



EAGLE

January 2019
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *13 wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. He is also an imam well known in his community.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Cameroon*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in Congo*
- ✓ *6 pangolin scales traffickers arrested in two operations in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon*



In Côte d'Ivoire a notorious trafficker was arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins.

2 traffickers were arrested and baby chimp rescued in Cameroon.

Summary

In Côte d'Ivoire a notorious trafficker was arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self-declared number one dealer in skins in Abidjan has his shop and his nearby house right next to the Adjamé market and bus terminals, which made it difficult to plan his arrest there. But with great work and courage of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team and the UCT to do round the clock surveillance and an operation in this gang infested area, they eventually got to capture him. The trafficker who is also an imam was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team. During the night, the team and UCT continued with another search in his shop in Bassam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.

2 traffickers were arrested and baby chimp rescued in Cameroon. The couple was arrested when they



In Côte d'Ivoire a notorious trafficker was arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins.



3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in Congo.

were just about to sell the baby with the support of one of their sons who is based in Europe. They had been trafficking live animals for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past. Anna was taking care of this baby, which is strong and active. The chimpanzee was by decision of authorities placed to the Yaounde zoo that has neither the technical expertise nor the appropriate facility to take care of him; he is kept there in dire conditions.

3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in Congo. One of them is a military man, he used the impunity of his uniforms to cover the crimes. He is the cousin of the head of the prison he is supposed to be locked in. They are connected to a large ivory trafficking ring, all have been involved in trafficking for years.

4 traffickers were arrested with 54 kg of pangolin scales, 5 hippo teeth and 2 unidentified precious stones in Cameroon. The pangolin scales were packed inside 3 bags and transported in the taxi car that was watched and followed closely by one of the traffickers on a motorbike. The traffickers activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around Douala. Another pangolin scales trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of pangolin scales.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Douala. The couple was arrested when they were just about to sell the baby with the support of one of their sons who is based in Europe. They had been trafficking live animals for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past. Anna was taking care of this baby, which is strong and active. The chimpanzee was by decision of authorities placed to the Yaounde zoo that has neither the technical expertise nor the appropriate facility to take care of him; he is kept there in dire conditions. This situation needs redressing as fast as possible otherwise the chimp that is exposed and comes in contact with people visiting the zoo may deteriorate in health.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 54 kg of pangolin scales, 5 hippo teeth and 2 unidentified precious stones. The pangolins scales were packed inside 3 bags and transported in the taxi car that was watched and followed closely by one of the traffickers on



2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Douala.



4 traffickers arrested with 54 kg of pangolin scales

a motorbike. The traffickers activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around Douala. The hippo teeth were brought in from Chad by two of the traffickers. Two of them have been in the pangolin scales business for long time.

- Another pangolin scales trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of pangolin scales. He was found pulling a bag of pangolin scales out from his home. He was one of two traffickers targeted for their involvement in a pangolin trafficking ring in the area and a sudden influx of gendarmerie officers passing through the town scared one of the traffickers who immediately escaped when he saw the trucks ferrying the gendarme officers stationed in the town.
- The Deputy Director travelled to Ndjamena where he participated at the CBFP organized ministerial conference to tackle a problem posed by armed groups moving between the Sahel, Sudan and north of Equatorial Africa in protected areas and within local communities. During the meeting he met with several high authorities including the Secretary of State for Defense in charge of the Gendarmerie, a GIZ official, who is about to run a project on elephant and rhino poaching on the continent, the TRAFFIC director, South Sudan Undersecretary at the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, a the Regional Coordinator for Central Africa for the Global Program for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime of the UNODC and others.

- The Head of Legal Department met with a regional Judicial Police chief, a regional chief of Scientific Police, some state counsels, the head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Douala airport and others.
- The Head of the Investigations Department met with the head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Nsimalen airport.



Another pangolin scales trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of pangolin scales.

Congo – PALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in the North of the country. One of them is a military man. He used the impunity of his uniforms to cover the crimes. He is the cousin of the head of the prison that he is supposed to be locked in. They are connected to a large ivory trafficking ring, all have been involved in trafficking for years. They transported the ivory concealed in a bag on motorbike and then in a dugout canoe to a hotel, where they were arrested in the act.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in jail. He was arrested in November 2018 with two tusks.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with several high authorities including the Wildlife Adviser of the Ministry of Justice, the General Direc-



tor of Water and Forest, several advisers and attaché of US Embassy, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Water and Forest and others.

Gabon – AALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the East of the country. Three criminals were surprised in the middle of the transaction in a hotel, but they escaped through window, leaving the contraband on the spot. Two of them were arrested two days later thanks to the good work of Conservation Justice and Police.
- AALF legal team followed up an arrest operation of Police, 5 ivory traffickers were arrested with 21 kg of ivory.
- The legal team held a series of meetings with State Counsels, Forestry Departmental Directors and other authorities of several departments.
- The Coordinator met with the new Minister of Environment and the new Director of the Cabinet to introduce them to the AALF project and inform them about the results of Conservation Justice
- He also presented AALF and ALEFI results in a regional workshop organized by the Global Environment Fund where authorities of Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, CRA and Equatorial Guinea were represented.



Guinea – GALF

- Following problems of procedure the GALF project has been separated from the EAGLE Network and continues under WARA.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- An investigator on test continued his test period. Investigation department intensified its work to

achieve better results in 2019.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The transition period from WARA to EAGLE-Senegal was finished by receiving the registration for EAGLE Senegal.
- A Legal Adviser participated at a workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment on the revision of the Hunting and Wildlife Code and its implementing regulations, where he proposed several modifications of obsolete and disabling

articles of law to improve the conditions for the daily fight against wildlife crime. The legal team was then invited to the National Assembly for further discussion about the new legislation.

- A legal advisor was appointed Assistant Coordinator. He supported management of the team while the Coordinator left for France for health reasons.

Benin – AALF-B

- The coordinator trained 80 students of the Custom School at Porto Novo on the methods of combating wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with government authorities, including the Head of the Directorate of the W National Park to discuss on-

going cases in the Kandi court, the CENAGREF Technical Director to strengthen the collaboration between AALF-Benin and the National Center for Wildlife Reserves Management, several state counsels, departmental police officers and others.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self declared number one dealer in skins in Abidjan has his shop and his nearby house right next to the Adjamé market and bus terminals, which made it difficult to plan his arrest there. But with great work and courage of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team and the UCT to do round the clock surveillance and an operation in this gang infested area, they eventually got to capture him. The trafficker who is also an imam was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in

the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team. During the night, the team and UCT





continued with another search in his shop in Bas-sam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.

focusing on money laundering investigations and the procedures for money laundering charges in Côte d'Ivoire.

■ The building up of the case of the criminal syndicate taken down in January 2018 continued,

■ The Coordinator held several meetings with the UCT special unit to support the investigation of the January case and to prepare the last operation.

■ One investigator continued his test period.



Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of the Environment of Green Economy and Climate Change, the general Secretary and the Technical adviser to discuss future collaboration and the details of the prepared Memorandum of Understanding.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director and Director of Conservation Justice, arrived to Burkina Faso to hold meetings with authorities and to support the management of the newly established project.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, participated at UNDOC meeting on the anti-corruption guide for wildlife authorities Vienna. He met there a group of anti-corruption experts and journalists.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Burkina Faso to hold meetings with authorities and to support the management of the newly established project.
- The Deputy Director of LAGA travelled to Ndjamena where he participated at the CBFP organized ministerial conference to tackle a problem posed by armed groups moving between the Sahel, Sudan and north of Equatorial Africa in protected areas and within local communities. During the meeting he met with several high authorities including the Secretary of State for Defense in charge of the Gendarmerie, a GIZ official, who is about to run a project on elephant and rhino poaching on the continent, the TRAFFIC director, South Sudan Undersecretary at the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, a the Regional Coordinator for Central Africa for the Global Program for Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime of the UNODC and others.
- A new supervolunteer arrived to Nairobi for training with CCU.

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. Togo – EAGLE-Togo – rens@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Senegal – SALF - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Benin - AALF-B - jules@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Côte d'Ivoire - rens@eagle-enforcement.org
8. Burkina Faso - josias@eagle-enforcement.org