

“OPERATION THUNDERBIRD” and “OPERATION SAVE KURMA” Result in huge seizures throughout the Country

Posted On: 02 MAR 2017 12:17PM by PIB Delhi

In a major success in the fight against wildlife crime, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, coordinated “OPERATION THUNDER BIRD” in India, from January 30-February 19, 2017. Operation Thunderbird is the code-name for INTERPOL’s multi-national and multi-species enforcement operation.

A total of 2, 524 Live species of scheduled animals, 19.2 kg of elephant ivory, 1 tiger skin, 9 carcasses of wild animals, 1 organ pipe coral, 1 jar snake venom, 8 leopard skins and 1 Indian Mujtac skin was seized. The operation brought about a unanimous approach by the state enforcement agencies in the fight against wildlife crime in the country. 71 persons were arrested during the operation, which saw an overwhelming response from the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Uttrakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.



Preceding this operation, WCCB had convened a species specific operation on turtles, code named “OPERATION SAVE KURMA” from December 15 last year to January 30, this year. A total of 15, 739 live turtles were recovered from 45 suspects, having inter-state linkages. The operation brought about an awareness among the enforcement agencies to focus on the existing trade routes and major trade hubs in the country, which will be specifically focused in future.



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(Release ID: 1483576) Visitor Counter : 303

