



Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

No: 10-27/WCCB/2018/Part-II 389

Dated: 24 April, 2020

ADVISORY NO.-01/2020-21

Sub:- Advisory on prevention of poaching of wildlife during lockdown-reg.

It has come to the notice of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau that several incidents of hunting of wild animals have occurred during the lockdown across the country to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Some of the cases which have come to notice are as follows:

1. An information regarding hunting of water birds from Nayachar, Haldia district of West Bengal was shared with the Chief Wildlife Warden of West Bengal on 1st April 2020 by RDD/ER/WCCB.
2. Another information regarding killing of water birds and forest birds at Hooghly district, West Bengal was shared with the Chief Wildlife Warden of West Bengal on 6th April 2020 by RDD/ER/WCCB.
3. Another information regarding hunting of jungle cat and squirrels from Belpahadi, Jhargram district, West Bengal was shared with the Chief Wildlife Warden of West Bengal on 13th April 2020 by RDD/ER/WCCB.
4. A video was circulated in WhatsApp in the second and third week of April which depicted a group of hunters from Nagaland with carcasses of many barking deer and other wild animals. Investigation was launched by the Nagaland forest department and four suspects were arrested after they surrendered to the Forest department on 21 April, 2020. Further investigation in the case is on.
5. A King cobra was hunted down in Arunachal Pradesh on 18th April 2020 for bushmeat. A video was uploaded in social media and investigation was initiated by Arunachal Pradesh Forest department. With the assistance of the police, one accused has been arrested on 20 April 2020 and further investigation is on.
6. A YouTube channel maintained from Bankura district, West Bengal has uploaded many videos regarding keeping and trade of Indian parakeets. The last video was uploaded on 19th April 2020. The uploader asks interested buyers to meet him after the withdrawal of lockdown. The information has been forwarded to the Chief Wildlife Warden of West Bengal on 22 April 2020 for further appropriate action.
7. A case was registered on 11.04.2020 and a person was arrested in the poaching incident of two Indian giant Squirrels at Madkhol village, Taluka Sawanwadi, Maharashtra. The offender also uploaded the images on his whatsapp status.
8. Based on the information provided by RDD/SR/WCCB, 06 accused were arrested by Tamil Nadu Forest Department in monitor lizard case which was uploaded on to Tiktok video.
9. A case of hunting of peacocks by the villager in Gujarat was noticed. Carcasses of 02 Nos of peahen and 02 Nos of peacocks were seized in Dahegam beet near Somavadu Talav, District Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 17.04.2020 and one person was arrested.



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10. On 19.04.2020, patrolling party of BOP Darranga seized carcass of a wild boar and arrested 08 persons of village Kalahadi, near BP No. 240/3.
11. It has also been reported in various newspapers that seven poachers were nabbed in Bandipur deer carcass seizure case and two tigers died after eating poisoned boar at Annamalai Tiger Reserve. However, both these cases have to be confirmed from the concerned Forest Departments.
12. A case of seizure on 15.04.2020 of Nilgiri carcass, guns and a vehicle with the arrest of two persons was reported by MP Forest Department at Kotra, Berasia, Bhopal.
13. A case of seizure of 121 plum-headed parakeets and arrest of three accused was reported at Balaghat, MP on 22.04.2020.

The above cases depict that because of the additional time in their hands, hunters are venturing out for hunting bush meat. Some of them are also circulating pictures and videos of their illegal activities in social media. In view of the above, it is requested that the field formations under your control may be suitably advised to exercise increased vigil and take preventive action. The following measures are advised:

1. The state Forest departments should endeavour to identify probable sites where such bush meat hunting can take place.
2. Increased vigil and patrolling in such probable areas should be preferentially carried out in the lockdown period with GPS devices.
3. The social media uploads, especially from such probable districts, should be scanned continuously to promptly identify any instances of illegal actions uploaded.
4. Volunteers can be requested to monitor social media sites for reporting such offence cases.
5. Upgradation of the existing anti-poaching camps with more staff deployed for patrolling duties with suitable arms maintaining social distancing norms.
6. Strengthening of intelligence network around the respective Tiger Reserves and forest areas.

WCCB may also be kept informed of any significant development in this regard for further action.

(Signature) 24/4/20
(Tilotama Varma)
Additional Director / IGP

Copy to:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all states/UTs.
2. The RDDs/NR/ER/SR/WR/CR, for information and to coordinate action with State authorities.
3. PS to the ADG (WL), Govt. of India, MOEF&CC- for information please.