



EAGLE

April 2018
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *12 wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with two live young mandrills*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 ivory tusks in Congo*
- ✓ *They were sentenced to jail, one of them for 3 years, the two others for 2 years in prison*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 ivory tusks*
- ✓ *2 leopard skin traffickers arrested in Guinea, one of them a corrupt government official, the conservator of Tinkisso protected area*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 22 python skins in Guinea*



3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 8 ivory tusks in Congo.



A trafficker was arrested in South Cameroon with two live young mandrills

Summary

This month was of relatively low results as only 4 countries carried arrests. 12 wildlife traffickers were arrested this month.

A trafficker was arrested in South Cameroon with two live young mandrills, which he had kept in a dilapidated and small cage at his residence. He had been keeping the female illegally for a couple of years and recently bought a male. He then decided to sell the two shortly before he was arrested. He was well known in the area for keeping protected species and had been given assurances by a corrupt wildlife offi-

cer for 3 years, the two others for 2 years in prison.

4 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 ivory tusks. One of them is Malian worker of a logging company, another, an Ivorian, is a security guard of the same logging company. Three of them were arrested in their vehicle during an attempt to sell 4 tusks. After the arrest upon arriving to the police station they denounced the fourth trafficker, who was swiftly arrested in his house with two more ivory tusks. He had been leading a network of poachers, supplying him ivory for many years.



4 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 ivory tusks.

cer that he could keep the mandrill without any fears.

3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 8 ivory tusks in Congo. They transported the ivory to the place of transaction on a canoe, concealed in a bag of cassava flour, to deceive the authorities. They are connected to a ring of traffickers operating at the border area with Democratic Republic of Congo. They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to jail, one of them



4 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 ivory tusks.

GALF followed a case of leopard skin trafficker, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin at the end of March. Thanks to good support of the legal adviser, two more traffickers were arrested this month, one of them the head of hunter's association and the other one the government official, the conservator of Tinkisso protected area, not a head of nature conservation association, as was wrongly stated in our March briefing. The trafficker – public official - has been trained within a conservation program – this example of corrupt behaviour creates the grounds for our push for more investments in governance building and control of corruption. In March this year the corrupt official was brought to participate at EU workshop on the launch of a 5-million-euro Security Sector Reform Project.

A trafficker arrested with 22 python skin in Guineas. He is a graduated civil engineer, he was arrested in the act when selling the skins. He was trafficking wildlife products to Mali and other countries. The seized contraband is just a small fraction of the widespread illegal market with reptile skins.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ A trafficker arrested in South Cameroon with two live young mandrills, which he had kept in a dilapidated and small cage at his residence. He had been keeping the female illegally for a couple of years and recently bought a male. He then decided to sell the two shortly before he was arrested. He was well known in the area for keeping protected species and had been given assurances

by a corrupt wildlife officer that he could keep the mandrill without any fears.

- The Deputy Director carried out an anti-corruption training for students of the Garoua Wildlife School that trains wildlife specialists from Francophone African countries.
- A legal advisor from Senegal arrived to Cameroon to undergo a training within the EAGLE Network Exchange program.



A trafficker arrested in South Cameroon with two live young mandrills, which he had kept in a dilapidated and small cage at his residence.

Congo – PALF

■ 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 ivory tusks in the centre of the country. They transported the ivory to the place of transaction on a canoe, concealed in a bag of cassava flour, to deceive the authorities. They are connected to a ring of traffickers operating at the border area with Democratic Republic of Congo.

■ They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to jail, one of them for 3 years, the two others for 2 years in prison.

■ The PALF team supported the Anti-Poaching Unit in the transport of a juvenile chimpanzee seized during a patrol in a poaching camp on the North of the country. The baby chimp was transported to the Tchimpounga rehabilitation Centre where he quickly recovered from being malnourished and dehydrated.

■ The coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of Justice to introduce PALF, its objectives and challenges of fighting wildlife crime.

- She also held a series of meetings with authorities, including the General Director of the Penitentiary Administration, the Ministry of Environment Wildlife Adviser on the MEF / WCS / TAF Consortium Protocol to discuss the pending signature, the Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests on the legal follow-up of the ongoing cases and the State Counsels in several departments.
- The Coordinator, the head of Investigation Department and one investigator participated at a train-

ing on strengthening security and investigation methods in Libreville, Gabon.

- The head of the investigations department of Gabon arrived to Congo to support investigations.

3 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 ivory tusks in the centre of the country.



Gabon – AALF



4 traffickers arrested in the North of the country with 6 ivory tusks.

- 4 traffickers arrested in the North of the country with 6 ivory tusks. One of them is Malian worker of a logging company, another, an Ivorian, is a security guard of the same logging company. Three of them were arrested in their vehicle during an attempt to sell 4 tusks. After the arrest upon arriving to the police station they denounced the fourth trafficker, who was swiftly arrested in his house with two more ivory tusks. He had been leading a network of poachers, supplying him ivory for many years.



- 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 head of investigations department of Gabon travelled to Congo to support investigations.
- The coordinator travelled to Congo to discuss a cooperation with several NGOs in fighting wildlife crime and to support PALF project in management.

4 traffickers arrested in the North of the country with 6 ivory tusks.

Guinea – GALF

- GALF followed a case of leopard skin trafficker, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin at the end of March. Thanks to good support of the legal adviser, two more traffickers were arrested this month, one of them the head of hunter's association and the other one the government official, the conservator of Tinkisso protected area, not a head of nature conservation association, as was wrongly stated in our March briefing. The trafficker – public official - has been trained within a conservation program – this example of corrupt behaviour creates the grounds for our push for more investments in governance building and control of corruption. In March this year the corrupt official was brought to participate at EU workshop on the launch of a 5-million-euro Security Sector Reform Project.
- A trafficker arrested with 22 python skins. He is a graduated civil engineer, he was arrested in the act when selling the skins. He was trafficking wildlife products to Mali and other countries. The seized contraband is just a small fraction of the widespread illegal market with reptile skins.



One of the arrested traffickers was a government official, the conservator of Tinkisso protected area, trained within a conservation program

■ A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin. The imam of a mosque from an influential family was arrested near a bus station. Trying to create a riot and blaming police for kidnapping did not prevent the team from putting him behind bars.

■ The Coordinator participated together with some CITES government officials in a radio talk show on CITES and nature conservation in Guinea.

■ The coordinator met with the UK Ambassador and the Political Advisor of the US Embassy in Guinea to discuss combating wildlife crime.

■ He also held a series of meetings with Guinean officials, including the National Director of Waters and Forests, the National Director of nature conservators, several State Counsels, judges and regional directors of Water and Forests.

■ 3 investigators and 2 legal advisors continued their test period.



A trafficker arrested with 22 python skins.



A trafficker, an imam of a mosque, arrested with a leopard skin.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

■ The legal team held series of meetings with authorities in several regions, including the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the head of the Anti-crime Brigade and the Commissioner of the Central Police station in Kara, a Captain of the National Intelligence Agency, the Chief Warrant Officer in Kara, the Regional Director of Environment and other officials.

■ EAGLE Financial Officer arrived to Togo to support recruitment of a new accountant.

■ Jean-Claude Vignoli arrived to Togo to support the management of the project.

■ A new investigator started his test period.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal – SALF

- The coordinator held a meeting with the Director of National Parks and the Technical Adviser of the Minister of the Environment to discuss the establishment of the deposit container for seized wildlife products and the work of the Wildlife Crime Brigade which will collaborate with SALF within the partnership agreements between SALF and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD).
- The coordinator trained participants of three workshops around the country organized by UNOPS and MEDD on drafting of the PV related to the trafficking of wildlife and timber, combating Wildlife Crime and on the wildlife law. More than 100 officials took part in the training.
- 4 investigators, one legal adviser and a new accountant continued their test period.
- A legal adviser travelled to Cameroon to undergo a training within EAGLE Network exchange program.

Benin – AALF-B

- The coordinator and the assistant coordinator trained about fifteen state counsels on wildlife crime, its legal aspects and the fight against it. They also trained about twenty INTERPOL officers in combating wildlife crime.
- A legal adviser participated at a workshop on combating the trafficking of CITES-listed species in transboundary protected areas organized by the French Institute of Parakou.
- The coordinator held a series of meetings with Beninese authorities including the Head of the Customs Brigade at the Airport, the Acting Director of the Criminal Affairs Branch, the General Director of the Benin Border Management Agency and others.
- 2 investigators continued their test period.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- NRCN membership in the EAGLE Network has been discontinued.

Ivory Coast – EAGLE Ivory Coast

- The legal follow up of the case of Tran Van Tu and others, arrested in January, continues as the coordinator held a series of meetings with the UCT to continue the generation of information through requisitions. He was also meeting with the Instruction Judge for this case to discuss the strategy for a structured period of further research and he held several meetings with the lawyer of MINEF to develop the case.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation officer arrived to Ivory Coast to evaluate and train the investigators.
- The EAGLE Financial Officer arrived Ivory Coast to assess gaps in financial management and train the accountant.
- 2 new investigators and one legal adviser continued their test period.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori and Luc Mathot, the Founding Directors, held a three days meeting to discuss the management of the entire EAGLE Network.
- Luc Mathot travelled to Congo to discuss a cooperation with several NGOs in fighting wildlife crime and to support PALF project in management.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation officer arrived to Ivory Coast to evaluate and train the investigators.
- The Financial Officer arrived to Ivory Coast to evaluate the financial management and train the accountant.
- She then traveled to Togo to support recruitment of a new accountant.



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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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