



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **23 wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries this month**
- ✓ **A head of international trafficking ring arrested in Guinea after 6 months in hiding**
- ✓ **9 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda including 2 corrupt army officers**
- ✓ **A significant ivory trafficker arrested in Cameroon**
- ✓ **4 ape traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 4 gorilla skulls and 19 chimp skulls and other contraband**
- ✓ **7 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon including a head of a criminal gang**
- ✓ **A Nigerian trafficker arrested in Gabon with 65 kg of shark fins that were about to be shipped out of Cameroon.**

Summary

23 wildlife traffickers were arrested during this month. Two arrest operations that were very effective in the combating corruption were carried this month.

Balla Doumbouya - the head of international wildlife trafficking in Guinea was a target of GALF team and Interpol since the landmark arrests of former CITES head of Guinea - Doumbouya, and Thierno - a major international live animal trafficker. GALF team tried to hunt down this bigger target for a while. Balla Doumbouya was Thierno's boss and the main contact in front of the corrupt former wildlife head. He had been in hiding ever since, but the GALF team together with Interpol NCB finally managed to locate him and swiftly arrest him. He was involved in the organized international illegal trade in great apes, manatees and many other endangered species he trafficked for more than 10 years to China, Japan and South Korea.

6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory in Uganda. Two of them, a corrupt Army Major and Army Corporal - both attached to airport authorities were arrested in a swift operation, carried out by

EAGLE Uganda team and Police. Later 3 more accomplices were arrested - a driver from the presidential state house and a former accountant of the state owned company handling airport luggage among them. This is a landmark case exposing and combating the corruption and complicity that enables the international illegal ivory trade. The sixth member of



6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory in Uganda, a corrupt Army Major among them

this ring was arrested later. During the operation the Major tried to escape by jumping over a high perimeter wall, but one of our team members managed to grab his legs and pull him down to have him arrested. 4 ape traffickers were arrested in 2 operations in Cameroon with 4 gorilla skulls, 19 chimp skulls and other contraband. One of them is a notorious ivory trafficker and owner of several guns, which he was using to send poachers to kill elephants for ivory and chimpanzees for meat. He had a regular client coming in from Yaoundé to buy ivory. Another one was buying contraband from a wide ring of poachers who kill all kinds of protected species. He differs from the specialized traffickers as he sold various species. Once again fresh chimpanzee heads were recovered, pointing to the parallel illicit trade in skulls alongside the bushmeat trade in apes.

7 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in 2 operations. 3 ivory traffickers with 15 kg of ivory were arrested in an epic operation carried out by AALF team, Judiciary Police and Gendarmerie with personal assistance of the Prosecutor of the Republic of Makokou. He ordered the car of the traffickers to stop for a road control and blocked it, which triggered a violent mob, not knowing they resist the Prosecutor himself,

personally in action. The arrested traffickers are part of a criminal ring, the head of the gang, known as “Colombo” or “Baron”, responsible for killing huge numbers of elephants in the region, was among them. Another well organized network of wildlife traffickers was attacked after a Beninese ivory trafficker was arrested attempting to sell two leopard skins. Just before arriving to the sale meeting place he threw the contraband to the floor and ran away, only to come back and be arrested. This was apparently a trick designed to check, if this was a trap, but obviously not good enough. Later two tusks were seized and he revealed an accomplice that was immediately arrested too.

A Nigerian trafficker arrested in Gabon with 65 kg of shark fins that were about to be shipped out of Cameroon.

3 more ivory trafficker were arrested in Uganda with 45 kg of ivory. The first two were caught in an operation carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. During interrogation, their phone rang as their collaborator asked for the money from the deal. He was then lured and arrested as well. The handcuffed traffickers took the team to the carcass of one of the killed elephants - inside the Karuma reserve.

Cameroon – LAGA



- An ivory trafficker arrested with 3 elephant tails and 3 elephant feet in the operation carried out by LAGA team and police. The trafficker was promising to deliver ivory as well, but he apparently sold his recent stock a few days before to another trafficker from Nigeria. He admitted that he was selling elephant tusks every two weeks, so he is responsible for shooting and killing an estimated 26 elephants each year. He worked in complicity with a local gendarme officer who covered his moves and gave him inside information on the movements of wildlife officials in exchange for money and wildlife meat.
- 3 ape traffickers arrested in south of Cameroon with 8 chimp skulls and 4 gorilla skulls and one mandrill skull. One of them is a notorious ivory trafficker and owner of several guns, which he was using to to send poachers to kill elephants for ivory and chimpanzees for meat. This accounts for the high number of skulls found in his possession. He had a regular business partner coming in from Yaoundé to pay for the ivory.
- An ape trafficker arrested with 8 chimp skulls, 3 fresh chimpanzee heads and other contraband including an elephant tail. He was buying contraband from a wide ring of poachers who kill

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3 ape traffickers arrested, one of them is a notorious ivory trafficker

all kinds of protected species. He differs from the specialized traffickers as he sold various species. Once again fresh chimpanzee heads were recovered pointing to the parallel illicit trade in ape skulls alongside the bushmeat trade in apes.

- 5 wildlife traffickers were prosecuted this month and sentenced to varying time in prison.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official from the US Embassy to review efforts at fighting wildlife crime in 2015 and brainstorm on new ideas that could assist in mapping the way forward for more results and bigger impact.

Congo – PALF

- The reconstruction of the team continued under leadership of Perrine Odier.
- 3 new team members - one legal advisor and 2 investigators were selected in recruitment process and are undergoing the test period. The remaining team members were all tested too in order to build a stronger team.
- PALF team used the opportunity of restart of its activities and shifted to a new improved office in different locality, ensuring better security and more effective fight against wildlife crime.
- Good sentence was obtained at the High Court of Point Noire. A trafficker, arrested in May 2015 with 2 chimp skulls and 2 crocodile was sentenced to 2 years in prison and around 2,000 USD on fines and damages.
- More meetings with government authorities and NGOs were held.
- Presidential Elections and related violence disturbed the activities in Congo towards the end of the month.

Gabon – AALF & ALEFI

- 3 ivory traffickers with 15 kg of ivory were arrested in an epic operation carried out by AALF team, Judiciary Police and Gendarmerie with personal assistance of the Prosecutor of the Republic of Makokou. He ordered the car of the traffickers to stop for a road control and blocked it, which triggered a violent mob, not knowing they resist the Prosecutor himself, personally in action. The arrested traffickers are part of a criminal ring, the head of the gang, known as “Colombo” or “Baron”, responsible for killing huge numbers of elephants in the region, was among them. The Pros-



a Beninese ivory trafficker was arrested attempting to sell two leopard skins.

ecutor ordered a house search, during which 2 other accomplices were arrested and 3 elephant killing rifles were seized. The ivory tusks seized were taken from freshly slaughtered elephants.

- Another well organized network of wildlife traffickers was attacked after a Beninese ivory trafficker was arrested attempting to sell two leopard skins. Just before arriving to the sale meeting place he threw the contraband to the floor and ran away, only to come back and be arrested. This was apparently a trick designed to check, if this was a trap, but obviously not good enough. Later he revealed an accomplices that was immediately arrested too. The joint operation of AALF, wildlife officers and gendarmerie was then followed by a

house search and more contraband was found, including 2 ivory tusks.

- A wildlife trafficker arrested in well organized operation in Gabon's Port Gentile with 65 kg of shark fins. He was stopped by the join team of AALF and Gabon Police forces when driving the 3 boxes of fins in his car. He is Nigerian, and used to export different kinds of contraband illegally through Douala in Cameroon. 1,069 shark fins represent about 300 animals caught, de-finned and thrown alive back to the sea only to die due to suffocation or attack by other animals. This cruel practise is pushing many shark species to the brink of extinction.



3 ivory traffickers with 15 kg of ivory were arrested



A wildlife trafficker arrested in well organized operation in Gabon's Port Gentile with 65 kg of shark fins.



Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- Balla Doumbouya - the head of international wildlife trafficking is finally behind bars! Ever since the landmark arrests of former CITES head of Guinea Doumbouya and Thierno - a major international live animal trafficker, GALF team tried to hunt down a bigger target. This was Balla Doumbouya -Thierno's boss and the main contact in front of the corrupt former wildlife head. Balla had been in hiding ever since, but the GALF team together with Interpol NCB

Balla Doumbouya - the head of international wildlife trafficking is finally behind bars





The coordinator Saidou Barry in the talk show at RTG, the main TV channel in Guinea

finally managed to locate him and swiftly arrest him. His interrogation is expected to give us insight information on the organized international illegal trade in great apes, manatees and many other endangered species he trafficked for more than 10 years to China, Japan and South Korea.

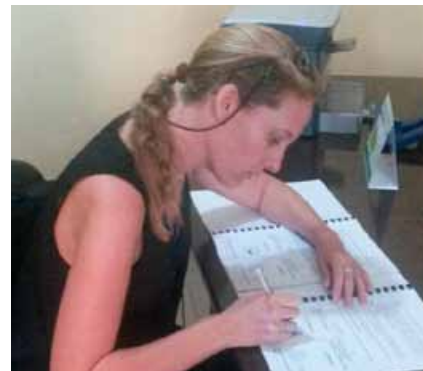
- Charlotte Houpline signed the GALF Agreement with the Government of Guinea. The Protocol on Partnership Agreement on Fight against Wildlife Crime in the Republic of Guinea between GALF project and the Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests was finally signed .
- The GALF coordinator and the WARA Director participated at a videoconference between

Guinea, Togo and Burkina Faso, organized by the US embassies for the International Wildlife Day. The videoconference was moderated by Naftali Honig of our Steering Group. Strategy of international collaboration in arresting traffickers between these countries was discussed and the conference will be followed by another meeting of all the people involved in law enforcement in wider region of West Africa.

- The Coordinator met with the Minister of Justice to reinforce the collaboration in law enforcement and to discuss cooperation and follow up of concrete cases.

- 3 members of the team started intensive English courses.

- The GALF team was hosted in a TV talk show. The coordinator, media officer and legal officer used the opportunity to talk for 20 minutes on the main TV channel in the country about corruption and wildlife crime.



The WARA director signed the GALF Agreement with the Government of Guinea.

Togo – TALFF

- TALFF team participated at a videoconference between Guinea, Togo and Burkina Faso, organized by the US embassies for the International Wildlife. The videoconference was moderated by Naftali Honig of our Steering Group. Strategy of international collaboration in arresting traffickers between these countries was discussed and the conference will be followed by another meeting of all the people involved in law enforcement in wider region of West Africa. Naftali Honig spent several

days with TALFF team in order to give it a support in its work and in fostering activism.

- Monitoring and Evaluation officer conducted mission to Togo to assess the team and its structure, performance, difficulties and define solutions, to assist in recruitment and identify future recruitment needs, to improve the management, to test and train each department with priority given to investigations and operations, to ensure that the team follows the Procedure Manual, is in

compliance with all procedures and security protocols.

- One legal adviser and one investigator were recruited after finishing the test period.



The EAGLE Network's projects follow up the entire law enforcement process from investigations to jail visits to confirm execution of sentences, in a body-guard system against corruption. We took a decade-long baseline of zero prosecutions under the existing wildlife law as a symptom of failure of the aid business, and its inability to tackle the first obstacle to development - corruption.

EAGLE is an innovator of methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and law application process. Bribing attempts are documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and 80% of all court cases within the legal system. But EAGLE is not an observer of corruption - it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. Therefore our projects manage to effectively hit complicity and corruption.

The latest arrests - 6 ivory traffickers in Uganda and Balle Doumboya in Guinea - are model cases, showing the rightfulness of this attitude of EAGLE Network. In Uganda 2 high army officers and state employees are among arrested, it is a landmark case exposing and combating the corruption and complicity that enables the international illegal ivory trade.

Balla Doumboya was the head of international wildlife trafficking in Guinea. He was the main contact in front of the corrupt former CITES head of Guinea Doumboya and a boss of Thierno - a major international live animal trafficker, both of them arrested by our team last year. He was involved in the organized international illegal trade in great apes, manatees and many other endangered species he trafficked for more than 10 years to China, Japan and South Korea.

SENEGAL - SALF

- Intensive recruitment process continued with 2 investigators, 3 accountants and a media officer selected for test. The testing of the investigators and the accountant started immediately, the remaining 2 accountants and media officer will be tested next month. The recruitment, testing and training of the newly recruited investigators is essential for increasing the investigations and arrests capacity of SALF.
- A planning session for following 3 months was held with forces involved in combating wildlife

crime (police forces, judiciary) to achieve SALF goals, to put police in heightened alerts during their routine activities, and to train magistrates. The deputy coordinator trained 41 police officers from 9 West African countries on wildlife laws and identification of different contraband, to be intercepted at the airports, ports and road controls. The training was organized by French Embassy and led by French Police, focusing on terrorism, drugs and criminality.

Benin – AALF-B

- This month was slowed down by the presidential elections in Benin, which made all the police and other forces fully occupied and not available for operations.
- Monitoring and Evaluation officer conducted a mission to Benin to assess the team and its structure, performance, difficulties and define solutions, to assist in recruitment and identify future recruitment needs, to improve the management,
- to test and train each department with priority given to investigations and operations, to ensure that the team follows the Procedure Manual, is in compliance with all procedures and security protocols.
- The recruitment process to strengthen the team continued with search for more investigators, legal advisers and media officer, and following interviews.
- 2 investigators continued their test period

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory in Uganda. Two of them, a corrupt Army Major and Army Corporal - both attached to airport authorities were arrested in a swift operation, carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. Later 3 more accomplices were arrested - a driver from the presidential state house and a former accountant of the state owned company handling airport luggage among them. This is a landmark case exposing and combating the corruption and complicity that enables the international illegal ivory trade.



6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory in Uganda. Two of them, a corrupt Army Major and Army Corporal - both attached to airport authorities were arrested in a swift operation, carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police.

A state house bullet proof car with bullet proof vest inside was seized later from one of the military personnel and a sixth member of this ring was arrested. During the operation the Major tried to escape by jump-

ing over a high perimeter wall, but one of our team members managed to grab his legs and pull him down to have him arrested. He was awarded for this brave act showing real commitment to fight wildlife crime.

- 3 more ivory traffickers were arrested in Uganda

with 45 kg of ivory. The first two were caught in an operation carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. During interrogation, their phone rang as their collaborator asked for the money from the deal. He was then lured and arrested as well. The handcuffed traffickers took the team to the carcass of one of the killed elephants - inside the Karuma reserve.

- One of the traffickers pleaded guilty and was convicted and sentenced to 8 months imprisonment without an option of a fine. The remaining will appear for trial in April.
- British High Commission Military Attaché and the European Union Embassy played an important supportive role in the case of the arrested army officers ensuring that the suspects are prosecuted according to the law.



The handcuffed traffickers took the team to the carcass of one of the killed elephants - inside the Karuma reserve.

Headquarters

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer carried missions in Benin and Togo to assess the teams and their structure, performance, difficulties and define solutions, to assist in recruitment and identify future recruitment needs, to improve the management, to test and train each department with priority given to investigations and operations, to ensure that the team follows the Procedure Manual, is in compliance with all procedures and security
- The Organization Development Officer prepared her mission to Guinea, planned for early next month.
- Newly recruited Financial Officer passed her first month of work, she started interacting with coordinators and accountants and review financial reports.
- Luc Mathot arrived to Nairobi to work with the CCU.
- Avaaz, e-activism movement, initiated collaboration with EAGLE Network and started supporting us.
- Mulago foundation contacted EAGLE Network with offer to help the processes, mentoring and professional support in the construction of the Network.

■ Ofir Drori traveled to Germany for an intensive week of meetings, exchanges and media interviews. The journey was organized by ProWildlife. It was aimed at increasing EAGLE profile in Europe,

fundraising for LAGA, highlight our work in the German press, create more contacts with influential individuals for political support, and meetings on CITES.

International Media Coverage

■ Article on exploitation of African forest by Chinese, mentioning Conservation Justice..According to Luc Mathot, the head of the NGO Conservation Justice, the author of an overwhelming report denouncing “an organized mafia laundering timber and corruption at all stages” (in French):

[Link to the article](#)

■ “The Hunter” – an article about Ofir Drori in Süddeutsche Zeitung (in German)

[Link to the article](#)

■ “Ofir Drori – from adventurer to activist” – an article about Ofir Drori in Greenpeace Magazine (in German)

[Link to the article](#)

■ Ofir’s talk at Business Leaders Meeting- Unternehmertag 2016, Germany

[Link to the video](#)

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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