



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

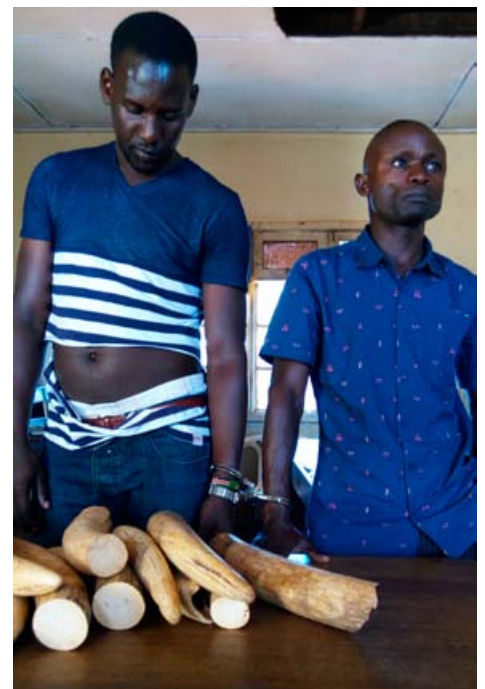
- ✓ **27 traffickers arrested in 7 countries**
- ✓ **4 countries that did not have operations last months carried arrests following an action plan**
- ✓ **6 ivory traffickers of 3 different nationalities with 64.5 kg of ivory were arrested in Gabon in a push against the illegal ivory trade.**
- ✓ **5 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda, including a corrupt Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Force**
- ✓ **An armed trafficker arrested in Uganda with a police gun and \$40,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills.**
- ✓ **3 more ivory traffickers arrested in Cameroon and Togo**
- ✓ **2 reptile traffickers arrested with 250 fully protected chameleons in Uganda**
- ✓ **A giant pangolin scales trafficker arrested in Benin with 70 kg of scales**
- ✓ **EAGLE Uganda received an appreciation letter from Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.**

Summary

27 traffickers were arrested in 7 countries, 2 of them are corrupt military officers.

5 ivory traffickers were arrested in a series of operations. 2 traffickers were arrested with 12 ivory pieces. One of them is a corrupt Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Force attached to Special Forces Command and stationed at State House. He functioned as security to the trafficker. They revealed more accomplices, so the following day another armed trafficker was arrested in connection to the crime. A search in his house recovered \$40,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills, police handgun, which was found in his possession, was probably given to him by a corrupt police officer. The next day 2 more traffickers specialized in cross border trafficking were arrested near the border with Tanzania.

6 ivory traffickers of 3 different nationalities were arrested in Gabon in a push against illegal ivory trade. 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 16 kg of ivory, one of them a corrupt officer of the prison security force. Later, they admitted that they had been trafficking ivory since 2002. A Cameroonian ivory trafficker was arrested in Libreville with 31 kg of ivory. He was intercepted at police check point, on his way to supply the capital. 2 tusks and 3 pieces of ivory were concealed



A corrupt Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Force arrested with ivory.

in the trunk and under the back seats of the car. Another ivory trafficker was arrested in Port Gentil with 4 tusks of young elephants. He was caught red handed while he was trying to sell the tusks, cut in 8 pieces and hidden in a bag. A Malian ivory trafficker was arrested with 3 pieces of ivory and a leopard skin in a series of consecutive operations carried out by AALF team and Police.

2 traffickers were arrested with ivory, processed for the Asian market in Cameroon. Raw ivory was also recovered from them later. The traffickers specialised in processed ivory business and they worked as a team with one of them buying raw ivory and the second carving out ivory objects for sale. They had been in business for the past 10 years.

A Malian bird trafficker was arrested with 2 ostriches trafficked from Mali in Guinea. Although in the evening the same day he was released by a man from the

Presidency that used his power to obstruct the legal procedure, the next morning he was again delivered to the court together with another Malian accomplice and both of them ended behind bars, thanks to the intensive fight against corruption by the GALF team. 2 ape skull traffickers were arrested in Cameroon, a trafficker with 70 kg of giant pangolin scales was arrested in Benin and in Uganda 2 reptile traffickers were arrested with 250 fully protected chameleons and a trafficker with 40 kg of hippo ivory ended behind bars.

In Senegal, an intensified effort brought an arrest of a sea turtle trafficker and in Togo two arrests, one of an ivory trafficker and one of a leopard skin trafficker. EAGLE Uganda received an appreciation letter from Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, congratulating EAGLE Uganda for the bold and courageous acts of tracking the traffickers in wildlife products.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 2 traffickers arrested with ivory processed for the Asian market. Raw ivory was later recovered from them, as during a thorough interrogation, one of them admitted that he had more ivory at home. Two tusks were hidden deep inside the ground and after the arrest, the family members tried to facilitate their release, dug up the tusks and handed them over to wildlife officials. The traffickers are specialised in processed ivory business and they worked as a team with one of them buying raw ivory and the second carving out ivory objects for

sale. They had been in business for the past 10 years.

■ 2 ape skull traffickers arrested with 5 gorilla and 5 chimpanzee skulls. They are experienced ape skull traffickers and were arrested despite being suspicious and alert, making efforts to conceal their activities.

■ The Deputy Director held a meeting with the US Embassy Official to discuss recent trends in wildlife law enforcement and conservation in Cameroon and participated in a preparatory meeting at

2 traffickers arrested with ivory processed for the Asian market.



the Ministry of Environment with officials of the Ministry, Interpol and NGOs. The meeting aimed at preparing a round table conference, taking place prior to the celebration of the World Environment Day.

- The Deputy Director did a presentation for fellows of the US sponsored Manatee Mentor Fellowship programme on the LAGA wildlife law enforcement model, with emphasises on the importance, transparency, accountability and activism in conservation.

- The LAGA team hosted and trained two participants of the Manatee Mentor Fellowship pro-

2 ape skull traffickers arrested with 5 gorilla and 5 chimpanzee skulls.



gramme on law enforcement and fight against corruption.

- The head of investigations of LAGA came from



Cameroon to Senegal in order to reinforce the team, train it and help it in operations and legal follow up.

Congo – PALF

- As the only country that did not carry arrests this month, PALF prepared an action plan with external assistance to ensure arrests in June.
- The reconstruction of the team continued under the leadership of Perrine Odier, an interim coordinator, by intensified effort in recruiting new team members.
- One investigator on test finished his test period and joined the team. Another investigator and a legal adviser continued their test period and in-

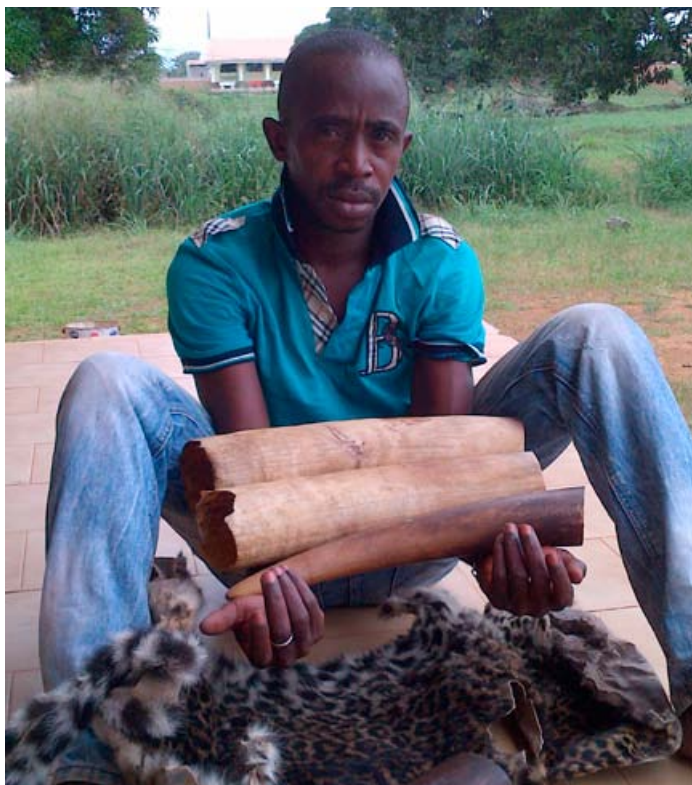
tensified their efforts to bring more results in the next month.

- Financial audit was carried out by New Ace to conform to the EU CEEAC regulations.
- The coordinator requested an audience with the newly appointed Minister of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development.
- Meetings were held with the Head of Gendarmerie in Point-Noir to ensure cooperation with PALF operations in the area and with representatives of various NGOs.

Gabon – AALF & ALEFI

- 6 ivory traffickers of 3 different nationalities were arrested this month in a push against the illegal ivory trade.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 16 kg of ivory, one of them a corrupt Military man – an officer of the prison security force. The traffickers arrived to the town and went to the location decided for the deal. They intended to sell the ivory for 225 USD per kg, but after a disagreement with the buyer, they decided to leave. At that moment, they were arrested red-handed. They later admitted to have been trafficking ivory since 2002. They were supplied regularly by pygmies in Minvoul.
- A Cameroonian ivory trafficker arrested in Libreville with 31 kg of ivory. Following an investigation tracking his activities, he was intercepted at police checkpoint on his way to supply the capital. 2 tusks and 3 pieces of ivory were concealed in the trunk and under the back seats of the car. He is a recidivist and was already arrested and sentenced for ivory trafficking one year ago. This highlights the gaps in Gabon's legislation that till now allows for a low imprisonment term that at times does not offer sufficient deterrent.

A Malian ivory trafficker was arrested with 3 pieces of ivory and a leopard skin



An officer of the prison security force (on the right) was arrested with 2 accomplices and 16 kg of ivory.

- An ivory trafficker arrested in Port Gentil with 4 tusks of young elephants. He was caught red handed when he was trying to sell the tusks, cut in 8 pieces and hidden in a bag. He was claiming, that he shot the elephants by himself in self defence, but the investigation uncovered that he is a trafficker with connection to a wide ring of criminals.
- A Malian ivory trafficker was arrested with 3 pieces of ivory and a leopard skin in a series of consecutive operations carried out by AALF team and Police. He owns a grocery store, which enables him to cover his illegal deals. He is known for selling 54 kg of ivory last October with no action from the authorities. But this time he was arrested when he arrived to the town to sell the 3 pieces of ivory, weighting 12.5 kg.
- A Cameroonian timber trafficker arrested with a track full of illegally cut wood. The amount of the wood was largely exceeding the authorization, which was also issued on a different name.
- The head of investigators travelled to Togo to support investigations and helped TALFF to bring better operation results.
- Two legal advisers of ALEFI project participated in a training organized by the Ministry of Justice of the United States. The training covered the fight against illegal logging in Central Africa and the use of international legal instruments such as the Lacey Act of the USA or the Timber Regulations of the European Union.

Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- A Malian bird trafficker arrested with 2 ostriches trafficked from Mali. Although in the evening of the same day he was released by a man from the Presidency who used his power to obstruct the legal procedure, the next morning he was again delivered to the court together with another Malian accomplice and both of them ended behind bars thanks to the intensive fight against corruption by the GALF team.
- The first court hearing with Ansouame Doumbouya, the former head of the CITES Department of the Ministry of Environment in Guinea and his accomplices was held after 8 months of him being behind bars since the arrest. He is charged for corruption, forgery, use of falsified documents, abuse of function and trafficking of fully protected animals. The first hearing was to decide on the request of provisional liberty, which was refused and the hearing was postponed to June 3rd. Doumbouya and his accomplices remain behind bars.
- After 4 years and a fierce fight against corruption and impunity, the court hearing in the case of Sidime family finally started. These 6 traffickers were arrested in May 2012 for trafficking ivory. Corrup-



A Malian bird trafficker arrested with 2 ostriches..

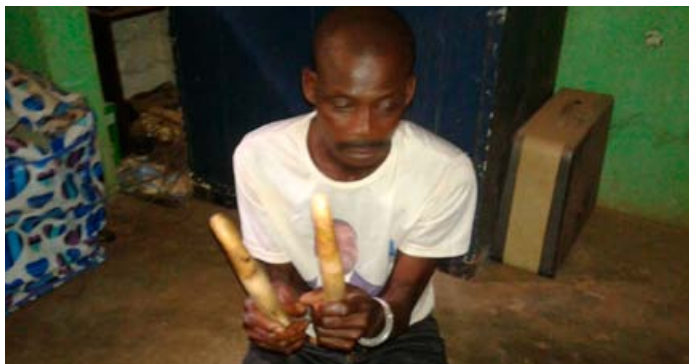
tion and obstruction of justice were documented in their case and they were granted provisional liberty immediately after the arrest.



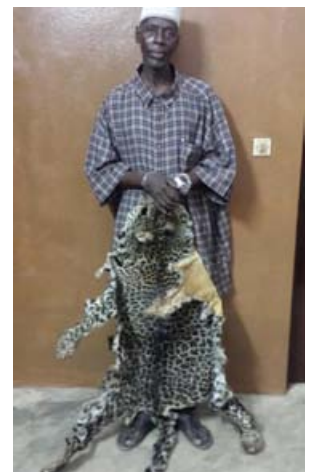
Togo – TALFF

- A leopard skins trafficker from Nigeria arrested with one leopard skin.
- An ivory trafficker arrested in the centre of the country with 2 tusks of a very young elephant. He tried to sell them in a bar after hiding them in his house for some time.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks of a very young elephant.



- The head of investigations of AALF came from Gabon to reinforce the team, train and help in operations and legal follow up.
- 2 legal advisors and 2 investigators continued their test period.
- A series of meetings were held with the Prosecutors of the Lomé and Sokodé tribunals to discuss and monitor the court cases in progress, the Head of Section of Cooperation of German Embassy, Head of Interpol in Lomé and other institutions.



A leopard skins trafficker from Nigeria arrested

SENEGAL - SALF



■ A sea turtle shell trafficker arrested with 16 shells. He sold a similar quantity just before the arrest, showing the contraband seized is just a snapshot of constant intense illegal trade. Some of the shells were very fresh; therefore the trafficker is facing a charge for capturing and trafficking wildlife products.



A sea turtle shell trafficker arrested with 16 shells.

■ The head of investigations, LAGA, came from Cameroon to reinforce the team, train it and help it in opera-

tions and legal follow up.

■ Intensive recruitment process continued with an aim to get better investigation capacity. 2 new investigators continued their test period and brought about their first operation.

to reinforce the team, train it and help it in opera-

Benin – AALF-B

■ 3 traffickers arrested with 70 kg of giant pangolin scales. Two Guineans and one trafficker from Benin got arrested at the airport area, following an investigation on cross border trafficking.

■ The three traffickers were prosecuted; one was sentenced a year in prison and a fine of 350 USD, the other 2 got suspended sentences.

■ After the election, new Ministers of Environment, Justice, Security and Defence were appointed. AALF-Benin distributed requests for hearing all of them with some meeting planned for the following month

■ The Director of AALF-Benin met with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss the signature of agreement with the Ministry on the occasion of International Day of Biodiversity. He also met with the Head of the General Directorate of Forestry and Natural Resources (DGFRN) and discussed the case of pangolin scales traffickers arrested earlier this month.



3 traffickers arrested with 70 kg of giant pangolin scales.

■ Meetings were planned with several other institutions and schools (Customs, Gendarmerie, Police and forest inspections) on the fight against wildlife crime.



EAGLE arrest operations often offer an insight to the link between the illegal wildlife trade to organized crime and corruption. Corrupt police or military officers are arrested by our teams each month. The latest example comes from Uganda, where 2 of 5 members of a trafficker's gang were involved in corruption. One of them is a corrupt Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Force attached to Special Forces Command and stationed at State House, functioned as security to the trafficker. They revealed more accomplices, so the following day another armed trafficker

was arrested in connection to the crime. A search in his house recovered \$40,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills. The police handgun, which was found in his possession, was probably given to him by a corrupt police officer.

From corruption to link with the drug trade, fraud, scamming, money laundering and counterfeit money – our cases paint a dire picture of hard organized crime.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 2 reptile traffickers arrested with 120 fully protected chameleons in the east of the country in an operation carried out by EAGLE Uganda and Flying squad Police. Both of them have been engaged in reptile trafficking on a regular bases for several years. They were advertising their illegal trade through the internet and were focusing on European countries and Kenya. They had been capturing the chameleons from different locations of Eastern Uganda and usually sold one at a price of 60 USD, presenting a huge margin of illegal profit. Chameleons are traded as pets, but people also believe that they have a medicinal value or they are bought as decorations. These chameleons were lucky, as they were in a good condition, they could be released back to the wild.
- A trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of hippo ivory. He worked with a network of poachers and traffickers supplying the contraband from the DRC for decades. We estimate that thousands of hippos were slaughtered due to his activities. Hippo teeth are often used as a replacement for ivory.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 12 ivory pieces, one of them a corrupt officer of Special Forces. After several months of investigation, the traffickers were caught red handed when they tried to sell the ivory at a restaurant in Kampala. The arrested corrupt official is a Senior Officer of the Uganda



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 12 ivory pieces.

2 ivory traffickers specialized in cross border trafficking arrested near the border with Tanzania



People's Defence Force attached to Special Forces Command (SFC) and premised at State House. He functioned as security to the trafficker.

- More corruption appeared to be involved in this ring of traffickers, as one day later another armed trafficker was arrested in connection to the crime.

A search in his house recovered \$40,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills. The police handgun, which was found in his possession, was probably given to him by a corrupt police officer. Another example of the level of criminality we confront regularly.

■ 2 ivory traffickers specialized in cross border trafficking arrested near the border with Tanzania only one day later. One of them has been using his dual Ugandan-Tanzanian nationality in their organized ivory smuggling from Tanzania to Uganda.

■ EAGLE Uganda received an appreciation letter from Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, congratulating EAGLE Uganda for the bold and courageous acts of tracking the traffickers in wildlife products. "Your acts are the first real arrests reported." The Minister wrote.



2 reptile traffickers arrested with 120 fully protected chameleons

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori, founding director of EAGLE Network, participated at a Rounded Table discussion on Wildlife Crime with journalists, organized as a part of the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi. He held many interviews, and met with different Government authorities.
- Naftali Honig, a member of the Steering Group,

visited several EAGLE teams while travelling around Africa.

- The Financial Officer, who is located in Gabon, arrived to Nairobi for orientation and training.
- Ofir Drori held a meeting with the head of Kenya Wildlife Service to discuss a future extension of EAGLE Network's activities to Kenya.

International Media Coverage

- TV show on Aljazeera "Inside story - Who is gaining from illegal wildlife trade?", Ofir Drori and two more conservationists discussed the new UN report on wildlife crime.

[Link to the show](#)

- "There are three main problems in tackling the trade," Drori said. "Corruption, corruption and corruption. The majority of our arrests are corrupt officials - corrupt police officers, corrupt military personnel, and corrupt magistrates. They're enabling the trade to happen."

[Link to the article](#)

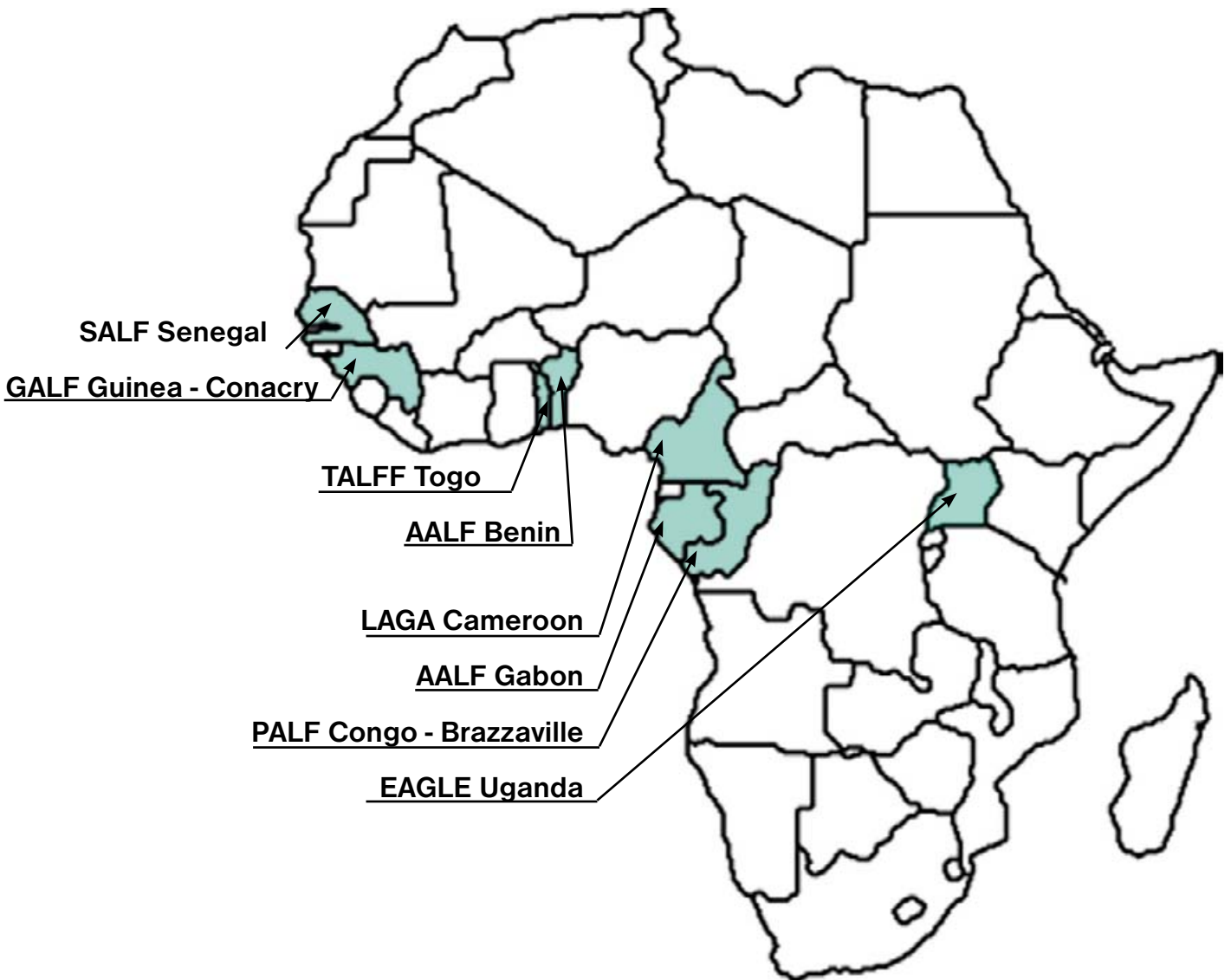
- "UN sanctions must target global kingpins in wildlife trade" - an article on UNEP decision on wildlife crime, quoting Ofir Drori.

[Link to the article](#)

- "Celebs go wild to stop illegal trade in animals" - article introducing new UNEP campaign, quoting Ofir Drori: "Illegal wildlife trade is an organized crime. Discussions have been done by biologists and politicians, now we need to have those who are experts in crime. We must also tackle the big fish (in the trade) and not the small guys."

[Link to the article](#)

Structure of the EAGLE Network



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.

Contacts:

1. Cameroon - LAGA - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
2. Congo - PALF - naftali@eagle-enforcement.org
3. Gabon - AALF - luc@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Guinea Conakry - GALF - saidou@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Togo - TALFF - ebeh@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Benin - AALF-B - josea@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Senegal - SALF - charlotte@eagle-enforcement.org
8. Uganda - vincent@eagle-enforcement.org