



EAGLE

February 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *7 wildlife traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 5 large leopard skins in Cameroon*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in two operations*
- ✓ *An Algerian parrot trafficker arrested at the airport in Senegal with 131 parrots*
- ✓ *2 leopard skin traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Benin*



An Algerian parrot trafficker was arrested at the airport in Dakar with 131 Senegal parrots and Rose-ringed parakeets.



2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks cut in ten pieces in Gabon.

Summary

7 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 4 countries.

A trafficker was arrested with 5 large leopard skins in Cameroon. When arrested, he was wearing an ivory bracelet on his wrist, showing audacity in caring the illegal activities with a sense of impunity. He is a part of a network of leopard skins traffickers operating in the West Region of the country, he often travels around to collect the contraband. He owns a shop at one of the main markets in Bafoussam, the capital of the West Region.

2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks cut in ten pieces in Gabon. First of them, a former teacher, currently working as an ambulance driver, was arrested in the act. The ivory was concealed in a bucket and hidden near the place of transaction. He denounced the second trafficker, who was arrested a day later. They have connections to an ivory trafficking ring crushed in last October, operating in Gabon and Congo.

An ivory trafficker was arrested in Gabon with two tusks. He is Beninese, living in Gabon, he has been in the spot of authorities since 2015. He remains behind bars in the capital city awaiting trial.



An ivory trafficker was arrested in Gabon with two tusks.

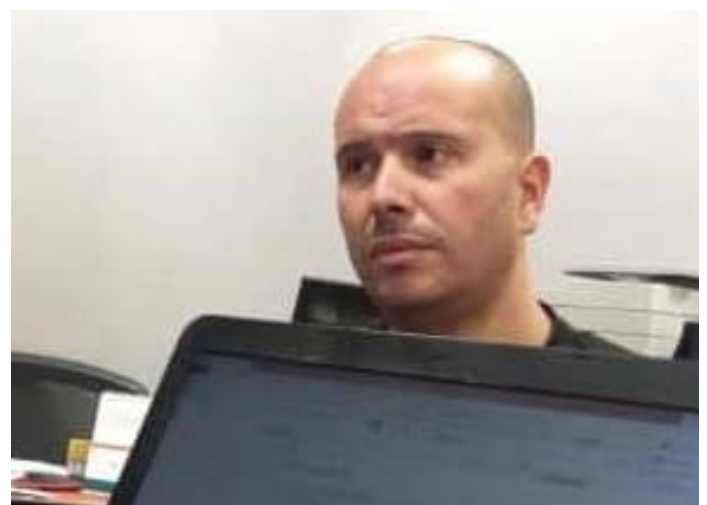
An Algerian parrot trafficker was arrested at the airport in Dakar with 131 Senegal parrots and Rose-ringed parakeets. He was arrested on the board of a plane to Algeria at the last moment before taking off. The birds were concealed in two small suitcases, suffering by dehydration, malnutrition and injuries. They were quickly transported to a veterinarian to receive adequate care. After five days of recovery most of

them could be released back to the wild.

2 leopard skin traffickers was arrested with a leopard skin in the central part of the country. They travelled to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skin carefully concealed in a jute bag. They were swiftly arrested, and they remind behind bars awaiting trial.



A trafficker was arrested with 5 large leopard skins in Cameroon.



An Algerian parrot trafficker was arrested at the airport in Dakar with 131 Senegal parrots and Rose-ringed parakeets.

Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested with 5 large leopard skins. When arrested, he was wearing an ivory bracelet on his wrist, showing audacity in caring the illegal activities with a sense of impunity. He is a part of a network of leopard skins traffickers operating in the West Region of the country, he often travels around to collect the contraband. He owns a shop at one of the main markets in Bafoussam, the capital of the West Region.
- The Deputy Director had a presentation on LAGA's activities and its collaboration with Interpol at a three-day Interpol meeting that brought together Interpol, Wildlife and Customs officials, focusing on defining state-level priorities and needs for an upcoming Interpol operation against wildlife trafficking which will be carried out in the various member countries within the West and Central African sub regions.
- On the invitation of the Belgian Ambassador, the Deputy Director participated at a meeting at the Secretariat of Defence in Charge of the Gendarmerie that brought together 5 top gendarmerie officials including the Central Deputy Director of Coordination and a technical adviser. The meeting was focused on discussing some wildlife cases at the courts with links to the gendarmerie.



Congo – PALF

- Perrine Odier, the PALF Coordinator, travelled to Côte d'Ivoire to support the team in recruitment, finances and procedures and to share her experience.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities including the several State Councils and Department Directors of Forest Economy and others.

Gabon – AALF

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks cut in ten pieces at the East of the country. First of them, a former teacher, currently working as an ambulance driver, was arrested in the act. The ivory was concealed in a bucket and hidden near the place of transaction. He denounced the second trafficker, who was arrested a day later. They have connections to an ivory trafficking ring crushed in last October, operating in Gabon and Congo.



An ivory trafficker arrested at North-East of the country with two tusks.

- An ivory trafficker arrested at North-East of the country with two tusks. He is Beninese, living in Gabon, he has been in the spot of authorities since 2015. He remains behind bars in the capital city awaiting trial.
- A Cameroonian ivory trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in jail. He was arrested in October 2019 with 6 tusks.
- 2 ivory traffickers, one of them a military man, were sentenced to two years in jail. They were arrested in January in the capital city with two tusks.
- The Executive Director and the Activities Coordinator met with the General Director of the School of Gendarmerie to prepare the training program on wildlife law enforcement.
- The Legal Advisors and the Activities Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities for the follow-up of the ongoing cases and for the strengthening of collaboration, including the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Ar-



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks cut in ten pieces at the East of the country

reas, Provincial Directors of Water and Forests, the Presidents of courts, State Counsels, the Director of Economic and Financial Affairs of the National Police, the Heads of the Judicial Police Units and others.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator arrived in the country to hold several meetings and to manage the team.
- The Coordinator and the Head of Legal Department held a meeting with the Director of Interpol-DCPJ and the Head Commissioner in charge of fight against narcotic crime. They discussed cooperation during arrest operations.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Director of Forest Resources to introduce the EAGLE Togo and its activities. The progress

of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment was also discussed. The Director welcomed the project and ensured the Head of the Legal Department about her support.

- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department met the Assistant to the Director of OCRTIDB to discuss strengthening of collaboration and better monitoring of containers at the autonomous port of Lomé.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- An Algerian parrot trafficker arrested at the airport in Dakar with 131 Senegal parrots and Rose-ringed parakeets. He was arrested on the board of a plane to Algeria at the last moment before taking off. The birds were concealed in two small suitcases, suffering by dehydration, malnutrition and injuries. They were quickly transported to a veterinarian to receive adequate care. After five days of recovery most of them could be released back to the wild.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development





and the diplomatic representation from the Embassy of the United States of America in Dakar. They discussed the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between EAGLE Senegal and the Ministry.

- The Coordinator in cooperation with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy trained officers of the Airport Anti-Traffic Unit in combating wildlife crime. Only one week later this training brought fruit in the arrest of the Algerian bird trafficker.
- The Coordinator in cooperation with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy trained 38 Gendarmerie Officers from different units at the Application Center for Gendarmerie Officers. The training focused on different methods of combating wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities, including the Colonel in charge of cooperation in the Gendarmerie Officers' Application Course with the heads of the National Gendarmerie Environmental Unit, the Director of the Judicial Police within the framework of collaboration on future operations and for the follow-up of the Partnership agreement with the General

Direction of the National Police, the Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS) as part of the follow-up to the Partnership Agreement with the General Directorate of the National Police, the focal point of the CITES Convention in Senegal and Director of Wildlife within the framework of the collaboration on the seizure of 131 parrots, and others.



Benin – AALF-B

- 2 leopard skin traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in the central part of the country. They travelled to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skin carefully concealed in a jute bag. They were swiftly arrested, and they remain behind bars awaiting trial.
- Two ivory traffickers were sentenced to jail, one to one year, the other one to 6 months. They were arrested in September last year with 4 elephant tusks.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Advisors held a series of meetings with high government authorities, including several State Counsels, Departmental Directors and Commissioners of the Republican Police, the Commander of Water and Forests and Representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and others.



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- Perrine Odier, the PALF Coordinator, arrived in Côte d'Ivoire to support the team in recruitment, finances and procedures and to share her experience.
- The team met the Senior Economist of the US Embassy to discuss the challenges of fighting wildlife traffickers in Côte d'Ivoire. He confirmed the support of the US Embassy for the team's activities and external relations.
- The recruitment process was intensified to strengthen the investigation and legal departments.

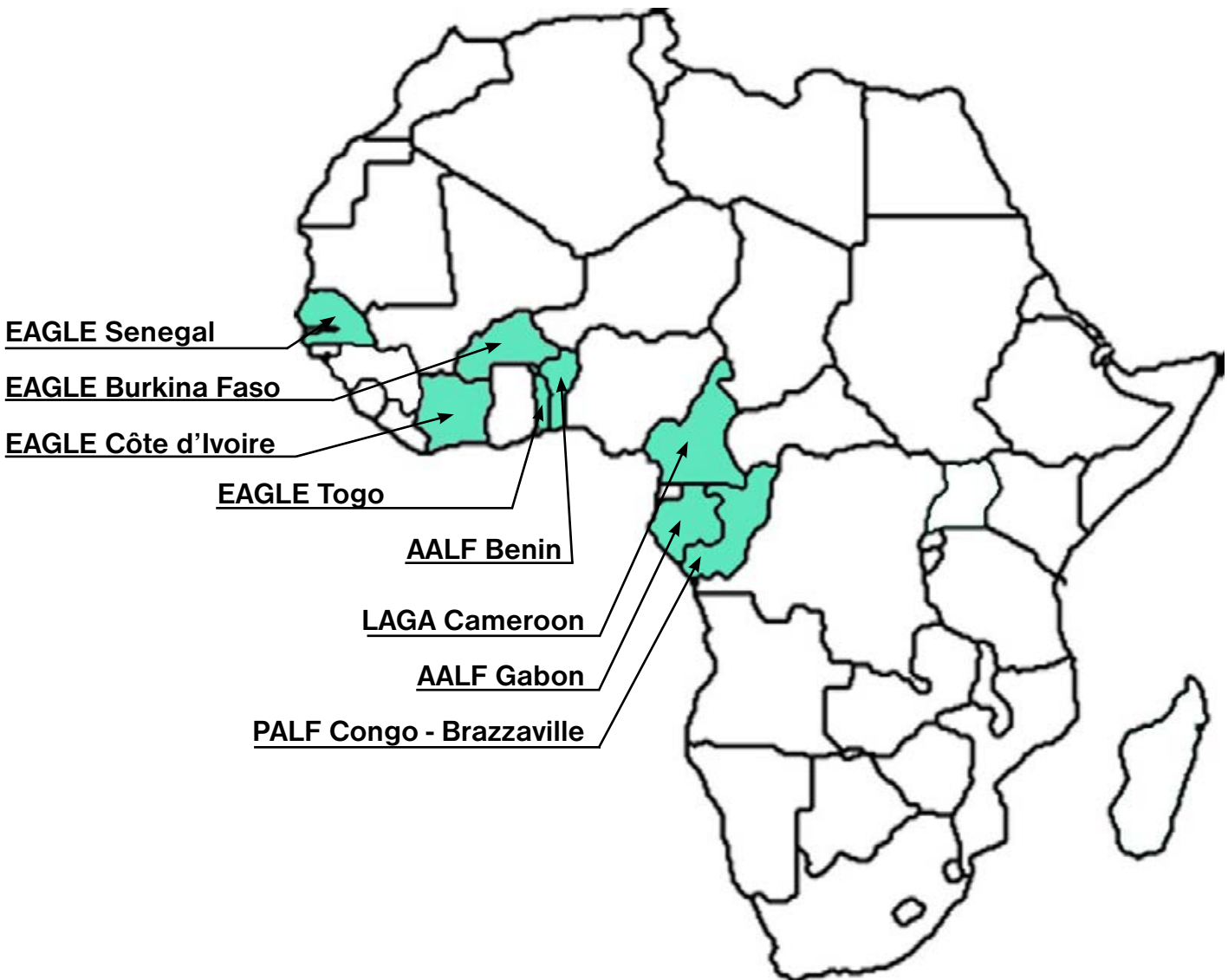
Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator met with a representative of NITIDAE and the State Judicial Officer. They discussed cooperation in the cases concerning wildlife crime.
- Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer, conducted a mission to Burkina Faso to support the recruitment process of a new accountant and train the selected one. A new accountant started the test period.

Headquarters

- Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer, conducted a mission to Burkina Faso to support the recruitment process of a new accountant and train the selected one.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director travelled to Belgium and Great Britain to meet with donors and to discuss future cooperation.

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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