



**EAGLE**

April 2025  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in 2 countries.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and two skulls in the north east of Cote d'Ivoire.*
- ✓ *A woman arrested for her connection to ivory trafficking arrests that took place in February, in Cameroon.*



# Summary

2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and two skulls in the north east of Cote d'Ivoire. The skins were trafficked from Burkina Faso. This is a snapshot of the ongoing large scale massacre of leopards driven by wildlife trafficking. To evade detection, the traffickers concealed the wildlife contraband in a fertilizer bag while transporting it to the place of transaction.

A woman arrested for her connection to ivory trafficking arrests that took place in February, in Cameroon. She was arrested during a follow up operation, after additional investigations and interrogation, revealed she was the holder of the elephant tusks that were seized from 2 traffickers in February. She concealed the elephant tusks at her residence in a neighbourhood in Douala, where the first arrests took place.



2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and two skulls in the north east of Cote d'Ivoire.



2 ivory traffickers arrested in February in Cameroon, the 3<sup>rd</sup> trafficker arrested in April in Douala



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## Cameroon – LAGA

- A woman arrested for her connection to ivory trafficking arrests that took place in February. She was arrested during a follow up operation, after additional investigations and interrogation, revealed she was the holder of the elephant tusks that were seized from 2 traffickers in February. She concealed the elephant tusks at her residence in a neighbourhood in Douala, where the first arrests took place.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the Wildlife Conservation Network to discuss issues related to pangolin scales trafficking and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He participated at a meeting organized by the Wildlife Conservation Network bringing together conservation groups that deal with pangolin protection. He did a presentation on pangolin scales trafficking in the country during the meeting.

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## Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers sentenced to 2 years in prison. They were arrested in February with a leopard skin and a bag of pangolin scales.
- The Coordinator did a talk on the theme “the Legislation on the Protection of Protected Areas and Wildlife Crime” at the National Gendarmerie School during a conference for 58 gendarmerie cadet officers.
- He held a meeting and discussions with the Director General of Forest Economy to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Team held meetings with the State Counsel of the Madingou High Court, the State Counsel of the Owando High Court, the Departmental Director of Forestry Economy of Bouenza and the Commandant Director of Operations of Bouenza Gendarmerie Region to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

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## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator played an active role in the rescue and release of a sea turtle caught in a fisherman’s net. During the operation he held talks with the Aflao Border Police Chief to strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife trafficking.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Customary Chieftaincy to discuss and find ways of relaunching the EAGLE-Togo registration file.
- He met with the Director of the OCRTIDB (Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against trafficking in wildlife species.
- He participated at a meeting held at the headquarters of the Togo’s Anti-Corruption Commission to validate the terms of reference for setting up of a platform of civil society organizations to fight corruption and related offences.
- A Legal Adviser participated at a workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources that focused on the validation of operational procedures and the review of legislation and regulations relating to the management of ivory stocks and other wildlife products in Togo.

# Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator met with the Head of Security at the UK Embassy in Senegal in to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- She met with the new Head of the Customs subdivision at the Blaise Diagne Airport International in Diass.
- The Team met with the Attorney General, the State Counsel, the Central Superintendent of Police, the

President of the Court of First Instance and some judges in Kedougou to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- The Accountant from Senegal travelled to the Republic of Guinea where he provided technical assistance to the project in Conakry.
- A candidate for the position of an investigator from Guinea travelled to Dakar where she is undergoing training.

# Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and two skulls in the north east of the country. The skins were trafficked from Burkina Faso. This is



a snapshot of the ongoing large scale massacre of leopards driven by wildlife trafficking. To evade detection, the traffickers concealed the wildlife





contraband in a fertilizer bag while transporting it to the place of transaction.

- The Interim Assistant Coordinator held discussions with UCT officials on several issues related to the execution of operations and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

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## Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Team followed up on the registration application filed with the National Department for the Regulation and Promotion of Association (SER-PROMA), attached to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization.
- Recruitment and training was intensified with those who were selected in September and December 2024 and trained in Senegal returning to join the Team.
- One candidate retained after a recruitment process in February arrived in Senegal, where she is currently undergoing training.
- EAGLE Senegal's accountant arrived in Conakry to provide technical support on taxation and regularisation of contracts with relevant authorities.

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## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- The Interim Coordinator and the Legal Advisor held an interaction with Uganda Revenue Authority Head Intelligence on operations and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Adviser followed up on court cases from operations in 2024.
- Recruitment and recommender follow up was intensified with several interviews held to fill the vacant positions in different departments.
- The process to renew the operational permit was started with an evaluation of a consultant to assist the process.
- The Team started a French course to upgrade language skills necessary for communication in wildlife crime milieus in the region.

# International Media

## Ofir Drori: The Protector of Wildlife

■ Paris Match, a renowned French newspaper, dedicated several pages of its April 2 edition to Ofir Drori the founding Director of the EAGLE Network with an article and interview. The feature that appears on the 'Heroes of the Planet' section of the newspaper, narrates his fight against wildlife trafficking and corruption, his early beginnings, his love for nature and Africa. In an article by Anne-Cecile Beaudoin, we learn about his military experience, his voyages to Africa – Kenya, the Congo with the pygmies, the desert and the war zones of Liberia and Sierra Leone. And eventually his arrival in Cameroon, the birth place of LAGA. The journalist recounts Ofir's meeting with Future the chimpanzee he saved and which forever changed his life and conservation in sub Saharan Africa.



The article highlights the activities of the EAGLE Network, its operational methods, infiltrating trafficking networks and the successes recorded in over 20 years of activity – over 3000 traffickers arrested and prosecuted in several countries. He says what made the difference was “Determination and refusal to do nothing in the face of injustice”. Ofir talks of one of his most important operations which happened in 2013 in Gabon with the busting of an ivory trafficking Chinese network with 600kg of elephant tusks and a strong fight against political pressures and corruption.

The coverage is made graphic with several photos from operations and a full page photo of Ofir clad in his trade mark black t-shirt and black jeans with an elephant in a pool of water providing a matching background. He pushes his chest out like a proud silver back gorilla and expresses his pride, “Young Cameroonians, Congolese and Gabonese no longer accept corruption as inevitable, and are fighting to preserve their heritage. This is perhaps my greatest source of pride”. He is nicknamed “the Protector of Wildlife” by the Paris Match.

You can also watch excerpt of the video on Paris Match's X page using [this link](#).

■ Future for Nature, one of the main supporters of the EAGLE Network, carry a publication on its website highlighting the important work and results obtained last year by the EAGLE Network. [Please follow this link for more](#).

## 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.*

### Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA - [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)
2. Congo – PALF – [jules@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:jules@eagle-enforcement.org)
3. Togo – EAGLE Togo: [darius@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:darius@eagle-enforcement.org)
4. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)
5. Côte d'Ivoire - [eric@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:eric@eagle-enforcement.org)
6. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)
7. Guinea – EAGLE Guinea - [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)