



**EAGLE**

February 2018  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in Congo with 4 tusks*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 40 kg of pangolin scales and other contraband*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with two skins of lion heads, one of a leopard and several other skin parts in Senegal*
- ✓ *The coordinators and assistant coordinators from 8 French speaking countries participated at a 5-day training on leadership and management in Ghana*



*3 traffickers, one of them former army officer, arrested in Congo with 4 tusks,*



*A trafficker arrested in front of his bar with 40 kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippo teeth and 2 boa skins in Cameroon.*

# Summary

A trafficker arrested in front of his bar with 40 kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippo teeth and 2 boa skins in Cameroon. He is known as a notorious trafficker, dealing in several illegal products including gold, with connections to Chinese traffickers. He used his bar not only for selling drinks but as a cover for wild-life trafficking.

3 traffickers, one of them former army officer, arrested in Congo with 4 tusks, one of them a DRC national. They transported the contraband to the place of transaction in a canoe, concealed in a bag. They all are long-term traffickers, well connected to networks in the country as well as abroad.

2 traffickers arrested with two skins of lion heads, one of a leopard and several other skin parts in Senegal. The two brothers, notorious traffickers, used a shop, owned by one of them, as a cover for their illegal activities. They were arrested at their father's house during the attempt to sell the contraband.

The coordinators and assistant coordinators from 8 French speaking countries and Ofir Drori, the founding director, participated at a 5-day training on leader-



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ship and management in Accra, Ghana, prepared by MDF Training and Consultancy Company. The training brought together almost all project leaders within EAGLE Network and allowed daily EAGLE meetings to discuss strategies and a leap towards higher level of targets similar to the latest Ivory Coast action.



*The coordinators and assistant coordinators participated at a 5-day training on leadership and management*

## Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested in front of his bar with 40 kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippo teeth and 2 boa skins. He is known as a notorious trafficker, dealing in several illegal products including gold, with connections to Chinese traffickers. He used his bar not only for selling drinks but as a cover for wildlife trafficking.
- The Deputy Director accompanied by the veterinarian of Ape Action Africa held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected areas to convince the ministry officials to allow the baby chimpanzee, seized during an operation last month, to be sent to the Mefou wildlife sanctuary where ad-

equated structures and support are available. The animal is presently at the hands of people with very little experience in handling baby apes.

- The Deputy Director had a presentation on corruption in wildlife law enforcement at the French Cultural Centre and held a meeting with the officials of the CABAG project. He also held a meeting with officials of the European Union to discuss the court trial of two arrested in Djoum with 216 ivory tusks in the car of a gendarmerie colonel.
- The Deputy Director participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana.



## Congo – PALF

- 3 traffickers, one of them former army officer, arrested in the north of the country with 4 tusks, one of them a DRC national. They transported the contraband to the place of transaction in a canoe, concealed in a bag. They all are long-term traffick-

ers, well connected to networks in the country as well as abroad.

- The Coordinator met with the Commander of Gendarmerie in Brazzaville to discuss cooperation in

arrest operations.

- She also held several meetings with the Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests on the legal follow-up of the ongoing cases and the State Counsels in several departments.

- 2 legal advisors and one investigator continued their test period.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana



## Gabon – AALF

- AALF legal team supported the forces of order and provided legal follow up to two arrest operations. 4 ivory traffickers with 13 tusks were arrested, one of them was a corrupt wildlife officer, already arrested in 2015. An anti-drug commando arrested a Chinese trafficker with five leopard teeth and three bones during a routine control.
- The legal team held meetings with different Gabonese authorities, including the State Counsels of several regions and the Provincial Directors of Waters and Forests and others.
- The Assistant Coordinator participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana

## Republic of Guinea – EAGLE Guinea – GALF

- Charlotte Houpline, the director of WARA, travelled to UK to participate at a workshop organized by ARCUS foundation, bringing together twenty experts on the illegal trafficking of great apes in the world.
- She also held a meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UK to discuss the London Summit on International Wildlife Trafficking planned for October, and participation of Guinea at the Summit.
- The media officer and a legal adviser participated in a workshop on rays and sharks conservation

organized by the CITES Management Authority. The workshop focused on identifying threats to fish species, mainly rays and sharks. It was attended by custom officers, scientific authority of CITES, the Representative of the Ministry of the Environment, the Police and conservation organizations.

- The Coordinator and the WARA Director participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana

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## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- February was a quiet month due to the government negotiations which kept the country on hold.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Legal Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the responsible for registration at the Ministry of Administration to discuss the registration of EAGLE Togo.
- He also met with the Secretary of the Minister of Forestry to organize a meeting concerning the MoU.
- The assistant Coordinator also met the Director of the OCRTIDB to reinforce collaboration
- One investigator continued his test period.
- The Coordinator participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana

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## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal – SALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with two skins of lion heads, one of a leopard and several other skin parts. The two brothers, notorious traffickers, used a shop, owned by one of them, as a cover for their illegal activities. They were arrested at their father's house during the attempt to sell the contraband.
- The coordinator trained 51 officers of OCRTIS the (Central Office for the Repression of Illegal Traffic in Narcotics) including its Director General, and the head of the BIP on wildlife crime. She was assisted by a Commander of the DEFC and a Commander of the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy.
- She held a meeting with the General Director of OCRTIS and a Commander of the SSI of the French Embassy to discuss issuing permanent badges for the EAGLE Senegal team for access to airport.



- The Coordinator met with the UK Ambassador and a Chief of the Border Force to discuss more effective collaboration at the country borders, the port and the international airport of Dakar.

- Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer, arrived to Senegal to support EAGLE Senegal in reorganization the accounting department and to supports the coordinator in the recruitment of a new accountant.

- The Coordinator and the WARA Director participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana.



- 3 investigators and a legal adviser continued their test period.

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## Benin – AALF-B

- The coordinator and the legal team held a series of meetings with Benin authorities including the Director of W National Park, the Director of CENAGREF and with several State Counsels and judges to discuss ongoing cases.

- The Deputy Coordinator held a presentation to 15 wildlife officers, gendarmes and police officers on

wildlife law enforcement on a meeting, organized by CREDI-ONG, an NGO working on a conservation of Sitatungas.

- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana

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## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- EAGLE Uganda project suspended its activities due to financial organizational reasons

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## Ivory Coast – EAGLE Ivory Coast

- The legal department worked hard on the follow up of the January crackdown on an international ivory trafficking network. The interrogations and investigations continued, and many meetings were held to continue the process.

- The coordinator held a series of meetings with the UCT to continue the generation of information through requisitions, as well as with the Instruc-

tion Judge for this case to explain the history of the case and discuss the strategy for a structured period of further research.

- He also held a meeting with the lawyer of MINEF to introduce the case and discuss the collaboration.

- The coordinator met with the UK Minister for Af-

rica, who visited Côte d'Ivoire to congratulate authorities on last month's operations.

- The coordinator also met several times the Director of Cabinet of MINEF to advance on the signature of the MoU.
- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer arrived to Ivory Coast to support the team in the post-arrest procedures, interrogations and follow up investigations after the January arrest operation.

- The coordinator also held a meeting with the founder of the future chimpanzee sanctuary to discuss the developments and collaboration.
- The Coordinator participated in the management and leadership training for EAGLE coordinators that took place in Accra, Ghana

## Dreadful stories of the illegal trade with apes



4 chimps were rescued in April in Guinea

The year 2017 was exceptional for EAGLE Network for several reasons. One of them was the highest number of rescued live chimpanzees in the history of the network – 12 of them were rescued and transported to different sanctuaries around Africa. This is only a fraction off the still vivid illegal market with young apes – one of the main threats to the population of chimpanzees, together with bushmeat trade and habitat loss.

4 chimps were rescued in April in Guinea. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura, an influential army high official, was running an illegal private zoo with many animals that kept dying and being replaced by new ones from the wild. In the operation not only the chimpanzees, but also 30 other animals were rescued.

2 adult chimps were rescued in June in Cameroon. The chimps were living for years in tiny cages, where they could not even stand up. They

were immediately transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre for lifetime care. They recovered quickly and within one month the caregivers could watch them playing and running together.

A baby chimp was rescued and a wildlife trafficker arrested in Cameroon in August at a police checkpoint, the animal was concealed in a handbag placed inside a large plastic sack. The one-month-old orphaned baby chimpanzee was immediately rushed to the Ape Action Africa sanctuary, where caregivers quickly provided the appropriate treatment and care. The little female, called "peanut" first but named Sandie later, was fortunately in a good shape and very quickly got used to her caregivers. Now at 6 months old she has lots of teeth, a beautiful coat of hair, has learned to crawl and is eating solid food alongside her bottle feeds.



The 10-month-old male was named Farah

Another baby chimp was rescued in Cameroon in September. The 10-month-old male named Farah was also handed to Ape Action Africa. He did not trust his caregivers at all and it took him many weeks to start playing with other chimp babies again.



*The baby was concealed in a handbag placed inside a large plastic sack.*

Another baby chimp was rescued in Cameroon in September. The baby chimp was concealed in a small box with a metal net, badly treated and malnourished. It was taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre but unfortunately passed away after efforts to provide first aid assistance and treatment failed.



*The traffickers tried to market the him online, clothing him in a pink dress to attract buyers.*



*The chimps were living for years in tiny cages, where they could not even stand up*

4-month-old baby chimp was rescued in Gabon in October. The traffickers tried to market the him online, clothing him in a pink dress to attract buyers. The baby chimp got an immediate care at the International Centre for Medical Research and later was transported to the sanctuary in Lekedi Park for a life time care.

A baby chimp was rescued in Guinea in November. The traffickers smuggled the baby from Sierra Leone, they bribed the custom officers on the border to traffic the chimp smoothly. The little female, 2-years-old and fortunately in a good health, returned to her home country afterwards. She was looked after by GALF team members for few days and then handed to the keepers of the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone for lifetime care.

The 12<sup>th</sup> baby chimp was rescued in Guinea in December when two ape traffickers were arrested. They tortured and killed two chimps while a third baby chimp was saved on time and was handed to the CCC sanctuary. The little Tita had infection in the eyes and her left arm broken, but she is now recovering from her injury and already started climbing trees, although her left hand is not fully healed now.



*They tortured and killed two chimps while a third baby chimp was saved on time*



# Headquarters

- The coordinators and assistant coordinators from 8 French speaking countries and Ofir Drori, the founding director, participated at a 5-day training on leadership and management in Accra, Ghana, prepared by MDF Training and Consultancy Company. The training brought together almost all project leaders within EAGLE Network and allowed daily EAGLE meetings to discuss strategies and a leap towards higher level of targets similar to the latest Ivory Coast action.
- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer arrived to Ivory Coast to support the team in the post-arrest procedures, interrogations and follow up investigations after the January arrest operation.
- Danielle Mbui, the Financial officer, travelled to Senegal to support EAGLE Senegal in reorganization the accounting department and to supports the coordinator in the recruitment of a new accountant.



## 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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