



Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **24 major traffickers arrested this month**
- ✓ **Cameroon arrest of the head of a local hunting association exposes links between legal hunting and illegal trade.**
- ✓ **Lawyer of Ministry of Forest arrested in Congo trafficking a leopard skin.**
- ✓ **More than 200 Kg of ivory seized from arrested traffickers this month**

Summary

This month was marked by good arrest operations in most of the network's country members with 23 wildlife traffickers and one illegal logger arrested. Arrest operations took place in Cameroon, Togo, Guinea, Gabon and Congo. In Cameroon 3 operations led to the arrest of 6 traffickers including one major ivory trafficker that is a president of a hunters' association, alongside 2 others with a variety of wildlife contraband and two ape skull traffickers, while in Togo 5 traffickers were arrested during two separate operations involving the trafficking of ivory, sea turtle shells and crocodile skins. In Guinea an operation led to the arrest of 2 traffickers over the illegal possession of tortoises, python skins and crocodiles. In Gabon, an illegal logger was arrested while 5 others were arrested trading ivory. In Congo, 4 were arrested for ivory trafficking and a

lawyer of the Ministry of Forest was arrested for illegal possession of a leopard skin.

Several deterring sentences were handed to wildlife traffickers including a one and a half year prison sentence to a notorious African grey parrot trafficker in Cameroon.

Trafficker arrested in Guinea with 60 tortoises, 6 python skins and 4 crocodiles



Cameroon – LAGA

- Two ape skull traffickers were arrested in possession of 3 gorilla and one chimpanzee skull in Djoum – South. One of the traffickers is a high profile ape trafficker belonging to a large illegal network
- A major ivory trafficker was arrested in Djoum, South with 18 raw elephant tusks. The dealer belongs to a notorious and high profile network involved in ivory trafficking. He works in partnership with another big ivory trafficker who coordinates all ivory transactions carried out with the arrested trafficker. He buys these ivory tusks from Mintom, South and transports them to Yaounde, Centre. LAGA follows up the case.
- Three traffickers arrested with giant pangolin meat, scales and a colobus monkey in Ngambe Tikar in the Central region. One of the traffickers is the president of the local hunters association who has been generating large scale killing of wildlife for over 9 years. The use of legal hunting activities to launder large scale illegal trade is common. In March 2014 he was found poaching and trading by a National Control Brigade team from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, but was never charged with any offence, and suspiciously set free. The activities of the three were known by many to be illegal but wildlife officials chose not to arrest them for either corruption or complicity reasons.
- The Director and the Deputy Director of EAGLE Network held meetings with the American Amb-

sador, European Union officials and the donor body CCPM. The meetings discussed issues pertaining to wildlife law enforcement and corruption.

- One of LAGA's legal advisers, Ekane Anoah, has become a barrister. This is a big boost to LAGA's capacity to fight wildlife crime.



President of a hunters association and two others arrested for wildlife trafficking in Cameroon.

He was arrested by wildlife officials as he transported 18 ivory tusks from the South. He is known to belong to an important ivory trafficking network operation from the South of Cameroon



Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers were arrested in Brazzaville with 126 kg ivory . representing a snapshot of 30 elephants killed just for this shipment alone. In an unprecedented show of support to the application of the wildlife law the US Ambassador, Stephanie Sullivan, visited the gendarmerie, where the traffickers were held.
- 2 elephant poachers were arrested in Sangha.
- After a year of fighting incompetence and corruption in the Brazzaville Court, finally the first court case was pushed into hearing. Ongoing efforts are underway concerning disappearance of ivory from this court.
- A Ministry of Forestry lawyer was arrested in the airport for trafficking a leopard skin. Undue pressure, and trafficking in influence were observed as fight continues to bring this case to justice.



US Ambassador Stephanie Sullivan visits the Gendarmerie where 126 kg of ivory was seized in Brazzaville.

Gabon – AALF

- Arrest of five ivory traffickers, a gang of different nationalities, at Mouila and Mandji, with 10 tusks. A vehicle used for cross border trafficking was seized.
- An operation was carried out on January 22, at Koulamoutou, resulting in the arrest of an illegal logger.
- Follow-up of the case on 21 tusks and 9 ivory pieces totalling 110 kg that was seized on December 26, 2014 in Yen, a village in the Ogooué-Ivindo province, by the gendarmerie.
- On January 19, a mission was carried out in the Nkang village to observe the nature of logging that had commenced. The villagers had solicited the SGPTB company. Logging started through industrial methods, contrary to the principle of community forests.
- Investigations were carried out in the Ngounié province where large scale ongoing activity of private individual illegally log and the presence of logging companies.
- Training of judicial police officers at Makokou and

at Franceville on international wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, and legislation.

- The legal adviser based in Koulamoutou participated meetings of the committee in charge of monitoring community management of the Badja and Mayicka village groupings. This committee, chaired by the prefect, is charged with en-

forcing the provisions of Order 251 governing company responsibilities and specifications.

10 ivory tusks seized from 5 traffickers who were arrested.



Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- A joint operation with National bureau of Interpol, GALF and the Water and Forests department led to the arrest of two traffickers in Conakry with 60 tortoises, 6 python skins and 4 crocodiles (totally protected wildlife species by the Guinean law).
- GALF participated in UNODC training and ex-

change workshop on corruption and the application of the wildlife law in Guinea with stakeholders involved in the process including the police, the gendarmerie, justice and environment departments.

- 13 media pieces were published and broadcast.



60 tortoises were seized from two traffickers who were arrested after a crackdown operation by a joint team comprising Interpol, wildlife officials and GALF.



one of two traffickers arrested for illegal possession, circulation and commercialisation of 60 tortoises, 6 python skins and 4 crocodiles in Conakry.

Togo – TALFF

- Four traffickers arrested with 11 sea turtles shells. Operation took place on January 31st with the Central Office for Repression of Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Laundering.
- Seizure of 35.22 kg of ivory and 4.58 kg of crocodile skin in an ivory workshop in Lomé. The trafficker escaped before police officers arrived, an



Four men were arrested with strictly protected species including sea turtle shells



Ivory seized from traffickers who are on the run, man hunt to get the fugitives.

accomplice was arrested. Investigations are ongoing to arrest the main offender.

- A seminar was held targeting stakeholders who control poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife species and timber in the Central Region of Togo. 70 different participants drawn from the forest brigade, the Gendarmerie and also including eco-guards, magistrates and public prosecutors, prefects, traditional leaders and villages' development committees members, representatives of media houses and experts coming from 3 African countries attended.
- Meetings were held with the EU, France and US Embassies.

SENEGAL - SALF

- Investigations into parrots, ivory, shark fin trafficking in Dakar and identification of new traffickers.
- Legal follow-up of the case against the traffickers of Nigerien nationality arrested with 2,753 wildlife products by ensuring that the appeal and judgment report are done and forwarded rapidly to the Appeal Court.
- Recruitment of an expatriate financial assistant for the WARA projects (GALF and SALF)
- Coordinator of the Benin project arrived to Guinea for a 4 weeks mission to build the team and organize control systems.

C.A.R – RALF

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

undertaken. This situation may continue for the next couple of months.

Benin – AALF-B

- Recruitment and training of investigators took place.
- An accountant for the project was recruited.
- The Director of Nature Tropical assisted the Togo EAGLE project in training and exchanged ideas about the replication process.
- Meetings were held including a police commissioner and the head of the Interpol national bureau.
- Coordinator left for a 4 weeks mission in Guinea for exchange and transfer of experience.



Days of "Open door" on the results of the programme "Ecosystem Alliance" in Benin.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori conducted missions in Cameroon and Togo to assist in reorganizing, improving and training in replications.
- Naftali Honig begun training of a Chadian activist for possible EAGLE Replication in Chad started.

His mission was to improve wildlife law enforcement in the country. Between heavily armed poacher squads around the borders of Cameroon and CAR and traffickers in the main cities, Chad is a priority for EAGLE work.

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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