



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **17 traffickers arrested in 5 countries**
- ✓ **2 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon with 206 kg of ivory – the largest amount in the country's history**
- ✓ **3 ape skulls traffickers arrested in Cameroon with total of 20 chimp skulls and 3 gorilla skulls.**
- ✓ **5 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo with 35 kg of Ivory**
- ✓ **Togo's ANCE / TALFF received the award for its fight for the right to a healthy environment**

Summary

17 traffickers were arrested in December in 5 countries, and several significant international traffickers among them.

2 significant ivory traffickers were arrested with 206 kg of ivory in Gabon, the largest seizure in Gabonese history. One of them was a forestry and wildlife official. They have been implicated in the illegal trade for years and were trafficking tonnes of ivory per year. The 42 tusks give a snapshot of the massacre generated by the professional traffickers protected by corruption.

5 ivory were traffickers arrested in Congo with 35 kg of ivory after many months of investigations. The 3 big and three quite small tusks were transported from North Congo's border with Gabon and the elephants were probably killed in Gabon for this cross border trafficking.

3 ape skulls traffickers were arrested in Cameroon, one of them, a Pastor, with 19 chimpanzee skulls. The other two were trafficking 3 gorilla skulls, 1 chimpanzee skull and elephant tail. In both cases one of the chimp skulls was painted red. When asked about the mysterious paint they replied that this method is

black magic rendering the contraband invisible.

The legal team of GALF continued follow up of the case of the former head of the CITES Department Doumbouya and his accomplice Thierno Barry. Both of them remain in prison.

4 Vietnamese traffickers were arrested in Uganda at the Entebbe International Airport in November, dur-



2 traffickers arrested with 3 gorilla skulls, a chimp skull, an elephant tail, and other contraband in Cameroon

ing an attempt to export 36 kg of ivory and 3 kg of rhino horn (all valued at 186,000 USD) to Vietnam. Although EAGLE Uganda did not participate at the arrest, the team provided legal support and English-

Vietnamese interpreter to assist in the interrogation, which enabled the court in Entebbe to keep the traffickers behind bars.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 traffickers arrested with 3 gorilla skulls, a chimp skull, an elephant tail, and other contraband. Following an investigation on their illegal activities they were finally intercepted at a checkpoint carrying the contraband on a motorbike. One of the skulls was painted red, but the mystery for the red paint was only solved in a consecutive arrest.
- An ape skull trafficker arrested after travelling more than 100 km from the South to sell the shocking quantity of 19 chimpanzee skulls in the Cameroon's capital city. During his interrogations it was discovered that he is a Pastor. He revealed that his elder brother is a poacher, who kills the apes in the forests. Like in the previous operation, patches of red paint were on one of the skulls. When asked about the mysterious paint he replied that this method is black magic rendering the contraband invisible.
- The head of the investigation department held meetings with the Wildlife Chief of the Nsimalen International Airport Yaounde to work out collaborative platforms on wildlife law enforcement activities at the airport.



19 chimpanzee skulls seized from arrested trafficker who ferried products from the south to Cameroon's capital for business.

Ape trafficker arrested claiming red paint is put on one skull as black magic rendering the contraband invisible.



Congo – PALF

- 5 traffickers arrested with 35 kg of ivory. PALF team brought about these arrests in south Congo after many months of investigations. The 3 big and three quite small tusks were transported from North Congo's border with Gabon and the elephants were probably killed in Gabon for this cross border trafficking.
- Legal follow up of two cases and several jail visits were conducted to ensure that the ivory traffickers remain in prison.
- Several meetings with prosecutors and lawyers in charge of the files were held.
- PALF team is undergoing structural changes, new coordinator will be appointed.



5 traffickers arrested with 35 kg of ivory

Gabon – AALF & ALEFI

- 2 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 206 kg of ivory, one of them a forestry and wildlife official. They have been implicated in the illegal trade for years and were trafficking tonnes of ivory per year. The 42 tusks give a snapshot of the massacre generated by the professional traffickers protected by corruption. The Gabonese authorities take this case very seriously as instructions were given from high levels to prevent all attempts to release the criminals.
- An ivory trafficker was arrested at the last day of the year in a joint operation of police forces and AALF team. The police arrested three traffickers including a village chief and later invited AALF to cooperate at the fourth arrest.
- AALF team conducted 2 rounds of training on illegal logging and related law. 220 ministerial officers participated in the trainings.



2 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 206 kg of ivory, one of them a forestry and wildlife official.

- AALF coordinator and steering group member visited the CCU in Nairobi to train newly appointed Financial Officer and Madagascar to review possibilities for a new replication there.

The 42 tusks give a snapshot of the massacre generated by the professional traffickers protected by corruption.



Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- The chimpanzee trafficker arrested in November has been sentenced by the court in Boke to 3 months in prison and to pay a fine and damages.
- The legal team continued follow up of the case of the former head of the CITES Department Doumbouya and his accomplice Thierno Barry. Both of them remain in prison. Investigations carried out by GALF team helped to dismantle one of the largest network of live animals traffickers from Africa to Asia.
- The appeal court in Conakry confirmed the decision of the court of the 1st instance in the case of

the trafficker, arrested in March with 6 crocodiles, a giant tortoise, 3 vultures and a Patas Monkey - 6 months comprising 3 months suspended sentence and 3 months of imprisonment. An arrest warrant for him has to be issued and executed with GALF support.

- A meeting with the political adviser of the US Embassy to update information and support the cooperation with GALF was held.
- More investigations were carried on to identify significant traffickers and enable future arrests.

Togo – TALFF

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Togo with 2 tusks in an operation carried out by TALFF team and Togolese authorities. One accomplice, head of an illegal logging operation known to log inside the national park, managed to escape but an arrest warrant was issued on him and he was arrested two days later, while he was trying to sell illegally cut wood in the north of the country. He was also transported to the prison in Lomé. The 2 tusks, of a total weight of 3.2 kg is just a snapshot of ongoing trafficking and poaching inside the Fazao Mafakassa National Park.
- Arrest of a cross-border trafficker with 12 sea tur-



3 ivory traffickers arrested in Togo with 2 tusks

tle shells on the border between Ghana and Togo. The operation was carried out by joint unit of the Judicial Police and the Border Police, in collaboration with TALFF. The TALFF team worked with the Togolese authorities over night to carry this arrest.

- ANCE / AALF received the award for its fight for the right to a healthy environment for the right to a healthy environment on the occasion of the first edition of the “Night of Human Rights”. The award was presented by the Collective of Associations against Impunity in Togo (CACIT) as part of the celebration of Human Rights Day.
- Meetings were held with several judges of different courts to discuss the ongoing cases. Meetings with the new Representative of the National Environmental Agency, the Director of OCRTIDB (the Central Office for Repression of the Illegal Drug Trafficking), the head of Interpol and the representatives of EU Delegation and World Bank to discuss fight against illegal wildlife trade and co-operation.



A cross-border trafficker arrested with 12 sea turtle shells on the border between Ghana and Togo.

The annual report of EAGLE Network has been launched. Some highlights:

- ✓ 286 wildlife and forest criminals arrests in 8 countries
- ✓ 99 ivory traffickers arrested with the total of 1.5 tonne ivory, which includes more than 100 tusks and 263 pieces of carved ivory
- ✓ 34 great ape traffickers were arrested with 3 live chimp babies, 68 chimpanzee skulls, 26 gorilla skulls and other body parts
- ✓ The former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea arrested, he was involved in large scale international wildlife trafficking and corruption for more than 10 years
- ✓ A large international trader involved in the illegal trade in CITES species such as chimpanzees, manatees and other primates, arrested in Guinea.
- ✓ A significant international bird trafficker arrested in Senegal with 111 critically endangered Timneth Parrots and thousands of other endangered birds.
- ✓ 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon with 206 kg of ivory - the largest amount in Gabonese history
- ✓ The 8th EAGLE project was launched in Uganda as EAGLE expands to East Africa
- ✓ The Central Coordination Unit established and started fulfilling its role in supporting and supervising the countries, improving performance and getting daily central insight into the network
- ✓ EAGLE Website and social media launched



One of the most significant arrests of the year - the former head of the CITES Department Doumbouya and his accomplice Thierno Barry.

SENEGAL - SALF

- The effort put in investigations was intensified to identify new traffickers and to carry out more arrest operations.
- SALF obtained the official authorization to function in Senegal. This was the last step in the process to achieve full compliance with the country's legislation.
- The SALF coordination assistant visited the Central Coordination Unit in Nairobi for 15 days to undergo training and strengthen her skills and experiences.
- The coordinator of SALF was absent for sick leave and the SALF team was on annual leave, therefore the capacities for an operation were limited.

Benin – AALF-B

- 3 court cases were followed, of ivory and sea turtles traffickers.
- AALF team participated in a workshop on the fight against poaching organized by the French Embassy, and at the National Week on Protected Areas, organized by CENAGREF.
- The assistant of coordinator and a legal advisor were invited to the Radio CAP FM for a talk show about the wildlife crime in Benin.
- Three new investigators were placed in a test period as a result of intensive recruitment process.
- The team took its annual leave in December.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- A trafficker arrested with 24 kg of hippo teeth and 20 kg of giant pangolin scales. He brought the contraband to a luxurious hotel in Kampala in an attempt to sell it, but the police forces and EAGLE Uganda team were already waiting for him and arrested him red handed. The involvement of the presidential special Force Commandos made the arrest easy and successful.
- 4 Vietnamese traffickers were arrested at the Entebbe international Airport in November, during an attempt to export 36 kg of ivory and 3 kg of rhino horn (all valued at 186,000 USD) using DAS Cargo Handling as their clearing agent. The contraband was concealed in a wooden box and declared as wood samples, destined for Vietnam. EAGLE Uganda did not participate at the arrest, but provided legal support and English-Vietnamese interpreter to assist in the interrogation, which enabled the court in Entebbe to keep the traffickers behind bars.



- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director of EAGLE Network conducted a mission to Uganda to support investigations and provide training for the management, investigators and media personnel.
- The Coordinator together with Ofir Drori held a meeting with the representative of EU Mission in Uganda and had an elaborate discussion on the role the EU Uganda can play in the fighting wildlife trafficking in Uganda. The officer agreed to connect EAGLE Uganda to the ambassador at the beginning of the year 2016.



A trafficker arrested with 24 kg of hippo teeth and 20 kg of giant pangolin scales.

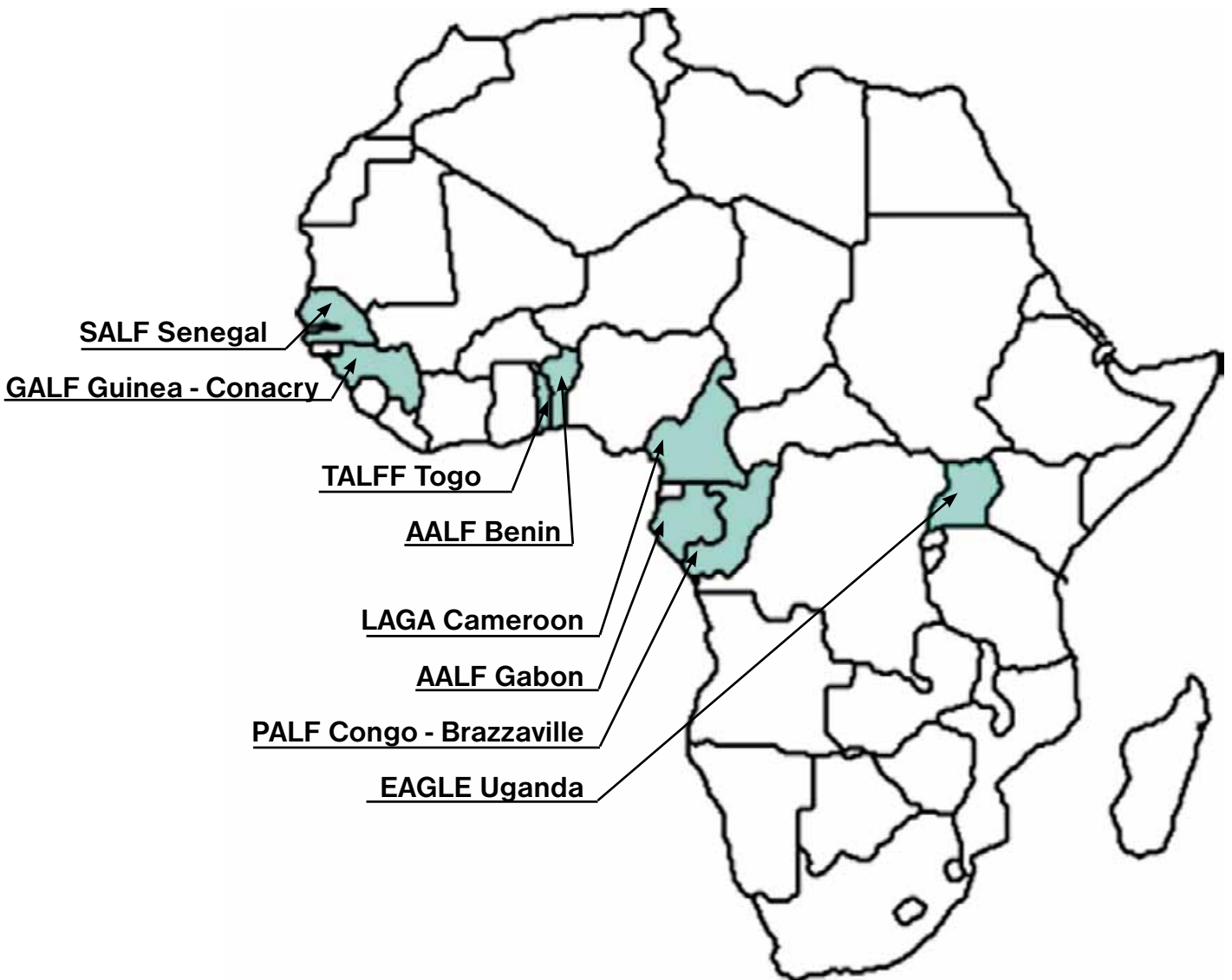
Headquarters

- A Financial Officer has been recruited.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of EAGLE Network arrived to Nairobi to train newly appointed Financial Officer.
- He also visited Madagascar to review possibilities for a new replication there.
- Cecile Bloch, the SALF coordination assistant visited the Central Coordination Unit of the EAGLE Network in Nairobi for 15 days to undergo training and strengthen her skills and experiences.
- Vietnamese-English interpreter traveled to Uganda to support legal team in interrogation of 4 Vietnamese traffickers arrested at the Entebbe international airport.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director of EAGLE Network conducted a mission to Uganda to support investigations and provide training for the management, investigators and media personnel.

International Media Coverage

- Daily Mail paid attention to the arrest of 2 traffickers in Gabon:
[Link to the article](#)

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 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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