



**EAGLE**

June 2023  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

✓ *4 traffickers were arrested with 45 African grey parrots in Congo*



# Summary

4 traffickers were arrested with 45 African grey parrots in Congo. The illegal network, including a DRC national, was trafficking across DRC and Congo. They arrived at the scene of transaction in a taxi. The parrots were transported in makeshift cages in the boot of the car. They proceeded cautiously as one of them lagged behind, providing cover. The parrots were crammed in two cages. The parrots were taken to the Jane Goodall Institute for appropriate care before their release to the wild.



## Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Lisa Hywood, Founding Director of Tikki Hywood Foundation, who was on a visit to Cameroon. Discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration to strengthen the fight against pangolin trafficking.
  - The Deputy Director participated at workshop to map out a collective understanding of the bushmeat sector as a part of the process of developing a national bushmeat strategy. He did a presentation on the LAGA – Cameroon Government’s experience in wildlife law enforcement.
  - The Head of the Legal Department participated at a capacity building workshop organised by the
- FAO for wildlife officials from three sub regions including West, Central, East Africa, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisations. He did a presentation on Government-NGO collaboration on wildlife law enforcement: case study of the EAGLE Network in Africa.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels on ongoing wildlife cases and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

## Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 4 traffickers were arrested with 45 African grey parrots. The illegal network, including a DRC national, was trafficking across DRC and Congo. They arrived at the scene of transaction in a taxi. The parrots were transported in makeshift cages in the boot of the car. They proceeded cautiously as one of them lagged behind, providing cover. The parrots were crammed in two cages. The parrots were taken to the Jane Goodall Institute for appropriate care before their release to the wild.





- Homéfa Dovi Zennawoe, the former EAGLE Benin Coordinator arrived in Brazzaville Congo to replace Tiffany Gobert, as the PALF Coordinator. He comes with a wealth of experience after managing the Benin project for close to 4 years.

- The Regional Coordinator of Conservation Justice arrived in Brazzaville for a working session with the new Coordinator. She also introduced him to the country's authorities and PALF partners.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Departmental Director of Forest Economy in Pointe Noire to collaborate in fighting wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator met with the Commander of the Gendarmerie Region and the Commander of the Research Section on the recovery of the seized parrots.
- He contacted the Jane Goodall Institute on the recovery and care for the parrots before their release into the wild.

## Gabon – AALF

- The Director of Conservation Justice met with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He met with the Director of Investigations at the Directorate General of Research to discuss collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He also met with the Environment Cooperation Attaché of the EU Delegation in Libreville on issues of wildlife crime and law enforcement in the country.
- He met with a filmmaker from the ARTE channel to discuss issues related to the production of a documentary film.
- The Regional Coordinator had a meeting with the Wildlife Conservation Society's Marine Programme Coordinator to discuss collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- She met with authorities of the Gabon's national airport security and facilitation office (ONSFAG) to strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- The project is presently undergoing personnel reorganisation and intensifying recruitment following the departure of the long serving Activities Coordinator, Kevin Makaya.

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## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- On the occasion of the event marking the independence of the USA, the Interim Coordinator had brief discussions with the US Ambassador, the First Secretary and Head of the Infrastructure and Environment Team of the European Union Delegation, a UNDP Programme Officer, the Prosecutor at the Constitutional Court, the Prosecutor at the High Court of Lomé and the Central Director of the Judicial Police during the event. He highlighted the activities of EAGLE Togo and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division and CITES Focal Point. Discussions focused mainly on the management of protected areas, in particular the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, which requires better reorganisation of the Eco-Guards for its surveillance; on wildlife breeding farms and on the CITES law in Togo, which has still not been adopted.

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## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a workshop that was held to strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies and the judicial system in relation to wildlife crime. The workshop, organised by the UNODC in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, brought together state counsels, examining magistrates, gendarmerie and police officers, officials of Airport Anti-Traffic Unit (CAAT), INTERPOL, the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition and CENTIF. They did three presentations on the fight against wildlife crime and the EAGLE model, the national legal framework for wildlife and techniques in identifying and concealing contraband.
- The training of four Guinean activists is still ongoing and they shall be returning in the near future to start the project in Guinea.
- Recruitment for some departments in EAGLE Senegal and EAGLE Guinea was intensified.

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

- The prosecution of 3 traffickers arrested in September 2019 is under instruction by an examining judge. One of them is being interrogated as the alleged owner of the 2 tusks.
- The prosecution of 4 traffickers arrested in October 2021 with 38 kg of ivory is under instruction by an examining judge. The role of the CCDO unit during the operation is expected to be determined.
- The project worked closely with the UCT for operational and investigation matters.

# Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The training for 4 members of the EAGLE Guinean project continued in Senegal. Their return to Guinea Conakry is scheduled for early August 2023.
- The administrative procedure for the setting up of EAGLE Guinea is ongoing and meetings to establish the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of the Environment are being planned for the next month.
- The physical installation of the offices is ongoing. A new flat for rents has been acquired in downtown Conakry. Equipment and office furniture are also being bought and installed.
- EAGLE Guinea is following up applications for a partnership with the national office of INTERPOL Conakry.
- The recruitment of investigators was intensified in Dakar.

## 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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