



EAGLE

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EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *39 wildlife traffickers arrested in 7 countries*
- ✓ *A flagrant case of corruption in Police forces uncovered arresting 2 corrupt police officers for ivory trafficking in Kampala*
- ✓ *2 international traffickers arrested, and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea*
- ✓ *7 more ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda in 4 operations*
- ✓ *7 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo in 3 operations*
- ✓ *6 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in 3 operations*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 128 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks and other contraband in Senegal*



2 international traffickers, both Sierra Leone nationality, were arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea.



A Congolese ivory trafficker arrested in Uganda with 8 tusks. He brought the ivory from Congo with the intention to sell it in Uganda.

Summary

39 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 7 countries.

A flagrant case of corruption in Police forces was uncovered when 2 corrupt police officers were arrested on ivory trafficking in Kampala. The two were constables, serving at a unit in charge of the security of the police headquarters. Uganda Wildlife Authority was searching for one of them, as he was already arrested in January 2017, but was released after bribing a police officer.

2 international traffickers, both Sierra Leone nationality, were arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea. The first one, a long term specialized ape trafficker, trafficked the baby from Sierra Leone to Conakry, where he intended to sell it. He bribed the custom officers on the Sierra Leone-Guinea border to traffic the chimp smoothly. Ubiquitous corruption still makes the illegal trade of chimpanzees in West Africa too easy. The other trafficker, who traded the chimp, was arrested one day later after being denounced by the first one.

7 more ivory traffickers were arrested in Uganda in 4 operations. 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 pieces of ivory in Kampala. One of them was already arrested by the team in September and got released with a small fine. What is rare in our other countries is a real problem in Uganda where the courts often keep wildlife criminals away from prison. An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 very large tusks in the West of the country. A veterinary officer and a man-



3 traffickers were arrested with 128 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

ager of a farm, owned by an army general, his uncle, used the well-guarded farm to conceal the contraband repeatedly. As a vet, he had a lot of information about the elephants and the value of ivory, and used it for criminal activity, breaking faith with the ethics of his profession in this way. 3 traffickers were arrested near the Congolese border with 50 kg ivory, one of them a medical doctor. A Congolese ivory trafficker was arrested with 8 tusks.



3 traffickers were arrested in Congo with 2 tusks, weighing 24kg.

7 ivory traffickers were arrested in Congo in 3 operations. 3 traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks, weighing 24kg. One of them is a site manager of a logging company and was using the SOCOFOR vehicle to traffic the ivory out of the forest. 3 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks of a very young elephant and 2 elephant tails. They were swiftly prosecuted, two of them sentenced to 3 years in prison, the third one for 2 years. An ivory trafficker was arrested with 12 kg of raw ivory and 2 guns with ammunition. He is a repeat offender, already sentenced firmly for the same crime in 2011.

6 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in 3 operations. 2 traffickers were arrested with 6 tusks, cut to 12 pieces, weighing 35 kg. 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 6 tusks, 27 kg of raw ivory, in the South of the country. A Beninese trafficker was arrested with a tusk and two leopard skins in the West of the country.

3 traffickers were arrested with 128 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. The criminal ring was crushed, and the traffickers were arrested in the act, 4 bags of scales exposed on the floor in front of them.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 tusks, a leopard skin and many crocodile skin items in Senegal. The trafficker used his craft shop as a cover for his illegal activities.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 3 traffickers arrested with 128 kg of pangolin scales. The criminal ring was crushed, and the traffickers were arrested in the act, 4 bags of scales exposed on the floor in front of them. Two of them were based in countryside buying the scales from smaller traffickers and poachers, while the third one remained at the economic capital and port city doing the marketing, searching for buyers, negotiating the prices and selling the contraband.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks and giant pangolin scales in the South of the country. One of them trafficked 2 tusks from Gabon, he used his trade with cocoa beans as a cover for his criminal activity and concealed the contraband in cocoa bags when he moved it from the South to the capital city. The second trafficker bought 2 ivory tusks from poachers in the same region. The third trafficker, a lady, was arranging the transactions to ensure that they were carried out successfully.
- The deputy coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife to raise issues connected with



3 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks and giant pangolin scales in the South of the country



3 traffickers arrested with 128 kg of pangolin scales

attempts by a divisional delegate to sabotage an ivory operation and to discuss extraction of samples for DNA analysis following the seizure by police of 158 kg of ivory.

- The deputy coordinator met with the new High British High Commissioner to introduce him to the project and to brief him on wildlife law enforcement in the country.
- 3 investigators continued their test period.

contraband under bushmeat for transportation, to evade the authorities.

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks of a very young elephant and 2 elephant tails. Two of them were

Congo – PALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, weighing 24kg. One of them is a site manager of a logging company and was using the SOCOFOR vehicle to traffic the ivory out of the forest. They concealed the



3 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks of a very young elephant and 2 elephant tails.

arrested in the act with the contraband, one of them a repeat offender, arrested in 2014 for possession of a war weapon. They denounced a third trafficker, who was arrested a day later. He used to act as an intermediary, looking for buyers and selling the ivory.

■ The assistant coordinator trained 60 future Brigade Commanders of the National Gendarmerie at the Gendarmerie School of Brazzaville on the Wildlife Protection Act and the Corruption Act, and how to fight corruption in wildlife law enforcement.

■ They were swiftly prosecuted, two of them sentenced to 3 years in prison, the third one for 2 years. They also have to pay high penalties and damages.

■ An ivory trafficker arrested with 12 kg of raw ivory and 2 guns with ammunition. He is a repeat offender, already sentenced firmly for the same crime in 2011. He escaped the prison and continued his criminal activities. He denounced another trafficker, who fled during the arrest. They are both known to be significant ivory traffickers.

■ The trafficker was prosecuted and sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay about 8,000 USD on fines and damages.

■ 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in September with 6 tusks, were sentenced to 3 years in jail and to pay jointly about 12,500 USD on fines and damages.

■ A legal advisor continued his test period in November.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 12 kg of raw ivory

■ The coordinator held several meetings with regional authorities, including the General State Council of the Supreme Court, several State Councils of the departments, the Departmental Commanders of Gendarmerie and the Departmental Directors of Ministry of Environment and others.

Gabon – AALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks, cut to 12 pieces, weighing 35 kg. The first one was arrested in the act with the contraband and he quickly denounced the other trafficker, who was arrested the same day. They are connected to a ring of poachers slaughtering elephants in Gabon forests.



2 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks,

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 tusks, 27 kg of raw ivory, in the South of the country. They have been trafficking ivory from Congo for years. They were taken by surprise after they unpacked the ivory with the intention to sell it.

- A Beninese trafficker arrested with a tusk and two leopard skins in the West of the country. He was arrested and remains behind bars.

A Beninese trafficker arrested with a tusk and two leopard skins



3 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 tusks

- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins in a mining town in the east of the country. They are members of a larger trafficking ring operating in Gabon. They arrived to the town with the intention to sell the contraband but were arrested in the act. They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in jail, which is, unfortunately, the highest punishment possible in the country.

- The legal team held meetings with different Gabonese authorities, including the State Counsels in several regions, the Provincial Directors of Waters and Forests, the Head of Anti-Poaching, the Head of Judicial Police and others.

2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins



Republic of Guinea – GALF

- 2 international traffickers, both Sierra Leone nationality, arrested and a baby chimp rescued. The first one, a long term specialized ape trafficker, trafficked the baby from Sierra Leone to Conakry, where he intended to sell it. He bribed the custom officers on the Sierra Leone-Guinea border to traffic the chimp smoothly. Ubiquitous corruption still makes the illegal trade of chimpanzees in West Africa too easy. The other trafficker, who traded the chimp, was arrested one day later after being denounced by the first one. The little female, 2-years-old and fortunately in a good health, returned to her home country afterwards. She was looked after by GALF team members for few days and then handed to the keepers of the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone for life-time care.
- The coordinator participated in the meeting on the third phase of the environmental security and defense sector reform.
- WARA Director Charlotte Houpline arrived to Guinea visit to support the team in the operation and intensify external relations.
- The coordinator met with Guinean authorities and diplomats, including the Minister of Environment, the EU Ambassador in Guinea, the General Director of Nature Conservators, the National Coordinator of UNOPS, the national Director of Water and Forests, the National Director of the National Parks Administration, the Focal Point of CITES of the Ministry of Environment and others.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- Continuing political unrest, leading to demonstrations lasting more than three months now, limited the activities of EAGLE-Togo. External relations came to a standstill too, as many of the officials were not available during this period.
- Rens Ilgen, the coordinator of EAGLE-Togo, continued his mission to Ivory Coast to continue training, recruitment and coordination of the project.
- Two investigators continued their test period.

Senegal - SALF

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks, a leopard skin and many crocodile skin items. The operation presented the first seizure of raw ivory tusks in Senegal. The trafficker used his craft shop as a cover for his illegal activities.
- The coordinator held meetings with representatives of French Embassy and the Regional Office for Environment of Homeland Security of US Embassy to intensify the cooperation and to inform them about the development of the project.
- She also held a series of meetings with authorities, including the Interpol NCB, the Magistrates in several courts, the Regional Inspector of the DEEF and others.
- Three investigators and two legal advisors started their test period.



Benin – AALF-B

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in the center of the country. One of them brought the contraband to the place of transaction, concealed in a plastic bag. He was arrested together with the other trafficker in the act. The ivory was smuggled from Ghana.
- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation officer conducted a mission to Benin to support the investigation department, to train and evaluate new investigators and to improve the management of the project.
- The coordinator and the legal team held a series of meetings with Benin authorities including the State Counsels and Judges of several courts, the commanders of Gendarmerie and others.



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in the center of the country.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- A flagrant case of corruption in Police forces uncovered when 2 corrupt police officers and 2 civilians were arrested on ivory trafficking in Kampala. The two were constables, serving at a unit in charge of the security of the police headquarters. Uganda Wildlife Authority was searching for one of them, as he was already arrested in January 2017, but was released after he bribed a police officer. He used to traffic ivory from national parks to Kampala.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 pieces of ivory in Kampala. One of them was already arrested by the team in September and got released with a small fine. What is rare in our other countries is a real problem in Uganda where the courts often keep wildlife criminals away from prison. EAGLE Uganda team worked to get him back behind bars only a month after his ridiculous prosecution and subsequent flourishing illegal activities. Hopefully



2 corrupt police officers and 2 civilians were arrested on ivory trafficking in Kampala



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 pieces of ivory in Kampala.

this case can help push back against corruption in Uganda's courts and get its justice system to apply the law. The other trafficker is a religious leader at a mosque.



2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins

■ 2 traffickers, one Indian national and the other Ugandan arrested with two leopard skins at the outskirts of the capital city. One of them trafficked the contraband from Kenya, while the Indian was concealing it in his hotel room and looking for the buyer. They were arrested in the act and swiftly prosecuted. The Indian trafficker was sentenced to 1 year and 4 months in jail while the other one to 2 years and 10 months in jail.



3 traffickers arrested near the Congolese border with 50 kg ivory

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 very large tusks in the west of the country. A veterinary officer and a manager of a farm, owned by an army general, his uncle, used the well-guarded farm to conceal the contraband repeatedly. As a vet, he had a lot of information about the elephants and the value of ivory, and used it for criminal activity, breaking faith with the ethics of his profession in this way.
- 3 traffickers arrested near the Congolese border with 50 kg ivory, one of them a medical doctor. They arrived with the ivory on a motor bike directly from Congo and were arrested in the act at the court yard of a bank, where they intended to sell the contraband. They all have been trafficking ivory between Congo and Uganda for a long time.
- A Congolese ivory trafficker arrested with 8 tusks. He brought the ivory from Congo with the intention to sell it in Uganda. Another hitting cross border trafficking, still so common on Uganda-Congo border.
- A trafficker arrested in September 2017 with 127 pieces of hippo teeth was convicted and sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment without an option of fine.



A Congolese ivory trafficker arrested with 8 tusks.

Ivory Coast - EAGLE Ivory Coast

- Rens Ilgen, the coordinator of EAGLE-Togo, continued his mission to Ivory Coast to continue training, recruitment and coordination of the project.
- Investigators from Congo and Gabon arrived at Ivory Coast to support the investigation department.
- Rens Ilgen met with several ambassadors and the Dutch Prime Minister at a reception during the AU-EU summit and introduced the project to them.
- He also met with the Commissioner of the Unit against Transnational Criminality (UCT) to intensify collaboration and fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the WCF and other partners to discuss plans to create a chimp sanctuary in Ivory Coast
- Intense recruitment process continued, two investigators continued their test period.

Headquarters

- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation officer conducted a mission to Benin to support the investigation department, to train and evaluate new investigators and to improve the management of the project.
- Luc Mathot, Founding Director, travelled to Belgium where he held a series of meetings with EU representatives, to discuss the cooperation and support in combating wildlife crime.
- He also travelled to Congo to support the management and external relations of the PALF project.

International Media

Turkish media reported on the successful arrest in Ivory Coast in October (in French):

[Link to the article](#)

“Un douanier arrêté pour braconnage en Côte d’Ivoire” - an articles in VOA and Oeil d’Afrique on the Ivory Coast arrest at the end of October (in French):

[Link to VOA](#)

[Link to Oeil d’Afrique](#)

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 nine 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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