



EAGLE

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EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **10 traffickers arrested in 4 countries**
- ✓ **5 traffickers arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring. 2 traffickers arrested with 115 parrots in Abidjan and 3 traffickers arrested with 11 timneh parrots in Dakar**
- ✓ **4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon**
- ✓ **A trafficker arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon**
- ✓ **The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department of EAGLE Senegal travelled to Guinea to start the new EAGLE Guinea project**



5 traffickers arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.



A trafficker arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

Summary

5 traffickers arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. 2 traffickers arrested with 115 parrots including 110 African grey parrots in Abidjan. One of them is a Senegalese national who was arrested while attempting to sell 91 African grey parrots in Abidjan. He denounced the supplier, an Ivorian national, who was stocking the birds in his hidden aviary. Raiding the quarantine, more evidence was found on the vast stretch and magnitude of the ring and its connection to ape trafficking. 3 cape parrots trafficked from South Africa were also recovered.



5 traffickers arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.



A trafficker arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

3 traffickers arrested with 11 timneh parrots in Dakar. The operation was part of a long and meticulous investigation that led to the arrest of 2 traffickers in Abidjan including a Senegalese national with 115 African grey parrots. The house of the Senegalese trafficker in Dakar was searched and 3 traffickers were arrested with 11 timneh parrots.

4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon. A trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. The driver who transported the ivory to the scene of transaction was also arrested. The trafficker denounced two more traffickers who were arrested the next day.

A trafficker arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. He travelled 41 km with the bag of pangolin scales strapped to his motorcycle. He was arrested when he arrived the scene of transaction and attempted to sell the pangolin scales.

The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department of EAGLE Senegal travelled to Guinea to start the new EAGLE Guinea project. Activities focused on recruitment and external relations.



4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon.

Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales. He travelled 41 km with the bag of pangolin scales strapped to his motorcycle. He was arrested when he arrived at the scene of transaction and attempted to sell the pangolin scales. The operation came at the end of a long investigation that tracked and monitored the pangolin trafficker who is experienced in the illegal business. He activated a host of small traffickers in several villages, who supplied him with pangolin scales.
- The Deputy Director participated at meeting at the US Embassy in Yaounde that included several conservation stakeholders. The meeting focused on presenting US Embassy environment programs to the conservation community. He had a brief discussion with the Deputy Chief of Mission during the event.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels to discuss matters pending at their various courts and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Republic of the Congo – PALF

- The Team was trained on handling, first aid and transport of seized animals at the Tchimpounga reserve. The training was provided by the Jane Goodall Institute, within the framework of the Confiscated Animal Rescue and Enforcement (CARE) project. The Team visited the sanctuary where animals including those seized during operations assisted by PALF are kept.
- There were no court rulings this month as the judicial system at the level of the courts and tribunals was frozen. This comes at the heels of renewed efforts by the government to fight corruption within the judiciary.
- PALF Team is monitoring the measures the Government put in place to denounce corrupt officials

in these last weeks and is ready to bring in an effort to support them to bring significant results.

- The Coordinator held a meeting with a team of experts from UNODC and discussions focused on the fight against wildlife crime, especially wildlife law enforcement.
- She held a meeting with the Director of Renatura to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- She met with the Coordinator of the Aspinall Foundation on several occasions to work on some administrative tasks and discuss a potential trip of the PALF team to the Lesio Louna Reserve in the weeks to come.

Gabon – AALF

- 4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks and two 12-gauge shotguns. A trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. The driver who transported the ivory to the scene of transaction was also arrested. The trafficker denounced two more traffickers who were arrested the next day. The closely connected network was well organized and experienced. They were held in custody before their transfer to Libreville to be presented before the Prosecutor of the Special Court in charge of Wildlife Cases.



- The Activities Coordinator travelled to the United States where he was trained on investigation techniques, mission planning, field data collection, team management and safety during operations. The training was carried out under the framework of the 2023 International Seminar on Natural Resource and Law Enforcement of the US Forest Service.
- The Director of Conservation Justice participated at a meeting organised by the EU that brought together several conservation organisations to Brussels. The meeting focused on understanding the activities of the organisations in the fight against wildlife trafficking to enable the EU shape its future programmes. He did a presentation on EAGLE and the fight against wildlife crime during the meeting.
- He held several meetings with some officials including US Forest Service officials, the Asheville Court Prosecutor, trainers of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, with whom he exchanged views on training in the field of investigations and project funding.
- He and the Legal Team met with wildlife, police, judicial and military officials in Makokou to prepare for the operation that led to the arrest of 4 ivory traffickers.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several officials including the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of the Fight against Poaching, the President of the Special Chamber in charge of Forestry Litigation at the Ordinary Court and the Libreville State Counsel, to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division and CITES Focal Point to discuss the fight against the illegal wildlife trade.
- The Legal Adviser met with an Instruction Judge of the High Court of Lomé to establish collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 5 traffickers arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring operating in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.



- 3 traffickers were arrested with 11 timneh parrots in Dakar. The operation was part of a long and meticulous investigation that led to the arrest of 2 traffickers in Abidjan including a Senegalese national with 110 African grey parrots. The house of the Senegalese trafficker in Dakar was searched and 3 traffickers were arrested with 11 timneh parrots.

- Documents exposed systemic corruption with bribe amounts included in calculations and a high

level of complicity, including falsification of CITES documents, facilitating this transnational trafficking.

- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department travelled to Guinea to kick start EAGLE Guinea with recruitments and installation of an office.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 5 traffickers arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring operating in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

- 2 traffickers were arrested with 115 parrots including 110 African grey parrots in Abidjan. One of them is a Senegalese national who was arrested while attempting to sell 91 African grey parrots in Abidjan. He denounced the supplier, an Ivorian national, who was stocking the birds in his hidden aviary. Raiding the quarantine, more evidence was found on the vast stretch and magnitude of

the ring and its connection to ape trafficking. 3 cape parrots trafficked from South Africa were also recovered.

- The African grey parrots were transported by road from Cameroon to Côte d'Ivoire by highly professional traffickers who have been doing this kind of business for decades. The Ivorian supplier has been trafficking for 30 years. He sourced birds from Liberia, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Ghana. He was considered as one of the biggest wholesalers in the country.

- Thanks to collaboration, the long and meticulous investigation involved the Senegal Team. The house of the Senegalese trafficker was searched in Dakar and 3 more traffickers arrested and 11 timneh parrots seized.
- Documents exposed systemic corruption with bribe amounts included in calculations and a high level of complicity, including falsification of CITES documents, facilitating this transnational trafficking.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for the parrot operations.



- He held a meeting with the Director General of Forests and Wildlife on issues related to collaboration with the Ministry. Discussions also focused on the seized parrots.
- The Coordinator and a Legal Adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel in charge of the parrot case to work on strategies in the matter.
- They held a meeting with a new State Counsel at the Abidjan Tribunal to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department of EAGLE Senegal travelled to Guinea to start the new EAGLE Guinea project. Activities focused on recruitment and external relations.
- A temporary assistant coordinator, two legal advisers and an investigator are undergoing a two-month long training in Dakar. The recruitment of an accountant is also going on in Dakar.
- The EAGLE Senegal Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL of the Republic of Guinea to discuss collaboration on future operations. This meeting was suggested by the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL Senegal.
- She met with a Commissioner of the Central Directorate of the Air and Border Police to discuss the setting up of the Guinea project and the fight against wildlife crime.

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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