



EAGLE

June 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 10 traffickers arrested this month*
- ✓ *3 pangolin scales traffickers including corrupt military men arrested with 380 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 human bones traffickers arrested in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 2 ivory tusks*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard and two crocodile skins in Senegal*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with 7 tusks in Benin*



3 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with 380 kg of pangolin scales



2 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon.

Summary

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 10 traffickers were arrested this month.

3 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in Cameroon. 2 corrupt military men were arrested with 380 kg of pangolin scales as they moved to sell the contraband transported in a pickup car. Third member of the ring, a woman who had sent her son (one of the arrested military men) to carry out the transaction on her behalf, was arrested a couple of hours later. She and one of the military men had been tracked for several years as she carried out illegal pangolin trade. They all explained explicitly how they used their military status to run criminal activities, to avoid arrest. One of them, a member of the Presidential Guard, was swiftly removed by his hierarchy following the arrest to serve as a strong message the corps' uniform will not be used to cover illegal activities, and any knowledge of an illegal activity will result in swift action. Despite the link between pangolins' consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic, the illegal trade still goes on.

2 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon. Investigations on wildlife trafficking led to the



2 traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with 2 ivory tusks

discovery of a network of human bones traffickers and arresting 2 members of the ring with almost two full human skeletons packed inside two suitcases. This is the second crackdown on a separated ring of human bones traffickers two months in the same town. The two belong to a network that uses internet to advertise their products under code names and search for clients who they claim included clients from abroad. One of the traffickers travelled from Ambam near the South border to the West to carry out the transaction. The three top TV channels in



2 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon.

Cameroon covered the case and broadcasted it in the prime time evening news in French and English.

2 traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with 2 ivory tusks. One of them had been able to glide through law enforcement for several years as his involvement in ivory trafficking was well known and has been a target for investigations for a long time. He admitted to gold trafficking. They are a part of a network stretching to CAR and connected to Congo.

2 traffickers were arrested with 4 leopard and two crocodile skins in Senegal. The long term traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the skins. One of them is a tourist guide, who was trained in conservation and accompanied the officers of Niokolo Koba National Park on several missions, but he didn't stop his criminal activities. While some of the skins originate from the nearby National Park, other ones were trafficked from Mali. Both traffickers remain behind bars, awaiting the trial.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 7 tusks, weighing almost 20 kg, in Benin. The trafficker of Burkina Faso nationality was arrested in the act when he tried to sell the tusks, which he brought to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a jute bag.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 7 traffickers arrested in three operations in the country despite the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3 pangolin scales traffickers arrested in the capital city. 2 corrupt military men were arrested with 380 kg of pangolin scales as they moved to sell the contraband transported in a pickup car. Third



3 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with 380 kg of pangolin scales

2 human bones traffickers were arrested in the West of the country

member of the ring, a woman who had sent her son (one of the arrested military men) to carry out the transaction on her behalf, was arrested a couple of hours later. She and one of the military men had been tracked for several years as she carried out illegal pangolin trade. They all explicitly explained how they used their military status to run criminal activities, to avoid arrest. One of them, a member of the Presidential Guard, was swiftly removed by his hierarchy after the arrest. This was done to serve as a strong message that the corps' uniform will not be used to cover illegal activities, and any knowledge of an illegal activity will result in swift action. Despite the link between pangolins' consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic, the illegal trade still goes on.

- 2 human bones traffickers arrested in the West of the country. Investigations on wildlife trafficking led to the discovery of a network of human bones traffickers and arresting 2 members of the ring



with almost two full human skeletons packed inside two suitcases. This is the second crackdown on a separated ring of human bones traffickers two months in the same town. The two belong to a network that uses Internet to advertise their products under code names and search for clients who they claim included clients from abroad. One of the traffickers travelled from Ambam near the South border to the West to carry out the transaction. The three top TV channels in Cameroon covered the case and broadcasted it in the prime time evening news in French and English.

- 2 traffickers arrested in the East of the country with 2 ivory tusks. One of them had been able to glide through law enforcement for several years as his involvement in ivory trafficking was well known and has been a target for investigations for a long time. He admitted to gold trafficking. They



2 traffickers arrested in the East of the country with 2 ivory tusks.

are a part of a network stretching to CAR and connected to Congo.

- The three human bones traffickers arrested in May were condemned and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment each.
- French TV channel France 2 during its prime time programme “Sur le front des animaux menacés” showed the pangolin trafficking theme with LAGA and covered the recent crackdown arrest of two military men with 400kg of pangolin scales, as well as a follow-up on a previous arrest of a woman trafficker.



Congo – PALF

- The Legal team provided legal assistance to a case of two ivory traffickers, one of them a military

from republican guard, arrested by Police with two tusks.

Gabon – AALF

- 5 court decisions were delivered, and 9 ivory traffickers sentenced to jail for various sentences from 2 years to 8 months. They were arrested between August 2019 and March 2020.
- The team obtained special authorization from the Ministry of Water and Forests enabling free travel across the country during the time of confinement. Although the new Covid-19 regulations requesting negative test before each travel still present an obstacle, the team works hard to resume arrest operations next month.
- The Legal Advisors held series of meetings with administrative and judicial authorities to strengthen collaboration and monitor hearings, including the Director of Anti-poaching, the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, several State Counsels, the Provincial Directors of Water and Forests, the Commander of the Judicial Police and others.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Executive Secretary of the National Agency for National Parks, the Advisor to the Minister in charge of the Ecosystem Service and Sustainable Development Goals, the Directors General of the Forest Sector Executing Agency and the Director in charge of Wildlife and Hunting Management.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Head of Legal Department held a meeting with the Declaration Officer for Associations and NGOs at the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Authorities to discuss the EAGLE-Togo registration following the memo submitted to him in May.
- The recruitment process to strengthen Investigation Department continued and one investigator starts the test period at the beginning of July.
- The Media Officer wrote an article entitled “The pangolin in distress: Increasing legal penalties to curb its extinction”. For this article, fifty media pieces have been published by national and international media.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard and two crocodile skins in the Centre of the country. The long-term traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the skins. One of them is a trained guide and tracker who accompanied the officials of Niokolo Koba National Park on several missions, but he didn't stop his criminal activities. While some of the skins originate from the nearby National Park, other ones were traf-



ficked from Mali. Both traffickers remain behind bars, awaiting the trial.

- The Assistant Coordinator trained 46 Gendarmerie officers of 16 different African nationalities on the fight against trafficking in protected animal species. The training was organized by EAGLE Senegal, in collaboration with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy in Senegal and the CITES Management Authority in Senegal at the Application Center for Gendarmerie Officers.



Benin – AALF-B

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 7 tusks, weighing almost 20 kg. The trafficker of Burkina Faso nationality was arrested in the act when he tried to sell the tusks, which he brought to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a jute bag.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with the authorities, including the Chief Litigation Officer at the Directorate General of Waters, Forests and Hunting, the Secretary of the Supreme Court, the Head of Monitoring, Agreement and Conventions Division, the Chief Special Forest Brigade near the Airport, the Litigation Officer at the DGEFC, several State Counsels and Police Commissioners and others.



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Legal Advisors participated at two on-line meetings organized by the Ministry of Water and Forests for the validation of the national protection policy of reconstitution and recovery of wildlife, alongside with other NGOs. Validation of the policy will be done in July.
- The recruitment was intensified to strengthen Investigation and Legal Departments.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The coordinator held a meeting with the Coordinator of the NGO NITIDAE who can facilitate an interview between the EAGLE Burkina Faso Coordinator and the Director General of Waters and Forests. They also discussed training that Conservation Justice could provide for the eco-guards of the PONASI ecological complex.
- He also met with the new Director of Operations of the Ministry of Water and Forests.

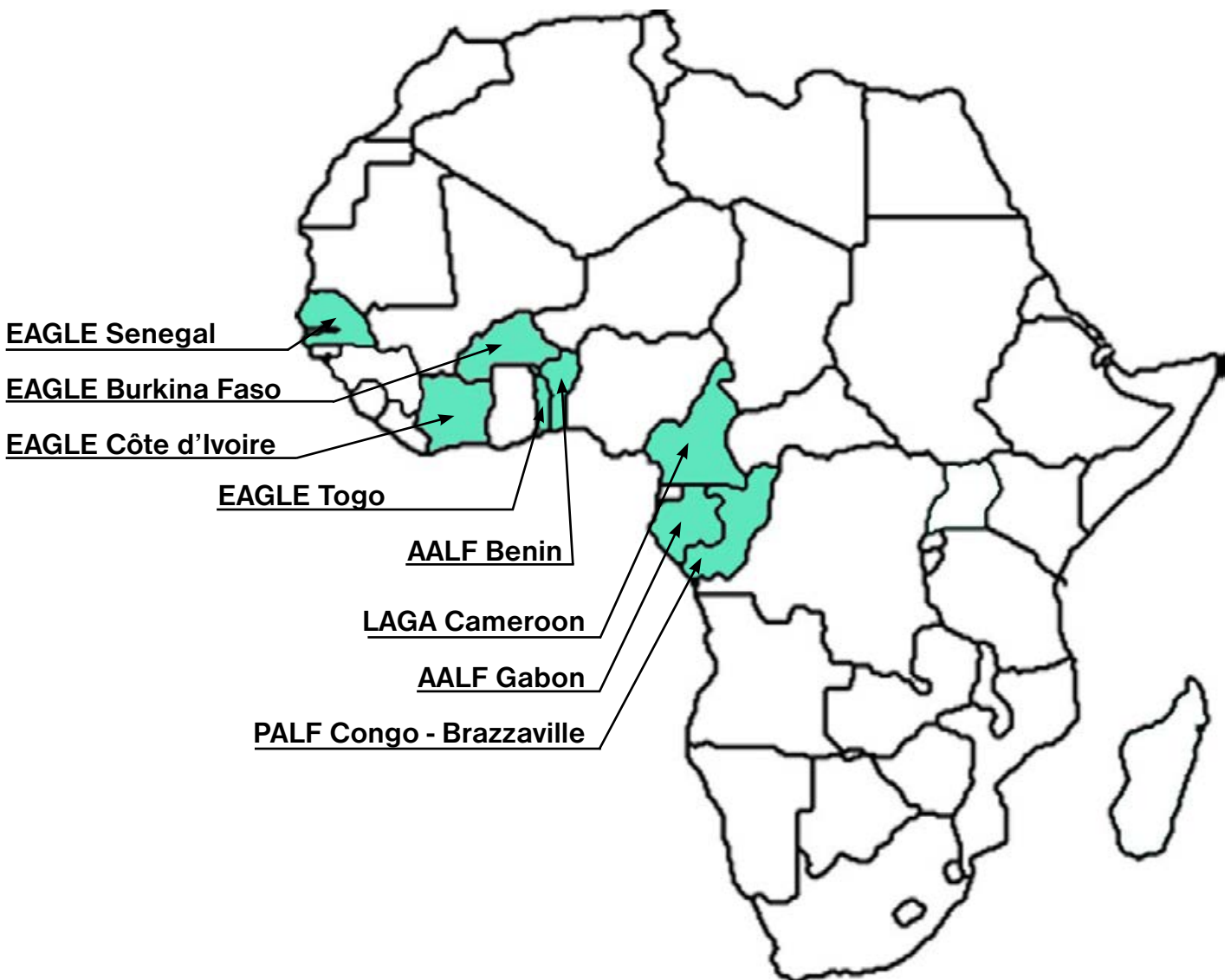
International Media

- French TV channel France 2 during its prime time programme “Sur le front des animaux menacés” showed the pangolin trafficking theme with LAGA and covered the recent crackdown arrest of two military men with 400kg of pangolin scales, as well as a follow-up on a previous arrest of a woman trafficker.

[Link to the film](#)



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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