



September 2017
EAGLE Network

EAGLE

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **34 wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries**
- ✓ **7 traffickers arrested and 2 chimps and a mandrill rescued in a crackdown on primate trafficking in Cameroon**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested with 3 okapi skins in Uganda**
- ✓ **8 ivory traffickers including an army officer arrested in a single operation in Uganda**
- ✓ **5 ivory traffickers including an imam of the town's mosque arrested with 10 tusks in two more operations in Uganda**
- ✓ **3 ivory traffickers arrested with 30 kg of ivory in Congo**
- ✓ **A Senegalese ivory trafficker arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon**
- ✓ **3 hippo ivory traffickers arrested with 229 hippo teeth in Uganda**



A baby chimp was rescued and an ape trafficker was arrested in Cameroon. The trafficker is known to deal with live primates, concealed the baby chimp in a bag.



2 traffickers were arrested with 3 okapi skins in Uganda.

Summary

7 traffickers were arrested and 2 chimps and a mandrill rescued in a crackdown on primate trafficking. A baby chimp was rescued and an ape trafficker was arrested in the south of the country. The trafficker is known to deal with live primates, concealed the baby chimp in a bag. 2 traffickers were arrested with a baby mandrill and 40 kg of pangolin scales in the capital city. They were trafficking from the South to the capital and brought the contraband from there the day of the arrest. A rope was tied around the waist of the little baby which was then put into the tiny bag to evade detection. The 10-month-old orphaned baby chimp, named Farah, and the baby mandrill were handed to Ape Action Africa for lifetime care. Another baby

in a plastic sack, to the place of transaction. Later they denounced an Army Officer, who they hired to poach the elephants in Kibale National Park. 3 ivory traffickers including an imam of the town's mosque arrested with 4 very large tusks in northern Uganda. The imam is from South Sudan and uses his links for cross border trafficking. Religious authorities feature often in our operations especially this year exposing the cover of crime and greed behind the fake appearance of morality. 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Kampala with 6 tusks. They were intercepted in front of the bank with the ivory concealed in a polyethylene bag, when they wanted to pick up money for the transaction.



8 ivory traffickers including an army officer arrested in Uganda with 4 tusks.



A baby chimp rescued and 3 traffickers and an accomplice arrested in Cameroon

chimp rescued and 3 traffickers and an accomplice arrested. Serge led the team and his initiative saved the operation at the last hour when it was thought to have failed and chimp lost forever in the trade. The baby chimp was concealed in a small box with a metal net, badly treated and malnourished. It was taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre but unfortunately passed away after efforts to provide first aid assistance and treatment failed.

2 traffickers were arrested with 3 okapi skins in Uganda. This is the second time the Ugandan team exposed a previously unknown international trade in Okapi skins. The traffickers are connected to corrupt rangers from the Ituri National Park in Democratic Republic of Congo, who provide them with the skins.

13 ivory traffickers were arrested in Uganda in 3 operations. 8 ivory traffickers including an army officer arrested in west of the country with 4 tusks. 7 of them were intercepted in the act when they were getting into a car to transport the ivory, concealed

3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 30 kg of ivory in Congo. The PALF team had to combat multiple corruption and traffic in influence attempts threatening to release the traffickers. While one of them was connected to the international network of traffickers in surrounding countries in complicity of government authorities, the other two, a father and a son, were in charge of sourcing the ivory, the father for more than 40 years.

A Senegalese ivory trafficker was arrested in Gabon with 4 tusks in the capital city. The notorious trafficker carried 27 kg of ivory from the south of the country, where the two elephants, one of them very young, were massacred.

3 traffickers were arrested in Uganda with 229 hippo teeth. This seizure represents the slaughter of least 25 hippos. The hippo ivory originated from the Queen Elizabeth National Park and Murchison Falls National park.

Cameroon – LAGA



A baby chimp was rescued and an ape trafficker arrested in the south of the country.

- 7 traffickers arrested and 2 chimps and a mandrill rescued in a crackdown on primate trafficking. A baby chimp was rescued and an ape trafficker arrested in the south of the country. The trafficker is known to deal with live primates, concealed the baby chimp in a bag. The 10-month-old orphaned baby chimp, named Farah, was strong and was handed to Ape Action Africa for lifetime care. This was the second baby chimp rescue of LAGA in a short period of time.
- 2 traffickers arrested with a baby mandrill and 40 kg of pangolin scales in the capital city. They

were trafficking from the South to the capital and brought the contraband from there the day of the arrest. A rope was tied around the waist of the little baby which was then put into the tiny bag to evade detection. The baby mandrill will be given care by Ape Action Africa.

- Another baby chimp rescued and 3 traffickers and an accomplice arrested. Serge led the team and his initiative saved the operation at the last hour when it was thought to have failed and chimp lost forever in the trade. These notorious traffickers were regularly dealing endangered species. The baby chimp was concealed in a small box



2 traffickers arrested with a baby mandrill and 40 kg of pangolin scales in the capital city.

with a metal net, badly treated and malnourished. It was taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre but unfortunately passed away after efforts to provide first aid assistance and treatment failed

- The Deputy Director, Eric Tah carried a training day at the American International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. The participants in his corruption and ethics training were 23 wildlife and customs officials from Mozambique, Angola and Botswana.
- A super volunteer, under the EAGLE management recruitment program, arrived in the country to start a month-long training and testing.
- Anna Egbe, the media officer visited the Jackson Hole Wildlife CATs summit and film festival in USA, networking with many other conservationists around the world.



Another baby chimp rescued and 4 traffickers arrested.

Congo – PALF



3 ivory traffickers arrested with 30 kg of ivory on the north part of the country.

■ 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 30 kg of ivory on the north part of the country. The PALF team had to combat multiple corruption and traffic in influence attempts threatening to release the traffickers. The well-organized notorious criminals



were arrested with 6 tusks wrapped in a bag and concealed in a basket. While one of them was connected to the international network of traffickers in surrounding countries in complicity of government authorities, the other two, a father and a son, were in charge of sourcing the ivory, the father for more than 40 years.

- 4 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins as several corruption attempts threatening to release the traffickers were combated. As the traffickers were brought to the prison cell one of them tried to violently escape, before he was put under control. A military involvement in the criminal activity is being investigated.
- The coordinator held several meetings with regional authorities, including the Director General of the Forest Economy and the Director of Fauna and Protected Areas to discuss the ongoing legal cases. She also met with several State Counsels, the Departmental Commanders of Gendarmerie and the Departmental Director of Ministry of Environment in Niari.
- Two legal advisers continued their test period.

4 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins



Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker from Equatorial Guinea was arrested with 2 leopard skins near the capital city. He arrived with the skins by bus and was arrested in the act. After the arrest he insisted that he was a Cameroonian. His real nationality was exposed only the next day showing his stay in Gabon was illegal.
- Two weeks later he was prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in jail – the highest sentence possible for wildlife trafficking in Gabon. The country is known for one of the lowest maximum penalties for wildlife crime among African countries.
- A Senegalese ivory trafficker arrested with 4 tusks in the capital city. The notorious trafficker carried 27 kg of ivory from the south of the country, where the two elephants, one of them very young, were massacred.
- The legal team held meetings with the Director of Anti-Poaching and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Forests to discuss the ongoing cases. Meetings were also held with the Judicial Police of Libreville and Ntoum.
- A consultant in intercultural mediation and sustainable development started cooperation with the team to support the organizational development of the project.

A Senegalese ivory trafficker arrested with 4 tusks in the capital city.



Republic of Guinea – GALF

- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and two crocodile skins in August was prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in jail and almost 3,000 USD in fines and damages.
- The Coordinator and the Head of Legal Department participated at the national workshop on implementation of 10-year action plan on conservation of chimpanzees.
- The Head of Legal Department had a presentation on the strengths and weaknesses of the wildlife code application in Guinea at the National Workshop of the National Working Group on Threatened Species in Guinea.
- The coordinator held a series of meetings with Guinea authorities including the National Director of Waters and Forests, the Focal Point on the

fight against wildlife crime of the Ministry of Environment, the National Coordinator and the West Africa Regional Coordinator of WABICC, the focal Point of fight against wildlife crime of the Ministry

of Security and Civil protection and the General Director of the Corps des Conservateurs de la Nature.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- Political unrest, leading to demonstrations lasting more than six weeks now, limited the activities of EAGLE-Togo. External relations came to a standstill too, as many of the officials were not available during this period.
- The coordinator met two legal advisers of the Ministry of Environment to accelerate the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding between EAGLE-Togo and the Ministry.
- More meetings were held with Togolese authorities, including the Judge of the first Cabinet of Instruction of Dapaong for the follow-up of the case of 2 traffickers arrested near the Burkina Faso border with 4 tusks and skins, the Commissioner

of the Regional Police of Dapaong in order to reinforce the collaboration, the INTERPOL, OCRTIDB and the focal point at the Togolese Customs authority to introduce EAGLE-Togo and discuss collaboration.

- Two investigators and an investigator continued test period.
- The coordinator travelled to Ivory Coast to continue training, recruitment and coordination of the project.
- The Deputy Coordinator travelled to Benin to support investigations and train the team.

Senegal - SALF

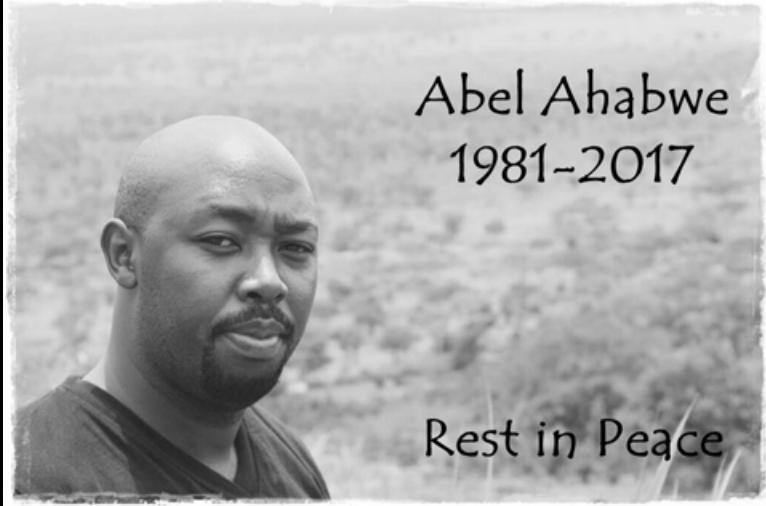
- The coordinator met with the Legal Adviser and the Technical Adviser of the Minister of the Environment to discuss the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the process of managing the contraband seized during the arrests in Senegal.

- The coordinator and legal team met with two court magistrates and commissioners of Central Police Station to discuss the ongoing cases and cooperation.
- Intense recruitment process continued with more activists starting their test period in October.

Benin – AALF-B

- The Assistant Coordinator of Benin traveled to USA for a three weeks long International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) for stakeholders involved in wildlife conservation, where he exchanged and shared his experiences. The program was sponsored by the US Department of State and administered by “World Learning”
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of EAGLE Network, visited Benin and held several meetings with officials and authorities. Together with the Coordinator he met with the US Ambassador to discuss the ongoing cooperation in combating

- wildlife crime, and several State Counsels.
- The coordinator and the legal team held a series of meetings with Benin authorities including the State Counsels and Judges of several courts, African Parks Network (APN), the Director of the National Police School, the Director of CENAGREF and the representatives of IUCN.
- The Deputy Coordinator of Togo visited Benin to support the team in investigations, to train the team and support its development.
- 3 legal advisors finished their test period and became members of the team.



134 traffickers were arrested this year, almost 15 every month, by EAGLE Uganda team, led by one of its key members, Abel Ahabwe. It is with great sadness that we regret to announce the passing away of Abel.

On Sunday October 1st his motorbike collided with another in a fatal road accident in Kampala. He died in hospital shortly after. Vincent, the coordinator, was there at the last moments of Abel's life and the NRCN team is helping his family and one another at this hard time.

Abel has been one of our best activists and his bravery and conviction were shining

through in each conversation and each operation. His exemplary courage inspired us to design an EAGLE courage award. The silver pin has been already designed and ordered. Tragically he will only receive it after his death.

He lived his life driven by commitment to fight wildlife crime and corruption. After finishing high school he spent 15 years serving in Uganda Army Forces, he joined EAGLE Uganda in 2015. Soon he became the head of the investigation department, leading the team from one arrest operation to another. He was able to combine his professionalism, experience and responsibility with passion and commitment in a unique way, bringing amazing results.

But it was not the results, which were making Abel a great man in the deepest meaning of the word. It was his character, his personality, which will be missed most of all. We lost a great environmental warrior, a patriot that was passionate about protecting its disappearing wildlife. We lost a dear friend, a member of our EAGLE Family.

Not a long time before another great man of us, Serge from Cameroon, led an operation to arrest a chimpanzee baby trafficker, and his surveillance vehicle got a serious accident just before the arrest. Exemplifying the EAGLE spirit, from the broken vehicle and full of blood his words to the team were: "Arrest him for me!" Abel was also a person of this spirit. EAGLE Family will work hard to carry it further, to spread it around. In your honor, Abel, we will arrest them for you!

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 3 okapi skins in West Nile area. This is the second time the Ugandan team exposed a previously unknown international trade in Okapi skins. The traffickers are connected to corrupt rangers from the Ituri National Park in Democratic Republic of Congo, who provide them with the skins. They have been trafficking ivory and lion skins before. The Okapi, often called "forest giraffe", is an endangered relative of the giraffe that can be found only in Ituri forest in

DRC. This giant animal is one of the oldest surviving mammals on earth. The stripes it has on its behind helps in camouflage as it looks like streaks of sunlight filtering through the trees. These stripes are unique to each individual and used for identification so you can say his ID is on his bottom. The traffickers confessed to have traded other okapi skins in the past highlighting once again the illegal trade in such an endangered animal.

■ 8 ivory traffickers including an army officer arrest-



2 traffickers arrested with 3 okapi skins in West Nile area.



ed in west of the country with 4 tusks. 7 of them were intercepted in the act when they were getting into a car to transport the ivory, concealed in a plastic sack, to the place of transaction. Later they denounced an Army Officer, who they hired

to poach the elephants in Kibale National Park.

- 3 ivory traffickers including an imam of the town's mosque arrested with 4 very large tusks in northern Uganda. The imam is from South Sudan and uses his links for cross border trafficking. Reli



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gious authorities often feature in our operations, especially this year, exposing the cover of crime and greed behind the fake appearance of morality.

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Kampala with 6 tusks. They were intercepted in front of the bank with the ivory concealed in a polyethylene bag, when they wanted to pick up money for the transaction. One of them,



3 ivory traffickers including an imam of the town's mosque arrested with 4 very large tusks in northern Uganda

a businessman dealing with wood and other commodities brought the ivory from South Sudan, the second one, car dealer, was looking for a buyer.

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 127 hippo teeth (56kg) in western Uganda. This seizure represents the slaughter of least 15 hippos. The hippo ivory originated from the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

■ A trafficker arrested with 102 hippo teeth



A trafficker arrested with 102 hippo teeth in the north of the country



2 traffickers arrested with 127 hippo teeth

The EAGLE NETWORK – LAGA, PALF, AALF, GALF, EAGLE Togo, SALF, AALF-B, EAGLE Uganda, EAGLE Ivory Coast
Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Togo, Senegal, Benin, Uganda, Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast - EAGLE Ivory Coast

- Rens Ilgen, the coordinator of EAGLE-Togo, arrived to Ivory Coast to continue training, recruitment and coordination of the project.
- He held intensive meetings with Ivory Coast authorities, including the Director of UCT, as well as several captains to strengthen collaboration between UCT and EAGLE, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the UK Embassy to introduce the project and start collaboration between the Embassy and EAGLE, the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources to progress with the collaboration be-
- tween MINEF and EAGLE, and with a Researcher in Ecological Sciences and Sustainable Development of the Nangui Abrogoua University.
- He also met with the US Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires and the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission to introduce the project and seek collaboration and the US Embassy's Political Assistant to discuss collaboration.
- The recruitment process continued by testing more investigators.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori travelled to USA to teach at International Conservation Chiefs Academy, which brought together 41 participants from 16 African countries and 33 participants from 31 states in the USA. He was in West Virginia FWS facility for training half a day on corruption issues and more panel discussions on NGOs the following day. He also took advantage to get many side meetings on ongoing

wildlife cases and collaboration.

- The Deputy Director of LAGA, Eric Tah, carried a training day at the American International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. The participants in his corruption and ethics training were 23 wildlife and customs officials from Mozambique, Angola and Botswana.

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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