



EAGLE

January 2024
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *8 traffickers arrested in Congo and Gabon*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo. One of the traffickers is the manager of the sawmill workshop of a logging company*
- ✓ *3 traffickers, including a Malian national, arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. One of the traffickers is a worker in an environmental consultancy firm.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Congo*



2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Congo.



3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo.

Summary

3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo. One of the traffickers is the manager of the sawmill workshop of a logging company. They arrived in a taxi with the tusks concealed inside dresses in a backpack. On arrival, all three got out of the taxi and two made several phone calls while the third trudged behind, keeping cover and guard. The team pounced and arrested the two, while the trafficker on the watch for law enforcement fled and hid in an undergrowth but was soon arrested.

in-depth conservation knowledge to effectively carry out ivory trafficking.

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Congo. They arrived the scene of transaction on a motorcycle with one of them firmly grasping a backpack containing a jute bag. On arrival, he removed the jute bag that concealed the leopard skin. He was arrested. He denounced another trafficker at the police station who was later apprehended.



2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Congo.

3 traffickers, including a Malian national, arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. Two traffickers were arrested attempting to sell two elephant tusks. On arrival near the place of transaction, they hid a bag containing the tusks to ensure everything was safe before continuing with a deal. They would later go and fetch the bag and were arrested in the act. The Malian national who was not very far from the place of transaction was arrested shortly after, following an interrogation of the arrested traffickers who denounced him. One of the traffickers is a worker in an environmental consultancy firm called Green Consultech. The firm, as guardians of the environment, offers services including legal compliance and environmental impact studies. He apparently used his



3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon.

Cameroon – LAGA

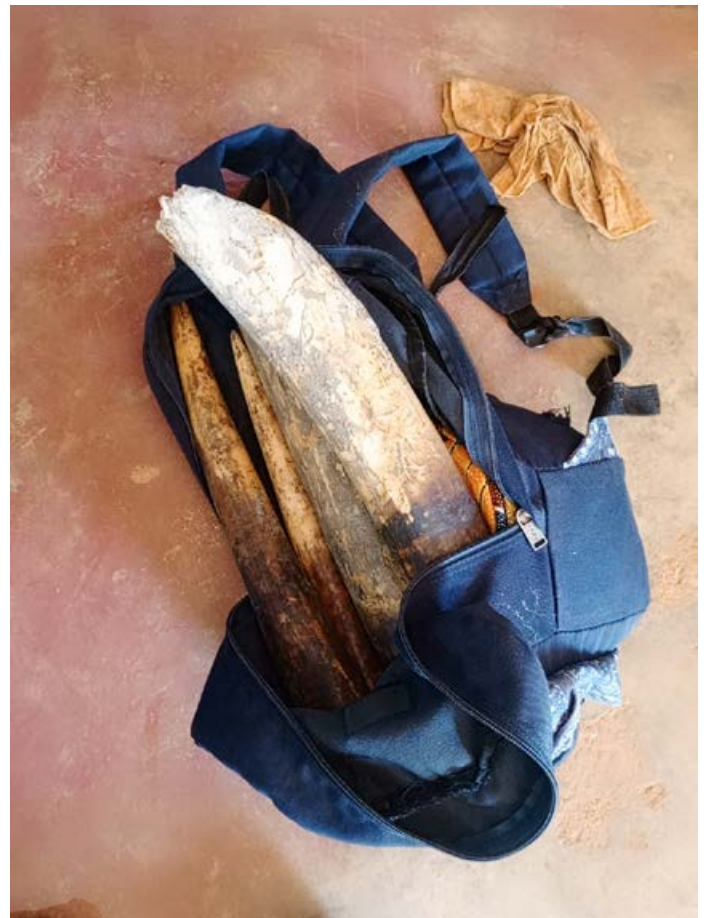
- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the renewal of the MoU at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the South Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin. They arrived the scene of transaction on a motorcycle with one of them firmly grasping a backpack containing a jute bag. On arrival, he removed the jute bag that concealed the leopard skin. He was arrested. He denounced another trafficker at the police station who was later apprehended. The trafficker who rode the motorcycle, had kept the engine running and he immediately fled when he saw the arrest taking place. Efforts to apprehend him are ongoing.



- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. One of the traffickers is the manager of the sawmill workshop of a logging company. They arrived in a taxi with the tusks concealed inside dresses in a backpack. On arrival, all three got out of the taxi and two made several phone calls while the third trudged behind, keeping cover and guard. The team pounced and arrested the two, while the trafficker on the watch for law enforcement fled and hid in an undergrowth but was soon arrested during a search that was quickly carried out.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings and discussions with several wildlife and law enforcement officials.



Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers, including a Malian national, arrested with 2 elephant tusks. Two traffickers were arrested attempting to sell two elephant tusks. On arrival near the place of transaction, they hid a bag containing the tusks to ensure everything was safe before continuing with a deal. They would later go and fetch the bag and were arrested in the act. The Malian national who was not very far from the place of transaction was arrested shortly after, following an interrogation of the arrested traffickers who denounced him. One of the traffickers is a worker in an environmental consultancy firm called Green Consultech. The firm, as guardians of the environment, offers services including legal compliance and environmental impact studies. He apparently used his in-depth conservation knowledge to effectively carry out ivory trafficking.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to two years and two months in prison. He was arrested in November 2023 with 2 elephant tusks.
- The Executive Director, ZSL and Biodiversity Landscape Fund officials held a meeting with the Minister of Water and Forests to discuss issues related to the fight against wildlife crime.
- He met with the Head of Cooperation and the Environmental Cooperation Officer of the EU Delegation in Libreville to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas to discuss the fight against wildlife crime. Also present during the meeting were the Director of the Lékédi Biodiversité Foundation and managers of some logging companies in Gabon.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with wildlife and law enforcement officials to discuss issues related to wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The interim Coordinator met with the Commissioner of Customs, Head of the Customs Control Post at Lomé Airport Freight, to establish collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Director of the Forest Resources Inspectorate to strengthen collaboration in fighting illegal wildlife trade in the country.
- He also met with the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division, CITES Focal Point, to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime and discuss areas for improvement.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Directorate General of Customs.
- EAGLE Guinea project activists including an Assistant Coordinator, a Legal Adviser and two investigators, completed a five-month long training in Senegal and returned to Guinea. They are expected to get the new project operational beginning next month.

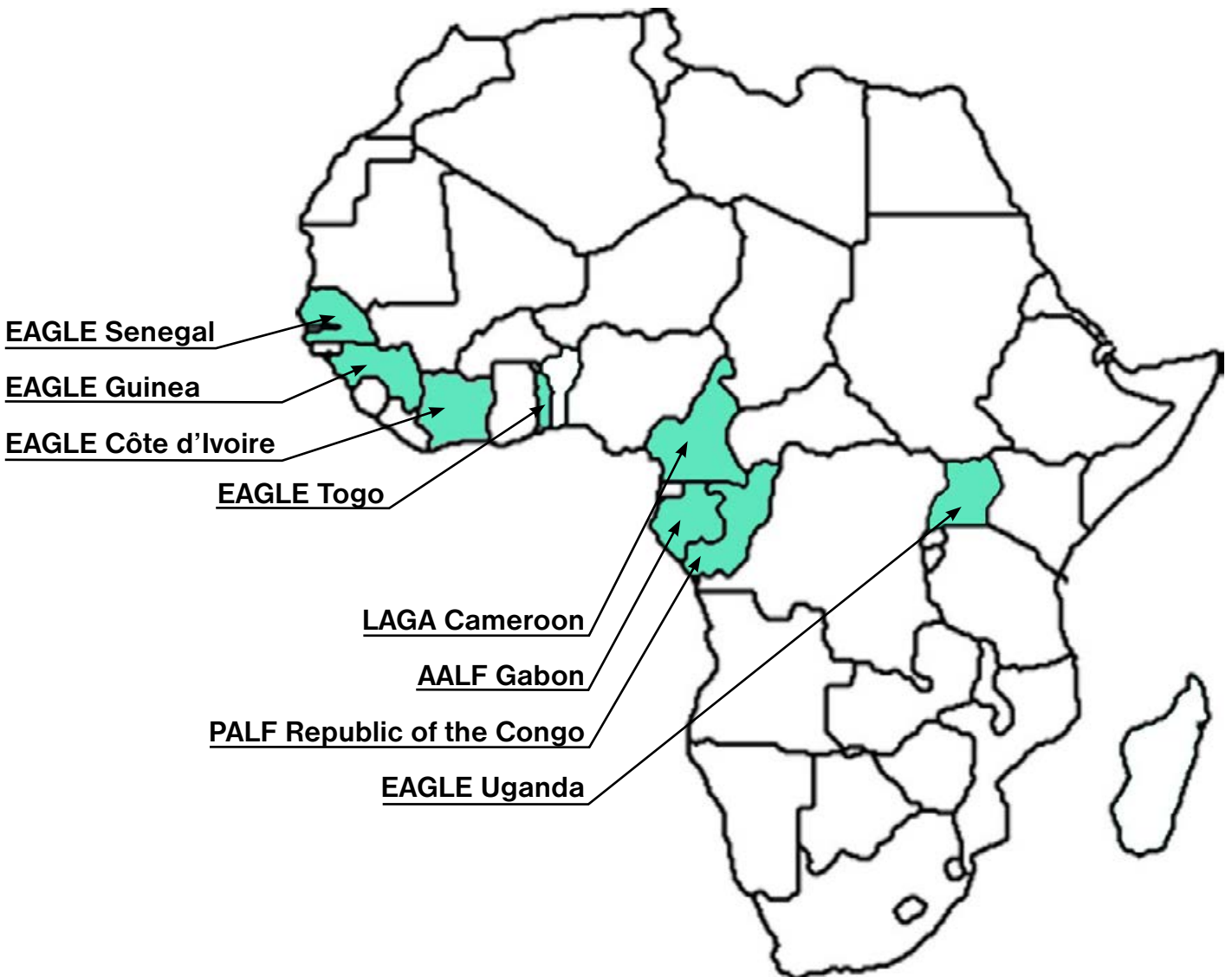
Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The case of 2 traffickers arrested in September 2019 with 2 elephant tusks is still under instruction. The 2 traffickers are awaiting trial and a third person is still to be interrogated in connection with his role in the trafficking.
- The case of 4 traffickers arrested with 38 kg of ivory in October 2021 is still under instruction. The role of the armed crew claiming to be part of the CCDO unit is still to be determined in this case.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with officials of Akatia – an NGO – to discuss possible areas of collaboration and plan for the year 2024.
- He also held meetings with officials of the UCT to discuss long term investigations and strengthen collaboration.

Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Directorate General of the National Police and the Directorate General of Customs.
- An Assistant Coordinator, a Legal Adviser and 2 investigators returned to Conakry following a training that lasted 5 months in Dakar, Senegal. The Guinea project is expected to become fully operational next month, with their return.

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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