



# Wildlife Law

# Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **Cameroon: 24 traffickers behind bars, arrest of 3 ape traffickers with 13 ape skulls**
- ✓ **Congo: 7 traffickers were arrested during operations that included an army Lieutenant, another military man and a Customs official**
- ✓ **Gabon: 3 arrested for ivory trafficking and 2 arrested for shark fin trafficking**
- ✓ **Guinea: 6 traffickers were arrested in two bushmeat operations, an emphasis for the Ebola stricken nation**
- ✓ **Recruitment for new EAGLE Central Coordination Unit has started**

## Summary

This month was marked by good arrest operations in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Togo, putting 24 traffickers behind bars. In Cameroon, 3 successful arrest operations were carried leading to the arrest of 3 ape traffickers with 13 ape skulls. In Congo, 7 traffickers were arrested during operations that included an army Lieutenant, another military man and a Customs official, arrested in an unprecedented achievement in the fight against complicity and corruption. In Gabon, 3 were arrested for ivory trafficking and 2 arrested for shark fin trafficking. In Guinea 6 traffickers were arrested in two bushmeat operations, an emphasis for the Ebola stricken nation. In Togo 2 were arrested for illegal timber exploitation.

Prosecutions were also obtained. In Cameroon, one trafficker was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment while in Gabon 2 were given prison sentences ranging from 2 months to 5 months for trafficking wildlife products among which was a leopard skin. 5 traffickers were given varying imprisonment terms in Senegal for trafficking in thousands of skins. Appeal succeeded in Gabon turning a suspended sentence into an imprisonment term.

Recruitment for new EAGLE Central Coordination Unit has started. Funding has been secured for the building of the EAGLE structure.



*Tons of bushmeat seized and 4 traffickers arrested in Guinea where the government has issued a ban on bushmeat consumption and commercialisation following the Ebola virus that has killed over 1,300 people in the country*

# Cameroon – LAGA

- Following an investigation into ape trafficking, a specialized ape parts trafficker got arrested in Yaounde after travelling from the South attempting to sell 4 gorilla skulls.
- A trafficker specialized in ape parts got arrested in Ma'an, South Region, with 8 chimp skulls and one gorilla skull. He has evaded justice in the past with ineffective enforcement actions in the area. He used his bike for his trafficking activities. The closeness of these activities to the Ma'an National Park is an additional importance for his arrest.
- A chimp killer was arrested in Belabo East for shooting, butchering and selling the remains of Moon - an orphaned chimpanzee taken care of by the Sanaga Yong Sanctuary. The killer of the orphaned baby chimp that arrived Sanaga Yong sanctuary of IDA together with Future and other baby survivors of the slaughter of their families twelve years ago was under an arrest warrant issued against him 3 months ago. The story of Moon is told in Sheri Speede's book Kindred Beings.

*Moon, the celebrated orphaned chimp described in Sheri Speede's Kindred Beings shot, killed, butchered and sold by the man below in Cameroon*



*Arrested while trying to sell 1 gorilla skull and 8 chimpanzee skulls in a town close to a National Park in South Cameroon*



## Congo – PALF

- 5 traffickers arrested in Brazzaville with elephant meat, other protected species and a pistol. An army Lieutenant, another military man and a Customs official, along with two civilians were locked in an unprecedented achievement in the fight against complicity and corruption.



*Live parrot on piles of elephant meat seized in arrest of 5 traffickers in Congo*



*Two arrested in Gabon for ivory and leopard skin trafficking (right)*

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Pointe-Noire with 7 kg of carved ivory.

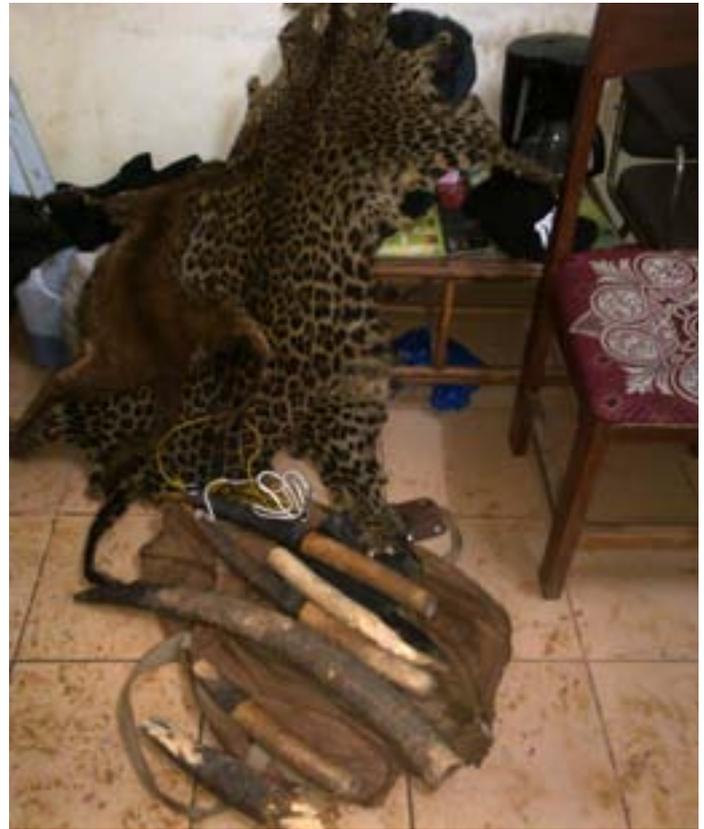
## Gabon – AALF

- Arrest of two Nigerians trafficking shark fins in Port-Gentil. They were stopped in the airport with about 80 kg of shark fins.
- Arrest of 2 wildlife traffickers in Oyem with 6 ivory tusks, a leopard skin and an African golden cat.
- Arrest of an ivory trafficker in Libreville with 8 ivory tusks.
- Court ruling in Makokou against NGANDABAKA Constant who was convicted for poaching, detention and attempts at commercialising products from totally protected wildlife species and given a 2-month jail term. Follow up on the arrest of a woman for illegal logging in Okok following a mission to the field by the Bitam state prosecutor and the Provincial Director of Water and Forests.



*Shark fins, confiscated in Gabon*

- Appeal succeeded against ruling on the Bondouaboka case initially convicted and ordered to pay \$400 and a one-month suspended sentence. Appeal court found him guilty and sentenced him to 5 months imprisonment.
- Several cases were followed up in five locations through the Conservation Justice antennas.
- Several missions were carried out in Haut-Ogooue and in Bitam.



*Ivory, leopard and African golden cat skins, 2 arrested.*

## Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- Bushmeat trafficker arrested in Kindia.
- 5 traffickers arrested in another operation carried



- out in Labe seizing 1,855 kg of bushmeat, against the backdrop of Government's ban on the consumption and commercialisation of bushmeat following the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic that has caused the death of 1,300 people in Guinea.
- Prosecution and sentencing of Kindia bushmeat trafficker to 3-months imprisonment and additional 2 months suspended sentence.
- Media campaign on the link between Ebola and bushmeat using the effective arrests of this month.
- Activities are limited due to Ebola outbreak.

*Tons of bushmeat seized and 4 traffickers arrested in Guinea where the government has issued a ban on bushmeat consumption and commercialisation following the Ebola virus that has killed over 1,300 people in the country*

## Togo – TALFF

- 2 arrested for illegal timber exploitation.
- Legal follow-up on three ivory cases.
- The investigation department carried out 3 investigations on illegal timber.

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## 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.

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## SENEGAL - SALF

- Investigations on parrot and ivory trafficking in Dakar
- Identification of new traffickers
- Legal follow-up in the matter concerning the arrest of Niger nationals and the seizure of 2,753 wildlife skins and other wildlife products. Traffickers were sentenced to 3 months and 2 months imprisonment with fines and damages totalling \$4000. Appeal against this ruling has been done.
- Meetings were held with officials from the Justice and Environment Ministries and also in Embassies and security officials.
- Participation and presentation of the EAGLE network by the Coordinator of GALF and SALF during a regional workshop organised by UNTOC on the theme Investigating and Reporting Crime and Corruption.

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## Benin – AALF-B

- Court ruling against a trafficker who was given an imprisonment term of 6 months and ordered to pay damages of \$1400.
- Legal follow-up of the case against Nankahounde Donatien, a wildlife trafficker.
- Delegation to Dassa to assist in the burial of an investigator who died on October.
- Analyses of the recruitment files of over 30 applicants for the post of investigators and interviewing over 10 of them and training of 3 who were retained.



*Trafficker arrested with 3 leopard skins, 5 Boa skins and pangolin scales!*

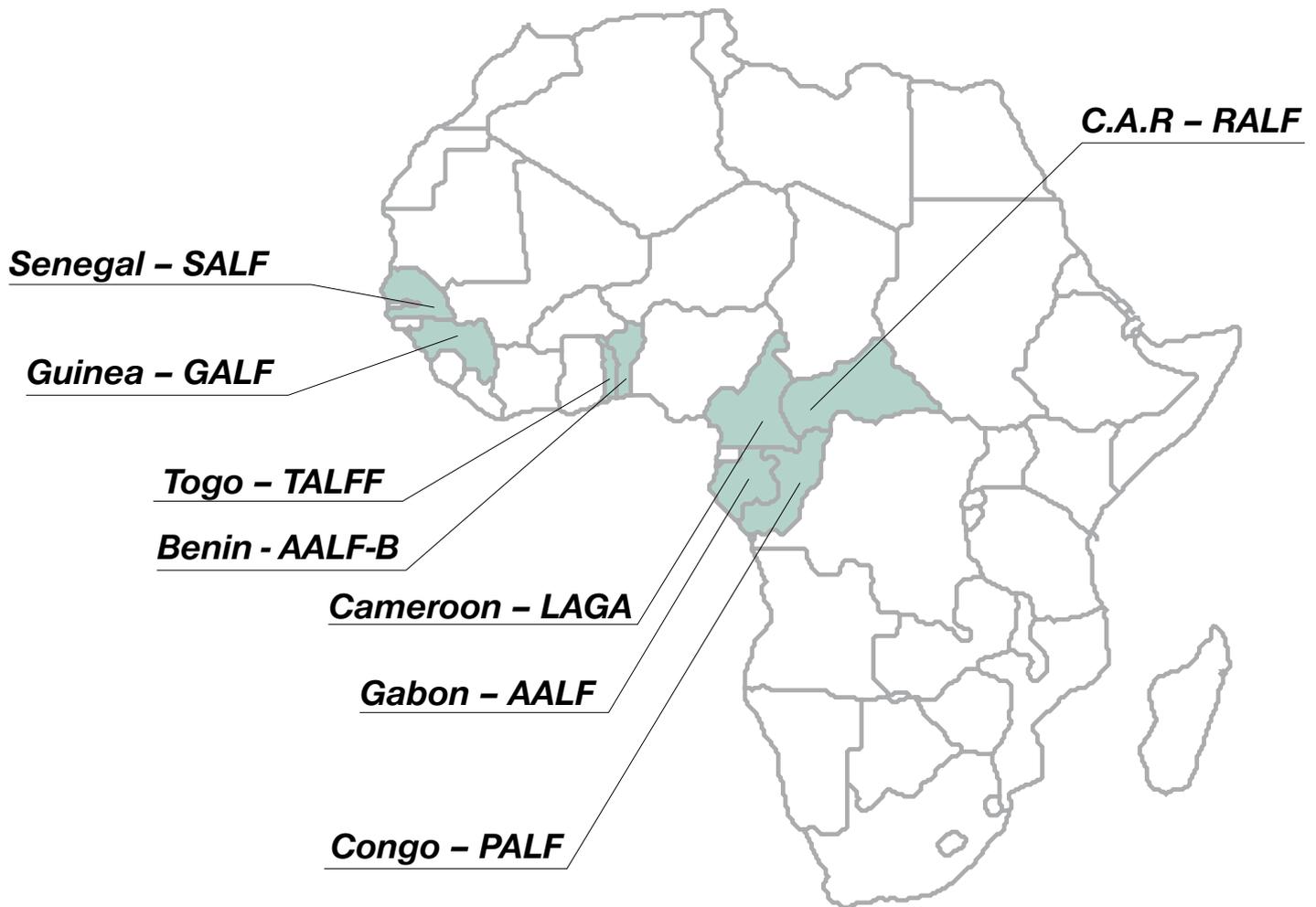
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## Headquarters

- Recruitment for new EAGLE Central Coordination Unit has started.
- Funding has been secured for the building of the EAGLE structure.
- Communication strategy in application.

# International Media Coverage

Africa Geographic coverage of PALF's sniffer dogs in operation - <http://africageographic.com/blog/dogs-save-african-greys-in-congo/>



## 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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