



EAGLE

June 2018
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *18 wildlife traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *2 ape traffickers and baby chimp rescued in Guinea*
- ✓ *11 ivory traffickers including an army man arrested in Benin in two operations and 6 tusks seized*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in 3 operations*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 2 leopard skins*



An ivory and pangolin scales trafficker was arrested in Gabon.



2 traffickers were arrested, and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea.

Summary

2 traffickers were arrested, and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea. First trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell the baby, and soon he denounced his sister, who had been holding the chimp for several days after it was trafficked from Boke mining



11 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin in two operations.

area, where the chimp's family probably fell victim to the bushmeat trade. The small male, who was very weak and in a bad condition, was quickly handed to professionals from the Chimpanzee Conservation Center for lifetime care. This is the 20th chimp saved in a GALF arrest operation since 2012, when the project started.

11 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin in two operations. 6 ivory traffickers including an army man were arrested in the capital city with 4 ivory tusks. The soldier, who organized the transaction, was arrested together with four other traffickers in a restaurant in the act. At the police station they quickly denounced the last trafficker, who was arrested the same day at his house. He had links to other trafficking ring in the country, trafficking ivory regularly, bringing these 4 tusks from Niger. 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in the North of the country during the second operation. Two traffickers were arrested in a hotel during an attempt to sell 2 tusks and one piece of ivory right after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a plastic bag. They denounced a father of one of them, the owner of the ivory, who was arrested in his house. Two more traffickers were arrested later, when they wanted to pick up their share of the illegally made profit.

5 traffickers were arrested in the month of June in Gabon. An ivory trafficker, a member of a large ivory

trafficking ring, was arrested with 4 tusks and 2 ivory pieces in North of the country. He was connected to circles to poachers, who used to provide him with the ivory in the region. He was also involved in an illegal mining of gold. 2 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins in the central part of the country. The first one from Burkina Faso was taken by surprise during an attempt to sell two fresh leopard skins. A rifle caliber 12 was later found in his house. When taken to the police station, he denounced another trafficker, who was arrested in his house three days later. An ivory trafficker was arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks, a rifle caliber 12 and some ammunition was found in his house. An ivory and pangolin scales trafficker was arrested in Lambaréné. He was arrested in the act when unpacking the two tusks, elephant tail and 3 kg of giant pangolin scales from a bag, which he used to conceal the contraband.



2 traffickers were arrested, and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea.

Cameroon – LAGA

- Ofir Drori, the LAGA Coordinator, arrived to Cameroon to hold several meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. During one of the meetings with the minister, he was accompanied by the deputy director. They discussed issues of collaboration and wildlife law enforcement.
- The Coordinator and the Deputy Director also met with the British High Commissioner, French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador and the European Union Head of Mission to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process in the country and its associated governance problems.
- They held a meeting with ZSL officials to examine the state of collaboration and proposals for better partnership.
- The Deputy Director held meetings with some US Embassy officials to discuss strategies for effective wildlife law enforcement.
- He participated in a workshop on illegal wildlife crime organized by the British High Commission.
- He held a meeting with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife together with the Head of Investigations and Legal Departments. Discussions focused on investigations at the Nsimalen airport. They also met with the chief of Nsimalen wildlife and forestry control post and the customs chief of brigade at the airport's freight section.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Mary Pons of the Papaye chimp sanctuary who was accompanied by the conservator of the Douala Edea Reserve, the meeting focused on examining and proposing solutions to some conservation and security problems at the sanctuary.
- A legal adviser from Ivory Coast arrived to Cameroon to undergo a training within the Exchange Program.

Congo – PALF

- The legal team provided legal support to the case of poachers arrested in the Odzala-Konkoua National Park. 3 traffickers were sentenced from 2 to 3 years in jail for elephant and pangolin slaughter and for keeping a weapon illegally.
- Two ivory traffickers sentenced to 6 months in jail. They were arrested in March 2018 with 24 kg of ivory and some pangolin scales.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with several high authorities including the General Director of the Penitentiary Administration, concerning convicts, the new General State Counsel at the Supreme Court about legal follow-ups, the MEF Wildlife Adviser on the MEF-WCS-TAF Consortium Protocol pending signature and the Director Interpol Brazzaville about potential collaboration.
- The Operation and Legal Team held a series of meetings with State Counsels and Departmental Directors of several departments.
- Three legal advisors continued their test period.
- Luc Mathot, the founding director of EAGLE Network, visited Congo to support the management of the team.

Gabon – AALF

- 5 traffickers were arrested in the month of June in Gabon.
- An ivory trafficker, a member of a large ivory trafficking ring, arrested with 4 tusks and 2 ivory pieces in North of the country. He was connected to circles to poachers, who used to provide him with the ivory in the region. He was also involved in an illegal mining of gold. He transported the ivory across the country through several police posts concealed in a travel bag, only to be surprised by the team when he spread the contraband on a floor to show it to his buyer.



An ivory trafficker, a member of a large ivory trafficking ring, arrested with 4 tusks and 2 ivory pieces

the animals few weeks before and intended to sell the tusks and the scales.

- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in jail, the highest sentence possible in Gabon. They were arrested in May with 2 tusks.
- 3 ivory traffickers were also sentenced to 6 months. They were arrested in January with 16 tusks.
- The legal team held meetings with different Gabonese authorities, including the State Councils of several regions and the Provincial Directors of Waters and Forests and others.
- Luc Mathot, the founding director of EAGLE Net-



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in the central part of the country.

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in the central part of the country. The first trafficker from Burkina Faso was taken by surprise during an attempt to sell two fresh leopard skins. A rifle caliber 12 was later found in his house. When taken to the police station, he denounced another trafficker, who was arrested in his house three days later.
- An ivory trafficker arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks. A member of an organized trafficking and poaching ring was arrested in the act in a hotel room, a rifle caliber 12 and some ammunition was found in his house.
- An ivory and pangolin scales trafficker arrested in Lambaréné. He was arrested in the act when unpacking the two tusks, elephant tail and 3 kg of giant pangolin scales from a bag, which he used to conceal the contraband. He admitted he shot



An ivory trafficker arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks.



work and Gabon Coordinator, visited Congo to support the management of the team.

- The assistant coordinator participated at an international workshop in Duala on combating illegal logging in Congo basin.
- The Head of investigations together with another investigator travelled to Benin to train the new investigation team.



An ivory and pangolin scales trafficker arrested in Lambaréné.

Guinea – GALF

- 2 traffickers arrested, and a baby chimp rescued. First trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell the baby, and soon he denounced his sister, who had been holding the chimp for several days after it was trafficked from Boke mining area, where the chimp's family probably fell victim to the bushmeat trade. The small male, who was very weak and in a bad condition, was quickly handed to professionals from the Chimpanzee Conservation Center for lifetime care. This is the 20th chimp saved in a GALF arrest operation since 2012, when the project started.





The GALF team had been one of the main actors in the creation and adoption of the new law. The Coordinator discussing the legislation in a TV talk show.,

■ This June the new Wildlife Protection and Hunting regulation Code was adopted by the Guinean National Assembly, increasing the sentencing penalties for wildlife trafficking to 5 years in jail

■ 2 ape traffickers arrested with a baby chimpanzee in November last year were prosecuted and sentenced to 7 months in jail.

- The coordinator held a series of meetings with authorities, including the National Director of Water and Forests, the National Director of the Body of

Conservatives of Nature and several State Councils.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- Jean-Claude Vignoli continued his mission in Togo to support the management of the team.
- He met with the US embassy in Togo and the Delegate Minister of Human Rights.
- He also held several meetings with the represen-

tatives of the Ministry of Environment to discuss the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding.

- An intense recruitment of new investigators and legal advisors started to strengthen the team. A new legal advisor will join the team in July.

Senegal – SALF

- SALF team participated at the 21st Session of African Forestry and Wildlife Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). About 200 participants from 53 African countries discussed there how to sustainably manage and restore Africa's forests, landscapes and wildlife resources. The SALF team presented for three days at a stand of DEFCCS (the Directorate of Waters and Forests and Hunting) the results of its work including the trafficked and seized contraband. The stand was visited by the Minister of Environment, the Director of Water and Forest, representatives of European Union and other officials.



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- The SALF team met with the Deputy Director of Criminal Affairs of the Ministry of Justice and several Attorneys General of the Republic, the representatives of the Instance and High Instance pros-

ecutor's offices as well as and several Presidents and Judges of the Instance and Grande Instance courts.

Benin – AALF-B

- 6 ivory traffickers including an army man arrested in the capital city with 4 ivory tusks. The soldier, who organized the transaction, was arrested together with four other traffickers in a restaurant in the act. At the police station they quickly denounced the last trafficker, who was arrested the same day at his house. He had links to other trafficking ring in the country, trafficking ivory regularly, bringing these 4 tusks from Niger.



6 ivory traffickers including an army man arrested in the capital city with 4 ivory tusks.

■ 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in the North of the country. Two traffickers were arrested in a hotel during an attempt to sell 2 tusks and one piece of ivory right after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a plastic bag. They denounced a father of one of them, the owner of the ivory, who was arrested in his house. Two more traffickers were arrested later, when they wanted to pick up their share of the illegally made profit.



6 ivory traffickers including an army man arrested in the capital city with 4 ivory tusks.

■ Jules Dovi has been appointed a coordinator. He joined AALF-B team in 2014 as a legal adviser and shortly after became Assistant Coordinator. He traveled to Nai-

the Judicial Police and his deputy, the Head of the Regulatory, Control and Disputes Department of the Directorate General of Water Resources and Hunting, the captain of the General Directorate of the Judicial Police concerning the recent case in which six ivory traffickers are involved, several State Counsels and others.



5 ivory traffickers were arrested in the North of the country.

■ The Head of investigations together with another investigator from Gabon arrived to Benin to train the new investigation team of AALF-B.

■ The Director together with the media officer held a working session with the collaborators of the Chief of Forestry Inspection of the Atlantic Coastal Region to discuss the case of the ivory traffickers in Ouidah.

robi to undergo training in management with CCU.

■ The coordinator held a series of meetings with Beninese authorities including the new Director of

■ Two investigators finished their test period and became members of the team.

Ivory Coast – EAGLE Ivory Coast

■ The investigation of the case of the 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.

■ Two investigators continued their test period.

■ A legal adviser from Ivory Coast travelled to Cameroon to undergo a training within the Exchange Program.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori participated at the Wilton Park preparatory meeting for the Summit on Illegal Wildlife Trade in London, organized by UK Government. He held a series of meetings with high level officials and partners to talk about cooperation in combating wildlife crime including the UK Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Anti-corruption Champion, representatives of INTERPOL, OECD and Environmental Investigation Agency, the analyst from the Royal Foundation and other experts involved in investigations of wildlife crime.
- Ofir Drori arrived to Cameroon to hold several meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues of collaboration and wildlife law enforcement. Together with the Deputy Director they also met with the British High Commissioner,

French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador and the European Union Head of Mission to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process in the country and its associated governance problems. They held several meetings with ZSL officials to examine the state of collaboration and proposals for better partnership.

- The registration of Conservation Justice in Burkina Faso was finished and preparation of launching a new EAGLE project started.
- Luc Mathot, the founding director of EAGLE Network, visited Congo to support the management of the team.
- Jules Dovi, the newly appointed coordinator of AALF-Benin, arrived to Nairobi to undergo training in management with CCU.



The 20th chimp saved in a GALF arrest operation since 2012, when the project started, was quickly handed to professionals from the Chimpanzee Conservation Center for lifetime care.

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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