



EAGLE

June 2017
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *30 wildlife traffickers arrested in 6 countries last month*
- ✓ *An infamous ivory trafficker arrested in Gabon, a notorious repeat offender that was already arrested several times*
- ✓ *2 ape traffickers arrested in the airport and 2 chimps rescued in Cameroon*
- ✓ *7 leopard skin traffickers arrested in Gabon with 3 leopard skin and other contraband*
- ✓ *2 leopard skin traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo*
- ✓ *7 ivory traffickers, two of them priests, arrested in Uganda in 3 different operations, fake money papers were found in two of the operations, showcasing the link between wildlife trafficking and others forms of crime*
- ✓ *First semester ends with 217 traffickers arrested, a rate of more than one per day*



3 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda with fake money, 34 kg ivory and two hippo teeth.



2 ape traffickers arrested and a trafficking ring crushed as 2 adult chimps rescued in Cameroon

Summary

30 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 6 countries this month. The first semester ends with 217 traffickers arrested, a rate of more than one per day.

Oumarou Faroukou, an infamous ivory trafficker, was arrested in Gabon when trying to sell 2 large tusks. He is a notorious repeat offender, already arrested several times, regularly supplying large amounts of ivory for international shipments. For the first time he was arrested on Christmas 2014 with 100 kg of ivory. The tusks were already marked proving they originated from the court in Makokou. Faroukou bought them directly from the the Dean of Judges and the Chief Registrar of the court, who also forced him for false confessions in order to protect themselves from prosecution.

2 ape traffickers were arrested in Cameroon and a trafficking ring crushed as 2 adult chimps rescued. The traffickers were arrested at the entrance to the cargo area of the Douala International Airport with the two female chimps, crammed in two small cages. One of the traffickers had been in the business of primate trafficking for a long time. The chimps were living for years in tiny cages, where they could not even stand up. They were immediately transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre for lifetime care.

7 leopard skin traffickers were arrested in Gabon. First 3 were arrested in the act with 2 leopard skins, 3 leopard skulls and teeth. The third skin was seized when a fourth member of the ring, a driver, has been arrested. they denounced and led to the arrests of three other traffickers, who were supplying the ring with leopard skins and other contraband, one of them a local village chief.

2 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo. The first one was arrested when he tried to sell them and he denounced another trafficker, who was arrested a day later.

7 ivory traffickers, two of them priests, were arrested in Uganda in 3 different operations, fake money papers were found in two of the operations, showcasing the link between wildlife trafficking and others forms of crime. 2 Kenyan ivory traffickers arrested with 49 kg of ivory, one of them a priest. The traffickers used a vehicle of a Ugandan government official donated by UNICEF to carry the contraband across the Kenyan border, as they traded ivory with a fellow priest in West Pokot County in Kenya. 3 ivory traffick-



2 Kenyan ivory traffickers arrested with 49 kg of ivory in Uganda, they used a vehicle of a Ugandan government official donated by UNICEF

ers arrested with fake money, 34 kg ivory and two hippo teeth. They have been regularly trafficking in different contraband between Kenya and Uganda. 2 traffickers arrested in the capital city with 6 tusks, and a pack of blank bills papers used to print counterfeit money. One of them is a priest, the other one is a lawyer. The priest was already prosecuted for ivory trafficking in 2012, but being sentenced only to pay a fine, he continued his criminal activity including dealing with fake money.

Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Guinea to give training support for the coordinator on management as well as team recruitment and evaluations.



Oumarou Faroukou, an infamous ivory trafficker, was arrested in Gabon

Cameroon – LAGA



2 ape traffickers arrested and a trafficking ring crushed as 2 adult chimps rescued.



A trafficker arrested with one leopard skin and 42 kg of pangolin scales.

of pangolin scales. He travelled from Douala to the capital with the contraband where he was arrested in the act. He resides in Gabon where he ran a criminal ring of smaller traffickers supplying the contraband and a network of Chinese and Nigerian with whom he traded. He partnered with another trafficker who used social media like Facebook to advertise and connect with clients all over the world.

- 2 ape traffickers arrested and a trafficking ring crushed as 2 adult chimps rescued. The traffickers were arrested at the entrance to the cargo area of the Douala International Airport with the two female chimps, crammed in two small cages. One of the traffickers had been in the business of primate trafficking for a long time. He had been trying to buy a male chimp to mate with the two females which he had been keeping for a long time waiting for the right moment to sell. The chimps were living for years in tiny cages, where they could not even stand up. They were immediately transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre for lifetime care.

- The Director visited the country and held several meetings including meetings with the US Ambassador and the British High Commissioner.
- The Deputy Director travelled to Ivory Coast to continue training and recruitment of new staff for the project. After his return the Interim Director also travelled there to continue the same mission.



The chimps were living for years in tiny cages, where they could not even stand up.

- A trafficker arrested with one leopard skin and 42 kg

Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins. The first one was arrested when he tried to sell them and he denounced another trafficker, who was arrested a day later. A rifle and ammunition was found in his house. They are behind bars awaiting trial.
- The coordinator and the legal team met with several authorities of the region to prepare the operation, including the local State Counsel, the Departmental Commander of Gendarmerie, the Departmental Director of Ministry of Environment and the Prefect of the Department.
- The Coordinator met with the State Counsel of the court of Ouessou and the judges of the Court of first instance in Ouessou to follow up the case of the organized “escape” of the ivory trafficker that was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins

Gabon – AALF

- Oumarou Faroukou, an infamous ivory trafficker arrested in the North-East of the country, when trying to sell 2 tusks. He is a notorious repeat offender, already arrested several times, regularly supplying large amounts of ivory for international shipments. For the first time he was arrested on Christmas 2014 with 100 kg of ivory. The tusks were already marked proving they originated from the court in Makokou. Faroukou bought them directly from the the Dean of Judges and the Chief Registrar of the court, who also forced him for false confessions in order to protect themselves from prosecution. After that Faroukou was denounced several times by other arrested traffickers, last time on March 2017 when he was arrested and again released by the court. Feeling well protected, he continued his illegal activities until now. He is finally behind bars awaiting the trial. A taxi driver, cooperating with him, was arrested as well.



Oumarou Faroukou, an infamous ivory trafficker arrested in the North-East of the country

- 7 leopard skin traffickers arrested in the North of the country. First 3 were arrested in the act with 2 leopard skins, 3 leopard skulls and teeth. The third skin was seized when a fourth member of the ring, a driver, has been arrested. They denounced and led to the arrests of three other traffickers, who were supplying the ring with leopard skins and other contraband, one of them a local village chief.



7 leopard skin traffickers arrested in the North of the country.



An ivory trafficker from Ivory Coast arrested with 3 tusks

- A trafficker arrested during a follow-up of series of arrests of 6 traffickers arrested at the end of last month, when a ring of leopard skin traffickers was crushed in the West of the country. Two leopard skins and an elephant tail were seized.
- An ivory trafficker from Ivory Coast arrested with 3 tusks in the capital city, when he was trying to sell the contraband in his apartment.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with one tusk and a leopard tooth in South-East of the country. The first one was arrested in the act when he was trying to sell the tusk, later he denounced his father, who was his partner in crime.
- AALF undertook the legal follow up of a case of 3 Chinese traffickers arrested at the international airport with 39 carved ivory pieces at the occasion of operation called "African Wings IV", financed

by the French Inter-ministerial Mission to Combat Drugs and Addictive Behaviors (MILDECA) and organized in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. They are behind bars, awaiting trial.

- 7 leopard skin traffickers, arrested at the end of last month with 2 leopard skins and an elephant tail, were all convicted and sentenced to 6 months in jail. 4 of them were ordered to pay about 8,500 USD on damages, 3 others over 10,000 USD in fines and damages.
- Series of meetings were held by the coordinator and legal team with the Gabonese authorities, including the Deputy State Counsel, the Director of the Fight against Poaching, the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Water and Forests, Provincial Directors of Water and Forests, Chief of the Minkebé-East Brigade and others.

Republic of Guinea – GALF

- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and two crocodile skins, but released by a corrupt police officer the next morning. The police officer was arrested a few days later and remained behind bars awaiting trial. An arrest warrant has been issued against the trafficker on run. The police officer has later been prosecuted and sentenced to 2 months in jail for complicity in the escape of the trafficker.
- The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Guinea to give training support for the coordinator on management as well as team recruitment and evaluations.
- The Investigation and Legal Departments have



A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and two crocodile skins,

been reorganized, Sékou Castro Kourouma was appointed the Head of the legal Department.

- The coordinator held a series of meetings with different officials to strengthen cooperation and

and Police Commissioners to improve cooperation during and after operations in fighting wildlife crime.

to discuss ongoing cases, including the focal point of CITES, the focal point of wildlife crime in the Ministry of Environment and Water and Forests, the Political Advisor of US Embassy, the UN-OSP Monitoring and Ecology Officer and the Head of Education Department of SERPROMA (National Service for the Promotion and Regulation of NGOs).

- Another series of meetings were held with State Counsels of different courts, Commanders of Gendarmerie, the Departmental Heads of Water and Forest

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 2 traffickers arrested near the Burkina Faso border with 4 tusks and skins, honey badgers, servals and other protected animals. The two were collaborating with corrupt government officials on the other side of the border. During the arrest they were violent and fierce but their resistance was put under control.
- The Coordinator held several meetings with the authorities including the Director of OCRTIDB, the Chief of UMCC (the port-unit of OCRTIDB), the Head of INTERPOL in Lomé, a commander of the Ministry of Environment and, the Political and Economical Officer of the US Embassy and others with the aim to improve collaboration and to discuss ongoing cases of wildlife trafficking,.
- The Coordinator and the Deputy Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Legal Unit of the Ministry of Environment to accelerate the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding between EAGLE–Togo and the Ministry.
- Intense recruitment process continued and more investigators will start their test beginning of next month.
- The Deputy Coordinator finished his mission to Ivory Coast to support the newly started replication in building a new team.



2 traffickers arrested near the Burkina Faso border with 4 tusks and skins

- He also travelled to Nairobi where he was trained by The Founding Director and CCU in leadership

and management according to a list of points to improve before nominated a coordinator.

Senegal - SALF

- Building the new team continued in the recruitment process: one more legal adviser and 2 investigator were selected to start their test period on July.
- The activities were limited as the Coordinator injured her knee in April during the arrest operation in Guinea, when she was trying to save a rescued giant trionyx turtle. She underwent a successful surgery and returned to Senegal to continue building a new team.
- The coordinator travelled to Kaolack to follow up the case of returning seized contraband to the National Parks. She met with the State Counsel and his two substitutes to discuss this issue. She also met with a Legal Adviser of the Ministry of the Environment to discuss the problem and to propose a launch of a project to centralize the storage of seized contraband.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the NGO Panthera.

Benin – AALF-B

- The coordinator met with the representatives of the African Parks network to discuss their new actions to protect Pendjari National Park and collaboration with Nature Tropicale.
- The Coordinator, the Assistant Coordinator and legal advisers held a series of meetings with authorities, including the State Counsel in Abomey, Judges and the former and current Commissioner of the Criminal Affairs Branch.
- Participation in Capacity Building Workshop on Law Enforcement Against Poaching organized by The W-Arly-Pendjari Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Project (RBT-WAP) in Pendjari National Park.
- 3 legal advisors and 5 investigators continued their test period.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 2 Kenyan ivory traffickers arrested with 49 kg of ivory in the North-East of the country, one of them a priest. The traffickers used a vehicle of a Ugandan government official donated by UNICEF to carry the contraband across the Kenyan border, as they traded ivory with a fellow priest in West Pokot County in Kenya. They were arrested when they transported the ivory in the car and were intercepted by the operation team. Complicity of government officials in this cross-border trafficking is still under investigation. Trafficking ivory between Ke-



2 Kenyan ivory traffickers arrested with 49 kg of ivory



The traffickers used a vehicle of a Ugandan government official donated by UNICEF to carry the contraband across the Kenyan border.



3 ivory traffickers arrested in the East of the country with fake money, 34 kg ivory and two hippo teeth.

nya and Uganda is common in this part of the country.

■ 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the East of the country with fake money, 34 kg ivory and two hippo teeth, showcasing the link between wildlife trafficking and others forms of crime. They have been regularly trafficking in differ-



2 traffickers arrested in the capital city with 6 tusks and a pack of blank bills papers used to print counterfeit money. One of them is a priest, the other one is a lawyer.



A trafficker arrested with a lion skin and jaws in the North-West of the country

ent contraband between Kenya and Uganda. One of the traffickers is also an owner of a restaurant.

- 2 traffickers arrested in the capital city with 6 tusks and a pack of blank bills papers used to print counterfeit money. One of them is a priest, the other one is a lawyer. The priest was already prosecuted for ivory trafficking in 2012, but being sentenced only to pay a fine, he continued his criminal activity including dealing with fake money. Now both of them remain behind bars, awaiting trial. Investigations continues on a number of passports that were found in their possession.
- A trafficker arrested with a lion skin and jaws in the North-West of the country. He was arrested in his store where he used to trade this kind of contraband for a long time. EAGLE-Uganda team hit a very disastrous illegal trade, as in the 1980s there

were just about 150,000 lions left in the wild. Today, the population declined in about 90% and estimated at below 18,000. Uganda is home to less than only 400 remaining lions. Any arrest of lion skin traffickers is of great importance.

- An ivory trafficker, arrested in April with 20 kg of ivory, was prosecuted and sentenced to 1.5 years in jail.
- EAGLE-Uganda team participated in one week training on personal security to increase the team members' capacity of caring for their security at work and in home.
- The coordinator had meetings with the Investigation team of Uganda wildlife Authority to discuss the processes of strengthening and harmonisation of the investigation of wildlife cases in Uganda.
- The coordinator also had a joint meeting with US-FWS attaché to East Africa to discuss the further investigation and prosecution of Koromah case and to strengthen the cooperation on this case.

Madagascar - ALARM

- The ALARM project has been temporarily suspended for organizational reasons.

Ivory Coast - EAGLE Ivory Coast

- The recruitment and training of personnel for the newly created project was carried in missions of the Deputy Coordinator of EAGLE-Togo, the Deputy Director of LAGA and the Interim Director of LAGA who took turns to assist in setting up the project.
- The EAGLE-Togo Deputy Coordinator and LAGA Deputy Director met with the Director of Wildlife at the Ministry of Water and Forests, and the LAGA Deputy Director held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and the Director of Legal Affairs at the same ministry, to work on the basis of a collaborative platform in wildlife law enforcement.
- The legal team followed up the case of 2 ape traffickers, arrested with a chimp baby in December 2016 after the BBC initiated investigation. The traffickers were sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. Unfortunately the baby chimp did not survive the traumatizing experience and died in Abidjan zoo, where he was kept. The tragedy occurred after many professionals strongly advised against keeping the baby chimp in the Abidjan zoo that lacks expertise and experience in caring for apes.

Headquarters

- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Guinea to give training support for the coordinator on management as well as team recruitment and evaluations.
- Mensah Akomedi, the Deputy Coordinator of EAGLE Togo, arrived to Nairobi where he was trained by the Founding Director and CCU in leadership and management according to a list of points to improve before nominated a coordinator.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, trained at the In-

ternational Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana wildlife officers, police and gendarmes, magistrates and custom, including some were high ranking officials. There were 34 participants - Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, Zambia, Kenya and Botswana. ILEA is a US Government prestigious training program for enforcers from all over Africa. EAGLE has been asked to develop training on ethics and anti-corruption for ILEA's Wildlife Crime Course, which is being conducted for 7 years now.

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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