



Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **Cameroon: 8 traffickers arrested in 5 operations, International ape trafficking exposed**
- ✓ **Congo: 3 ivory traffickers arrested, 2 leopard skin traffickers behind bars**
- ✓ **Gabon: 4 ivory traffickers arrested, one leopard skins trafficker behind bars**
- ✓ **Senegal: 5 traffickers arrested in a crackdown on an international skins trade center seizing 2,753 animal parts.**
- ✓ **EAGLE Founding Directors met in Nairobi to kickstart the network**

Summary

This month was marked by good arrest operations in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and Senegal. In Cameroon, 5 successful arrest operations were carried leading to the arrest of 8 traffickers while uncovering a network of chimpanzee heads and limbs trafficking to Nigeria with two arrested. In Congo, two were arrested for leopard skin trafficking and three others for ivory trafficking. In Gabon, 4 were arrested for ivory trafficking and one leopard skin trafficker was also arrested. In Senegal two unprecedented operations carried out saw the seizure of 2,753 wildlife products with 5 traffickers arrested in skin trade crackdown.

Prosecutions were also obtained. In Cameroon, four court rulings were passed and two traffickers sentenced to one year in prison. The two were arrested for illegal possession and commercialization of 10 elephant skulls and 2 gorilla jawbones. Three

others were convicted and ordered to pay fines and damages ranging from \$10,000 to \$18,000. Strong prison sentences were handed down in Ouessou in Congo. Legal follow-up of cases on trial were carried by

some of the projects including LAGA, AALF, PALF, TALF, SALF and GALF.

The three EAGLE Founding Directors met to finalize the key documents setting up the EAGLE Network, and set in motion fundraising, recruitment, and communication strategies.



Cameroon – LAGA

■ An operation carried out in Ambam, South saw the arrest of two traffickers including a woman with 5 chimpanzee skulls, 1 gorilla skull and 1 buffalo horn –The man uses the cover of a cocoa beans dealer to access poachers around the area and

also to hide his illegal wildlife activity. He focuses in Meyo Centre that has a vibrant illegal wildlife trade but his activity goes as far as the Campo Ma'an National Park.



Baby chimp rescued and network of chimp heads and limbs trafficking to Nigeria uncovered. Two were arrested (above) - LAGA

- 3 traffickers arrested in Sangmelima, South during an operation with the seizure of 2 chimpanzee skulls, 1 wild hog skull, 3 elephant knee bones, 1 jawbone, 7 tibia bones, 3 teeth, 3 radius bones, 1 skull and 11 other elephant parts. One of the main suspects is also known to be an elephant poacher and had earlier narrowly escaped arrest at a check point mounted by wildlife officials.
- 1 major trafficker was arrested Batouri, East and 5 gorilla skulls, 7 chimpanzee skulls, an elephant molar, 1 gorilla jawbone and 100 kg of giant pangolin scales seized. He is the leading trafficker in Mbang Subdivision of the East Region, owns a bike to transport his products and wildlife officials had earlier arrested but curiously enough was released without any charges brought against him.
- 1 big trafficker arrested with 1 chimpanzee head and 4 hands, 3 elephant skins, 6 molars and 8 fingernails – Bertoua, East while illegally trying to trade in them. He is known to be a seasoned professional wildlife trafficker around the area where he owns a network of poachers who kill wildlife including elephants for him after provision of ammunition to the poachers. He violently resisted arrest and attacked the gendarmerie officers who were carrying out the arrest operations.
- A network of cross-border trafficking of chimp heads and limbs to Nigeria uncovered with 2 major traffickers arrested in Magba, West. 7 chimpanzee heads, 30 chimpanzee hands, 4 kg of giant pangolin scales seized while a 6-month old baby chimp rescued and taken to Mefou National Park.. They are actively engaged in the cross-border trade in chimp parts as they are major suppliers of these parts to Nigerians who easily cross

the border to Cameroon. They are seasoned professional traffickers and travel as far as Yaounde to supply illegal wildlife products to clients.

- 4 court judgements were obtained this month and 2 traffickers received a one-year imprisonment term and ordered to pay fines and damages of \$34 000 and three others were convicted by the Courts of First Instance in Mfou and Bafoussam. The first court ordered the payment of a combined amount of \$18 000 representing damages, fines and cost fees by Liu Julong, a Chinese national arrested at Nsimalen Airport for giant pangolin scales, 4 elephant tusks and 25 pieces of ivory trafficking while the Bafoussam court slammed a fine of \$10 000 to Mabou Benjamin for illegal possession and commercialisation of 2 leopard skins.
- Several meetings were held and included meetings with the former Director of Garoua Wildlife School, Dirck Byler, head of the Africa programme at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, officials of the WCS Ebo Forest Research Programme, the Technical Director of the Deng Deng National Park and MINFOF officials of the South Region
- The Head of the Legal Department travelled to Senegal to assist in the realisation of 2 major operations leading to the arrest and detention of 5 wildlife traffickers with 2,753 wildlife products seized.



These two traffickers got one year in prison by the court and also ordered to pay more than \$35,000 in damages in Cameroon and seven chimps heads for cross-border trafficking with Nigeria - LAGA.

Action needed:

- Letter to the Minister – MINFOF and MINJUSTICE requesting for full application of the law concerning the uncovering of a network of cross-border traffickers with Nigeria in the West Region.

Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested in Brazzaville for trafficking a leopard skin
- 3 traffickers arrested in Pointe-Noire for trafficking ivory, tinted to make it look old
- Trials attended in Ouessou – 2 strong sentences of

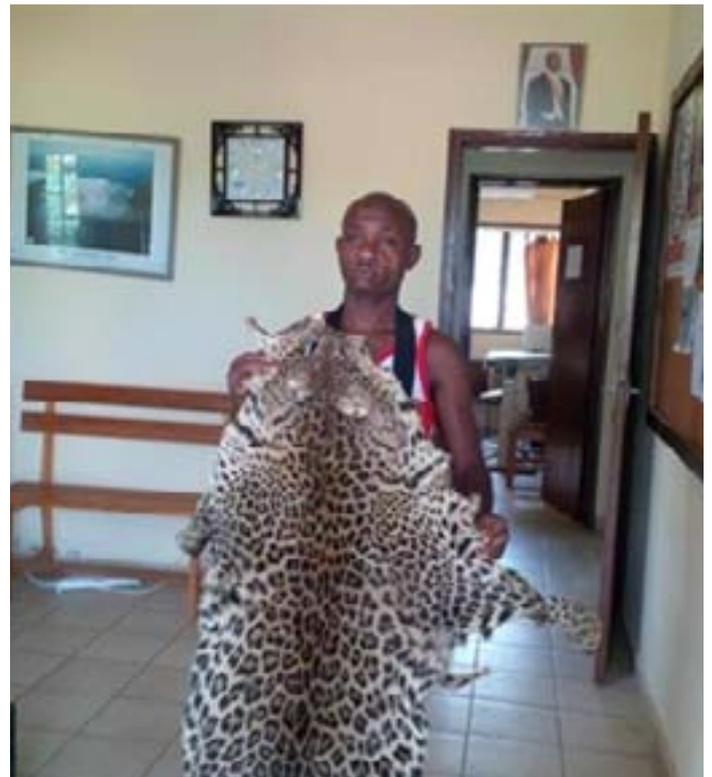
prison handed down by the Ouessou court to ivory traffickers to each serve 3 years in jail.

Action needed:

- None

Gabon – AALF

- Arrest of 4 wildlife traffickers for illegal possession of 4 leopard skins in Mitzié – Woleu Ntem.
- Arrest of two for illegal logging in Bibass
- An operation carried out some kilometres from Makokou led to the arrest of a trafficker for illegal commercialisation of leopard skin.
- The continued legal follow-up of the case against Bondouabouka Kevin arrested for illegal possession of ivory and sentenced on August 13 to a one-month suspended sentence and a fine of \$400 and ruling appealed against while accused held in detention. Another matter involving three suspects arrested for illegal possession of guns, ammunition, 4 leopard teeth and an elephant tail was followed up.
- Legal-follow-up of an illegal logging case in Libreville
- Assisted in control missions in some logging companies including Taurian resources Gabon and OEB in Okondja, Haut-Ongoué
- Two jurists participated in the marking of stocked ivory by the anti-poaching department and another marking operation is has been programmed by the national parks agency with whom the Libreville branch have maintained good relations .
- Withdrawal by the Provincial Direction to be served to the convicted, the court ruling on the Yap Chon Affaire. He was convicted and ordered to pay \$20 000.
- Several meetings were held with many officials including the Governor of the Ogooué-Maritime; the Advocate General of the Appeal Court in Franceville; the Examining Judge in Franceville; the Brigade Commander in Libreville; Port-Gentil; Oyem; Franceville; Lambarene, Makolou, Moilla, Koulamoutou, Mimongo, Mandji, the Presidents of the Courts of First Instance in Franceville, Port-



Arrested for trafficking in leopard skin near Makokou Gabon – AALF

-Gentil, Makokou and Moilla, the Director General of Water and Forestry, the Provincial Directors of Franceville, Libreville, Port Gentil, Oyem, Makokou, Koulamoutou, Mouilla, Lambarene, the Director of ANPN and the Director of LCB. Meetings concerning logging activities were held with the Governor of the Ogooué Maritime province; the Prefects of Mandji and Mimongo, the Mayors of Mandji and Mimongo; The Advocate General at Court of Appeal in Franceville, the Examining Judge in Franceville et State Prosecutors et Heads of Antennas the Judicial Police, DGR, Brigade Commanders in Libreville, Port-Gentil, Oyem, Franceville, Lambaréné, Makokou, Mouilla, Koulamoutou, Mimongo, Mandji; The President of the Franceville

Court of Appeal, Port-Gentil, Makokou, et Mouila; The Director General of Water and Forests; Provincial Directors at Franceville, Libreville, Port-Gentil, Oyem, Makokou, Koulamoutou, Mouila, Lambaréné ; Directeur technique ANPN ; Directeur LCB.

Action needed:

- Weak sentences are undermining wildlife law enforcement in the country and letter to Justice Minister to call on appropriate sentences to wildlife law defaulters.

Guinea – Conakry – GALF

- Investigations on bushmeat, bird and manatee trafficking were carried out in Kindia and Faranah around the Parc National du Haut Niger.
- Legal follow-up of the two cases, the first related to rhinoceros trafficking by a Chinese national. Examination of the file has been carried out by the examining judge and file forwarded to the state counsel
- Follow-up of the case against Ousmane Diallo arrested for chimpanzee trafficking.
- Several meetings were held with wildlife officials and included a meeting with the CITES focal point to discuss preparations on the holding of a workshop on CITES and Wildlife Crime, a meeting

with the Director of Guinean Parks and Reserves Office on wildlife trafficking, a meeting with the States prosecutor's substitute in Kaloum and Kindia on the plans to do effective wildlife law enforcement operations with emphasis on the planning of an operation in Kindia. A meeting with the wildlife crime focal point was also held to discuss these issues.

- Activities are limited by Ebola outbreak.

Action needed:

- Letter to Minister of Justice requesting for respect of legal procedures and justice on the Chinese case that seems not to be on the right track.

Togo – TALFF

- Legal follow-up of Dihn Huu Khao case (ivory case) in Lomé
- The investigation department carried out several investigation missions at the Malfakassa National Park with the ultimate purpose to arrest illegal wood traffickers. These missions led to the arrest of 3 traffickers with an important quantity of illegal wood.
- Follow up of two illegal wood case in Bassar .
- Holding of several meetings with drug repression office (OCRTIDB), the Director of Cabinet and the Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Resources, the Charge de missions of the Programme de Petites Initiatives (PPI) and the French Ambassador.

Action needed:

- Letter to Minister of Justice requesting for the revision of Ordinance No. 4 of 16th January 1968 and the law N°2008 to replace very weak penalties with stiffer punishments.
- Letter to the Minister of Environment to request for the Wildlife Crime Board to be rendered active since it was set up a year ago, it has not been functional and in the letter, equally request for budget allocations, office and equipment to accompany administrative support for the board. .

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.

SENEGAL - SALF

- Two operations carried out in Dakar saw the arrest of 5 international traffickers and the dismantling of a network covering many countries on the continent. Several leopard skins, lion canine teeth and skins, vulture wings, antelope, jackal, python, crocodile, leopard, serval and hyena skins, baboon heads and skins, primate skins, duiker skulls, turtle shells, and savannah monitor skins in what constituted a haul of 2,753 wildlife products including a live hedgehog. Some of the countries under the span of the network include Kenya, Guinea Conakry, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Congo. During the operations parts of 12 lions were seized and the lion is estimated at just 250 left in the West African sub-region and this represent just 4 % of the 1940s population. Investigations show the dealers were waiting for more lion parts
- Several meetings held with judicial, wildlife law enforcement officials and the police in Dakar



Several lion skins seized amidst thousands of other skins and wildlife parts from five traffickers arrested in Dakar Senegal - SALF



Action needed:

- Letter of congratulation to the Minister in charge of wildlife and to that in charge of Justice for the successful operation recommending their efforts and soliciting more operations in the near future while calling for effective application of the law during the prosecution of the five dealers.

Benin – AALF-B

- AALF-B coordinator, Perrine Odier, takes up office in Cotonou
- First ever court ruling against wildlife traffickers obtained when a court slammed a 3-year jail term to five traffickers, arrested near the Pendjari National Park in Northern Benin for illegal possession of protected wildlife species.
- Weak sentence of 2 ivory traffickers who were given 4 months jail term appealed and legal-follow-up is ongoing.
- AALF-Benin coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of the Environment to establish contact, discuss recent court rulings and the appealed lodged against the weak sentence
- AALF-Benin coordinator held meeting with top Justice official to discuss recent successful court ruling and on the possibilities of sensitizing the judiciary

on wildlife law and its enforcement with the target being state prosecutors, judges and lawyers

- AALF-Benin coordinator met the Interpol Chief and discussed issues related to arrest procedures, the role of the forestry department, the police and the AALF-B jurist focused on writing of the offence statements.
- AALF-Benin coordinator met the Director General of the Forestry and Natural Resources Department and discussed issues related to their collaboration, training on legal proceedings, the lack of severity in the case against the two ivory traffickers.

Action needed:

- Letter to Justice and Environment Minister complaining about the weak decision against the two ivory traffickers.

Headquarters

- The three EAGLE Directors met in Nairobi Kenya.
- Key documents were finalized - EAGLE Membership Agreement, EAGLE, EAGLE Standard Project Proposal, EAGLE Reporting and Verification Procedures, EAGLE Membership Support System & Replication Protocol, EAGLE Enforcement Model, EAGLE Network Organizational Structure, EAGLE Personnel Positions & Structure, Replication Potential Assessment.
- Fundraising strategy was put in motion to secure 2015 funding for the Network.
- Recruitment Strategy was put in motion for setting up the Central Coordination Unit and producing more project coordinators.
- Communication strategy was put in motion to set up an EAGLE website and increase visibility.

International Media Coverage

French-based Le Point carries story on the arrest of 5 traffickers in Senegal with over 2,500 wildlife products while Africa Geographic carries story also. See links below

http://www.lepoint.fr/environnement/dakar-des-milliers-de-peaux-de-lions-de-leopards-et-de-hyenes-saisies-04-11-2014-1878742_1927.php

<http://africageographic.com/blog/remains-of-12-lions-found-in-senegal-crackdown/>

British-based Express and the Mirror report on the uncovering of a chimp heads and limbs trafficking

network close to the border with Nigeria. 2 were arrested during operation. See link below

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/530956/Chimpanzee-baby-dead-ape-trafficking>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/see-horrifying-moment-baby-chimpanzee-4566197>

Kenya Airways Magazine sheds light on one of the founding Directors of EAGLE. See link below

<http://www.msafirimag.com/habari/wildlife-hero/>

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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