



EAGLE

# Wildlife Law

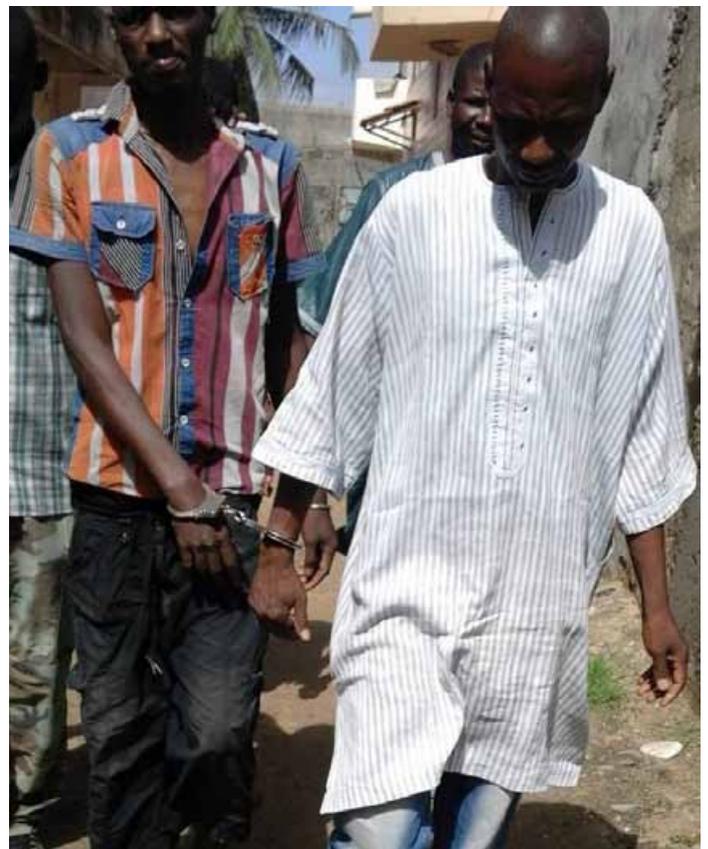
# Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ ***A significant international live animals trafficker arrested in Senegal uncovering several large international networks of surprising magnitude.***
- ✓ ***2 ape traffickers arrested in two operations in Cameroon with ape skulls and a live threatened primate***
- ✓ ***4 traffickers arrested in two operations in Benin with 40 sea turtle shells***
- ✓ ***A trafficker arrested in Uganda with 33 kg of hippo ivory***
- ✓ ***A LAGA activist participated at Elephant Summit in Jackson Hole, USA***

## Summary

8 wildlife traffickers have been arrested in four countries. This is below a half of the monthly average of the Network for the past few months. Investigations efforts are intensified across the Network in order to improve output for the next months.

A significant international live animals trafficker was arrested in Senegal after one year of investigation. He has been involved in an extensive illegal international network with well developed sophisticated methods of trafficking and falsification of documents. He was finally arrested in a sting operation of the Police, the Ministry of Water and Forest and SALF / WARA, during an attempt to sell Timneh Grey Parrots, a critically endangered species. His illegal activities span over at least a decade and stretch to Spain, the United States, Turkey, Jordan, Singapore, Libya, Hong Kong and many other countries. An impressive amount of more than 3,000 birds protected was discovered in his facilities including threatened species - 111 Timneh Grey Parrots, 700 rose-ringed parakeet, 80 Senegal parrots and many other species. Besides illegal trade with protected species he is also accused of forgery. The arrest led to high level data mining on several major international criminal networks, expos-



*Aziz Sall, a significant international live animals trafficker was arrested in Senegal.*

ing a surprising level of organization in illegal trade in live animals.

2 ape traffickers were arrested in Cameroon, one with 3 chimpanzee skulls and the other with protected mandrill skulls a live threatened Mona Monkey. 4 traffickers of sea turtle shells were arrested in Benin in two operations, 40 turtle shells were seized. A trafficker was arrested in Uganda with 33 kg of hippo ivory.

An EAGLE activist travelled to the US to volunteer in the Elephant Conservation Summit at the Jackson

Hole, where thanks to her LAGA took the lead in arguing for ivory stock pile to be burnt in Africa in order to curb corruption and stop trade in ivory as part of a solution to preserve elephants. She held several important meetings with journalists and US Government officials.

Naftali Honig participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy is a US Government prestigious training program for enforcers from all over Africa.

## Cameroon – LAGA

■ A significant trafficker arrested with 3 mandrill skulls, a live threatened Mona Monkey, and other contraband. He had been assisting wildlife officials during field trips but seemingly used this to cover the trafficking. He tried to evade wildlife officials in the area and actually hid the totally protected monkey some 30 km before arriving to the place of transaction in a hotel. Later he brought the monkey there. But being already followed by LAGA, he was immediately arrested red handed with all the contraband. He is a notorious trafficker well known in those parts of the country and preliminary investigations revealed that he was colluding with some wildlife officials who may have been covering his activity. He was also involved in international trafficking of ivory.

■ An ape trafficker arrested with 3 chimpanzee skulls, 5 Mona Monkey skulls and 9 chimpanzee bones during an operation carried out by LAGA and wildlife officials. He has been regularly trafficking in wildlife with a network of other people in the country, as well as internationally.

■ Three court rulings passed with 3 people getting prison sentences and sanctions. An ape trafficker, arrested with 4 gorilla skulls was sentenced 6 month in prison and a penalty, two ivory traffickers were sentenced for 1 month imprisonment and penalty and damage of 8,500 USD. An ape trafficker arrested with 7 chimpanzee and 5 gorilla skulls was sentenced 1 year



*He assisted wildlife officials in checking wildlife trafficking in the field but was a trafficker himself. He is answering to questions after his arrest.*



*Several chimp skulls and bones seized from trafficker arrested in North West, the region is losing its endangered species with just a few left in patches of forest.*

suspended sentence and a fine. An appeal has been filed in the case.

- The media officer volunteered in the Elephant Conservation Summit at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, USA, where thanks to her LAGA took the lead in arguing for ivory stock pile to be burnt in Africa in order to curb corruption and stop trade in ivory as part of a solution to preserve elephants. She held several important meetings with journal-

ists and US Government officials and participated on production of a video on the summit message.

- Two EAGLE activists, a legal advisor from Congo and a Gabonese investigator, arrived in Cameroon within the EAGLE Network Exchange Programme to share experience while two LAGA members returned to the country after missions in Togo and Gabon.

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## Congo – PALF

- New veterinary volunteer joined PALF team to support sniffer dogs program.
- Due to judicial vacations no court hearings were held this month.
- Two team members travelled to other countries within EAGLE Network Exchange program. The assistant coordinator visited Gabon to learn about ALEFI project and to understand better the issue of illegal logging. The legal adviser conducted a mission to Cameroon this month.
- Naftali Honig participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy is a US Government prestigious training

program for enforcers from all over Africa. EAGLE has been asked to develop training on ethics and anti-corruption for ILEA's Wildlife Crime Course, which is now conducted for 5 years. The course on ethics taught in ILEA by EAGLE is a strong symbol of the importance that fighting corruption plays in properly addressing wildlife crime.

- The representatives of PALF participated in a meeting with US Embassy staff to discuss developments in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking work in Congo
- The coordinator of PALF started the hand over process to his future successor. The process will take several months.

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## Gabon – AALF

- AALF team hosted eight students from the National School for Magistrates (l'Ecole Nationale de Magistrature) for a two-month internship training. Their missions focused on forest control and wildlife trafficking. In particular, they were disappointed at the lack of rigor of forest controls and lack of monitoring procedures. As future magistrates, one can only hope that they will participate in this paradigm shift.
- 3 court cases were followed, no court decision has been made due judicial vacations last month.
- Head of investigations of AALF benefited from

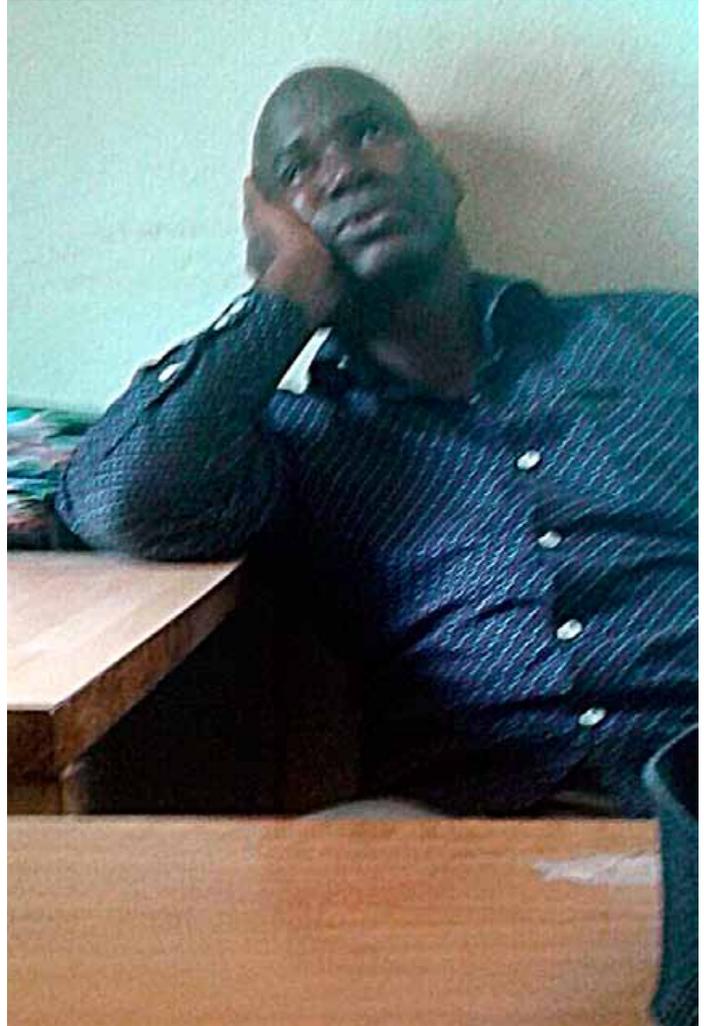
a mission to LAGA Cameroon within the EAGLE Network Exchange Program.

- AALF team hosted two activists, a media officer from LAGA and assistant coordinator from Congo.
- Several meetings and discussions were held during this month with Presidents of courts in Oyem, Koulamoutou, Makokou, with Prosecutors in Libreville, Oyem, Koulamoutou, Mouila, with the investigating judge in Oyem, with Provincial Directors and with the Wildlife and police officers to discuss the concrete problems in specific cases with them.

## Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- The GALF legal unit obtained the constitutional letter enabling them to legally represent the state in the case of Thierno Barry, a significant international trafficker, arrested in red handed and held in detention, for trafficking protected species, and former head of CITES Guinea Ansoumane Doumbouya, arrested for falsification of CITES permits and promoting international trafficking in wildlife.
- Legal follow up of the Barry – Doumbouya case; the legal department has been working to provide summary reports to the investigating judge about the international network in which the traffickers were involved for decades.
- The GALF team received permanent badges enabling them to access the international airport in Conakry - Gbessia to provide support to the airport customs in operations at the airport.
- GALF legal team conducted regular visits to the prison in Conakry to reassure the actual detention of traffickers in prison (Thierno Barry and Ansoumane Doumbouya).
- CITES Secretariat in Geneva confirmed the arrest of Ansoumane Doumbouya and congratulated Guinean authorities involved in the case.

*The former head of CITES Guinea Ansoumane Doumbouya, arrested in August 2015 for falsification of CITES permits and promoting international trafficking in wildlife, remains behind bars.*



## Togo – TALFF

- The TALFF legal department followed the case of Vietnamese ivory trafficker, arrested in January 2014. His hearing was postponed to 24 October.
- The legal adviser participated at the IUCN West and Central Africa's office forum on local conservation initiatives in West Africa in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and made a presentation on the EAGLE Network pushing for enforcement and the fight against corruption.
- TALFF team held several meetings with environmental NGOs of Togo in Lome as part of IUCN-France support project and distributed legal guides on flora and fauna to interest them in an increased enforcement role.
- TALFF team members participated in an information sharing seminar with an UNODC expert in Lomé.
- The Regional Replication Assistant Perrine Odier arrived to Togo to strengthen the team in the investigation techniques, reporting and network procedures. Besides theoretical training she also supported investigations and management of the team.

# C.A.R – RALF

■ RALF project is frozen due to security problems in the country, no real activity was undertaken. This

situation may continue for the next few months.

# SENEGAL - SALF

- A significant international live animals trafficker was arrested in Senegal after one year of investigation. He has been involved in an extensive illegal international network with well developed sophisticated methods of trafficking and falsification of documents. He was finally arrested in a sting operation of the Police, the Ministry of Water and Forest and SALF / WARA, during an attempt to sell Timneh Grey Parrots, a critically endangered species. He also held CITES permits for these parrots from Mali, where no population of these birds exists. His illegal activities span over at least a decade and stretch to Spain, the United States, Turkey, Jordan, Singapore, Libya, Hong Kong and many other countries. An impressive amount of birds including 111 Timneh Grey Parrots, 700 rose-ringed parakeet, 80 Senegal parrots was found in his facilities. Besides illegal trade with protected species he is also accused of forgery.
- With support from World Parrots Trust, the birds will be rehabilitated and released into the wild soon.
- The coordinator of SALF and director of WARA travelled to Guinea Conakry to support the GALF team in the legal monitoring of the Doumbouya case, a former head of CITES unit arrested in

Guinea on August 21 by Interpol, following an investigation against a wildlife ring involved in large scale wildlife trafficking and corruption. The SALF coordination assistant led the activities of SALF and performed daily reporting line to the coordinator.

- The 2 legal advisors ended their 3 months test



*A significant international live animals trafficker was arrested. An impressive amount of birds was found in his facilities.*



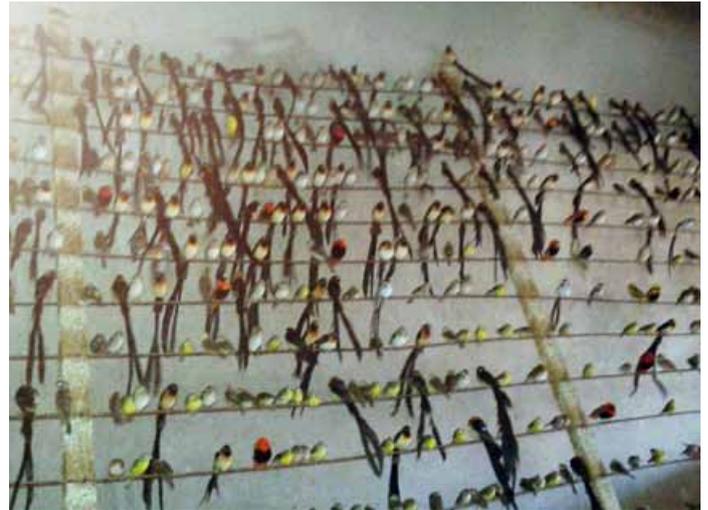
*He was arrested in a sting operation of the Police, the Ministry of Water and Forest and SALF / WARA.*



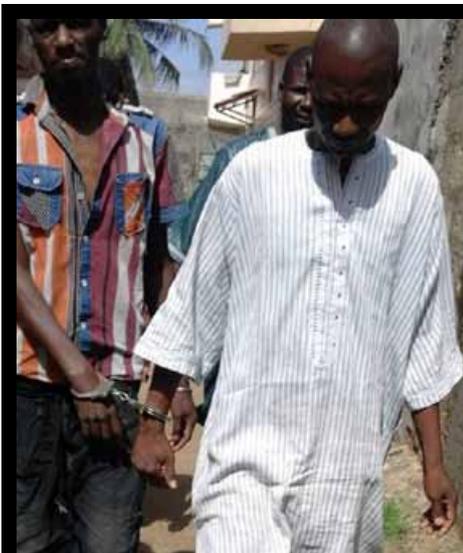
Rescued Timneh Grey Parrots in the rehabilitation aviaries

periods, they mastered the national wildlife law, and they actively participated at CITES meetings, meetings with our justice partners during preparation and follow up of the arrest operation of the major international trafficker.

- In cooperation with the Internal Security Service of the Embassy of France (SSI) SALF team contacted and established a new collaboration with the security forces of Senegal and the police unit Sûreté Urban (SU) in Dakar on top of continuing cooperation with the Criminal Investigation Division (DIC). This new collaboration proved successful during the arrest of the major trafficker.
- A plan to organize training for the SU in cooperation with SSI and Senegal CITES focal point on wildlife crime was agreed upon.



An impressive amount of birds was found in his facilities.



A significant international live animals trafficker was arrested in Senegal after one year of investigation into international wildlife syndicates. The investigation revealed that Aziz Sall has been involved in an extensive illegal international network with well developed sophisticated methods of trafficking and falsification of documents. Investigations reveal exchanges of birds between international dealers in different African countries, as well as exchanges of official documents such as CITES permits or Sanitary Certificate. While Aziz Sall, as a member of this syndicate seems to be operating exclusively with birds, others smuggle protected mammals or reptiles. As a scheme, they all cover their illegal activities by legal ones, mainly pretending to be a breeding facility, or a legal trader. It is the case for Aziz Sall, who is officially recorded as a bird dealer in Senegal.

He was finally arrested in a sting operation of the Police, the Ministry of Water and Forest and SALF / WARA, during an attempt to sell Timneh Grey Parrots, a critically endangered species. He also held CITES permits for these parrots from Mali, where no population of these birds exist. His illegal activities span over at least a decade and stretch to Spain, the United States, Turkey, Jordan, Singapore, Libya, Hong Kong and many other countries. An impressive amount of more than 3,000 protected birds was discovered in his facilities including threatened species - 111 Timneh Grey Parrots, 700 rose-ringed parakeet, 80 Senegal parrots and many other species. Besides illegal trade with protected species he is also accused of forgery. The arrest led to high level data mining on several major international criminal networks, exposing a surprising level of organization in illegal trade in live animals.

# Benin – AALF-B

- 2 traffickers in marine turtles arrested with 26 shells of sea turtle, a species, which is strictly protected in Benin and globally endangered. The arrest operation took place in the town of Grand Popo, it was carried out by AALF-B team and local gendarmerie.
- 2 traffickers were arrested with 14 sea turtles shells in an operation, carried out by AALF-B, local police and Water and Forrest Ministry officials. The traffickers face a prison sentence ranging from 6 months to 5 years and / or a fine of 900 to 1,800 USD.
- 3 legal cases were followed, one case of the arrest of an elephant poacher in Pendjari National Park and two cases of sea turtle traffickers. The cases were postponed to a later date due a strike



2 traffickers arrested with 26 shells of sea turtle, a strictly protected species.

- of magistrates.
- The AALF-B coordinator met with the Technical Advisor on Natural Resources of the Ministry of Environment, responsible for the management of climate change reforestation and the protection of natural resources to discuss the collaboration agreement, submitted last year.
- The AALF team held meetings with the commissioner of the Criminal Brigade and other police officials on preparation of the operations for sea turtle carapaces. Meetings were also held with colonel from homeland security at the French Embassy to introduce him the goals and methods of work of AALF-Benin project.



2 traffickers were arrested with 14 sea turtles shells.

# Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- A trafficker of hippo ivory was arrested in joint operation of EAGLE Uganda and police carried out on September 22 in Western Uganda during an attempt to sell 33 kg of hippo ivory. He remains behind bars waiting prosecution. The arrested trafficker admitted that the hippo teeth came from animals poached in Bugungu Game Reserve and Murchison Falls National Park.
- The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer from EAGLE Network CCU travelled to Uganda to support investigations and to train the team on procedures. He contributed to the successful arrest operation of the hippo ivory trafficker.
- An international activist was hosted by EAGLE Uganda team to support investigations.
- The EAGLE Uganda coordinator hold meeting

with Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) to work out possibilities of cooperation and inviting foreign activists to support investigations.



A trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell 33 kg of hippo ivory

# Headquarters

- The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer from EAGLE Network CCU travelled to Uganda to help with coordinating investigation department and involvement of international investigator, to train the team on procedures for investigation and operations, in risk management and security of the team, and to analyze gaps in procedures. He contributed to the successful operation with hippo ivory.
- Replication assistant Perrine Odier joined CCU to support its work. For ten days she joined the team in Togo to strengthen the team in the investigation techniques, reporting and network procedures. Besides theoretical training she also supported investigations and management of the team.
- Naftali Honig participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy is a US Government prestigious training program for enforcers from all over Africa. EAGLE has been asked to develop training on ethics and anti-corruption for ILEA's Wildlife Crime Course, which is now conducted for 5 years. The course on ethics taught in ILEA by EAGLE is a strong symbol of the importance that fighting corruption plays in properly addressing wildlife crime.
- Luc Mathot, cofounder of EAGLE visited India with an aim to develop new contacts and to strengthen international cooperation in fighting wildlife crime.
- The recruitment procures for the Network Financial Officer is in fourth cycle in a continued search.

# International Media Coverage

- Parrots Daily News paid attention to the arrest of Aziz Sall, the international live animals trafficker from Senegal:  
[Link to Parrot Daily News](#)
- Hidden cameras, prosecutions, and passion: confronting the corruption at the heart of Africa's illegal wildlife trade. The EAGLE network features as a leader in wildlife law enforcement.  
[Link to Mongabay](#)
- Luc Mathot, the co-founder of EAGLE Network spoke Kanal7, widely watched in African countries:  
[Link to Kanal7](#)

## 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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