

**TALFF's Newsletter**  
**N°007/14**  
**of January 24, 2014**

**TOGO: Arrest of three big traffickers with 1689.45 kilogrammes of elephant tusks**

*On Thursday January 23, 2014, three big traffickers of ivory were arrested in Lomé in their attempt to ship to Vietnam a container having 1689.45 Kg of ivory. These traffickers are: WALLA Manza Ezzo, ALANOU Mohamed both Togolese and DINH Huu Khao who is Vietnamese. This important arrest has been achieved thanks to technical assistance, logistic arrangements and perfect coordination between ANCE/TALFF Project and the government specialized agency (Joint Containers Control Unit) and a division of Central Office for Repression of Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Laundering).*



For several weeks, investigators of ANCE/TALFF project carried out many investigation missions in Lomé in order to dismantle a big ivory trafficking network



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to Vietnam. This investigation findings come out as a proof that these traffickers were in possession of an important quantity of ivory that they were about to ship to Vietnam through the Port Autonome de Lome.



**DINH Huu Khao**

Informed about the case, the Joint Containers Control Unit (JCCU), the specialized agency of the Central Office for Repression of Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Laundering opened as soon as possible investigations. On January 23, 2014 this specialized agency conducted a search of container having cashews intended for export to Vietnam. This particular container subtly was transferred to container terminal for export without been check on scanner. Due to

ANCE/TALFF team and JCCU vigilance, the suspected container was seriously checked by scanner and it appeared that instead of cashews, it is rather woods. It has therefore been decided to inspect totally the content of the container. A further check leads to discover 24 bags of elephant tusks weighing 1689.45 Kg hidden at the heart of the container.



**WALLA Manza Ezzo**

An open investigation carried out in order to identify the perpetrators and accomplices of this illicit trafficking in protected wildlife species helped to arrest Mr. WALA Manza Ezzo, ALANOU Mohamed, both Togolese and DINH Huu Khao who is Vietnamese. Other members of the network are actively been pursued.



**ALANOU Mohamed**

Indeed, thanks to the good cooperation between the TALFF and government institutions such as the

Ministry of Environment and Forestry Resources, the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, the Central Office for Repression of Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and



Laundering.

Togolese law severely punishes perpetrators, co-perpetrators or accomplices of any hunting, possession, marketing, import, use or re-export of protected species, their remains, trophies or products.

The wildlife and fauna regulation in Togo is based on:

1. • Order No. 4 of January 16, 1968 regulating protection of wildlife and hunting in Togo;
2. • The Environmental Framework Law (Law No. 2008-005 of May 30, 2008);
3. • The Forest Code of the Republic of Togo (Law No. 2008-09 of June 19, 2008).

Togo also ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington Convention), ratified on October 23, 1978 and which came into force on January 21, 1979. This convention prohibits the international trade in wildlife species which are endangered or threatened with extinction as the elephant, lion, panther, gorillas, marine turtle etc.

TALFF project which is a perfect replication model of LAGA doesn't have enough adequate resources for its functioning. Togo has emerged in recent years as main ivory transit point in West Africa and in the world; hence ANCE/TALFF efforts and the government goodwill should sufficiently be supported by technical and financial partners. Become TALFF partner by emailing us on [info@ancetogo.org](mailto:info@ancetogo.org)



## About The TALFF PROJECT

The project Togo-Application of the law on Fauna and Flora (TALFF) goal is to strengthen legal and institutional framework of the various stakeholders in the fight for the protection of biodiversity and against trafficking in wildlife and flora species in Togo and Africa.

TALFF project is implemented by ANCE NGO in cooperation with the Ministry of environment and forest resources (MEFR) and many other biodiversity actors.

The project aimed at protecting threatened species of the republic of Togo against fauna criminality and the fight against illicit trafficking by reinforcing the implementation of the fauna law and dissuades potential poachers and traffickers.

TALFF project is the replica of the modal EAGLE Network that is realizing already similar projects as the project entitled "Support to the Implementation of the Wildlife Law (AALF) by conservation justice ([www.conservation-justice.org](http://www.conservation-justice.org)) the LAGA project (Last Great Ape ([www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org)))

For more information, you can visit our official Web site : [www.talf-enforcement.org](http://www.talf-enforcement.org).

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#### **ANCE-TOGO**

Tel : +228 22 51 34 15  
Fax : +228 22 51 35 76  
08 BP 80925 Lomé-Togo  
E-mail : [info@ancetogo.org](mailto:info@ancetogo.org)  
Url : [www.ancetogo.org](http://www.ancetogo.org)

