

# Wildlife crime control and investigation: A case study

Amit kumar  
Associate Professor,  
IGNFA



The world's 4th  
**LARGEST**  
illegal trade

## Parts used

### Skin and head

- Claw
- Skull and bones
- Fat
- Penis
- Whiskers
- Teeth
- Nose Leather
- Bones
- Eye balls
- Bile
- Brain
- Dung or Feces











AP







# Methods of Poaching



bomb



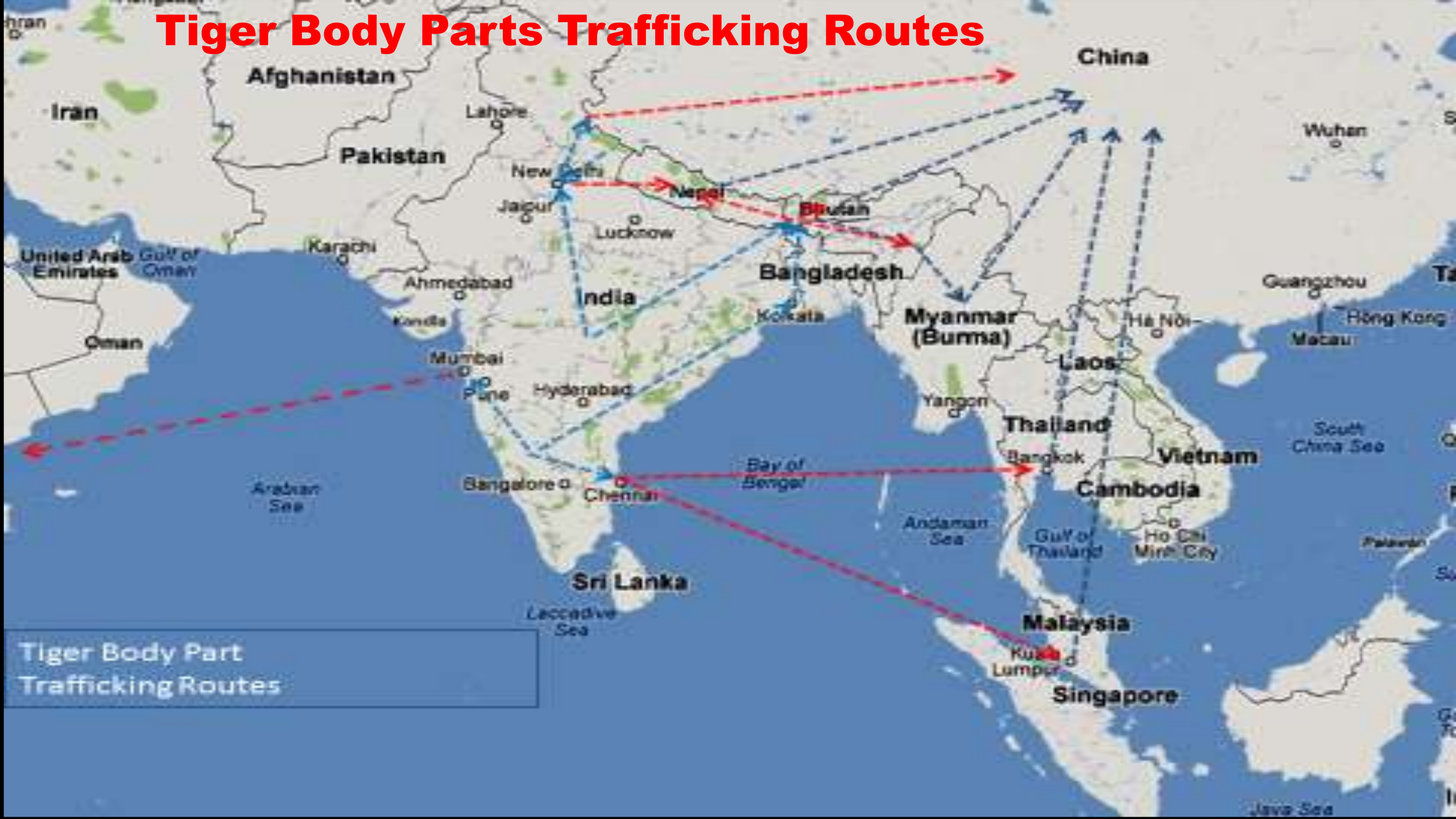
Shooting



SBBL Gun



# Tiger Body Parts Trafficking Routes

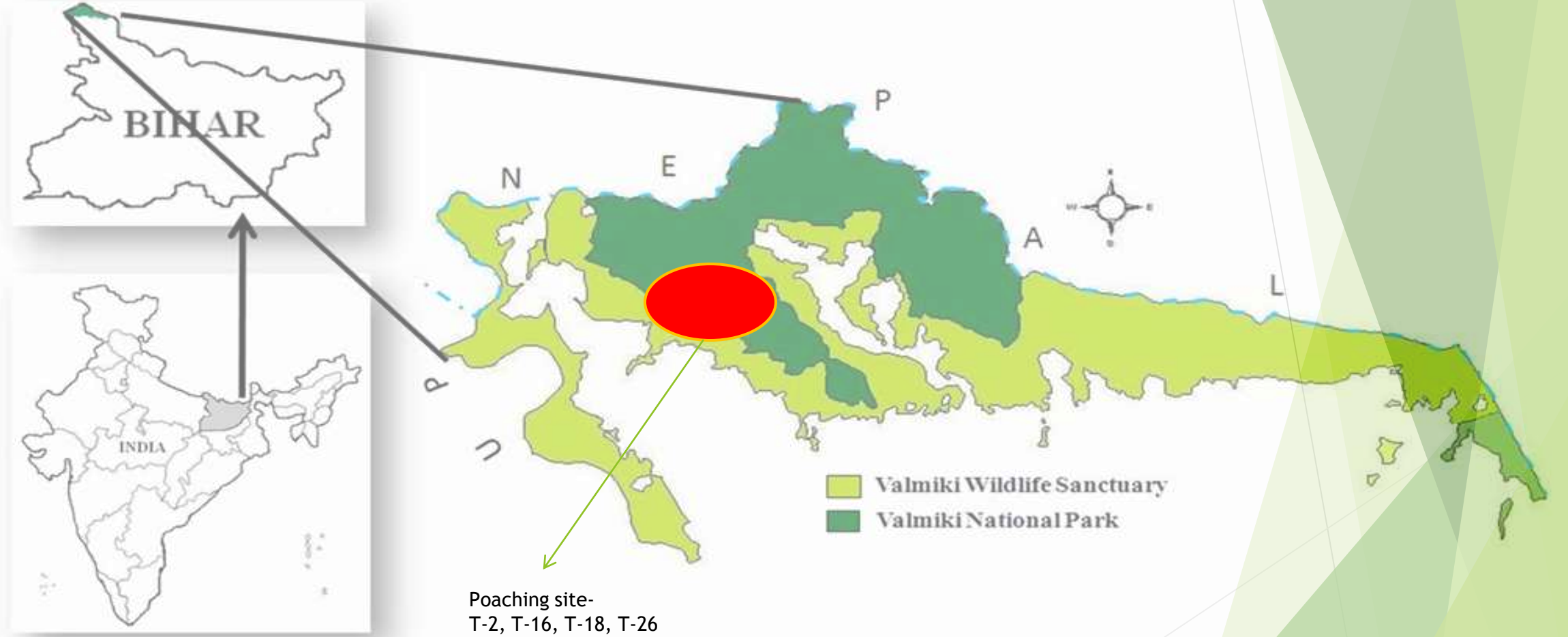


Tiger Body Part Trafficking Routes

# Pretext of Operation

- ▶ Unique operation of its kind wherein cooperation between WCCB, Police and Forest authorities have closely worked to burst an international gang active in poaching and wildlife trade operating in Indo- Nepal area
- ▶ WCCB shared this information with SP, Bettiah and DFO cum Deputy Director VTR Mr. Amit Kumar.

# Valmiki Tiger Reserve



# Planning for the Operation

- ▶ Decoy team was formed to nab the poachers on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## **Team formation consisting of:**

- ▶ Wccb officials.
- ▶ Forest officials.
- ▶ Police personnel.

# First Success - Initial arresting

- ▶ Date: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- ▶ This Team arrested 3 Persons
- ▶ Name of the persons Arrested:
  1. Chanddeo Mahato S/O- Balkishan Mahato, Village- Kala Bairiya
  2. Krishnamohan Khatait S/O-Maniram Khatait, Vill-KalaBairiya
  3. Narsingh Guro S/O- Mahesh Guro, Village- Gonauli



1.



2.



3.



# Seizures



# Activities Carried out after First Arrest

## Head of the Operation

- Mr. R. B. Singh, Field Director cum CF, VTR
- Mr. Amit Kumar, DFO cum DD VTR-Division 2

## Interrogation

- The three accused were giving different clues and information related to the case

## Team Formation

- Different Teams were formed based on the information collected. All teams were working under the guidance and direction given by DFO cum DD VTR Div-II

# Different Teams Formed: Leaders & Work Assigned

Mr. Shashikant kumar, IFS, Attached officer

Mr. Gaurav Ojha, IFS, Attached Officer

- Looking after the whole case i.e. writing prosecution report and getting connected with other operations.

Mr. R.K. Sinha, ROF Valmikinagar

- All court Procedures and communications.

Mr. Anand Kumar, ROF Madanpur

- Search and seizure in Gonauli, Valmikinagar and Uttar Pradesh.
- Arrest of Padum Narain Choudhary in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Mahesh Prasad, ROF Chiutaha

- Search and Seizure in Naurangia doon and Harnatand area.

Mr. B. K. Pathak, Forester, Valmikinagar

- Search and Seizure in Nepal.

# Information collected During interrogation and Action Taken on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Revealing of Name of the Kingpin and Mastermind of the Cartel, Hari Guro, S/O-Ganeshi Guro, Village- Gonauli

Search and Seizure Operation At Hari Guro's house in Gonauli.

Search and Seizure operation at the home of Hari Vot, S/O: Garam Vot, Village-KamarChinwa

Arrest of Hari Vot, S/O: Garam Vot, Village-KamarChinwa and Satendra Thakur



Hari Vot



Satendra Thakur

# Search and Seizure Operation at Hari Vot's Home

- ▶ Date of Operation: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- ▶ **Material Seized from house:**
  - ▶ Tiger Bones.
  - ▶ Hair of wild boar.
  - ▶ Big knife.
  - ▶ Illegal firearm with bullets.
  - ▶ Net etc.

# Interrogation Continued: New Success and Further Arrests( 21.1.16 onwards)

## Revelation of Name of Mr. Bholu Shah, the trader

Bholu Shah S/O: Shankar Shah Village- VijayNagar,  
Tankibazar Valmiki Nagar

Arrest and Interrogation



## Revelation of Name of Mr. Padun Narain Choudhary, The Purchaser

Padun Narain Choudhary S/O: Ramkripal Choudhary Village-  
Taraini sonaha District: Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh

Arrest and Interrogation



## Revelation of Name of Mr.Jung Bahadur Thapa, Nepali Contact

Jung Bahadur Thapa, Village- Ward No.2, Ramnagar,  
Palkalihwa, Nepal

Operation by Nepalese CIB and Forest Officials: Seizure of  
Tiger Skin owned by Padun Narain Choudhary and Arrest of  
Thapa



# Arrest of the Kingpin Hari Guro

The Kingpin and his associates were still absconding and hiding in Nepal.

Their arrest warrant was prayed and got issued from the court. The forfeiture of property order was also given by the court.

The accused were tracked till Nepal by team and they were pressurised.

Arrest of The Kingpin Hari Guro.



# Search and Seizure Operation at Hari Guro's House.

- ▶ Date of Operation: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- ▶ Material Seized from His house:
  - ▶ Tiger Bones
  - ▶ Tiger Claws
  - ▶ Single Barrel illegal rifle with bullets
  - ▶ Furadan poison.
- ▶ Arrest of his Wife Mrs. Bani Devi on following charges:
  - ▶ Destroying the evidences related to tiger poaching.
  - ▶ Helping out Hari Guro in the poaching and trading of tiger skin and Bones.
  - ▶ Hari Guro was still at large.

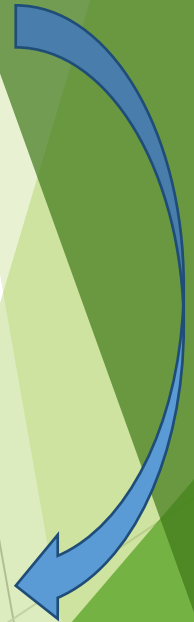


# Modus operandi of poachers



**Tiger is killed**

**Application of Furadan**



# Use of Technology in Investigation

## CDR

- The help of Call Data Record analysis was taken in this case
- All accused along with forest personnel were scanned to find out any other linkages with this case.

## Arrest of Informer

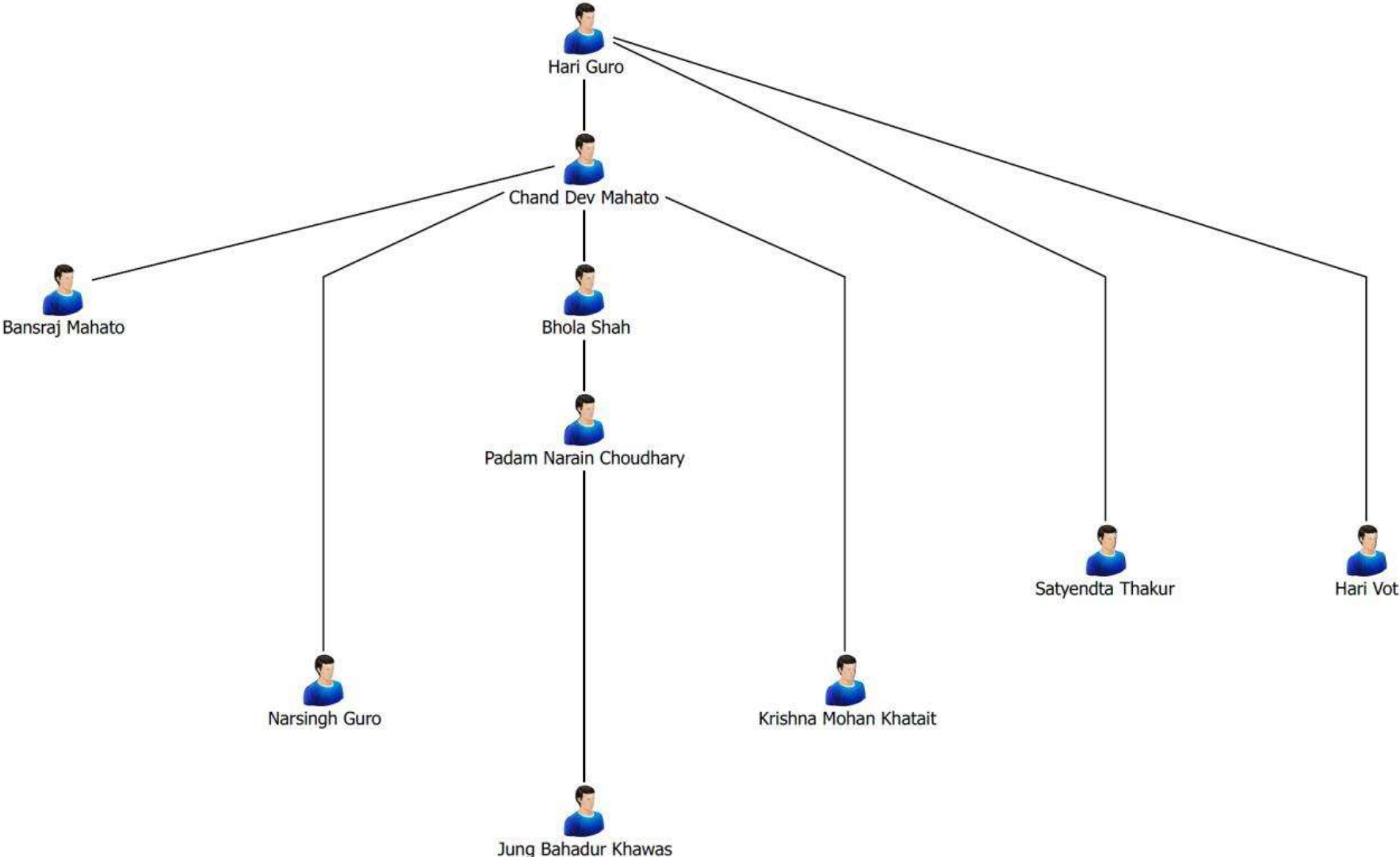
- Jitendra Oraon S/O: Khedan Oraon Village- Chamki Tola was found to be involved in the poaching case.
- Provided informations regarding tiger kill and movement.
- Was arrested.



# Submissions By the Accused

- ▶ They accepted that they were involved in the poaching case from last few years
- ▶ They all accepted and went to show the site where they poached all Tigers.
- ▶ They accepted that they used Furadan poison( Which is in frequent practise in agricultural operations) to poach tiger.
- ▶ Bhola Shah told the name of Pemba Gurung, a wildlife trader, to whom he had sold 12Kg of tiger bones in the Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ▶ Detailed Information and past record of all accused.

# Hierarchy of the Tiger Poaching Cartel



# Further Action Taken by Investigation Team

- ▶ All the evidences like decomposed meat, poison sample etc. were collected and sent for scientific testing in various labs like WII, CCMB and FSL.
- ▶ The information regarding Pemba Gurung, the illegal wildlife trader, was shared to Nepal Crime Investigation Bureau for further action.



## CDR Analysis Document

- CDR analysis has been helped in revealing vital clues regarding the poaching.
- Scientific analysis of call details led to picturisation of the whole crime scene and the culprits involved.



INTERPOL

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY SUB-DIRECTORATE  
PROJECT PREDATOR

### **Tiger Poaching Cases 41/2016, 42/2016 and 288/2016 – Analysis of Call Data Records**



**Date of publication:** 18 March 2016  
**Original:** English  
**Available in:** English  
**Reference:** 2016/341/OEC/ILM/ENS/DGA

# CDR Matrix of Calls between the Accused

		CALLED								Total (Outgoing)	
		Bhola SHAH	Chand Dev MAHATO	Hari GURO	Krishna KHATAIT	Narsingh GURO	Padum CHOUDHARY	Bansraj MAHATO	Satyendra THAKUR		Hari VOT
CALLER	Bhola SHAH		4				46	17			67
	Chand Dev MAHATO	6		101		2		331			440
	Hari GURO		41					17	12	3	73
	Krishna KHATAIT				1						1
	Narsingh GURO		2								2
	Padum CHOUDHARY	13					5	1			19
	Bansraj MAHATO	20		54							74
	Satyendra THAKUR			67							67
	Hari VOT			23							23
	Total (Incoming)	19	47	245	1	2	51	366	12	3	746

Figure 3: The volume of telephone contact between suspects



# Cases registered

- ▶ Case **IF No7/2016** dated 19.01.2016 registered at Harnatand Range, VTR Division-II u/s 9,27,49(B),50 of WLPA,1972.
- ▶ Case **IF No. 9/2016** dated 23.01.2016 registered at Ganouli Range, VTR Division-II u/s 9,27,49(B),50 of WLPA,1972.
- ▶ Case **IF No. 26/2016** dated 21.02.2016 registered at Ganouli Range, VTR Division-II u/s 9,27,49(B),50 of WLPA,1972.
- ▶ Case **IF No. 29/2016** dated 8.3.2016 registered at Ganouli Range, VTR Division-II u/s 9,27,49(B),50 of WLPA,1972.

# Investigation Unique of its Kind

- ▶ First time direct international Linkages were found i.e. in Nepal and China.
- ▶ International Co-operation: All agencies like India-Nepal Forest departments, WCCB, Nepal CIB, Interpol worked together.
- ▶ Team Work
- ▶ Interrogation and Inference drawing:
  - ▶ Pressure Building.
  - ▶ Multiple rounds of Interrogations.
- ▶ Arresting:
  - ▶ Arresting of Hari Guro.
  - ▶ Combing in Nepal, Birganj
  - ▶ UP - Padum Narayan Choudhary (By UP Special Task Force)
  - ▶ Nepal- Jung Bahaddur Thapa From Nepal (By Nepal CIB)

# Investigation Unique of its Kind: Contd..

## ▶ Scientific Analysis:

- ▶ Call Data Analysis through Interpol
- ▶ Forensic Expert Report (SFL, CCMB, WII)
- ▶ Sample Collection And Analysis

## ▶ Prosecution:

- ▶ Case framing with the help of Mr. Saurabh Sharma, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court
- ▶ Various rounds of refinements in the case.
- ▶ Speedy Case preparation considering time constrains e.g. kukri-Jabti, warrants
- ▶ Final full-proof Prosecution submission within Short time limit
- ▶ Speedy Trial Requested.

## Area Dominance:

- ▶ Involvement of 30 STF from Muzzafarpur - Idea and initiative by Sri R. B. Singh, Field Director cum CF, VTR.
- ▶ Extensive Search and Seizure operation carried out.
- ▶ All the suspect houses were extensively searched in highly risky areas of Naurangia Done were the district police showed their limitations to carry out search operation.
- ▶ AS a result many of the wildlife criminals fled away from the area.

# Outcome of the Case

- ▶ Tiger poachers' and traders' International gang busted
- ▶ All the Wildlife material i.e. tiger skin, Bones, tiger Caracas recovered
- ▶ Timely Submission of Final Prosecution Report
- ▶ Scientific sample collection and getting it Examined by various labs like FSL, CCMB Hyderabad and WII Dehradun
- ▶ The Site Verification by the accused was done and was video recorded along with its GPS location.
- ▶ Statement recording and video recording
- ▶ Successful International cooperation

# Lessons Learnt

- ▶ Importance of Interstate and international cooperation in Investigation
- ▶ Need of Close Monitoring of wildlife using latest technologies like GPS, Camera Traps and SMART(Spatial Monitoring and Reporting) Software.
- ▶ Need of Improvement in Patrolling of reserved areas
  - ▶ Checking of entry of people inside the forest mainly in the core area
  - ▶ Making of New Check Posts and Nakas.
- ▶ Regular Monitoring of Potential threats(suspected poachers)
- ▶ Need of Development of Intelligence Network
- ▶ Information sharing at National and International level regarding Wildlife offences with WCCB, CIB Nepal, Interpol etc
- ▶ Need of increased Entry-Point activities to indirectly reduce burden on VTR by reducing infiltration by Villagers.

# Suggestions

- ▶ Regular Interstate and international departmental meetings should be organised for wildlife crime data sharing and sensitisation of the issue.
- ▶ Establishment of Wildlife Crime Detection Cell(Laboratory) in VTR
- ▶ MoU with different scientific institutions like FSL, CCMB, WII, IVRI etc. to fasten the Sample Analysis Report
- ▶ Expert lawyer in Wildlife crimes should be engaged to ensure maximum punishment for the offenders.
- ▶ Regular sensitisation program for Forest officials, SSB and Judicial officer etc.
- ▶ Use of Modern technology Like E-eye, UAV-Drones, CCTV camera, Illegal Trade Database, CDR analysis in wildlife monitoring and Wildlife related crime detection
- ▶ Fulfilment of pressing demand of Permanent Frontline staff in Tiger Reserve.
- ▶ Staff should be equipped with weapon
- ▶ Use of Speed Boats in Gandak to patrol international porous border with Nepal.
- ▶ Use of Elephants in Tiger patrolling to access difficult areas.

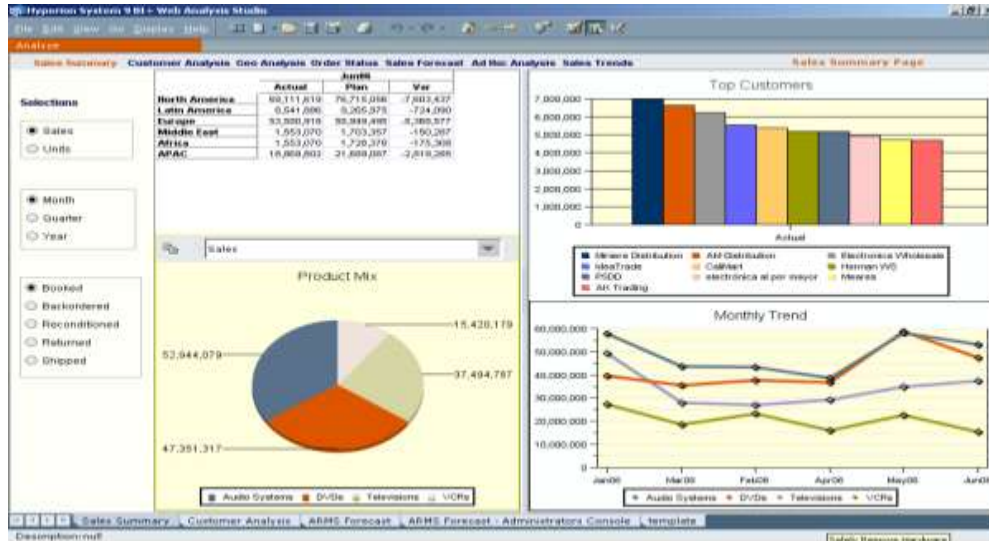
## Continued..

- ▶ State Government has been requested to fill up the existing vacancies of field staff. The situation is precarious as of now with 90% vacancy at FG and Forester level.

<b>Post</b>	<b>Sanction Strength</b>	<b>Present Strength</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>
A.C.F.	2	0	2
R.O.F.	8	6	2
Forester	39	9	30
Forest Guard	167	19	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>182</b>



# Intelligence Analysis Software



Intelligence Analysis Software is used to analyze information collected from overt and covert sources to actionable intelligence which can be used to prevent crime



Thank You !!!