



EAGLE

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EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *22 wildlife traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *13 ivory traffickers arrested in 4 operations in Gabon including a corrupt gendarme*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested in Cameroon in two operations*
- ✓ *3 pangolin scales traffickers arrested in Cameroon*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers, arrested in Congo, were sentenced to 3 years in jail*
- ✓ *A Chinese trafficker, arrested with 513 kg of pangolin scales in Benin, was sentenced to 3 years in jail*



4 traffickers were arrested with an ivory tusk, pangolin scales and elephant bones in Cameroon



4 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon with 27 kg of ivory, one of them a Nigerian trafficker, a head of a large ivory trafficking ring, another one a corrupt gendarme at the Naval Brigade,

Summary

22 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 3 countries.

13 ivory traffickers were arrested in 4 operations in Gabon including a corrupt gendarme. 4 ivory traffickers were arrested at a coast town on the South of the country. First a Nigerian trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell 27 kg of ivory. As a head of a large ivory trafficking ring operating in coastal area he had been in a target of investigations for several months. He denounced three more criminals, including a corrupt gendarme at the Naval Brigade, who was providing poachers with ammunition. A logging company officer was arrested trafficking two tusks in the centre of the country. An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 ivory tusks, elephant hairs and leopard teeth. 3 traffickers were arrested with 2 ivory tusks, one of them Nigerian, in the East of the country. The Nigerian trafficker, well known to authorities as a long-term criminal, was arrested in a hotel room when he was waiting for his client. He quickly denounced two more traffickers involved in the case, they were arrested afterwards in their houses. 4 ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks in the North-East of the country. First of them, a notorious Nigerian trafficker, was arrested in the act with the contraband. After arriving to the police station, he denounced three other traffickers involved in the illegal activity.



3 traffickers were arrested with 35kg of pangolin scales at the East of Cameroon.

5 ivory traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in two operations. 4 traffickers were arrested with an ivory tusk, pangolin scales and elephant bones. They used motorbikes to transport the contraband as it is very flexible and easy to use for escape when

threatened. One of the traffickers has been known by the conservator of the reserve as a major target for arrest. An ivory trafficker was arrested with 7 ivory tusks and hippo teeth as he attempted to move the ivory from its hideout. He transported the contraband concealed inside a truck with cattle from the North where he bought the ivory to East of the country. The operation uncovers a new trafficking route with the opposite direction to that used by ivory traffickers generally. Usually ivory is trafficked from the South and East regions to the North where it crosses border to Nigeria that has not yet put in place strong wildlife law enforcement measures. But this time the ivory was trafficked from the North to the East. The trafficker also dealt in leopard and lion skins as well.

3 traffickers were arrested with 35kg of pangolin scales at the East of Cameroon. First two traffickers were arrested with a bag containing the pangolin scales and were taken to the gendarmerie brigade alongside two bikes they had used for transporting the contraband. The third one escaped leaving behind his bike. When he realized that the bike had been impounded, he arrived to the gendarmerie brigade to bribe for the release of the bike and was immediately arrested.

5 ivory traffickers, arrested in January 2018 in Congo, were prosecuted. 3 of them were sentenced to 3 years in jail, while the two others to 1.5 year suspended. 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in February 2018 in Congo, one of them former military officer, were prosecuted and sentenced to one year in jail both.



3 traffickers were arrested with 2 ivory tusks, one of them Nigerian, in Gabon

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 4 traffickers arrested with an ivory tusk, pangolin scales and elephant bones. They used motor-bikes to transport the contraband as it is very flexible and easy to use for escape when threatened. They were arrested shortly after they began negotiations to sell the contraband, originating from the Santchou wildlife reserve that has been depleted of its wildlife resources and now is in a very bad state. One of the traffickers has been known by the conservator of the reserve as a major target for arrest. He was very alert and attempted to escape when he realized the team was moving in for the operation.



An ivory trafficker was arrested with 7 ivory tusks and hippo teeth



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the gendarmerie brigade to bribe for the release of the bike and was immediately arrested. He had been collecting pangolin scales from surrounding villages and supplying to other traffickers from the big commercial centers of Yaoundé and Douala.

■ The Deputy Director held a meeting with Damaris Thompson of the International Narcotics and

Law Enforcement of the US State Department, to review wildlife trafficking and law enforcement efforts in the country. He also accompanied her during a visit to the Mvogbetsi Zoo.

- The head of investigation travelled to Togo to support investigations.

Action needed

- A letter to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife requesting for increased efforts to ensuring the colonel involved in the Djoum seizure of 216 ivory tusks be prosecuted according to law, and offence statement to be drawn against the colonel by Chief of Antenna.

Congo – PALF

- An ivory trafficker arrested in the North of the country with 2 ivory tusks, 5 elephant tails, hippo teeth and other contraband. He used his shop and practice of a traditional healer to cover his illegal activities, while he trafficked wildlife contraband as far as the major cities of the country and beyond the Congo border in Gabon.

- 5 ivory traffickers, arrested in January 2018, were prosecuted. 3 of them were sentenced to 3 years in jail, while the two others to 1.5 year suspended.

- 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in February 2018, one of them former military officer, were prosecuted and sentenced to one year in jail both.

- The PALF legal team followed up a case of a Chinese arrested with giant pangolin scales by wildlife officers of Odzala National Park. Two suppliers providing him with the scales were also arrested, the poacher who killed the pangolin is a teacher at a school supported by UNICEF.

- The Coordinator participated at a workshop drafting the Legislative Guide for the Fight against Wildlife and Floristic Crime at UNODC headquarters in Vienna.

- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with authorities, including the General Director of the Penitentiary Administration, the Administrative



and Legal Adviser of the MEF, the Ministry of Environment Wildlife Adviser on the MEF / WCS / TAF Consortium Protocol to discuss the pending signature, several Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests on the legal follow-up of the ongoing cases and the State Counsels in several departments.

Action needed:

- A letter to the Minister of Environment requesting a signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with PALF.
- A letter to the Minister of Justice requesting order to release all the cases blocked due to unwillingness of court magistrates to process them.

Gabon – AALF

■ 4 ivory traffickers including a corrupt gendarme arrested at a coast town on the South of the country. First a Nigerian trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell 27 kg of ivory. As a head of a large ivory trafficking ring operating in coastal area of South Gabon he had been in a target of investigations for several months. He was arrested while attempting to traffic a large amount of ivory, concealed in a box. He denounced three more criminals, including a corrupt gendarme at the Naval Brigade, who was providing poachers with ammunition. The two poachers, one of them from Mali, were arrested as well, and more ammunition was found during a house search.



4 ivory traffickers including a corrupt gendarme arrested at a coast town on the South of the country. The Nigerian head of the ring with the contraband

- A logging company officer arrested trafficking two tusks in the centre of the country. He has been trafficking ivory for months, and finally was arrested in the act with the ivory concealed in a bag.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 ivory tusks, elephant hairs and leopard teeth. He was arrested



3 traffickers arrested with 2 ivory tusks, one of them Nigerian, in the East of the country.



A logging company officer arrested trafficking two tusks in the centre of the country.

during an attempt to sell the contraband, which was concealed in his backpack. Later he admitted killing the elephant.

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 ivory tusks, one of them Nigerian, in the East of the country. The Nigerian trafficker, well known to authorities as a long-term criminal, was arrested in a hotel room when he was waiting for his client. He quickly denounced two more traffickers involved in the case, they were arrested afterwards in their houses.
- 4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the North-East of the country. First of them, a notorious Nigerian trafficker, was arrested in the act with the contraband. After arriving to the police station, he denounced three other traffickers involved in the illegal activity. They were arrested the same day.
- The coordinator travelled to to Congo and Central



4 ivory traffickers, one of them a notorious Nigerian trafficker, arrested with 4 tusks in the North-East of the country.

African Republic to meet with WWF, WCF, African Parks and UNFWS, where he discussed cooperation in fighting wildlife crime. He also spent several days in Brazzaville and to supported PALF project in management.

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

Action needed:

- A letter to the President and Ministers of Justice and Environment, requesting the initiation of a process to changing the Wildlife Law and to increase the maximum penalty of 6 months, which is one of the weakest in Africa.

Guinea – GALF

- GALF followed a case of leopard skin trafficker, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin at the end of March together with the head of hunter’s association and a conservator of a protected area. They were prosecuted this month. While the conservator received suspended sentence of 3 months, the two poachers were sentenced to one year in jail.
- The Legal team followed a case of a military arrested for trafficking a pelican, fully protected species. He was sentenced to 3 months in jail.

- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with Guinean officials, including the Governor, the State Counsel and the Regional Director of Water and Forests of Kankan.

Action needed:

- A letter to the Minister of Justice to request the acceleration of the procedure of adoption of the new code for the protection of wild fauna and regulation of hunting.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The head of investigation from LAGA travelled to Togo to support the investigations and to train investigators in new investigation methods.
- Jean-Claude Vignoli continued his mission in Togo to support the management of the team.

- The legal team held series of meetings with authorities in Dapaong region.

Action needed:

- A letter to the Minister of Environment requesting a signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between EAGLE Togo and the Ministry.

Senegal – SALF

- A legal adviser finished his test period and joined the team.
- 4 investigators and a new accountant continued their test period.
- A legal adviser travelled to Cameroon to undergo a training within EAGLE Network exchange program.

Action needed:

- A letter to the President of the Republic to grant an audience to SALF to obtain his understanding and support in the fight against the wildlife crime and to get his support for “zero tolerance” in prosecution of wildlife criminals.

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 in March. They intended to ship twenty-three jute bags containing pangolin scales from Nigeria with of total weight of 513 kg. The Chinese trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in jail, while the other traffickers were handed a suspended sentence.
- The coordinator held a series of meetings with Beninese authorities including the Director of the Customs School and others.

- The Coordinator participated in the Biodiversity Fair 2018 with the CBD Focal Point and the Directorate General of Waters, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC).

- 4 investigators continued their test period.

Action needed:

- A letter to the Minister of Justice asking to grant AALF-B an audience to discuss the obstacles in combating wildlife crime.

Ivory Coast – EAGLE Ivory Coast

- A mission by an international financial crime expert took place in order to develop money laundering charges for Tran Van Tu and other traffickers arrested in January. During this mission meetings were held with the UCT, the Justice system, the tax institution and the bankers association to analyze the current Ivorian situation and put the system in place for a judgment on money laundering to succeed for wildlife traffickers.

- 2 new investigators and one legal adviser continued their test period.

Actions needed:

- A letter to the minister of Justice asking for a maximum attention in the case of the Vietnamese trafficker and his accomplices to ensure a deterring prosecution.

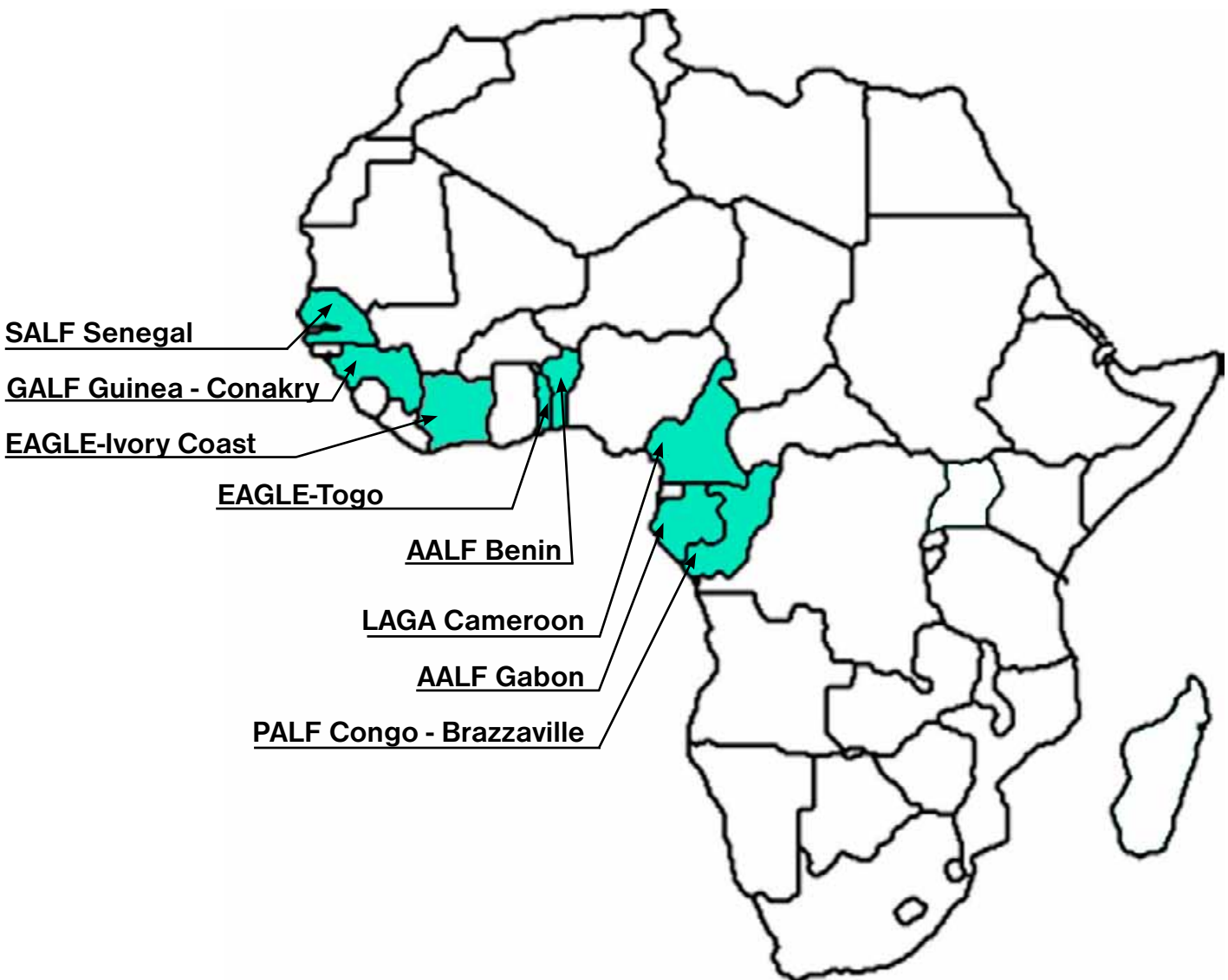
Headquarters

- Ofir Drori, the founding director, held a presentation on wildlife organized crime and corruption to the meeting of 60 members of African Parliaments and European Parliament in Rwanda. He highlighted the need for cooperation, to put spotlight on cases and raise it in the priorities of national agenda. The presentation was followed by a long and lively debate and several offers for cooperation.

- Luc Mathot travelled to to Congo and Central African Republic to meet with WWF, WCF, African Parks and UNFWS, where he discussed cooperation in fighting wildlife crime in the area of national parks on the Congo, CRA and Cameroon border. He also spent several days in Brazzaville and supported PALF project in management.

- Rebeca Sandoval, a Spanish activist based in Uganda, arrived to Nairobi for training.

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 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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