



**EAGLE**

May 2022  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **9 traffickers arrested in 3 countries**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins, 5 leopard skins and 3 serval skins in a major crackdown on big cat skin trafficking in Togo**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 20 kg in Congo**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and a tooth in Congo**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested with 2 small elephant tusks in Togo**
- ✓ **A trafficker arrested in a follow up to a live mandrill rescue and bust in Douala, Cameroon**



2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins, 5 leopard skins and 3 serval skins in a major crackdown on big cat skin trafficking in Togo.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 20 kg in Congo.

# Summary

2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins, 5 leopard skins and 3 serval skins in a major crackdown on big cat skin trafficking in Togo. 16 hippo teeth and 30 lion claws were also seized. They used a motorcycle to move the contraband that was concealed in two bags. One of them was arrested as he attempted to sell the contraband and he led the arresting team to the second trafficker who was waiting for his share of the money. He was arrested at his residence. The skins were trafficked from West and Central Africa.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 20 kg in Congo. They were arrested during a brief but intense chase. The cautious and smart traffickers attempted to escape on a motorcycle at the moment of their arrest. The arresting team that was on the alert, quickly responded to the fleeing traffickers, immobilized and handcuffed them. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender who had been convicted several times and the second is a Malian.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and a tooth in Congo. One of the traffickers was arrested with the contraband concealed inside a white flour bag. He denounced the second trafficker, a woman, who also was arrested. She transported the contraband to Oyo where they were arrested. Her husband, a policeman, accompanied her to Oyo, using his status and rank to protect her illegal business all along.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks of a very young elephant in Togo. They were arrested during their attempt to sell the tusks. They arrived at the scene of transaction on a motorcycle with the tusks concealed in a plastic bag. The ivory was smuggled from Burkina Faso and one of the traffickers received the contraband at the Togo-Burkina Faso border. He travelled to Lome with the products. When he arrived Lome, he was assisted by the second trafficker to trade it. They are connected to international trafficking involving several countries including Burkina Faso, Benin and the Central African sub region.

A trafficker arrested in a follow up to a live mandrill rescue and bust in Douala, Cameroon. This other member of the ring was exposed during interrogation as the brains and money behind the trafficking, but disappeared and stayed away from his house to avoid arrest.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and a tooth in Congo.



A trafficker arrested in a follow up to a live mandrill rescue and bust in Douala, Cameroon.

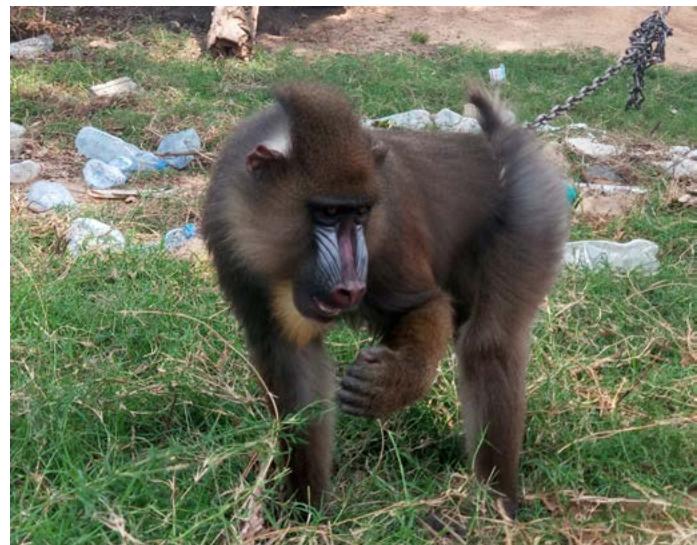
# Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested in a follow up to a live mandrill rescue and bust in Douala. This other member of the ring was exposed during interrogation as the brains and money behind the trafficking, but disappeared and stayed away from his house to avoid arrest. A different strategy was put in place and one of his “girlfriends” lured him to a bar where he was arrested. The arrest put an end to the primate trafficking network that had links to the south of the country.
- 3 long serving LAGA members were decorated with labour medals by an administrative official



in recognition for their contribution to the fight against wildlife crime. They also received gifts from the organization during the event that also celebrated the 2022 Labour Day.

- The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy in Yaoundé with officials of the Regional Environment Office of the US Embassy in Accra, Ghana. Discussions focused on several conservation initiatives including wildlife law enforcement.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with officials of the US Department of Justice who were trainers at workshop on fighting illegal logging. He held another meeting with Elinor Corlburn a senior counsel of the Justice Department.
- The Deputy Director participated in the filming of the series dubbed Unsung Heroes by Wildaid. The series seek to shade light on conservationists for their contribution in protecting wildlife.
- An investigator from another EAGLE country arrived the country for a month-long investigation support and experience sharing mission.



# Republic of Congo – PALF

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 20 kg. They were arrested during a brief but intense chase. The cautious and smart traffickers attempted to escape on a motorcycle at the moment of their arrest. The arresting team that was on the alert, quickly responded to the fleeing traffickers, immobilized and handcuffed them. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender who had been convicted several times and the second is a Malian. They were extremely suspicious and tried several clever moves to avoid arrest.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 20 kg.

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and a tooth in Congo. One of the traffickers was arrested with the contraband concealed inside a white flour bag. He denounced the second trafficker, a woman, who also was arrested. She transported the contraband to Oyo where they were arrested. Her husband, a policeman, accompanied her to Oyo, using his status and rank to protect her illegal business all along. Sensing danger he escaped and is still on the run. He shall be

charged and prosecuted. They are experienced professionals with a defined and refined modus operandi.

■ The project carried out a long-term important investigation against an international live animals trafficking network leading to an arrest of a trafficker in DRC. He was arrested with 20 Guereza Colobus monkeys, 15 marabou storks and 15 crowned cranes. The arrest was brought about by Conserv Congo and the authorities.



- 3 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 5 years in prison. They were arrested in February with 14 elephant tusks.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 2 years in prison. He was arrested in February last year with 3 elephant tusks and 11 ivory pieces.
- The Coordinator participated at the Europe Day celebrations where she met with several diplomatic officials including Ambassadors of the Europe-



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and a tooth in Congo.

an Union, the United States and Italy. She also met with the General Director of the Ministry of Forest Economy, the General Director of the Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas.

- The Coordinator participated at an event organized for the departing Head of the Consular Section and the Head of the Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy.

- The Coordinator held several meetings with the General Director of the Ministry of Forest Economy to hand over lawyers' contracts and discuss ongoing cases.
- She held meetings with the Commander of the Brazzaville Gendarmerie Region and the Captain in charge of the Research Section to discuss an arrest operation.

## Gabon – AALF

- The Legal Team provided legal assistance in the prosecution of a trafficker arrested by the Gendarmerie in connection with the trafficking of protected species.
- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in jail. He was arrested in December last year with 2 elephant tusks

- A trafficker was sentenced to 8 months in prison. He was arrested in March with 4 elephant tusks.
- 34 meetings were held by the Activities Coordinator and legal advisers with several diplomatic, high-ranking administrative, judicial and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration and to follow up ongoing wildlife cases.

# Togo – EAGLE Togo

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks of a very young elephant in Togo. They were arrested during their attempt to sell the tusks. They arrived at the scene



2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks of a very young elephant in Togo.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins, 5 leopard skins and 3 serval skins

of transaction on a motorcycle with the tusks concealed in a plastic bag. The ivory was smuggled from Burkina Faso and one of the traffickers received the contraband at the Togo-Burkina Faso border. He travelled to Lome with the products. When he arrived Lome, he was assisted by the second trafficker to trade it. They are connected to international trafficking involving several countries including Burkina Faso, Benin and the Central African sub region.

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins, 5 leopard skins and 3 serval skins in a major crackdown on big cat skin trafficking in the country. 16 hippo teeth and 30 lion claws were also seized. They used a motorcycle to move the contraband that

was concealed in two bags. One of them was arrested as he attempted to sell the contraband and he led the arresting team to the second trafficker who was waiting for his share of the money. He was arrested at his residence. The skins were trafficked from West and Central Africa.

- The Assistant Coordinator held several meeting with the Assistant Director of OCRTIDB, the State Counsel in Lome and the Director of the Inspectorate of Forestry Resources to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator of EAGLE Senegal arrived in Lome for a two-week long experience sharing and support mission that focused on investigations.

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## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Assistant Coordinator was a guest on a popular television channel TFM to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and collaboration with the government.



- The Coordinator travelled to Lome, Togo, for a two-week experience sharing and investigation support mission. She assisted in the process leading to the arrest of 2 traffickers in Lome with a consignment of big cat skins and other wildlife products.
- Recruitment was intensified. A new investigator was recruited and a candidate completed his test for the position of media officer.

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

- The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for operations.

- The Coordinator held meetings with the OIPR (the Ivorian administration in charge of the national parks) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

# Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator held meetings with officials of the Justice and Project Management Program of the European Union. Discussions focused on the progress made by Conservation Justice in Burkina and the obstacles encountered.
- The Burkina Faso project has been closed due to structural and financial difficulties impeding the carrying out of arrest operations and other activities.

## Headquarters

Ofir Drori travelled to Holland for a week-long meeting with Future For Nature that gave him an award in 2016. He had handed awards to other winners in the past. He has been central in the process of turning the Future for Nature from an annual award to a vibrant community and family of passionate entre-

preneur conservationists. This time the group met for intense five days of discussions, presentations, and meetings with audiences of nature lovers, students and private sector. It was also used for networking and increasing collaboration on specific work.

## 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-Cameroun 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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