



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **25 traffickers arrested in 7 countries**
- ✓ **6 significant ivory traffickers arrested in Togo with 164kg of ivory**
- ✓ **An ivory trafficker arrested in Senegal with 1,081 illegal wildlife items including ivory and elephant hair bracelets**
- ✓ **2 illegal loggers and 2 corrupt Forestry Officers arrested in Gabon**
- ✓ **2 ivory traffickers, one of them an army deserter, arrested in Uganda**
- ✓ **An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in Benin**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested with 13 chimpanzee skulls in Cameroon**
- ✓ **4 traffickers with 3 leopard skins and other elephant contraband arrested in Congo**
- ✓ **3 traffickers arrested with 50 kg of hippo ivory in Uganda**
- ✓ **Naftali Honig selected as one of the Emerging Explorers by National Geographic Society**

Summary

25 traffickers were arrested in 7 countries.

2 significant ivory traffickers were arrested in Togo with 12 tusks, weighing 124 kg. The 2 Nigerians were intercepted near the Benin border, concealing the ivory in the trunk and under the back seats in their 4WD vehicle. They intended to transport the ivory from Nigeria via Benin, Togo and Ghana to Ivory Coast, where they intended to sell it. After a long investigation, 4 other significant ivory traffickers were arrested in Togo with 30 tusks, weighing 40 kg.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 789 ivory bracelets, 268 elephant hair bracelets, lion claws, giraffe's tail bracelets and other contraband in Senegal. After the search in his shop, the total number of illegal wildlife items reached 1,081. This is a crackdown led by SALF team on high level trafficking and a on a large scale processing facility reducing elephants to ornaments.

2 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 20 kg of processed ivory in Uganda, one of them a deserter from Uganda People's Defence Force. They con-

fessed to having carried their illegal activities out for many years. 3 additional ivory traffickers were arrested with more than 50 kg of hippo ivory in Uganda. The rebuilding of PALF reached a landmark stage: returning to operations. 4 wildlife traffickers were arrested with leopard skins and an elephant tail in this first operation and 2 traffickers were caught red handed during an attempt to sell 3 leopard skins.



2 significant ivory traffickers were arrested in Togo with 12 tusks, weighing 124 kg.

During interrogation they revealed a third culprit. He was arrested the following day, but during his arrest a fourth person tried to hide a bag with an elephant tail and leopard tail from the gendarmerie. The last accused appeared to be a repeat offender, as she was already arrested and prosecuted for the same offence in 2013. 2 illegal loggers and 2 corrupt Forestry Officers arrested. First 2 loggers were arrested in a village in forest area while processing illegally cut wood and preparing it for loading onto a truck. After being asked for the documents, they presented an

already expired permit, which appeared to be falsified. They then exposed 2 corrupt Forestry Officials, who had sold them the falsified documents with the forged signature of their supervisor and falsified government stamps.

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Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 traffickers arrested with 13 chimpanzee skulls. The chimps were killed for international trade in the Dja Biosphere Reserve - a world heritage site that like many other protected areas in Africa is poorly protected. The traffickers were also involved in the illegal transportation and sale of ape meat from the Reserve to far away commercial centers such as Yaounde.
- An influential and well connected trafficker arrested with 39 ivory bangles and 3 leopard skins, He is the owner of a big arts shop and sells a huge variety of arts objects. He is an influential and well connected man and LAGA continues to push for the procedural prosecution of the case, as wildlife officials obstacles for the legal procedure to continue.
- The Djoum court of first instance sentenced two traffickers to 10 months imprisonment for trafficking in 4 ivory tusks, 3 elephant tails and for killing 2 elephants. They were arrested in March 2016.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to examine the case of two illegal zoos in Yaounde and Douala, and to discuss the freeing of a chimpanzee that is reported to have been held in captivity for 12 years in Edea.
- The Deputy Director equally held a meeting with an official from the Prague zoo on wildlife law enforcement around the Dja Biosphere Reserve.
- The Head of the Investigation Department returned from Senegal where he assisted an investigation and operation in order to help SALF team to bring more results.
- The EAGLE Network Financial Officer visited LAGA for two-weeks, carrying out an audit of expenditures from January 2013 to June 2016, training the new accountant and setting new financial procedures.

- The Assistant coordinator of AALF-Benin passed the training module within the Exchange EAGLE Network program.



*A trafficker arrested with 39 ivory bangles and 3 leopard skins
2 traffickers arrested with 13 chimpanzee skulls*



Congo – PALF

- The rebuilding of PALF reached a landmark stage: returning to operations. 4 wildlife traffickers were arrested with leopard skins and an elephant tail in this first operation.
- 2 traffickers were caught red handed during an attempt to sell 3 leopard skins. During interrogation they revealed a third culprit. He was arrested the following day, but during his arrest a fourth person tried to hide a bag with an elephant tail and leopard tail from the gendarmerie. She appeared to be a repeat offender, as she was already arrested and prosecuted for the same offence in 2013. The 4 traffickers are behind bars waiting for trial.
- The interim coordinator continued her focus on building a strong team and enhancing collaboration with Congolese enforcement and wildlife authorities. A new legal advisor and a media officer started their test period in June.
- The coordinator and the head of The Aspinall Foundation met with the new Minister of Environment to discuss cooperation with PALF and recent cases of wildlife crime in Congo.



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Gabon – AALF & ALEFI

- 2 illegal loggers and 2 corrupt Forestry Officers arrested. First 2 loggers were arrested in a village in forest area while processing illegally cut wood and preparing it for loading onto a truck. After being asked for the documents, they presented an already expired permit, which appeared to be falsified. On top of that the permit stated 8.9 m³ of wood, while the investigation showed that the real figure was more than three times higher. They then exposed 2 corrupt Forestry Officials, who had sold them the falsified documents, containing the forged signature of their supervisor and falsified government stamps.
- The 2 loggers have been prosecuted for illegal



2 illegal loggers and 2 corrupt Forestry Officers arrested.

logging and sentenced to 3 months in prison. The two corrupt officers are still waiting behind bars for prosecution.

- A trafficker, arrested in May with 31 kg of ivory, was prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in prison and about 1,700 USD in fines and damages.
- The Coordinator met with the Minister of Water and Forest, who congratulated him on his good work, especially the arrest of 2 of the Ministry's agents, who are in jail awaiting prosecution for corruption and forgery.
- The Coordinator also met with the head of the EU Delegation, Head of ANPN, Head of AFD, the Brazilian Ambassador, the economic officer of the US Embassy and two other EU officers to discuss support for AALF and other cooperation.
- The Technical Coordinator of AALF trained magistrates, prosecutors and judges from the subregion of Central and West Africa (Congo, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Gabon) in Accra, Ghana. The training was organized by the United States Department of Justice, and focused on the application of the Wildlife Act and the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Head of Department of investigation of AALF project, Gabon, visited Congo - Brazzaville to support the PALF team in investigations and operations.



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Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- The legal follow up of the case of Ansouame Doumbouya continues, and his trial reached the closing of the debate stage. Ansouame Doumbouya, the former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea, was arrested in August 2015 and is charged with abuse of his title and function, forgery, falsification of documents and illegal trafficking of protected species. The prosecutor demanded a sentence of 5 years for the abuse of the authority and 1 year for the offences against wildlife. The court decided to refuse the request of provisional liberty, and Doumbouya as well as his accomplices remain in prison.
- The case of the Sidimé family continued with another hearing. These 6 traffickers were arrested in May 2012 for trafficking ivory. Corruption and obstruction of justice were documented in their case and they were granted provisional liberty immediately after the arrest. The prosecutor demanded a sentence of 6 months and 70,000 USD in damages and interest for the Guinean State.

Togo – TALFF

- 2 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 12 tusks, weighting 124 kg. The 2 Nigerian traffickers were stopped by police with TALFF team in front of the police station near the Benin border. The search revealed that they were concealing the ivory in the trunk and under the back seats in their 4WD vehicle, to get through border controls without stopping. They attempted to transport it from Nigeria via Benin, Togo and Ghana to Ivory Coast, where they intended to sell it. They both remain behind bars, awaiting trial.
- 4 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 30 tusks, weighting 40 kg, after a long investigation.

They have been trafficking ivory for years and used to work with Nbouke – the notorious ivory kingpin who was arrested in 2013 and sentenced to prison.

- 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.
- 2 legal advisors and 2 investigators finished their test period and became members of the TALFF team. A media officer started his test period.

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SENEGAL - SALF

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 789 ivory bracelets, 268 elephant hair bracelets, lion claws, giraffe's tail bracelets and other contraband. After the search in his shop, the total number of illegal wildlife items reached 1,081. This is a crackdown led by SALF team on high level trafficking and a on a large scale processing facility reducing elephants to ornaments.
- The Head of Investigations of LAGA came from Cameroon to support the operation, as SALF was fighting to keep this case going in spite of difficulties with the local wildlife authorities and corruption attempts.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 789 ivory bracelets, 268 elephant hair bracelets and other contraband.

- The assistant coordinator put in place new and more intense operating methods to increase the number of investigations, the identification of traffickers and to enable more regular arrests. This effort has already led to encouraging results – the recruitment of 2 investigators, more investigations and the identification of new traffickers and 2 operations achieved by the investigators on test period.
- The legal advisers of SALF trained the officers of the Airport Anti Trafficking Unit (CAAT) including practical implementation performed at Dakar airport. The training, organized by the French Embassy, took 2 years. SALF delivered a training certificate to the 12 officers of this special unit.
- Meetings were held with authorities to establish or maintain relationships and discuss cases of wildlife crime, namely with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy, the Head of the Departmental Inspectorate of Forestry, the Regional Inspectorate for Water and Forests, the CITES focal point, judges and prosecutors of the High Court of Dakar, judges and prosecutors of departmental

courts, the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DIC) and others.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 789 ivory bracelets, 268 elephant hair bracelets and other contraband.

Benin – AALF-B

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks, weighing 17 kg. He was arrested in the act while attempting to sell the contraband in a luxurious hotel in the centre of the capital city for 10,000 USD. He brought the ivory from the North of the country, not far from the Pendjari National Park.
- A trafficker arrested with 8 shells of Olive Ridley Sea Turtle. The fishermen keep massacring turtles on the coast of Benin and selling their shells. Although they often insist that the turtles destroy their nets, the numbers of killed turtles show that they catch them deliberately for meat and sell the shells as souvenirs to tourists.
- The Assistant coordinator of the AALF-Benin underwent a full training module at LAGA in Cameroon under the EAGLE Network exchange program.

- A media officer and an investigator continued their test period.
- AALF-B team participated at the events held in connection with World Environment Day and International Ocean Day. At both events the fight against wildlife crime was the centre of focus.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks, weighing 17 kg.



Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 3 traffickers arrested with more than 50 kg of hippo ivory. They were connected to a ring of ivory and hippo ivory traffickers in the western part of Uganda, and had been operating in the area for decades. They are responsible for killing thousands of hippos as well as other wild animals including elephants.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 20 kg of processed ivory, one of them a deserter from Uganda People's Defence Force. They were arrested red handed during an attempt to sell the ivory, but they were cornered by Police Flying Squad Unit with Uganda Wildlife Authority. They confessed to have carried their illegal activities for many years.
- A meeting was held with the officers from Royal United Service Institute for Defence and security studies (RUSI) to discuss and analyze the linkages between wildlife trade and money laundering.
- The Coordinator met the regional USFWS representative based in Tanzania to discuss and identify cases of interest that he would help to strengthen the investigations.
- Another meeting was held with the Liaison Officer for East Africa of the British National Crime Agency in Nairobi who expressed interest in sharing information on the international traffickers.
- The Coordinator travelled to Nairobi Kenya and met other partners involved in wildlife crime law enforcement in Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe and C4ADS. They discussed better transboundary cooperation in combating wildlife trade and training for EAGLE Uganda team.
- The Coordinator also attended and made presentation in the training workshop for wildlife crime law enforcement partners organized by IFAW and African Wildlife Foundation in Kampala.



2 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 20 kg of processed ivory

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Headquarters

- Naftali Honig was selected as one of the Emerging Explorers by National Geographic Society for 2016. The Program recognizes and supports

uniquely gifted and inspiring scientists, conservationists, storytellers, and innovators, who are already making a difference and changing the

world. Naftali made his presentation on wildlife law enforcement and sniffer dogs program at the National Geographic Explorers Symposium in Washington DC.

- Ofir Drori carried a 3 days intense training on the EAGLE methods of a Lisa Hywood that managed to bring about many imprisonment prosecutions in Zimbabwe.
- Ofir Drori helped organized a two days meeting hosting several NGOs involved with enforcement in East and Southern Africa to exchange experience and push for more traffickers behind bars.
- Jana Hajduchova, the Organization Development Officer, held a public lecture at the Prague Zoo, Czech Republic, where she introduced EAGLE Network and its fight against wildlife crime.
- Luc Mathot met with the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to Gabon, who expressed strong interest in starting an EAGLE replication in his country. Mission to Equatorial Guinea will be organized in cooperation with him to meet the Minister of wild-

life and other authorities.

- Danielle Mbui, the Network Financial Officer, arrived to Nairobi for an orientation mission in order to readjust following a drop in results.
- Danielle started her two weeks mission in Cameroon to carry an audit of expenditures from January 2013 to June 2016, train the new accountant and set new financial procedures.
- Luc Mathot travelled to Madagascar to continue support the building of a new replication, to help with recruitment and establishment of the office.
- Ofir Drori participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy is a US Government prestigious training program for enforcers from all over Africa. EAGLE has been asked to develop training on ethics and anti-corruption for ILEA's Wildlife Crime Course, which is now conducted for 5 years.

International Media Coverage

- An article in National Geographic about the creation of LAGA. "Protecting West Africa's wildlife from poachers is all about making law enforcement and the courts work", says activist Ofir Drori.

[Link to the article](#)

- National Geographic introducing Emerging Explorer Naftali Honig, Wildlife Crime Investigator

[Link to the article](#)

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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