



EAGLE

August 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *12 traffickers arrested in 3 countries this month*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and skull in Congo*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins in Gabon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin in Cameroon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 23kg of pangolin scales*



3 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin and skull in Congo.



2 traffickers were arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin in Cameroon.

Summary

12 traffickers were arrested in 3 countries this month.

3 traffickers were arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. The first two, one Senegalese and one Nigerian, were arrested while they tried to sell the tusks, carefully concealed in a television cardboard box. After arrival to the police station they denounced a third trafficker, also a Nigerian, who was arrested a few hours later.



A trafficker was arrested in Cameroon with 23kg of pangolin scales.

3 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin and skull in Congo. They transported the contraband to a nearby town well concealed in a bag, to be arrested in the act. The well experienced long-term traffickers now remain behind bars, awaiting trial.

3 traffickers were arrested with 3 leopard skins in Gabon. The first one, a woman of Benin nationality was arrested in the act, during an attempt to sell the skins on a market in capital city. She concealed the



3 traffickers were arrested with 3 leopard skins in Gabon.

contraband in a yellow plastic bag to evade law enforcement. Later she denounced two other traffickers, one of them a Cameroonian, who were arrested a week later.

2 traffickers were arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin in Cameroon. The first trafficker, an owner of two craft shops, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skins. He was arrested with a travelling bag



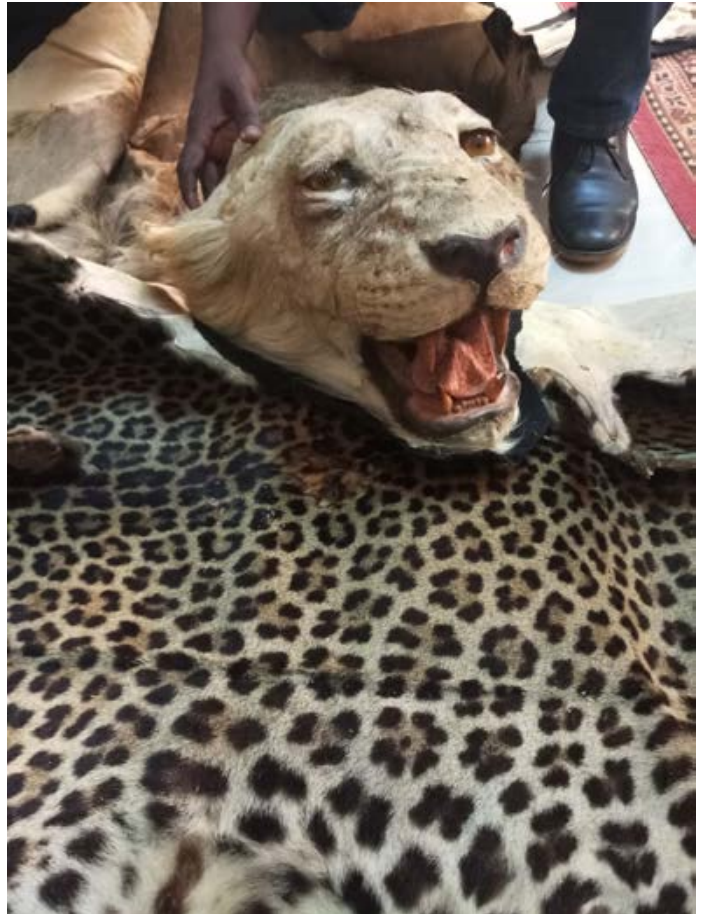
2 traffickers were arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin in Cameroon.

with the two feline skins skillfully packed inside. The second trafficker, a woman, was arrested a couple of hours later at her residence. She gave both the lion skin and leopard skin to her accomplice to sell further. The lion skin was tanned and already prepared to be displayed as a decoration. Lions were once in found in three continents but they were pushed out from 94% of their historical range. There are less than a mere 25,000 lions left and in the past 25 years more than half of the lions' populations disappeared - do the extinction math yourselves. Cameroon is home to less than 300 lions.

A trafficker was arrested in Cameroon with 23kg of pangolin scales. He travelled to the place of transaction at night with the scales concealed in a bag. He belongs to a local network, which activated small-scale traffickers, collecting the scales in surrounding villages. Pangolins trafficking and trade is still on the rise despite the global health situation facing Covid-19 believed to have leaped to humans through pangolins as well.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 traffickers arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin. The first trafficker, an owner of two craft shops, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skins. He was arrested with a travelling bag with the two feline skins skillfully packed inside. The second trafficker, a woman, was arrested a couple of hours later at her residence. She gave both the lion skin and leopard skin to her accomplice to sell further. The lion skin was tanned and already prepared to be displayed as a decoration. Lions were once found in three continents but they were pushed out from 94% of their historical range. There are less than a mere 25,000 lions left and in the past 25 years more than half of the lions' populations disappeared - do the extinction math yourselves. Cameroon is home to less than 300 lions.
- A trafficker arrested in the South of the country with 23kg of pangolin scales. He travelled to the place of transaction at night with the scales concealed in a bag. He belongs to a local network, which activated small-scale traffickers, collecting the scales in surrounding villages. Pangolins trafficking and trade is still on the rise despite the global health situation facing Covid-19 believed to have leaped to humans through pangolins as well.
- The Heads of the Legal Department and the Investigations Department held a working session with the Police Commissioner of Public Security in Foubot during which they discussed collabora-



tive initiatives to improve on wildlife law enforcement in the area.



Congo – PALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and skull in Western part of the country. They transported the contraband to a nearby town well concealed in a bag, to be arrested in the act. The well experienced long-term traffickers now remain behind bars, awaiting trial.
- An ivory trafficker, a military from republican guard, has been sentenced to 2 years in jail. He was arrested by police together with another trafficker in June, with 2 large ivory tusks, weighing 20 kg. PALF Legal team provided legal support to this case.
- The Legal Team held a series of meetings authorities including the Departmental Director of Waters and Forests, the Regional Commander of the National Gendarmerie and others.



Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in the West of the country. The first two, one Senegalese and one Nigerian, were arrested while they tried to sell the tusks, carefully concealed in a television cardboard box. After arrival to the police station they denounced a third trafficker, also a Nigerian, who was arrested a few hours later.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins. The first one, a woman of Benin nationality was arrested in the act, during an attempt to sell the skins on a market in capital city. She concealed the contraband in a yellow plastic bag to evade law enforcement. Later she denounced two other traffickers, one of them a Cameroonian, who were arrested a week later.



- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to two years in jail. He was arrested in October last year with 4 tusks and a hunting rifle. 5 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in jail. They were arrested in July this year. Two other ivory traffickers have been sentenced to one year in jail. Since January 2020, the jail term has decreased compared to the second part of 2019. It is little more than one year (16 months), which is far from the maximum sentence (10 years).
- A Legal Advisor participated at the official launch of the Ndangui anti-poaching brigade. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Minister of Water and Forests, the –CEB Company and Conservation Justice at this opportunity. The brigade was created to fight against poaching and illegal trafficking in the peripheral

area of Ivindo National Park and the CEB forest concession.

- The Legal Team held series of meetings with the authorities, including the Minister of Water and Forests, the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Anti-Poaching, several State Counsels, several Provincial Directors of Water and Forests and others.
- The Activities Coordinator granted an interview to Gabon-24 television channel on wildlife trafficking in Gabon.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Head of Legal Department held a meeting with the Director of DCPJ-Interpol Lomé to discuss the arrest operation in July and the possibilities of now sharing EAGLE network briefings with this partner or collaborating unit.
- He also met with the Regional Director of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection, Kara to follow up the July arrest operation.
- Intense recruitment process continued and one investigator started his test period.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator and the Coordinator Assistant held a meeting with the Director of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS).
- EAGLE Senegal has moved to a new office providing higher safety.
- The Coordinator and the Head of Legal Department participated in the validation workshop of the assessment report of wildlife crime in Senegal conducted within the framework of the Biodiversity and Climate Change in West Africa Program (WABICC) of the USAID.

Benin – AALF-B

- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in jail. They were arrested in May 2020 with an ivory tusk weighing 18 kg.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with the authorities, including the third Deputy State Counsel of the Republic of Cotonou, the Clerk of the Correctional Chamber of the Parakou Court, the Clerk of the Correctional Chamber at the Court of Appeal in Cotonou, the Chief Registrar of the Court of Appeal of Abomey, the Secretary of the Judicial Officer of the Treasury, the Chief of the Brigade of the Abomey Civil Prison and others.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator had a working session with the Head of Investigations of the UCT to discuss cooperation on combating wildlife trafficking.
- The intense recruitment process continued, an investigator and a media officer started their test period.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Curator of Bangr Wéoogo National Park to introduce and discuss the EAGLE project and its activities.
- He also held a meeting with the Director and Secretary General of Veterans to discuss recruitment of investigators.
- A new investigator starts his test period at the beginning of following month.



The Activities Coordinator of AALF Gabon granted an interview to Gabon-24 television channel on wildlife trafficking in Gabon.

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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