



**EAGLE**

February 2022  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *14 traffickers arrested in 5 countries*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested in Congo with 14 elephant tusks during a series of arrests*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 15 tusks near the Ghana border. The crackdown on this important ivory ring was filmed by BBC*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 246 kg of pangolin scales, and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and nine 12-gauge shotguns in Senegal*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Congo with 94 African Grey Parrots*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 2 tusks weighing 20kg in Gabon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Cameroon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in connection with ivory trafficking in Congo*



*A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 246 kg of pangolin scales*



*2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and nine 12-gauge shotguns in Senegal*

# Summary

4 traffickers arrested in Congo with 14 elephant tusks. The first trafficker was arrested attempting to sell the tusks. He led the arresting team to the home of the second trafficker who was apprehended. The second trafficker denounced 2 others who were arrested a couple of minutes later. The tusks were concealed inside grain bags and transported on a motorbike. This seizure represents at least 7 elephants slaughtered.

2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 15 tusks near the Ghana border. The traffickers also smuggle gold and silver and moved the ivory in the trunk of their car. The crackdown on this important ivory ring was filmed by BBC. Wait for the broadcast to get an insight on the special people in the shadows behind this arrest operation.

A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 246 kg of pangolin scales, and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected.



4 traffickers arrested in Congo with 14 elephant tusks.

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and nine 12-gauge shotguns in Senegal. One of the traffickers is part of an improvised arms factory producing these guns in large quantities that are not only used for poaching of large animals but also to commit violent crimes.

A trafficker arrested in Congo with 94 African Grey Parrots. They were squeezed and smuggled in used plastic containers causing 7 of them to die. The rescued parrots were taken to the Tchimpounga sanctuary.

A trafficker arrested with 2 tusks weighing 20 kg in Gabon. He concealed the ivory in a cardboard box and used a familiar tactic by refusing to move from his hideout shortly before his arrest. He cut 2 tusks into 6 ivory pieces so that they could easily and perfectly fit into the cardboard box where he concealed the ivory.

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Cameroon. One of the traffickers transported the skins hidden in bags containing locally made kitchen utensils for over 60 km to the town where they were arrested. He ran a small shop as a cover business for wildlife trafficking.

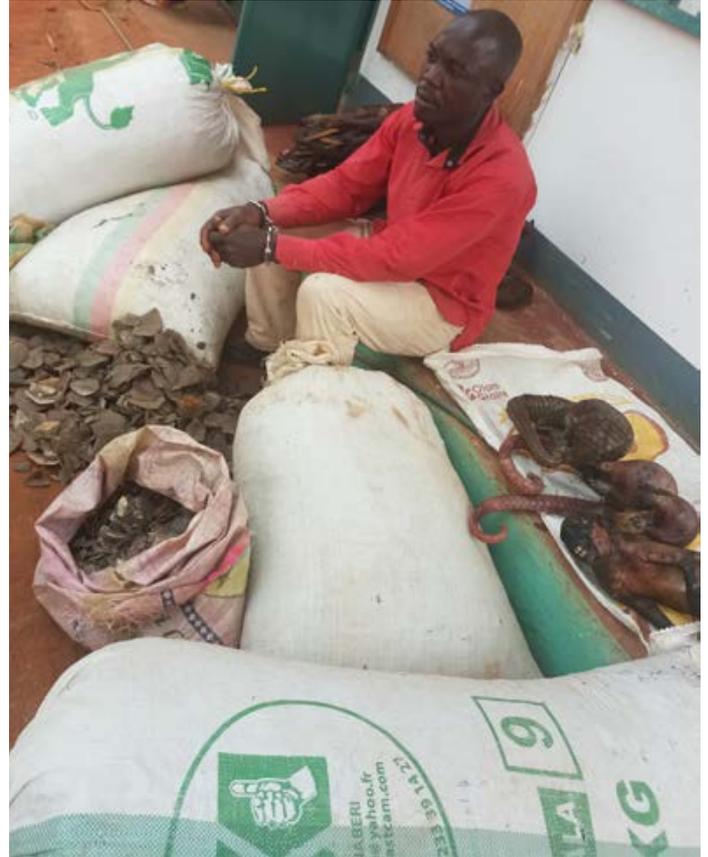
A trafficker arrested in connection with ivory trafficking in Congo. The trafficker was on the run after an arrest warrant was issued against him following the arrest of an ivory trafficker in November 2021 with 5 ivory pieces and 3 elephant tails. The Team fought off corruption attempts.



A trafficker arrested in Congo with 94 African Grey Parrots.

# Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested with 246 kg of pangolin scales, and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected. The seizure represents a massacre of more than a thousand pangolins.





- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin. One of the traffickers transported the skins hidden in bags containing locally made kitchen utensils for over 60 km to the town where they were arrested. He ran a small shop as a cover business for wildlife trafficking. He belongs to a network of traffickers dealing in cat skins in an area notorious for the illegal activity. They arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skins.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the South African based Institute for Security Studies to discuss wildlife crime in the sub region.
- He participated at a meeting that included wildlife and NGO officials to discuss sections of the new wildlife bill that tackles wildlife crime.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department, participated at a zoom meeting of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group to plan activities for the World Pangolin Day.

- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels to discuss ongoing wildlife cases at their respective jurisdictions.

# Congo – PALF

- A trafficker arrested with 94 African Grey Parrots. They were squeezed and smuggled in used plastic containers causing 11 of them to die. The rescued parrots were taken to the Tchimpounga sanctuary. This is the sixth parrot trafficker arrested in 3 months. We believe he is the supplier of many traffickers in Brazzaville and elsewhere. Investigations are ongoing. The illegal trade in African Grey Parrots is underestimated in its criminality. Its illicit revenue margin is higher than of ivory, turning it to a highly centralized and organized form of trafficking enabled by complicity and corruption.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 14 elephant tusks. The first trafficker was arrested attempting to sell the



tusks. He led the arresting team to the home of the second trafficker who was apprehended. The second trafficker denounced 2 others who were arrested a couple of minutes later. The tusks were concealed inside a suitcase and transported on a motorbike. This seizure represents at least 7 elephants slaughtered.

- A trafficker arrested in connection with ivory trafficking. The trafficker was on the run after an arrest warrant was issued against him following the arrest of an ivory trafficker in November 2021 with 5 ivory pieces and 3 elephant tails. The Team fought off corruption attempts.
- The Coordinator and Jane Goodall Institute team took over a dying baby chimpanzee from the zoo in Brazzaville. The Coordinator kept and took special care of the one-year-old baby before he was sent to the Tchimpounga sanctuary for lifetime care and support. Moukoudzi, the baby chimp, was initially rescued from a village.



■ A wounded owl that was found in Brazzaville was sent by the Team to the Tchimpounga sanctuary where it was treated and released.



- The Coordinator met with some high ranking wildlife officials from Guinea to strengthen collaboration and the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- The Coordinator held meetings with Charlotte Houpline, the Director of a Guinean-based NGO WARA and formerly Coordinator of the EAGLE project in Guinea and discussions focused on the fight against wildlife crime.
- She gave interviews to a film crew shooting a documentary on the work of the Tchimpounga sanctuary that shall feature the rescue and care of the African grey parrots.

## Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker arrested with 2 tusks weighing 20 kg. He concealed the ivory in a cardboard box and used a familiar tactic by refusing to move from his hideout shortly before his arrest. He cut 2 tusks into 6 ivory pieces so that they could easily and perfectly fit into the cardboard box where he concealed the ivory.
- The Legal Team provided assistance in the prosecution of 2 traffickers, a Guinean and a Gabonese, who were arrested by the police in Makokou with 2 elephant tusks. The project equally provided logistics assistance to the police for the transfer of the traffickers to be presented to a State Council in Libreville.



- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in December 2021 with 3 elephant tusks.
- 42 meetings were held with several high administrative, judicial and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration and to follow up ongoing wildlife cases. Among the meetings, the Activities Co-

ordinator held meetings with the Director of the Gendarmerie School, the Chief of Staff of the National Police, the Director of Economic and Financial Affairs of the National Police and the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas.

## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division, CITES Focal Point who was assisted by the OCRTIDB and Interpol Project Officer and Focal Point for Operations to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. They discussed

issues related to the repatriation to Cameroon of parrots seized in Togo in October 2021.

- Recruitment was intensified with some candidates interviewed.

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and nine 12-gauge shotguns. One of the traffickers is part of an improvised arms factory producing these guns in large quantities that are not only used for poaching of large animals but also to commit violent crimes. The illegal manufacturing workshop is about an hour drive from the small town of Kolda not far from the Guinea Bissau border.

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 partnership agreement with the Directorate General of the National Police has been validated.

The criminal buys hardware materials from Kolda - steel pipes, springs, metal plates and pieces, hard wood etc. In his workshop he fits the pipes as a barrel, carves the wood into a stock and makes each part from trigger to mechanism. some of what he manufactures are “mini shotgun” - that cannot be used for hunting but for either defense from or attacks of criminals in lawless areas. He sells a gun for around 100 USD and his manufacturing rate as well as the demand are staggering.

- The Legal Team followed



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

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 15 tusks near the Ghana border. The traffickers also smuggle gold and silver and moved the ivory in the trunk of their car. The crackdown on this important ivory ring was filmed by BBC. Wait for the broadcast to get an insight on the special people in the shadows behind this arrest operation.

■ Some of the tusks were very small, indicating the extent of the massacres of young elephants. DNA analysis carried out by the Dr. Samuel Wasser of the University of Washington from an earlier seizure of 60 tusks in the same town, Abengourou, show that 90% of the tusks seized were from the WAP complex, where most of the elephants remain. The area is now under heavy pressure from jihadists and more accessible to poachers as the states sharing the complex (Benin, Burkina Faso and Ni-



ger) are finding it more and more difficult to secure.

■ The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for operations.

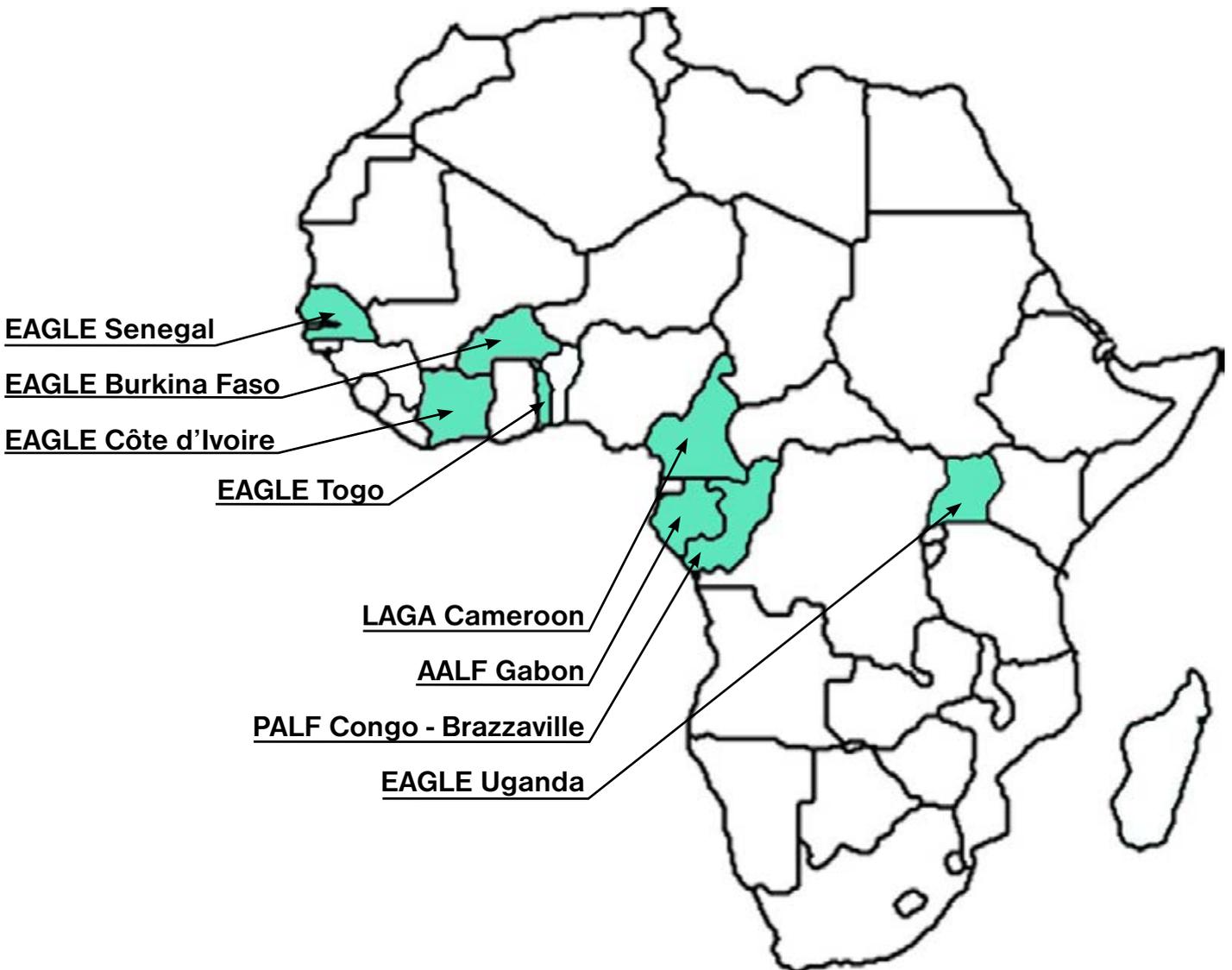
## Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

■ The security situation has gradually grown worse over time with jihadists' attacks in parts of the country making it difficult for investigations and operations to be carried out smoothly. A coup d'état recently took place in the country and a new regime installed.

■ The Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition and with two of his collaborators to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.

■ The Coordinator held a meeting with the Coordinator of Innovation for Poverty in Action and another meeting with the NGO's investigation officer to discuss recruitment opportunities for investigators to strengthen the fight against wildlife crime.

# 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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