



INTPA-NEAR Environment & Climate Week

27-31 March 2023
Brussels, Belgium



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT by PALF in Republic of Congo



1. Introduction

Introduction

PALF is a project which **started in 2008**

2010 a **MoU between The Aspinall Foundation, WCS and the Ministry of Forestry Economy**

MoU which was renewed in November 2022 between the MEF and The Aspinall Foundation.

Members of the EAGLE network (Eco activists for Governance and Law Enforcement) since 2013



II. Objectives and Goals

What

Support the Congolese government to arrest wildlife traffickers

Improve the legal process

Create deterrent and discourage people from involving themselves in such activities

How

Tracking traffickers through investigations

Arresting through operations

Giving officers a legal kit on wildlife

Assisting with jurists

Media coverage

Put forth positive outcomes to deter.

Why

No reason for traffickers to stop

Lack of knowledge

Corruption

Easy trade with high profit

2. Results

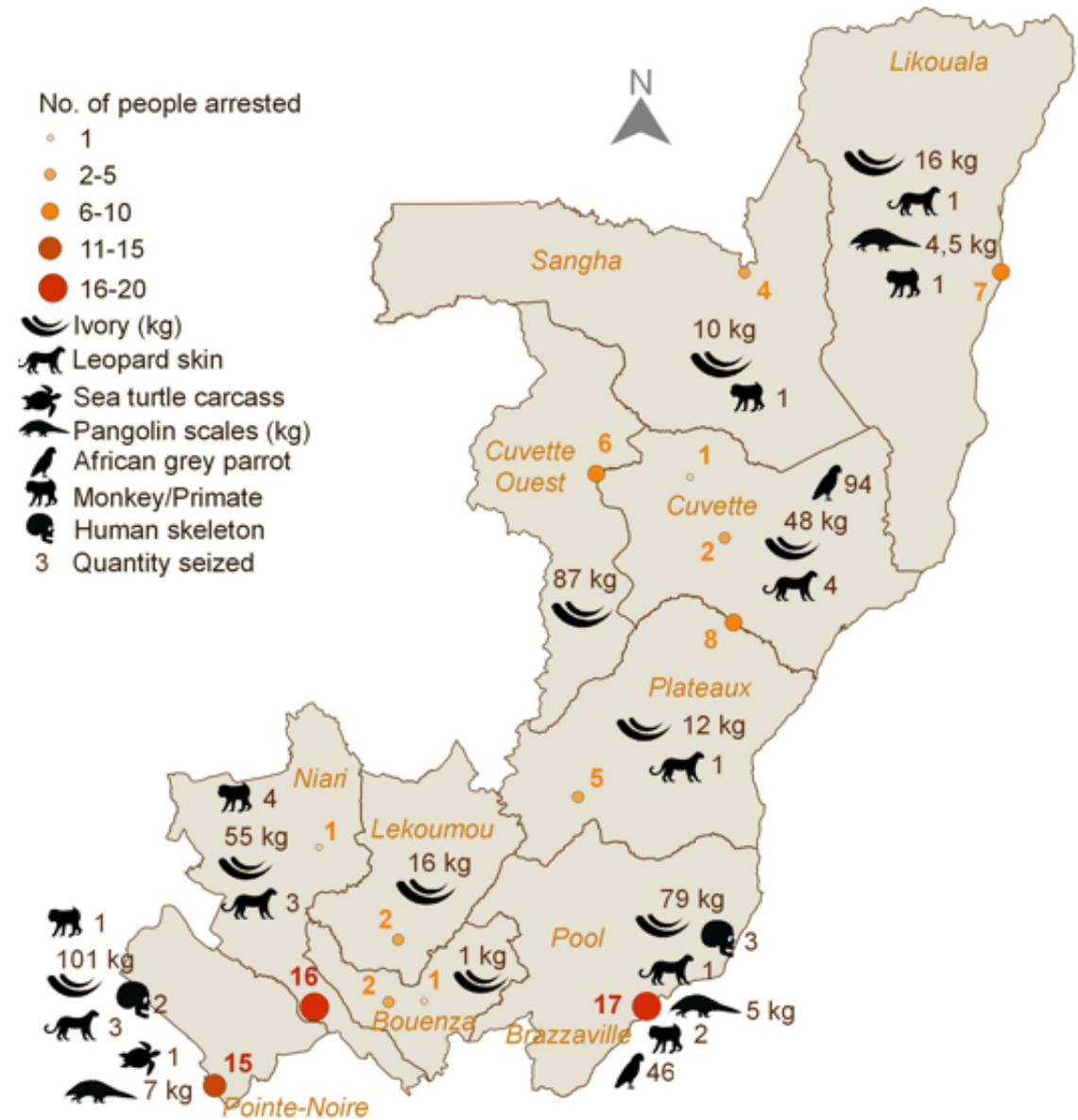
2. Results through UE fundings

Financial support from the EU since December 2018 via the RALFF project (Reinforcement of Law Enforcement for Fauna and Flora in Central Africa): 3,200,000 Euros – Cameroun, Gabon, R. Congo and CAR

- ⇒ Nearly, 90 traffickers arrested
- ⇒ Over 400 kilos of ivory seized,
- ⇒ Over a hundred live animals seized and rescue

been

! All cases were brought to court and over 90% of traffickers have prosecuted with many of them condemned.



Chief of Post of Ministry of Forestry Economy arrested and sentenced



- had been facilitating wildlife trafficking for 15 years and was a notorious trafficker
- no one is above the law, regardless of their status
- KONDO MABIALA Christian and his two accomplices **were sentenced to three years in prison.**
- PALF jurists regularly visit them in prison to verify the actual presence of the detainees and their state of health.

African Grey Parrots 2021- 2022

- From November 2021 to today, 7 traffickers arrested with more than 140 Gabonese grey parrots.
- A trafficker sentenced to 2 years in prison. He was one of the biggest suppliers of Gabonese grey parrots in the Republic of Congo (see photo) and was arrested with 94 parrots, some already dead due to the terrible conditions they were found in.





3. Methods

III. Organisation Plan

Investigations

Assisting
authorities
with arrest
Operations

Legal
Follow up

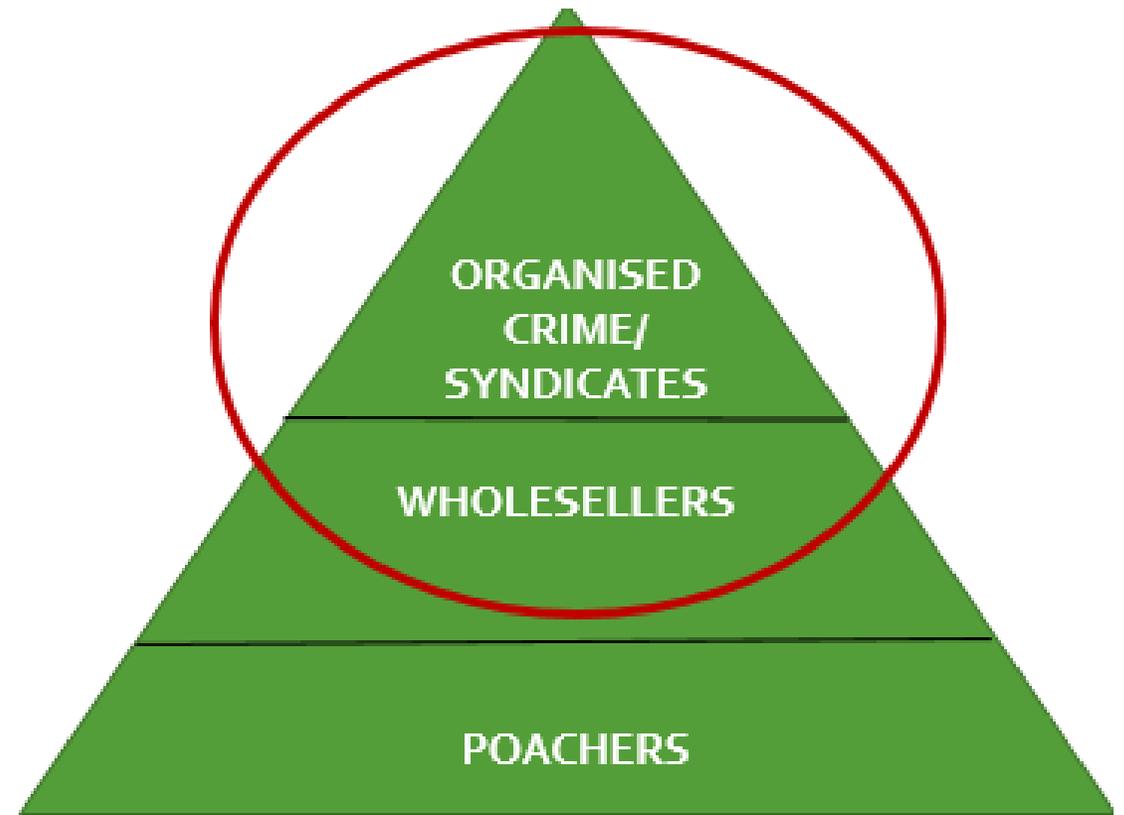
Media
coverage

Follow up on
traffickers
during and
post
sentencing

FIGHT CORRUPTION

A. Investigation

- EAGLE network exploits the data of all **7 countries**
- PALF works with informers
- **Informers infiltrate** and find the leaders and wholesalers.
- **NO money** or advances are ever given. NEVER any Incitation. Very strict internal procedures



NB: Focus on traffickers and organised crime NOT poachers.

Focus on arrests NOT seizures. A seizure with nobody arrested is often linked to corruption and impunity

B. Arrest Operations

- **Relevant and concrete information** on a trafficker is available => PALF coordinator contacts authorities (Ministry / Gendarmerie or Police)
- Plan is made with authorities to **organise arrest**, which **imperatively needs to be in flagrante delicto**.
- PALF legal advisers are **present during the arrest** and **follow the sworn in officers** who lead the arrest.
- Search of **home of traffickers** is done and **phones searched to continue investigations**.



C. Legal Follow up- After Op - During and after trial

- PALF jurists assist the officials **making sure that the qualification of the infraction is adequate.**
- Contact with the magistrates **to inform.**
Support for high authorities
- contacts and **pays for a lawyer to represent the Ministry of Forestry Economy** (civil party)
- PALF jurists follow up on all traffickers via jail visits and by **checking advancement of each case in court**
- When trafficker is sick => ensure **he is treated**
- Regular **follow up and jail visits**



D. Media Coverage and Strategy

Arrests and court decisions are **highly mediatized via national TV, radio, written press and internet.**

Media also puts forward the Congolese government and their efforts to counter wildlife trafficking. It **encourages them to do more and creates respect and transparency.**

The **quicker the news is out the harder it becomes to bail people out** with no good reason

Trois individus supplémentaires interpellés pour trafic d' perroquets gris du Gabon à Brazzaville.

Uncategorized Published décembre 10, 2022 at 10:09 Commentaires fermés



Les interpellations des présumés trafiquants ont succédé. Les 3, 4 et 6 décembre dernier, une fois de plus, pris en flagrant délit, deux individus ont été interpellés pour trafic d' perroquets gris du Gabon, et un autre pour trafic de tortue marine.

Il sied de retenir que les deux présumés trafiquants ont été arrêtés le 3 décembre, le 4 novembre, tous deux originaires de la République centrafricaine et qu'ils avaient en leur possession 17 perroquets sur le point d'être transférés à Brazzaville.

Un an de prison ferme pour un trafiquant de tortue marine à Pointe Noire

Uncategorized Published octobre 7, 2022 at 11:51 Commentaires fermés



Deux chimpanzés vivants réceptionnés par les autorités et transférés dans une réserve

Uncategorized Published mars 26, 2022 at 13:02 Commentaires fermés

L'équipe de l'Institut Jane GOODALL a reçu dans la Réserve de Tchimpounoua dans le Département du Kouilou, deux bébés chimpanzés vivants, respectivement les 24 février et 2 mars de cette année, en provenance d'Ovando et de Louloleda dans le Département de la Cuvette. Les deux animaux intégralement protégés ont été confiés aux autorités compétentes par des personnes de bonne volonté.

Le premier jeune chimpanzé a été récupéré par le chauffeur d'un camion semi-remorque sur la route nationale N°2. Le second lui, par un individu dans le village Trébou à 40 km du district de Louloleda dans le Département de la Cuvette. Les deux animaux ont été successivement transmis aux agents de la Direction Départementale de l'Economie Forestière de la Cuvette avant d'être transférés à Brazzaville où ils ont reçu, tour à tour, les premiers soins des mains des vétérinaires.

Number of media pieces- Decembre 2018-:				1344
TV	RADIO	INTERNET	WRITTEN PRESS	
262	439	530	113	

4. Challenges

IV. Challenges and limitations

- issues with the justice system => temporary leave for health reasons.
- many magistrates do not respect the law and try and get money as "legal fees" for procedures. => **release on bail of traffickers awaiting trial** because the case was not forwarded fast enough to the Court of First Instance.
- **PALF doesn't have the ability to trace the seizures once sentence is given, exception of live animals transferred released back into the wild.**
- Authorities are sometimes passive. **An arrest warrant will rarely be implemented if there is no support.** PALF often has to send their own agents to stalk and find traffickers





Thank you



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