



EAGLE

December 2018
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *19 wildlife traffickers arrested in 6 countries*
- ✓ *New EAGLE project launched in Burkina Faso with an arrest of 2 traffickers with big cat skins*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including lions and leopards, in Senegal*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested with 31 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in two operations*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 37 kg of pangolin scales in Togo*
- ✓ *Harouna Traoré, a member of an international ring, trafficking live animals, arrested in Guinea*



5 traffickers arrested with 31 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon.



New EAGLE project launched in Burkina Faso with an arrest of 2 traffickers with big cat skins

Summary

19 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 6 countries.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins and 3 leopard skins. This operation marks the start of our latest replication in Burkina Faso. The traffickers collected the lion skins in the WAP complex (W - Arly - Pendjari National parks), at Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin border, the largest protected area still rich in wildlife in West Africa.



5 traffickers arrested with 31 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon.

3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including at least 3 lions, several leopards cut into pieces and 5 more protected species in Senegal. The first two were arrested in the act with a part of the contraband including lion's and leopard's head skin, a leopard's head skin, two skins of cut lion's heads, pieces and stripes of lion skin and an ammunition of caliber 22. They used their herbs shops as covers to their illegal activities. During an interrogation they denounced a third trafficker, who was arrested on the same day in his house with several pieces of lion skins and other contraband.

5 traffickers arrested with 31 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon. The pangolin scales were stuffed into rice bags and sacks and they were arrested during the attempted sale. After the arrest the traffickers were brought to the Wildlife authority office, which was soon surrounded by their families and friends, pressuring for their release. With complicity of a wildlife official, an accomplice agitator managed to facilitate the escape of one the traffickers under the pretext of

taking him to the toilets. Amidst the violence LAGA team member managed to catch the facilitator of the escape to bring him to justice. LAGA is pushing for the arrest of the sixth. This traffickers' ring has been active in East Cameroon for years, activating poachers in the area and having connection to bigger traffickers in capital city.

3 traffickers, 2 of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with two leopard skins and an ivory tusk In Gabon. An ivory trafficker arrested with 4 tusks. He was arrested in the act in a hotel in the North of Gabon.

2 traffickers, a mother and her son, arrested with 37 kg of pangolin scales in Togo. They belong to a trafficking ring, which has been activating poachers in Togo for several years.

Harouna Traoré, a member of the notorious Traoré trafficking family, arrested in Guinea. Traoré family is one of the main international network, trafficking live animals in West Africa. They have been involved in ape trafficking for many years. 150 Senegal Parrots



3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including at least 3 lions, several leopards cut into pieces and 5 more protected species in Senegal.

and other protected bird species were found during a house search in his premises. GALF team provided the birds with necessary care, they were transported to a new aviary in Forecariah, where they will be rehabilitated and released back to the wild.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 5 traffickers arrested with 31 kg pangolin scales. The pangolin scales were stuffed into rice bags and sacks and they were arrested during the attempted sale. After the arrest the traffickers were brought to the Wildlife authority office, which was soon surrounded by their families and friends, pressuring for their release. With complicity of a wildlife official, an accomplice agitator managed to facilitate the escape of one the traffickers under the pretext of taking him to the toilets. Amidst the violence LAGA team member managed to catch the facilitator of the escape to bring him to justice, so all five are now in jail. LAGA is pushing for the

arrest of the sixth. The agitator accomplice facilitating the escape was supposed to get married this weekend. The two families argued outside the court as he was transported to prison. This traffickers' ring has been active in East Cameroon for years, activating poachers in the area and having connection to bigger traffickers in capital city.

■ Two traffickers were prosecuted and sentenced to one-year imprisonment following their arrest in March this year with 4 ivory tusks, military fatigues and a rifle which was used in killing elephants. They were ordered to pay fines and damages of over 17,000 USD.



Congo – PALF

■ The legal team of PALF supported a case of two gorilla meat traffickers, who were found guilty for killing a gorilla and sentenced to jail for 3 years. The two Central-Africans were arrested by anti-poaching unit in July 2018 with 13 body parts of gorilla, which they had shoot the week before the arrest. They were arrested near the northern border of the country in proximity to Dzanga-Sangha National Park, which is still rich in wildlife including gorilla population.

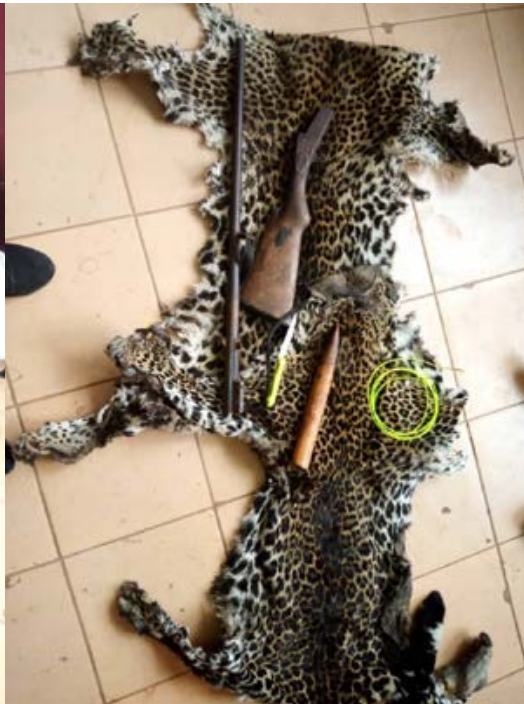
■ A legal adviser of PALF coordinates an UCF unit

(a Unit fighting against wildlife crime) at Bayanga Protected Area in Central African Republic. His mission is 3 months long.

■ The Coordinator held a series of meetings with several high authorities including the Wildlife Adviser of the Ministry of Environment on the progress of the MEF protocol, the Director of PNOK regarding legal support, several State Counsels and Departmental Director of Waters and Forests and others.

Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers, 2 of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with two leopard skins and an ivory tusk.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 4 tusks. He was arrested in the act in a hotel in the North of the country. He massacred two elephants to get the tusks.
- An Ivory trafficker was sentenced to 6 months in jail – unfortunately, the maximum sentence possible in Gabon. He was arrested in November with two tusks.
- The legal team held a series of meetings with State Counsels, Departmental Directors and other authorities of several departments.
- An investigator travelled to Burkina Faso to support the operation and launching the new replication.
- An investigator from Gabon arrived to Benin to support the investigations



3 traffickers, 2 of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with two leopard skins and an ivory tusk.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 4 tusks

Guinea – GALF

- Harouna Traoré, a member of the notorious Traoré trafficking family, arrested. Traoré family is one of the main international network, trafficking live animals in West Africa. They have been involved in ape trafficking for many years. 150 Senegal Parrots and other protected bird species were found during a house search in his premises. GALF team provided the birds with necessary care, they were transported to a new aviary in Forecariah, where they will be rehabilitated and released back to the wild.
- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin. He was arrested in the act in the central part of the country and kept behind bars.
- A legal adviser participated at a workshop to present and validate the CITES report in Guinea, which precedes the mission of CITES secretariat to Guinea to assess the level of implementation of the CITES recommendations in Guinea.
- A legal adviser participated at a workshop approving the report of the institutional audit of the

Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests, evaluating the effectiveness of the reform of the Ministerial services.

- The WARA director held a series of meetings with high authorities, including the General Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment, Waters and Forests, the CITES Focal Point, the Focal Point of Wildlife Crime, the National Director of Water and



Harouna Traoré, a member of the notorious Traoré trafficking family, arrested. Traoré family is one of the main international network, trafficking live animals in West Africa.



A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin.

Forests, the representatives of the US Embassy, the Program Officer, Governance Section at the European Delegation, several State Counsels and others.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 2 traffickers, a mother and her son, arrested with 37 kg of pangolin scales in Lome. They belong to a trafficking ring, which has been activating poachers in Togo for several years.
- The coordinator arrived to Togo to lead the arrest operation.
- He held a series of meetings including with SCDA to discuss a future cooperation.



Senegal – SALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including at least 3 lions, several leopards cut into pieces and 5 more protected species. The first two were arrested in the act with a part of the contraband including lion's and leopard's head skin, a leopard's head skin, two skins of cut lion's heads, pieces and stripes of lion skin and an ammunition of caliber 22. They used their herbs shops as covers to their illegal activities. During a search in their shops, skins of more than 20 different species, 5 of them fully protected, were discovered. During an interrogation they denounced a third trafficker, who was arrested on the same day in his house with several pieces of lion skins and other contraband.
- The transition of the project from WARA to EAGLE – Senegal continued, and the Coordinator held several meetings concerning this topic.
- The coordinator met with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and the UK Ambassador. They discussed the challenges of fight against wildlife crime in Senegal, bad governance, the lack of seriousness of judges in the



application of exemplary sentences and the high level of wildlife crime in Senegal.

- The coordinator held a meeting with US Homeland Security to follow up the case of the arrest operation.



3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including at least 3 lions, several leopards cut into pieces and 5 more protected species.

Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator and a legal advisor travelled to Burkina Faso to support the operation and launching the new replication.
- An investigator from Gabon arrived to Benin to support the investigations.
- The coordinator trained 8 officers of the Special Border Surveillance Unit at Agoué on the methods of combating wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with government authorities, including the Commander of the Judicial Police regarding the bank requisition requested by the Public Prosecutor in the case of 252 kg of ivory, the Director of Training of the General Directorate Customs, the Contingent Head of the Directorate of the W National Park to discuss ongoing cases in the Kandi court, and others.

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 Captain of the airport unit of the Ministry of Waters and Forest to strengthen the collaboration.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins and 3 leopard skins. This operation marks the start of our latest replication. The traffickers collected the lion skins in the WAP complex (W - Arly – Pendjari National parks), at Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin border, the largest protected area still rich in wildlife in West Africa.
- The Coordinator and a legal advisor from Benin arrived to Burkina Faso to support the operation and launching the new replication.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities, including the General Director of Water and Forest to coordinate the follow up of the arrest operation and prepare a meeting with the Minister of Environment, the Director of Operations of the General Directorate of Water and Forests, the Director of Institutional Development and Legal Affairs, with the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice and others.



- The recruitment process continued and several legal advisors were tested.
- EAGLE Burkina Faso is managed by Conservation Justice.



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.

Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
2. Congo – PALF - perrine@eagle-enforcement.org
3. Gabon – AALF - luc@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Guinea – GALF - saidou@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Togo – EAGLE-Togo - rens@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Senegal – SALF - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Benin - AALF-B - jules@eagle-enforcement.org
8. Côte d'Ivoire - rens@eagle-enforcement.org
9. Burkina Faso - josias@eagle-enforcement.org