



**EAGLE**

August 2021  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *6 wildlife traffickers arrested in 2 countries*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Senegal*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Gabon with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, a python head, giant pangolin scales, an elephant tail, a monkey skull and 12 leopard teeth*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 3 leopard skins in Gabon.*



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



*A trafficker arrested in Gabon with 3 leopard skins.*

# Summary

A trafficker arrested in Gabon with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, a python head, giant pangolin scales, an elephant tail, a monkey skull and 12 leopard teeth. The products were concealed in a bag at the moment of his arrest as he attempted to sell the contraband. He was transferred to Libreville where he was presented to the State Counsel at the Special Criminal Tribunal and later remanded in custody while awaiting trial.



*A trafficker arrested in Gabon with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, and other contraband*

A trafficker arrested in Gabon with 3 leopard skins. He travelled through several towns with the leopard skins concealed inside a bag and when he arrived Lambaréné he was arrested as he attempted to sell the skins.

4 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins. The traffickers arrived in pairs in two separate taxis,



*A trafficker arrested in Gabon with 3 leopard skins.*

5 minutes apart. The first two concealed a skin in a blue plastic bag and the second hid theirs in a grains bag. One of the traffickers resisted arrest but was quickly brought under control.



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

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## Cameroon – LAGA

- The Coordinator participated at the US States Department International Visitor Leadership Program which was done virtually because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The programme brought together participants from 12 African countries and focused on the theme Combatting Wildlife Trafficking.
- He gave an interview to an American based conservation news site Mongabay.com, on wildlife trafficking and conflicts in Cameroon.
- The Legal Team held a series of meetings with State Counsels in their jurisdictions to follow up and strategize on some ongoing cases.
- The Head of the Legal Department did presentations on some wildlife prosecution procedures during a training for wildlife law enforcement and judicial officials.
- An investigator from Congo arrived the country for a month-long experience sharing mission.

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## Congo – PALF

- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to one and a half year of imprisonment. He was arrested in May for leopard skin and ivory trafficking.
- The Legal Team continued to provide assistance to the Jane Goodall Institute in the prosecution of 3 traffickers following the killing of a chimpanzee at the Tchimpounga Reserve. One of the traffickers was summoned and detained while 2 others are on the run.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie and the Regional Commander of the Gendarmerie of Brazzaville to strengthen collaboration.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network arrived in Brazzaville and together with the Coordinator, they held meetings with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy on issues related to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Luc Mathot and the Coordinator, accompanied by the Aspinall Foundation Representative to Congo, held meetings with officials of the US Embassy, German Embassy, the EU Delegation and African Parks, on the effective wildlife law enforcement process.
- Danielle Mbui, the EAGLE Finance Officer and the Head of the Department of Finance and Administration of Conservation Justice, Gabon, both arrived in Brazzaville on a two-week mission to train the new PALF accountant.
- The Head of the Investigation Department travelled to Cameroon for a one-month exchange mission.

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## Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker arrested with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, a python head, giant pangolin scales, an elephant tail, a monkey skull and 12 leopard teeth. The products were contained in a bag at the moment of his arrest as he attempted to sell the contraband. He was transferred to Libreville where he was presented to the State Counsel at the Special Criminal Tribunal and later remanded in custody while awaiting trial.
- A trafficker arrested with 3 leopard skins. He travelled through several towns with the leopard skins

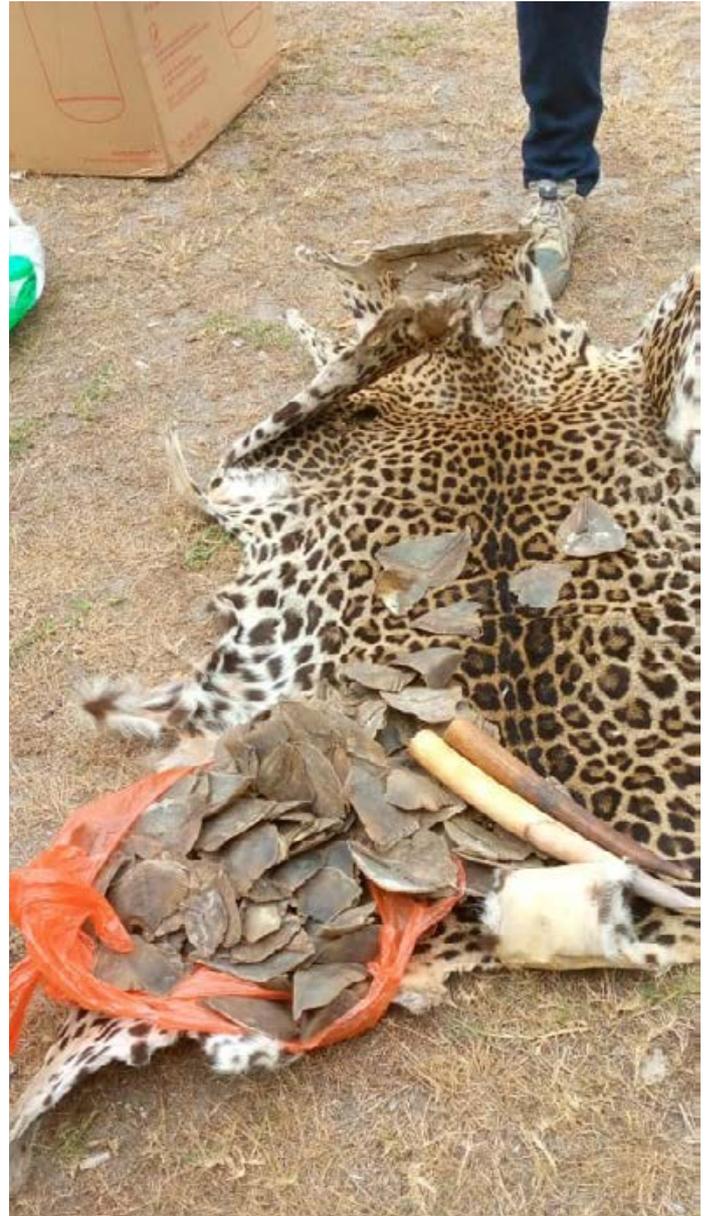


A trafficker arrested in Gabon with 3 leopard skins.

concealed inside a bag and when he arrived Lambaréné he was arrested as he attempted to sell the skins.

- 2 traffickers were sentenced to one year in prison. They were arrested in July for leopard skin trafficking. The Legal Team provided technical assistance during the follow up of the case that was initiated by the immigration services.
- The Activities Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings with administrative and judicial officials including some Provincial Gendarmerie Antenna Heads and Water and Forests Provincial Directors to strengthen collaboration and follow up cases.
- They held meetings with State Counsels of Libreville, Port Gentil and Lambaréné, the Anti-Poaching Director and the Chief Secretary of the Legal Department to strengthen collaboration and follow up cases.

- The Activities Coordinator and Assistant Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the National Police on training of student police officers and sub officers.



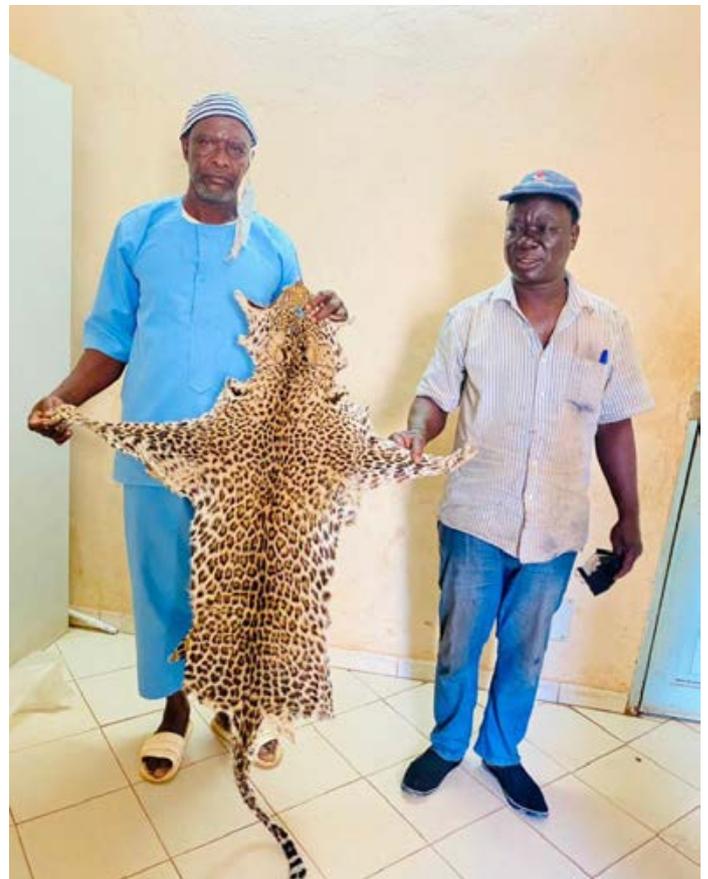
A trafficker arrested in Gabon with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, and other contraband

## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with three officials of the EU Delegation including the Attaché Program Officer - Economy and Governance, the First Secretary Team Leader Infrastructures and Environment and the Infrastructures Program Officer to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife life crime
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Civil Organizations and Associations Division, on the registration file of EAGLE-Togo at the Ministry of Territorial Administration.

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 4 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins. The traffickers arrived in pairs in two separate taxis, 5 minutes apart. The first two concealed a skin in a blue plastic back and the second hid theirs in a grains bag. One of the traffickers resisted arrest but was quickly brought under control. This important operation is yet another crackdown on this illegal trade in West Africa generating the killings of leopards in an alarming rate.
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Directorate 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 50 senior rangers of the Niokolo Koba Park.
- EAGLE Senegal received a distinction from the Deputy Director General of the National Police for its work with the police on fighting wildlife crime, during a ceremony marking the end of a one-month ivory detection dogs and handlers training.



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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, Police, Court, Park and Forestry Officials to follow up cases and strengthen collaboration.
- They held a dialogue and exchange meeting with a delegation from the Economic and Social Council.

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

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to move forward with the prosecution procedure on some big cases.
- Recruitment of investigators and a media officer intensified.

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## Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources who doubles as the CITES Focal Point, to strengthen collaboration on the Elephant Trade Information Systems (ETIS)' procedure.
- Recruitment of investigators intensified and two selected to start their test period in the near future.

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## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

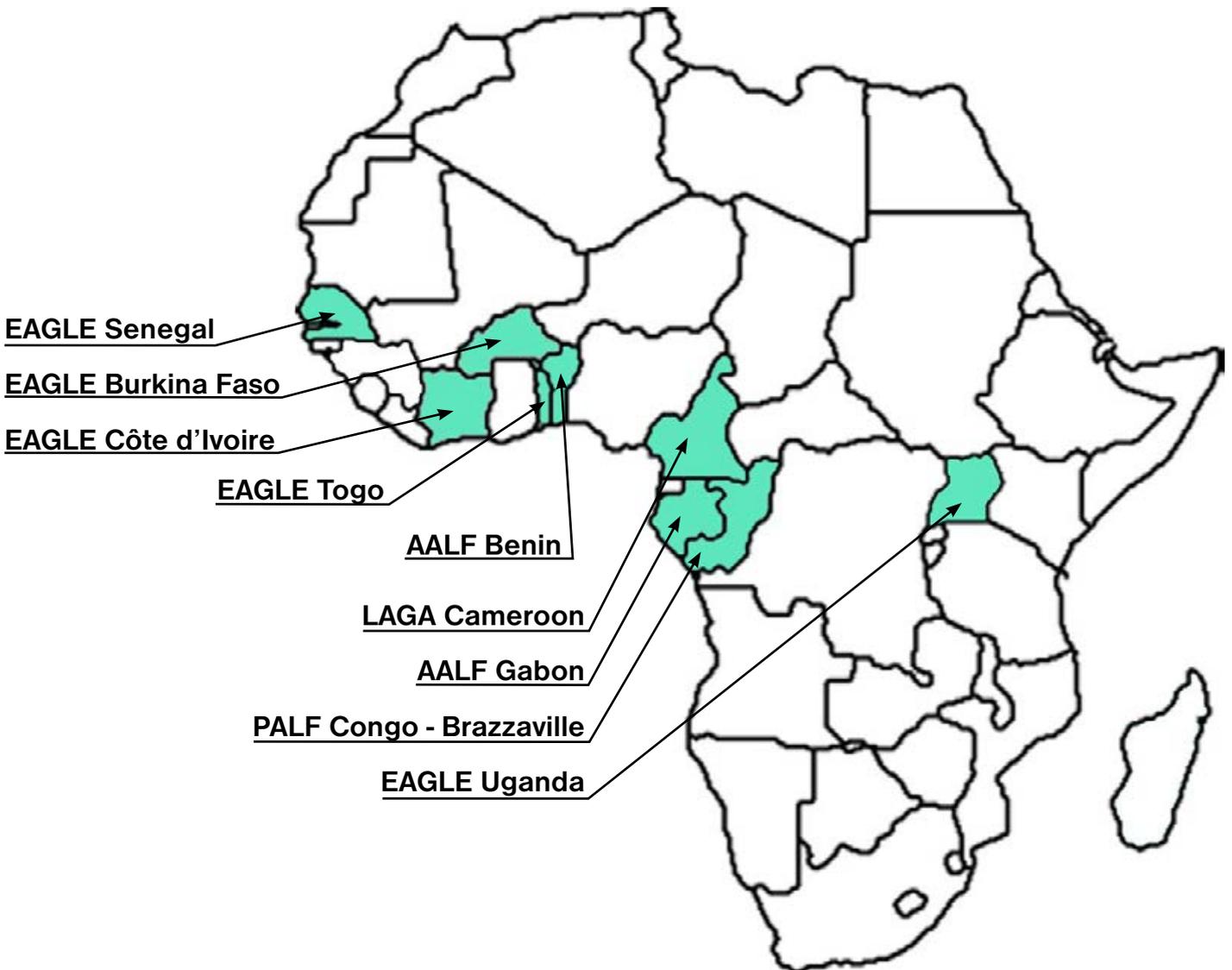
- Court hearings of the 2 traffickers arrested with 25kg of ivory in June still ongoing after they were granted bail.
- The country still continues to operate under partial lock down up to the end of September 2021.

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## Headquarters

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network arrived in Brazzaville and together with the Coordinator, they held meetings with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy on issues related to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- They held meetings with some diplomatic officials at the US Embassy, German Embassy, the EU Delegation and with some African Parks Officials on the effective wildlife law enforcement process in Congo.
- Danielle Mbui, the EAGLE Finance travelled to the Republic of Congo on a three-week mission to train the new accountant on EAGLE financial procedures.

# Structure of the EAGLE Network



## 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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