

Common Modus Operandi of Animal Trapping

**Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
Ministry of Environment of Forests
Government of India**

Common weapons to kill wild animals

Snares

Nooses

Cages

Pits

Guns

Sutali bomb

Nets

Electrocution

Running down by
dogs

Poisoning

Traps



Snares

Steel cables such as telephone or electric wires are used to lay snares. It is known as 'phanda'. Once the neck of the animal passes through it tightens as the animal tries to get away.

Ungulates such Neelgai and Cheetal are trapped with the help of snares. But some times tiger or leopard are also trapped using a snare set up with thick cable.



Noose

Locally it is called as 'chhota phanda'. It is made with 'manjha', a sharp thread used to fly kites and babool or other spines are embedded.

It is used to capture terrestrial birds like Red Jungle Fowl. It is laid on the path of the birds and food grains are spread around to attract the birds.

Birds like Red Jungle Fowl easily get entangled with the noose and it further gets tightened when the bird tries to flee.



'Sutali Bomb'

Sutali bomb is also called as 'gola'. This is used to kill wild pig and other carnivores. Villagers or unorganised poachers frequently use it in and around forests particularly adjoining the agriculture fields. It is also placed at places where small carnivora come in search of food. The 'gola' is usually smeared or wrapped in raw meat to mask the smell of gun powder and to lure the animal into attempting to eat. When animal tries to chew or crush the meat smeared gola the resulting blast causes severe injuries to the animal in the mouth and head portion. Many a time the animal dies on the spot or otherwise it is tracked down using the blood trail.



Khabar

Khabar is basically a net made from nylon ropes used to capture ungulates or small carnivora. The length, breadth and height of the nets vary according to the targeted animal. Usually big khabars are 50 to 100 mts long and could be as high as 9 ft. It is set up with the help of bamboo poles along the fringes of the forest. From one side villagers do a beating to detract and drive the animal towards the net. When fleeing animal strikes the khabar , it gets entangled.



Iron Traps

Iron Traps are used to capture and kill the major felines like the Tiger and Leopard, by organized poachers.

This is also known as 'Kuddakka, Kudaka, Khataka or aujar' in local parlance.

Usually the poachers keep the trap dismantled, to confuse the enforcing agencies inspecting their premises.

The trap has a circular base ring tied with iron chain, two semi circular rings attached to the iron base ring and two inverted V shaped solid plates which act as springs. A wooden piece is tied with the iron chain at the end of the chain to securely bind the trap to the ground.



Iron Traps- Most dangerous tool

Traps are laid on the bridle paths or fair weather forest roads after locating the tiger trails. After the animal is trapped, it is killed with bamboo and spear.

The trap is a silent and lethal weapon. Very rarely can the animal escape once trapped.

In recent past much of the tiger and leopard poaching has been using this dangerous tool.



Iron Traps: Used by local nomads and villagers also

Recent information suggests that the use of Iron Trap is not unknown to the local nomads and villagers in and around wildlife areas as well.

Small sized traps are being used by locals also, to capture animals like jackal, wolf, and hyena.



Iron Traps: How it is used



Step-1 : The solid plated spring is pushed down.



Step-2: Putting legs on the solid plated spring, the arms of the trap are separated



Step-3: The hook is anchored with the separated arms



Step-4: Trap is ready to be placed at ground level. A pit is dug and the chain is buried in it.

Iron Trap: How it works



When the foot of the animal falls on the trap the hook gets displaced and the arms of the trap capture the foot of the animal firmly.



It takes only seconds to open and install the iron traps by the experienced poachers.

Other tools

Pointed and diamond shaped spears and knives are the tools which are being used by the poachers along with traps.

