



EAGLE

May 2023
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *11 traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested with 53 kg of pangolin scales and a hippo tooth in Congo*
- ✓ *3 traffickers, including a Burkinabe national, arrested with 12 elephant tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon*



3 traffickers arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.



3 traffickers, including a Burkinabe national, arrested with 12 elephant tusks in Gabon.

Summary

5 traffickers arrested with 53 kg of pangolin scales and a hippo tooth in Congo. They were arrested in a complex operation that took much patience and initiatives by the arresting team. Some of the scales are of the rarer giant pangolin. The criminals were also caught trafficking two minerals - red cinnabar (mercury sulphide) and white cinnabar (mercury sulphate), the second being extremely lucrative for trafficking and toxic even for mere inhaling.



5 traffickers arrested with 53 kg of pangolin scales and a hippo tooth in Congo.

3 traffickers arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. They were cautious, tried a number of tricks and came around without the pangolin scales to the place of transaction. They were very knowledgeable in the illegal business and did everything they could to avoid arrest.

3 traffickers arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

3 traffickers, including a Burkinabe national, arrested with 12 elephant tusks in Gabon. The Burkinabe arrived the scene of transaction on a red motorbike and he was arrested shortly afterwards. He denounced another trafficker who was arrested a couple of hours later. They both denounced the third trafficker, a village chief. He was arrested 2 days later.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 3 traffickers arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales. They were cautious, tried a number of tricks and came around without the pangolin scales to the place of transaction. They mixed up the scales and parked it in a single bag that was transported on a motorbike. They were very knowledgeable in the illegal business and did everything they could to avoid arrest.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with 3 officials from the US Departments of Justice and Ag-

riculture to discuss wildlife law enforcement and illegal logging in the country.

- He participated at a celebratory event to mark the crowning of the King of England, on the invitation of the British High Commissioner.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels on ongoing wildlife cases and strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 5 traffickers arrested with 53 kg of pangolin scales and a hippo tooth. They were arrested in a complex operation that took much patience and initiatives by the arresting team. Some of the scales are of the rarer giant pangolin. The criminals were also caught trafficking two minerals - red cinnabar

(mercury sulphide) and white cinnabar (mercury sulphate), the second being extremely lucrative for trafficking and toxic even for mere inhaling.

- The PALF Coordinator, Tiffany Gobert, came to the end of her over 2-year stay with the project. She recorded many successes during her time;

notably, the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the ministry and the arrest of 58 traffickers. She has taken up a new position with African Parks and shall be leaving early next month.

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss ongoing cases.
- The Coordinator met with the Conservator of the Tchimpounga Reserve to discuss ongoing cases at the reserve and the judiciary.
- She participated at the Europe Day celebrations where she briefly discussed with EU Ambassador and the Italian Ambassador respectively on wildlife crime.
- She held several meetings with NGO officials including the Noé Fundraising Manager who was

on a mission to country, the Renatura Director, and a team from the Jane Goodall Institute on collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- She held several working sessions with the Coordinator of the Aspinall Foundation and discussions included her departure from the project.



Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers, including a Burkinabe national, arrested with 12 elephant tusks. The Burkinabe arrived the scene of transaction on a red motorbike, unloaded a cardboard box carefully wrapped in adhesive tape from the motorbike's luggage rack. The box contained another bag where 12 ivory tusks were concealed. He was arrested shortly afterwards and he denounced another trafficker who was arrested a couple of hours later. They both denounced the third trafficker, a village chief. He was arrested 2 days later.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Deputy Director General of the Police Academy



on the organisation of a training workshop for trainee police officers.

- He held several meetings with administrative, police, wildlife and judicial officials to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- He participated at the Europe Day celebrations at the residence of the Head of the EU Delegation in Gabon.

- He was invited by the US Embassy in Gabon to a cocktail party in honour of the representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Interim Coordinator met and discussed with several US diplomatic officials during the farewell ceremony for the former Head of Political and Economic Affairs at the US Embassy. Discussions focused on EAGLE Togo and the fight against wildlife crime.

- He also met and discussed with the Director of Grants of Plan International, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the Fight

against Human Trafficking, during the same ceremony. He highlighted the activities of EAGLE Togo and strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- The Legal Adviser met with the State Counsel of the Sokodé High Court to discuss collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during 3 training sessions at the Niokoloko Koba National Park for 29 park officials. The trainings focused on wildlife crime, the wildlife

law, techniques in identifying and concealing wildlife contraband, writing of offence statements and the rights of the defence.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Team located a chimpanzee appearing on social media facilitating its rescue by the Ministry of Waters and Forests. The chimpanzee, dressed like a human being was fed mostly with soda and biscuits. He had mild symptoms of malnutrition. He was rescued and taken to the AKATIA sanctuary where he will be taken care of in a forest environment with other chimpanzees, by special keepers.

- The project welcomed a veterinarian from the World Parrot Trust who was invited to examine the parrots seized last month. He tested them for several viruses and checked if they could be released.

- The Coordinator and a Legal Adviser met the Technical Adviser of the Ministry of Justice. The discussions focused on the EAGLE's activities and wildlife law enforcement in the country.

- The project kept working closely with the UCT for operational and investigation matters.

Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The training for 4 members of the EAGLE Guinean project continues in Senegal. Their return to Guinea Conakry is scheduled for early August 2023.
- The administrative procedure for the setting up of EAGLE Guinea is ongoing and meetings to establish partnership agreements with the Ministry of

the Environment are being planned for the next two months. The physical installation of the offices is ongoing and the EAGLE Senegal Coordinator is expected in Conakry next month.

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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