

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *6 traffickers arrested in two countries*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 148 kg pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire, one of them a corrupt official - a Departmental Director Assistant for the Ministry of Animals and Fishery Resources*
- ✓ *2 ivory traffickers arrested with 11 tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker was sentenced to five years in jail in Congo*



Summary

6 traffickers were arrested in two countries.

2 traffickers were arrested with 148 kg pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire, one of them a corrupt official - a Departmental Director Assistant for the Ministry of Animals and Fishery Resources. They transported the contraband in six bags from their village where they collected the scales. The couple turned wildlife trafficking into a family business, hoping that his status would secure their impunity.



2 traffickers were arrested with 148 kg pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire, one of them a corrupt official



2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 3 tusks in Gabon

2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 11 tusks weighing 80 kg in the Gabon. They were arrested in the act shortly after they carried several bags with the contraband from a taxi to a hotel room. One of them is a long-term trafficker, the other one travelled the long way from the capital city to commit the crime. A hunting rifle of caliber 375 was found in the trafficker's house. According to the new Gabon legislation, they are facing a sentence of 10 years in jail if judged in a special court in the capital.

2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 3 tusks in Gabon. The woman was arrested during an attempt

to trade the tusks and she quickly denounced her partner, a trafficker of Malian origin. He was arrested shortly after.

The PALF Legal Team supported a case of an ivory trafficker, prosecuted and sentenced to five years to jail. He is a repeat offender, arrested by PALF and sentenced for ivory trafficking in 2017 to 2 years, but escaped from the jail shortly after with the complicity of a corrupt police officer. He continued his criminal activity and was arrested again in June 2019 with 2 tusks by wildlife officers with support of WCS. He will serve the previous sentence as well; therefore he will spend 7 years in jail. His accomplice was sentenced to 1.5 years in jail.

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the North West Regional Customs Chief and gave a talk to the staff of the Custom Sector on the implementation of the protocol agreement between Customs and LAGA.
- He held a meeting with two Interpol officials to explore areas of collaboration on fighting wildlife crime.
- The Deputy Director made a presentation on the challenges to effective law enforcement during an international workshop that brought together members of the bushmeat working group CA-BAG. He met with several officials including a representative of the USFWS during the workshop.
- He partly facilitated a workshop organised by

TRAFFIC on the creation of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group, where he also made a presentation.

- A legal adviser made a presentation on establishing wildlife offence statements, investigation technics and intelligence during a workshop on strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officials, prosecutors and ecoguards in the fight against poaching and trafficking in grey parrots in Cameroon.

Congo – PALF

- The Legal Team supported a case of an ivory trafficker, prosecuted and sentenced to five years to jail. He is a repeat offender, arrested by PALF and sentenced for ivory trafficking in 2017 to 2 years, but escaped from the jail shortly after with the complicity of a corrupt police officer. He continued his criminal activity and was arrested again in June 2019 with 2 tusks by wildlife officers with support of WCS. He will serve the previous sentence as well; therefore he will spend 7 years in jail. His accomplice was sentenced to 1.5 years in jail.
- The Legal Team conducted two missions of legal support and evaluation within the NGOs ALTO (Pointe-Noire, specializing in Human Rights, for the fight against child trafficking) and CONSERV CONGO (Kinshasa DRC, specializing in Law Enforcement, as follow up on prior training and collaboration).
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities including Advisors and Attachés of US Embassy, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Water and Forest and others.



An ivory trafficker (second from the right) prosecuted and sentenced to five years to jail. He is a repeat offender, arrested by PALF and sentenced for ivory trafficking in 2017 to 2 years, but escaped from the jail shortly after with the complicity of a corrupt police officer. He continued his criminal activity and was arrested again in June 2019 with 2 tusks by wildlife officers with support of WCS. He will serve the previous sentence as well; therefore he will spend 7 years in jail. (Photo from the arrest operation in 2017)

Gabon – AALF

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 11 tusks weighing 80 kg in the East of the country. They were arrested in the act shortly after they carried several bags with the contraband from a taxi to a hotel room. One of them is a long-term trafficker, the other one travelled the long way from the capital city to commit the crime. A hunting rifle of caliber 375 was found in the trafficker's house. According to the new Gabon legislation, they are facing a sentence of 10 years in jail if judged in a court in the capital.



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 11 tusks

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in the Western part of the country. The woman was arrested during an attempt to trade the tusks and she quickly denounced her partner, a trafficker of Malian origin. He was arrested shortly after.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with high state authorities including the Minister of Water and Forests and the Chief of Staff of the National Police, to strengthen collaboration and follow-up procedures, as well as several State Counsels, judicial authorities and others.
- The Head of Legal Department held a presentation at a training of 27 officers of the National Police (police commissioners and chiefs of police) of the province of Moyen-Ogooué in Lambaréné organized by US Department of Justice. The training focused on the legal regulations and special procedures concerning water and forests and

the presentation of some cases of corruption of agents involved in the trafficking of ivory.

- Luc Mathot, the Coordinator, travelled to Brussels where he held a meeting with a representative of EU on funding EAGLE activities. He also met with representatives of Greenpeace and the Ministry of Environment to discuss a large seizure of illegally imported wood from Gabon to Belgium.
- A new legislation has been adopted in Gabon for different crimes including ivory trafficking. The new Code penal increases the maximum jail term from 6 months to 10 years, and all cases will be judged in a court at the Gabon capital. This is of course a great achievement in improving the law, for which Conservation Justice has been pushing for years. The first cases supported by Conservation Justice will show how the law will be implemented.



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Technical Advisor of the Minister of Territorial Administration to push the registration of EAGLE-Togo. The Minister's Technical Advisor reassured him about his support and attention he would give to the registration process.
- The Legal Advisors followed the case of two ivory traffickers arrested in March in order to prevent their release on bail.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer of the US Embassy in Senegal in order to strengthen the collaboration and inform him on the development Of EAGLE Senegal and the challenges of the first half of 2019.
- She also had a meeting with the new UK Ambassador to Senegal and made a presentation on the EAGLE project, its achievements in Senegal since 2014 and on the history of active collaboration with the UK Embassy.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the General Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Director of National Parks in order to prepare the meeting with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development.
- She also met with the Director of National Parks, as part of the collaboration with DPN on operations.

Benin – AALF-B

- The Head of Legal Department trained thirteen police officers in Adjaha on the fight against wildlife crime.
- He also trained the team of IFAW on identification of wildlife products.
- The Director of Nature Tropicale held a meeting with the Minister of Living and Sustainable Development (MCVDD) and the Director of his cabinet. They discussed the situation of wildlife contraband seized since 2014 until today, and the responsibility of the lawyers defending the interests of the State in the wildlife crime cases.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high officials, including the State Counsel of the First Instance Court of Cotonou to strengthen collaboration with AALF-Benin and to discuss the case of significant wildlife traffickers who have been in detention for almost a year. He also held meetings with more State Counsels, Commissioners and Departmental Police Directors and others.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 148 kg pangolin scales, one of them a corrupt official - a Departmental Director Assistant for the Ministry of Animals and Fishery Resources. They transported the contraband in six bags from their village where they collected the scales. The couple turned wildlife trafficking into a family business, hoping that his status would secure their impunity.

- The Legal Advisors participated at a national workshop on the project of new wildlife law, which should implement better the CITES convention. The workshop was attended the international community represented by the UNDP and the UNEP, WCF and other NGOs.
- An investigator finished his test period and joined the team.
- Nicolas Charon, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Côte d'Ivoire to monitor and evaluate following the procedure, to train the Investigation Team and to mentor the supervolunteer.



Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The legal team followed the case of the two traffickers arrested in December 2018 with two lion and three leopard skins. They were released from the custody in January as their case was delayed due to strike of penitentiary staff.
- An investigator finished his test period and became a member of the team.

International Media

- 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with four tusks, weighing 20 kg in Congo in June. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested for the same crime two years ago, but he evaded prison due to corruption before being prosecuted. They both are long term traffickers, operating in the area near the Gabonese border. They brought the contraband to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a bag. Photos from their phone revealed some of the slaughter of elephants they generated. Some international media picked up their story:

[Link to Daily Mail](#)

[Link to The Sun](#)

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, conducted a mission to Uganda to support the newly established team and to train its members.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Brussels where he held a meeting with a representative of EU on funding EAGLE activities. He also met with representatives of Greenpeace and the Ministry of Environment to discuss a large seizure of illegally imported wood from Gabon to Belgium.
- Nicolas Charon, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Ivory Coast to monitor and evaluate following the procedure, training the Investigation Department and mentoring the supervolunteer.

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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