



CITES CoP17 : WPSI POACHING, SEIZURE & MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR ASIAN BIG CATS IN INDIA

Since 1995, Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) has systematically collected data on poaching and seizures of protected species. This data is collated, categorized and stored in WPSI's database on wildlife crime. Primary information is obtained from WPSI's network of field officers who liaise with various enforcement agencies such as the forest department, police and customs. Primary information is also obtained from local NGOs and the media, and verified from the relevant agencies for its authenticity before entry into the database.

TIGER MORTALITY IN INDIA

Year	Poaching & Seizure Cases	Total Tiger Mortality
2007	27 tigers	42 tigers
2008	29 tigers	51 tigers
2009	32 tigers	85 tigers
2010	30 tigers	58 tigers
2011	13 tigers	61 tigers
2012	32 tigers	89 tigers
2013	43 tigers	81 tigers
2014	23 tigers	81 tigers
2015	26 tigers	91 tigers

Note: For tiger bone seizures, in the absence of skulls, the number of dead tigers is calculated using an average of 12 kg of bones per tiger.

- In July 2015, the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department in central India investigated a case involving the seizure of a tiger skin and tiger fat. One of the persons arrested in this case is a Nepali national of Tibetan origin.
- In 2016 there have been significant seizures of tiger body parts. So far, the skins and other body parts of 20 tigers have been seized, in addition to another 15 tigers lost to poaching.
- Two cases from 2016 highlight both the cross-border nature of the illegal tiger trade and what cross-border enforcement co-operation between CITES Parties can achieve:
 - In January 2016, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, along with the Bihar Police and Forest Department seized two tiger skins and 35 kg of tiger bones in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, India, which borders Nepal. Based on the revelations of this investigation, the Nepal police later seized another skin of a Valmiki tiger that had been stored across the border in Nawalparasi district of Nepal.
 - In January 2015, the Nepal Police arrested two Indian citizens in separate incidents, each with a tiger skin and bones. Investigations in these cases revealed

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that the tigers had been poached in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh, India. Based on the information provided by the Nepal Police, the Uttar Pradesh Police arrested the poachers one year later in January 2016 and seized tiger bones from them.

LEOPARD MORTALITY IN INDIA

Year	Poaching & Seizure Cases	Total Leopard Mortality
2007	126 leopards	208 leopards
2008	159 leopards	237 leopards
2009	165 leopards	296 leopards
2010	184 leopards	333 leopards
2011	188 leopards	360 leopards
2012	140 leopards	335 leopards
2013	111 leopards	328 leopards
2014	118 leopards	331 leopards
2015	127 leopards	397 leopards

- Mirroring global trends, leopards are the most poached and trafficked Asian big cat in India.

ASIATIC LION POACHING & SEIZURES IN INDIA

Year	Poaching	Seizures
2007	9	5 claws
2008		
2009	1	1 skin piece + 2 claws
2010		
2011	1	
2012		
2013	2	
2014		
2015		2 claws

SNOW LEOPARD MORTALITY IN INDIA

Year	Poaching	Seizure	Human-Animal Conflict
2007	1		
2008		1 skin	
2009			
2010		1 skin	
2011			1
2012		2 skins	1
2013			
2014			
2015	1	3 skins	

CLOUDED LEOPARD MORTALITY IN INDIA

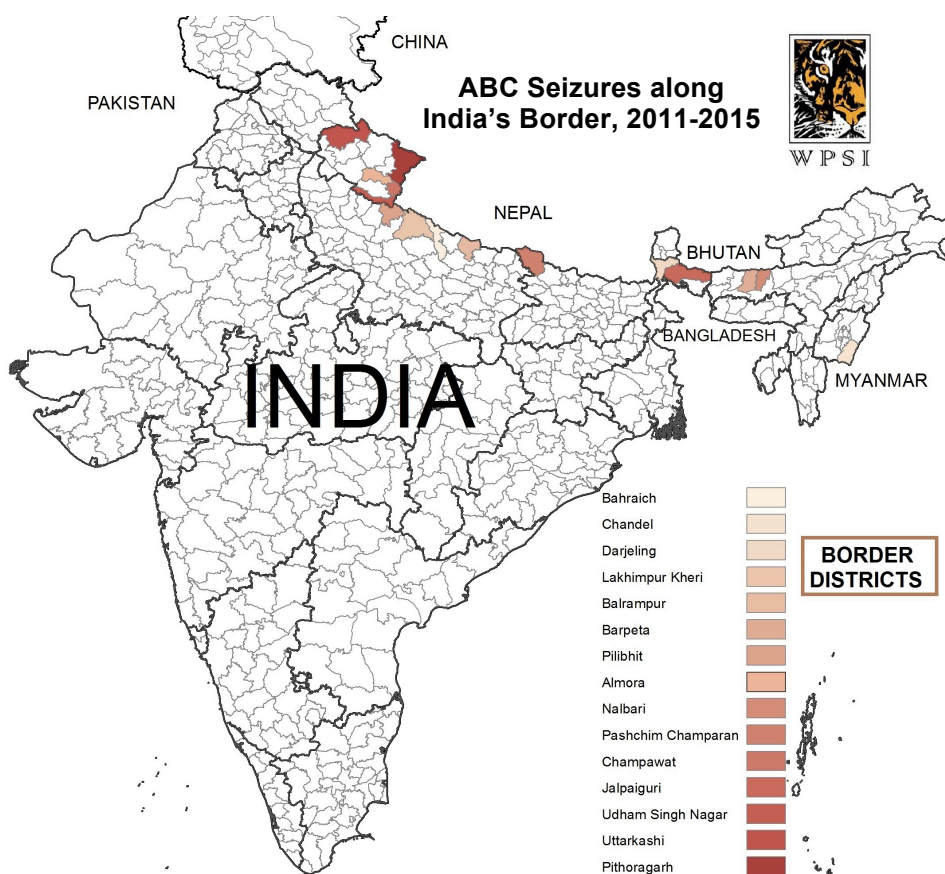
Year	Poaching	Seizure	Found Dead/ Conflict
2007			
2008		5 skins	
2009			
2010		1 skin	
2011			
2012		2 skins	1

Clouded Leopard Mortality contd.

Year	Poaching	Seizure	Found Dead/ Conflict
2013			1
2014			
2015		2 skins	

ASIAN BIG CAT SEIZURES ALONG INDIA'S BORDER

Asian big cats are poached in India primarily to supply demand for their parts and derivatives in East and Southeast Asian markets; there is no significant demand in India. The illegal trade in Asian big cats is organized and trans-national in nature. While Asian big cats are poached in wilderness areas all over the country, their body parts are smuggled out of the country through land routes across the Himalayas.



- Between 2011 and 2015, 62 cases of Asian big cat seizures were reported in 15 border districts of India. These districts are along the Indian border with China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- The highest quantity of Asian big cat body parts seized in border districts between 2011 and 2015 were of leopards, followed by tigers. Four clouded leopard skins, and a snow leopard skin were also seized in this period.
- The highest number of seizure cases (20) was reported from Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, which shares a border with both Nepal and China. One tiger skin, 4 kg of tiger bones, one snow leopard skin, 32 leopard skins and 20 kg of leopard bones were seized in this district during the period 2011 to 2015.
- The second highest number of seizure cases (seven) was reported from Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, which shares a border with China. Fifteen leopard skins were seized in this district during the period 2011 to 2015.

New Delhi, Sept. 2016

END