



ODISHA POLICE
CRIME BRANCH
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

CRIME BRANCH CIRCULAR NO. 03/2017

Sub: Monitoring of internet for tracking online trade of illegal wildlife products

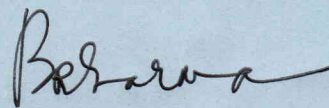
Over the last decade, Internet has emerged as the world's largest market place. Unregulated in operation, anonymous in transaction and endless in opportunity, it has redefined the contours of criminal activity, including a flourishing illegal trade in protected wildlife species and their derivatives. Camouflaged as historical artefacts or family heritage goods, offer of trade often thrives on dubious documentation. While such an ever-expanding illegal trade has a devastating effect on our fragile ecosystems, it has also thrown up a new challenge to enforcement.

Internet has provided an expandable and accessible platform for indulging in covert and overt wildlife trade. Large number of endangered wildlife articles are being regularly sold on public websites through open advertisements and sometimes through code words. Recently, Odisha Crime Branch detected a case of sale of body parts of Monitor Lizard at Bhubaneswar through online advertisement and took appropriate legal action against the accused. Cases of online illegal wildlife trade has been reported from different parts of the country and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) in this connection has sensitized State Police and various forest authorities to maintain a sharp watch on postings in internet so that such illegal trade can be contained and appropriate legal action initiated.

In view of the expanding role of internet in promoting online illegal wildlife trade, the following actions are advised to be initiated by the field formations:

- i. IsIC/OsIC of Police Stations may be advised to inculcate the practice of web patrolling or web surfing to detect illegal traders using internet as a medium of illegal trade in wildlife contrabands.
- ii. Information may be collected about various code names/vernacular names/key words used by illegal traders over internet to sell various wildlife contrabands. Some code names currently being used include "Double Engine" or 'Scooter' for sand boa snake, 'four wheeler' for tortoise, 'pipe' for ivory, 'aaloo' or potato for musk, 'pyaz' or onion for bear bile, 'dhariwala chaddar' for tiger skin and 'chhota dhariwala chaddar' for leopard skin.
- iii. Species most commonly offered for online sale must be identified and enforcement actions intensified on such identified species.
- iv. Intelligence-led operations may be carried out for detecting trade portals, social media platforms and individuals offering prohibited wildlife articles for sale and legal actions initiated against them.
- v. Information should be exchanged amongst various agencies within the State as well as outside the State about online illegal wildlife trade.

This may kindly be circulated to all Police Stations as well as Senior Officers for information and appropriate follow up action.



20/6/2017

(B.K.Sharma)

Special Director General of Police
CID-Crime, Odisha

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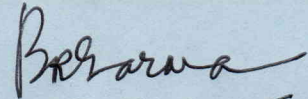
Memo No. 21760 /WCC

Date 20 .06.2017

Copy to:

- All district SsP/DCsP Cuttack & Bhubaneswar/SsRP Cuttack and Rourkela
- Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar/All Range IsGP/DIsGP/IG of Police, Railways, Cuttack

for information and necessary action please.


20/6/2017

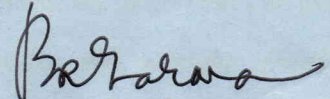
(B.K.Sharma)

Special Director General of Police
CID-Crime, Odisha

Memo No. 21761 /WCC

Date 20 .06.2017

Copy to Mrs Tilotama Varma, IPS, Additional Director/IGP, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, 2nd Floor, Trikoot-I, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066 for information please with reference to Advisory No.3/2017-18 dated 24.5.2017 of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi.


20/6/2017

(B.K.Sharma)

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