



EAGLE

December 2019
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *December brought very low results in all countries; measures are taken to improve in the new year.*
- ✓ *A leopard skin trafficker arrested with one leopard skin In Senegal*
- ✓ *PALF team was fighting hard and saved a baby chimp sized by authorities in Congo*



PALF team was fighting hard and saved a baby chimp sized by authorities in Congo



A leopard skin trafficker was arrested on Christmas Eve with one leopard skin in Senegal

Summary

A leopard skin trafficker was arrested on Christmas Eve with one leopard skin in Senegal near Guinean border. The trafficker was swiftly arrested in the act in a restaurant with the skin concealed in a black backpack. He was connected to a network of Guinean poachers, supplying him with skins, which he had been selling in Senegal for at least two years. He is also involved in gold mining. He remains behind bars awaiting trial.

PALF team was fighting hard and saved a baby chimp, which was held in North-East of the country illegally. The authorities were hesitating as they first thought that the baby was already dead, but being pushed by the PALF Coordinator then finally seized the baby, who was in a critical condition, suffering from fever and dehydration. However, nobody was arrested and prosecuted as the owner voluntarily surren-



The chimp baby was in life-threatening condition. (C) Jane Goodall Institute



A leopard skin trafficker was arrested on Christmas Eve with one leopard skin in Senegal

dered himself to authorities. The little female, named Perrine after PALF Coordinator, was then transported to Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre, run by Jane Goodall Institute. The dedicated sanctuary director Rebeca Atencia interrupted her holiday in Europe and returned to Congo to continue the fight for the life of the baby, who had to receive intense veterinary care including blood transfusion and artificial nutrition. After three weeks she finally started feeding by herself and hopefully won the fight for life. This is the second chimpanzee baby seized in this area in four months.

Eric Tah, the Deputy Director, has been nominated for 2020 Indianapolis Prize. The Indianapolis Prize is a biennial prize awarded by the Indianapolis Zoo to



After three weeks the chimp finally started feeding by herself and hopefully won the fight for life. (C) Jane Goodall Institute

individuals for “extraordinary contributions to conservation efforts” affecting one or more animal species. Eric was nominated for his work exposing criminals involved in illegal trafficking, which changed how wildlife laws are enforced in Cameroon and other African nations.

Cameroon – LAGA

- Eric Tah, the Deputy Director, has been nominated for 2020 Indianapolis Prize. The Indianapolis Prize is a biennial prize awarded by the Indianapolis Zoo to individuals for “extraordinary contributions to conservation efforts” affecting one or more animal species. Eric was nominated for his work exposing criminals involved in illegal trafficking, which changed how wildlife laws are enforced in Cameroon and other African nations.
- The Deputy Director participated at an experts’ meeting of the Ndjamen Declaration of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership launched earlier this year. The meeting focused on rendering the resolutions taken at the Ndjamen meeting operational.
- He participated at a meeting organized by WWF, bringing together conservationists and other players who are interested in providing to stakeholders, particularly the government officials, an enabling environment for the wildlife law enforcement to effectively carry out their responsibilities.

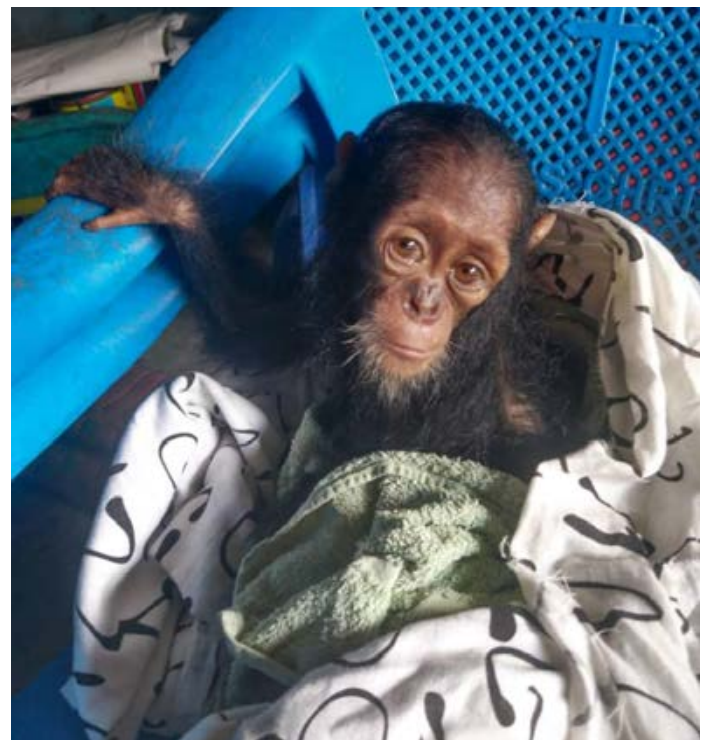


Eric Tah interviewed by media

- The heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments held meetings with security and customs officials at the Douala international airport to foster closer collaboration within the framework of the convention signed with the Customs Department.

Congo – PALF

- PALF team was fighting hard and saved a baby chimp, which was held in North-East of the country illegally. The authorities were hesitating as they first thought that the baby was already dead, but being pushed by the PALF Coordinator then finally seized the baby, who was in a critical condition, suffering from fever and dehydration. However, nobody was arrested and prosecuted as the owner voluntarily surrendered himself to authorities. The little female, named Perrine after PALF Coordinator, was then transported to Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre, run by Jane Goodall Institute. The dedicated sanctuary director Rebeca Atencia interrupted her holiday in Europe and returned to Congo to continue the fight for the life of the baby, who had to receive intense veterinary care including blood transfusion and artificial nutrition. After three weeks she finally started feeding by herself and hopefully won the

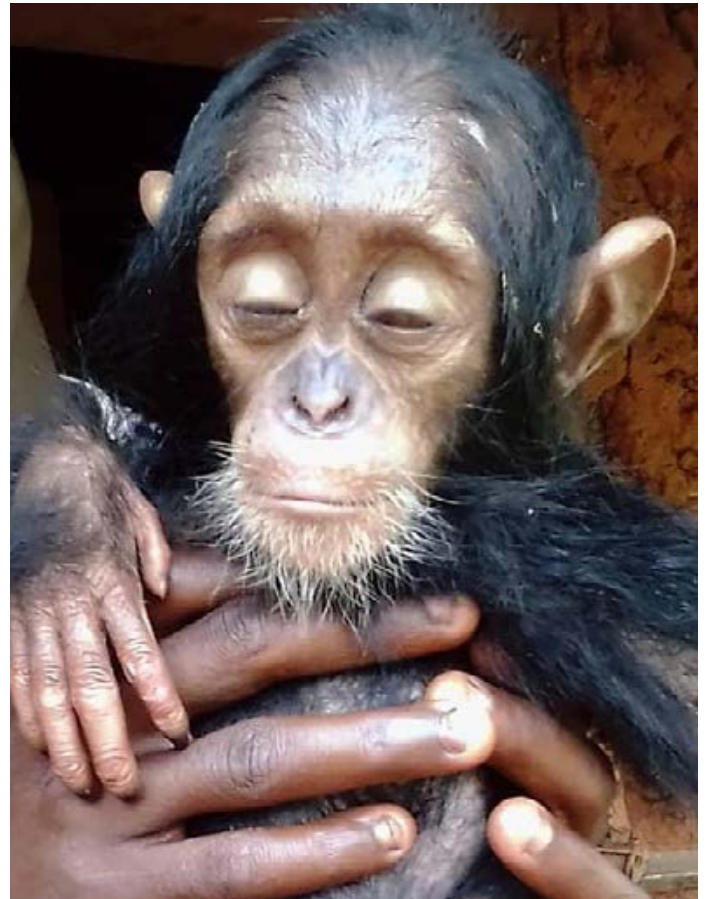


fight for life. This is the second chimpanzee baby seized in this area in four months.

- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities including the Head of the EU Delegation, the Deputy US Ambassador, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Forest Economy and others.



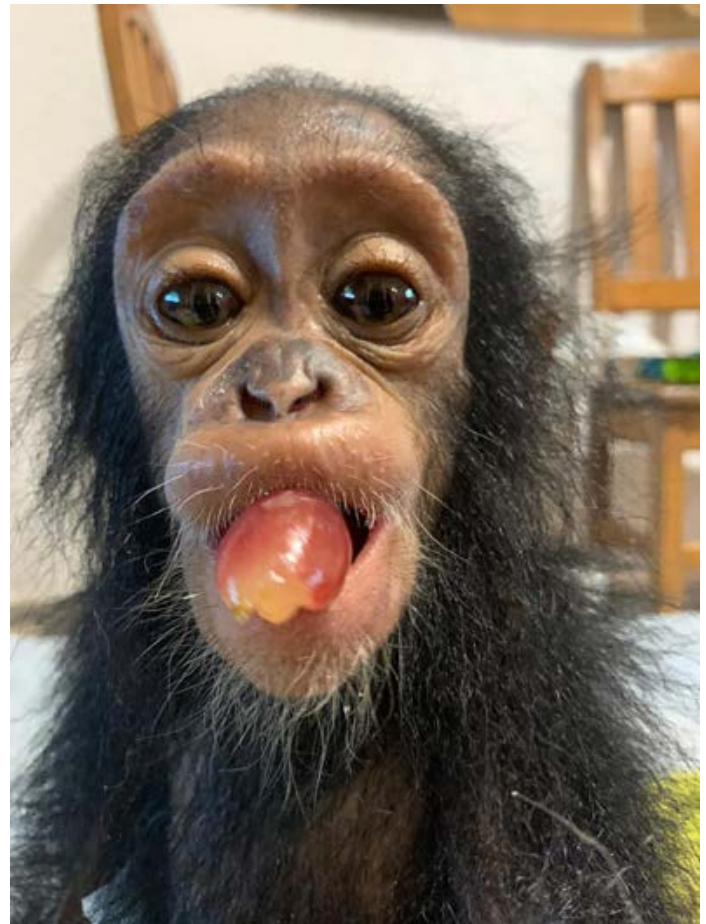
The chimp baby was in life-threatening condition. (C) Jane Goodall Institute



The authorities were hesitating to act as they first thought that the baby was already dead.



The baby had to receive intense veterinary care including blood transfusion and artificial nutrition. (C) Jane Goodall Institute



Little Perrine after three weeks of intense veterinary care. (C) Jane Goodall Institute

Gabon – AALF

- A Legal Adviser participated in a working session on the mid-term review of the Elephant project of the National Agency of the National Parks and of General Direction of the Wildlife and Protected Areas.
- The Legal Team and the Coordinator held a series of meetings with the administrative and judicial

authorities of the country both for the follow-up of cases and for the strengthening of collaboration, including the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, several state counsels, the heads of judicial police units in several provinces and others.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Technical Advisor to the Minister of Territorial Administration on the registration of EAGLE-Togo. The Advisor committed to support the process of registration and stay in contact for further action.
- The Legal Advisors held a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Nature Protection after the deliberation of the Alassani Razak case to discuss the follow-up needed to be done for an effective execution of the court decision.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- A leopard skin trafficker arrested on Christmas Eve with one leopard skin near Guinean border. The trafficker was swiftly arrested in the act in a restaurant with the skin concealed in a black backpack., He was connected to a network of Guinean poachers, supplying him with skins, which he had been selling in Senegal for at least two years. He is also involved in gold mining. He remains behind bars awaiting trial.
- The Legal team followed a case of two ivory traffickers arrested near Mali border by Customs Officers at the end of November with 2 tusks.
- Following this arrest, the Legal Adviser trained 17 customs officers on techniques of concealment and identification of contraband in wildlife cases, on wildlife crime and criminal wildlife law.
- The Coordinator participated at a dinner in honor



of the European Ambassador for Environmental Affairs, held at the French Embassy. She used the opportunity to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and wildlife trafficking in Senegal with the Ambassadors as well as with high Senegalese officials including CITES Convention Focal

Point, the Director of Wildlife in Senegal, a representative of the Directorate of National Parks and the Director of Criminal Affairs within the Ministry of Justice.

- A Legal Adviser trained the Niokolo Koba National Park officers at a training organized in partnership with Panthera on surveillance and prevention of offenses in protected areas.
- An investigator finished the test period and joined the team.



Benin – AALF-B

- A Legal Advisor participated at a workshop held to update the strategy of elephant conservation in Benin.
- A Legal Advisor trained forty district and village leaders on fight against wildlife crime.
- The Director of Nature Tropicale held a meeting with the Head of the Brigade of the African Parks Network and the Head of Litigation of Forest Administration to discuss the fight against wildlife crime in Pendjari Park and to strengthen collaboration in the legal monitoring of wildlife cases and combating wildlife crime.
- The Director of Nature Tropicale met with representatives of the International Voluntary Service Community based in Italy to inform them about the activities of AALF-Benin and the situation in wildlife crime in the country.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with high officials, including several State Counsels of different courts, Commissioners and Departmental Police Directors and others.

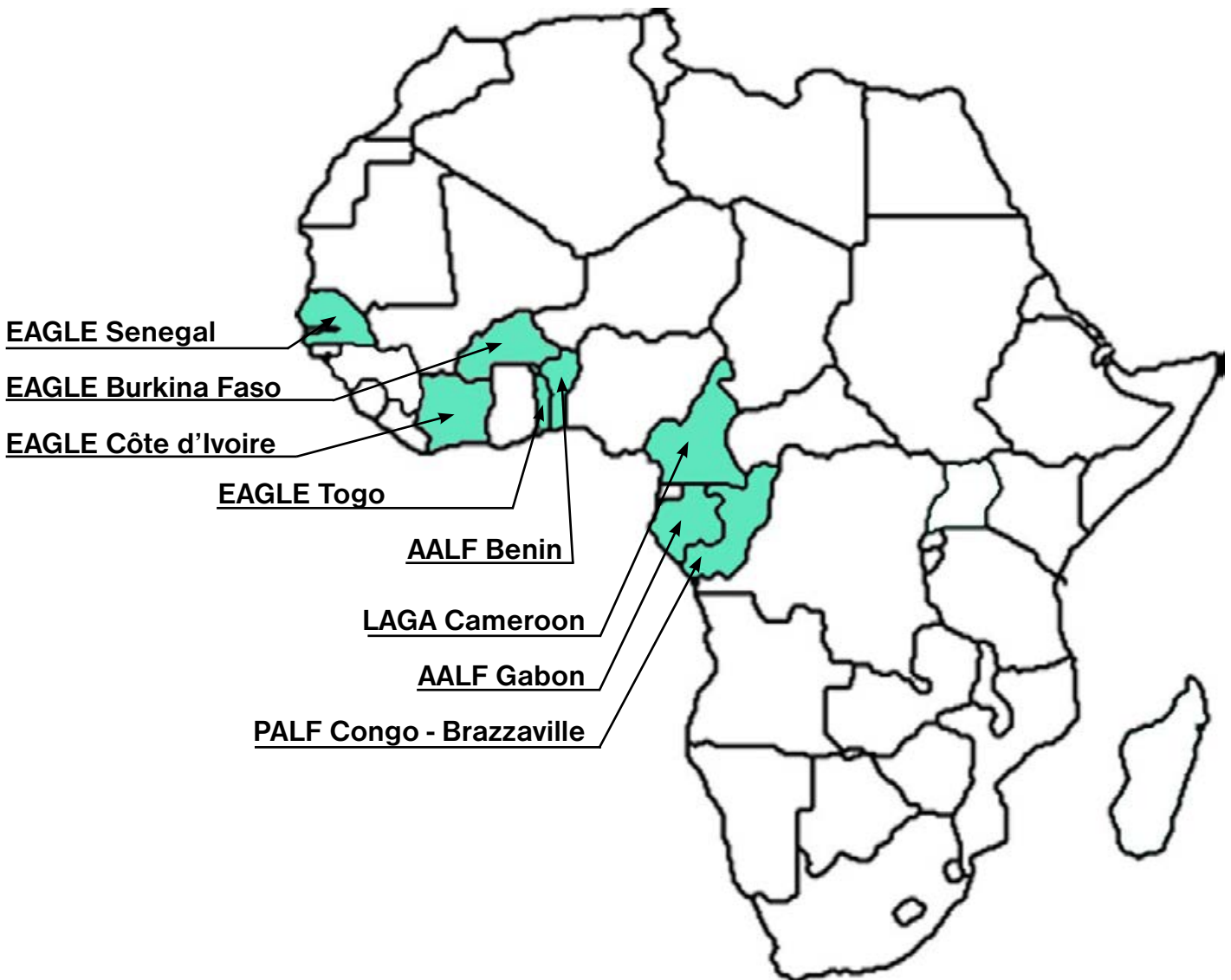
Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Legal Adviser participated at a workshop validating the report on the national evaluation of wildlife crime, organized by the Ministry of Water and Forests.
- The Legal Adviser participated at a working session to assess the risks of wildlife crime in Côte d'Ivoire, organized by the World Bank, following the workshop in October.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Legal adviser participated at the session of the National Commission on Combatting Fraud, focusing on the regulation and control of the exploitation and marketing of timber and hunting trophies.
- 2 traffickers were prosecuted and sentenced to 2 years suspended penalty. They were arrested in December 2018 with 3 lion and 3 leopard skins.

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 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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