



EAGLE

April 2026
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with 8 elephant tusks and 52 kg giant pangolin scales in Yaounde, Cameroon.*
- ✓ *Ofir Drori granted an interview to New Security Beat highlighting the scale of wildlife trafficking in Central and West Africa, its links to conflict and radicalization, and the methods used to bring traffickers to justice.*



Summary

An ivory trafficker arrested with 8 elephant tusks and 52 kg giant pangolin scales in Yaounde, Cameroon. The trafficker based his ring in Mintom in the southern part of the country and the tusks were trafficked from Congo. He displayed a high level of confidence, reflecting both his professionalism and deep knowledge of ivory trafficking in the country. The tusks and scales were transported in a hired taxi to the place of transaction where he was eventually arrested. He operated a trafficking network primarily dedicated to trading elephant tusks.



Cameroon – LAGA

■ An ivory trafficker arrested with 8 elephant tusks and 52 kg giant pangolin scales in Yaounde. The trafficker based his ring in Mintom in the southern part of the country and the tusks were trafficked from Congo. He displayed a high level of confidence, reflecting both his professionalism and deep knowledge of ivory trafficking in the country. The tusks and scales were transported in a hired taxi to the place of transaction where he was eventually arrested. He operated a trafficking network primarily dedicated to trading elephant tusks. In addition, he used his cocoa business as a cover to source elephant tusks from the region, including parts of the Republic of Congo.

- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with an INTERPOL criminal intelligence officer to discuss issues related to wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration.
- The Legal Advisers held meetings with judicial and wildlife officials to address issues related to pending cases across various jurisdictions. The discussions also focused on the preparation of the operation.



Republic of the Congo – PALF

- The Coordinator met and held discussions with the Adviser for Biodiversity Conservation, Anti Poaching, and Promotion of Income Generating Activities under the Minister of Forest Economy. During the meeting, he formally presented the 2025 activity report.
- He met and held discussions with the Customs Inspector, who serves as the National Correspondent to the Liaison Office for Intelligence in Central Africa and the Great Lakes. During the meeting, he formally presented the 2025 activity report.
- He met and held discussions with the Departmental Director of Forest Economy in Brazzaville within the framework of strengthening collaboration.
- He met with the Commander of the Regional Gendarmerie to strengthen collaboration and delivered a copy of the 2025 annual report.
- He also met several other conservation stakeholders to discuss specific issues and strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator and the Accounting Assistant took part in a training program on European Union grant management.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several judicial and wildlife officials including, the State Counsel of the High Court of Ouesso, the State Counsel of the Owando High Court, Vice President of the High Court of Madingou, the Departmental Director of Forestry for Bouenza, Likouala and Cuvette.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator held a discussion at the EU Delegation in Lome, with the First Secretary, Head of the Sustainable Investments Team in the Cooperation Section, and the Program Officer of the Sustainable Investments Team. The exchanges focused on the fight against wildlife trafficking in the country.
- He held a meeting at the EAGLE Togo offices with the Technical Advisor of the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation and the Head of Mission for International Assistance of the *Programme d'Appui à la lutte contre le Changement Climatique, la protection de la biodiversité et l'agroécologie* (Support Programme for the Fight Against Climate Change, Biodiversity Protection, and Agro-ecology). Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Director of OCRTIDB (Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Directorate General of Customs.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Interim Assistant Coordinator met with UCT officials and discussed several issues related to the execution of the operation and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Advisor followed up on the legal proceedings related to past operations.

Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Coordinator was received in audience by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development to follow up on the signing of the MoU.
- Right after the meeting with the Minister, the Coordinator held discussions with the Ambassador and the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Netherlands, based in Senegal.
- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with Director General of the Corps of Nature Conservators, the Commander, and the Deputy Commander of the National Brigade for Combating Wildlife and Flora Crime that focused on the MoU.
- They met with the CITES focal point of Guinea, the Management Authority within the National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife, which is attached to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The focus was on proposing a framework for collaboration and addressing the CITES sanctions against Guinea.
- She held discussions with the Deputy Director General of the Office for the Repression of Economic and Financial Offenses (ORDEF). The meeting focused on tackling the links between wildlife crime and related offenses, particularly money laundering and illegal enrichment.
- As part of the process of training judicial actors on the wildlife law, EAGLE Guinea signed an MoU with the Judicial Training Center (CFJ).
- The Team met with the State Counsel of the Court of First Instance of Kaloum to present the organization and begin collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime and corruption.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- The Legal Adviser follow up on traffickers sentenced for illegal possession of ivory, linked to arrests made in 2020.
- The Interim Coordinator met with the Administrator of Kampala Capital City Authority, Nakawa Division Office, on the pending EAGLE Uganda operational permit MoU requirement, a necessary step to finalize the application process.
- She held meetings with officials of the Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) and the intelligence department, focused on building contacts and fostering collaboration.
- She met with the Commissioner of Customs and the Supervisor of Intelligence at the Uganda Revenue Authority, with discussions centered on strengthening collaboration and establishing working contacts.

International Media

Ofir Drori Warns of Expanding Wildlife Crime and Urgent Need for Support

Ofir recently spoke with the Stimson Center's *New Security Beat*, highlighting the escalating threat posed by wildlife trafficking in Central and West Africa amidst growing challenges in conservation funding. During the interview, he explains that wildlife trafficking is increasingly intertwined with arms smuggling, drug trade, and radicalization networks, destabilizing communities and fueling violence. He focuses on the sinister role of traffickers, who run arms workshops supplying rebel groups, granting national park access for weapons, and using online platforms to spread extremist propaganda.

Ofir warns of the shrinking conservation funding that now threatens the continuity of law enforcement work. "EAGLE plays a unique role as a direct enforcement and accountability mechanism targeting organized wildlife crime. In many of our operating contexts, no comparable structure exists. If this capacity is lost, it will send a clear signal of reduced risk to trafficking networks, likely resulting in a rapid expansion of organized illegal activity", he says.

He calls on governments, donors, and civil society to recognize wildlife trafficking as both a conservation and security crisis and to provide urgent support to sustain enforcement operations. The interview highlights how the EAGLE Network tackles Africa's wildlife crisis by targeting criminal networks, corruption, and their links to armed groups—jailing over 3,000 traffickers but now facing funding threats that risk undoing decades of progress.



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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