugurated the program and addressed the participants including local Forest Staff, WCCB Volunteers and NGO members.



Over 110 persons including Professors, Students & Wildlife enthusiasts from across India attended a lecture on "Investigation of Organized Wildlife Crime Operations on Internet" given by WCCB official at a virtual program organized by O.P Jindal Global University, on 28-05-22



WCCB conducted an awareness program for PRI Members at Manapparai, Trichy, Tamil Nadu and organized lecture on role of VFC members in protecting nature & wildlife, measures for conservation of Slender Loris & Parakeets in the locality, on 30-05-2022, attended by 35 persons.



WCCB, District Legal Services Authority and Haldia Govt. College jointly organized a program on "Wildlife Conservation & Laws in India: Role of Indian Citizen", at Haldia, West Bengal, attended by 150 persons, on 20-06-2022.



3 घंटे चली सर्चिंग, 3 किलो पैंगोलिन स्केल समेत तस्कर गिरफ्तार

डब्ल्यूसीसीबी जबलपुर, कटनी पुलिस, उड़नदस्ता दल की संयुक्त कार्रवाई

जबलपुर। डब्ल्यूसीसीबी जबलपुर, कटनी पुलिस और उड़नदस्ता दल, परियोजना परिक्षेत्र बड़वारा की टीम ने संयुक्त कार्रवाई करते हुए कटनी से बड़वारा मार्ग पर मझगावां गांव में करीब तीन घंटे सर्चिंग करते हुए वन्य प्राणी अंग की तस्करी करने वाले एक तस्कर को धरदबोचा। जबकि एक तस्कर मोटर साइकिल से भागने में सफल हो गया। जिसकी तलाश जारी है। तस्करों के खिलाफ वन्य जीव संरक्षण अधिनियम 1972 के अंतर्गत वन अपराध दर्ज किया गया है।

शैला खालकर देखा तो टीम रह गई दंग

मुखबिर द्वारा बताए गए स्थान के लिए संयुक्त टीम रवाना हुई लगभग 3 घंटे की कड़ी मशकत के बाद कटनी से बड़वारा मार्ग पर मझगावां गांव के पास दो संदिग्ध व्यक्ति को एक मोटरसाइकिल पर देखा गया। संयुक्त टीम द्वारा बेराबंदी कर दोनों को रोकने का प्रयास किया गया इस दौरान मोटरसाइकिल चालक भागने में सफल रहा किंतु उसका साथी टीम द्वारा पकड़ लिया गया पकड़े पर उसने अपना नाम आरोपी विकास महतो निवासी कटनी का बताया। जब टीम ने उसके हाथ में लिए हुए शैले को खोलकर देखा तो टीम दंग रह गई। जिसके अंदर पैंगोलिन



के अवशेष रखे हुए थे।

फरार साथी की तलाश जारी

टीम तस्कर को दबोचकर आगे की कार्रवाई के लिए परियोजना परिक्षेत्र बड़वारा कार्यालय लेकर आ गई जहां उसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गई। तस्कर पृष्ठताछ जारी है साथ ही उसके साथी की गिरफ्तारी के लिए छापेमारी जारी है।

इनकी रही अहम भूमिका

इस कार्यवाही में वाइल्ड लाइफस्ट्र ऑफ

इंडिया एवं कंजर्वेशन को सोसाइटी की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रही। संपूर्ण कार्यवाही में कटनी पुलिस विभाग से नीरज दुबे, एनकेजे थाना प्रभारी, राजेंद्र तिवारी, शशिकांत करोसिया, दीपक तिवारी, दिनेश करोसिया, डब्ल्यू सी सी बी से चतुर्वेदी एवं मध्य प्रदेश राज्य वन विकास निगम उड़नदस्ता प्रभारी तिमरेश इवने, परियोजना परिक्षेत्र अधिकारी एमपी द्विवेदी, संतोष पयासी, राजबहादुर मुकेश शुक्ला, भरत तिवारी शामिल रहे।

अवशेषों को कटनी में बेचने की फिराक में थे तस्कर
वन्यजीवों के अवशेषों को कटनी में बेचने की फिराक घूम रहे तस्करों की सूचना प्राप्त होते ही सुनील कुमार जैन एसपी कटनी पुलिस, अभिजीत रांघे चौधरी क्षेत्रीय उपनिदेशक वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो, श्रीमती सोमा द्विवेदी, संभागीय प्रबंधक मध्यप्रदेश राज्य वन विकास निगम कुंडम परियोजना मंडल जबलपुर के निदेशानुसार डब्ल्यू सी सी बी, कटनी पुलिस, उड़नदस्ता दल कुंडम परियोजना मंडल जबलपुर एवं परियोजना परिक्षेत्र बड़वारा संयुक्त टीम का गठन किया गया।

Katni Police, Forest Deptt, WCCB nab one with 3 kg Pangolin scales

Staff Reporter

A COMBINED team of Katni Police, Forest Department and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) nabbed an accused involved in wildlife trade and seized 3 kg scales of Pangolin, a Schedule-1 endangered species at Badwara area in Katni district. The arrested has been identified as Vikas Nanka Mehto, native of Katni district.



Pangolin scales seized from an accused in Katni district.

Forest Department received information about two suspected men who were sighted while trying to sell wildlife in Majhaganv village in Katni.

Taking a serious note into the case, Superintendent of Police, Katni, Sunil Kumar Jain, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Regional Deputy Director, Abhijit Roy Choudhary and Madhya Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation, Kundam Project, Divisional Manager, Seema Duwivedi con-

stituted a combined team.

The team started a search and trapped the suspects while they were riding on a motorcycle. Witnessing the police team, one of the suspects managed to escape from the spot but another was detained by the cops. The arrested identified himself as Vikas Nanka Mehto. In his

search, police seized a bag filled with scales of Pangolin weighing around 3 kg. Badwara Forest Circle registered a case against the accused under relevant sections of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 while a rigorous search is underway to identify and apprehend another accused who managed to escape from the spot.

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जम्मू-कश्मीर से तेंदुए की खालें लाकर बेचने वाला तस्कर गिरफ्तार

लुधियाना, 26 अप्रैल (राज) : जम्मू व कश्मीर से जानवरों की खालें लाकर यहाँ बेचने वाले एक तस्कर को थाना टिब्बा की पुलिस ने वन विभाग के अधिकारियों की मदद से काबू किया है।



पकड़े गए आरोपी के साथ पुलिस पार्टी तथा (दाएँ) बरामद तेंदुए की खालें। (कच्चा धाराओं के तहत केस दर्ज किया है।

आरोपी टिब्बा इलाके को प्रेम विहार कालोनी का रहने वाला संजीव कुमार हैं। उससे तेंदुए की 3 खालें बरामद हुई हैं जोकि उसने लुधियाना में सप्लाई करनी थीं। आरोपी को पकड़ करते हुए मिल्ली की ब्राह्मण टीम ने भी दलक दी थी। थाना टिब्बा की पुलिस ने आरोपी संजीव के खिलाफ अलग-अलग

फकड़े गए आरोपी के साथ पुलिस पार्टी तथा (दाएँ) बरामद तेंदुए की खालें। (कच्चा धाराओं के तहत केस दर्ज किया है। एस.एच.ओ. रणधीर सिंह ने बताया कि वन विभाग के अधिकारी की सहायत पर एस.आई. बलदेव सिंह के साथ जंगल विभाग के समिंदर सिंह, परगट सिंह, गुरिंदर सिंह, अनु बाला और प्रदीप कुमार इत्येक्टर (वाइल्ड लाइफ क्राइम कंट्रोल ब्यूरो, न्यू दिब्बा) ने आरोपी को दबोच लिया। उसकी निशानदेही पर तलाशी दौरान

तेंदुए की 3 खालें मिली हैं।

एस.आई. बलदेव राज ने बताया कि पृष्ठताछ में पता चला है कि आरोपी काफी समय से जानवरों की खालें बेचने का धंधा करता आ रहा है। वह जम्मू-कश्मीर के एक बड़े तस्कर से खालें लेकर आता है और पंजाब एवं अन्य राज्यों में मोटे दामों में बेचकर मुनाफा कमाता है।

आरोपी को अदालत में पेश कर उसका रिमांड हासिल कर आगे की पृष्ठताछ को जारीगी कि वह खालें किससे लेकर आया था और आगे किसे सप्लाई करनी थीं।

Leopard skins seized, Tibba man arrested

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Ludhiana: In a joint operation, the Centre's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Ludhiana's forest and wildlife department and Ludhiana police arrested a man for allegedly smuggling leopard skin in Tibba area here on Tuesday.



The three leopard skins seized from the house of Sanjeev Kumar in Ludhiana's Prem Nagar on Tuesday

The teams seized three leopard skins from his possession.

Initial probe suggests that the accused, identified as Sanjeev Kumar of Prem Vihar, Tibba, was smuggling leopard skin from Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab.

Ludhiana range officer (wildlife) Shaminder Singh

said, "It was a tip-off of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, following which a trap was laid by the local officials of wildlife department and po-

lice. We managed to nab the accused and also seized three leopard skins from his house, which he had packed properly and which were ready to be smuggled further."

Shaminder said as per information, the accused had been smuggling leopard skin for long in Punjab. He added an FIR had been registered against him at Tibba police station.

The accused will be presented in court on Wednesday. The authorities are expected to request the court for his police custody, so they could get more information from him about the racket. Inspector Pardeep Kumar of WCCB also reached the city for the operation.

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WCCB to assist Athagarh forest department in probing jumbo death cover-up

Meanwhile, another investigation has been launched by the Satkosia Wildlife Division after carcass of a tusker was discovered and exhumed by the forest officials from Jilinda range on Friday.

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Tokay gecko

Scientific Name: Gekko gekko

Key Facts

The Tokay gecko is a nocturnal arboreal gecko in the genus *Gekko*, the true geckos. It is native to Asia and some Pacific Islands.

It is found in North East India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh; throughout Southeast Asia, including Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia; and toward western New Guinea.

They have thick, cylindrical bodies, with heads set apart from their necks. Their limbs are well-defined and powerful, and their bodies are covered in spots.

Tokay geckos are one of the largest geckos alive now. Males range from about 13-16 inches (35-40 cms.) and females about 8-12 inches (20-30 cms).

Tokay geckos live for about 10 years under human care. Their life expectancy in the wild is unknown but expected to be shorter.

Threat

This species is poached for the medicinal trades in parts of Asia. The tokay gecko is an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine, known as Ge Jie.

It is believed to nourish the kidneys and lungs; beliefs that are not substantiated by medical science.

The animal remains highly sought after in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and other parts of Asia with Chinese communities,

Tokay geckos are also becoming more popular as pets because of their striking colors and large size, which is also a big reason of its smuggling.



Interesting Faces

Tokay geckos are nocturnal hunters. They are ambush hunters, meaning that they are more likely to sit and wait for prey than to forage for it actively.

These geckos are arboreal and live in rainforests in trees and on cliffs. They have also been known to enter into human dwellings and will live in the nooks and crannies of a human home, where they feast on insects.

They have some amazing biological adaptations that help them to survive in the wild. These lizards are known for their ability to climb any surface and are often spotted clinging to the ceiling when found in human dwellings.

Tokay geckos have a distinctive mating call, which sounds like "To-Kay" or "Gekk-Gekk." These sounds are, in fact, responsible for both the common and scientific names of this species.

Conservation Status





Tokay geckos are listed in Schedule 1V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

During 18th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Conference of the Parties (CoP18), the species was added to Appendix II.

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