



EAGLE

March 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *The work of many projects has been limited by strict measures taken by governments to mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested in two countries*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *4 traffickers, one of them wanted for 18 different crimes including drugs trafficking, arrested with 20 kg of hippo teeth and 2 skulls in Senegal*
- ✓ *EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team assisted to the burning of the 3 tons of pangolin scales seized in 2017 during an EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire arrest.*



Summary

The work of many projects has been limited by strict measures taken by governments to mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic. 5 traffickers were arrested in two countries.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 6 tusks in Gabon. The Cameroonian national was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the ivory. Due to limited transport possibilities during the Covid-19 pandemic, he was not sent to the court at capital city but was kept in jail in Franceville court of first instance.

4 traffickers were arrested with 20 kg of hippo teeth and skulls and 20 packages of ammunition in Senegal. One of them was already wanted for 18 different crimes. First two traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the hippo ivory, concealed in a rice bag. They were also carrying 5 packs of ammunition of caliber 12. A house search in their village was carried out in an area with high security risk. It was supported by two army units. It led to an arrest



An ivory trafficker was arrested with 6 tusks in Gabon.



4 traffickers were arrested with 20 kg of hippo teeth and skulls and 20 packages of ammunition in Senegal.



of two more traffickers, one of them, a Gambian national, already wanted for his involvement in drugs trafficking and other crimes.

EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team assisted to the burning of the 3 tons of pangolin scales seized in 2017 after an arrest operation done by the UCT with the technical support of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire. The 4 fires were lit by the Minister of Water and Forest, the State Counsel, the UK and the US ambassadors.

The UK Ambassador with the Minister of Water and Forest, the Head of UCT, the State Counsel and Rens Ilgen, the Coordinator of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire at the opportunity of burning the 3 tons of pangolin scales.



Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the President of Global Earth Keeper and a consultant working for the organisation. They discussed issues related to conservation in the northern regions of the country that are facing several challenges including human animal conflicts, transhumant pastoralism etc.
- The LAGA team returned to work after a five-day office shutdown due to fever of a team member,

as a precautionary measure procedure adopted for the Covid-19 pandemic. He tested positive to malaria, has fully recovered and is back to work.

- An investigator from Gabon arrived to the country for a three-week training and experience sharing mission.

Congo – PALF

- The Coordinator held several meetings with high authorities, including the Departmental Directors

of Forest Economy of Brazzaville, Ouessou, Owando, and others.

Gabon – AALF

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in the East of the country. The Cameroonian national was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the ivory. Due to limited transport possibilities during the



Covid-19 pandemic, he was not sent to the court at capital city but was kept in jail in Franceville court of first instance.

- AALF Legal Team supported a case of 3 ivory traffickers arrested by Gendarmerie with two tusks.
- The Legal Advisors held a series of meetings with high authorities for the follow-up of the ongoing

cases and for the strengthening of collaboration, including the Provincial Directors of Water and Forests, the Presidents of courts, State Counsels, the Heads of the Judicial Police Units and others.

- An investigator travelled to Cameroon for a three-week training and experience sharing mission.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Customs' Operational Technical Inspector concerning CITES related cases at the airport to strengthen the collaboration, to discuss sharing information about the future seizures of the wildlife products, and EAGLE Togo legal and investigation support. He supported the cooperation with EAGLE Togo in combating wildlife crime.

- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Association Declaration Officer at the Ministry of Territorial Administration to follow up on the EAGLE Togo registration file.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal



- 4 traffickers arrested with 20 kg of hippo teeth and skulls and 20 packages of ammunition near Gambia border. One of them was already wanted for 18 different crimes. First two traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the hippo ivory, concealed in a rice bag. They were also carrying 5 packs of ammunition of caliber 12. A house search in their village was carried out in an area with high security risk. It was supported by two army units. It led to an arrest of two more traffickers, one of them, a Gambian national, already wanted for his involvement in drugs trafficking and other crimes.



- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking as part of the preparation for the successful operation and to resolve difficulties related to the border aspect of the intervention area.



Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator trained 10 police officers in Azove on methods of combating wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Advisors held a series of meetings with high government authorities,

including several State Counsels, Departmental Directors and Commissioners of the Republican Police and others.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team assisted to the burning of the 3 tons of pangolin scales seized in 2017 after an arrest operation done by the UCT with the technical support of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire. The 4 fires were lit by the Minister of Water and Forest, the Public prosecutor, the UK and the US ambassadors.
- A Legal Adviser participated at a series of working sessions organized by the World Bank to assess the risks of wildlife crime in Côte d'Ivoire. The workshop is the follow up of the workshop organized in October and December last year.
- Tiffany Gobert, a supervolunteer, arrived to Côte d'Ivoire for training and to support the team.



- The recruitment process was intensified to strengthen the investigation and legal departments.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- Investigations re-started after a long period of interruption, caused by security crisis in the country, which limits the activities of EAGLE Burkina Faso.

International Media



- A short movie was published by a film crew preparing a documentary on the illegal trade with pangolins, showing an interview with Eric Tah Kaba, the LAGA Deputy Director.

[Link to the video](#)

- EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire was mentioned and the Coordinator Rens Ilgen was quoted by several international media at the opportunity of burning the 3 tons of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire:

[Link to 20 minutes](#)

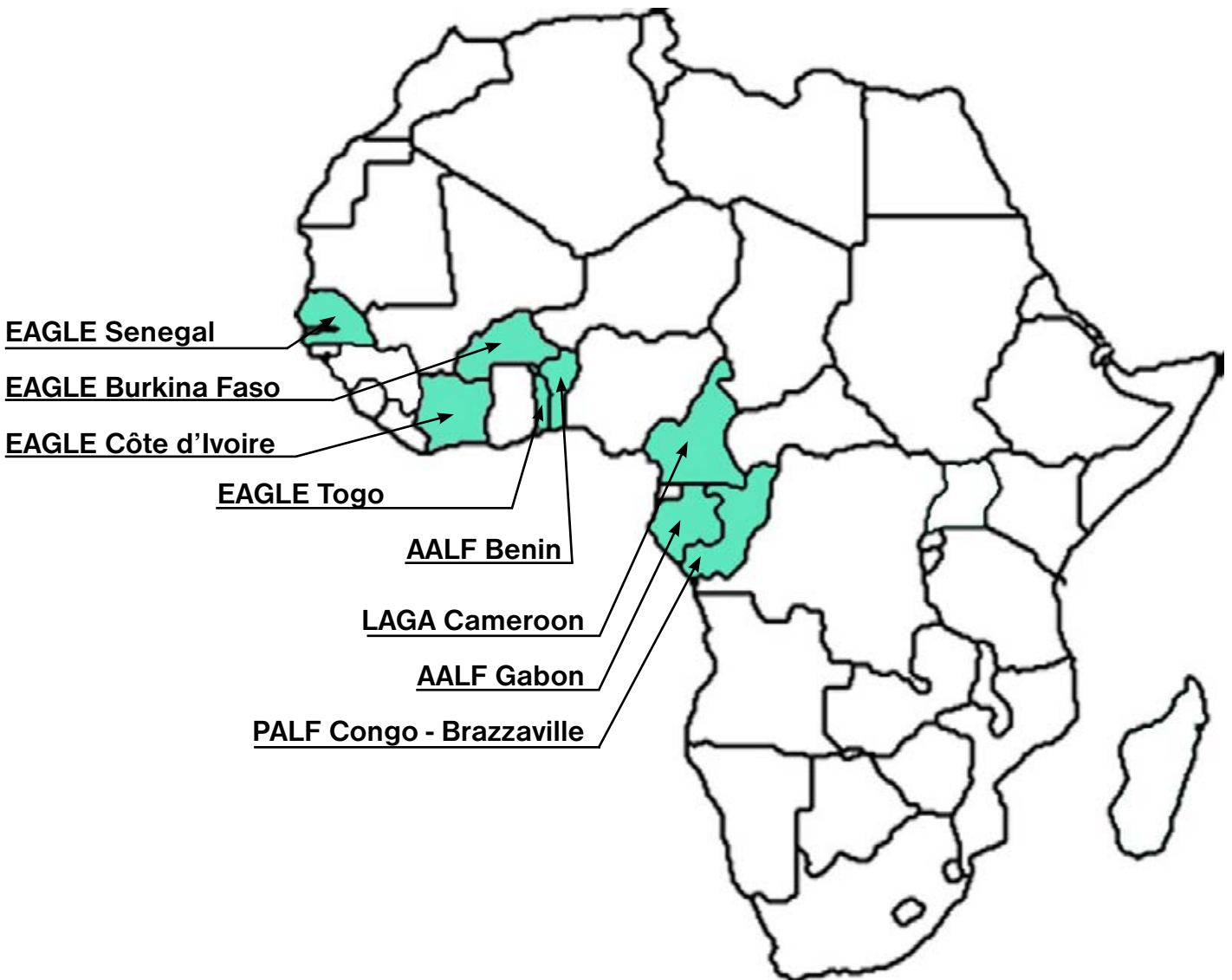
[Link to La Libre Afrique](#)

[Link to RTBF](#)

[Link to Franceinfo](#)



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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