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Legal and illegal trade of wildlife and domesticated birds and mammals in two different localities in district Kohat

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Abstract

Commercial use of non-domesticated animals and plants is usually referred as wildlife trade. Data was collected from two different localities of district Kohat. Data was recorded on a questionnaire along with animal's classification, Common and local names and price per animal (in Pakistani Rupees). About 8 different species of birds were being sold in Bilitang Mela and Neher Mela among which 5 were marketed legally, While 3 of them were being sold totally in an illegal way without any permit from wildlife department. Among mammals about 6 different species were being marketed. All of the Mammals were traded legally over there. Trading of Partridges is very common in district Kohat. Most of the marketing of partridges is illegal i.e. without any permission from wildlife department. They are kept in cage throughout their lives. They are also reared for breeding purpose and their chicks are then sold for a handsome amount of money. As imported birds and animals are completely banned therefore these bazaars are not involved in imported animals and birds. Family Phasianidae is most commonly traded family of birds in district Kohat and Family Bovidae was the most common marketed family. All mammals were being marketed legally. *B. Taurus* (Cow) was found most costly mammal among them.

Keywords: Legal, illegal, trade, birds, mammals

1. Introduction

Business of non-domesticated animals and plants is usually referred as wildlife trade. Those animals may be retrieved from their natural habitat or may be reared in an artificial environment for breeding purpose. United Nations' Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), controls the legal wildlife trade. Wildlife trade is a threat to animals and their biodiversity [1]. In many countries, illegal trade is carried out by most of tribal peoples as they hunt for food and money. They don't have any idea about the importance of biodiversity and conservation status of animal species; hence contribute to the decline of biodiversity [2-4]. Animals trading can be legal. If the conservation status of an animal is least concerned, then it is allowed to bring it to market to meet the requirement of meat and milk i.e. food for human beings [5]. Looking to the above facts of trading, the current study is designed to investigate the Legal and illegal trade of wildlife and domesticated birds and mammals in two different localities in district Kohat.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Study Area

2.1.1 Bilitang Mela

Bilitang is a village situated about 13 km towards Pindi road from main Kohat city. "Bilitang mela" is a weekly Bazaar, organized on every Saturday, where animals are sold both legally and illegally.

2.1.2 Neher Mela

Kohat Neher is situated about 5 km towards Bannu Road from main Kohat city. Neher Mela is also a weekly bazar, organized on every Sunday, where animals are sold both legally and illegally.

2.2 Data Collection

Data was collected from above mentioned localities of district Kohat. Data was recorded on a questionnaire along with animal's classification, Common and local names and price per animal (in Pakistani Rupees)

3. Results

3.1 Trade of birds

About 8 different species of birds were being sold in Bilitang

Mela and Neher Mela among which 5 were marketed legally i.e. they do not require any permit from wildlife department, they include *A. anser* (Domestic Goose), *P. cristatus* (Indian peafowl), *N. meleagris* (Helmeted guineafowl), *M. gallopavo* (Wild turkey) and *M. undulates* (Budgerigar). While 3 of them were being sold totally in an illegal way without any permit from wildlife department. Those include *P. perdix* (Grey Partridge), *A. chukar* (Chukar Partridge) and *M. Niger* (Black partridge) Table-1.

Table 1

Class Aves							
Order	Family	Genus	Specie	Common Name	Local Name	Price (PKR/Animal)	Status
Galliformes	Phasianidae	Perdix	<i>P. perdix</i>	Grey partridge	Seenzara	1200-1500	I
Anseriformes	Anatidae	Anser	<i>A. anser</i>	Domestic goose	Raj Hans	2100-3000	L
Galliformes	Phasianidae	Pavo	<i>P. cristatus</i>	Indian peafowl	Moor	8000-25000	L
Galliformes	Phasianidae	Alectoris	<i>A. chukar</i>	Chukar partridge	Zark	20000-35000	I
Galliformes	Numididae	Numida	<i>N. meleagris</i>	Helmeted guineafowl	Teetara	1000-3000	L
Galliformes	Phasianidae	Meleagris	<i>M. gallopavo</i>	Wild turkey	Piru	3000-5000	L
Galliformes	Phasianidae	Melanoperdix	<i>M. niger</i>	Black partridge	Taru	15000-30000	I
Psittaciformes	Psittaculidae	Melopsittacus	<i>M. undulates</i>	Budgerigar	Australian Tooti	500-800	L

*L- Legal *I-Illegal

3.2 Trade of Mammals

Among mammals about 6 different species were being marketed. All of the Mammals were traded legally over

there. They include *B. Taurus* (Cow/ Cattle), *B. bubalis* (Water buffalo), *C. aegagrus* (Goat), *O. Aries* (Sheep), *C. lupus* (Dog) and *O. Cuniculus* (Domestic rabbit). Table-2

Table 2

Class Mammalia							
Order	Family	Genus	Species	Common Name	Local Name	Price (PKR/Animal)	Status
Cetartiodactyla	Bovidae	<i>Bos</i>	<i>B. taurus</i>	Cow/ Cattle	Ghwa	80000-140000	L
Artiodactyla	Bovidae	<i>Bubalus</i>	<i>B. bubalis</i>	Water buffalo	Mekha	60,000-80,000	L
Artiodactyla	Bovidae	<i>Capra</i>	<i>C. aegagrus</i>	Goat	Wzaa	13000-20000	L
Artiodactyla	Bovidae	<i>Ovis</i>	<i>O. aries</i>	Sheep	Gadh	20000-25000	L
Carnivora	Canidae	<i>Canis</i>	<i>C. lupus</i>	Dog	Spye	13000-20000	L
Lagomorpha	Leporidae	<i>Oryctolagus</i>	<i>O. cuniculus</i>	Domestic rabbit	Soya	250-300	L

4. Conclusion and Discussion

Trading of Partridges is very common in district Kohat. Most of the marketing of partridges is illegal i.e. without any permission from wildlife department. They are kept in cage throughout their lives. They are also reared for breeding purposed and their chicks are then sold for a handsome amount of money. As imported birds and animals are completely banned therefore these bazaars are not involved in imported animals and birds. Family Phasianidae is most commonly traded family of birds in district Kohat. *A. chukar* (Chukar partridge) was found most costly bird among all marketed birds which cost about 30,000 to 35,000 PKR. Among mammals, family Bovidae was the most common marketed family. All mammals were being marketed legally. *B. Taurus* (Cow) was found most costly mammal among them. as cow is used for both meat and milk which is the key cause of its high price.

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