



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **23 wildlife traffickers arrested in 3 countries**
- ✓ **2 corrupt police officers arrested in 2 operations in Uganda**
- ✓ **13 wildlife traffickers arrested in Uganda, 7 of them ivory traffickers**
- ✓ **7 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon**
- ✓ **3 ape traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 6 gorilla and 5 chimpanzee skulls and other contraband**

Summary

23 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 3 countries. 2 corrupt police officers were arrested in two different operations in Uganda in a strong anti corruption push. 5 countries did not carry arrest operations this month and intensive measures were taken to increase investigation capacity and bring more results next month.

7 ivory traffickers were arrested in Uganda in 3 operations. 4 ivory traffickers including a corrupt police officer were arrested in the west of the country with 4 tusks. 2 significant ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks weighting 30 kg. One of them is an international trafficker with vast experience. A Congolese ivory trafficker was arrested on the DRC-Uganda border with 4 tusks. He carried a fake Ugandan Identification Card, to facilitate his illegal cross-border activities. 4 traffickers were arrested in Uganda with pangolin scales and 2 live Giant pangolins. A corrupt police officer was also arrested on this crime.

5 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon. The gang was in the spotlight of investigation for a long time. The first trafficker was arrested, when he was driving with the contraband to the planned place of transaction. He agreed to reveal to police 2 more traffickers he was dealing with, and even called

one of them to get him in the police trap. The remaining 2 members of the gang were arrested the following day. 2 more ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks at the business centre of Port-Gentil, Gabon.

3 ape skulls traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in 2 operations. In the first operation 2 traffickers were arrested with 6 gorilla skulls, 15 mandrill skulls and other contraband. In the second operation a trafficker was arrested with 4 chimpanzee skulls, 8 sea turtle shells and 5 kg of pangolin scales.



A gang of ivory traffickers was crashed in Gabon

Ofir Drori gave the keynote speech on his conservation vision and a call for innovation and activism at the Future For Nature Awards 2016 in Holland. He won this award in 2011, and was invited back to present this year's awards to 3 impressive passionate in-

novators. Future For Nature tries to catalyse a new generation of passionate leaders to bring new ideas from the fringes to the centre of the conservation discussion to create a force of change and shake up conservation.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 traffickers arrested in two separate locations with 6 gorilla skulls, 15 mandrill skulls and other contraband. The first trafficker was arrested with the contraband, but the preliminary investigations showed that they worked as a pair and interrogations confirmed that second trafficker was involved. The state counsel immediately issued an arrest warrant and the arresting team travelled over 80 km of dirt roads on motorbikes to get the second trafficker in a town not very far from the Nigeria border. The two towns are considered to be transit area between Cameroon and Nigeria.
- A trafficker arrested with 4 chimpanzee skulls, 8 sea turtle shells and 5 kg of pangolin scales. The Deputy Director met with two regional experts, Paul-Simon Handy and Ruben de Koning at the UN Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic to discuss the wildlife trafficking in the region
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to discuss wildlife law enforcement operations and another meeting with the Director of Environmental Policy in the Ministry of Environment to lay groundwork for collaboration on the upcoming World Environment Day.
- The Government of Cameroon destroyed 3.5 tonnes of ivory, and act was well appreciated, especially following the LAGA previous arrest and imprisonment of the high official in charge of the stocks, for selling stock ivory to traffickers.
- The Deputy Director gave a live studio interview during midday news on State TV on the occasion of the ivory destruction event.



Primate skulls trafficker arrested in an area considered to be a transit zone for the wildlife trafficking between Cameroon and Nigeria.



Major trafficker in chimpanzee skulls, sea turtle shells and pangolin scales interrogated after his arrest

Congo – PALF

- The reconstruction of the team continued under leadership of Perrine Odier, the interim coordinator.
- The Financial Officer of EAGLE Network carried a mission to PALF to evaluate gaps and ensure compliance of procedures, standards and reporting requirements and to assist with preparing reports and organization of an external audit.
- A new agreement of the consortium of EAGLE Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and The Aspinall Foundation was signed to confirm the continuation of PALF as a member of EAGLE Net-

work and respect EAGLE Network standards and procedures.

- 2 investigators continued their test period; they intensified their efforts to bring more results in the next month.
- Meetings were held with the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development, the Head of the Division of Environmental Crime, and the focal Point of INTERPOL/UNODC. Other meetings were held with more government authorities and NGOs.

Gabon – AALF & ALEFI

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks. They arrived in a car at the business centre of Port-Gentil, hoping to carry out a deal. One of them carried the tusks to be sold in a bag while the other one was waiting in the car. At this moment they were arrested red handed in a swift operation carried out by Juridical Police, the wildlife authority and the AALF team. One of the arrested criminals is a notorious trafficker, who often carried out his illegal activities around Port-Gentil.
- 5 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks when a criminal ring was crashed in a well organized operation carried out by Police, wildlife authority and AALF team. The gang of traffickers was in the spotlight of investigation for a long time. The first trafficker was arrested, when he was driving with the contraband to the planned place of transaction. He agreed to reveal to police 2 more traffickers he was dealing with, and even called one of them to get him in the police trap. The remaining 2 members, brothers, of the gang were arrested the following day in nearby villages, where also the tusks were hidden for a short time. They were taken from freshly killed elephant and weighted about 8 kg.
- 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in March with 2 tusks and 2 leopard skins were prosecuted. One was sentenced to 2 months in prison and the other to 3 months in prison.

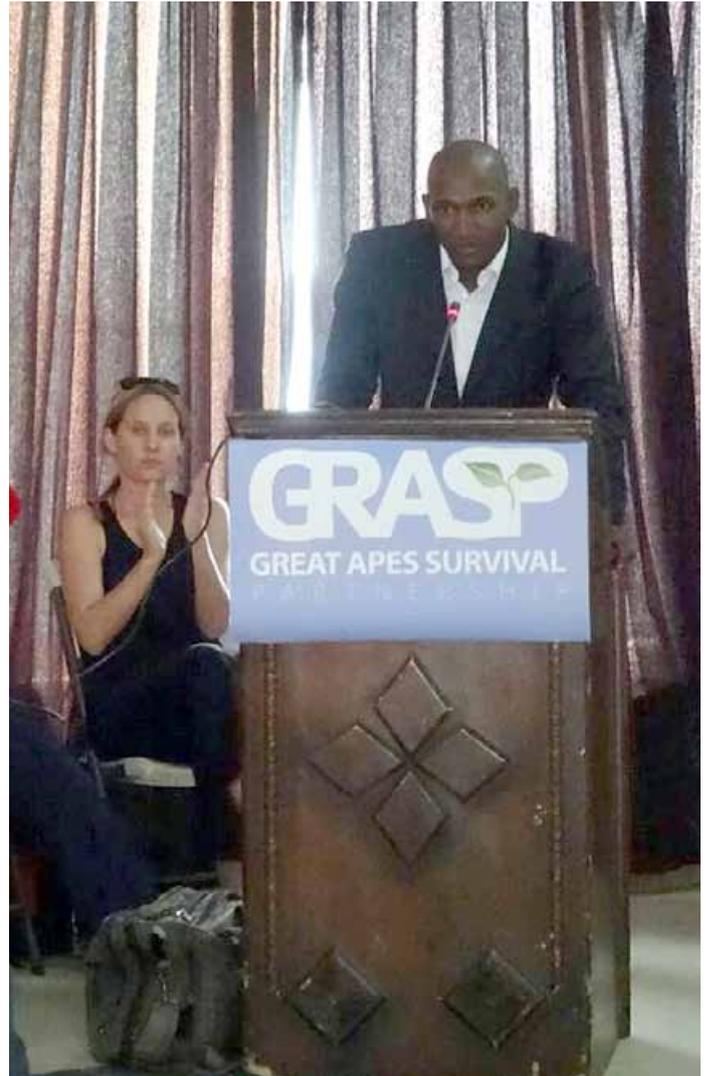


2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, one of them a notorious trafficker

Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- Charlotte Houpline, WARA Director, and Saidou Barry, GALF Coordinator presented at the sub-regional meeting of GRASP UNEP (Great Apes Survival Partnership) in Liberia. As recalled, Saidou Barry was the winner of the last year's GRASP - Ian Redmond Conservation Award. The meeting brought together local, regional and international actors to discuss trafficking, mining and other threats to great apes survival in West Africa. Charlotte's presentation on anti-corruption activities in West Africa and Saidou's presentation on GALF's work were the most popular and stirred lively debate.
- The Organization Development Officer carried a mission to Guinea with a goal of strengthening GALF team and supporting recruiting, testing and evaluation of personnel, strengthening the management skills of the coordinator, training and fostering activism. Special effort was given to activating, recruiting and testing of investigators to bring better results in following months.
- The investigation of the case of the former head of CITES Doumbouya and his accomplices, arrested in April last year, was completed and the case was handed to the criminal court for hearing next month.

Saidou Barry, GALF Coordinator, and Charlotte Houpline, WARA Director, presenting at the sub-regional meeting of GRASP UNEP (Great Apes Survival Partnership) in Liberia.



Togo – TALFF

- Monitoring and Evaluation officer conducted a mission to Togo to assess the team and its structure, performance, difficulties and define solutions, to assist in recruitment and identify future recruitment needs, to improve the management, to test and train each department, to ensure that the team follows the Procedure Manual, and are in compliance with all procedures and security regulations.
- The Head of The Investigation Department of AALF-Gabon arrived in Togo to support investigations. He also assisted with the recruitment of new investigators and testing them in the field. Special attention was given to mobilization of investigators to improve their results and bring in arrest operations the following months.
- 2 legal advisers and 2 investigators started their test period.
- The coordinator and the head of legal department held meetings with authorities and government offices in order to establish a relationship, to monitor legal cases and to coordinate future cooperation. They met with the Prosecutor of the Republic Court in Lomé to discuss old court cases; with the Investigation Judge of the 7th cabinet of Court in Lomé, with the representatives of OCRTIDB; with the Programme Officer for Cooperation of the German Embassy and with the focal point of INTERPOL.

SENEGAL - SALF

- Recruitment process was intensified with aim to get better investigation capacity. 2 new investigators started their test period and brought in first results in identifying traffickers. The accountant successfully ended his test period and will start on the beginning of May.
- The deputy coordinator trained 6 officers of the airport department of the Anti-Trafficking Unit (CAAT) on wildlife crime. The training was conducted in collaboration with the French Embassy and the Ministries of Water and Forestry and Environment and Sustainable Development. The objective of the training was to initiate the anti-trafficking activities at the Dakar airport and improve the officer's ability to identify the wildlife products and their concealment in airport luggage.
- A meeting, focussing on wildlife crime, was held with magistrates at the High Court in Dakar. SALF will participate in training the magistrates.
- A planning meeting with various authorities dealing with wildlife crime (Police, Judiciary) was held for next 3 months to reach the targets.
- Recruitment efforts were carried to ensure operations results next month.

Benin – AALF-B

- Monitoring and Evaluation officer conducted mission to Benin to assess the team and its structure, performance, difficulties and define solutions, to assist in recruitment and identify future recruitment needs, to improve the management, to test and train each department, to ensure that the team follows the Procedure Manual, and is in compliance with all procedures and security regulations. Special attention was given to mobilization of investigators to improve the results and bring in operations next month.
- New media officer started his test period this month.
- The recruitment process to strengthen the team continued with search for more investigators, legal advisers and media officer, and following interviews.
- An investigator continued his test period.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 4 ivory traffickers, including a corrupt police officer, were arrested in the west of the country with 4 tusks. All the traffickers were taken in custody, but the police was trying to protect their corrupt colleague from being photographed and exposed in public.
- 2 significant ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks weighting 30 kg. One of them is an international trafficker with vast experience. They were arrested after a three-month investigation. They arrived with the contraband to a business centre in Kampala, where the police cornered them and arrested them red handed.
- A Congolese ivory trafficker arrested on the DRC-Uganda border with 4 tusks. He carried a fake Ugandan Identification Card, to facilitate his illegal cross-border activities.
- 4 traffickers including another corrupt police officer were arrested with two live giant pangolins. They admitted that they had been involved in wildlife trafficking for many years and were often trafficking large amounts of pangolin scales. The pangolins were taken by the Uganda Wildlife Service for rehabilitation and will be released back in the wild.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 45 kg giant pangolin scales. The traffickers were linked to Smiko Skin Craft Company, which was in 2014 licensed by Uganda wildlife Authority to export 7,310 kg of pangolin scales from Uganda. Frightening number of pangolins have been captured and killed to meet the demand created by this license. No proper mechanism was put in place to differen-

tiate between the old stock and the illegally obtained scales, which still puts the lives of pangolins in Uganda in danger.

- One of 3 traffickers arrested in March 2016 for ivory trafficking was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment, while his accomplices were sentenced to 1 year imprisonment or pay a fine 200 USD.
- 3 investigators started their test period and 2 legal advisers finished their tests with good results.
- The team members participated in two trainings, one on wildlife crime case management database by Wildlife Conservation Society and one on managing and collecting investigation information, conducted by Uganda Conservation Foundation.
- One of the founding directors of EAGLE Network Naftali Honig met with the EAGLE Uganda Coordinator to discuss international wildlife trafficking issues and the mechanism to address the relevant challenges in Uganda.



4 traffickers including another corrupt police officer arrested with two live Giant Pangolins.



2 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks weighting 30 kg.



Headquarters

- New replication led by Luc Mathot is undergoing preparation in Madagascar, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed with local executing organization called Alliance Vohary Gasy and the recruitment process of the team started.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer carried mis-

sions in Benin and Togo to assess the teams and their structure, performance, difficulties and define solutions, to assist in recruitment and identify future recruitment needs, to improve the management, to test and train each department with priority given to investigations and operations, to ensure that the

teams follows the Procedure Manual and are in compliance with all procedures and security.

- The Organization Development Officer carried a mission to Guinea with a goal of strengthening GALF team and support recruiting, testing and evaluation of personnel, to help to strengthen the management skills of the coordinator and provide training in fostering activism.
- Ofir Drori gave the keynote speech on his conservation vision and a call for innovation and activism in the Future For Nature Awards. He won this award in 2011, and was invited back to present this year's award to 3 impressive passionate innovators. The Future For Nature tries to catalyze a new generation of passionate leaders to bring new ideas from the fringes to the centre of the conservation discussion to create a force of change and shake up conservation.
- Ofir Drori held a series of meetings in London with several donors to ensure their future support,

with Born Free and Avaaz to discuss cooperation with this impressive movement, which manages 43 million members. EAGLE Network will use this power in some of the more challenging operations, and will learn more of how they were growing and turned from a functional structure to an actual movement.

- Ofir also met with UK National Wildlife Crime Unit to discuss cooperation in international cases which can reach European countries and UK.
- 105 tonnes of ivory was burned in Kenya as a strong signal to poachers and traffickers, that the ivory has its value only on living elephants. Ofir Drori participated at the event, and held many side meetings.
- One of the Founding Directors of EAGLE Network, Naftali Honig, met with the EAGLE Uganda Coordinator to discuss international wildlife trafficking issues and the mechanism to address the relevant challenges in Uganda.

International Media Coverage

Interview with Ofir Drori about his crocodile adventure

[Link to the interview](#)

Reportage on Ofir and EAGLE in Israeli channel 2 prime time weekend news

[Link to the reportage](#)

Ofir Drori's speech at the Mountain Summit conference in Germany

[Link to the video](#)

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 eight 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: investi-*

gations, 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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