



EAGLE

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EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *7 traffickers arrested in 5 countries*
- ✓ *2 ape traffickers arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Côte d'Ivoire in a crackdown on a transnational criminal network*
- ✓ *A major trafficker arrested in Senegal with 2 elephant tusks and 80 carved ivory items in a crackdown on a transnational trafficking ring*
- ✓ *A primate trafficker arrested and a drill rescued in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of ivory in Congo*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon*



2 ape traffickers arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Côte d'Ivoire



A major trafficker arrested in Senegal with 2 elephant tusks and 80 carved ivory items

Summary

2 ape traffickers arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Côte d'Ivoire in a crackdown on a transnational criminal network. This criminal network has been trafficking apes from Liberia, Ivory Coast and Guinea to China and to countries of the Arab Gulf. It applies similar modus operandi to previously dismantled networks in Guinea. Apes are smuggled under the cover of a legal business of live animals and connections with some of the biggest ape traffickers known in Africa are being investigated.



2 ape traffickers arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Côte d'Ivoire

A major trafficker arrested in Senegal with 2 elephant tusks and 80 carved ivory items in a crackdown on a transnational trafficking ring. The seizure includes also 18 leopard teeth and many wild animal skins.



2 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of ivory in Congo.



A primate trafficker arrested and a drill rescued in Cameroon.

A primate trafficker arrested and a drill rescued in Cameroon. The very young drill, an endangered primate, stressed and agitated, was tied with a rope in the waist. The trafficker, who works for a city council, transported the cage with the drill on his bike.

2 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of ivory in Congo. They were violent and injured a law enforcement officer during the arrest. The ivory pieces were securely tied together and hidden in a backpack that was concealed inside a cab which one of them took to the place of transaction. They carried out a thorough inspection of the area.

A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. The Cameroonian national was arrested as he attempted to sell the polished tusks. He concealed the tusks in an old rice bag and used a cab to travel to the place of transaction.

Cameroon – LAGA

- A primate trafficker arrested and a drill rescued. The very young drill, an endangered primate,



stressed and agitated, was tied with a rope in the waist. The trafficker, who works for a city council, transported the cage with the drill on his bike. He was waiting for another supply of a baby primate that was killed when local poachers shot dead its mother.

- The Deputy Director participated at the event celebrating the King of England’s birthday. He had brief discussions with some diplomats, the Vice President of the Senate and the Director of Customs on wildlife crime.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.
- Recruitment was intensified with two candidates that started their testing and training period at the media and management departments respectively.



Republic of the Congo – PALF



■ 2 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of ivory. They were violent and injured a law enforcement officer during the arrest. The ivory pieces were securely tied together and hidden in a backpack that was concealed inside a cab which one of them took to the place of transaction. They carried out a thorough inspection of the area. The operation team moved in and arrested them when they attempted to sell the ivory. One of the traffickers

who watched from afar as the operation team zeroed in on the others, fled. Efforts are underway to arrest him.

- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Team did presentations on the legal framework and strategies to the fight against wildlife crime in Congo during a training at the National Gendarmerie School.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of VPA and Biodiversity Monitoring for Congo of the European Union Commission.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held several meetings with administrative, law enforcement and judicial officials in Ouessou, Owando and Oyo to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Commander of the Brazzaville Gendarmerie Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Gabon – AALF

■ A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks. The Cameroonian national was arrested as he attempted to sell the polished tusks. He concealed the tusks in an old rice bag and used a cab to travel to the place of transaction. He was transferred to the Special Tribunal in charge of wildlife cases in Libreville and remanded in prison custody.

■ 2 traffickers were sentenced to one year and four



months in prison. They were arrested in June 2023 with 13 elephant tusks and a leopard skin.

- The Director met with Rougier and Precious Woods - CEB planning and HSE managers, the European Union Delegation Environmental Cooperation Officer in Libreville and the Latosensu television crew that produced the documentary “Les Gardiens de la Forêt”, for the Arte television channel.
- The Legal Team and the Head of Operation Department held meetings in Oyem with the Head of the Research Branch, the Deputy Head of the Research Branch and the Provincial Director of Water and Forests to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- A legal adviser and the Administrative and Financial Head met with the new Inspector General of Judicial Services, to discuss important cases pending before the courts.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Prevention at the High Authority for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption and Related Offences (HAPLUCIA) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against corruption and wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division and CITES Focal Point, to strengthen collaboration.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- A major trafficker arrested in Dakar with 2 elephant tusks and 80 carved ivory items in a crackdown on a transnational trafficking ring. The seizure included also 18 leopard teeth and many wild animal skins. The contraband was hidden in plastic bags that were kept inside a rice bag. The bag was concealed in the boot of a cab that transported him to the place of transaction where he was arrested.
- Recruitment was intensified and a candidate recruited for the post of Coordination Assistant for EAGLE Guinea and is undergoing training.



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

■ 2 ape traffickers arrested and a baby chimp rescued in a crackdown on a transnational criminal network. This criminal network was trafficking apes from Liberia, Ivory Coast and Guinea to China and to countries of the Arab Gulf. It applied similar modus operandi to previously dismantled networks in Guinea. Apes were smuggled under

the cover of a legal business of live animals and connections with some of the biggest ape traffickers known in Africa are being investigated.

■ The baby chimp was trafficked from Liberia to Ivory Coast on the night before the arrest and carried in a crate designed to transport two chimps at a time.



■ The chimpanzees of West Africa are now classified as critically endangered. They are at great risk of extinction from such specialized trafficking rings.

■ The baby chimp is a less than 2 years old female and got her family killed to be captured. She will receive long term care in the Akatia sanctuary.

Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Directorate General of the National Police and the Directorate General of Customs.
- Recruitment was intensified and an Assistant Coordinator recruited. He is undergoing training in Senegal
- The Head of Legal Department from EAGLE Senegal travelled to Conakry to carry out recruitment of legal advisers and oversee the passing over of functions by the outgoing accountant.
- 2 Guinean investigators and a legal adviser recruited in August continue with their training in Senegal.

International Media

- The LAGA Deputy Director's interview was published in Afrive, an international magazine that focuses on sustainable development in Africa. The interview focused on the fight against wildlife crime.

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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