



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **18 wildlife criminals arrested in 7 countries**
- ✓ **A public official of the local authority arrested in Uganda for intercepted bribing attempt**
- ✓ **2 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 tusks in Congo and sentenced to 3 years in prison**
- ✓ **3 ivory traffickers arrested with 135 ivory bangles in Senegal**
- ✓ **3 ivory traffickers arrested in Benin with more than 150 pieces of carved ivory**
- ✓ **2 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon**
- ✓ **4 ivory traffickers sentenced to 2 years in prison in Gabon**
- ✓ **6 traffickers arrested in Uganda in 2 operations with 109 pieces of hippo ivory**
- ✓ **A foundation was laid down for the ALARM project in Madagascar – EAGLE’s 9th replication, with AVG**
- ✓ **2016 first semester report is out with 146 traffickers arrested**

Summary

18 major wildlife traffickers were arrested in 7 countries.

A public official of the local authority was arrested in Uganda after he arrived at the police station and offered a bribe of 650 USD to the police officials in an attempt to release 3 hippo ivory traffickers. The bribe attempt was documented on video and the official himself was arrested and will be prosecuted by special anti-corruption court.

3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 135 ivory bangles in Senegal. The investigation tracking criminals, who were running a workshop, producing ivory jewellery and so generating massacre of elephants, lead to outsmarting these very clever and cautious traffickers by the SALF team together with the Senegalese authorities.

3 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin with more than 180 pieces of carved ivory like bracelets, pendants, combs and medallions. They were arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the contraband in a restaurant in the centre of the town. The traffickers



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 elephant tusks of very young animals in Congo

owned a workshop and specialized in transforming and selling ivory jewellery.

2 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 elephant tusks of very young animals in Congo. One week later they were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay 3,400 USD on fines and damages. This exemplary decision is an important precedence in the final stages of reconstructing the project in Congo.

2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks, and 4 elephant tails in their jewellery shop. The tusks were packed in a sack and a sum of 1,200,000 FCFA (2,000 USD) was also found nearby.

Deterring sentences were achieved in 2 cases followed by AALF legal team in Gabon. A Cameroonian ivory trafficker, arrested with 10 ivory tusks and 6 cut pieces in July, was sentenced to 2 years in prison. Two of 5 ivory traffickers, arrested in April with 2 ivory tusks, were sentenced to 2 years in prison, while

the remaining 3 got 6 months in prison. The collective damages awarded by the traffickers reaches to about 17,000 USD.

6 hippo ivory traffickers were arrested in Uganda in two separated operations with 109 hippo teeth. One of them has been arrested by the police in the past and bribed his way out with the reported amount of about 600 USD.

2016 First Semester Report was published. 146 wild-life and forest criminals were arrested in 8 countries. 87% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars. At least in 15 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. 72 ivory traffickers were arrested with a total of 650 kg of ivory, which includes 142 tusks and 1,128 pieces of carved ivory. 16 great ape traffickers arrested with 44 chimpanzee skulls, 18 gorilla skulls and other body parts.

Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested with 8 sea turtle shells. He had been in the illegal business for a few of years, trafficking in various kinds of protected wildlife species including crocodiles and primates. He collected them from a network of poachers and linked up with a large array of customers who come in from large cities. A photo of a Nile monitor tied to his bike was found inside his phone.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Nancy Gelman from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Tarla Francis of the Mentor PoP Fellowship programme.
- He also met with Chief Executive Officer of Carbonium, working on a United Nations Development Project (UNDP), which focuses on integrated transboundary conservation and discussions focused on the role of wildlife law enforcement within the project.
- The EAGLE Network Financial Officer finished her two-week visit, during which she carried out an audit of expenditures from January 2013 to June 2016, trained the accountant while setting up new financial procedures.
- A new investigator started his test period.



A trafficker arrested with 8 sea turtle shells.

- Team started first aid course with Cameroon Red Cross. The other team members will follow the training one by one.

Congo – PALF

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in the north of the country with 8 elephant tusks of very young animals. They were arrested in the act attempting



to sell the contraband. They had been trafficking ivory for years, collaborating with many poachers, massacring forest elephants in central Congo and having links to Chinese traffickers.

- One week later, the traffickers were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay 3,400 USD on fines and damages. This exemplary decision serves well as a deterrent in the fight against wildlife crime, an important precedence in the final stages of reconstructing the project in Congo.
- A legal adviser from Gabon arrived at Congo for an exchange mission to train the new team members and to support the development of the PALF team.
- The coordinator met with the Legal & Administrative Adviser to the Minister of Environment to discuss two cases of wildlife crime. A new media officer and legal adviser both started their test period this month while a legal advisor and an investigator continued their test period with positive results.

2 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 elephant tusks of very young animals in Congo

Gabon – AALF & ALEFI

- 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks, and 4 elephant tails in their jewellery shop. The tusks were packed in a sack and a sum of 1,200,000 FCFA (2,000 USD) was also found nearby.
- Good sentences were achieved in 2 cases followed up by AALF legal team. A Cameroonian ivory trafficker, arrested with 10 ivory tusks and 6 cut pieces, was sentenced 2 years in prison.
- 5 ivory traffickers, arrested in April with 2 ivory tusks, were prosecuted. Two of them, Beninese, were sentenced to 2 years in prison, while the remaining three got 6 months in prison. The collec-



2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks

tive damages awarded by the traffickers 17,000 USD in damages.

- A legal adviser travelled to Congo to train the new team members and to support the development of the PALF team.



2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks

Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- The court decision in the case of Ansouame Doumbouya, the former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea, and his accomplices, arrested in August 2015 and in March 2016, was finally delivered. Ansouame Doumbouya, charged with abuse of function, forgery, falsification of documents and illegal trafficking of protected species, was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison, Thierno Barry was sentenced to 1 year in prison and Balla Doumbouya to 6 months in prison. An appeal has been filed against the judgment.
- The case of the Sidimé family was also concluded this month. These 6 traffickers were arrested in May 2012 with 999 carved pieces of ivory. Corruption and obstruction of justice were documented in their case and they were granted provisional liberty immediately after the arrest. However, the court handed a 6 month suspended sentence. An appeal has been filed against the judgment..
- The director of WARA arrived at Guinea to hold a series of meetings with various officials of the Ministry of Environment, the National director of Water and Forest Authority, the local CITES focal point and the General secretary of the Minister of Justice
- The coordinator and the director of WARA received the authorization from the Ministry of Environment to participate at COP 17 of CITES in South Africa in September 2016 as members of Guinea delegation.
- A legal advisor and an investigator continued their test period.

Togo – TALFF

- An ivory trafficker, arrested in May with 2 elephant tusks, was sentenced to 2 months in prison and fine of 500 USD.
- A series of meetings were held with the Director of Judicial Police in Lomé, the Head of INTERPOL in Lomé, and the Procurers and Judges in several provinces to discuss cases of wildlife trafficking.
- A media officer started his test period.

SENEGAL - SALF

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 135 ivory bangles. The investigation tracking criminals, who were running a workshop, producing ivory jewellery and so generating massacre of elephants, lead to outsmarting this very clever and cautious traffickers by the SALF team together with the Senegalese authorities.
- SALF has obtained the authorization from the general Director of the Prison Administration to visit all the prisons in Senegal, which is an important step forward, enabling the team to reach the targets of the project to keep 100% of the arrested traffickers in jail.
- A meeting was held with the Secretary General

and the Lawyer of the Ministry of Environment to organize an appointment with the Minister of Environment to sign the protocol between the Minister and WARA, and discuss the project's goals and results.



3 ivory traffickers arrested with 135 ivory bangles.

Benin – AALF-B

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 180 pieces of carved ivory like bracelets, pendants, combs and medallions. Additional included contraband from hippo ivory. The 2 Guineans and an Ivorian were arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the contraband in a restaurant in the centre of the town. The traffickers owned a workshop and specialized in transforming and selling ivory jewellery. The amount seized weighted about 10 kg.
- An ivory trafficker, arrested in June with 6 tusks, was sentenced 3 months in prison and 1,700 USD on penalties and damages.
- A mission of the Organization De-

velopment Officer was prepared for the beginning of the next month to address management gaps, and train the coordinator and the assistant of coordinator in management of the project and intensify the recruitment process.



3 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 180 pieces of carved ivory

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 3 traffickers arrested with 57 hippo teeth. One of them has been arrested by police in the past and bribed his way out with the reported amount of about 600 USD. The work of the team is to intercept corruption attempts and combat them, so this time the criminal had bad luck. The amount of the hippo teeth is equal to 15 massacred hippos.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 25 kg of hippo ivory, 4 kg of pangolin scales and two Python skins in the west of the country, a region, where wildlife trafficking is very common.
- Few days later a public official of the local authority and a representative of a local parish, arrived to the police station and offered a bribe of 650 USD to the police officials attempting to release



3 traffickers arrested with 25 kg of hippo ivory,

the trafficker. The bribing attempt was documented on video, the official was arrested and will be prosecuted by special anti-corruption court.



The bribing attempt of public official documented on video

- The Coordinator met with the European Union Officers in Kampala and initiated the process of sending letters to Chief of Defense Forces and Inspector General of police requesting the proper prosecution of soldiers arrested with ivory in front of criminal court, and not military court.

Madagascar - ALARM

- A foundation was laid down for the ALARM project in Madagascar – EAGLE’s 9th replication, with Alliance Voahary Gasy (AVG), a strong and highly regarded platform of 34 Malagasy environmental NGOs, led by a well known activist Ndranto Razakamanarina.
- The setting up is led by Luc Mathot that returned to

Madagascar this month to kick-start the replication

- The EAGLE Network Membership agreement was signed between EAGLE and AVG .
- An office location has been selected and meetings with the Madagascar Government intensified.
- 11 candidates for the different departments were selected to start their test period in next month.


Headquarters

- Luc Mathot arrived to Madagascar to support the recruitment process and development of the new replication.
- The Financial Officer conducted her mission to Cameroon to carry out an audit of expenditures from January 2013 to June 2016, to train the ac-

countant while setting up new financial procedures.

- The Organization Development Officer prepared her mission to Benin, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer prepared his mission to Madagascar, both mission started at the beginning of next month.

The Semester report has been published, here are some highlights:



- ✓ **146 wildlife and forest criminals arrested in 8 countries**
- ✓ **At least in 15 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation**
- ✓ **72 ivory traffickers arrested with a total of 650 kg of ivory, which includes 142 tusks and 1,128 pieces of carved ivory**
- ✓ **16 great ape traffickers arrested with 44 chimpanzee skulls, 18 gorilla skulls and other body parts**
- ✓ **21 big cats traffickers were arrested and 18 leopard skins were seized**
- ✓ **Balla Doumbouya - the head of international wildlife trafficking ring arrested in Guinea**
- ✓ **87% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars**
- ✓ **807 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in 8 countries and 13 international media covered EAGLE's work.**
- ✓ **The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 10 missions to the countries to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries.**

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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