



EAGLE

January 2021
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *5 wildlife traffickers arrested in 2 countries.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Congo with a leopard skin*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins, 14 hippo teeth and an AK-47 assault rifle in two back-to-back arrest operations.*



2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin in Congo



2 traffickers were arrested in Senegal with a leopard skin, 14 hippo teeth and an AK-47 assault rifle

Summary

5 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 2 countries.

2 traffickers were arrested in Senegal with a leopard skin, 14 hippo teeth and an AK-47 assault rifle that they attempted to trade. Following the arrest of the first trafficker, a house search at the second trafficker's residence swiftly followed with his arrest and seizure of the assault rifle for sale and a magazine containing 14 cartridges. The assault rifle that was being sold is suspected to have been used in the slaughter of many leopards and hippos for over a decade. They both remain in jail, awaiting trial.

A wildlife trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Senegal. The trafficker works for a state organ that supports the national police. The arrest was carried out two days after the arrest of 2 with a leopard skin in the same town as the team stayed behind to push forward for the operation.

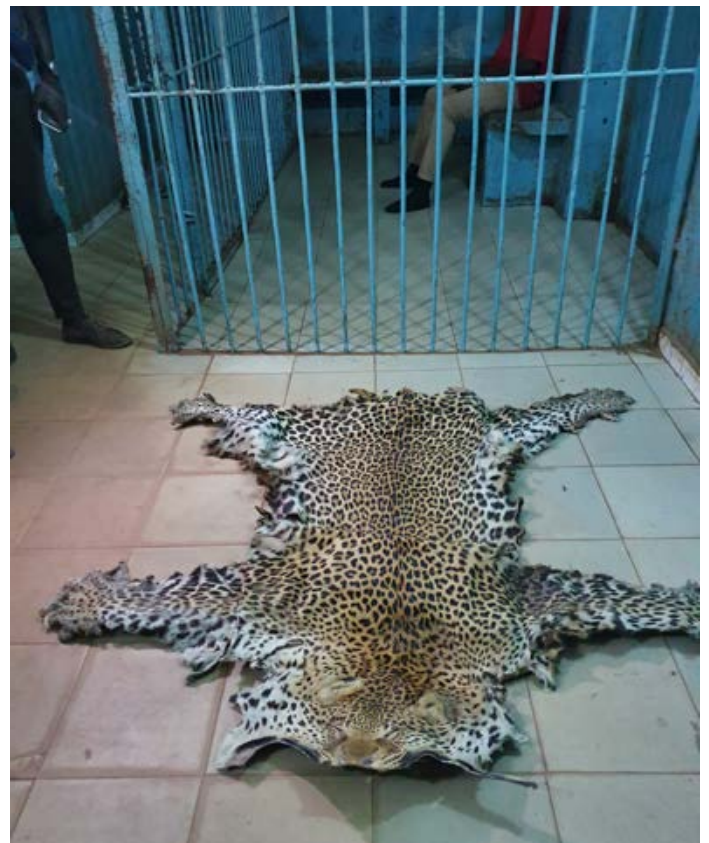


2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin in Congo

2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin in Congo. They were arrested in the act in the capital city. This was the network's first operation of 2021.



2 traffickers were arrested in Senegal with a leopard skin



A wildlife trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Senegal.

Cameroon – LAGA

- A wildlife trafficker was sentenced to serve 2 years in prison. He was arrested in December last year with 4 ivory tusks.
- The Deputy Director participated at a meeting chaired by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, that focused on areas of collaboration and intervention by CSOs in the forestry and wildlife sub-sector.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy with the Deputy Chief of the Political Section and the Environment Specialist to discuss the organization's yearly plan and activities while also focusing on problems affecting effective wildlife conservation in the country.
- The Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting organised by the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group with discussions focusing on the organisation of the forthcoming World Pangolin Day.
- The LAGA team participated in activities carried out to mourn and bury one of its founding fathers Vincent Gudmia Mfonfu who passed away on December 26, 2020 following a protracted illness.

Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin. They were arrested in the act in the capital city. This was the network's first operation of 2021.
- A new coordinator Tiffany Gobert arrived to take over from Perrine Odier who was leaving the project for other challenges.
- The Coordinator supported by Perrine held meetings with the Director of Cabinet at the Ministry of Justice to introduce herself and to discuss avenues for further collaboration.
- They also held meetings with the Gendarmerie Regional Commander of Brazzaville and the EU Delegation for the same purpose.



Gabon – AALF

- Two ivory traffickers arrested in November last year were sentenced to 3 years in prison.
- The project provided legal assistance for two police arrests of two traffickers with 4 elephant tusks
- The Legal Team held several meetings with administrative and judicial authorities to follow up on wildlife cases after the training for police officers on wildlife law.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator was trained by CCU in Nairobi on management, external relations, communication and command. He produced action plans to apply his training in Togo.
- The Assistant Coordinator met with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 5 traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison. They were arrested in October last year with 3 ivory tusks

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal



- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin, 14 hippo teeth and an AK-47 assault rifle that they attempted to trade. Following the arrest of the first trafficker, a house search at the second trafficker's residence swiftly followed with his arrest and seizure of the assault rifle for sale and a magazine containing 14 cartridges. The assault rifle that was being sold is suspected to have been used in the slaughter of many leopards and hippos for over a decade. They both remain in jail, awaiting trial.



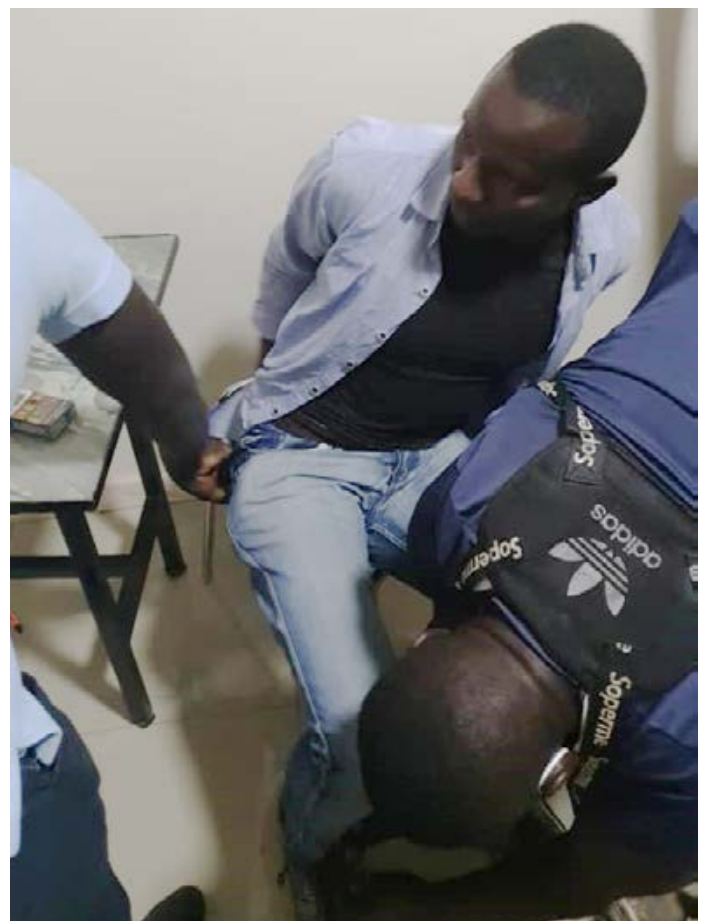
2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin, 14 hippo teeth and an AK-47 assault rifle

- A wildlife trafficker arrested with a leopard skin. The trafficker works for a state organ that supports the national police. The arrest was carried out two days after the arrest of 2, with a leopard skin in the same town as the team stayed behind to push forward for the operation.
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Directorate of the National Police and the General Directorate of Customs.
- The Legal Team presented various modules on combatting wildlife crime at the Gendarmerie Officers Application Center (CAOG) during a training for 66 non commissioned gendarmerie officers

who were promoted to the rank of judicial police officers. The training, has been organized by EAGLE Senegal in Collaboration with the French Cooperation.



A wildlife trafficker arrested with a leopard skin.



Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held several meetings with state counsels, a secretary to the Attorney General at the Supreme Court, a secretary to the Registrar at the Supreme Court and the forestry inspectorates to discuss wildlife cases pending at the various courts.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held meetings with the OIPR, the Ivorian administration in charge of the management of parks and reserves to discuss the modalities for collaboration with EAGLE–Côte d'Ivoire.
- The Assistant Coordinator met with the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to collaborate on important investigations.
- The legal team followed the case against two traffickers arrested in September 2019 for trafficking in ivory. The case was put under preliminary investigation by an examining judge.
- The male baby chimpanzee rescued in December last year and kept by the NGO Akatia who is creating a sanctuary in Côte d'Ivoire, is getting better every day with proper healthcare and attention from professionals.
- Recruitment of investigators was intensified.

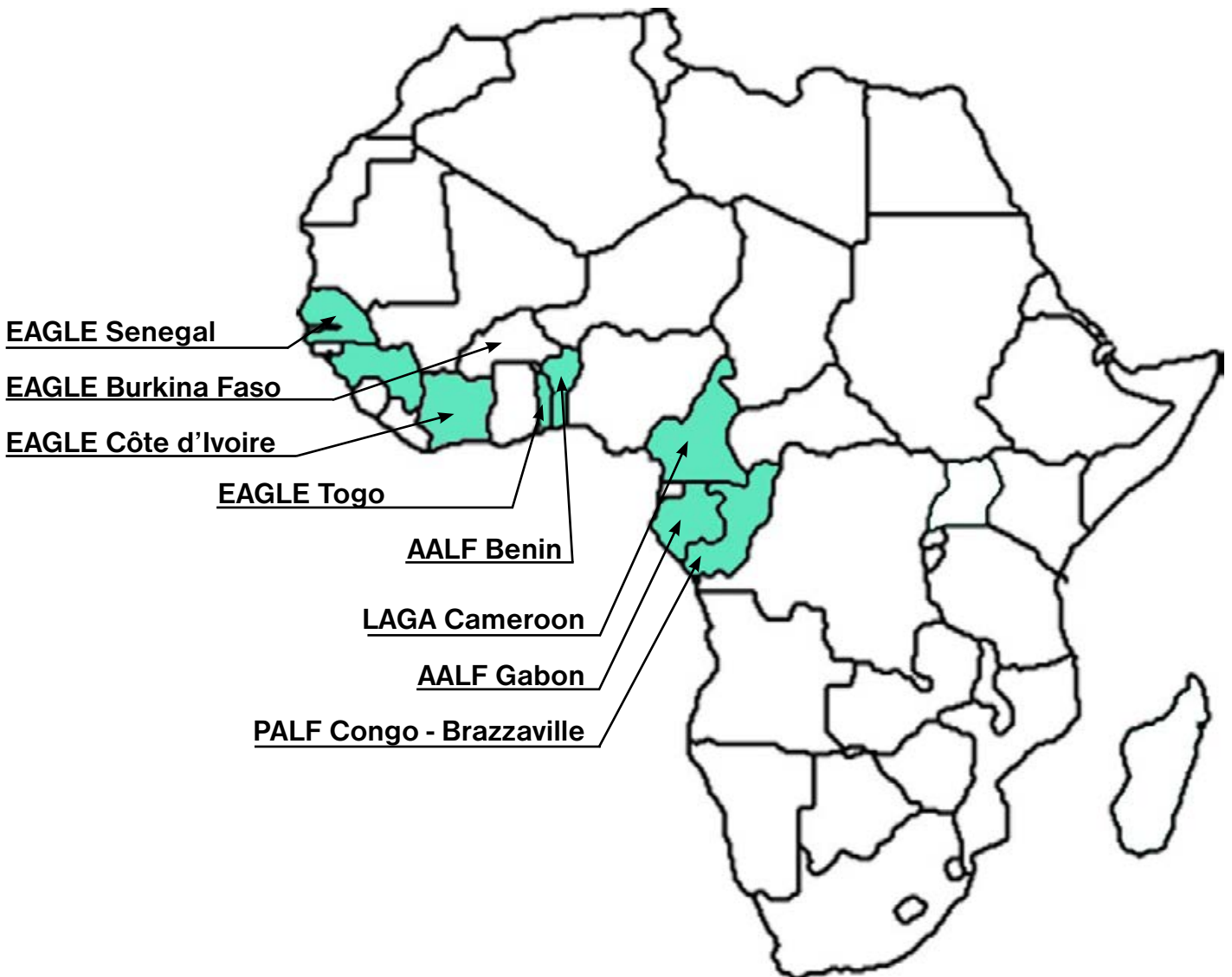
Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The coordinator participated at a meeting between the PONASI project and the Coordinator of the Police's Police with discussions focusing on the training of magistrates, police officers, gendarmerie and forestry officials in charge of wildlife law enforcement in the Sissili area.

Headquarters

- The Assistant Coordinator from Togo arrived to Nairobi for training on management, external relations, communication and command. He produced action plans to apply his training in Togo.

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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