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# BULLETIN UPDATE

Bulletin | 7th May 2024

**Bringing United for Wildlife Members  
and Partners the Latest Trends,  
Typologies, and Modus Operandi on  
the Illegal Wildlife Trade**

## Special Edition: Focus on India

In recognition of the launch of the United for Wildlife India Chapter, this Intelligence Bulletin features United for Wildlife Alerts on wildlife trafficking trends and typologies in India and the broader region, valuable resources produced by UfW partners focused on wildlife trafficking in India, and links to offender data, training, and other materials which can support new India Chapter Members and Partners in their fight against wildlife trafficking activity.



### **TASKFORCE ALERTS**

United for Wildlife intelligence updates



## **United for Wildlife Alerts: Wildlife trafficking trends and typologies impacting India**

[0001 Sea cucumber trafficking hotspots in Southern India and Sri Lanka](#)

[00019 Kaziranga rhino poaching linked to insurgents and transnational organized crime](#)

[00020 Ivory Trafficking in India: Overview of known hotspots, networks, & corruption dynamics](#)

[00021 Southern India a hub for trafficking of rare red sanders timber and narcotics](#)

[00028 Details of alleged fugitive money launderer and turtle trafficking kingpin seeking bail in India](#)

[00036 India: Park employees implicated in rhino trafficking networks tied to insurgents](#)

[00041 Illicit wildlife trafficking networks in contested Jammu and Kashmir region](#)

[00046 The 'Assam Route:' India's Northeast Region emerging as hub for illegal live animal imports](#)

[00068 Leopard skin and parts trafficking likely increasing in and from India](#)

[00143 INDIA: Illegal bird trade increasing](#)

[00146 Millions of wild caught tokay geckos poached, laundered into the 'legal' trade](#)

[00148 India/Thailand: Exotic pet trafficking corridor](#)



### **United for Wildlife Alerts: Regionally relevant wildlife trafficking trends and typologies**

[00020 Illegal wildlife imports supply growing zoo and aquarium industry in China](#)

[00025 Timber trafficking increasing from Myanmar, driving deforestation and corruption; funding armed groups](#)

[00030 High level corruption enables domestic baby elephant trafficking in Sri Lanka](#)

[00044 Myanmar \(Burma\): New military junta funded by illegal timber trade](#)

[00047 Social media platforms enable wildlife trafficking, create potential money laundering risk for financial institutions](#)

[00050 Malaysia- Corruption within ports sector facilitating high volume wildlife trafficking](#)

[00056 Illicit trafficking in Porcupines and their parts in Asia, including as potential Pangolin replacement](#)

[00057 Traders on business-to-business online marketplaces openly advertise illegal wildlife, drugs, and high value minerals for sale](#)

[00068 Dubai → Hong Kong air cargo routes exploited by sandalwood traffickers](#)

[00074 Singapore: Illegal bird trade thrives online, increasing avian influenzas/invasive species risks](#)

[00076 Commercial wildlife farms in Vietnam increase wildlife trafficking and zoonotic disease risk](#)

[00084 Tiger farms stimulate demand, increase pressure on wild tiger populations](#)

[00086 Live animal traffickers exploit Thailand's Suvarnabhumi International Airport](#)

[00114 Tiger farms in Asia, South Africa associated with wildlife trafficking, organized crime](#)

[00144 Bangladesh: Demand for Lear's Macaw high in Asia, driving trafficking attempts](#)



## **ORGANIZED CRIME**

[Seized Bengal Monitors, soft corals trafficked to Mumbai from Gujarat: DRI probe](#), Hindustan Times

[Three caught smuggling peacock feathers to Bangkok](#), Jagran

[Duo arrested for smuggling 2 elephant tusks; car, 3 phones seized](#), DT Next

[Customs recover 5,000 red-eared sliders from unclaimed baggage at Chennai airport](#), DT Next

[DRI detains wildlife trafficker in Nashik, seizes lizard parts, coral](#), Hindustan Times

[Assam Police and Forest Department Rescue 52 Exotic Birds and Animals](#), Borok Times

## **CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND EXTINCTION RISK**

[No forests or wildlife will be left if animal-human conflicts are not resolved, SC warns](#), The Hindu

## **LIVE ANIMAL TRAFFICKING**

[Cop held for smuggling animals in Chennai](#), The New Indian Express

[Three arrested for smuggling turtles](#), Times of India

[Man Smuggling 10 Anacondas From Bangkok Arrested At Bengaluru Airport](#), MSN

[Seized langurs kept illegally in Agra are finally rescued and released](#), Ground Report

[The Dance Continues: Seizure Of Four 'Dancing' Sloth Bears Exposes Resurgence In Trade](#),



Orissa Diary

[Four cockatoos smuggled from Malaysia seized at Chennai airport](#), Times of India

## POACHING

[Elephant found dead, with tusks missing, in T.N.'s Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve](#), The Hindu  
[Gang carrying out illegal activities in Udanti tiger reserve dismantled, says anti-poaching team](#), Times of India

[Ten Arrested for Illegally Possessing and Poaching Wild Animals](#), Times of India

[Poacher arrested with rhino horn in Assam: Officials](#), Hindustan Times



## TAKING ACTION

News, success stories, and best practice from and for Taskforce members



### **New Research- Netted in illegal wildlife trade: Sharks of India**

This new factsheet from TRAFFIC and WWF-India provides critical details on the illegal shark trade in India. Tamil Nadu accounted for nearly 65% of the shark seizure incidents documented, with products destined for important international demand markets in Singapore, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Sri Lanka, and mainland China.

Read the report, including key recommendations on how to improve capacity to combat shark trafficking, [HERE](#).



### **Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM) on Exotic Species Trafficking**

INTERPOL and India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) co-hosted the February RIACM event, with delegations of law enforcement and experts from India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. They identified [four key routes](#) undertaken by wildlife smugglers: 1) Africa to Southeast Asia to Bangladesh as "mis-declared" air cargo 2) Malaysia and Indonesia to China through land borders with Thailand and Myanmar 3) reptiles sourced from Malaysia taken to Thailand and then to India via air 4) and from Thailand to India using land borders with Myanmar.

Importantly, the representatives agreed to develop an information sharing mechanism to identify transnational networks and coordinate action against high-level wildlife traffickers. The delegation from India included officers from CBI, Wildlife Crime Control Board (WCCB) and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). Read more about the event [HERE](#).



### **Wildlife Trust of India (WTI): Pan-India Enforcement Assistance**

WTI's Wildlife Crime Control Division (WCCD) developed the Pan India Enforcement project to support central and state agencies in combating the illegal wildlife trade and associated wildlife crimes. The team focuses on flagship species in India as well as on lesser-known species such as Monitor Lizards (Hatha Jodi), Mongoose (hair meant for paint brushes), Sea fans, Sea cucumber, Tokay Gecko, and other wildlife in high demand within IWT markets.

WTI has successfully aided enforcement agencies in over 280 operations, leading to arrests and the seizure of illegal wildlife products. The project team actively monitors online platforms to detect and document illegal wildlife trade activities, providing essential intelligence to support investigations. Learn more about the project [HERE](#). Contact WTI to collaborate [HERE](#).



## Resources Index

Training, Tools, Data, and  
Information



Updated monthly by the United for Wildlife **Intelligence Sharing System (ISS)**, the Resource Index provides access to tools to increase understanding of corruption risks and IWT, the latest training for how to combat wildlife trafficking, red flag indicator compendiums, and more. **NEW this month- Regional content focused on India.** Access the Resources Index [HERE](#). To contribute an entry, email the ISS [HERE](#).

## Offender Data

Publicly Available Information



### DATA

1. Download: [Alleged offender data](#) collated by the **United for Wildlife Southeast Asia and Australasia Chapter**.
2. Access a sample offender dataset developed by the [Environmental Investigation Agency's](#) Media Monitoring Programme (MMP) [HERE](#), and learn how to sign up to receive the data directly [HERE](#).

### SEIZURES

[ADM Capital Foundation's Wildlife and Landscapes Programme](#) is now making available a **'Seizure Alerts' mailing list**. By signing up to this resource, you will receive insights into

the efforts of the Hong Kong Government in combatting the illegal wildlife trade, analysis from ADM-CF's 'Wildlife Product Seizures' (WiPS) database and overviews of trade data (e.g., CITES Trade Database). Sign up to the mailing list [HERE](#). Read recent Seizure Alerts [HERE](#).

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**About**

United for Wildlife Taskforce Intelligence Bulletins are joint monthly advisories for both Buckingham Palace and Mansion House Declaration Signatories on issues of high concern related to wildlife trafficking and the finance and transport sector, and are a core output of the Taskforce Information Sharing System.

**Sharing**

United for Wildlife Taskforce Bulletins are for limited distribution within the transport, finance, and law enforcement sectors only and should not be released publicly. We encourage you however to share these Bulletins with colleagues from within the finance and transport industries or law enforcement who may find them useful.

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**Contact**

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