



**EAGLE**

March 2023  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *10 traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard in Togo. The arrest operation seizing 167 kg ivory was a hard one as the traffickers were extremely careful.*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon. They were arrested during their attempts at selling the elephant tusks*
- ✓ *A convicted trafficker, who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in Congo in April 2022 and never returned following his release on bail during the trial, was arrested*



*4 traffickers arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard in Togo.*



*A convicted trafficker, who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in Congo in April 2022 and never returned following his release on bail during the trial, was arrested in Congo.*

# Summary

4 traffickers arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard in Togo. The arrest operation seizing 167 kg ivory was a hard one as the traffickers were extremely careful. One that tried to escape was captured in a good teamwork.



*4 traffickers arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard in Togo.*



*5 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon.*

5 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon. They were arrested during their attempts at selling the elephant tusks. 4 traffickers were arrested when they arrived the scene of transaction in a car transporting the ivory. During interrogations they denounced one more trafficker who was also arrested. The tusks were concealed in a grains bag.

A convicted trafficker, who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in April 2022 and never returned following his release on bail during the trial, was arrested in Congo. He had been evading authorities who went all the way out with the Team's assistance to arrest him.

## Cameroon – LAGA

- No operations were carried out this month due to a number of handicaps and several departmental meetings were held to produce good results next month.
- The Deputy Director participated at a pangolin conservation planning workshop in Accra, Ghana, that brought together stakeholders in pangolin conservation. The workshop focused on producing a West African regional action plan for pangolin conservation to be validated and adopted by the range states and other pangolin conservation stakeholders. He was part of a panel on the role of law enforcement in pangolin conservation.
- He participated at a workshop organized by TRAFFIC to train frontline wildlife officials working in several parks in the country. He did a presentation on the wildlife law enforcement process.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

## Republic of the Congo – PALF

- A convicted trafficker who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in April 2022 and never returned following his release on bail during the trial, was arrested. He had been evading authorities who went all the way out with the Team's assistance to arrest him. He shall complete his full sentence in prison. This sends a strong message to traffickers that they will be pursued and the law will be applied.
- 2 traffickers were convicted to 2 years in prison. They were arrested in May 2022 with 2 ivory tusks. One of them is a Malian national and the other a multiple repeat offender who has been convicted at least twice for similar offences.
- The Coordinator was invited by the US Ambassador to a reception organised on the occasion of the arrival in office of the new Resident Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for Congo Brazzaville, to whom she briefly presented the project. During the event, she held discussions with the US Ambassador, the EU Ambassador and the Italian Ambassador.
- The Coordinator held several meetings with UNODC team and experts prior to a national training and capacity building workshop on the fight against wildlife for magistrates. They discussed



several wildlife law enforcement issues and challenges.

- The Assistant Coordinator participated at a 3-day workshop on capacity building for magistrates. He held fruitful discussions with several magistrates to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator met with the INTERPOL Chief of the Wildlife Crime Brigade for Congo. They discussed operations and ways to restart and improve collaboration on ongoing cases.
- On the occasion of the Environment Week organised in Brussels by the European Union, PALF was selected as one of the successful projects to

be discussed during the event. A diplomat from the EU Mission in Brazzaville did a presentation which focused on the results the PALF team has produced over the years and demonstrates the excellent relations the project has with the European Union. EU representatives from at least 40 countries all over the world followed the presentation. The Coordinator assisted in the preparation of the presentation.

- A letter to facilitate a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Forest Resources to discuss the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

## Gabon – AALF

- 5 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks. They were arrested during their attempts at selling the elephant tusks. 4 traffickers were arrested when they arrived the scene of transaction in a car transporting the ivory. During interrogations they denounced one more trafficker who was also arrested. The tusks were concealed in a grains bag.



- The Activity Coordinator held a meeting with the Director General of the National Gendarmerie School to discuss a training planned to take place at the school.
- He held discussions with the principal evaluator of the UNODC project “Strengthening the judicial capacities of ECCAS Member States to combat wildlife crime and the illicit exploitation of natural resources”.
- He also held discussions with the Defence Attaché of the US Embassy on the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting with wildlife and judicial officials to discuss wildlife law enforcement and prepare an operation.

- The Legal Team met with the State Counsel, the Director of the Fight against Poaching and lawyers in charge of wildlife cases, to discuss some ongoing cases.
- Conservation Justice collaborated in the organisation of a training seminar for judicial police officers and cadets of the National Gendarmerie. The training that was held at the National Gendarmerie focused on several topics related to the regulatory framework of wildlife exploitation. 225 trainees took part in the training.

# Togo – EAGLE Togo

■ 4 traffickers arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard. The arrest operation seizing 167kg ivory was a hard one as the traffickers were extremely careful. One that tried to escape was captured in a good teamwork. The contraband was concealed in 2 grains bags found inside the boot of a vehicle.

■ The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Internal Security Attaché at the French Embassy in Togo and Ghana to discuss wildlife trafficking and strengthen collaboration.



■ The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of OCRTIDB to discuss common strategies in the fight against wildlife trafficking and to strengthen collaboration.



*4 traffickers arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard.*

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, where meetings were held.
- The Team assisted airport officials in the seizing sea cucumbers from a Senegalese traveller coming in from Morocco and 29 python belts, 4 bags made of crocodile skins and some ivory pieces from 2 Chinese nationals.
- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during training sessions for 50 gendarmerie officers from 11 African countries.

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

- No operations were carried out this month and the team is working hard to ensuring results improve next month.
- The Coordinator participated at a regional workshop in Accra, Ghana, on the conservation of pangolins in West Africa. The workshop brought together stakeholders in pangolin conservation in Africa and abroad. The outcome of the workshop was a draft of an ambitious action plan for the conservation of the 3 African pangolin species found in West Africa. He, alongside the Deputy Director of LAGA, was part of the panel that discussed the role of law enforcement in pangolins conservation.

## 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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