



**EAGLE**

April 2021  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *12 wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in Togo*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Togo*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 4 leopard skins*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Burkina Faso*



*2 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 4 leopard skins.*



*3 traffickers arrested in Togo with 6 ivory tusks*

# Summary

3 traffickers arrested in Togo with 6 ivory tusks. The ivory has been trafficked from Burkina Faso and stocked in Ghana. The owner of the ivory is of Burkina nationality, while 2 other traffickers are Togo and Niger nationals. One of the traffickers attempted to escape during the operation and was chased down and captured by the arresting team.



3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Burkina Faso

4 traffickers arrested in Togo with 4 ivory tusks. 2 traffickers came from Benin and served as intermediaries to the Benin-based traffickers. They used a motorbike all the way from Benin to smuggle the ivory concealed in a used grain bag and kept inside a backpack. The other 2 were Togolese intermediaries in the illegal deal.



3 traffickers arrested in Togo with 6 ivory tusks

2 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 4 leopard skins. 3 of the skins were from baby leopards, less than 3 months old. It seems an entire family, a mother and her young ones, were slaughtered in Guinea Conakry where the skins were smuggled from. The Ramadan-fasting team travelled close to 1000 km to the South of the country where the arrest was done



4 traffickers arrested in Togo with 4 ivory tusks

under the sizzling heat of a hot Senegalese day. The traffickers are specialized not only in skins but in the illegal trade in live animals as well.



2 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 4 leopard skins.

3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Burkina Faso. 2 of the traffickers concealed the elephant tusks in a used grain bag, to avoid detection. They arrived on motorbikes in a town close to the border with Ghana, where they were arrested. Soon after the arrest, they denounced the third trafficker who was immediately arrested. He killed the elephant in the Nazinga Game Ranch in the South of the country. He is a repeat offender and had been arrested for poaching a defassa waterbuck in the past.

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## Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife on legal procedures and court cases.
- The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with some wildlife, police and judicial officials in the south of the country to strengthen collaboration in combatting wildlife crime.
- The Legal Team held meetings with some State Counsels on cases pending at their various jurisdictions.
- An investigator from Gabon came to the end of a one-month experience sharing mission. He travelled back to Libreville.

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## Congo – PALF

- The Coordinator held an introductory meeting with the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development and discussed the signing of the MoU.
- A Legal Adviser trained 30 officers from the military, gendarmerie and police during a training course organized by the gendarmerie. He did a presentation on the role PALF plays in the fight against wildlife crime in the country.

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## Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker rearrested following his release by a provincial court that declined jurisdiction over the matter. He was first arrested in March 2020 by the Judicial Police with 6 ivory tusks, at a time when travelling by train was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He could not be presented to a specialized court handling wildlife crime, located in the capital city because of the Covid restrictions. With restrictions eased, he was rearrested to be presented at the specialized court in the capital city.
- The Legal Team provided legal support to two cases following the arrest of 2 traffickers with 4 ivory tusks and the arrest of 2 traffickers with 2 ivory tusks.
- The Director and the Activities Coordinator held meetings with the Commander of the Judicial Police, the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the State Counsel of the Libreville Court of First Instance on legal procedures and to strengthen collaboration.
- The Activity Coordinator and legal advisers held meetings with some Provincial Antenna Chiefs of the Judicial Police, Provincial Directors of Forests and 4 State Counsel on legal procedures and to strengthen collaboration.
- The Activity Coordinator held meetings with the Head of Investigations at the Directorate General of Research (DGR) and the President of the Libreville Appeals Court to strengthen collaboration.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment. He was arrested in September 2020
- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 2 years in prison. They were arrested in January 2021.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. They were arrested in February 2021
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 1 year in prison. They were arrested in March 2021

# Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 3 traffickers arrested with 6 ivory tusks. The ivory has been trafficked from Burkina Faso and stocked in Ghana. The owner of the ivory is of Burkina nationality, while the 2 other traffickers are Togo and Niger nationals. One of the traffickers attempted to escape during the operation and was chased down and captured by the arresting team. The ivory was carefully wrapped in plastics and fabrics and concealed inside a bag.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks. 2 traffickers came from Benin and served as intermediaries to the Benin-based traffickers. They used a motorbike all the way from Benin to smuggle the ivory concealed in a used grain bag and kept inside a backpack. The other 2 were Togolese intermediaries in the illegal deal.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with



4 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks.



3 traffickers arrested with 6 ivory tusks.



3 traffickers arrested with 6 ivory tusks.

the Political Attaché at the US Embassy, the Lomé State Counsel, the Deputy Director of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Traffic and Money Laundering (OCRTIDB), the Kara State Counsel, the Director of Sector No 4 Police and the Kara Regional Delegate of Environment and Forest Resources. He discussed issues related to effective wildlife law enforcement.

# Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins. 3 of the skins were from baby leopards, less than 3 months old. It seems an entire family, a mother and her young ones, were slaughtered in Guinea Conakry where the skins were smuggled from. The Ramadan-fasting team travelled close to 1000 km to the South of the country where the arrest was done under the sizzling heat of a hot Senegalese day. The traffickers are specialized not only in skins but in the illegal trade in live animals as well. The traffickers arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skins concealed in a backpack.
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Direc-



torate of Customs and the General Directorate of the National Police where meetings were held.

- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during a training for 20 customs officers

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## Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with some high officials including State Counsels, Court Registrars, Police Commissioners, Forestry and Park officials.
- The Director of Nature Tropicale participated at a workshop aimed at creating a network of actors to fight environmental crimes at the W-Arly and

Pendjari protected area complex. He gave a talk on the activities of the project.

- Recruitment of investigators intensified and tests were carried out.

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## Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator and a Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife at the Ministry of Water and Forests to discuss and plan for the sampling of elephant tusks seized in February 2020 for DNA analysis. The analysis is expected to determine the origin of the 60 tusks that were seized from 5 ivory traffickers.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held meetings with the OIPR, the Ivorian administration in charge of the management of parks and reserves during a week-long mission to Man

to strengthen collaboration with EAGLE-Côte d'Ivoire.

- The Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to collaborate on important investigations

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## Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. 2 of the traffickers concealed the elephant tusks in a used grain bag, to avoid detection. They arrived on motorbikes in a town close to the border with Ghana, where they were arrested. Soon after the arrest, they denounced the third trafficker who was immediately arrested. He killed the elephant in the Nazinga Game Ranch in the South of the country. He is a repeat offender and had been arrested for poaching a defassa waterbuck in the past.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings with the Director of Operations, some High Officials of the Ministry of Environment and some magistrates to strengthen collaboration in com-

bating wildlife crime.

- The recruitment of legal advisers intensified and two continued their test period.



# Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- A Legal Advisor held a meeting with then Principal Wildlife Officer to strengthen collaboration in combatting wildlife crime
- The 2 Rwandese nationals arrested in custody of 3 ivory tusks weighing 14kgs in March 2021, continue serving their sentences at a maximum-security prison.
- The Legal Team followed up a case on sexual abuse to provide legal support to the victims to ensure that justice prevails.
- Recruitment of investigators intensified and 3 started their test period.

## Headquarters

- A super volunteer from France successfully completed the first phase of her training and testing period with the CCU.

## 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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