**About “Wildlife Trade”**

Wildlife trade is the sale or exchange by people of wild animal and plant resources. While much of this trade is legal, a significant portion of it is not. Over the years, illegal wildlife trade has emerged as a form of organized criminal activity. For instance, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international environmental agreement aimed at the conservation of living species. This trade is further regulated under CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to which India has been a party since 1975. In India, like many other countries, the problem is not one of insufficient laws, but rather there may be poorly communicated and inadequately implemented enforcement.

**About TRAFFIC**

TRAFFIC is the world’s largest wildlife trade monitoring network and is a strategic alliance of WWF, the global conservation organization, and IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature. TRAFFIC’s goal is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

TRAFFIC came to India in 1991, operating as a division of WWF-India. Since then, it has worked closely with the national and the State governments and various other agencies to help study, monitor, and influence action to curb illegal wildlife trade.

As an organization committed to helping secure India’s precious biodiversity, TRAFFIC works closely with a diverse set of stakeholders both within and outside government, providing support and encouragement to actions that strengthen conservation across the region.

**TRAFFIC in India works closely with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to develop and maintain a comprehensive database on wildlife trade and crime especially with reference to the Tiger.**

**SNAPSHOTS OF TRAFFIC INDIA’S WORK**

For the first time in India, sniffer dogs are being used to track illegal wildlife products. TRAFFIC launched this programme in India in 2007 and since then it has been organizing training of these dogs and their handlers that are further deployed by various forest departments for use during wildlife raids and seizures.

In order to strengthen protection at the porous Indian borders that allow smuggling of wildlife products, TRAFFIC has partnered with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), an agency responsible for guarding the Indo-Nepal border and the Indo-Bhutan border. TRAFFIC regularly conducts training programmes for SSB officials and imparts them with knowledge and skills to stop cross border illegal wildlife trade.

**Through its Trans-boundary training workshops and meetings, TRAFFIC brings together agencies of neighbouring countries with a view to providing a platform for them to share skills and experiences required to respond adequately to wildlife crime and trade-related issues. It also customizes and delivers specialized training programmes on demand for such countries.**

In order to elicit greater support of the judiciary in fighting wildlife crime in India, TRAFFIC conducts various specially designed orientation and sensitization programmes for the judicial officers working on wildlife crime and trade-related issues. It also provides training to wildlife crime and trade-related issues.

For the first time in India, awareness campaigns focusing on source and stops set up by poachers buried as deep as three-feet underground.

**TRAFFIC has introduced Deep Search Metal Detectors in various Tiger bearing areas across India. These are being used during patrolling for locating snares and traps set up by poachers.**

**Don’t Buy Trouble**, TRAFFIC’s consumer awareness campaign in India, informs domestic and international tourists about the wildlife laws of the country and warns them about the legal implications of purchasing various illegal wildlife products. The campaign is featured prominently in many international and domestic media across the country.

TRAFFIC works to strengthen the capacity of various enforcement agencies for fighting wildlife crime. It provides training and input to a diverse group of officials working on wildlife enforcement and related issues.

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TRAFFIC conducts research on poaching and trade dynamics of various species in illegal wildlife trade in India. Analyses from its findings are provided to various decision-makers encouraging them to take action in support of wildlife conservation. TRAFFIC has already conducted studies on the peacock feather trade in India, trade in owl species across the country, poaching and illegal trade in Leopards and the Tiger among many others in the pipeline.

As part of the efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in South Asia for wildlife law enforcement, TRAFFIC along with other key partners have helped establish the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and provides ongoing technical and other support to the Network. TRAFFIC helps produce SAWEN’s quarterly newsletter. This network of eight South Asian countries is seen as a coordinated regional response to combat illegal poaching and trafficking across the region’s borders.

TRAFFIC in India has been providing specialised technical inputs for institutions and agencies including the Wildlife Institute of India, India’s National Forestry Academy, CBI Academy, police, paramilitary and Customs.

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