



**EAGLE**

March 2018  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *15 traffickers arrested in 6 countries this month*
- ✓ *Moussa Ouedraogo arrested, the right hand of Tran Van Tu, the kingpin arrested in January in Ivory Coast for the trafficking of ivory concealed in timber to Asia. Moussa was the one delivering tons of ivory in containers.*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested in Cameroon in two operations*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon, one of them repeat offender released from jail*
- ✓ *2 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo with 3 tusks*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Senegal, one with a leopard skin, the other one with 41 sea turtle shells*
- ✓ *The Ivorian Minister of Water and Forestry signed the Memorandum of Understanding with EAGLE Ivory Coast.*



*Moussa Ouedraogo was arrested in Ivory Coast, the right hand of Tran Van Tu, the kingpin arrested in January for the trafficking of ivory concealed in timber to Asia.*

# Summary

15 traffickers were arrested in 6 countries this month. Moussa Ouedraogo was arrested in Ivory Coast, the right hand of Tran Van Tu, the kingpin arrested in January for the trafficking of ivory concealed in timber to Asia. Moussa was the one delivering tons of ivory in containers and only for two containers seized in Vietnam and Cambodia this was already more than 1.5 tons of ivory! He also played an important role in delivering the ivory for the syndicate. At the time of the arrest of the Vietnamese, Moussa was in Burkina Faso. After all the arrests in January his chances of reappearing were slim. But he did - probably because he felt protected by his complicity connections with the authorities in San Pedro. Because of the same corruption, the legal adviser of EAGLE Ivory Coast went alone to San Pedro, with two agents of the UCT, to start discretely verifying Moussa's presence without informing local authorities. After 48 hours of around the clock surveillance, Moussa was arrested in his house in an operation led by UCT and EAGLE Ivory Coast with the help of local gendarmerie.

5 ivory traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in two operations. 3 traffickers were arrested with 4 ivory tusks. 2 of them, members of a large trafficking ring, were intercepted along a major highway, often used to transport ivory from South to major towns. A rifle and military uniforms were seized from them. The rifle was handed to them by a widow of a police commissioner that got arrested as well. 2 traffickers were arrested with 121 carved ivory objects, one of them the owner of an art and craft shop on the ground floor of a popular Yaoundé hotel, displaying the ivory among wooden art objects. She is a notorious traf-

ficker, dealing ivory for more than 40 years and working with a large supplying network.

5 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in 3 operations. 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the capital city with 2 tusks and an elephant tail. They trafficked the ivory from the east of the country and were arrested in an attempt to sell it. An ivory trafficker, a repeat offender, arrested, after he was released by mistake from jail during a presidential pardon. He was arrested and prosecuted for the first time in 2014, but in August 2017 he was arrested again and sentenced 1 year in jail. An ivory trafficker was arrested with 5 tusks in the west of the country.



*Moussa Ouedraogo was arrested in Ivory Coast, the right hand of Tran Van Tu, the kingpin arrested in January.*

2 traffickers arrested with 3 ivory tusks and 6.5 kg of giant pangolin scales in Congo. The traffickers are connected to trafficking rings in Congo and Gabon. They smuggled the ivory and pangolin scales across the border from Gabon, concealed in a travel bag. The first trafficker was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the ivory, the second was denounced by the first and arrested two days later.

2 traffickers arrested in Senegal. A Guinean trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and 4 skins of bushbuck. He has been trafficking wildlife contraband between Guinea and Senegal for years. A trafficker arrested with 41 sea turtle shells and 3.5 kg of sea horses. He used to sell the shells to tourists as souvenirs, killing hundreds of them by breaking the shell by a pickaxe to puncture the lungs suffocating them to death.

The Ivorian Minister of Water and Forestry signed the Memorandum of Understanding with EAGLE Ivory Coast.



*3 traffickers were arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Cameroon*



# Cameroon – LAGA

- 3 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks. 2 of them, members of a large trafficking ring, were intercepted along a major highway, often used to transport ivory from South to major towns. A rifle, military uniforms, electronic weighing scales and other equipment were seized from them. The rifle was handed to them by a widow of a police commissioner that got arrested as well. The used military uniforms were given by a colonel, a relative of one of the traffickers.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 121 carved ivory objects, one of them the owner of an art and craft shop on the ground floor of a popular Yaoundé hotel, displaying the ivory among wooden art objects. She is a notorious trafficker, dealing ivory for more than 40 years and working with a large supplying network. She was getting cover from her husband, an army colonel, who used his influence to get her out of jail. The other trafficker, a seller in the shop, was arrested as well.



3 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks.



- The Deputy Director was one of the panellists and made a presentation on LAGA's enforcement work with government at a workshop in Addis Ababa on the use of GIS in combatting wildlife crime. The workshop brought together CSOs, institutions and government representatives who



2 traffickers arrested with 121 carved ivory objects,

work principally in the field of GIS, Geography, and data. The aim of the workshop was to come out with a GIS platform that all can use to combatting trafficking and equally participate in providing data for the platform.

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the President of the association Papaye International on the chimpanzees conservation and the association's role in the Douala Edea Reserve.
- He also held a meeting with Russ Stanford of the USFWS on collaboration in combating wildlife crime.
- He held another meeting with the new Deputy Chief of the Political - Economic section of the US Embassy, Jonathan Baas, and the environment specialist Ramatou Njanzou on continuing collaboration with the Embassy.
- He participated in a workshop on combatting corruption in wildlife law enforcement held in Yaoundé.

## Perrine Odier, PALF Coordinator



Perrine has been always passionate about animals. When she was 12, she watched “Gorillas in the Mist” and she decided to dedicate her life to great apes and their protection. Seven years later she left France for Africa, to realize her ambition. After she finished high school, she studied Agronomy and Environmental science, and later Management and Protection of Nature, Specialty Natural Areas Management. She then took many various jobs, only to save enough money for a plane ticket to Africa. And her dream became a reality.

During her last graduation, she did internship in Niger with the last white giraffes of West Africa. In 2009 she arrived at Conservation Centre for Chimpanzees in Guinea and spent there half a year, volunteering, taking care for orphaned chimpanzees, but also using telemetry to track released chimpanzees. Her next stop was in Cameroon in SANAGA-YONG Chimpanzee Safeguarding Center, where she spent one year working with paralyzed chimpanzees, providing them with physiotherapy, and by training other volunteers

and staff of the center. In 2012 she started working as a researcher at the Cameroon Chimpanzees Reintroduction Group (CCRG) for Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) in Cameroon. She was responsible for the field research, socio-economic studies but also for the budgets. Thanks to all that Perrine gained a huge experience in wildlife conservation, care for orphaned chimpanzees, but also a vast knowledge about the illegal wildlife trade.

Joining EAGLE network in 2013 was a natural next step on her personal journey. After getting experience in other projects she joined AALF-B team in Benin, as a Replication Officer. She helped to build the team which started to bring the first arrests under her support in 2014. At the beginning of 2016 she became the Coordinator of PALF in one of the most difficult countries – Congo-Brazzaville, after departure of Naftali Honig. She completely re-built the team and within one and half year arrested over 50 wildlife traffickers, huge majority of them for trafficking ivory. The team under her leadership also reached several very good deterring sentences, with 7 traffickers sentenced to 5 years in jail and several more to 2 to 3 years in jail.

Besides her role in EAGLE Network, Perrine is also acting as a secretary of an initiative against palm oil “L’huile de palme : NON!”, and she is frequently helping to spread and share the spirit of DGR - “Deep Green Resistance”, a global environmental movement. She is also the President of the association LACSY “Les Amis des Chimpanzés de SANAGA-YONG”.

Her activist spirit is strongly felt across the EAGLE Network.





# Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 3 ivory tusks and 6.5 kg of giant pangolin scales. The traffickers are connected to trafficking rings in Congo and Gabon. They smuggled the ivory and pangolin scales across the border from Gabon, concealed in a travel bag. The first trafficker was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the ivory, the second was denounced by the first and arrested two days later.
- The coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of Forest economy to discuss the ongoing cases of wildlife crime and the damages and penalties used.
- She also held several meetings with the Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests on the legal follow-up of the ongoing cases and the State Counsels in several departments.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, arrived to Congo to support the team in management.
- The Assistant Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a training organized by US Forest Service on illegal logging in Gabon.
- Two legal advisers and one investigator continued their test period.



# Gabon – AALF

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the capital city with 2 tusks cut to 4 pieces and an elephant tail. They trafficked the ivory from the east of the country and were arrested in an attempt to sell it.
- An ivory trafficker, a repeat offender, arrested, after he was released by mistake from jail during a presidential pardon. He was arrested and prosecuted for the first time in 2014, but in August 2017





3 ivory traffickers arrested in the capital city with 2 tusks cut to 4 pieces and an elephant tail.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 5 tusks in the west of the country.

he was arrested again and sentenced 1 year in jail. He still has to serve 7 months.

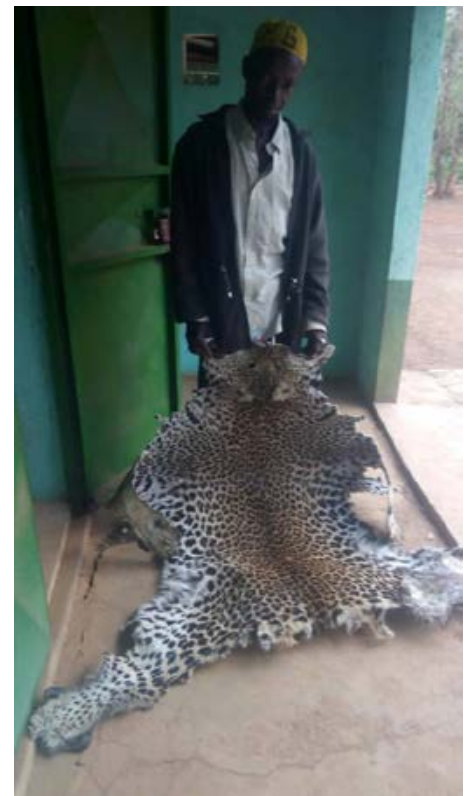
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 5 tusks in the west of the country. He was surprised by the operation team during an attempt to sell the tusks in a hotel.
- The coordinator held meetings with several authorities including the Director of Cabinet, the Di-

rector General of Waters and Forests, representatives of EU, French and US Embassies.

- The legal team held meetings with different Gabonese authorities, including the State Councils of several regions and the Provincial Directors of Waters and Forests and others.

## Guinea – GALF

- GALF legal team followed a case of a trafficker, the head of hunter's association, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin. Two more arrests then followed in April in cooperation with GALF. The last one arrested was the head of a nature conservation association, who has been trained within a program of European Union focusing on conservation, and as a conservator of a protected area participated at launching of 5,000,000 EUR conservation project. A flagrant example of badly targeted investments in capacity building.
- Two ivory traffickers, arrested in January, were sentenced to 6 months in jail, and the third one to 2 months in jail.
- The WARA Director and the Coordinator participated in an EU workshop on the launch of Security Sector Reform Project. They met there with the Minister of Environment, Water and Forest, Head of the EU Delegation, the Regional Coordinator of UNOPS and other officials.
- The Head of Legal Department and one legal advisor trained officers of Conservative Corps of Nature on combating wildlife crime at a workshop organized by CITES authority.
- 2 investigators started their test period.





## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The legal team followed up a case of two Beninese poachers arrested after killing a hippo. They were swiftly prosecuted. One was sentenced to 1.5 year in prison for the killing of an endangered species in a protected area and the illegal possession of a weapon. The second one was released due to lack of evidence. A third Beninese, on the run, has been convicted to 6 months in prison.
- The Assistant Coordinator and the legal team held a series of meetings with the authorities to discuss collaboration on the case of the hippo including the Director of Forestry Resources, the Head of Gendarmerie, the State Counsel and the Director of the Forestry Police of Tomety-Kondji for an adequate legal follow-up.
- The Assistant Coordinator conducted a mission at the border with Burkina Faso to strengthen the cooperation with the authorities controlling the border area.
- He also held a meeting with the responsible for the registration case at the Ministry of Administration to discuss the registration of EAGLE-Togo and with the Secretary of the Minister of Forestry to organize a meeting concerning the MoU.

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal – SALF

- A Guinean trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and 4 skins of bushbuck. He has been trafficking wildlife contraband between Guinea and Senegal for years. He was arrested in his shop during the attempt to sell the skins.
- A trafficker arrested with 41 sea turtle shells and 3.5 kg of sea horses. He was arrested in his shop. He used to sell the shells to tourists as souvenirs,



*A Guinean trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and 4 skins of bushbuck.*

killing hundreds of them by breaking the shell by a pickaxe to puncture the lungs suffocating them to death. Several of them were Hawksbill Turtles, a critically endangered species. Sea horses trafficking is an overlooked crime, common in coastal African countries. They are sold as souvenirs or trafficked to China where they are sold in the "traditional medicine" business.



*A trafficker arrested with 41 sea turtle shells and 3.5 kg of sea horses.*

- The Coordinator held several meetings with authorities, including the Chargé of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Environment, several State Counsels, the Captain of the Inspection of Water and Forests and other officials.
- The accountant from Benin arrived to Senegal to train a new accountant.
- The recruitment process continued, and a new investigator started his test period.



A trafficker arrested with 41 sea turtle shells and 3.5 kg of sea horses.

## Benin – AALF-B

- The legal team followed up the case of the arrest of traffickers, one of them Chinese, arrested at the International Airport in Cotonou during a routine control by the Airport Anti-Traffics Unit. They intended to ship twenty-three jute bags containing pangolin scales from Nigeria with of total weight of 513 kg.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with authorities to discuss a seizure of 513 pangolin scales at Cotonou International Airport, including the Chef of Brigade of the Airport Customs, the Director and a Lieutenant of the DGFEF and his staff of the litigation department and CITES authority, The State counsel at the Cotonou TPI and other authorities,
- He also held a series of meetings with more authorities including the Deputy Director of the Economic and Financial Brigade, interim of the Commissioner of the Sub-Directorate of Criminal Affairs of the Directorate of Judicial Police (DPJ) in Cotonou, Director and the wildlife affairs officer at Interpol, the Commander and Lieutenant of the Borgou Forestry Inspectorate, the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Director of the Pendjari Park / APN and others.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the First Counselor of the Embassy of the United States of America and the Head of the Political and Economic Section.
- Intense recruitment process continued and two investigators started their test period.

## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- EAGLE Uganda project suspended its activities following a financial audit and subsequent results.



# Ivory Coast – EAGLE Ivory Coast

■ Moussa Ouedraogo arrested, the right hand of Tran Van Tu, the kingpin arrested in January in Ivory Coast for the trafficking of ivory concealed in timber to Asia. Moussa was the one delivering tons of ivory in containers and only for two containers seized in Vietnam and Cambodia this was already more than 1.5 tons of ivory! He also played an important role in delivering the ivory for the syndicate. At the time of the arrest of the Vietnamese, Moussa was in Burkina Faso. After all the arrests in January his chances of reappearing were slim. But he did - probably because he felt protected by his complicity connections with the authorities in San Pedro. Because of the same corruption, the legal adviser of EAGLE Ivory Coast went alone to San Pedro, with two agents of the UCT, to start discretely verifying Moussa's presence without informing local authorities. After 48



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hours of around the clock surveillance, Moussa was arrested in his house in an operation led by UCT and EAGLE Ivory Coast with the help of local gendarmerie.

- The Minister of Water and Forestry signed the Memorandum of Understanding with EAGLE Ivory Coast.
- Prosecution on the big case continues as the coordinator held a series of meetings with the UCT

to continue the generation of information through requisitions, as well as with the Instruction Judge for this case to explain the history of the case and discuss the strategy for a structured period of further research.

- The recruitment process started again and two investigators and one legal adviser started their test period.

## Headquarters

- Ofir Drori, the founding director, trained at a Rangers summit, organized by the South African Government, Department of Environmental Affairs. he trained on corruption and ethics more than 263 Environmental Management Inspectors (Green Scorpions). He also held a meeting with several representatives of South African NGOs active in law enforcement and animal rights and discussed further cooperation with them.
- Ofir Drori, the founding director, had a presentation at EU Parliament on implementation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and challenges of wildlife law enforcement, followed by a long discussion. He also held a series of meeting with European Commission about funding for law enforcement in West Africa.
- The Deputy Director of LAGA was one of the panellists and made a presentation on EAGLE's work with government at a workshop in Addis Ababa on the use of GIS in combatting wildlife crime. The workshop brought together CSOs, institutions and government representatives who work principally in the field of GIS, Geography, and data. The aim of the workshop was to come out with a GIS platform that all can use to combatting trafficking and equally participate in providing data for the platform.
- Luc Mathot, the founding director, travelled to Congo and supported management of PALF team.
- The new Organizational Development Officer started her test period.

## 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.*

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