



Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

PRESS RELEASE

WCCB RECEIVES GLOBAL APPRECIATION FOR 'OPERATION WILDNET-II'

CITES appreciates efforts of WCCB in preventing 'online illegal wildlife trade'

New Delhi: In what could be termed as a 'big-achievement' at international arena, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been appreciated by CITES Secretariat for its unprecedented efforts in undertaking 'Operation WILDNET-II'- to clamp down on online wildlife trade across the country.

CITES has praised WCCB for its efforts towards preventing 'online illegal wildlife trade', as in the report submitted by WCCB, as this reflects India's commitment towards decisions taken in CITES CoP-18, held at Geneva in 2019.

'Operation WILDNET-II' was a month-long multiagency coordinated investigative operation, conducted by WCCB from 01st Nov to 30th Nov, 2019, which helped recover a large number of scheduled species being traded online, using popular online portals like Facebook, Whatsapp, OLX, Adpost, Youtube, ExporterIndia and SuppliersIndia.

Several cases of online sale of wildlife articles were detected during the operation period. Wildlife articles, found being traded online, included scheduled species such as Falcon, Jackal nail, Monitor Lizard penis, Snakes, Deer Antler, Wild Boar, Turtle, Pangolin, Mongoose Hair Brushes, Rhino Horn, Parakeets, Dove, Civet Cats, Hornbill, Corals, Trochus and Sea Fans.

The multiagency coordinated investigations and raids, in various parts of the country, led to the recovery of Monitor Lizards Hemipenis, Sea Fans, Trochus, Sand Boa snake, Laughing Dove, Parakeets and Sambhar Antler. The agencies also managed to arrest offenders, running online wildlife trade syndicates.

The operation, code-named as 'Operation WILDNET', was first envisaged by WCCB in May, 2017, taking into consideration increasing threat of online wildlife trade throughout the country. The operation was aimed at dragging attention of the enforcement agencies towards increasing cases of scheduled species being sold over internet. As a follow up of the operation two meetings with representatives of online trade portals i.e. OLX, Quiker, Amazon, Snapdeal, Indiamart, Flipkart were conducted by the Bureau to discuss issues related to online illegal trade and to reach on a consensus on sharing of information of merchandise offering wildlife articles on their portals to facilitate legal action against offenders. On appeal of WCCB, OLX also ran pictorial awareness campaign on its webpage in coordination with WCCB.

The third meeting was conducted by WCCB and TRAFFIC-India on 12th Sept. 2019, attended by officials of MoEF&CC, NTCA, Central Zoo Authority, State Forest Departments, Paramilitary Forces, Delhi Police, Global Tiger Fund, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Wildlife Trust of India, WWF-India, TRAFFIC-India and representatives of Google India, Quicker, Flipkart, Indiamart, FICCI and CII, in which there was consensus among all participants to develop a mechanism for cooperation and collaboration among internet companies as well as online trade portals and enforcement agencies to tackle the menace of online illegal wildlife trade.



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About WCCB: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a multi-disciplinary statutory body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its headquarter in New Delhi and five Regional Offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur; three Sub-Regional Offices at Guwahati, Amritsar and Cochin; and five Border Units at Gorakhpur, Motihari, Nathula, Moreh and Ramanathapuram.