



EAGLE

December 2017
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *A baby chimp rescued and two traffickers arrested in Guinea, 12th chimp rescued this year*
- ✓ *6 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Benin*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in two operations*
- ✓ *2 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo*
- ✓ *2 ivory traffickers from South Sudan arrested with 2 tusks in Uganda*
- ✓ *Legal assistance provided in Cameroon to an arrest of 2 ivory traffickers with 216 tusks and 81 elephant tails, found in a military car*
- ✓ *406 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 2017*



A baby chimp was rescued and two ape traffickers arrested in Guinea.



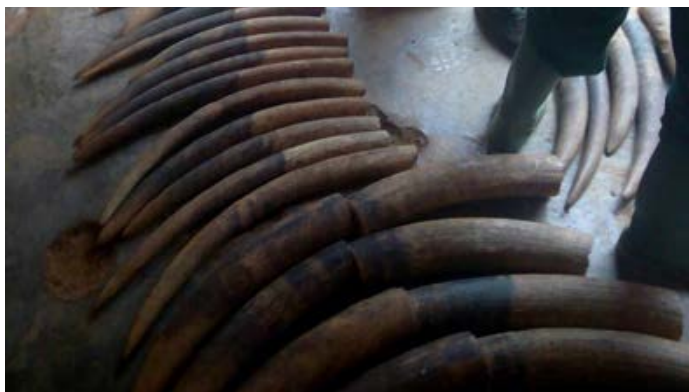
LAGA legal team assisted wildlife officials in an arrest of 2 traffickers with 216 ivory tusks and 81 elephant tails,

Summary

A baby chimp was rescued and two ape traffickers arrested in Guinea. This is the 17th baby chimp rescued by the Guinea team and 12th chimpanzee rescued by EAGLE this year. The GALF team was called to assist the arrest of two traffickers that tortured and killed two chimps while a third baby chimp was saved on time. Castro and the team hurried to get the traffickers behind bars and urgently get the baby chimp to the CCC sanctuary driving day and night. Charlotte and Saidou directed the team from afar. The female baby chimp had infection in the eyes and her left arm broken, and is treated now by the vet in CCC that will give her lifetime care.

6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks in Benin. The well-organized ring was led by a local king and his sons, who have been trafficking ivory for many years. They were all arrested in the act, four of them in an attempt to sell the ivory, and the other two for offering hidden cover for the deal from afar. The king trafficked the ivory from Niger.

5 ivory traffickers were arrested in two operations in Gabon. 3 were arrested with 4 tusks, they were members of a ring of poachers and ivory traffickers, massacring elephants in the area. 2 ivory traffickers were arrested



LAGA legal team assisted wildlife officials in an arrest of 2 traffickers with 216 ivory tusks and 81 elephant tails,

with 4 tusks in the North of the country in the act. One of them killed the elephants while the other one, Chadian nationality, was in charge of contacts with traffickers and provided ammunition to his poachers.

2 traffickers were arrested in Congo. One of them trafficked the 2 tusks concealed in a backpack from the North of the country, while the other one arrived from Pointe-Noire to join him in the criminal activity. They are part of a wide ring of well-organized traffickers, dealing ivory and pangolin scales with Chinese nationals.

2 ivory traffickers, both from South Sudan, were arrested with 2 tusks, weighing 67 kg, in Uganda. They were arrested in the act after trafficking the ivory concealed in plastic bag on motorcycles from Sudan. They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced both to 2 years in jail.

LAGA legal team assisted wildlife officials in an arrest of 2 traffickers with 216 ivory tusks and 81 elephant tails, found in a military car belonging to a gendarmerie colonel. The assistance also involved fighting corruption and traffic of influence when the State Counsel handling the case had to resist pressure to hand over the entire case to the military.

406 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 2017. Ivory traffickers represent more than a half of them, with almost 3.5 tons of ivory seized. 66 traffickers of large cat skins were arrested, and 35 pangolin scales traffickers ended behind bars as well. The number of ape traffickers has increased to 20, and 12 live chimpanzees were rescued. Fighting corruption still remain EAGLE's main mission as most of our cases involved combatting corruption and traffic of influence, and 15 enforcement, wildlife and other government officials were arrested this year.



A baby chimp was rescued and two ape traffickers arrested in Guinea.

Cameroon – LAGA

- LAGA legal team assisted wildlife officials in an arrest of 2 traffickers with 216 ivory tusks and 81 elephant tails, found in a military car belonging to a gendarmerie colonel. The assistance also involved fighting corruption and traffic of influence when the State Counsel handling the case had to resist pressure to hand over the entire case to the military.
- The deputy coordinator held a meeting with the Centre Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife and a legal adviser participated in the Anti-Poaching Committee Meeting held at the Governor's office in Yaoundé.
- LAGA went on annual vacation and an end of year lunch was organized for the event.
- A certificate of commendation was handed to the head of investigations department, Serge Boris Ania, for his tremendous achievements during his period with LAGA and especially for the good work done during the year.
- A supervolunteer ended his volunteer and training period with LAGA and went to the Mefou ape sanctuary for volunteering during the vacation period.



Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested in Southwest of the country. One of them trafficked 2 tusks concealed in a backpack, from the North of the country, while the other one arrived from Pointe-Noire to join him in the criminal activity. They are a part of a wide ring of well-organized traffickers, dealing ivory and pangolin scales with Chinese nationals.
- 6 ivory traffickers, arrested in December 2016 were prosecuted and sentenced to 5 years in jail *in absentia*. As they did not arrive to the court, the legal team is pushing for an arrest warrant to be issued.

- The coordinator met with the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Justice to discuss the procedures of previous arrests.
- She also held a meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Environment and the Director General of the Forest Economy to discuss the case of the chimpanzee traffickers, blocked in the court in Dolisie.
- She held another meeting with the Wildlife Advisor and the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Environment concerning the Memorandum of Understanding between PALF and the Ministry.
- The coordinator held a series of meetings with several Departmental Directors of Water and Forests, several State Counsels, the High Court and the Court of Appeal of Niari for the legal follow up of different cases.
- She also held a meeting with the Director General

of the Penitentiary Administration regarding the transfer of prisoners to Brazzaville and the medical state of a prisoner in the Brazzaville prison.

- An investigator from PALF travelled to Ivory Coast to support investigations.



Gabon – AALF

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the Northeast of the country. They are members of a ring of poachers and ivory traffickers, who massacre elephants in the area.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the North of the country in the act. One of them killed the elephants while the other one, of Chadian nationality, was in charge of contacts with traffickers and provided ammunition to his poachers.
- The legal team held meetings with different Gabonese authorities, including the State Counsels of several regions, the Provincial Directors of Waters and Forests, the Head of Anti-Poaching, the Head of Judicial Police and others.

3 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks





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Republic of Guinea – GALF

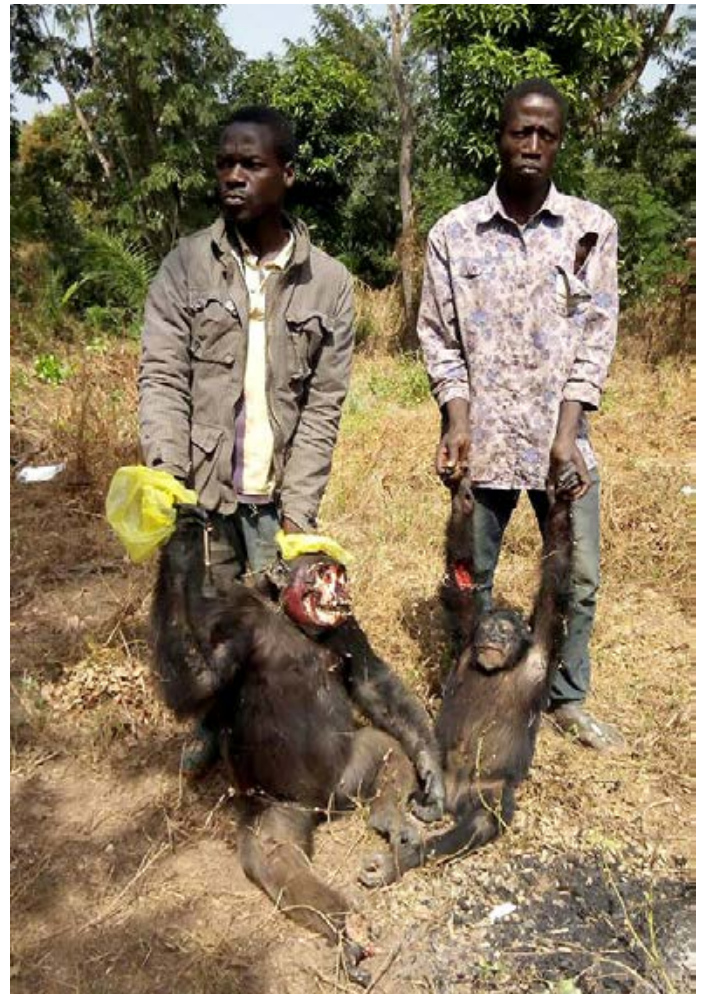
■ A baby chimp rescued and two ape traffickers arrested. This is the 17th baby chimp rescued by the Guinea team and the 12th chimpanzee rescued by EAGLE this year. The GALF team was called to assist the arrest of two traffickers who tortured and killed two chimps while a third baby chimp was saved on time. Castro and the team hurried to get the traffickers behind bars and urgently get the baby chimp to the CCC sanctuary driving day and night. Charlotte and Saidou directed the team from afar. The female baby chimp had infection in the eyes and her left arm was broken. She is being treated now by the vet in CCC who will give her lifetime care.



■ The Coordinator held a meeting with the commanders of the National Gendarmerie to discuss a proposal of the training of the gendarmerie officers on fighting wildlife crime.

■ The Coordinator held a series of meetings with Guinea authorities including the Focal Point of the fight against wildlife crime of the Ministry of Environ-

ment, the General Director of the Corps des Conservateurs de la Nature, the Focal Point of CITES, the Wildlife Crime Focal Point of the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, the Director of Water and Forests, several state counsels and others.



EAGLE Network in 2017



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1.3 ton of ivory was seized, and 3 traffickers arrested in an EAGLE crackdown on a West African criminal syndicate in Uganda in February. Kromah Moazu, the main trafficker arrested is at the center of a vast ring of organized wildlife criminals, dealing in multi-million dollars illicit profits. He is connected to, at least, 4 other major

criminal syndicates in Africa. He is also in charge of supplying rhino horns and ivory to the biggest wildlife criminal syndicates known worldwide - in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. He was arrested together with 2 Guinean nationals during a raid of the fortified house that was used to hide contraband stocks.

LAGA was behind the biggest pangolin scales operation in the history of central Africa in January. 2 Chinese nationals were arrested, and 5.4 tons of pangolin scales seized, ready for illegal export to China. The scales were concealed in 300 boxes inside two solidly welded sealed containers. Six months earlier, Hong Kong officials seized over 4 tons of pangolin scales trafficked from Cameroon. These two seizures of 10 tons in total within a very short period demonstrate the magnitude of pangolin scale trafficking and the role played by some Chinese nationals in the country. These seizures represent between 10,000 - 20,000 killed pangolins.

One of the biggest ape traffickers in the African continent was arrested in Guinea in February. Abdourahmane Sidibe is responsible for sending more than 130 chimps as well as gorillas, mandrills and even manatees to China and other countries. In July 2016, Abdourahmane Sidibe and his son Abdoul Salam were sentenced in absentia to five years in prison at the same time as Ansoumane Doumbouya, the former corrupt CITES head. The son was arrested 3 weeks later. The arrest of the 2 most important members of the Sidibé network is a victory in the fight against international wildlife trafficking and corruption.

A Colonel and 3 other traffickers were arrested and 4 chimps rescued in a high quality two back-to-back operations – a significant victory against impunity and corruption in Guinea in April. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura, an influential army high official, was involved in the wide spread wildlife trade in the country, he ran an illegal zoo with many animals that kept dying and being replaced by new ones from the wild. He also kept more animals in his home 100km from the zoo. The whole action was covered by the international press by REUTERS crew and Guinean televisions.

12 chimpanzees were rescued by EAGLE Network this year, 6 of them in Guinea. One of them was rescued in November when 2 international traffickers, both Sierra Leone nationality, were arrested. The first one, a long term specialized ape trafficker, trafficked the baby from Sierra Leone to Conakry, where he intended to sell it. He bribed the custom officers on the Sierra Leone-Guinea border to traffic the chimp smoothly. The other trafficker was arrested one day later. The little female, 2-years-old and fortunately in a good health, returned to her home country afterwards and was handed to the keepers of the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone for lifetime care.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- Continuing political unrest, leading to demonstrations lasting more than five months now, limited the activities of EAGLE-Togo.
- Rens Ilgen, the coordinator of EAGLE-Togo, con-

tinued his mission to Ivory Coast in ongoing training, recruitment and coordination of the project.

- Two investigators continued their test period.

Senegal - SALF

- 4 investigators and 3 legal advisers continued their test period.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with Senegalese authorities, including several State Counsels, Presidents, Vice Presidents and Judges of several courts, Regional Inspectors of Water and Forests and Police Commissioners.

- She met with the Legal Affairs Officer of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss cooperation with SALF and ongoing cases of wildlife crime.

Benin – AALF-B

- 6 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks. The well-organized ring was led by a local king and his sons, who have been trafficking ivory for many years. They were all arrested in the act, four of them in an attempt to sell the ivory, and the other two for offering hidden cover for the deal from afar. The king trafficked the ivory from Niger.
- The coordinator and the assistant coordinator held a meeting with a delegation of the US Em-

bassy in Benin, the USFWS representative based in Gabon and the Environment Specialist of the Regional Office for the Environment of the US Embassy in Ghana.

- The coordinator and the legal team held a series of meetings with Benin authorities including the Deputy Director of the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police, State Counsels and Judges of several courts, the commanders of Gendarmerie and others.

- The coordinator participated at the first meeting of the African Parks Network (APN) Management Committee in Benin on Pendjari Park.



Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 2 ivory traffickers, both from South Sudan, arrested with 2 tusks, weighing 67 kg. They were arrested in the act after trafficking the ivory, concealed in plastic bag, on motorcycles from Sudan.
- They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced both to 2 years in jail.
- The coordinator held a meeting with the Environmental Officer of USAID, attached to US Embassy and discussed with her the issues of challenges with selective prosecution of wildlife traffickers.



Ivory Coast - EAGLE Ivory Coast

- Rens Ilgen, the coordinator of EAGLE-Togo, continued his mission to Ivory Coast carrying ongoing training, recruitment and coordination of the project.
- He held a series of meeting with Ivory Coast authorities, including the Director of Wildlife, the Di-

rector of Legal Affairs and a Lawyer of the Ministry of Environment to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and EAGLE-Ivory Coast.

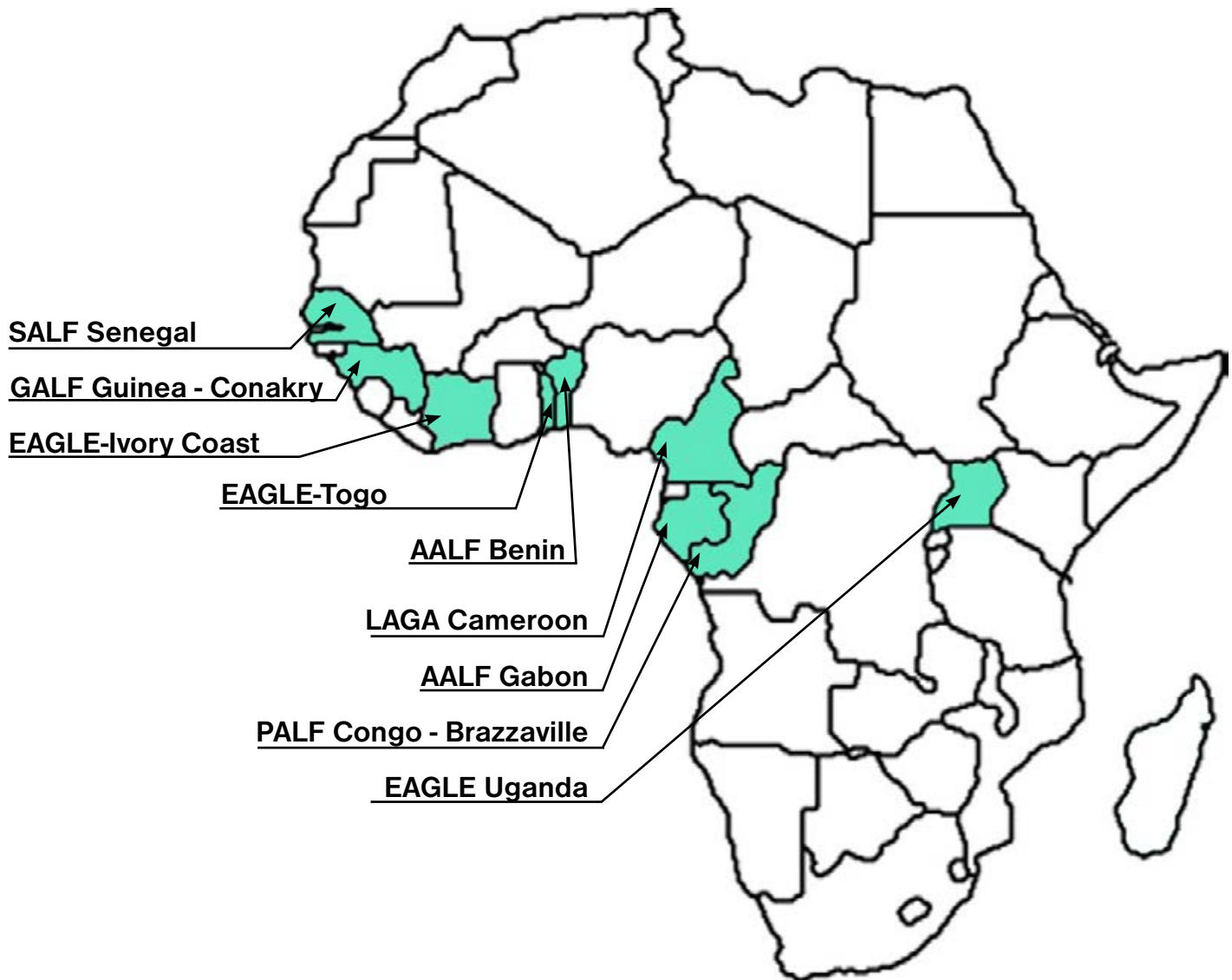
Headquarters

- Ofir Drori travelled to Ivory Coast to support investigation.
- Charlotte Houpline, the director of WARA, carried a mission in Nairobi to work with CCU on procedures and security issues as well as developing global strategy intensifying crackdown on high-level live animals trafficking
- The investigation support officer travelled to Nairobi to work with CCU on setting up new strategies for the network, identification of international wildlife traffickers syndicates, better coordinated investigations between countries and increasing

the level of the arrested targets are among the developed objectives.

- Luc Mathot, the founding director, travelled to Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin, where he participated at the meeting of MIKES, developing procedures on combating wildlife crime in W, Arly and Pendjari National Parks. He held meetings with the Minister of Environment of Burkina Faso and the General Director of Wildlife and Hunting and other important actors of wildlife conservation in the area.

Structure of the EAGLE Network



THE EAGLE Network

EAGLE: Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement, is a network of members across Africa, who are replicating effectively a program and operational model to undertake wildlife law enforcement, which is based on the LAGA-Cameroon model, trailed, practiced and tested since 2003. The EAGLE Network currently operates in nine African countries and keeps expanding.

The over-arching objective of the EAGLE Network is: *Developing civic activism and collaborating with governments and civil society to improve the application of national and international environmental legislation, through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent against the illegal*

trade in wildlife, timber and related criminal activities, including corruption.

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