



Annual Report 2010

Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune sauvage Project for the Application of Law for Fauna

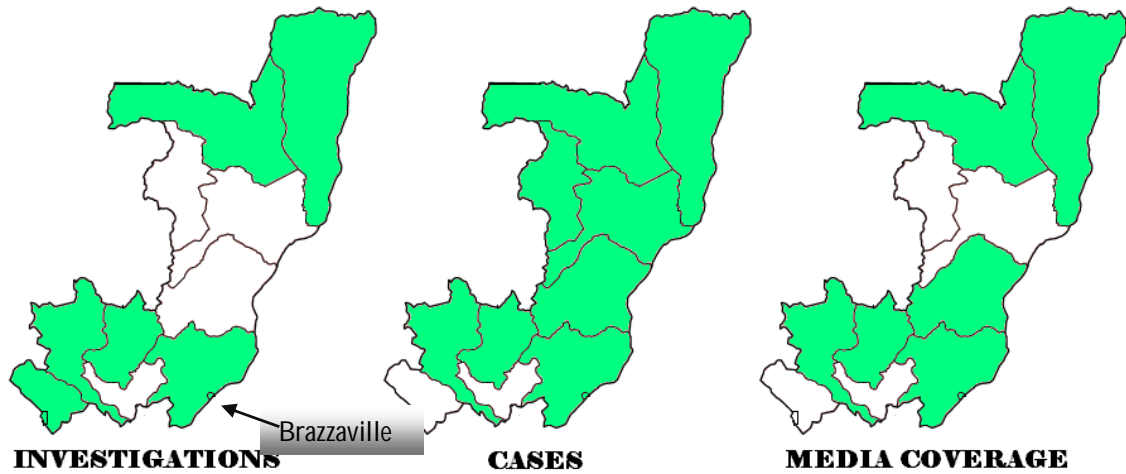
- PALF has spread throughout the country in 2010:
 - Investigations in 8 departments
 - Cases in 9 departments
 - Contact base vastly enlarged: PALF is now receiving information about cases from all around the Congo
- Number of operations has increased for 2010: **23 arrests** from PALF investigations alone!
- Operations across a wide diversity of wildlife crimes
 - **Ivory**
 - Raw tusks
 - Sculpted ivory
 - **Leopard skins**
 - **Live primates**
 - Chimpanzees
 - Mandrills
 - **African grey parrots trade**
 - and for the first time... **Illegal Bushmeat**
 - Chimpanzee
 - Mandrill
 - Water chevrotain
 - Southern reedbeak
 - Elephant
- More sentences for wildlife dealers: XX sentences
- Improved **collaboration with WCS/PROGEPP**: PALF is now able to follow cases of the worst poachers and **improve the application of wildlife law** in one of Congo's most lawless zones!
- Communications continues to work efficiently with the media: 316 media pieces regarding application of wildlife law were published or broadcasted in 2010
- PALF team expands: some didn't make the cut, but the net size of the PALF team has expanded after numerous trial periods for Legal Experts:
 - The PALF Legal team now consists of four full-time legal experts
- Increased regional collaboration:
 - Meetings between **AALF (Conservation Justice)** and PALF held in Brazzaville
 - Legal Expert trained in Cameroon with **LAGA (Last Great Ape Organization)**
- Collaboration with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force
- Signing of the **Protocole d'Accord** (a Memorandum of Understanding) with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment (**MDDEFE**)
 - For the **MDDEFE**: Minister Henri Djombo
 - PALF Consortium
 - For **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**: Paul Telfer
 - For **The Aspinall Foundation (TAF)**: James Osborne

Highlights

First two cases of Chinese nationals arrests for international ivory traffickind!

Media campaign increased, showing the arrests of dealers in these species!

Bushmeat of protected species burned on TV multiple times!



INVESTIGATIONS

Investigative missions were vastly expanded in 2010. Having just begun to expand out of Brazzaville towards the end of 2009, investigations have expanded all around the country. Investigations were focused mainly in the major cities of each department. In addition to resulting arrests in Pointe-Noire, Dolisie, Sibiti, Brazzaville, Pokola, and Impfondo, enough information was gathered to double the number of cities investigated per province, as well as send investigative missions to the remaining departments in 2011.

PALF got more high tech in 2010, training investigators in the use of hidden cameras. This facilitates evidence gathering as well as archiving so

that networks of wildlife dealers can be visualized electronically by the PALF investigations department. On the following page (*image on left*), a criminal from the Democratic Republic of Congo is smuggling a cage full of 19 African grey parrots on the Brazzaville bank of the River Congo. Kinshasa can be seen in the background on the other side of the river.



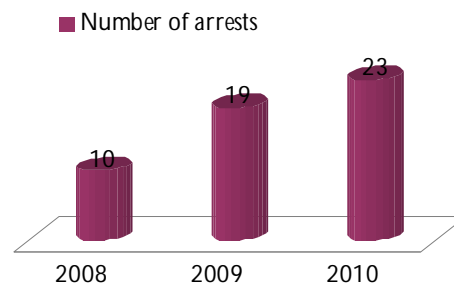
PALF



To the right, another hidden camera image shows hunting cartridges being sold during the closed hunting season. This is not small-scale traditional hunting, but part of a disastrous lack of application of wildlife law. Years and years of sensitization efforts from the ministry and NGOs has not changed anything and the wildlife laws put in place to ensure sustainability of bushmeat hunting are spat upon by wildlife traffickers and even certain local authorities!

OPERATIONS

Arrests were on the rise again in 2010. More wildlife dealers were arrested than in the previous year. Additionally non-PALF operations conducted by WCS anti-poaching patrols were followed up by PALF, leading to an even higher total of wildlife criminals behind bars. These anti-poaching patrols comprise multiple logging concessions around different national parks, including Ngombe (peripheral to Odzala-Kokoua National Park), Pokola and Kabo (peripheral to Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park); the cases generally involved elephant poaching and/or ivory trafficking. This work is expected to expand even further in 2011. Contacts have



been established to coordinate with other patrolling units in Tala Tala and Jua Ikié Concessions as well as within the two aforementioned national parks themselves.

The most significant operations in 2010 were the two Chinese ivory traffickers, arrested, tried and sentenced within 2010; as well as one of Likouala's biggest ivory dealers in March 2010. Further important concepts in arrests were the expansion and diversity of departments in which arrests were made, as well as PALF breaking into the repression

of illegal bushmeat traffic (a very sensitive, but urgent issue to address in Congo).

PALF

LEGAL



PALF's goal is to ensure that deterring prison sentences are handed down to wildlife criminals. Time spent in prison varied widely. Some prisoners were freed almost immediately after arrest as a result of corruption, but in many instances this corruption was fought off and criminals served sentences as long as ten months. Other sentences handed down, currently being served by prisoners include up to one year. In 2011, PALF hopes to surpass this and fight the corruption further.

Even some of the cases where prisoners were freed illegally, PALF has taken advantage of the situation in its activism. In one case, PALF recorded an agent of the ministry intervening to free a leopard skin dealer. In collaboration with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the agent, a Brigade Chief in Brazzaville, was subsequently relieved of his post. In another case, a sub-prefect freed four bushmeat traffickers after they were arrested, intervening during the interrogation of the criminals. PALF has since launched a case against him with the National Commission for the Fight against Corruption, Embezzlement and Fraud.

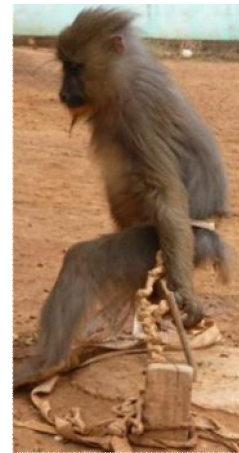


A relatively rapid conviction of PALF's first operation involving a Chinese national resulted in the highest known pecuniary penalty for an ivory trafficker in Congo, at 5.000.000 CFA (over 7600 €) as well as three weeks spent in jail. Another Chinese national was arrested in May. She was held on trial as well, and was also subject to large fines upon sentencing.

The longest sentence served was a case from 2009. Once sentenced, three Democratic Republic of Congo citizens were sentenced to fifteen months in jail each. They served ten months each before being let out early (not due to corruption, but rather to a broad pardon that released non-violent criminals on Congo's 50th independence day).

There is still has a long way to go in the court system. Many sentences being handed down are suspended sentences, but we are fighting for even stricter application of the law. Nevertheless, if held on trial, criminals such as the first ivory dealer arrested in Pointe-Noire serve many months in jail before their sentence.

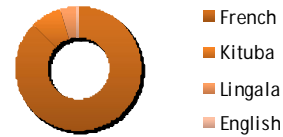
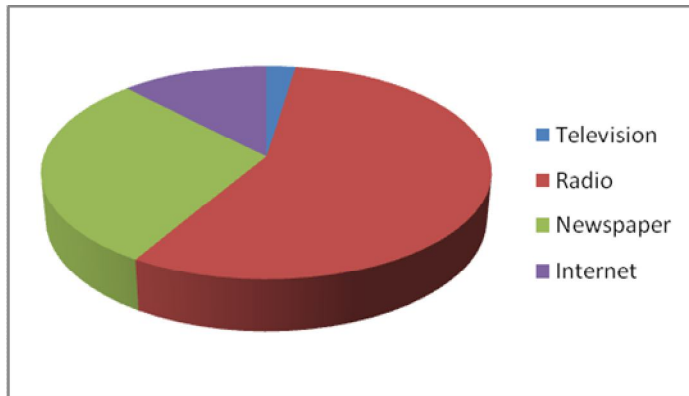
PALF has also pushed for arrest warrants on outstanding cases of very large-scale poachers thought to be backed by corrupt officials. In to such cases, warrants have been issued and investigations are currently pending.





The prison system has also been studied in depth, particularly in the interest of convincing the Ministry of Justice to open up the prison in Ouésso. For the mean time, northern Congo as a whole is relatively lawless in this respect as northern Congo's departments do not have a single functional prison between them. Cells of various police forces are accommodating the worst criminals, but beyond wildlife law enforcement, many criminals (even some of violent crimes) roam free in northern Congo.

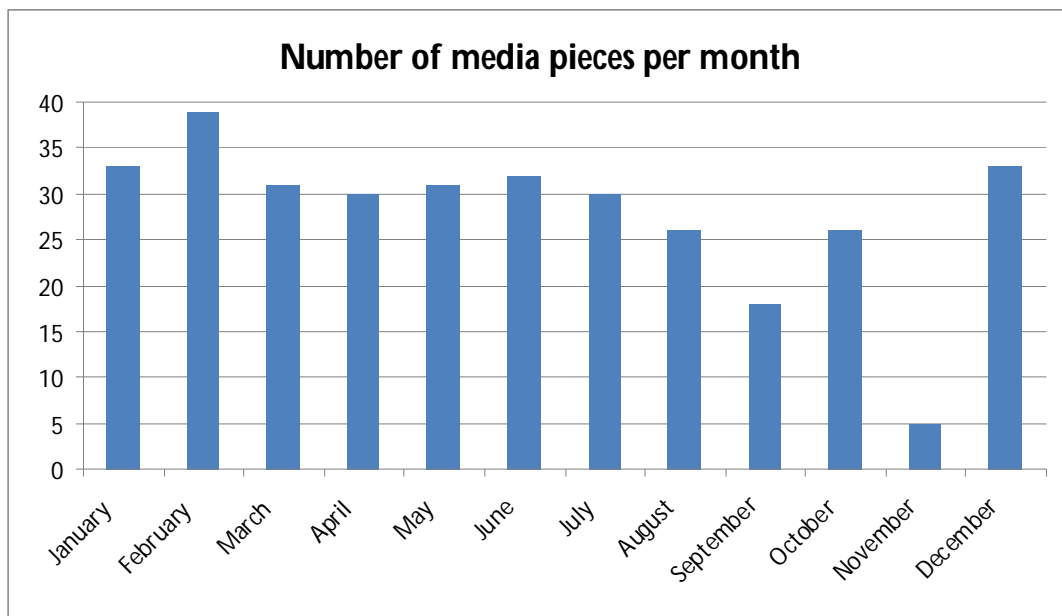
MEDIA COVERAGE

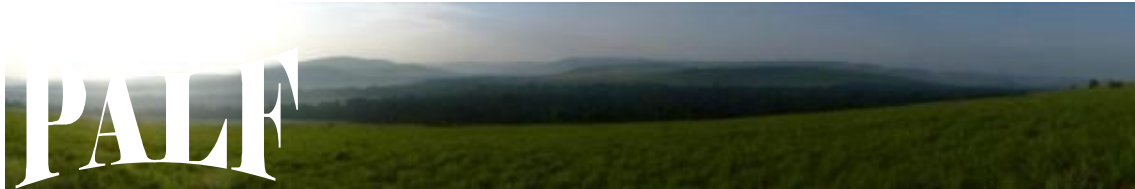


Of the **335 media pieces** published regarding the application of wildlife law this year, 292 were in French, 27 were in Kituba, 15 were in Lingala and one in English.

To address the population most fully, media pieces have been broadcasted and published in the Congo's most widely spoken languages: **French, Kituba and Lingala**. International media has already spoken about the regional effort in wildlife law enforcement, combining the work of LAGA, PALF, RALF and AALF (homologue projects in Cameroon, Congo, CAR and Gabon, respectively) in widely read articles.

PALF arrests and cases made front page headlines numerous times in 2010, namely in the country's most widely read newspaper, *Les Dépêches de Brazzaville*. Media reported on arrests, cases and sentences in seven different departments. Media contacts were established in a number of new departments and PALF began working with media on a more local level in some of the areas less frequented by national media. For example, TeleDol, a local television station in Dolisie broadcasted a PALF arrest; and the PALF Coordinator did an interview on Radio Sibiti, broadcasting in Lékoumou Department specifically.





MANAGEMENT

The PALF Coordinator was able to spend several days for continued training in Yaoundé with LAGA. A PALF legal expert also did an internship in Cameroon, working with LAGA in multiple regions of the country on LAGA cases. The AALF Coordinator (Gabon) and the PALF Coordinator held a regional meeting in Brazzaville at the end of the year as well. International collaboration continues strongly and plans have been made for an exchange of investigators in 2011.

The legal team has undergone serious renovation, and the team further molded into a more effective body of activists with a focused objective. Capacity building and polyvalence have been critical goals and all members of the PALF team are currently doing their own accounting on a monthly basis, verified by the Assistant Coordinator and double-checked by the Coordinator.

Since the signing of the MoU, monthly activity reports are being made available online at the PALF website, <http://www.palf-enforcement.org>. Detailed financial information has also been made available online.

Through collaboration with the United States embassy and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), PALF was able to recommend an agent of the LATF to go on a training mission to Gaborone, Botswana to learn more about wildlife law enforcement and learn new techniques in tracking criminals.

FINANCE

<i>PALF Department</i>	Amount in FCFA	Amount in €	Amount in \$
Investigations	3 611 340	5 505 €	\$ 7 294
Operations	1 318 100	2 009 €	\$ 2 662
Animal Care	71 000	108 €	\$ 143
Legal	7 630 112	11 632 €	\$ 15 412
Media	3 348 850	5 105 €	\$ 6 764
Management	10 080 362	15 367 €	\$ 20 361
TOTAL	26 059 764	39 728 €	\$ 52 636

Total expenditure in the 5 PALF Departments (plus minor costs for Animal Care when confiscated animals were being transferred to a proper facility) was 26,059,764 francs CFA.

Donor	FCFA	Euro	USD
The Aspinall Foundation	6 767 891	10 318 €	\$ 13 670
Tracey	454 202	692 €	\$ 917
US Fish & Wildlife*	5 694 088	8 680 €	\$ 11 501
Andy Rouse	771 202	1 176 €	\$ 1 558
Blackpool Zoo	2 252 305	3 434 €	\$ 4 549
Monaco	1 014 160	1 546 €	\$ 2 048
Wildlife Direct	3 391 487	5 170 €	\$ 6 850
David Bonderman	344 900	526 €	\$ 697
US Department of State	41 000	63 €	\$ 83
Prowildlife	537 125	819 €	\$ 1 085

PALF

WWF	3 537 210	5 392 €	\$ 7 145
UNEP/CMS	1 254 194	1 912 €	\$ 2 533
TOTAL	26 059 764	39 728 €	\$ 52 636

*US Fish & Wildlife funds were distributed between two separate grants. The remainder of the first grant (used primarily in 2009) which was spent in 2010 totaled: 3,888,840 FCFA (\$ 7,855). The second grant, which extends into 2011, was partially spent in 2010 for a total of 1,805,248 FCFA (\$ 3,646).

The exchange rates used in calculations for 2010 were: € 1 = \$ 1.32492 = 655.957 CFA.

WCS and TAF (the PALF Consortium) helped, as always, in significantly reducing our costs, but the relationship has been far more mere financial support. Collaboration between PALF and its Consortium is only beginning to explore its potential in making the necessary paradigm shift to more integral inclusion of wildlife law enforcement in the national program. TAF and WCS-Congo are thus leaders in the region and we will be working to expand on this theme, showing the example for other nations in need of similar support projects to reinforce wildlife laws.

