



EAGLE

May 2019
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *15 traffickers were arrested in two countries*
- ✓ *A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls and other contraband in Cameroon*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt prefet (prefect) in Gabon*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested in two more operations in Gabon*



A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk in Cameroon.



4 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

Summary

15 traffickers were arrested in two countries.

A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk in Cameroon. He has been central for wildlife trafficking in the north of the country where the last remaining lions are. Being on a duty at the Bouba Ndjida National Park, instead of protecting endangered animals he organized a poaching ring around the National Park and was protecting poachers and traffickers. He used his police cover and credentials to transport the wildlife contraband for more than 1,000 km to the capital city where he intended to sell it.



A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk in Cameroon.



4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt prefect (prefect) in Gabon.

4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt prefect (prefect - a local authority high official, one level below a governor) in Gabon. A woman trafficker was arrested in the act selling 2 ivory tusks. She arrived at the place of transaction in a car, belonging to a prefect (prefect) of Bagnio in Mayumba. She turned out to be his mistress, and his involvement in ivory trafficking has been exposed quickly during the interrogation, so he was arrested in his home soon after. Two other traffickers were denounced during the interrogation, one of them a repeat offender, already prosecuted twice for trafficking and poaching, he was the one who supplied the tusks. Both were arrested the next day. The prefect (prefect) acted in an astonishing hypocrisy, ensuring that the AALF operation team his full support for law enforcement during an arrest of another ivory trafficker just a month earlier.

4 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. The group consisting of two women

and two men was well organized and ran a network specializing in selling pangolins scales to traffickers in big cities. They activated a supply chain of smaller traffickers and bushmeat sellers in the villages of their operational area.

3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon. 4 hunting guns were found during the house search in the house of one of them.

2 traffickers arrested with two tusks in Gabon. The first one, a Burkina Faso national, was arrested after being monitored by the operation team entering a hotel with the contraband concealed in a black bag. He denounced the other trafficker, who was swiftly arrested nearby.



4 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

Cameroon – LAGA

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■ LAGA legal team provided a support to the Customs, who have arrested a longtime Ghanaian parrot trafficker with 18 African Grey Parrots. The

repeat offender had been already arrested twice for the same offence and released by officials with no prison sentence. In 2015, he was arrested in the South with a consignment of African Grey Parrots and released. In 2017, he was arrested with an accomplice in Yaoundé with over 200 parrots but was released again, so he felt free to continue the illegal capture and sale of parrots. He is connected to an international group specialized in the illegal export of parrots to Europe, Asia and other African countries.



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- The Assistant Head of the Media and External Relations Department Anna Egbe travelled to the United States under the US International Visitor Leadership Program to participate in a series of events on Combatting corruption and Promoting Transparency and Accountability.
- The Customs Director and the Deputy Director of LAGA co-chaired the ceremony marking the installation of committee members of the Customs-LAGA joint committee put in place to oversee the implementation of the protocol agreement signed between the two parties.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with a pangolin conservationist from the Tikki Hywood Cameroon office on ways of improving pangolin conservation through sensitization.
- He also held a meeting with a filmmaker to discuss possibilities of featuring a LAGA staff in a film.
- He held another meeting with an official from the Sangha Trinational Foundation to discuss the state of wildlife law enforcement in the area that covers three national parks at the border of Cameroon, Gabon and the Central African Republic.
- A legal adviser attended the anti-poaching committee meeting of the Littoral region where he challenged the authorities to improve on collaboration with LAGA in order to enable effective law enforcement.

Congo – PALF

- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 2 years in jail and a penalty of 1,700 USD both. They were arrested in October 2018 with almost 400 pieces of ivory. They crossed the Congo River from DRC, only to be caught in the act, while selling 7 big ivory statues, 2 raw ivory pieces, 260 chopsticks, 4 necklaces and more 111 other curved ivory items. On top of that, they attempted to sell 3 leopard skins. They both are notorious traffickers who have long connections with DRC, but also with Angola, and China.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with several high authorities including the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Environment, the General Director of Water and Forests of the Ministry of Environment, the Legal Adviser of the Forest Economy, the Advisers and Attachés of US Embassy, with the representatives of UNODC, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Water and Forest and others.
- Two legal advisers finished their test period and joined the team.

Gabon – AALF

■ 4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt prefet (prefect) (a local authority high official, one level below a governor). A woman trafficker was arrested in the act selling 2 ivory tusks. She arrived at the place of transaction in a car, belonging to a prefet (prefect) of Bagnio in Mayumba. She turned out to be his mistress, and his involvement in ivory trafficking has been exposed quickly during the interrogation, so he was arrested in his home soon after. Two other traffickers were denounced during the interrogation, one of them a repeat offender, already prosecuted twice for trafficking and poaching, he



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- 2 traffickers arrested with two tusks. The first one, a Burkina Faso national, was arrested after being monitored by the operation team entering a hotel with the contraband concealed in a black bag. He denounced the other trafficker, who was swiftly arrested nearby.
- Luc Mathot, the Coordinator, travelled to Brussels, where he held a meeting with EU officials, responsible for the EU grant to EAGLE Network. He also met with Rory Young from Chengeta Wildlife in Amsterdam to discuss collaboration on law enforcement in Burkina Faso and other countries.
- He also travelled to Nairobi to meet with Ofir Drori and CCU to discuss the development of the EAGLE Network.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- EAGLE Togo Coordinator has signed a Partnership Agreement with The Observatory of Fauna, Flora and Protected Areas of Togo. The Agreement covers the support for EAGLE Togo during the temporary period before receiving the registration for EAGLE Togo.
- The Head of Legal department held a series of meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of the Environment of Sustainable Development and Nature to follow up the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister and EAGLE Togo.
- He also met with the SRI Commander, the Security Advisor at the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, and the Senior Legal Adviser of the Minister of Territorial Administration of Decentralization and Local Authorities.
- The Head of Legal department also held a meeting with the Regional Directorate of Forestry Resources in Tsévié to strengthen the cooperation.
- The intensified recruitment process continued to strengthen the investigation department and improve the results of the project.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

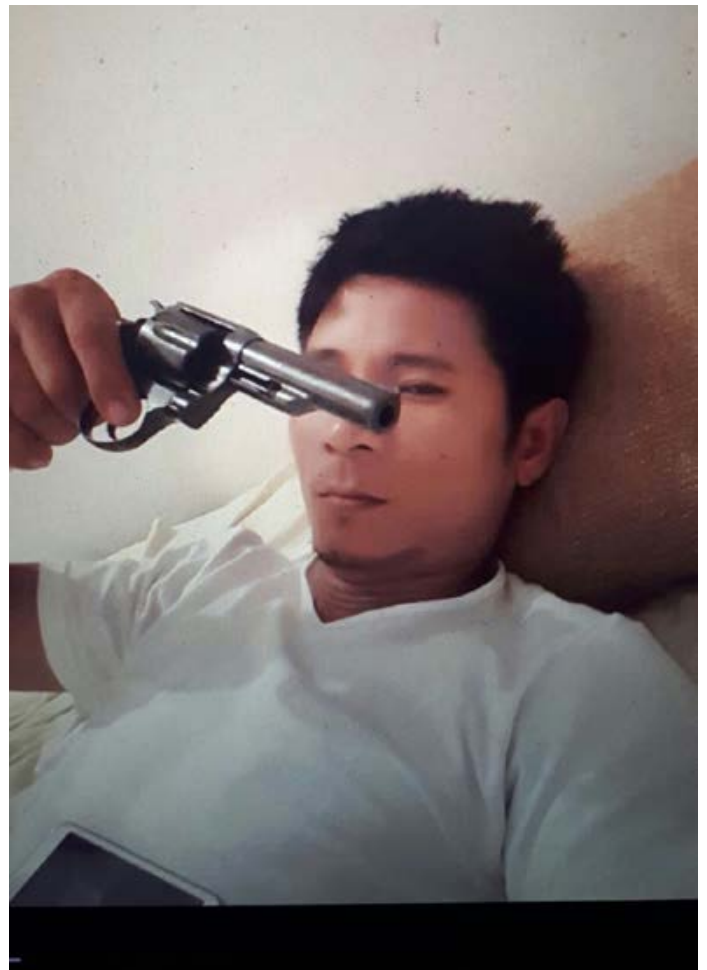
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the representatives of the US Embassy to strengthen collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and the Embassy.
- Two legal advisors participated in a workshop on the legal framework governing NGOs and associations in Senegal, organized by the Ministry of the Interior at the Ecole Normale de l'Administration.
- The Coordinator and her Assistant held a meeting with the State Counsel of High Court of Mbour and his substitutes on wildlife trafficking and the mission of EAGLE.
- The project passed a financial audit contracted by EAGLE to ensure the highest level of financial management procedures and controls.

Benin – AALF-B

- The coordinator presented how AALF-B team works to achieve deterring sentences and fights corruption during legal follow up of wildlife crime cases at a workshop organized by NGO ECOBENIN on Establishment of a system of monitoring and judicial follow-up.
- He also trained twelve officers of the Republican Police in DOUTOU on law enforcement and combating wildlife crime.
- One-third of the team members completed self-defense training.
- The coordinator held a series of meetings with high officials, including the new Central Commissioner of Lokossa commune, several State Counsels, Departmental Police Directors and others.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Vietnamese trafficker Tran Van Tu and other six members of his syndicate, crashed in January 2018, were finally prosecuted and all of them sentenced to the maximum penalty for wildlife trafficking, 1 year in prison. They were in prison for a year and five months. However, the sentence is only based on the wildlife crimes, the charge of money laundering as well as possession of drugs and weapons were dropped, even though they were arrested with them. An appeal is under preparation for these charges.
- Two investigators started their test period.



Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The investigations were interrupted due to the security situation in the country. The frequent strikes paralyzed the courts and no hearings were happening.
- The recruitment process was intensified to strengthen the Investigation and Legal Departments.

Headquarters

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Brussels, where he held a meeting with EU officials, responsible for the EU grant to EAGLE Network. He also met with Rory Young from Change4Wildlife in Amsterdam to discuss collaboration on law enforcement in Burkina Faso and other countries.
- Luc Mathot travelled to Nairobi to meet with Ofir Drori and CCU to discuss the development of the EAGLE Network.
- Jana Hajduchova, the Support Officer, held a public lecture on EAGLE Network activities and wildlife law enforcement in the Museum Vysočiny, Jihlava, in Czech Republic.

International Media

- A Mongabay article “What is magic without ape parts? Inside the illicit trade devastating Nigeria’s apes” quoted Ori Drori and used photos of LAGA to document the illegal trafficking of ape parts:

[Link to Mongabay](#)

- Ofir Drori was quoted in New Scientist article “African elephant poaching is falling at last - but it’s still too high.”

[Link to New Scientist](#)

- The same topic including the quote of Ofir was covered by RFI Afrique in French:

[Link to RFI Afrique](#)

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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