



SOURCE
AT LEAST
1.3 TONNES
IVORY SEIZED
SINCE 2010
IVORY

SOURCE
21 RHINO HORNS
OR SUSPECTED
HORNS SEIZED
SINCE 2010
RHINO

SOURCE
627 TIGERS
SEIZED
SINCE 2000
TIGER

SOURCE
3.96 TONNES
PANGOLIN SCALES
& 5 LIVE PANGOLINS
SEIZED SINCE 2010
PANGOLIN

PARTY TO CITES (1976) | UNTOC (2011) | UNCAC (2011) MEMBER OF INTERPOL | WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION | SOUTH ASIAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK (SAWEN)

TIGER POACHERS NOW POACHING PANGOLINS

3.96 TONNES PANGOLIN
SCALES SEIZED
SINCE 2010

EQUIVALENT TO AROUND
4 000 PANGOLINS SINCE 2010

TIGERS POACHED & SEIZED



INDIA | INVESTING IN ENFORCEMENT

KEY INDICATORS¹

INTERPOL National Central Bureau has officer(s) dedicated to investigating wildlife crime

Multi-agency enforcement mechanism established to investigate wildlife crime

Financial intelligence unit includes wildlife crime on their portfolios

Assets and proceeds of crime seized in relation to wildlife crime cases since 2014

DNA analysis used in wildlife crime investigations since 2014

Government monitoring of online wildlife trade

Part of bilateral or multilateral agreements that specifically tackle transnational wildlife crime²

Participated in INTERPOL operations on wildlife crime since 2014

Participated in regional/international enforcement operations on wildlife crime since 2014³

Applied or declared intention to apply ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit

leading to low rates of conviction and poor remuneration and equipment provided to anti-poaching patrol staff.

- Deploying **detection technology** including drones and cameras as part of an e-vigilance system to combat illegal logging and red sandalwood smuggling in the state of Andhra Pradesh and use of canine units in seven states.
- Maintaining a **unique tiger stripe pattern database** of over 2,000 wild tigers and initiating the process for establishing **RhoDIS**—a database of DNA samples collected from wild Indian rhinos.
- In 2015, the **INTERPOL Red Notice system** was used to arrest a suspect in Mauritius in relation to red sandalwood smuggling. Recently, on request of the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, INTERPOL issued a Red Corner Notice for a suspect implicated in tiger crime.
- In March 2015, the WCCB issued an advisory providing guidance on the use of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (2002)** for wildlife offences. This legislation has been applied in wildlife trafficking cases.



ABOVE: INDIA IS THE WORLD'S TIGER RANGE STATE © E NEEP

state and central authorities – 14 states have set up WCCUs. In addition, many states have created a number of specialist taskforces to combat wildlife and forest crime, either within their police or forest departments.

However, the WCCB is severely understaffed. Further, despite efforts to improve multi-agency co-operation between the central and state levels there continues to be a challenge in creating a uniformed response to wildlife crime due to differing levels of awareness and commitment amongst the states.

CASE FILES

In a case reported as the fastest ever conviction for tiger poaching, three people were sentenced to five years imprisonment each in 2014 for a tiger poaching incident in 2013. Forensic investigations were conducted which confirmed that DNA from the tiger carcass recovered matched the samples of the nails of the accused.

In 2015, organised elephant poaching in Kerala was traced to a Delhi-based middleman and nearly 0.5 tonne of ivory seized in an inter-state, multi-agency operation with 73 arrests made to date for a range of offences.

In 2014 multi-agency co-operation resulted in the seizure of 23 tonnes of red sandalwood and several arrests.

BEST PRACTICE

Indian legislation establishes a formal framework for multi-agency co-operation to combat wildlife crime. India's lead multi-agency unit, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), collects and disseminates intelligence on organised wildlife crime and co-ordinates and participates in operations between national and relevant foreign authorities. The WCCB has requested every state in India to set up a high-level inter-agency coordination committee called Wildlife Crime Control Unit (WCCU) to improve information exchange between

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- Improving **enforcement capacity** including increase of 19 border posts along Uttarakhand border with Nepal in additional to existing 81 border posts and establishment of specialised red sandalwood anti-smuggling units in Andhra Pradesh. However, significant gaps in capacity continue to remain, including lack of capacity for proper evidence collection

INDIA | ENSURING EFFECTIVE LEGAL DETERRENTS

KEY INDICATORS¹

Legislation treats wildlife crime as a 'serious crime' as per UNTOC, ie, the maximum sanction applicable is not less than 4 years

Sentencing guidelines for wildlife crime have been disseminated

Known convictions for wildlife crime since 2014

Charges brought under ancillary legislation such as anti-money laundering laws in wildlife crime cases since 2014

Has anti-corruption unit

Known convictions for corruption related to illegal wildlife trade cases since 2014

38/100 TI Corruption Perceptions Index 2015

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- In Pune the **anti-corruption bureau** (ACB) registered an offence against a police inspector and his family for alleged aiding and abetting in red sandalwood trafficking through corrupt practices.

- WCCB has observed that **display of wildlife trophies** on social media could stimulate poaching and illegal wildlife trade and has therefore requested relevant authorities to prohibit such acts by amending the WPA and by incorporating this as a condition in hunting permits.

CHALLENGE

Significant delays in prosecution undermines successful conviction – there are recurrent examples of suspects who are absconding after release on bail and the loss of evidence.

A study of trial court judgments in the State of Maharashtra, conducted by WPSI, recorded a success rate of 11.56% for prosecution of wildlife cases pointing to serious gaps in investigation and prosecution efforts. WPSI has recorded more than 900 tiger-related court cases in India, although few of these have resulted in convictions, with most pending.

As of June 2016, WPSI indicates that, to its knowledge, only 61 people have been convicted in India for tiger poaching or trade.

BEST PRACTICE

A briefing published by the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) highlights good enforcement co-operation between India and Nepal.

For example, in January 2016, Indian enforcement authorities seized two tiger skins and 35kg of tiger bones in an Indian tiger reserve bordering Nepal. The investigations that followed enabled the Nepal police to seize another tiger skin sourced from the same Indian tiger reserve.



ABOVE: TIGER POACHING IS ON THE RISE IN INDIA PRIMARILY DUE TO DEMAND FOR TIGER PARTS IN CHINA © NAVTEJ MANGAT

INDIA | ERADICATING DEMAND

KEY INDICATORS¹

Prohibits trade in elephant ivory

Prohibits trade in parts/products of Asian big cats

Stockpiled ivory has been inventoried

Destroyed ivory stockpile since 2014

Destroyed other wildlife stockpiles since 2014

No known incidents of thefts of government-owned wildlife stocks

Government-led initiatives to reduce demand for wildlife products implemented since 2014

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- The WPA is based on a strong conservation ethic and adopts a precautionary approach to protect wildlife. For example, the WPA strictly prohibits trade in species listed in Schedule I of the Act which includes tigers and other Asian big cats, elephants and rhinos. Consequently conservationists have expressed serious concerns about attempts by the Government to amend relevant laws and policies that would undermine wildlife conservation in India.

- In November 2014, 42,000 seized **wildlife items were destroyed**. The Manipur Forest Department also destroyed 115kg of seized pangolin scales.
- Efforts to **inventory ivory stockpile** have been initiated at the central level.

BEST PRACTICE

India does not have any stockpiles of Asian big cat specimens except those required for prosecution and training purposes. Possession of Asian big cat specimens (including live captive animals), without an ownership certificate is an offence. The period for receiving ownership certificates has passed and therefore no new specimens can be declared or legalised in India. Legalised specimens with certificates can only be transferred through inheritance and cannot be commercially traded. According to legal analysis conducted by the Wildlife Protection Society of India:

'... with the limited exception of regulated trade between recognised zoos, Indian law creates a complete ban on all trade in all parts and products of all [Asian big cat specimens] from all sources.'

According to Government guidelines, tiger and leopard carcasses and body parts of animals found dead or seized

by the Government are to be routinely destroyed with suitable safeguards when not required for prosecution. Further, every zoo is required to bury or burn carcasses of its animals and carcasses of large cats are required to be burnt in the presence of the director of the zoo to prevent big cat products entering trade.

In May 2016, WCCB met representatives of major e-commerce companies and it was agreed that the companies will alert WCCB about attempts to post offers of wildlife on their websites. Amazon India removed 296 items from its website in the 'animal specimen' category and 104 items under the 'snarers or traps' category that were listed by third-party sellers.



ABOVE: INDIA ROUTINELY DESTROYS ALL STOCKS OF ASIAN BIG CAT PARTS AND PRODUCTS © EIA