



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **13 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries**
- ✓ **Total of 18 traffickers sentenced to prison this month.**
- ✓ **Cameroon: 2 ape traffickers arrested with 4 gorilla skulls**
- ✓ **Gabon: 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks**
- ✓ **Guinea: 2 ape traffickers arrested and prosecuted, baby chimp rescued**
- ✓ **Benin: 2 traffickers arrested with 150 live Royal Pythons and pangolin scales**
- ✓ **The President of the Republic of Congo mentioned PALF in his opening speech at the ivory burning ceremony as an effective way of fighting against illegal wildlife trade**
- ✓ **EAGLE Network website launched**

Summary

13 significant wildlife traffickers were arrested during operations held in 4 countries this month. This is as low as about 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.

Ape trafficking investigation led to an arrest of 2 traffickers of a baby chimp in Guinea. Both of them were prosecuted within the same month and were sentenced to one year and 6 months in prison. 6 traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in 3 operations, two of them were trying to sell 4 gorilla skulls. 4 traffickers were arrested two weeks later in 2 back-to-back operations with 10 sea turtle shells. In Gabon 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 elephant tusks, weighing 16 kg. Successful arrest was carried in Benin, where 2 traffickers were caught with 150 pythons and pangolin scales. The Royal Pythons, fully protected species, will be released back to the wild.

Total of 18 traffickers were prosecuted within the Network and were given varying imprisonment sentences.

The EAGLE Network launched its new website – www.EAGLE-enforcement.org



4 traffickers of three different nationalities were arrested in Cameroon with 10 sea turtle shells.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 6 significant traffickers arrested this month.
- Crackdown operations against ape skull traffickers continued in the country when 2 were arrested in Yaounde for illegal trafficking in 4 gorilla skulls. They had travelled all the way from the South to the capital with the skulls hidden inside a travelling bag.
- 4 traffickers were arrested during 2 back-to-back operations in two coastal towns in South West, Cameroon. 10 sea turtle shells were seized from the traffickers. A Beninese and a Nigerian were among the 4 traffickers arrested. The Beninese and a Nigerian ganged up - the Beninese doing the sales upfront while the Nigerian spying to identify and alert his gang member of any suspicious activity.
- 2 traffickers were convicted and handed prison sentences each of one year imprisonment following their arrest last year for illegal possession and circulation of chimp and gorilla skulls. A third was convicted for the same offence and given a 6-month sentence.
- LAGA trained 4 activists from Congo, Chad and Togo within a newly energized EAGLE Network exchange program.



Among the 4 traffickers arrested in Cameroon were a Beninese and a Nigerian who ganged up, with the Beninese doing the sales upfront while the Nigerian was spying to identify and alert his gang member of any suspicious activity.



Hidden inside a travelling bag, four gorilla skulls were about to be sold in Cameroon's capital, Yaounde when the team surprised the two in a sting arrest.

New EAGLE Network website has been launched at www.EAGLE-enforcement.org. It brings not only fresh information about each new arrest and prosecution, but also summarizes all the information about the EAGLE Network principles, members, its activists. It also holds an archive of the EAGLE monthly briefings and will serve as a platform to increase transparency and post all project funding proposals and financial reports. At the same time new EAGLE Network Facebook profile and Twitter account were launched.



www.EAGLE-enforcement.org

Congo – PALF

- The cases of Francois Ikama, the biggest ivory trafficker in Congo, and his son Marien Ikama, were finely pushed to the court. The trafficker was arrested last month but escaped his arrest as his son, former Member of Parliament, violently intervened in the operation with his gang. The official incident report from the Gendarmerie qualifies this infraction as “rebellion”.
- Prosecution switched the case out to a different Chamber of the Court. To intensify the legal battles, PALF appointed a new lawyer for this case.
- Almost 5 tons of ivory were burned in Brazzaville at the occasion of the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa. PALF has been supporting this policy for more than two years and helped with the inventory process of seized ivory this year.
- The President of the Republic of Congo mentioned PALF in his opening speech as an effective way the country is fighting against illegal wildlife trade.
- Naftali Honig met in London with DLA Piper, a global law firm with lawyers located in more than 30 countries, and reached an agreement with them to provide voluntarily an analysis of the legislation regarding the marine environment in Africa. Chadian activist trained for EAGLE Replication within Congo.



Almost 5 tonnes of ivory was burned in Brazzaville. PALF team supported the act, and its team members guarded the ivory all the night long to protect it from being stolen.



Gabon – AALF

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested by the National Directorate of Documentation and Immigration, assisted by the ANPN and AALF. They were arrested red handed while conducting a sale of 2 tusks. The tusks were sawn to 6 pieces to be further illegally traded. One of these traffickers has been suspected for more than three years of being involved in the ivory trafficking as well as trading other totally protected species.
- A gun and ammunition trafficker arrested with 66 packages, each of 25 bullets. All together 1,650 cartridges were seized. He has been selling ammunitions illegally to many poachers for a long time.
- 13 traffickers were slammed jail sentences this month.
- 5 traffickers prosecuted this month for selling ivory, with sentences from 6 months to one year. The fines and damages awarded reach all together over 18,700 USD.
- 8 additional traffickers prosecuted for holding leopard skins, teeth and liver, and other totally protected species including heads of chimpanzee and

buffalo, and got varying sentences from 3 to 4 months.

- A Congolese national, arrested in February this year for illegal logging, was found guilty and sentenced to 2 months in prison, and ordered to pay of 3,400 USD as a fine.



2 ivory traffickers were arrested red handed

C.A.R – RALF

- RALF project is frozen because of security problems in the country, no veritable activity was

undertaken. This situation may continue for the next few months.

Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- 2 traffickers arrested in the act during their attempt to traffic a baby chimp. Two week earlier one of them killed the mother and kept the baby. The arrest was carried in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the Chimpanzee Conservation Centre (CCC). The baby was then transported to the sanctuary at CCC in Houte Niger National Park, where it will recover and later join other orphans, also victims to the pet trade.



2 traffickers were arrested and a chimp baby was saved in a sting operation

- These 2 traffickers were rapidly convicted by the Court of First Instance of Faranah. One sentenced to 6 months in prison and the other to 3 months in prison. On top of that they were ordered to pay damages of 1,400 USD.
- Joined control was carried at the Senegal-Guinean border with the rangers from the Niokolo Koba National Park (anti-poaching brigade), GALF and SALF
- During the peak of the Ebola epidemic, arrest of 4 wildlife traffickers with 2 tonnes of bushmeat mainly composed of primates, including chimpanzees and other species fully and partially protected by law, resulted in the good prosecution and a 3 years imprisonment term. This month GALF worked with the authorities to burn all this bushmeat publically and send a strong message about the health risks involved in handling or eating bushmeat.
- External relations have been intensified this month, with many authorities met - Governor of Labé region, Regional Environmental director of Labé region, Head of prefecture in Faranah, Conservator of the Upper Niger National park, Attorney from the Court of First Instance, Head of the border checkpoint, Conservator of the Badiar

National Park and CITES Focal Point. This will also strengthen cooperation for the legal monitoring of ongoing cases in Guinea.

- 20 media pieces were produced and put in the online press and private radio stations in a new media push.



2 tonnes of bushmeat mainly composed of primates, including chimpanzees and other species fully and partially protected by law, was burned .

Togo – TALFF

- 5 court cases were followed up by the project team this month. They include 5 charged with ivory trafficking, another with illegal trade in sea turtle shells (a totally protected species), and the last one with illegal logging. All remain behind bars.
- TALFF's chief investigator has been trained in LAGA Cameroon within a newly energized EAGLE exchange program.

SENEGAL - SALF

- SALF participated in training on wildlife crime and CITES of the internal security service of the French Embassy of CCAT team ("Cellule Central Anti Traffic"), the airport control unit including policemen, gendarmes and customs officers. Joint controls will be organized with SALF project on wildlife products at the airport.
- Trans-boundary missions and collaboration between Senegalese authorities (anti-poaching brigade of Niokolo Koba NP) on the one hand and SALF and GALF on other hand to control at the border focusing on an international network of dealers conducted.
- Support mission of Naftali Honig in Senegal was carried under the EAGLE Network exchange program.
- Meeting with UNODC regarding SALF and EAGLE Network was held to build external relations in an effort to increase wildlife penalties in Senegal.
- SALF coordinator met with deputy American Ambassador at US Embassy to establish contact, present the project and seek the support of the Embassy.



Caption: The team of trans-boundary mission and SALF and GALF at Niokolo Koba NP

- Recruitment process to get legal advisors and investigators continued while more candidates put on test.
- Activities focused in south Senegal contacting

prosecutor and other authorities to develop activities in the area, that is an important transit point for smuggling wildlife products between Guinea, Senegal and other countries.

Benin – AALF-B

- 2 traffickers arrested with 150 live Royal Pythons and pangolin scales following an investigation of international illegal trade in live protected wildlife. The pythons will be released back to the wild.
- Lawyers participated in two hearings in court of first instance in a trial against traffickers of turtles, live crocodiles and skins of totally protected animals, arrested in February; and traffickers of trophies and remains of protected animals, arrested in March.
- The legal adviser hold a meeting with Interpol, Commissioner of the Central Directorate of Judicial Police and others was held to prepare the successful arrest operation on Royal Pythons and pangolin scales traffickers.



2 traffickers arrested with 150 live pythons, which will be then released to the wild

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 4 court cases were followed up this month.
- NRCN Director & Prosecutor met with Deputy Director of Public Prosecution and they agreed on prosecuting the wildlife traffickers involved in tra-

fficking wildlife species of high financial value by the High Court of Uganda.

- A meeting with Uganda Wildlife Authority & NRCN investigators was held to harmonize the ongoing wildlife crime investigations.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori participated at an event in EU Parliament to push for an EU action plan to get stronger penalties on wildlife crime and better enforcement in Europe, working with the Born Free foundation team. Europe is lagging behind and is a haven for wildlife criminals, with the weakest laws and weakest enforcement.
- New EAGLE Network website was launched at www.eagle-enforcement.org. At the same time new EAGLE Network Facebook profile and Twitter account were launched.
- A temporary Network Financial Officer was appointed and is undergoing training.
- Naftali Honig visited EAGLE Network Coordination Unit in Nairobi to meet with the newly appointed members of the CCU to support their induction process. He also conducted a support mission in Senegal under the EAGLE exchanges program

International Media Coverage

- Guinea arrest operation of two ape traffickers in UK Daily Mail. An orphaned baby chimp is rescued after she was found in a tiny wooden box cowering from animal traffickers who had killed her mother.
[Link to the article in Daily Mail](#)
- PALF mentioned in an article on elephants poaching and trafficking in The New Yorker. “The poacher isn’t the real problem,” Naftali Honig told. “It’s the person organizing the poaching—the district-level executive. The problem is the organized, illicit extraction of natural resources.”
[Link to the article in The New Yorker](#)
- An article mentioning PALF on Africa Geographic critically looking at the role of NGOs in stopping the slaughter of African elephants. PALF is presented as the good example of those, who are “busting their guts trying to expose the corruption inherent in wildlife poaching and trafficking.”
[Link to the article in Africa Geographic](#)
- An interview with Ofir Drori in the EU parliament on the urgent need to get serious penalties for wildlife crime in Europe and basic enforcement efforts, in Eureporter
[Link to the article in Eureporter](#)

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: 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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