



EAGLE

November 2018
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *Very low results this month. Measures have been taken to get more traffickers arrested.*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested in two countries*
- ✓ *A corrupt military man arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Congo*
- ✓ *A Malian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks and an elephant tail in Gabon.*
- ✓ *A Cameroonian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Gabon.*



A corrupt military man was arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Congo.



A Cameroonian trafficker was arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Gabon.

Summary

Very low results this month. Measures have been taken to get more traffickers arrested. 3 ivory traffickers were arrested in two countries.

A corrupt military man was arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Congo. He is a member of a forest infantry battalion, operating at the border with the Central African Republic, an army unit supporting ecoguards in combating the trafficking of weapons and wildlife products. He transported the ivory concealed in an army bag and used his function to deceive authorities at control posts.

A Malian trafficker was arrested with 4 ivory tusks and an elephant tail in Gabon. He was arrested with the ivory concealed in a rice bag in his jewelry shop, which he used to cover his illegal activities. He had activated a network of poachers who were supplying ivory to him for years.

A Cameroonian trafficker was arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Gabon. He is a member of a large trafficking ring operating in Gabon. Living in Gabon illegally, he had been trafficking ivory for at least five years. He has been prosecuted the same month and sentenced to 6 months in jail – unfortunately, the maximum sentence possible in Gabon.

The WARA Director and the Coordinator participated at Paris Peace Forum, presided on by president Emmanuel Macron. The Forum gathers all actors of global governance under one roof – states, international organizations, local governments, NGOs and foundations, companies, experts, journalists, trade unions, religious groups and citizens. Through debates and presentations, it creates a platform for



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discussing a range of themes around cross-cutting issues like peace, security, environment etc...

The Paris Forum organized a public hearing between GALF and the Guinean Presidency, where the GALF project was presented as a model of governance and the fight against corruption, and the WARA Director and GALF Coordinator held a private meeting with the Presidency. The Presidency follows the case closely in real time and is committed to prosecuting corrupt officials.

The WARA Director also had a private meeting with the President of Senegal, who promised an audience for the project.



A Cameroonian trafficker was arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Gabon.



The WARA Director and the GALF Coordinator participated at Paris Peace Forum, where they met with the Minister of State, General Secretary of the Guinea Presidency.

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director travelled to Brussels to participate at the 18th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. The CBFP is a conservation forum created to preserve the wildlife and forests of the Central African sub region and to hold discussions between Governments and non-governmental stakeholders. He held meetings with over a dozen conservation actors and important EU officials as well as with USFWS officials and updated them on LAGA and EAGLE activities.
- He travelled to Douala where he coordinated an open discussion session for NGOs, law enforcement officers and prosecutors during a US Justice Department sub regional workshop on fighting illegal logging.
- The Deputy Director participated at an international preparatory meeting for the ministerial conference on fighting poaching and other transboundary criminal activities in the Central African sub region, where ministers of defense, security and protected areas will meet. During the preparatory meeting he was coopted into the technical committee preparing working documents for the conference that shall be held in N'Djamena early next year.
- The media officer returned to the country following a three-week training on media campaigns for development and social change in the Netherlands.
- A legal advisor participated at a regional workshop in Sangmelima, organized by WWF, where she had a presentation on the LAGA's experience in fighting corruption.

Congo – PALF

- A corrupt military man arrested with 2 ivory tusks. He is a member of a forest infantry battalion, operating at the border with the Central African Republic, an army unit supporting ecoguards in combating the trafficking of weapons and wildlife products. He transported the ivory concealed in an army bag and used his function to deceive authorities at control posts.
- Two ivory traffickers, arrested in December 2017 were sentenced to 1.5 year *in absentia*, the PALF legal team fights for an arrest warrant to be issued against them.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the US Ambassador and the Consul to introduce them to the PALF activities and achievements and to discuss their support in combating wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with several high authorities including the EU Cooperation Forest Officer, the Director of Africa of the USFWS and other officials, the Administrative and Legal Advisor and the Wildlife Adviser of the



Ministry of Environment on the progress of the MEF protocol, the General Director of Waters and Forests, the Colonel Commandant of Brazzaville Region, the Director General of the Penitentiary

Administration of the Ministry of Justice, several State Counsels and Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests and others.

Gabon – AALF

- A Malian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks and an elephant tail. He was arrested with the ivory concealed in a rice bag in his jewelry shop, which he used to cover his illegal activities. He had activated a network of poachers who were supplying ivory to him for years.
- A Cameroonian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks. He is a member of a large trafficking ring operating in Gabon. Living in Gabon illegally, he had been trafficking ivory for at least five years. He has been prosecuted the same month and sentenced to 6 months in jail – unfortunately, the maximum sentence possible in Gabon.



A Cameroonian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks.



A Malian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks and an elephant tail.

- Two of three ivory traffickers, arrested in September 2018, were prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in jail.

- Luc Mathot, the Coordinator, travelled to Brussel to participate at the 18th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, where he met with many state and NGO representatives from the Congo basin area, as well as with EU and USFWS representatives.

- The legal team held a series of meetings with State Counsels, Departmental Directors and other authorities of several departments.
- An Investigator travelled to Benin and to Burkina Faso to support these two projects in investigations.

Guinea – GALF

- The WARA Director and the Coordinator participated at Paris Peace Forum, presided on by president Emmanuel Macron. The Forum gathers all actors of global governance under one roof – states, international organizations, local governments, NGOs and foundations, companies, experts, journalists, trade unions, religious groups and citizens. Through debates and presentations, it creates a platform for discussing a range of themes around cross-cutting issues like peace, security, environment etc...

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- The WARA Director also had a private meeting with the President of Senegal, who promised an audience for the project.

- Besides that the Coordinator and the WARA Director held a series of meetings with various authorities and diplomats, including the President of the Economic and Social Council of Guinea, the Environmental Officer of AFD, the Ukrainian ambassador to Guinea, the representative of the



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The WARA Director and the Coordinator with the President of the Economic and Social Council of Guinea



The WARA Director presents the GALF project to the Guinea Presidency

US interim embassy in Guinea, the Program Officer of the Governance Section at the European Delegation in the Republic of Guinea, the UNOPS Coordinator, the National Director of Water and

Forests, the CITES Focal Point, the Focal Point for Wildlife Crime in the Ministry of the Environment of Water and Forests and others.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- Jean-Claude Vignoli continued his mission in Togo to support the management of the team.
- He met with diplomats of the EU Embassy, namely with the First Secretary in charge of infrastructure and development and the Programme Officer in charge of governance.
- Rens Ilgen, EAGLE Togo's coordinator, arrived to hold a meeting with SCDA, the project hosting NGO, and talked to them about ways of sustaining the collaboration.
- The recruitment process continued and one investigator started his test period in November.

Senegal – SALF

- The transition of the project from WARA to EAGLE – Senegal continued, and the Coordinator held several meetings concerning this topic.
- She also participated at a workshop, organized by the Minister of Environment, on a revision of the wildlife legislation.
- The investigation department intensified its field activities to reach results in the following month.
- The Coordinator had a meeting with the representatives of the UK Embassy following the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference held in October in the United Kingdom to discuss the implementation of the conclusions of the conference. They reviewed the results of the summit and discussed the implementation of them in Senegal. A meeting of EAGLE Senegal with the UK Ambassador and the Minister of the Environment is scheduled for December to inform them of the outcome of the London Summit and the actions and challenges to be taken in Senegal.

Benin – AALF-B

- The coordinator trained 20 officers of the Custom office in Bohicon and 8 members of the Special Border Surveillance Unit at Idigni on the methods of combating wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held meetings with authorities to discuss and inform them about the progress in the case of 252 kg ivory, including the the Litigation Department of the Ministry of Environment and the Instruction Judge of the case.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with government authorities, including the Deputy Director of the Special Border Surveillance Unit (USSF) to strengthen collaboration and plan training for border units, the Contingent Head of the Directorate of the W National Park to discuss ongoing cases in the Kandi court, and others.
- An investigator from Gabon arrived to Benin to support investigations.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The building up of the case of the criminal syndicate taken down in January continued, focusing on money laundering investigations and the procedures for money laundering charges in Côte d'Ivoire.
- The Coordinator held several meetings with the UCT special unit to support the investigation of the January case and to continue the generation of information through subpoenas .
- He also met with the Ministry of Waters and Forest officials several times to strengthen the collaboration.
- The recruitment process continued, and one new on-line investigator started his test period this month.

Headquarters

- Eric Tah, the LAGA Deputy Director and Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Brussels to participate at the 18th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. The CBFP is a conservation forum created to preserve the wildlife and forests of the Central African sub region holding discussions between Governments and non-governmental stakeholders. They held meetings with many conservation actors and important EU officials as well as with USFWS officials and updated them on LAGA and EAGLE activities.
- Luc Mathot held a meeting with EU representatives and signed a contract for financial support of the EAGLE Network.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, participated at a meeting in Malawi of the Corruption Hunter Network, a global group of activists fighting corruption all around the world.

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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