



ZERO IMPUNITY IN WILDLIFE CRIMINALITY

ACTIVITY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2008

Highlights

- The **Project Coordinator** of PALF arrives in the Republic of Congo.
- **Effective kick-off** of PALF activities in the Republic of Congo.
- **6 operations** carried out against **7 dealers**.
- A dealer **arrested** with a **gorilla hand** and products of other endangered wildlife species.

General

This month is marked by the effective kick-off of PALF activities in the Republic of Congo.

A **senior official of LAGA-Cameroon** arrived the Republic of Congo to coordinate the activities of PALF and charged with transferring Cameroon government's globally acclaimed wildlife law enforcement experience to Congolese wildlife law enforcement authorities. This followed a **special mission carried out by the Director of LAGA** in April to the Republic of Congo. The mission was very successful and was geared at igniting law enforcement through precedence and creating a structure to sustain effective law enforcement at the request of the government. It was carried out at 3 levels:

1. Political
2. Structural
3. Operational

The newly arrived PALF Coordinator following this model has held meetings with Ministry officials, Judiciary, Forces of Law and Order, Embassies, International bodies etc. At the operational level, **6 operations** have so far been carried out against **7 dealers**. In one of the operations, the dealer had a **gorilla hand**, products and parts of other endangered wildlife species.

In another operation a well-known ivory trafficker of **Senegalese nationality** was arrested trying to illegally trade in 45 pieces of ivory. He has been in the republic of Congo since 1982 and was arrested in the Plateau market in Brazzaville known to be one of the main ivory supply points in **West Africa** with **Chinese** as the main customers.

The Coordinator of the PALF Project held meetings with the Attorney General of the Supreme Court of Congo, the European Union Ambassador and other highly placed officials of the European Union, Director of the Department of Forestry Economics (DDEF), The Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF), The National Representative of the Lusaka Task Force Agreement, The Legal Adviser of WCS, The wife of the Ambassador of France, 2 Lawyers from MEF to present the PALF project, discuss about wildlife law enforcement and to talk about the Ikama case.

Investigations

- **12 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in 5 of the 7 districts in Brazzaville (Talangai, Ouenze, Poto Poto, Bacongo, and Makeleke).



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- Recruitment of field investigators and field tests were carried out. **3 volunteers** were tested and **2 were retained**. The results are very encouraging.
- Investigations targeted dealers and 7 of the dealers were arrested.

Operations

PALF carries out 6 operations this month against 7 dealers in collaboration with 4 Agents of MEF and the forces of law and order.

- **17/09/08-** a well-known ivory trafficker of **Senegalese nationality** was arrested trying to illegally trade in 45 worked pieces of ivory. He has been in the republic of Congo since 1982 and was arrested in the Plateau market in Brazzaville known to be one of the main ivory supply points in **West Africa** with **Chinese** as the main customers.
- **17/09/08-** Another ivory trafficker well known in the area was arrested trying to illegally trade in worked pieces of ivory was arrested in Loango Poto Poto in Brazzaville. With the assistance of his neighbors and family members, he resisted arrest.
- **01/10/08- Investigations started in September and operations took place in October**
 - **5 traffickers** were arrested in different places in Brazzaville during 4 different operations.
 - One dealer was arrested trying to illegally trade in the hand of a gorilla and a leopard skin.
 - 2 dealers arrested trying to illegally trade in a leopard skin.
 - One dealer arrested trying to illegally trade in 2 hands and the skin of a mandrill.
 - Another dealer arrested trying to illegally trade in a leopard skin.

Legal

- There are **6 dealers** behind bars during this month.
- **2 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month: One relating to Ikama and other Gueye Cheickt.
- **1 case** is programmed to be presented in Court this month.
- **1 volunteer** was recruited in the Department.

Media

- **3 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to television and written press: 1 TV news feature in French, and 2 written press materials all in French.
- Guests Include: Chief of Wildlife Service DDEF.
- Subjects focused on the arrest of a dealer of Senegalese nationality with 45 pieces of ivory.
- 3 media pieces all in French, making a percentage of 100%.

External Relations

- PALF held a meeting with the Attorney General of the Supreme Court of Congo in order to raise certain obstacles blocking the advancement of the case file involving Mr. Ikama who was arrested in April for illegal trafficking of ivory.
- The PALF Coordinator met with the European Union Ambassador and other highly placed officials of the European Union to request for their support pertaining to



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- wildlife law enforcement in Congo
- The Coordinator of PALF met with some key actors of the MEF notably the Director of the Department of Forestry Economics (DDEF), The Legal Adviser of MEF, The National Representative of the Lusaka Task Force Agreement, to present the PALF project and talk about the Ikama case.
 - The PALF Coordinator hammered again on the Ikama case and strategies to adopt during a meeting at DDEF in the presence of the Director DDEF, 2 lawyers from the Ministry (MEF), The Legal Adviser of WCS and the wife of the Ambassador of France.

Management

- The Coordinator of PALF arrived the Republic of Congo to start the effective implementation of the project
- 3 volunteers were recruited this month, 2 in the Department of Investigations and 1 in the Legal Department.

Finance

PALF Expenditure by budget line for September 08

Amount FCFA	Budgetary heading	Details	USD amount
165.100	Investigations	12 investigations, 5 districts	\$375.2
107.400	Operations	7 cases followed up 6 persons behind bars	\$244.1
74.200	Legal	2 cases followed up and 6	\$168.6
20.000	Media	3 media pieces	\$45.5
	Foreign policy		
	Management		
36.200	Office		\$82.3
402.900	Total expenditure of September		\$915.7

This Month in pictures



Leopard skins and skin of mandrill – Dealers were arrested during different operations in Brazzaville trying to illegally trade in leopard skins. One dealer resisted arrest with the help of his neighbours and family members.



Gorilla hand and 2 hands of mandrill seized during operations in Brazzaville. Dealers were arrested trying to illegally trade in these products of endangered species.

