



EAGLE

February 2019
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *27 wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *14 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo in 3 operations*
- ✓ *3 Senegalese ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *6 leopard skin traffickers arrested in Gabon in two operations*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 42 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and 3 crocodile skins in Benin*



14 ivory traffickers were arrested in Congo in 3 operations. 6 traffickers were arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg.

6 leopard skin traffickers were arrested in Gabon in two operations.

Summary

27 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 4 countries.

14 ivory traffickers were arrested in Congo in 3 operations. 6 traffickers were arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon. A trafficker was arrested with 4 elephant tusks. He carried the contraband concealed in a suitcase from the North of the country to the town of Oyo, where he was arrested. He activated a ring of poachers and provided them with ammunition in the North part of Congo, and they massacred the elephants also in Odzala-Kokoua National Park. 7 traffickers were arrested with 3 large tusks, 4.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and a leopard skin in the North-east of the country. Two of the members of the well-organized trafficking ring are from DRC and three from Central African Republic. They collected the contraband in DRC and CAR and brought it to a town on the border to sell it. They are also connected to the high authorities of the locality. Four of them were arrested in the act attempting to trade the ivory. Soon they denounced other 3 traffickers, who were swiftly arrested two of them with more pangolin scales and the third one with the leopard skin.

3 Senegalese ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks, cut to 8 pieces in the East of Gabon. The three brothers brought the ivory in their car, well concealed in a rice bag, packed in boxes. They evaded law enforcement for a long time, being known as notorious traffickers. They were activating a network of traffickers and poachers in South east Gabon and trafficking the ivory to Cameroon.

6 leopard skin traffickers were arrested in Gabon in two operations. 4 traffickers were arrested with two leopard skins in the North of the country. Two of them were arrested in the act attempting to sell the leopard skins. They soon denounced the other two traffickers, who were arrested the same day in their village 50 km away of the town. A rifle caliber 12 was also found in the house of one of them. 2 traffickers

were arrested with two leopard skins in the East of the country. The two brothers were surprised by the operation team during the attempt to sell the skins in a hotel.

2 traffickers were arrested with 42 of kg pangolin scales in Cameroon. They have been trafficking for years, specializing in pangolin scales. The contraband was found inside a taxi they were using at the time of arrest. One of them realized police was moving in on them and tried to escape but was chased and arrested by wildlife officials. The second trafficker, seeing the commotion escaped into a nearby hotel but was also arrested. The two are very popular with bushmeat sellers in a notorious neighborhood well known for illegal trafficking in bushmeat and other parts especially pangolin scales in Yaoundé. They activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around the city.

2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin and 3 crocodile skins in Benin. One of them is a seller of animal skins, using his business as a cover for illegal trafficking in protected species. They were arrested in the act in a hotel room.



14 ivory traffickers were arrested in Congo in 3 operations. 6 traffickers were arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 traffickers arrested with 42 kg of pangolin scales in the capital city. They have been trafficking for years, specializing in pangolin scales. The contraband was found inside a taxi they were using at the time of arrest. One of them realized police was moving in on them and tried to escape but was chased and arrested by wildlife officials. The second trafficker, seeing the commotion escaped into a nearby hotel but was also arrested. The two are very popular with bushmeat sellers in a notorious neighborhood well known for illegal trafficking in bushmeat and other parts especially pangolin scales in Yaoundé. They activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around the city.
- The Deputy Director attended a ceremony organized by the British High Commission on the occasion of the 7th International Trade Fair called Promote 2019.
- The Interim Director and the accountant travelled to Gabon to be trained on using the new software for an EU project.



- A legal adviser travelled to the UK to participate at a training programme organized by the Durrell Conservation Academy.
- The Deputy Director participated at a meeting

that aimed at creating a pangolin working group for Cameroon.

- LAGA relocated to a new office.

Congo – PALF

- 6 traffickers arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon.



6 traffickers arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg.



A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks. He carried the contraband concealed in a suitcase



- A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks. He carried the contraband concealed in a suitcase from the North of the country to the town of Oyo, where he was arrested. He activated a ring of poachers and provided them with ammunition in the North part of Congo, and they massacred the elephants also in Odzala-Kokoua National Park.
- 7 traffickers arrested with 3 large tusks, weighing more than 45 kg, 4.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and a leopard skin in the North-east of the country. Two of the members of the well-organized trafficking ring are from DRC and three from Central African



■ Republic. They collected the contraband in DRC and CAR and brought it to a town on the border to sell it. They are also connected to the high authorities of the locality. Four of them were arrested in the act attempting to trade the ivory. Soon they denounced other 3 traffickers, who were swiftly arrested two of them with the pangolin scales and the third one with the leopard skin.

■ The coordinator and the accountant travelled to Gabon to be trained on using the new software for an EU project.

■ The Coordinator held a series of meetings with several high authorities including the General Director of Water and Forest, Juristic Advisor and General Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, Advisors and Attachés of the US Embassy, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Water and Forest and others.



7 traffickers arrested with 3 large tusks, weighing more than 45 kg, 4.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and a leopard skin

■ A legal adviser and an investigator continued their test period.

Gabon – AALF

■ 4 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins in the North of the country. Two of them were arrested in the act attempting to sell the leopard skins. They soon denounced the other two traffickers, who were arrested the same day in their village 50 km away of the town. A rifle of caliber 12 was also found in the house of one of them.

■ 2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins in the East of the country. The two brothers were surprised by the operation team during the attempt to sell the skins in a hotel. They are behind bars awaiting trial.





3 Senegalese ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, cut to 8 pieces



2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins

- 3 Senegalese ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, cut to 8 pieces in the East of the country. The three brothers brought the ivory in their car, well concealed in a rice bag, packed in boxes. They evaded law enforcement for a long time, being known as notorious traffickers. They were activating a network of traffickers and poachers in Southeast Gabon and trafficking the ivory to Cameroon.
- AALF legal team also collaborated with the national customs, the World Custom Organization and Judicial Police in Libreville and North Gabon. Controls on the road have been organized and bushmeat and 9 crocodiles have been seized. The main results of this joined operation was on illegal logging with thousands m³ of Kevazingo (a protected and expensive tree) seized. It is the biggest wood seizure ever in Gabon, worth several million of USD.
- The legal team followed a case of two Chinese traffickers, arrested by antinarcotics police, during routine police check with 2 ivory bracelets, 50

ivory pearls and four leopard teeth.

- The legal team followed a case of 4 traffickers, arrested with 26 whale bones and a pot of whale fat.
- 4 wildlife traffickers were sentenced to 3 months, 6 months, 6 months and one year in jail, 3 others were sentenced to 4 months in jail.
- The legal team held a series of meetings with Prosecutors, Forestry Departmental Directors and other authorities of several departments.
- The Director travelled to Burkina Faso and CAR to reinforce the existing projects there. In Burkina Faso he held meetings with EU officers, Belgian Ambassador and Belgian security project, the General Director of the Environment, the Director of Wildlife. In CAR he held meetings with EU and US officers, with WWF, with WCS.
- A training on accounting using a new software for an EU project has been organized in Gabon for LAGA (Cameroon), PALF (Congo) and AALF (Gabon) accountants and managers.

Guinea – GALF

- Following problems of procedure the GALF project has been separated from the EAGLE Network and continues under WARA.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- Investigation department intensified its work to achieve better results in 2019.
- An investigator on test continued his test period.

- The legal team worked intensively with courts and judges to handle them the legal kit and prepare them to use it in practice.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- Nicolas Charon, the Monitoring & Evaluation officer arrived to Senegal to evaluate the work of the team, to train new investigators and to support investigations.
- The necessary administrative steps following the transition period from WARA to EAGLE-Senegal

continued, including finalizing the team members contracts and opening a bank account.

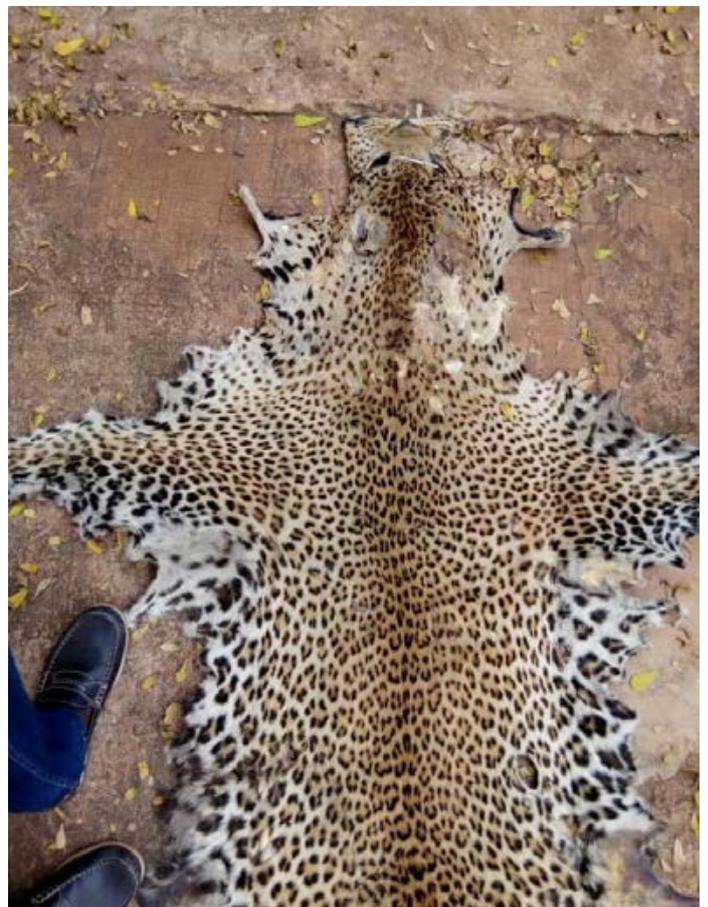
- An investigator and a legal adviser started their test period.

Benin – AALF-B

- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and 3 crocodile skins in the South of the country. One of them is a seller of animal skins, using his business

as a cover for illegal trafficking in protected species. They were arrested in the act in a hotel room.

- The coordinator trained 15 police officers from



Come on the methods of combating wildlife crime.

- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with government authorities, including the Deputy Director of the Judicial Police to solve the issue of

slow bank subpoenas, the Departmental Director of Police in Mono, several state counsels, departmental police officers, the head of the W National Park and others..

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The legal team followed the arrest of Abdoulaye Sanogo arrested at the end of previous month. Also, the building up of the case of the criminal syndicate taken down in January 2018 continued, focusing on money laundering investigations and the procedures for money laundering charges in Côte d'Ivoire.
- The coordinator held several meetings with the UCT to continue the generation of information through requisitions.
- He also held several meetings with the Director of the Forestry Police to strengthen cooperation for operations in future.
- The Coordinator met with the Head of the Subdivision of General Surveillance at FHB International Airport Abidjan to discuss collaboration.
- The Coordinator gave a training to a partner NGO in the interior of the country in order to improve their investigation capacity.

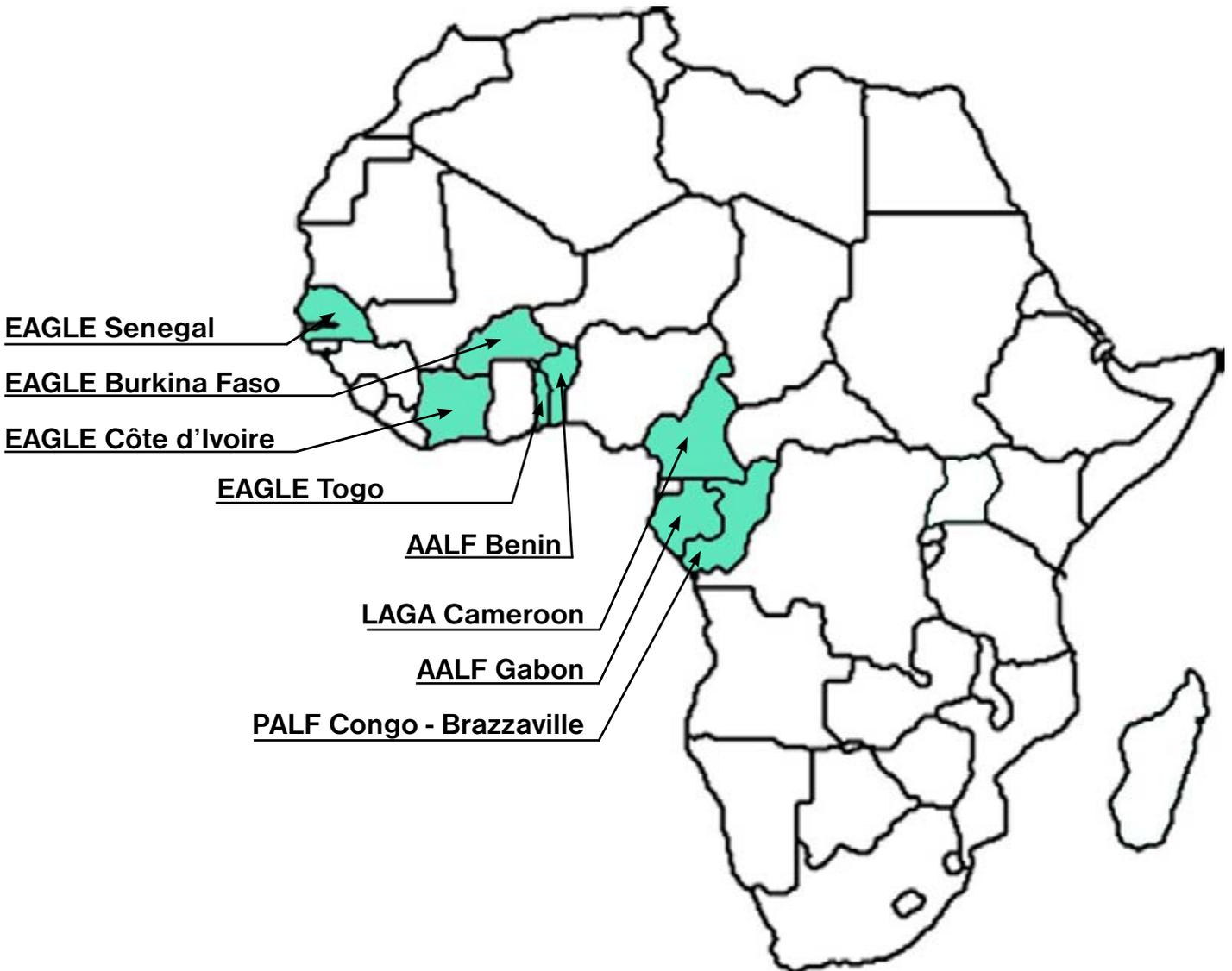
Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The investigations were interrupted due to the security situation in the country.
 - The Director of Conservation Justice travelled to Burkina Faso to reinforce the project and to conduct meetings with diplomatic community and authorities. He held meetings with EU officers, Belgian Ambassador and Belgian security project, the General Director of the Environment and the Director of Wildlife.
- Action needed:**
- A letter to the Minister of Environment requesting a signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with EAGLE Burkina Faso.

Headquarters

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director travelled to Burkina Faso and CAR to reinforce the existing projects there. In Burkina Faso he held meetings with EU officers, Belgian Ambassador and Belgian security project, the General Director of the Environment, the Director of Wildlife. In CAR he held meetings with EU and US officers, with WWF, with WCS.
- Nicolas Charon, the Monitoring and Evaluation officer conducted a mission to Senegal to evaluate the work of the team, to train new investigators and to support investigations.
- The accountants from Gabon, Cameroon and Congo participated at a training in accounting and financial management in Gabon.

Structure of the EAGLE Network



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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