



EAGLE

May 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 12 traffickers arrested this month*
- ✓ *4 human bones traffickers arrested with a human body in Cameroon*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with two ivory tusks in Cameroon*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers arrested with one tusk in Benin*
- ✓ *At least 91 media pieces were published in the countries as a result of the continuing push of the media officers spreading the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and the COVID-19 pandemic*



4 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with a human body



3 traffickers were arrested with two ivory tusks weighing 26kg in Cameroon

Summary

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 12 traffickers were arrested this month.

4 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with a human body in a sack that they attempted to sell. During investigations into wildlife trafficking in the West of the country, leads were found into human bones trafficking, which resulted in the arrest of 3 traffickers with an almost complete human skeleton that still had dried up flesh on the bones and a human skull with hair on it. The fourth trafficker was arrested shortly after. They belong to a larger network specializing in trafficking human bones. They had connections to other countries of the sub region and seemed to be able to supply dozens of human bodies. Some would dig out the corpses from their graves while others tackle the trafficking side of their illegal business. One of the traffickers in the network was a wildlife trafficker who now deals in human bones trafficking. Often investigations of wildlife traffickers lead to other connected crimes and when it does we have to act. Human body parts and some wildlife species are in high demand in Central Africa sub region to be used by occultists who believe they have supernatural powers.



4 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with a human body

3 traffickers were arrested with two ivory tusks weighing 26kg in Cameroon. The two men transported the ivory in the trunk of a car and were arrested during an attempt to sell the tusks. They had carefully and skillfully concealed the tusks inside a bag. The car belongs to a customer at the automobile repair workshop where one of the traffickers worked. The third trafficker, a woman, was arrested a couple of hours later on her way to church. She gave the ivory tusks to one of the arrested traffickers to sell. One of the traffickers belongs to a larger network dealing in illicit trade in wildlife, mining products including ivory and gold.



3 traffickers were arrested with two ivory tusks in Cameroon.

4 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin with one large tusk, weighing 16 kg. One of them is a retired military man. They arrived to the place of transaction with the tusk concealed in a jute bag and were arrested in the act.

At least 91 media pieces were published in the countries as a result of the effort of the media officers spreading the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and the COVID-19 pandemic.



4 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin with one large tusk

Cameroon – LAGA

- 4 human bones traffickers arrested with a human body in a sack that they attempted to sell. During investigations into wildlife trafficking in the West of



4 human bones traffickers arrested with a human body

The arrest was covered by many national media including 3 TV channels



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Congo – PALF

- 13 media pieces highlighting the link between pangolin trafficking and the COVID-19 pandemic were published in different media including TV, radio and Internet newspapers.

Gabon – AALF

- The Legal team held series of meetings with the high authorities, including the Deputy General Director of Forests, the Director of Studies of the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Director of the Trade in Hunting Products, the State Counsel of the Libreville Court of First Instance, the special court in charge of forestry and wildlife affairs, the Commander of the Judicial Police and others.
- 9 media pieces about the link between wildlife trade and COVID-19 pandemic were produced this month.

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 to follow up on the registration of EAGLE-Togo. The objectives of the project and its major results were explained. Additionally, a memo was prepared for him and was duly submitted. The Declaration Officer agreed to prepare for the meeting with the Minister of Territorial Administration to finish the process of registration EAGLE Togo.
- 42 media pieces were published on the topic of “Pangolin, neither food, nor medicine, but regulator of the ecosystem”.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- An Investigator supported investigations carried by other EAGLE projects in our countries, this co-operation led to a successful operation.

Benin – AALF-B

- 4 ivory traffickers arrested in the South of the country with one large tusk, weighing 16 kg. One of them is a retired military man. They arrived to the place of transaction with the tusk concealed in a jute bag and were arrested in the act.
- An antelope skin trafficker arrested with 15 skins and two horns of bushbuck in the center of the country.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with the authorities, including the Commander of the Cotonou Criminal Brigade, the General Counsel of the General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting, the Secretary of the Judge at the Court of First Instance of Cotonou,



several State Counsels and Police Commissioners and others.



4 ivory traffickers arrested in the South of the country with one large tusk

- 27 media pieces were published on the connections between the COVID-19 pandemic and wildlife trade.



An antelope skin trafficker arrested with 15 skins and two horns of bushbuck

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Legal Advisor participated in two working sessions to assess the risks of wildlife crime in Côte d'Ivoire. Organized by the World Bank, this workshop is the follow up of the workshop the Legal Advisor attended to in October, December and March.
- The Coordinator participated via videoconference at a workshop with the Ministry of Waters

and Forests and the UCT (Unité de Lutte Contre le Criminalité Transnationale) to establish a proper registration and statistic system concerning the wildlife seizures in order to give more precise and complete figures to the CITES.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

■ The Coordinator held a meeting with the Coordinator of the PAB-Bio project, an expert for the fight against wildlife crime and the person in charge of monitoring and evaluation of the governance project. They presented the missions of the PAB-Bio

project and requested the presence of Conservation Justice in the sub-regional information sharing network as it is identified as a major player in the information sharing system.

International Media

■ Ofir was interviewed by Israeli TV i24news on the illegal trade in pangolins and pangolin scales (in French)

[Link to the i24News interview](#)

■ Save Pangolins published an article on LAGA Deputy Director Eric Kaba Tah, who has been nominated for the prestigious Indianapolis Prize in 2020

[Link to Save Pangolins](#)



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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