



EAGLE

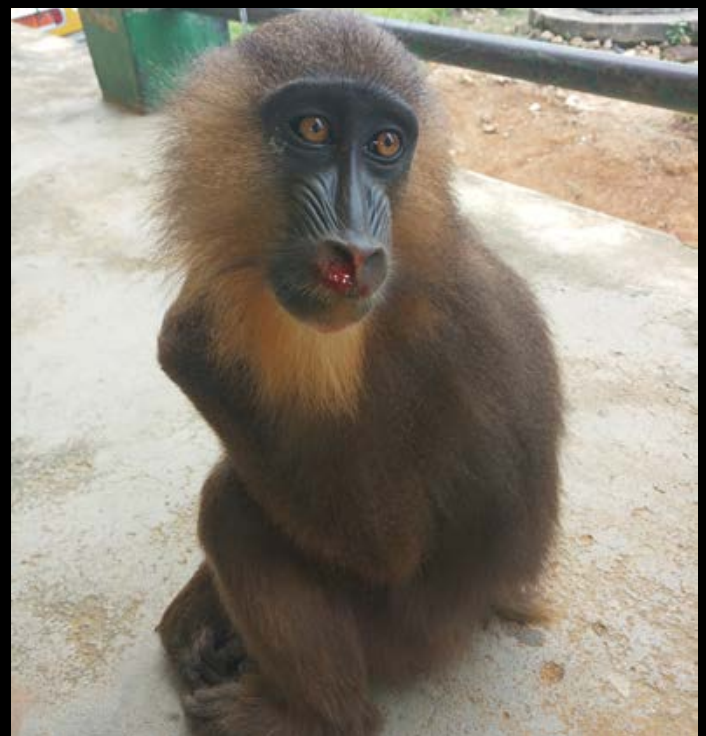
April 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 8 traffickers arrested this month*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Cameroon*
- ✓ *A pangolin scale trafficker arrested with 50 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with a young mandrill*
- ✓ *2 primate traffickers arrested in Cameroon with another young and wounded mandrill*
- ✓ *At least 144 media pieces were published in the countries as a result of the effort of the media officers spreading the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and the Covid-19 pandemic*
- ✓ *5 international media quoted EAGLE in articles on the same topic*



A pangolin scale trafficker was arrested with 50 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.



2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of Cameroon with another young and wounded mandrill.

Summary

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 8 traffickers were arrested this month.

4 traffickers belonging to a trafficking ring close to the Gabon and Cameroon border were arrested with a leopard skin. They operate along the border areas between three countries, Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, ensuring smooth illegal trade in parts of protected species including leopard skins and ivory. Two of them negotiated the deals; two others are professional drivers ensuring the trans-boundary trafficking was expertly carried in the area.



A pangolin scale trafficker was arrested with 50 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

A pangolin scale trafficker was arrested with 50 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. Despite the link of pangolins with the Covid-19 pandemic, pangolin scales traffickers still calmly carry out their illegal trade. This woman was arrested in the East of the country with 50 kg of pangolin scales. She had been arrested several times by the gendarmerie and released with-



A trafficker arrested in the heart of the capital city of Cameroon with a young mandrill

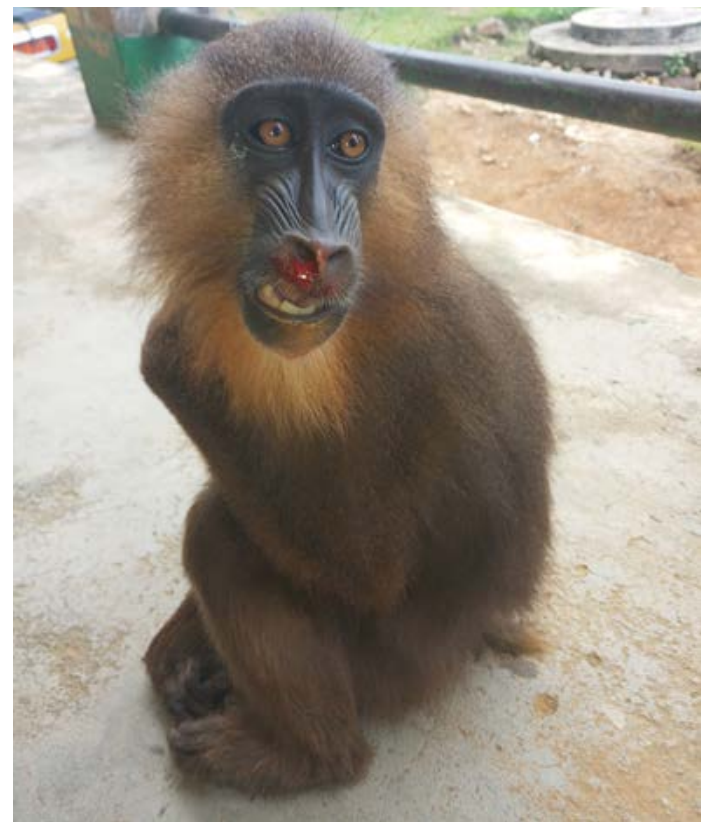
out any charges brought against her. She activated a gang of several poachers who supplied her with the scales, which she sold in the capital city. She violently resisted arrest during the operation hoping her corrupt contacts at the gendarmerie that constantly release her following each arrest would come to her rescue.

A trafficker arrested in the heart of the capital city of Cameroon with a young mandrill he had been keeping with him for some time. He brought the animal from the South of the country.

2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of Cameroon with another young and wounded mandrill. They had travelled overnight to avoid detection. They had been collaborating in wildlife trafficking for a long time, one of them specializing in the buying and searching for new clients.

At least 144 media pieces were published in the countries as a result of the effort of the media officers spreading the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and the Covid-19 pandemic.

5 international media quoted EAGLE in articles on the same topic.



2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of Cameroon with another young and wounded mandrill.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ Despite the all difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the LAGA team managed to double fight and double its results. 4 traffickers belonging to a trafficking ring close to the Gabon border arrested with a leopard skin. They operate along the border areas between three countries, Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, ensuring smooth illegal trade in parts of protected species including leopard skins and ivory. Two of them negotiated the deals; two others are professional drivers ensuring the trans-boundary trafficking was expertly carried in the area.



4 traffickers belonging to a trafficking ring close to the Gabon border arrested with a leopard skin.

■ A pangolin scale trafficker arrested with 50 kg of pangolin scales. Despite the link of pangolins with the Covid-19 pandemic, pangolin scales traffickers still calmly carry out their illegal trade. This woman was arrested in the East of the country with 50 kg of pangolin scales. She had been arrested several times by the gendarmerie and released without any charges brought against her. She activated a gang of several poachers who



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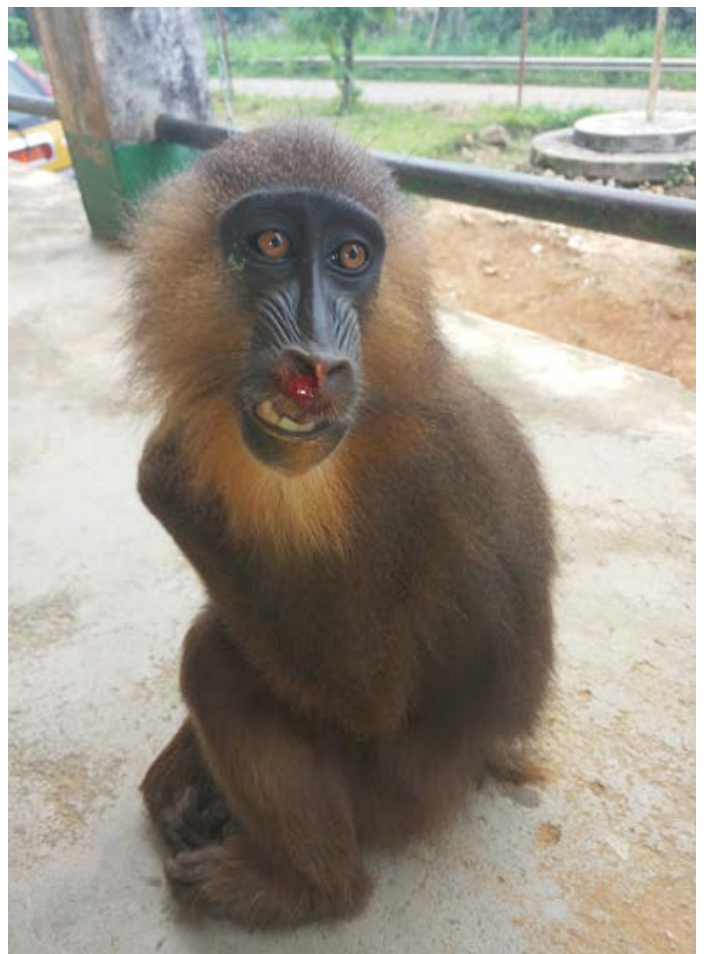
Legal Advisors held meetings with some state prosecutors to discuss strategies on the various cases initiated during the month.

- A Legal Advisor held a meeting with a State Counsel to discuss matters pending in court.
- 18 media pieces were produced about the link between wildlife trade and Covid-19 pandemic.



A trafficker arrested with a young mandrill

- 2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of the country with another young and wounded mandrill. They had travelled overnight to avoid detection. They had been collaborating in wildlife trafficking for a long time, one of them specializing in the buying and searching for new clients.
- Additional protective measures were taken for the entire teams carrying out the operations; special measures relating to the handling of primates were taken for the rescued mandrills, because of the Covid-19 situation.
- The Head of the Legal Department and several



2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of Cameroon with another young and wounded mandrill.

Congo – PALF

- 8 media pieces highlighting the link between pangolin trafficking and the pandemic of Covid-19 were published in different media including TV, radio and Internet newspapers.

Gabon – AALF

- The Legal Department supported a case of two traffickers arrested by police with a pangolin and other wildlife in the capital city.
- The Activities Coordinator held a series of meetings with several officials to strengthen collaboration with the judicial and administrative authorities, including the General Director of Forests, the General Director of the Wood Sector Executing Agency, the Technical Director of the National Agency for the National parks, the State Counsel of the specialized department of the Court of First Instance of Libreville and the new Commander of the Judicial Police in Libreville.
- The Legal Advisors met with the Director of Cabinet and the Legal Advisor of the Minister of Water and Forests and the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas.
- 14 media pieces were published in different media pointing to the link between the Covid-19 pandemic and consumption of wild animals. Conservation Justice also appreciated in the media the Gabonese Government's ban on hunting and consumption of pangolins and bats, as a part of the precautionary measures taken by the Government to minimize the possible risks of the spread of the pandemic or the appearance of new viruses and epidemics.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Head of Legal Department held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection to follow up on the Memorandum of Understanding, which is in the process of evaluation within the Ministry.
- The Head of Legal Department and the Media Officer held two meetings with the OCRTIDB and Interpol to strengthen the collaboration in the fight against environmental crime and wildlife trafficking. EAGLE-Togo supported the two law enforcement and security units by providing protective equipment against the corona virus, including 100 surgical masks and 30 bottles of disinfection gel.
- 42 media pieces were published by national and international media highlighting the link between illegal trafficking and consumption of pangolins and the pandemic of Covid-19.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 5 media pieces were published highlighting the connection between wildlife trafficking and the Covid-19 pandemic.



At the origin of the Covid 19 pandemic is a little known animal - the pangolin. The most illegally traded animal on the planet is slaughtered for its meat and its scales that are sold as traditional medicine in Asia. The illegal trade from Africa to Asia in this threatened animal is still going on. In fact, pangolins trafficked from Africa to Asia have recently been tested positive for the Corona virus, demonstrating that even in the height of the crisis, its origin still continues to risk us all.

In spite of all the threats the illegal trade in pangolins continue and we intensify our efforts. EAGLE team in Cameroon arrested in April a pangolin scale trafficker with 50 kg of pangolin scales. This

woman was arrested in the East of the country. She had been arrested several times by the gendarmerie and released without any charges brought against her. She activated a gang of several poachers who supplied her with the scales, which she sold in the capital city. She violently resisted arrest during the operation hoping her corrupt contacts at the gendarmerie that constantly release her following each arrest would come to her rescue.

On top of that EAGLE media officers intensified their work to emphasize the importance of reminding the public in each country the health risks of the illegal trade. They spread around the message about the link between pangolins and Covid-19 pandemic with extraordinary results – 144 articles and radio and TV news were published in all 8 countries. Five major international media also quoted EAGLE in their articles covering the topic of illegal pangolins trade and Covid-19 pandemic.

Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator and the Legal Advisors held a series of meetings with government authorities, including several State Counsels, Litigation Chief of the Forest Inspectorate, several Secretaries of courts and others.
- 28 media pieces were published on the relation of the wildlife trade and the Covid-19 pandemic in various printed media and on internet.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- A Legal Adviser participated at work sessions to assess the risks of wildlife crime in Côte d'Ivoire. Organized by the World Bank, this workshop is the follow up of the workshop our legal adviser attended in October, December and March.
- A Legal Adviser met the Instruction Judge in charge of the case of two ivory traffickers arrested in September, who were released in March, but with an instruction still ongoing.
- 29 media pieces were published on the illegal trade in the link to the link to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Intense recruitment process continued and an investigator started his test period.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator held several meetings with senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, the Technical Advisor and the Director of the National Office of Protected Areas.

International Media

La Croix quotes Ofir Drori in an article on pangolin trafficking:

[Link to La Croix](#)

Reporterre writes about the link between Covid-19 and pangolin trafficking, with a quote from Ofir Drori:

[Link to Reporterre](#)

Le Monde interviewed Ofir Drori for an article Coronavirus: on the trail of the “pangolin connection”:

[Link to the article](#)

Luc Mathot was quoted in Le Monde, “Pangolin sales in Gabon falter with Covid-19”:

[Link to Le Monde](#)

LAGA was mentioned in Camer.be in an article “COVID-19 and wildlife trade :: CAMEROON”:

[Link to Camer.be](#)

Several articles in Guinea, Burkina Faso and other media were published as a result of push of EAGLE Togo Media Officer, explaining the link between pangolin trafficking and trade in pangolins:

[Link to All Africa](#)

[Link to Afrique News](#)

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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