



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **21 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 6 countries**
- ✓ **9 traffickers arrested in 2 operation in Benin including 5 ivory traffickers**
- ✓ **3 ivory traffickers arrested in Senegal with 271 pieces of carved ivory**
- ✓ **4 ape meat traffickers arrested in Guinea with 106 kg of chimpanzee meat and other bushmeat**
- ✓ **A significant Nigerian ivory trafficker arrested with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon**
- ✓ **An ape skull trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 9 ape skulls**

Summary

21 major wildlife traffickers were arrested in 6 countries.

Two successful operations in Benin brought to jail an impressive number of 9 traffickers. 5 of them were ivory traffickers, including retired Commander of the Gendarmerie, they were arrested with 4 tusks, weighting 10.5 kg. A corruption attempt was detected and combated as one of the traffickers tried to bribe the police officer. The other 4 traffickers were arrested with a shocking number of animal parts including ivory, 15 threatened sitatunga skins, elephant's bones and trunk, 10 civet skins and more.

3 ivory traffickers were arrested in Senegal after they brought their contraband from their ivory carving workshop to a restaurant, where they attempted to sell 271 pieces of elephant ivory and other contraband.

4 ape meat traffickers with 106 kg of meat were arrested in Guinea in a series of following operations, one of them a head of a regional network of ape meat traffickers, involving also poachers and traffickers from Sierra Leone. 2 of them were arrested later after the issuing of an arrest warrant.



A significant Nigerian ivory trafficker arrested with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales.

A significant Nigerian ivory trafficker was arrested in Cameroon with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales. The trafficker who used the cover of a businessman dealing in car spare parts had a storeroom where huge quantities of wildlife products could be stored. He ran his illegal activity across the Central African sub region from Gabon, Congo, Cameroon right to Nigeria and he equally had as clients Chinese traffickers. A trafficker with 5 chimps and 4 gorilla skulls arrested in Cameroon in the same region only a couple of hours later. He had gotten the contraband from poachers quite close to a logging com-

pany in the area, which proves the role that logging companies play in stimulating and sustaining wildlife poaching and trafficking.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 tusks in a joint operation of EAGLE Uganda team and the Uganda police force. A bird trafficker was arrested in Uganda with three Crowned Cranes - an endangered bird that is also the national symbol of Uganda - following EAGLE Uganda internet investigations. The joint team of EAGLE Uganda and the police discovered the wide international links of the trafficker and especially with UK.

Cameroon – LAGA

- A significant Nigerian ivory trafficker arrested with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales. The trafficker who used the cover of a businessman dealing in car spare parts had a storeroom where huge quantities of wildlife products could be stored. He ran his illegal activity across the Central African sub region from Gabon, Congo, Cameroon right to Nigeria and he equally had as clients Chinese traffickers.
- A trafficker with 5 chimps and 4 gorilla skulls arrested in another town in the same region only a couple of hours later. He had obtained the contraband from poachers quite close to a logging company in the area, which proves the role that logging companies play in stimulating and sustaining wildlife poaching and trafficking.
- 3 ivory traffickers, arrested in February 2015, were all found guilty and sentenced for 1 year in prison and 11,000 USD for civil damages and fines.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy with two officials; a Foreign Service Officer from the US State Department and a Senior Counsel with the Justice Department and discussions focused on illegal logging and initiatives to address the situation in the country.
- The Deputy Director met with the Director of the Prague Zoo from the Czech Republic to discuss conservation initiatives including wildlife law enforcement in the Dja Reserve and the conception and implementation of conservation projects with the communities living close to the Reserve
- The deputy director met with Nancy Gelman from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss progress on the Pangolin Mentor Fellowship Programme.

- 2 legal advisers from Guinea and Senegal arrived to Cameroon for an intensive training by the legal team of LAGA within the EAGLE Network exchange programme.



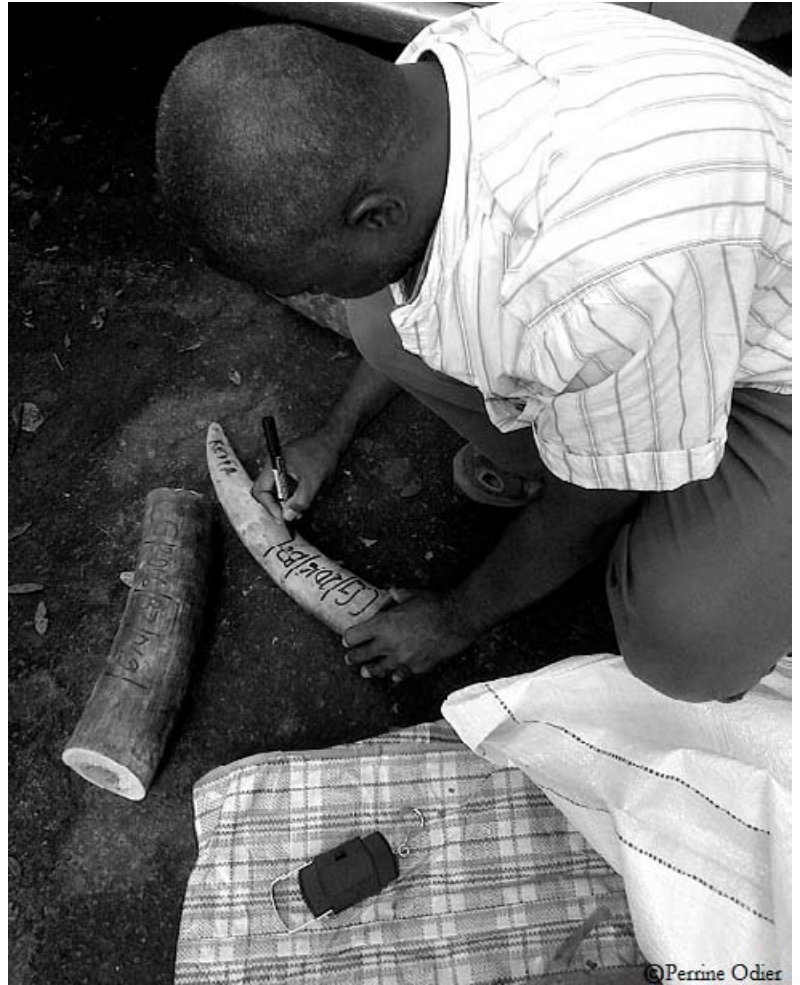
A trafficker with 5 chimps and 4 gorilla skulls arrested



12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales.

Congo – PALF

- Perrine Odier was appointed an interim coordinator of PALF. She continued the reconstruction process of the team and recruiting and testing new team members.
- Luc Mathot from Steering Group conducted another supporting mission to monitor and support the process of reconstruction of the team.
- Several meetings were held to introduce the new interim coordinator to the officials of the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development. The main goal is the renewal of the MoU with the Ministry.
- Perrine was also introduced to the directors of Wildlife Conservation Society and The Aspinall Foundation and renewal and signing of the new Consortium WCS-TAF-EAGLE was discussed.
- PALF was participating at the inventory of stock of ivory of the Republic of Congo
- Legal team continued in follow up of 2 cases and jail visits.
- 2 investigators and one legal adviser started their test period.



PALF team participating at the inventory of stock of ivory of the Republic of Congo

Gabon – AALF & ALEFI

- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband in an operation carried out by AALF and Gendarmerie.
- High sentences were delivered by the court in Makokou in cases followed by AALF legal team, one poacher was sentenced to 3 years in jail and another 5 poachers and traffickers were sentenced from 6 month to one year in prison.
- The coordinator of AALF visited Congo to support reconstruction of the PALF team, recruitment of new team members and meet with government authorities and NGOs.
- Series of meetings were held with the Presidents of tribunal and the Directors of Provinces to follow the court cases in different parts of the country.
- 3 legal advisors started their test period.

Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- 4 ape meat traffickers with 106 kg of meat were arrested in a series of following operations. First a motorbike rider was arrested distributing the chimp meat, he revealed the owner of the meat, a woman, who is a head of a regional network of ape meat traffickers, involving also poachers and traffickers from Sierra Leone. She has been involved in this criminal activity for 14 years and was never arrested before. The third member of the gang was arrested one day later in another operation with several bags of meat of chimpanzees and other protected species. The fourth member of the team was arrested later thanks to the arrest warrant, issued by police.
- WARA director Charlotte Houpline arrived to Guinea to meet with the US Ambassador and discuss with him strengthening the collaborations between US Embassy and GALF. She also met with the Political Adviser of the EU Delegation in Conakry.
- Legal follow up of the case of Ansoumane Doumbouya, the former head of the CITES Department and his accomplice Thierno Barry, who are still in behind bars, continued.
- Legal follow up of cases of 4 ape traffickers, arrested in November, continued.
- Monitoring and evaluation Officer from CCU and Assistant Coordi-

nator from SALF conducted a mission to Guinea to train the GALF team on security, reporting, following procedure manual and fostering activism and to help with the recruitment.

- A legal adviser was trained in Cameroon within the EAGLE Network Exchange Program to deepen his legal knowledge on wildlife crime, procedures and practical knowledge.
- The media department participated in several radio talk shows on wildlife crime.
- New legal adviser started her test period in GALF.



4 ape meat traffickers with 106 kg of meat were arrested in a series of following operations.

Togo – TALFF

- 4 illegal loggers, arrested in November by a joint team of TALFF and eco-guards of Franz Weber Foundation and gendarmerie in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, were sentenced 6 months in prison. This court decision is one of very few sentences issued for illegal logging in Togo.
- After conducting a 3 days long investigation mission, ANCE Togo organized a press conference about the critical situation in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, where after withdrawing Franz We-

ber Foundation the wildlife is massacred with no control. The current situation in the National Park is close to an ecological catastrophe. 71 journalists from national and international presses and a representative of European Union visited the conference and many of articles were published.

- Several meetings were held with different authorities to establish relations with them and in order to keep track of court cases, the judge of the 7th cabinet of the court of Lome; the Representative

of the administration (an official of the National Agency for Environmental Management: ANGE); the Director and the Head of the Operations of

OCRTIDB and the representative of INTERPOL.

- 3 legal advisers and one investigator were on the test period during the month.



Charlotte Houpline is the director of WARA and founder of two of EAGLE projects – GALF Guinea and SALF Senegal.

After completing several degrees in ecology, wildlife management and nature protection, at the age of 22 Charlotte left for a national park in Africa to fulfill her childhood dream, to never leave Africa again.

After working in a sanctuary for orphaned chimpanzees and in the Jane Goodall Institute, as well as in other conservation organizations, she became the expert advisor to the Ministry of Environment of Guinea for 2 years.

In 2010, she founded the NGO WARA CONSERVATION in France and quickly focused its activities on the fight against poaching and trafficking of cats. She launched a project to investigate lion and leopard trafficking in Guinea and poaching in National Park of Upper Niger. Then in early 2012, Charlotte started the first replication of LAGA model in West Africa: the GALF project, meant to enforce the application of wildlife law in Guinea. Soon the first arrests and prosecutions of traffickers were brought about in the country: 7 traffickers charged with 10 leopard skins were sentenced. Excellent result brought 18 month long investigation in, which led to the arrest of the former head of CITES in Guinea - Ansoumane Doumbouya, in August 2015.

In 2013 she replicated the LAGA model in Senegal, where thanks to SALF, traffickers were again arrested and sentenced to prison for the first time. One of the first operations led to arrest of 5 international traffickers charged with 29 lion and leopard products and 2,600 other skins and parts of protected animals. Several significant operations contributed to crashing international gangs of wildlife traffickers, thanks to Charlotte's hard work.

SENEGAL - SALF

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the centre of Dakar in a joint operation of the Brigade of Urban Security and SALF. The 3 dealers brought their contraband from their ivory carving workshop to a restaurant, where they were arrested red handed during an attempt to sell 271 (!) pieces of elephant ivory and other contraband.
- The 3 traffickers were sentenced from 1 to 3 months in jail two weeks after the arrest. Very low sentences demonstrate the need to pursue our goals with controlling corruption in court.
- The WARA director trained 13 members of the security forces of the SSI of the French Embassy in Dakar
- A legal adviser was trained in Cameroon within the EAGLE Network Exchange Program to deepen his legal knowledge on wildlife crime, procedures and practical knowledge.



- Recruitment process for an accountant, legal advisers and investigators started. About 700 applications were received and processed, 5 candidates remained after the first round of interviews. Recruitment will continue in March.



3 traffickers arrested during an attempt to sell 271 pieces of elephant ivory

Benin – AALF-B

- 5 ivory traffickers, one of them retired Commander of the Gendarmerie, with 4 tusks, weighting 10.5 kg, arrested in a joint operation of Judicial Police, wildlife officers and AALF-B. A corruption attempt was detected and combated as one of the traffickers tried to bribe the police officer offering about 170 USD, which was included as an aggravating circumstance. This was the first operation of AALF-B at the north-east end of the country in the W National Park. Three of the traffickers are from Burkina Faso.
- 4 wildlife traffickers arrested in Benin with a shocking number of animal parts including ivory, 15 threatened sitatunga skins, elephants bones and trunk, 10 civet skins and more. The operation was carried out by joined team of AALF-B and Gendarmerie.
- Several meetings with regional officials and the Director of W National Park were held to discuss the 2 cases of 9 arrested ivory traffickers
- 2 new investigators started their test period this month.



5 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks,



4 wildlife traffickers arrested in Benin with a shocking number of animal parts

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks in a joint operation of EAGLE Uganda team and the Uganda police force. The trafficker, arrested in Western part of the country, remains behind bars, awaiting trial.
- A bird trafficker was arrested with three Crowned Cranes - an endangered bird that is also the national symbol of Uganda - following EAGLE Uganda internet investigations. The team was really proud of getting to protect the national symbol. The joint team of EAGLE Uganda and the police discovered the wide international links of the trafficker and especially with UK. He was starting to invest his illicit revenue to build infrastructure for keeping illegally large quantities of birds and expand his business.
- The director of public prosecution renewed the license of two wildlife crime prosecutors of the EAGLE Uganda team and issued new licenses to the new legal advisers, an act based on the results achieved by EAGLE Uganda combating wildlife crime.
- The office of the Inspector General of Police Uganda has seconded to EAGLE Uganda (NRCN) one police officer who will be working with the team in planning and execution of arrest operation.
- 2 new legal advisers and 4 investigators started their test period this month.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks



A bird trafficker was arrested with three Crowned Cranes

Headquarters

- Intensified support of CCU to recruitment process in the countries brought results in 7 countries, 14 new activists joined the network on test period.
- Monitoring and evaluation Officer from CCU conducted a mission to Guinea to train the GALF team on security, reporting, following procedure manual and fostering activism and to help with the recruitment.
- Perrine Odier was assigned an interim coordinator of PALF, Congo, where she started reconstruction of the team, testing the new investigators and legal advisors and looked for a new office.
- French versions of the Operation Procedure Manuals, Contraband Guides and Identification Guides were printed together with EAGLE Network Pamphlets and partly distributed to the countries.



Charlotte Houpline and Cecile Bloch counting seized ivory pieces after the successful arrest in Senegal

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.

Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA – ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
2. Congo – PALF – naftali@eagle-enforcement.org
3. Gabon – AALF – luc@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Guinea Conakry – GALF – saidou@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Togo – TALFF – ebeh@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Benin – AALF-B – josea@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Senegal – SALF – charlotte@eagle-enforcement.org
8. Uganda – vincent@eagle-enforcement.org