



**EAGLE**

July 2018  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *Only 4 wildlife traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Cameroon*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested in Congo with 9 tusks*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Guinea*



*An ivory trafficker arrested in the North of Congo with 9 tusks.*



*2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon.*

# Summary

Only 4 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 3 countries.

2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon. The first trafficker carried the chimpanzee across the town, concealed inside a cardboard box and strapped behind a motorcycle. When he arrived to the place of transaction, he called for an accomplice who had been keeping watch over the area and they both unloaded the box and stepped into a nearby bar. They were arrested in the attempt to sell the animal.

An ivory trafficker arrested in the North of Congo with 9 tusks. He carried the ivory on a motorcycle concealed in a bag to evade detection. He is a notorious trafficker well known to authorities and well connected, trafficking ivory for years in several countries, especially Cameroon and Nigeria,



*An ivory trafficker arrested in the North of Congo with 9 tusks.*



using the logging trucks operating in the region. He also used his mobile phones shop as a cover for the criminal activities, collecting the ivory from a ring of poachers, concealing it in his shop and then re-selling it. Trafficking with corrupt policemen, he hoped for impunity, however he has been arrested in the act and he remains behind bars awaiting trial.



*2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon.*



*A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Upper Guinea.*

A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Upper Guinea. The taxi-driver, who had been involved in trafficking leopard skins between Mali and Guinea regularly, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skin of a very large leopard in a hotel.

## Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Douala. The first trafficker carried the chimpanzee across the town, concealed inside a cardboard box and strapped behind a motorcycle. When he arrived to the place of transaction, he called for an accomplice who had been keeping watch over the area and they both unloaded the box and stepped into a nearby bar. They were arrested in the attempt to sell the animal.
- The Deputy Director participated at a dinner on the International Wildlife Trade organized by the British High Commissioner at his residence and met there with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife and the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas. Several other diplomats including the Chinese Ambassador were present.
- The Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting at the US Embassy on illegal trade in ivory in the country.
- The Deputy Director travelled to the Democratic Republic of Congo where

he was the main speaker at a Conference organized by the Goma University of Nature Conservation and Development. He made a presentation on wildlife law enforcement and held meetings with university teachers and officials to discuss ways for the inclusion of wildlife criminality and law enforcement in their various programmes. He also held meetings with some NGO officials to discuss challenges in wildlife law enforcement and lessons learnt.



*2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon.*

## Congo – PALF

- An ivory trafficker arrested in the North of the country with 9 tusks. He carried the ivory on a motorcycle concealed in a bag to evade detection. He is a notorious trafficker well known to authorities and well connected, trafficking ivory for years in several countries, especially Cameroon and Nigeria, using the logging trucks operating in the region. He also used his mobile phones shop as a cover for the criminal activities, collecting the ivory from a ring of poachers, concealing it in his shop and then re-selling it. Trafficking with corrupt policemen, he hoped for impunity, however he has

been arrested in the act and he remains behind bars awaiting trial.

- The Legal team followed up a court case of two traffickers, both from Central African Republic, arrested with 17 kg of smoked gorilla meat in the North of the country.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with several high authorities including the General Director of the Penitentiary Administration, the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Forest Economy, the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, the



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Legal and Administrative Counselor of the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Forest Economy, several State Counsels and departmental directors of the ministry of Forest Economy.

- 3 legal advisers continued their test period.

*The Legal team followed up a court case of two traffickers, both from Central African Republic, arrested with 17 kg of smoked gorilla meat in the North of the country.*

## Gabon – AALF

- 26 wildlife traffickers in 12 cases were convicted and sentenced to jail this month, 19 of them for six months in jail, the highest sentence possible in Gabon.
- The Legal Team held a series of meetings with State Counsels, Departmental Directors and other authorities of several departments.
- Luc Mathot, the Coordinator and the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network traveled to Brussels to hold a meeting with EU officers at DEVCO to discuss a potential project fighting wildlife crime in Central Africa. They discussed the financial and administrative aspects of the project.
- He also travelled to Burkina Faso, where he

worked on preparation of launching the new EA-GLÉ project. He held a series of meetings with Burkina Faso authorities including the General Director of Water and Forest, the Director of Judicial affairs, the Heads of IUCN, GIZ and other NGOs. He also met with the Cooperation Officer

at Belgian Embassy and the Economic and Commercial Officer at US Embassy.

- 2 investigators from Gabon conducted a mission to Benin to support the investigation department and to train investigators.

## Guinea – GALF

- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Upper Guinea. The taxi-driver, who had been involved in trafficking leopard skins between Mali and Guinea regularly, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skin of a very large leopard in a hotel.
- The GALF Legal Adviser and the CITES office trained 47 officers of the Conservation Corps on CITES, the professional ethics, effective combatting international wildlife trafficking and the implementation of the CITES Convention in the border areas. The training was supported by EU within the Security Sector Reform Support Project (PARSS 3).
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment to discuss GALF's support to the authorities in the lifting the CITES sanction imposed to Guinea.
- He also held a series of meetings with various authorities, including the National Director of Water and Forests, the National Director of the Body of Conservatives of Nature, the State Counsel at the Kankan Court of First Instance and the Deputy State Counsel of Kankan.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of CCU



*A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Upper Guinea.*



conducted a mission to Senegal to do an inspection of GALF and SALF projects and evaluate the functioning of the projects.

*The GALF Legal Adviser and the CITES office trained 47 officers of the Conservation Corps*

## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator of Togo and Côte d'Ivoire, Rens Ilgen, undertook two missions to Togo to manage the project, and to lead the audit on the finances of 2017.
- The Coordinator held meetings with various authorities, including the Chief of Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy in Togo and the Political Officer of the US Embassy to discuss the registration of EAGLE Togo and signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment, the Head of Protected Area Division and the Civil Jurist-Administrator at MERF to discuss the MoU and the Director of OCTRIBD to intensify collaboration.
- Jean-Claude Vignoli continued his mission in Togo to support the management of the team and he conducted a short mission to Côte d'Ivoire to support the project.
- Intense recruitment process continued to strengthen the Investigation Department.

## Senegal – SALF

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Senegal to do an inspection of GALF and SALF projects and evaluate the functioning of the projects.
- A financial audit for expenses in 2017 was conducted.



### Jules Homéfa Dovi, AALF-B Coordinator

Since his childhood, Jules Homéfa DOVI ZENNAWOE hated injustice that undermines society. He soon got engaged with charity associations assisting people in the fight for human rights. He also decided to study law to be able to better help society.

He graduated with a master's degree in business law and judicial careers. In 2009 he founded his own human rights organization, and in 2011 he decided to focus on protection of the environment, particularly fight against the deforestation and together with Mrs. Kora Zaki Zinatou launched a war against the illegal loggers. Although he had an opportunity to make a successful career in commerce, he

remained faithful to the fight for the environment.

In 2014 he joined EAGLE project in Benin, Appui à l'Application des Lois sur la Faune et la Flore (AALF-BENIN) as a legal adviser. In 2015 he was promoted to the Assistant of Coordinator and lead the team to several good results. Throughout, he demonstrates his exceptional integrity, commitment, dignity and passion in the fight. These qualities led to being appointed a Coordinator in June 2018. Today, he is an environmental activist and expert in wildlife crime with a clear commitment: "Fight without hesitation for the survival and preservation of endangered animal and plant species".

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## Benin – AALF-B

- The ivory traffickers, arrested in June in the North of the country, were condemned, 3 of them were sentenced to 2 years in jail, the remaining two to 1 year in jail.
- Another well-organized ring of 6 ivory traffickers, arrested in December 2017, has been convicted. The ring was led by a local king and his sons, who have been trafficking ivory for many years. They were all convicted in absentia and sentenced for 2 years in jail. The Judge ordered an arrest warrant being issued on them, the Legal team pushes for early execution of the warrant.
- 2 investigators from Gabon conducted a mission to Benin to support the investigation department and to train investigators.
- Jules Dovi, the newly appointed coordinator of AALF-Benin, finished his training in Nairobi in management with CCU.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with Beninese authorities including the Director of the Judicial Police, the commander of the Border Special Surveillance Unit (USSF) and his deputy, the Departmental Director of the Republican Police, the officials of the Forestry Inspectorate (CIF) of the Department of the Atlantic and other officials.

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## Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

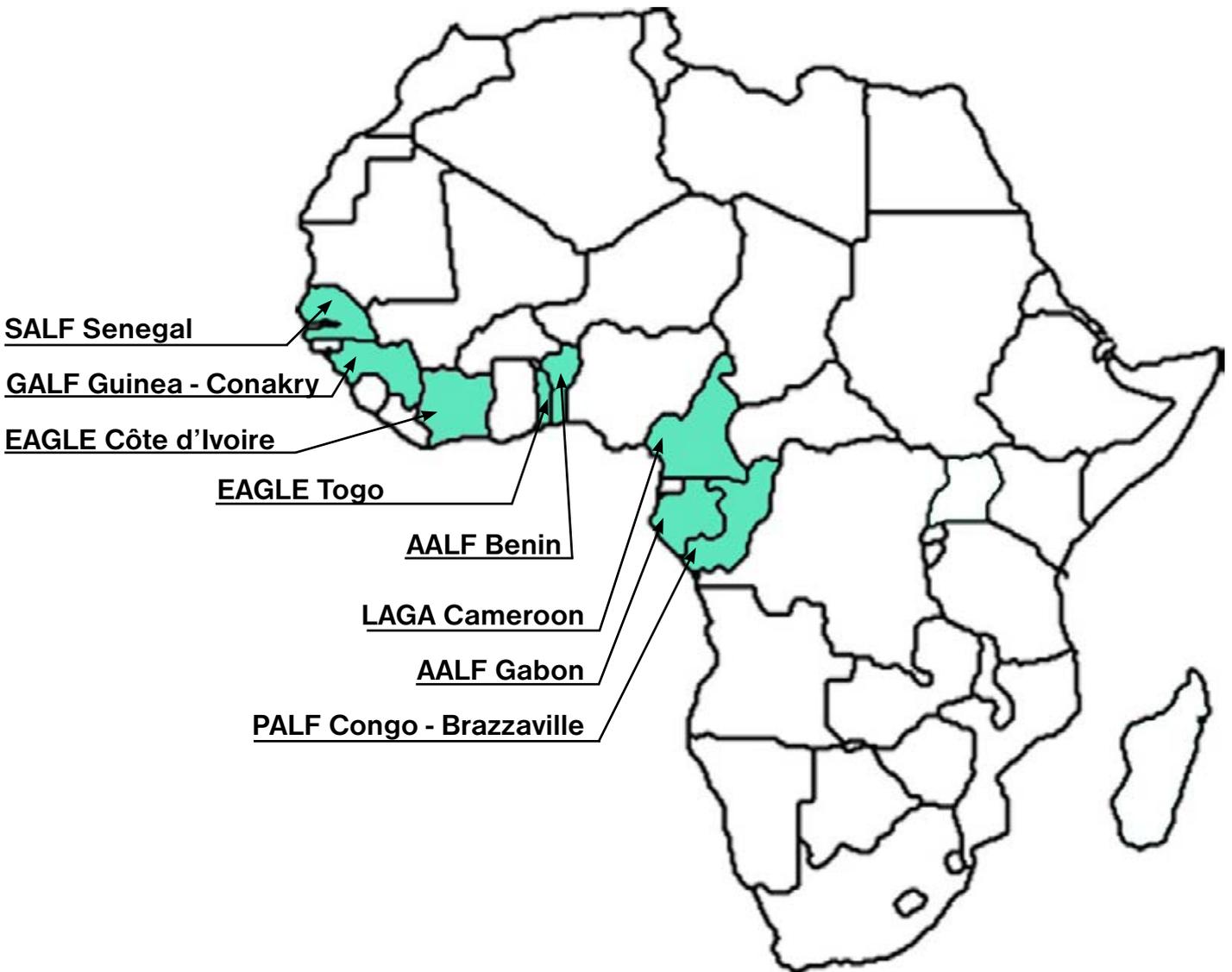
- The investigation of the case of ivory traffickers arrested in January continued. The case needs a lot of further investigation of the underlying networks and different kinds of trafficking. The Côte d'Ivoire team focused on money laundering investigations and the procedures for money laundering charges in Côte d'Ivoire.
- The Coordinator held many meetings with the UCT and the bankers' association in order to support the investigation.
- Four traffickers were sentenced to maximum penalty possible in Côte d'Ivoire – one year of imprisonment. They were arrested with 3 tons of pangolin scales in July 2017.

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## Headquarters

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network traveled to Brussels to hold a meeting with EU officers at DEVCO to discuss a potential project fighting wildlife crime in Central Africa. They discussed the financial and administrative aspects of the project.
- He also travelled to Burkina Faso, where he worked on preparation of launching the new EAGLE project. He held a series of meetings with Burkina Faso authorities including the General Director of Water and Forest, the Director of Judicial affairs, the Heads of IUCN, GIZ and other NGOs. He also met with the Cooperation officer at Belgian Embassy and the Economic and Commercial Officer at US Embassy.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Senegal to do an inspection of GALF and SALF projects and evaluate the functioning of the projects and progress done following a warning letter on the state of the projects.
- Jules Dovi, the newly appointed coordinator of AALF-Benin, finished his training in Nairobi in management with CCU.

# 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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