



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **42 wildlife traffickers arrested in 7 countries**
- ✓ **2 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo with 300 carved pieces of ivory**
- ✓ **A ring of 8 ivory traffickers crushed in Gabon with 48 kg of ivory**
- ✓ **2 major ivory traffickers arrested in Guinea**
- ✓ **A major trafficker arrested in Senegal with 106 skins including lion and leopard skins**
- ✓ **8 ivory traffickers arrested in Benin in 3 operations**
- ✓ **3 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda, 2 of them Pastors**
- ✓ **4 traffickers arrested in Uganda with Cheetah skins - one of them a Pastor, in a crackdown on cheetah skin trade. Less than 30 cheetahs remain in the country.**

Summary

42 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 7 countries, a record number.

Several corruption attempts were intercepted and combated this month:

A ring of 8 ivory traffickers has been crushed in Gabon and a bribe attempt of 700 USD was documented and combated. 2 ivory traffickers were arrested in Pointe Noire with 300 carved ivory pieces, one of them a repeat offender who was released under the pretext of health reasons. Getting back behind bars, this time bribing his way out will not help with a far tighter follow up. In Guinea, a fight against corruption in court concerning a judge who released a jail-sentenced trafficker ended in victory. GALF intervened and discussed this with the Minister of Justice and got the trafficker transferred to a prison in Conakry, as the case of the corrupt judge is under investigation of the Minister of Justice. During an arrest of 2 traffickers with 9 sea turtle shells on an island in Guinea, the team members combated attempts of the corrupt army captain in charge who tried to prevent the arrest and release the traffickers, while

threatening to arrest the GALF team. 3 pastors involved in wildlife trafficking were arrested, using the



A major trafficker arrested with lion and leopard skins in a crackdown on illegal trade in skins in Senegal

false pretence of religious morality to cover their illegal activities in Uganda, and another bribing attempt was intercepted and combated in one of the cases. 2 major traffickers were arrested with 2 large ivory statues in Guinea. One of them has a military training, and attempted to become a wildlife officer probably in an intention to get a stronger impunity and a complicit position.

A major trafficker was arrested in Senegal with an impressive quantity of 106 skins of 11 different protected species including lion and leopard.

13 traffickers of ivory, pangolin scales, hippo ivory and cheetah and leopard skins were arrested in 7

operations in Uganda. The crackdown on cheetah skin trade is significant to Uganda as there are less than 30 cheetahs remaining in the country.

8 ivory traffickers were arrested in 3 operations in Benin with 17 kg of ivory.

The Deputy Director of LAGA and the Coordinator of EAGLE Uganda travelled to the United States where they participated in the USFWS discussion on commercial bushmeat trade and held a number of meetings with the US Government. The two presented EAGLE's law enforcement model and its implementation on the ground in Cameroon and Uganda.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 14 pieces of carved ivory and 2 leopard skins. The first trafficker specialises in carving art objects from wood and ivory; a bowl where the ivory pieces were stored was later found in the shop where he sells the objects. He has been in this illegal business for many years. The second trafficker, who attempted to sell the leopard skins, is a 3rd degree traditional chief in a village of the West Region. These chiefs are expected to be the custodians of traditional symbols but he engaged in leopard skin trafficking that is very rife in the region and across to Nigeria where the skins are in high demand because of their traditional value. The region has no populations of leopards left and the animals are killed in the South East part of the country and the skins trafficked to these areas.

■ The Deputy Director travelled to the United States, where he held a number of meetings with staffers of the US Senate, two senior counsels of the Justice Department, several US Fish and Wildlife officials and other experts. Together with the coordinator of EAGLE Uganda they carried out several presentations on the EAGLE's law enforcement model and its implementation on the ground in Cameroon and Uganda. They spent one week participating in a workshop on the illegal commercial bushmeat trade organised by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They attended a talk on bankrupting kleptocracy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

■ The Coordinator of AALF Benin, the Coordinator Assistant of the TALFF project in Togo and the

Deputy Director attended a workshop in Cameroon, organised by the French funding body PPI (FFEM) for reflecting on 10 years of assistance to projects working on the environment in Africa. After the workshop they travelled to Yaoundé where some experience exchange was carried out.

■ An investigator from Senegal completed his training mission in Cameroon within the EAGLE Network Exchange Program; an investigator on test from Madagascar arrived to the country for a three-week-long training and testing period. Rens Ilgen, a supervolunteer, also arrived to the country for a month-long training.

■ The Head of the Legal Department and legal advisers held several meetings with, different states counsels and advocate generals on matters in court while the Head of Department also held a meeting with the Focal Point of Interpol Central Africa.



2 traffickers arrested with 14 pieces of carved ivory and 2 leopard skins

Congo – PALF

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Pointe Noire with 300 carved ivory pieces, weighing 9 kg. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested by PALF and Interpol in 2014, but released with pretext of health reasons. This time bribing his way out will not help with a far tighter follow up as before He is kept behind bars together with his accomplice, well known international trafficker of DRC nationality, living also in Angola. Being involved in ivory trafficking for 20 years, he has many international connections that are being investigated. Two carv-



One of them was already arrested, but released with pretext of health reasons. This time bribing his way out will not help.

ing machines and other equipment for carving ivory have been found and seized in the house of the second trafficker.

- The Coordinator met with the Minister of Environment and the General Directors of Wildlife and of Protected Areas, another important breakthrough in external relations with the Government after last month meeting with the Minister of Justice. During a very successful meeting, they discussed the review of the ongoing legal cases and renewing of the agreement between the Ministry and PALF. The minister was very supportive to the PALF activities and agreed to sign the agreement soon.
- More meetings were held with the Advisor to the Criminal Policy of the Ministry of Justice to review the legal cases of wildlife crime and with the Head of the Section of Forest Governance Program, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development to discuss the legal case files of wildlife criminality.



2 ivory traffickers arrested in Pointe Noire with 300 carved ivory pieces



- The intense recruitment process continued to get a stronger and larger team.

Gabon – AALF

- A ring of 8 ivory traffickers crushed. First 2 ivory traffickers with 4 tusks weighing 48 kg were arrested; one of them from Ghana. Although they were violently fighting and tried to bribe the policemen with about 700 USD during the arrest, the team combated the attempts and traffickers remain in prison. During following weeks whole ring of ivory traffickers was revealed, and in several steps 6 more traffickers were arrested. While the two first were leading the whole ring, other participated by supplying the ivory for international trafficking and transporting it. The 6 were employees of a logging company, Compagnie des Bois du Gabon, whose management supported their arrests and held them behind bars until the police with AALF team arrived.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks cut in 8 pieces, weighting 15 kg. They arrived to a hotel with the ivory concealed in a bag, where they in-

tended to sell it, but instead were arrested in act in a swift operation.

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins. They were arrested attempting to sell the contraband after midnight, concealing the skins in a rice sack. The two are now behind bars expecting trial and their vehicle used to facilitate the illegal act was seized.
- The Coordinator met with the General Secretary to the Minister of Environment to inform the Minister about ongoing court cases, activities of AALF and future plans.
- The Coordinator travelled to the EU headquarters in Belgium where he met with the representatives of US FWS, European Union officials and NGO colleagues. He made a presentation on fighting corruption, EAGLE activities and the last important cases in Madagascar and Uganda at the EU-US Reflection Workshop On Tri-Border Conserva-



2 ivory traffickers with 48 kg were arrested; a bribe of 700 USD was combated during the arrest



2 ivory traffickers concealing 4 tusks in a bag



The 6 arrested traffickers were employees of a logging company

tion, Security and Development: DRC-CAR-South Sudan.

- The Coordinator travelled to Nairobi to discuss the developments and challenges of the Network and work directly with CCU.
- The Coordination Assistant left Conservation Justice to become a judge. He continues fighting wildlife crime from his new position.
- The Head of Investigations finished his mission to Benin to support the development of the team and investigations.
- A recruitment process started to strengthen the legal and investigation department.

Guinea – Conakry – GALF



2 major traffickers arrested with 2 large ivory statues. One of them has a military training, and attempted to become a wildlife officer probably in an intention to get to a stronger impunity and complicity position.

- 2 major traffickers arrested with 2 large ivory statues. One of them has a military training, and attempted to become a wildlife officer probably in an intention to get to a stronger impunity and complicity position. The other one is of Ivory Coast Nationality. They were arrested in act by GALF team and Interpol. One of them tried to escape during the operation and Saidou personally outsmarted him and obstructed the escape.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 9 sea turtle shells on an island near the capital city. The corrupt army captain in charge tried to prevent the arrest and release the traffickers, while threatening to arrest the GALF team. These attempts were combated and two main traffickers arrested while a third one was released. He still managed to release a third suspect. As this arrest happened in an area under military jurisdiction, the arrested traffickers were kept in custody in military barracks, which enabled the corrupt behaviour of the officer.
- A case of an elephant poacher was followed. The poacher was sentenced 1 year in prison by the court in Macenta, but later the GALF legal team discovered that he was let out of prison regularly and worked for the judge as a gardener. GALF intervened and discussed with the Minister of Jus-

tice and got a victory against corruption – the trafficker was transferred to a prison in Conakry and the case of the corrupt judge is under investigation of the Minister of Justice. US Ambassador in Conakry followed the case.

- Charlotte Houpline participated at the 17th Conference of the Parties of the CITES UN Convention as a member of the official Guinean Government delegation. She actively fought for increasing the level of protection of elephants, pangolins, African grey parrots and pangolins under international law. She cooperated with other NGOs in this fight. While for pangolins and grey parrots the fight was successful, the battle was lost for lions and elephants, whose status did not change.
- The Coordinator met with the EU delegation in Conakry to coordinate the activities related to the CITES.
- Recruitment continued in effort to strengthen the investigation department. 2 investigators started their test period



2 traffickers arrested with 9 sea turtle shells. The team members, combated an attempt of a corrupt army captain who tried to prevent the arrest and release the traffickers.

Togo – TALFF

- The TALFF team took their annual holidays during the month of October.
- The Assistant Coordinator attended a workshop in Cameroon organised by the French funding body PPI (FFEM) on reflecting on 10 years of assistance to projects working on the environment in Africa.
- After the workshop the Assistant Coordinator visited LAGA for a three day training and experience sharing.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Chief of the Political and Economic Affairs of US Embassy to discuss the activities of the project and a support of US Embassy.
- A series of meetings with authorities were held, namely with procurators, judges and the focal point of INTERPOL to discuss on-going cases.

SENEGAL - SALF

- A major trafficker arrested with lion and leopard skins in a crackdown on illegal trade in skins. 106 skins of 11 protected species including lion and leopard skins were seized in the trafficker's shop



Charlotte Houpline examines 106 skins of 11 different protected species including lion and leopard.

that served as an international junction for the illegal trade. This was the first SALF operation to be carried in cooperation with the Directorate of the National Parks. He was organizing a wide circle of traffickers, creating a trade chain supplying him the skins and animal parts from Mali, Nigeria and several other countries.

- Intensive recruitment continues. A media officer and a legal adviser started their test period; two more investigators will start next month.
- An investigator finished a training program under the EAGLE Network Exchange Program in Cameroon.

Benin – AALF-B

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks, weighing 12kg. One of them used to be a logger. They were trafficking the ivory from Burkina Faso and trying to sell it in Benin's capital.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3.2 kg of ivory. They tried to sell one small tusk of a baby elephant, slaughtered in W National Park.
- 3 ivory traffickers, one of them Togolese, arrested with 2 kg of elephant ivory, trafficked from Togo. A hippo tooth was also found in his house during house search.
- The Coordinator attended a workshop in Cameroon organised by the French funding body PPI



2 ivory traffickers arrested with ivory

(FFEM) on reflecting on 10 years of assistance to projects working on the environment in Africa. After the workshop he visited LAGA where some experience sharing was carried out.

- The Coordinator held a working session with the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the directors of CENAGREF and DGFEC and technical and le-

gal advisor to prepare the agreement between the Ministry and AALF-Benin

- The Head of Investigations from Gabon finished his mission to Benin to train the investigation department and support investigations. He contributed to the increased number of operation this month.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 13 kg of ivory, 17 kg of pangolin scales and other pangolin body parts. Two of the arrested traffickers are pastors, using church activities as a cover for the illegal activities for a long time. This is the second time in a week that the Uganda team gets a clergy trafficker behind bars. It is common for criminals to hide behind a cover of fake morality.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 33 kg of pangolins scales. They were trafficking pangolin scales for many years, selling them in the capital, in this way they were contributing to the extermination of the most trafficked animal in the world. Last month pangolins finally received the highest level of protection international law can offer, in the CITES UN convention conference in South Africa.
- A trafficker arrested with 32 pieces of hippo ivory in the north west of the country. He was trafficking hippo teeth internationally for years while working with suppliers from Congo.
- Another trafficker arrested with 15 kg of hippo ivory, pangolin scales and other protected species only few days later in the southwest of the country.



Two of the traffickers arrested with 13 kg of ivory and other contraband, using church activities as a cover for the illegal activities for a long time



2 traffickers arrested with a cheetah skin, leopard skin and others, one of them a Pastor. A bribing attempt was intercepted and combated.

In Uganda hippos occur in Ruwenzori and Murchison Falls National Parks and their numbers decreased from 14,000 in 50s to less than 5,000 due to heavy poaching.

- Two traffickers arrested with 15 kg of pangolin scales in the north of the country.
- 2 traffickers arrested with a cheetah skin at the same day and the same region. There are less than 6,800 cheetahs left in the world making it the most endangered feline in the continent. There are less than 30 cheetahs left in Uganda, Making this a very meaningful arrest operation. EAGLE Uganda team will use forensic science to understand whether it was killed in Uganda or trafficked from another country.
- Another 2 traffickers arrested with a cheetah skin, leopard skin and others near Kenya border. They were trying to pay their way out by offering a bribe of 150 USD - and again - one of them is a pastor with international connections.
- The Coordinator travelled to the United States where he held a number of meetings with staffers of the Senate, two senior counsels of the Justice Department, several US Fish and Wildlife officials and other experts. Together with the LAGA Depu-

ty Director they carried out several presentations on the EAGLE's law enforcement model and its implementation on the ground in Cameroon and Uganda. They spent one week participating in a workshop on the illegal commercial bushmeat trade organised by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They attended a talk on bankrupting kleptocracy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

- The Head of Investigation attended one week training organized by the British High Commission on Intelligence Data Analysis.



A trafficker arrested with 32 pieces of hippo ivory

Madagascar - ALARM

- The legal team followed the court cases of tortoise traffickers arrested last month. They successfully fought for being installed as a civil party to the court hearing. A provisional liberty was refused to one of the traffickers and all 9 of them remain in jail, waiting for the final trial.
- The Coordinator and several team members met with the Deputy Chief of US Embassy, the Director of Environment and Climate Change of USAID and the Chief of the Political and Economic Affairs of the US Embassy to discuss the involvement of civil society in the fight against wildlife trafficking in Madagascar. The Embassy representatives promised a support to ALARM and help with collaboration with Ministers.
- The Coordinator met with the Secretary of the State in charge of Police (Minister of Police), presented him AVG and ALARM project. The Minister ensured the Coordinator about his commitment to fight wildlife crime and promised to do the necessary to ensure collaboration between ALARM and the police on all levels.
- A series of meetings were held with the prosecutor, the judge, the lawyer of la Regional Directorate of the Ecology, Environment and Forests (DREEF) before the court hearing with the tortoise traffickers to explain the details of the case and to ensure fair trial.
- The Coordinator had a working dinner with a Special Rapporteur of the UN John Knox from OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and his assistant Soo-Young Hwang. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the current situation of Human Rights and the Environment in Madagascar as well as success stories and activities of AVG / ALARM. John Knox then mentioned ALARM in his final report.
- An intensive recruitment process continued by collection of CVs of candidates for investigators and legal advisors.
- An investigator on test traveled to Cameroon to be tested in LAGA within the EAGLE Exchange Program.

Headquarters

- Luc Mathot travelled to Nairobi to discuss challenges and development of the Network with Ofir Drori and to work directly with CCU.
- Luc Mathot travelled to the EU headquarters in Belgium where he met with the representatives of US FWS, European Union officials and NGO colleagues. He made a presentation on fighting corruption, EAGLE activities and the last important

cases in Madagascar and Uganda at the EU-US Reflection Workshop On Tri-Border Conservation, Security and Development: DRC-CAR-South Sudan.

- Ofir Drori travelled to Holland for a TEDxEDE talk about hunting wildlife traffickers - passion and activism in conservation. He also gave a talk to 300 students at Wageningen University organized by its Future For Nature Academy about fight against wildlife crime and corruption.

- Ofir Drori started a short mission in Uganda to address gaps in procedure adherence and in court results. He trained the legal and investigation team and worked on profound changes in the legal unit functioning. He also worked on strengthening the team and management.



Ofir Drori travelled to Holland for a TEDxEDE talk about hunting wildlife traffickers - passion and activism in conservation.



Eric, the Deputy Director of LAGA, talking about corruption at National Conservation Leadership Institute, USA

International Media Coverage

- A article about the arrest of ivory trafficker in Cameroon in September, mentioning also new replication in Madagascar and successful arrest there, and EAGLE Network

[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 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: 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 - perrine@eagle-enforcement.org
3. Gabon – AALF - luc@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Guinea Conakry – GALF - saidou@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Togo – TALFF - ebah@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Benin - AALF-B - josea@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Senegal – SALF - charlotte@eagle-enforcement.org
8. Uganda – vincent@eagle-enforcement.org
9. Madagascar - ndranto@eagle-enforcement.org