



**EAGLE**

March 2021  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *15 traffickers arrested in 7 countries*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 3 ivory tusks in Uganda in a successful kick off a new project*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Burkina Faso with 30 crocodile skins.*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 109kg of pangolin scales*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 3 leopard skins, a hyena skin and 17 hippo teeth*
- ✓ *2 primate traffickers arrested and a small mandrill rescued in Congo*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 4 ivory tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 2 ivory tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested in Benin with 2 elephant tusks*



*A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 109kg of pangolin scales.*



*2 traffickers arrested with 3 ivory tusks in Uganda in a successful kick off a new project.*

# Summary

A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 109kg of pangolin scales. He was arrested as he offloaded two bags of pangolin scales from his car. A search of his home by the arresting team found smaller quantities of pangolin scales concealed in a black plastic bag and hidden inside his kitchen. He activated a gang of several poachers in a number of localities in the area and regularly supplied the scales in the bigger cities. Depending on the species, this seizure represents up to 250 massacred pangolins.

2 primate traffickers arrested and a small mandrill rescued in Congo. They arrived on a motorbike with the young and fragile animal concealed in a cardboard box and hidden inside a black backpack. They brought the animal from over 175 km to the place of transaction, where they were arrested. The dirty looking mandrill was handed over to the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Sanctuary where he will be given special care. Two pieces of lead, probably from the bullet that killed his mother, were removed from his head. He was lucky because the scraps did not touch the skull and was just beneath the skin. But the wounds were badly infected and full with puss.

3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 4 ivory tusks in Gabon. The first 2 were arrested attempting to sell 4 ivory tusks. They were taken to the police station where they denounced the third trafficker, a woman, who was arrested 4 days later. She handed the ivory tusks to the two.

3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 2 ivory tusks in Gabon. The first trafficker was arrested as he arrived his barbing salon with a bag containing the ivory. The arresting team had patiently waited for several hours and he suddenly came in from darkness, moving cautiously to his salon. On realizing the arresting team was closing in on him, he dashed out and tried to flee but was quickly closed down and arrested. He denounced his accomplices, who were arrested 5 days later.

2 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 3 leopard skins, a hyena skin and 17 hippo teeth. One of the traffickers was a taxi driver who was an accomplice. He used his taxi for the transaction and moved the contraband around. The car was impounded. One of the leopard skins is of a leopard about only 5 months old.

An ivory trafficker arrested in Benin with 2 elephant tusks. He was arrested after he arrived at the place of transaction on a motorbike with a jute sack that concealed the ivory tusks. The contraband was smuggled from Burkina Faso.

A trafficker arrested in Burkina Faso with 30 crocodile skins. The skins were smuggled into the country from Ghana. He is part of a smuggling ring bringing in contraband from Ghana. They cross the borders in the night using bush roads which are not easily identified by authorities. The contraband was concealed inside corn flour while crossing the borders.

2 traffickers arrested with 3 ivory tusks in Uganda in a successful kick off a new project. The two, Rwandese, transported the ivory concealed in a brown sugar sack and placed in the trunk of their car. One of them drove the car to the place of transaction and on arrival the second moved the sack from the trunk and was immediately arrested. He resisted but was quickly closed down and handcuffed. The bag contained freshly marked ivory tusks weighing 14kg. The base of one of the tusks was cut off using a hand saw. They belong to a network of ivory traffickers in the country. They are connected to other network involved in gold and human skulls trafficking.





## Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested with 109kg of pangolin scales. He was arrested as he offloaded two bags of pangolin scales from his car. A search of his home by the arresting team found smaller quantities of pangolin scales concealed in a black plastic bag and hidden inside his kitchen. He activated a gang of several poachers in a number of localities in the area and regularly supplied the scales in the bigger cities. Depending on the species, this seizure represents up to 250 massacred pangolins.
- LAGA followed up the customs case of the seizure of 4.4 tons of pangolins scales that was being smuggled to Nigeria.



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

## Congo – PALF

- 2 primate traffickers arrested and a small mandrill rescued. They arrived on a motorbike with the young and fragile animal concealed in a cardboard box and hidden inside a black backpack. They brought the animal from over 175 km to the place of transaction, where they were arrested. The dirty looking mandrill was handed over to the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Sanctuary where he will be given special care. Two pieces of lead, probably from the bullet that killed his mother, were removed from his head. He was lucky because the scraps did not touch the skull and was just beneath the skin. But the wounds were badly infected and full with puss. The state of the animal



is testimony to the neglect and harsh treatment it received from the traffickers. When he arrived at the sanctuary, he was named Niari after the region where he was rescued.

- A mandrill was seized from a man who had a per-



mit for another animal. Although he was not arrested, the mandrill was rescued and handed to the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Sanctuary where it shall be given special care.

- The Coordinator held a series of high level meetings with the Interim Departmental Director of the Forestry Economy of Pointe Noire, 3 Chief Wildlife Officers, 3 Regional Gendarmerie Commanders to strengthen collaboration and working relations.



- The Coordinator held meetings with the Jane Goodall Institute on the rescued mandrill
- A letter was sent to the Ministry of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development and NGOs by Aspinall Foundation to officially present the new Coordinator

## Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 4 ivory tusks. The first 2 were arrested attempting to sell 4 ivory tusks. They were taken to the police station where they denounced the third trafficker, a woman, who was arrested 4 days later. She handed the ivory tusks to the two.
- 3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 2 ivory tusks. The first trafficker was arrested as he arrived his barbing salon with a bag containing the ivory. The arresting team had patiently waited for several hours and he suddenly



*3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 2 ivory tusks*



came in from darkness, moving cautiously to his salon. On realizing the arresting team was closing in on him, he dashed out and tried to flee but was quickly closed down and arrested. He denounced his accomplices, who were arrested 5 days later.

- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to a one-year of imprisonment for the first and 10 months for the second. They were arrested in January this year.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in prison. They were arrested in December 2020.
- A leopard skin trafficker was sentenced to 10 months in prison. He was arrested in January.



*3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 4 ivory tusks*

## EAGLE Network is coming back to Uganda

A new project of EAGLE Network has been launched in Uganda by successful arrest of 2 traffickers with 3 ivory tusks. Uganda is famous to be an ivory trafficking hub connecting the central part of the Congo basin with ports in Kenya as well as international markets via air transport.



The two, Rwandese, transported the ivory concealed in a brown sugar sack and placed in the trunk of their car. One of them drove the car to the place of transaction and on arrival the second moved the sack from the trunk and was immediately arrested. He resisted but was quickly closed down and handcuffed. The bag contained freshly marked ivory tusks weighing 14kg. The base of one of the tusks was cut off using a hand saw. They belong to a network of ivory traffickers in the country. They are connected to other network involved in gold and human skulls trafficking.

The successful arrest is a result of building new project under the leadership of Lydia Nsubuga, the Assistant Coordinator. The team pushed for the arrest for several months and was supported by activists from other EAGLE countries.



# Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the OCRTIDB to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held training sessions with the

Team after arriving from Cote d'Ivoire for a three-week working session.

- Recruitment of investigators intensified and two started their test period.

# Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins, a hyena skin and 17 hippo teeth. One of the traffickers is a taxi driver who is an accomplice. He used his taxi for the transaction and moved the contraband around. The car was impounded. One of the leopard skins is of a leopard about only 5 months old.
- The two traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison.
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Directorate of Customs and the General Directorate of the National Police where meetings were held
- The Team presented various modules on combatting wildlife crime during a training for 12 port agents of the Unité Mixte de Contrôle des Conteneurs (UMCC).



## Benin – AALF-B

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks. He was arrested after he arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with a jute sack that concealed the ivory tusks. The contraband was smuggled from Burkina Faso.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in June 2019.
- Two ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in prison. They were arrested in February.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with some high officials including some State Counsels, Police Commissioners, a Judge, a Park Director and others.



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

- 5 ivory traffickers were given the maximum prison sentence of one year. They were arrested in February with 114kg of ivory.
- The Assistant Coordinator and a Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Economic and Commercial Officer of the US Embassy to discuss the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held meetings with the OIPR, the Ivorian administration in charge of the management of parks and reserves during a week-long mission to Bouna to strengthen collaboration with EAGLE-Côte d'Ivoire.
- Recruitment of investigators intensified and one started his test period.
- The Coordinator travelled to Togo where he held training sessions with the Team in Lome during a three-week working session.



## Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- A trafficker arrested with 30 crocodile skins. The skins were smuggled into the country from Ghana. He is part of a smuggling ring bringing in contraband from Ghana. They cross the borders in the night using bush roads, which are not easily identified by authorities. The contraband was concealed inside corn flour while crossing the borders.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting with the new Minister of Environment, the Green Economy and Climate Change to present results obtained by the Team since 2018. The Minister expressed his congratulations.



- Two legal advisers started their test period.

## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 2 traffickers arrested with 3 ivory tusks in a successful kick off a new project. The two, Rwandese, transported the ivory concealed in a brown sugar sack and placed in the trunk of their car. One of them drove the car to the place of transaction and on arrival the second moved the sack from the trunk and was immediately arrested. He resisted but was quickly closed down and handcuffed. The bag contained freshly marked ivory tusks weighing 14kg. The base of one of the tusks was cut off using a hand saw. They belong to a network of ivory traffickers in the country. They are connected to other network involved in gold and human skulls trafficking. The successful arrest is a result of building a new project under the leadership of Lydia Nsubuga, the Assistant Coordinator. The team pushed for the arrest for several months and was supported by activists from other EAGLE countries.
- Later, one of the traffickers was sentenced to 9 months in prison.
- The Legal Team held meetings with officials of the Uganda Revenue Authority, the Uganda Wildlife Authority and Judicial authorities. Discussions focused on the arrest and prosecution of the two ivory traffickers.







- An investigator from Cameroon arrived to the country for a three-week training and experience sharing mission.
- 2 team members consistently continued with their French training.

## Headquarters

- A super volunteer from France arrived in Nairobi to begin her training and testing period with the CCU.

## 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.*

### Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA - [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)
2. Congo – PALF - [tiffany@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:tiffany@eagle-enforcement.org)
3. Gabon – AALF - [luc@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:luc@eagle-enforcement.org)
4. Togo – EAGLE-Togo - [rens@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:rens@eagle-enforcement.org)
5. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)
6. Benin - AALF-B - [jules@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:jules@eagle-enforcement.org)
7. Côte d'Ivoire - [rens@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:rens@eagle-enforcement.org)
8. Burkina Faso - [josias@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:josias@eagle-enforcement.org)
9. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)