



EAGLE

October 2019
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *21 wildlife traffickers arrested in 5 countries*
- ✓ *10 ivory traffickers, one of them a village chief, arrested in Gabon in 5 operations*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers, one of them a prophet in a church, arrested with 2 tusks in Côte d'Ivoire*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in Benin*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with three elephant tails in Congo*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and leopard teeth in Congo*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 13 sea turtle shells in Senegal*



10 ivory traffickers, one of them a village chief, were arrested in Gabon in 5 operations.

Summary

21 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 5 countries.

10 ivory traffickers, one of them a village chief, were arrested in Gabon in 5 operations. 3 ivory traffickers were arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks. The first one, a worker at a Chinese logging company, was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the tusks. During interrogation he denounced two other traffickers, who were swiftly arrested the same day. 2 ivory traffickers, Burkina Faso nationals, were arrested with 1 large tusk in the capital city. They transported the ivory from the East of the country, region near the Congolese border. One of them has connections to the trafficking rings based in Congo. 2 ivory traffickers arrested in the South-East of the country with 4 tusks in the act. A large 458 calibre hunting rifle was found during the house search. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in the same town just few days later. One of them is a village chief. Later they admitted massacring the elephant. They remain in a jail in Libreville awaiting trial. A Cameroonian Ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in the capital city. He carried the ivory from Port-Gentil.



3 ivory traffickers were arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 2 big tusks.

3 ivory traffickers were arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 2 big tusks, weighing 31 kg. One of them, Burkina Faso nationality, carried the tusks from Burkina Faso to Abidjan, where the other two traffickers, one of them a prophet, concealed them in a church. They then attempted to sell them but were all swiftly arrested in the act.



2 traffickers arrested with 13 sea turtle shells and other contraband in Senegal

3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in the North of Benin. Two arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike and the third one carried the contraband on a motor tricycle concealed in jute bag.

A trafficker arrested with three elephant tails and other contraband in Congo. He is a notorious trafficker, well connected and equipped, one of the major traffickers in the area. However, after two weeks in detention he was diagnosed with a tuberculosis, therefore he was released on bail.

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and leopard teeth in Congo. They transported the contraband concealed in a sack by their own vehicle to the town where they intended to sell it. They are well connected to a ring operating near Congo-Gabon borders. They planned to use the money from the sale to slaughter more elephants. Now they are behind bars awaiting trial.

2 traffickers arrested with 13 sea turtle shells and other contraband in Senegal. They were arrested in a restaurant in the capital city in the act during an attempt to sell shells of three different species (loggerhead, green and olive turtles) well concealed in rice bags.

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director was nominated for the 2020 Indianapolis prize as one of 32 candidates vying for the top-notch conservation medal. The winner and the finalists will be honored at the Indianapolis Prize Gala in the US on September 12, 2020.
- Following extensive screening in the US, the documentary movie Silent Forest moves to African film festivals with screening already carried out in Rwanda and Nigeria. LAGA played a major role in the movie and an elephant parts' operations was shot in the west of the country.
- The Deputy Director participated at an international workshop on conservation conflicts organized by the Congo Basin Institute, which brought together conservation biologists from around Africa. He made a presentation on conservation conflicts as related to wildlife law enforcement and among other issues he cited a few conflicts including deterrent punishments and strict respect of the law vs. respect for human rights, soft vs. hard conservation measures, sensitization vs. enforcement.
- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop that validated the updated list of protected species
- A legal advisor from EAGLE Senegal arrived the country for a month-long training and exchange visit.

Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and leopard teeth in the West of the country. They transported the contraband concealed in a sack by their own vehicle to the town where they intended to sell it. They are well connected to a ring operating near Congo-Gabon borders. They planned to use the money from the sale to slaughter more elephants. Now they are behind bars awaiting trial.
- A trafficker arrested with three elephant tails and other contraband in central part of the country.



2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and leopard teeth

He is a notorious trafficker, well connected and equipped, one of the major traffickers in the area. However, after two weeks in detention he was diagnosed with a tuberculosis, therefore he was released on bail.

- A court clerk of the Appeal Court in Owando was sentenced to one year in jail for stealing ivory from court storage room. 28 kg ivory were seized during an arrest in 2017.
- 2 investigators on test continued their test period; a Financial and Administrative Assistant joined the team.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities including Advisors and Attachés of US Embassy, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Water and Forest and others.



Gabon – AALF

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks. The first one, a worker at a Chinese logging company, was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the tusks. During interrogation he denounced two other traffickers, who were swiftly arrested the same day. In accordance with the new provisions of the penal code in force all three have been transported to Libreville, where they remain in jail awaiting trial.
- 2 ivory traffickers, Burkina Faso nationals, arrested with 1 large tusk in the capital city. They



A Cameroonian Ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in the capital city



3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks.

transported the ivory from the East of the country, region near the Congolese border. One of them has connections to the trafficking rings based in Congo.

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in the South-East of the country with 4 tusks in the act. A large 458 calibre hunting rifle was found during the house search.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in the same town just few days later. One of them is a village chief. Later they admitted massacring the



2 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks

elephant. They remain in a jail in Libreville awaiting trial.

- A Cameroonian Ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in the capital city. He carried the ivory from Port-Gentil.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Director in charge of anti-poaching and the Coordinator of the US Forest Service for Central Africa.
- The legal team held series of meetings with the judicial and administrative authorities for the follow-up of the cases and to reinforce the collaboration, including the Commanders of Judicial Police, the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Economic and Financial Affairs of the National Police, the Chief of Staff of the Police and others.



2 ivory traffickers arrested in the South-East of the country with 4 tusks



3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Head of Legal department held a meeting with the Technical Adviser on Legal Affairs of the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection to discuss with him preparation of the meeting with the Minister, to inform him about the project and the collaboration agreement being solicited with his ministerial department.
- The recruitment process continued to strengthen the Investigation Department.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 traffickers arrested with 13 sea turtle shells and other contraband. They were arrested in a restaurant in the capital city in the act during an attempt to sell shells of three different species (loggerhead, green and olive turtles) well concealed in rice bags.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Assistant Commissioner of Urban Security of Dakar as part of the collaboration on the operation on turtle shells and to increase awareness of trafficking in endangered animal species protected by national and international laws.
- The Coordinator met with the Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic at the High Court of Dakar to discuss the collaboration with the Dakar prosecutor's office and legal support of EAGLE on wildlife crime cases.
- Recruitment process continued and two new investigators started their test period.
- A Legal Adviser from EAGLE Senegal travelled to Cameroon to undergo a training with LAGA.



Benin – AALF-B

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in the North of the country. Two arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike and the third one carried the contraband on a motor tricycle concealed in jute bag. They were arrested in the act and they remain behind bars awaiting trial.
- The Coordinator trained 8 officers of Republican Police in Mono on methods of combating wildlife crime.

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with high officials, including several State Counsels of different courts, Commissioners and Departmental Police Directors, The Head of the Forestry Inspectorate and the Legal Counsel in Donga, the Registrar of the Fifth Chamber of Investigation of the Court of First Instance of Cotonou and others.



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the capital city with 2 big tusks, weighing 31 kg. One of them, Burkina Faso nationality, carried the tusks from Burkina Faso to Abidjan, where the other two traffickers, one of them a prophet, concealed them in a church. They then attempted to sell them but were all swiftly arrested in the act.
- A Legal Adviser participated at a workshop on the evaluation of risks of environmental crimes in Ivory Coast, organized by the World Bank. He then participated in two follow up work sessions to assess the risks of environmental crimes in Ivory Coast, discuss a method of fighting them and put an action plan in place.



Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator together with the country representative of Conservation Justice held a meeting with the Head of the Directorate of Institutional Development and Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Environment, the Green Economy and Climate Change. They discussed the case of the traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins and 3 panther skins in December 2018, as well as the problem of the files blocked at the Directorate of Operations of the Ministry of Water and Forests. The files concern the traffickers arrested in two operations in July 2019 with 20 skins of crocodiles and 2 ivory tusks. The files have never been sent to the State Counsel's office. They also discussed the signature of the Collaboration Agreement between RALF and the Ministry of Water and Forests.
- The Coordinator and the country representative of Conservation Justice held a meeting with the Director of Operations of the Ministry of Water and Forests. The goal of the meeting was to see how the Directorate of Operations could make a progress in the case of the traffickers arrested in July 2019.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the representative of the international NGO NITIDAE. The discussions focused on the role CJ should play in the PONASI complex, where NITIDAE supports anti-poaching activities.

Headquarters

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Brussels where he held a meeting with a representative of EU on funding EAGLE activities.

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
2. Congo – PALF – perrine@eagle-enforcement.org
3. Gabon – AALF – luc@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Togo – EAGLE-Togo – rens@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Benin - AALF-B – jules@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Côte d'Ivoire - rens@eagle-enforcement.org
8. Burkina Faso - josias@eagle-enforcement.org