



EAGLE

July 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through with the arrest of 13 traffickers this month*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in two operations*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers arrested in Togo in a crackdown series of arrests against a criminal network*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins and scales of giant pangolins in Congo*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 24 skins of wild animals including a leopard skin in Senegal*



2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins and scales of giant pangolins in Congo.



2 traffickers were arrested with 24 wild animals' skins including a leopard skin in Senegal.

Summary

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through with the arrest of 13 traffickers this month.

Gabon team kick-started arrests again this month, 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in two operations. 3 ivory traffickers, one of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with 4 tusks in the South of the country. Two of them were arrested in the act, after one was monitored when he carried the contraband concealed in a large black bag to the place of transaction, where the other was supposed to carry out the transaction. They swiftly denounced the third trafficker, a woman that dealt with the two. They all face a sentence of 10 years in jail. 2 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks and 16 hippo teeth in the South-west of the country. One of them of Benin nationality. They were surprised by the operation team in the middle of the transaction, when all the contraband had been displayed on the floor.

4 traffickers were arrested with 6 tusks in a crack-down series of arrests of a criminal network in Togo.



3 ivory traffickers, one of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon

One of them is also a part of a larger gold trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana and evidence was found of his negotiation to buy 600 kg of trafficked gold from Ghana just last week.

PALF team kick-starting the action again this month. 2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins and



4 traffickers were arrested with 6 tusks in Togo

scales of giant pangolins in Pointe Noire. They transported the contraband concealed in a bag to conceal the transport and to evade law enforcement. They are notorious traffickers, connected to a wide criminal network. The two traffickers remain behind bars awaiting trial.

2 traffickers were arrested with 24 wild animals' skins including a leopard skin in Senegal. They were arrested in the act. One of them attempted to flee during the arrest but was swiftly stopped. All the skins probably originated from the Niokolo Koba National Park, where one of the suspected traffickers have been active for more than 30 years. They remain in jail awaiting trial.



2 traffickers were arrested with 24 wild animals' skins including a leopard skin in Senegal.

Cameroon – LAGA

- As a part of an effort to intensify arrests, the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments were on an external relations mission to build active and collaborative platforms for eventual operations. They held several meetings with high officials including the South Regional Police Chief, South Regional Forestry and Wildlife Delegate, Head of Customs at the Freight Department at the Doula Airport and at the Nsimalen Airport and the Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post at the Nsimalen Airport.
- The Deputy Director carried out three presentations at a workshop organized by ZSL for the benefit of stakeholders within the wildlife law enforcement chain. The first one was on Information

Gathering within the context of wildlife law enforcement, a second on Investigation Techniques and a third on Information Management and Operations. The workshop, which he facilitated, brought together stakeholders from the South East regions, a home to some of the most important parks such as the Dja Biosphere Reserve – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- The Legal Advisers held meetings with 7 state counsels handling ongoing cases at the various courts around the country to discuss issues related to these cases and build a common prosecutorial strategy.

Congo – PALF

- PALF team kick-starting the action again this month. 2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins and scales of giant pangolins in Pointe Noire. They transported the contraband concealed in a bag to conceal the transport and to evade law enforcement. They are notorious traffickers, connected to a wide criminal network.
- The Legal team held a series of meetings authorities including the Departmental Director of Waters and Forests, the Regional Commander of the Na-





tional Gendarmerie and the State Counsel of the Pointe-Noire and others.

- Recruitment has been intensified and one investigator started the test period.



Gabon – AALF

- Gabon team kick-started arrests again this month. 3 ivory traffickers, one of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with 4 tusks in the South of the country. Two of them were arrested in the act, after one was monitored when he carried the contraband concealed in a large black bag to the place of transaction, where the other was supposed to carry out the transaction. They swiftly denounced the third trafficker, a woman that dealt with the two. They all face a sentence of 10 years in jail.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks and 16 hippo teeth in the South-west of the country. One of them of Benin nationality. They were surprised by the operation team in the middle of the transaction, when all the contraband had been displayed on the floor.
- Four ivory traffickers, arrested in September last year, were sentenced, two of them to 2 years in jail, the other two to 1 year in jail. Another ivory trafficker and a leopard skin trafficker were sentenced to 6 months.
- The Legal Team and the Activities Coordinator held series of meetings with the authorities, including the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Anti-Poaching, several State Counsels, several Provincial Directors of Water and Forests and others.



3 ivory traffickers, one of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with 4 tusks in the South of the country.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 4 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in a crack-down series of arrests of a criminal network. One of them is also a part of a larger gold trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana and evidence was found of his negotiation to buy 600 kg of trafficked gold from Ghana just last week.
- The Legal Team supported a seizure of a



significant quantity of raw and worked ivory in Lomé weighing a total of 43kg.

- The Head of the Legal department held a series of meetings with the authorities including the Commander representing the MEDDPN, the Captain of the OCRTIDB, the Executive Director of the CACIT, the Director of the Republican Intervention Company of Kara, the Commander of the Research and Investigation Brigade de Kara, the Regional Director of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection, Kara and the Public Prosecutor at the Kara Court.
- The recruitment process was intensified, and an investigator began his test on July 1.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 traffickers arrested with 24 wild animals' skins including a leopard skin. They were arrested in the act. One of them attempted to flee during the arrest but was swiftly stopped. All the skins probably originated from the Niokolo Koba National Park, where one of the suspected traffickers have been active for more than 30 years. They remain in jail awaiting trial.
- The team met with the representatives of the French Embassy in Dakar.





Benin – AALF-B

■ The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with the authorities, including the Chief Legal Officer at the Zou Forestry Inspectorate, the Legal Officer at the Forest Inspectorate of Borgou, the Chief Brigade of the Kandi civilian prison, the Park Director W and several State Counsels and Police Commissioners and others.

■ The director of Nature Tropical was diagnosed positive with Covid-19 and recovered after several days of hospitalization. The entire team was in quarantine for two weeks. Strict safety rules were applied to prevent the infection from spreading.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The pangolin scales trafficker, arrested in August last year with 148 kg of pangolin scales, was prosecuted and sentenced to one year in jail.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 1 year in jail. He was arrested in March 2019 during an attempt to sell two carved tusks.
- The EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team participated at series of three workshops with the OI-REN, an Ivorian NGO, and Akatia, an American NGO to study the project of the new policy of the government for wildlife law.
- The Legal Advisors participated at a workshop organized by the IUCN to put in contact the different NGOs working on wildlife protection.
- A legal advisor participated at three working sessions to assess the risks of wildlife crime in Côte d'Ivoire. Organized by the World Bank, these workshops were the follow up of the workshop our legal adviser attended to in October, December, March and May.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the National Office for Protected Areas (OFI-NAP). He presented the activities of EAGLE to the new executive of OFINAP, and negotiated support in the search for investigators.
- The Coordinator met with the Director General of Water and Forests (DGEF) and the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources (DFRC) to present EAGLE activities and to discuss the files which are not progressing at the level of the Operations Department. They also talked about possibilities to enable EAGLE Burkina Faso to operate safely in the other regions of Burkina.
- The Coordinator participated at a videoconference on the fight against environmental crime in West Africa, organized by IUCN.

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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