



GALF Project

Wildlife Law Enforcement in Guinea

March – November 2012 Report



Highlights

- Investigations into the trafficking of apes, skins, birds, ivory and shark fins
- 6 dealers arrested in March while trying to sell more than 80 Kg of ivory and 10 leopard skins and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.
- 6 dealers arrested by INTERPOL with 999 items derived from the elephant, hippo and warthog in Conakry
- Several Chinese involved in chimp trafficking in Guinea arrested
- Elephant poachers' arrest
- 1 chimp dealer linked to drug trafficking arrested
- Training of 40 magistrates and workers of Water and Forestry on wildlife law enforcement.
- Revision of the Guinean wildlife code and the list of protected wildlife species

General introduction

Guinea has been identified as an international wildlife trafficking hub. Numerous local species or their trophies (chimpanzee, elephant, lion, leopard, African grey parrots) are exported illicitly. This country has a relatively long history of illegal trade in species that are found on the UN Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora – CITES annexes.

1. Guinea has been identified as a centre for professional and organised trafficking in live apes. Since 2010, 100 chimpanzees and 10 gorillas have been illegally exported from Guinea to China. Cognizant of the fact that these animals are sold for tens of thousands of dollars, it is clear that a high rate of criminality is associated with the illegal trade in these species that are found in annex I of the UN CITES Convention. The extent of this traffic is unprecedented.



2. In Guinea, the sale of ivory is done openly, in violation of national and international laws and in full knowledge of the illegality of the trade. Most of the ivory comes from Central Africa passing through Nigeria and Ivory Coast and also from East Africa (Zimbabwe, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda). The price of ivory, that is hotly sought after in Conakry, is over 300 dollars per kilogramme. The open sale of ivory accounts for hundreds of kilos in Conakry, whereas, the species is seriously threatened in Guinea and only a few tens of elephants are left. Many Guinean traffickers have organised an impressive international system in many countries. Ivory is thus exported principally to China.



3. A 2009 investigation on feline skin trafficking uncovered considerable quantities of skins in Conakry, this in violation of national and international laws. A total of 227 leopard skins and 67 lion skins were counted in 2009 in Conakry whereas; the lion is on the verge of extinction regionally in West Africa. There is a residual population that is probably not up to 50 lions in Guinea. There are therefore more dead lions in the markets of Conakry than living lions in the country. This traffic has a sub-regional impact, leopard skins come from all over the sub region and transits through Conakry before moving to other African and international destinations. The trade is very lucrative in the international market, particularly in the United States and in Europe. In Conakry a leopard skin cost between 200 and 700 euros.



4. The parrots trade (African grey parrots, parrots from Brazil and Australia and green parakeets) provide huge illicit revenues. The person who captures a parrot is paid about 3 dollars whereas its commercial value in Europe is about 1500 to 2000 dollars.



The GALF project was launched in Conakry in March with the assistance of LAGA and it is growing from its birth.

Investigations

29 investigations in 3 different regions of Guinea – Nord – Sud – Conakry on traffickers of Chinese, Lebanese, Spanish, American, Sierra Leoneans and Guinean nationalities.

- March : Identification in Conakry of a group of major traffickers of ivory and feline skins
- April
 - identification of a group of major dealers of ivory (The Sidimé family)
 - investigations on 3 birds dealers (grey parrots)
 - Investigations in Badiar National Park (North) on Chinese citizens involved in chimpanzee traffic
- June
 - Investigation on 3 important bushmeat dealers (Chimpanzee skulls and legs) in Conakry.
 - Investigations on a military man from the presidency transferred to the airport who understands the chimpanzee trafficking between Guinea and China.
 - Investigations in Badiar National Park (Nord) on 1 American citizen involved in chimpanzee trafficking, he comes every year from Guinea Bissau to buy chimpanzee.
- July



- Identification of 1 major live chimpanzee and bird dealer who has 3 chimpanzees under quarantine in Conakry.
- Investigations on bushmeat traffic between Sierra Leone and Guinea.
- August
 - Identification in Conakry of a network of shark fin and skates trafficking involving Lebanese, Chinese and Guinean fishing associations specialised in sharks (1 export counted 22 bags of 50kg of shark fin).
- September
 - Investigations on ivory and elephant meat trafficking along the Liberia/Sierra Leone border
 - Continue investigations on shark fins
- October
 - Investigations on the trafficking of 3 chimpanzees exported by ship by Spanish nationals in Conakry (Spanish Ferry)
 - Continuing investigations on bushmeat trade
 - Continuing investigations on shark fins



Operations

- March : 6 dealers arrested in March trying to sell more than 80 Kg of ivory and 10 leopard skins and sentenced to 3 month imprisonment.
- May : 1 operation with 28 persons arrested (The Sidimé family) by Interpol with 999 items derived from the elephant, hippo and warthog in Conakry. Only 6 major dealers were brought to justice. Many acts of corruption and influence peddling from the Army and the Presidency were combated by GALF. All six are under judicial inquiry and the case has been assigned to a judge. The court ruling shall be passed in November
- June : 1 operation with 1 dealer arrested for illegal possession of a chimpanzee on the “Rogbané beach”. This case involved one of the most important drug dealers.
- July : 1 operation in Koundara (Badiar National Park) concerning 3 Chinese citizens involved in live great apes trafficking. The worker with a Chinese company (CGC) is actually being prosecuted for illegal possession of 3 chimpanzees. One Chinese citizen has been arrested and has spent one week in jail, he has been granted bail. Huge traffic of influence and corruption attempts in these cases. Chimpanzees were confiscated with assistance from the GALF team.
- September : Assistance during the arrest of an elephant poacher in Macenta (Classified forest of Ziama - Guinée forestière)



Legal

- 3 months imprisonment with 70 000 GNF as fines and 17 millions GNF as damages obtained against 6 dealers in April
- Legal assistance to Badiar National Park (OGUIDAP) against Chinese citizens involved in chimpanzee trafficking.
- Legal assistance to Badiar National Park for a military man arrested for killing a hippo with an AK47 rifle.

- 5 months of legal follow-up in the case concerning the Sidime family involved in the trafficking of ivory (may operation) and ruling shall be passed in November.
- Legal follow-up of the Rogbané case of a chimp dealer (June operation). Negative interference from the police and the judiciary leading to no prosecution of the offender.
- Legal assistance to the Water and Forestry service of Macenta and the non governmental organisation called Faune et Flore International on the trial of 2 poachers accused of elephant killings.
- Steering of the revision process of the list of protected species.
- Revision by GALF of the code of protection for wildlife and hunting regulations to be proposed for a decree.
- Participation at a regional workshop on environmental laws organised by USFS – presentation on wildlife trafficking and specific cases from GALF (legal, influence peddling, corruption) – training of 40 magistrates and workers of Water and Forestry on wildlife law enforcement.



Media Front

- 14 media pieces were broadcast with 6 in private and public radios, 5 in written press, 3 over private and public TV stations all in French and on different GALF operations.
- Reports on the programme Tapis Vert over the RKS radio station with the United States Forest Service and Water and Forestry on CITES and wildlife trafficking in Guinea.
- Interview by the Director of GALF on the fight against chimpanzee trafficking during the French TV channel TFI programme “Reportages”.
- Article in the international press on GALF activities.

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Guinea_police_in_massive_ivory_bust_six_arrested_999.html

<http://www.africaguinee.com/index.php?monAction=detailNews&id=13252>

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Guinea+police+in+massive+ivory+bust+six+arrested/-/1066/1413576/-/4w80ayz/-/index.html>

<http://www.cameroon-info.net/stories/0,33118,@,faune-80-kilogrammes-d-ivoire-camerounais-saisi-en-guinee.html>

External relations and policy

- Putting in place a collaboration initiative between GALF and 3 ministries including Ministry Delegate for Environment, Water and Forestry Ministry, Ministry of Security and Ministry of Justice
- Appointment of national focal points in charge of wildlife crime within the Ministry of Security (Interpol’s National Bureau in Conakry) and the Ministry of Justice
- Assistance in March and May to regional headquarters comprising LAGA, AALF and PALF during the first operations.



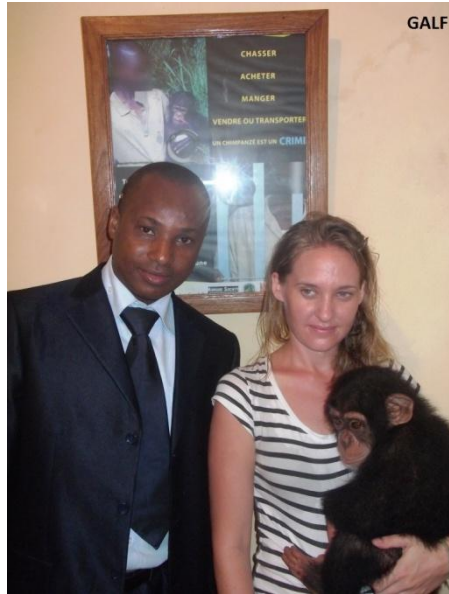
Photos

22 March 2012 : Arrest of 5 traffickers, seizure of 100 kg of sculpted ivory and 10 leopards skins. Imprisonment term of 3 months.



28 May 2012 : Arrest of 28 persons including 6 major traffickers kept under custody, seizure of 999 objects derived from elephant ivory and hippopotamus and others





24 June 2012 : Arrest of a live chimpanzee dealer with links to drugs.

Procureur Mamadou Bora Diallo – Justice national point focal and Charlotte Houpline GALF coordinator



12 June and 2 July 2012 : Investigation and arrest of a Chinese national in Koundara implicating two others involved in chimpanzee trafficking. Seizure of 3 chimpanzees that were to be exported to China.



16 September 2012 : Support in the arrest of a elephant poacher and ivory dealer



Finance

Somme de Spent		Étiquettes de colonnes									
Étiquettes de lignes	Trust Building	Bonus	Flight	Food Allowance	Internet	Jail visit	Office	Salaries	Telephone	Transport	Total général
PFNH		1158000			456000	116000	3214700	3000000	1505000	3695500	13145200
Investigations		100000					10000	1400000	110000	223500	1843500
Legal					3000	116000	270500	1600000	160000	342000	2491500
Management					453000		2815700		1215000	985000	5468700
Media		1058000					6000		20000		1084000
Operation							112500			2145000	2257500
USFS	600000	3730000		250000	491000		2623000	22771500	785000	2869000	34119500
Investigations		1050000						2100000	145000	636000	3931000
Legal		300000		250000			70000	5100000	165000	788000	6673000
Management					491000		2513000	15571500	475000	1325000	20375500
Media		280000									280000
Operation	600000	2100000					40000			120000	2860000
WWF-NL		6783000	6966000	1420000	3879000	10000	24754916	25322000	2143000	13595000	84872916
Investigations		1450000					5259800	1922000	320000	1034500	9986300
Legal		1200000					5298400	4800000	360000	919000	12577400
Management			6966000	1420000	3879000	10000	14136716	18600000	1453000	11036500	57501216
Media		213000					10000		10000		233000
Operation		3920000					50000			605000	4575000
Total général	600000	11671000	6966000	1670000	4826000	126000	30592616	51093500	4433000	20159500	132137616

Finance Summary

Donors	Received since March 2012	Used (Fcfa)	Remainder	Status	%
WWF-NL (10 000 Euros)	84873400	84872916	484	Finished	64,2
USFS (5 000 US Dollars)	35250000	34119500	1130500	Current	25,8
PFNH (1 529 Euros)	13145200	13145200	0	Finished	9,9
Total FGN	133268600	132137616	1130984		100,0
Total Euros	15465	15334	131		
Total US dollars	19646	19480	167		

1 EURO =	8617.562	FGN
1 DOLLAR =	6783.3454	FGN