



**EAGLE**

December 2021  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *22 wildlife and other traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *7 traffickers arrested with several human bones in Congo*
- ✓ *2 traffickers, a pastor and a corrupt military man, arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested including a Lebanese national arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Cote d'Ivoire. The Lebanese attempted to corrupt officials to free the members of the ring*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in Congo with 18 African Grey Parrots*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and leopard teeth in Gabon*



*2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon.*



*7 traffickers arrested with several human bones in Congo.*

# Summary

7 traffickers arrested with several human bones in Congo. They were arrested during 3 separate operations during a major crackdown on the network. Their illegal activity first came to light in May 2021.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks, weighing just under 40 kg in Congo. One of the traffickers is a pastor and the second is a military man. The military man was extremely violent and tried to escape during the arrest. He attempted to corrupt officers when behind bars.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks, weighing just under 40 kg in Congo.

5 traffickers arrested in Cote d'Ivoire with 2 elephant tusks, 4 hippo teeth and a hippo jaw. The first 3 were arrested as they attempted to sell the products. The leading trafficker quickly denounced 2 others who were arrested a few hours later. One of the two is a Lebanese national from the wealthy Lebanese community in the country.

3 traffickers arrested in Congo with 18 African Grey Parrots. 2 of the traffickers are from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They were arrested during 3 follow up operations from last month's operation when 2 were arrested with 28 African grey parrots.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. They arrived the scene of transaction with each carrying a backpack with concealed ivory. The tusks were cut into 6 pieces.



5 traffickers arrested in Cote d'Ivoire with 2 elephant tusks, 4 hippo teeth and a hippo jaw

3 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 2 leopard skins and leopard teeth. The first trafficker, a Malian, was arrested attempting to sell the contraband. A follow up operation apprehended a Guinean and a Gabonese trafficker.



3 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 2 leopard skins and leopard teeth.



## Cameroon – LAGA

- A pangolin scales trafficker was sentenced to 8 months in prison. He was arrested in October 2021 with 77 kg of pangolin scales.
- The Legal Team went on annual vacation in December and will be back in January.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels in jurisdictions where cases are ongoing to discuss legal strategies and strengthen collaboration.

## Congo – PALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with 18 African Grey Parrots. 2 of the traffickers are from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They were arrested during 3 follow up operations after last month's operation when 2 were arrested with 28 African grey parrots. The parrots were transported to the Tchimpounga Reserve that again took them in for special care and support. They shall be released in the wild as soon as they become healthy and strong enough after long periods of harsh treatment and malnourishment at the hands of the traffickers.



*3 traffickers arrested with 18 African Grey Parrots*

- 7 traffickers arrested with several human bones. They were arrested during 3 separate operations during a major crackdown on the network. During the first arrest, 3 traffickers were arrested with a human skull and a few bones in Pointe Noire. They denounced a fourth one who was arrested later that day in the same town. The Team moved to Brazzaville where more members of the net-



work were based. This led to the arrest of 2 traffickers with 3 human skeletons in Brazzaville. Finally, the last trafficker was apprehended in Madingou, bringing the total to 7 and putting an end to the creepy activities of this sinister network. Information collected during investigations show the bones are used to block evil spells, bewitchment, cure infertility and also, to confer supernatural powers to the holders.



7 traffickers arrested with several human bones.

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks, weighing just under 40 kg. One of the traffickers is a pastor and the second is a military man. The military man was extremely violent and tried to escape during the arrest. He attempted to corrupt officers when behind bars. He is based at the border with Gabon and had transported the ivory two months earlier to Dolisie, as part of his scheme to sell the ivory. He abandoned his post at the border and used his status to conduct the illegal business. He concealed the ivory in a military bag.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss the signing of the of the Memorandum of Understanding. It is expected to be signed in the near future.
- The Coordinator held meetings with several authorities from the Ministry of Forestry Economy including The Director General, The Wildlife Adviser to the Minister, Departmental Directors in Brazzaville and in Pointe Noire as well as the Regional Commanders of the Gendarmerie of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire to strengthen collaboration.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Departmental Director of the Police of Brazzaville to discuss ongoing cases.
- She held several meetings with US Embassy officials and other institutions to discuss ongoing cases.
- She held a meeting with the Conservator of Tchimpounga Reserve and the Jane Goodall Institute team to strengthen collaboration.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks, weighing just under 40 kg.



# Gabon – AALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. They arrived the scene of transaction each carrying a backpack with concealed ivory. The tusks were cut into 6 pieces. They both are presently awaiting their transfer to the Special Criminal Tribunal in Libreville.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and leopard teeth. The first trafficker, a Malian, was arrested attempting to sell the contraband. His car was also seized. He denounced 2 other traffickers, members of the ring. A follow up operation apprehended a Guinean and a Gabonese trafficker.
- A trafficker was arrested by Central Office of the Fight Against Drugs (OCLAD) with 2 ivory tusks. Conservation Justice was informed of the arrest by the Commander-in-Chief of the Judicial Police in Makokou. The Legal Team shall provide assistance in the transfer and prosecution of the trafficker at the Special Criminal Tribunal. She is presently detained while awaiting trial.
- The Legal Team provided assistance in the prosecution of a trafficker who was arrested by a joint team of police officers and officials of the Central Office of the Fight Against Drugs (OCLAD) with 2 ivory tusks. He is detained at the Special Criminal Tribunal. Conservation Justice was informed of the arrest by the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DGFAP)



2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks.

3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and leopard teeth.

- The Executive Director, accompanied by the Activities Coordinator and the Head of the Media Department, held several meetings in Makokou with administrative and judicial offices including the President of the Tribunal, State Counsels, the Dean of the Examining Judges, the Antenna Head of the Directorate of Research, the Commandant of the Judicial Police Antenna, the Antenna Head of the Central Office of the Fight Against Drugs, the Provincial Director of Water and Forests, the Secretary General of the Departmental Council. These meetings are part of Conservation Jus-

tice's desire to implement a regular, concerted and proactive approach to the management of issues of common interest, in harmony with the law on water and forests in force in the country.

- The Assistant Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings with several Provincial Directors of Water and Forests and State Counsels.
- The Activities Coordinator held meetings with Antenna Heads of the Judicial Police, a Police Commissioner and officials of the Central Office of the Fight Against Drugs to strengthen collaboration.

## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Division of Protected Areas and Wildlife and the CITES Focal Point to discuss the procedure related to the repatriation of the African Grey Parrots that were seized in Togo and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- He held another meeting with the Assistant Director of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Traffic and Money Laundering to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- A trafficker arrested by the police with a baby bushbuck. He is a major trafficker who had been on our crosshair for a long time. He was arrested on the border with Gambia while travelling in a public bus. The baby bushbuck was concealed in a card box. The Legal Team assisted with the police with interrogations and prosecutions. He has links to trafficking rings, dealing in parrots, chimps and other wildlife in the region.

- 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.

- Leatitia Bot, a super volunteer continued her training and test in the various departments of the project.





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

■ 5 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks, 4 hippo teeth and a hippo jaw. The first 3 were arrested as they attempted to sell the products. The leading trafficker quickly denounced 2 others who were arrested a few hours later. One of the two is a Lebanese national from the wealthy Lebanese community in the country. He is the owner of the contraband. The products were transported to the place of transaction in his car that was impounded during the operation. He tried to corrupt the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to free the traffickers and his car. This shows very well how authorities are perceived and how wealthy traffickers think they can live in impunity.

■ The Supervisor and the Coordinator

held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Focal Point of CITES in Côte d'Ivoire, to strengthen collaboration.

■ The Team held meetings with the UCT to collaborate on the investigations and operation.



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## Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

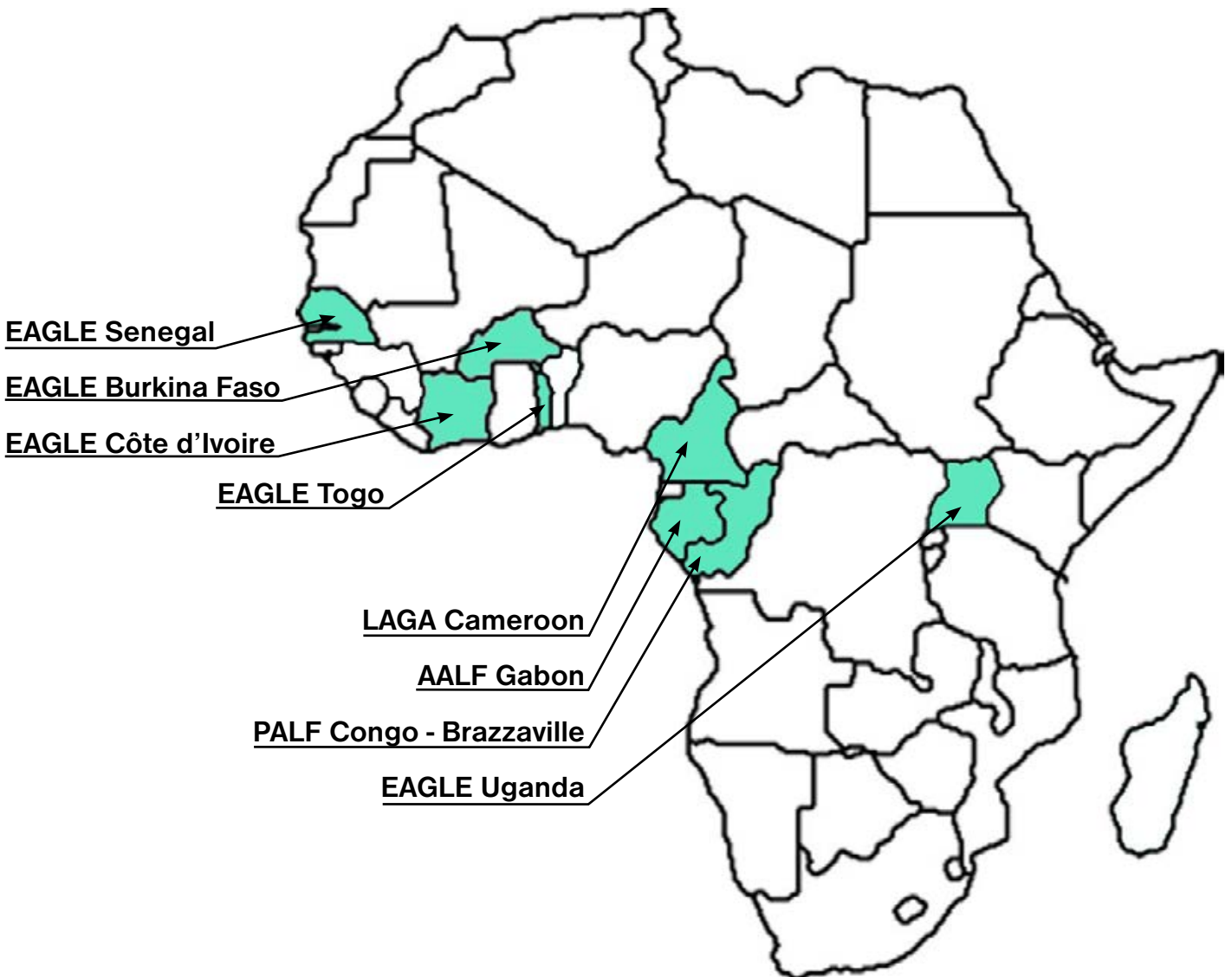
■ The Coordinator and a legal adviser held meetings with the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources (DFRC) of the Ministry of Ecological, Transition and the Environment to foster collaboration between the project and the Ministry and with Customs.

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## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

■ The Team went on annual vacation.

# 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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