



EAGLE

October 2022
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *16 traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 180 kg of giant pangolin scales*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested with 3 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in Togo with 50 ivory statues, an elephant tail and 11 lion teeth in a crackdown on a major criminal gang with links to the Kromah Moazu network*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 66 kg of giant pangolin scales*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested in a collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and Panthera following the poaching of a lioness in the outskirts of a national park in Senegal*
- ✓ *A corrupt wildlife official was sentenced to 3 years in prison in the Republic of Congo*



2 traffickers arrested with 180 kg of giant pangolin scales in Cameroon.



5 traffickers arrested with 3 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire.

Summary

2 traffickers arrested with 180 kg of giant pangolin scales in Cameroon. They smuggled the 7 sacks from the east of the country to Yaoundé. The quantity of giant pangolin scales seized is very significant considering it is from the species of pangolin that is most difficult to find in the country because of intense poaching pressures.

5 traffickers arrested with 3 elephant tusks. 4 traffickers were arrested attempting to sell 2 tusks at the outskirts of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. They denounced the brain behind the deal activating the others.

2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 66 kg of giant pangolin scales. One of the traffickers, a Nigerian, has been operating his ring for at least four years known to our investigations. They were arrested at a bus station where they concealed the pangolin scales while attempting to sell it.

3 traffickers arrested in Togo with 50 ivory statues, an elephant tail and 11 lion teeth in a crackdown on a major criminal network.



2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 66 kg of giant pangolin scales.



3 traffickers arrested in Togo with 50 ivory statues, an elephant tail and 11 lion teeth in a crackdown on a major criminal network.

and a Liberian, were arrested attempting to sell the ivory. They denounced the third who is a Senegalese and wealthy owner of a jewelry shop. He was arrested and confessed that lines of supply for the lion teeth to produce necklaces are from Ghana and Nigeria, while elephant tails lines to produce bracelets are from Cameroon. This ring of traffickers is linked to several infamous ones, including the network of Kromah Moazu, the EAGLE arrest from 2017 in Kampala with 1.3 tons of ivory. The 3 arrested engaged also in rhino horn trafficking and trafficking of gold and precious stones.

4 traffickers arrested in a collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and Panthera following the poaching of a lioness in the outskirts of a national park. An AK47, 2 hunting guns and a honey badger skin also seized.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 2 traffickers arrested with 66 kg of giant pangolin scales. One of the traffickers, a Nigerian, has been operating his ring for at least four years known to our investigations. They travelled some 75 km to Yaoundé with the giant pangolin scales concealed in 2 grains bags. They were arrested at a bus station where they concealed the pangolin scales while attempting to sell it.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 180 kg of giant pangolin scales. They smuggled the 7 sacks from the east of the country to Yaoundé. The sacks were hidden in pepper and wild fruits and transported in trucks. One of the traffickers was arrested as



2 traffickers arrested with 66 kg of giant pangolin scales.

he attempted to sell the scales. He denounced the second who was arrested a couple of hours later. They are experienced traffickers who used dealing in wild mango as a front business for their trafficking. The quantity of giant pangolin scales seized is very significant considering it is from the species of pangolin that is most difficult to find in country because of intense poaching pressures.

- 2 traffickers were sentenced to 13 months in prison. They were arrested in April with 365 kg of pangolin scales.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced to 5 years in prison. They were arrested in September with 2 human skeletons. Their arrest was the result of an investigation on the illegal online trade in leopard skins to India.



- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Director of Criminal Affairs at the Ministry of Justice to discuss an ongoing matter and strengthen collaboration.



2 traffickers arrested with 180 kg of giant pangolin scales.

- The Deputy Director participated at a meeting that focused on improving the proposed operational procedures for the management of ivory stocks.
- The Deputy Director participated at the Cameroon Pangolin Working group meeting that was focused on revamping the activities of the group and prepare for the 2023 World Pangolin Day.



2 traffickers arrested with 180 kg of giant pangolin scales.



- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels on building legal strategies on ongoing cases and strengthen collaboration.

Republic of Congo – PALF

- 3 traffickers were sentenced to 3 years in prison. They were arrested last month with 2 ivory tusks. One of the traffickers is a Chief of Post of the Ministry of Forestry Economy. This is a very strong decision and a great example of the fight against corruption.
- The Coordinator held meetings, firstly with the Aspinall Foundation Coordinator and then with the Executive Director of the Jane Goodall Institute in Congo, on the transfer of a Marbrouck monkey into the wild. During the meetings with the Executive Director, members of the University of Complutense, Madrid participated. They also discussed possibilities of strengthening collaboration.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Renatura Director and Assistant Director on the fight against wildlife crime and the strengthening of collaboration.
- She met with the Regional Commander of the Gendarmerie of Pointe Noire and the Conserva-

tor of the Tchimpounga sanctuary to strengthen collaboration. At the Reserve she witnessed the release of some the African grey parrots seized and transported with the assistance of the project.

- The Coordinator, accompanied by the Executive Director of the Jane Goodall Institute in Congo, held a meeting with the Second in Command of the Gendarmerie in Brazzaville to introduce the Executive Director. They also discussed training possibilities for gendarmerie officers.
- The Coordinator and the Jane Goodall Institute Executive Director also met with the General Di-

rector of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss issues related to wildlife law enforcement.

- The Coordinator, accompanied by the Coordinator and the Administrator of the Aspinal Foundation, held several meetings and work sessions with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy including the General Director, Wildlife Adviser to the Minister and the Director of Cooperation in preparation for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Gabon – AALF

- The Executive Director and the Activities Coordinator held several meetings with administrative and judicial authorities of the Estuaire Province, including the General Director of Research, the Head of Investigations at the Directorate of General Research (DGR), the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice, the Inspector General of the Ministry of Justice, the Executive Director of the National Parks Agency to strengthen collaboration and follow up on ongoing cases.
- They held a meeting with the Defence Attaché of the US Embassy and another meeting with officials of UNODC to discuss wildlife crime and law enforcement.

- The Activities Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings with the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, State Counsels, the Provincial Director of Water and Forests for Ogooué-lolo and the Head of the Judicial Police of Koula-Moutou to follow-up ongoing cases and strengthen collaboration.
- In a positive development, the project was informed by the Koula-Moutou Head of Judicial Police of the declaration of a National Assembly worker who deposited 6 ivory tusks at the police station, he said was found at the home of his dead grandfather.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 3 traffickers arrested with 50 ivory statues, an elephant tail and 11 lion teeth in a crackdown on a major criminal network. 2 traffickers, a Guinean and a Liberian, were arrested attempting to sell the ivory. They denounced the third who is a Senegalese and wealthy owner of a jewellery shop. He was arrested and confessed that lines of supply for the lion teeth to produce necklaces are from Ghana and Nigeria, while elephant tails lines to produce bracelets are from Cameroon. This ring of traffickers is linked to several infamous ones, including the network of Kromah Moazu, the EAGLE arrest from 2017 in Kampala with 1.3 tons of ivory.





The 3 arrested engaged also in rhino horn trafficking and trafficking of gold and precious stones.

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and the strengthening of collaboration.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the President and some members of the National Financial Information Processing Unit (CENTIF), to build collaboration in fighting corruption and wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of OCRTIDB on common initiatives to fighting wildlife crime and strengthening collaboration.
- He met with the Director of the High Authority for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption and Related Offences (HPLUCIA) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Adviser held a meeting with a State Counsel to discuss legal strategies on an ongoing matter.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 4 traffickers arrested in a collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and Panthera following the poaching of a lioness in the outskirts of a national park. An AK47, 2 hunting guns and a honey badger skin also seized.
- The Team presented various modules during a training for 12 police commissioners and 30 police officers during a training session organized in collaboration with the Department of Training of the National Police.
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the General Directorate of Customs.
- Recruitment was intensified with several interviews carried out. 5 candidates are undergoing training and testing in the legal, investigations and media departments.



4 traffickers arrested in a collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and Panthera following the poaching of a lioness in the outskirts of a national park.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 5 traffickers arrested with 3 elephant tusks. 4 traffickers were arrested attempting to sell 2 tusks at the outskirts of Abidjan. They denounced the brain behind the deal activating the others. When arrested he claimed to have stolen the tusks from his boss, who is a Lebanese national. Further investigations led to the seizure of a third ivory tusk.
- The Coordinator met the UCT in order to advance on long term investigations.



- The Coordinator and a legal advisor met with officials from the Ministry of Water and Forests and Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation to prepare for the training of officials on the management of seized wildlife products.
- The Team did presentations on wildlife trafficking and legal procedures in the prosecution of wildlife crimes during a training for 30 law enforcement officials directly linked to fighting wildlife crime.



4 traffickers were arrested this month during two operations with almost 250 kg of giant pangolin scales. The two operations took place in Cameroon's capital city Yaoundé. During the first operation, 66 kg of giant pangolin scales were recovered from two traffickers who travelled some 75 km from Ntui, to Yaoundé, using public transportation. During the second operation, 180 kg of pangolin scales concealed in 7 sacks were seized. They transported the pangolin scales hidden inside pepper and wild fruits by trucks from Lomie, located some 380 km from Yaoundé. It is not always the case that entirely giant pangolin scales are seized during operations. On the contrary, it is very rarely the case. Most of the time very little or no giant pangolin

scales are found in seizures that are usually made up of scales from the white bellied and black bellied pangolins. The reason is simple, finding the giant pangolin has become very difficult even for the poacher. Scientists doing research on pangolins in the country use camera traps. This is most probably due to the intense poaching and trafficking that has been afflicting the species for several decades. Extinction for this species may be coming too soon.

The giant pangolin is the largest living pangolin species; weighing up to 35 kg. Its range stretches along the equator from West Africa, passing through Central Africa to Uganda and Tanzania. Feared extinct in some countries like Rwanda, the giant pangolin is classified as endangered (very high risk of extinction in the wild) on the IUCN Red List. It gives birth to a young every one to two years and feeds on ants and termites. It is uncommon to find in the wild and generally rare. It is hunted for its meat and scales for trafficking by the local poachers who are activated by trafficking networks.

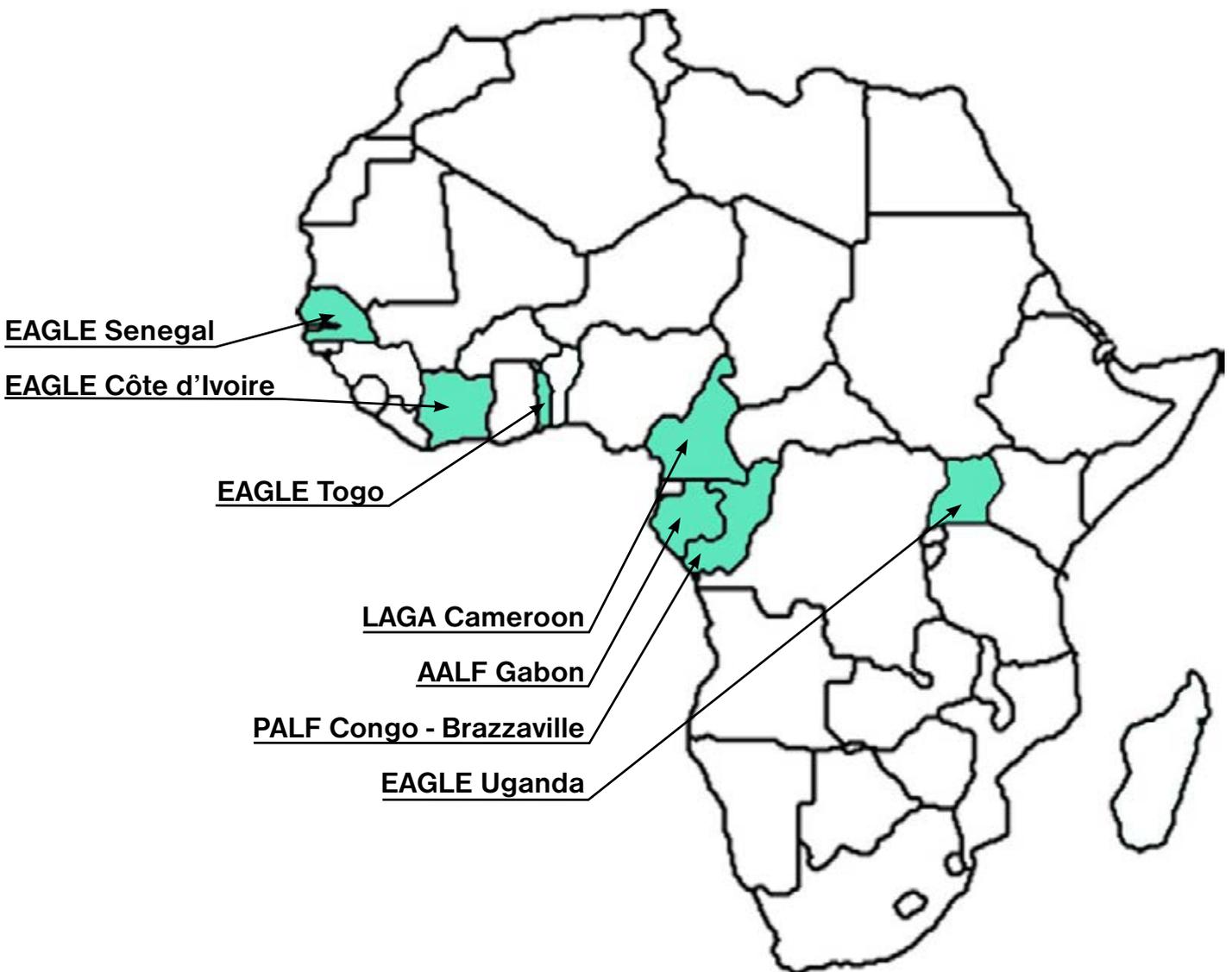


International Media

- Ofir Drori was guest on a Wild Mission Podcast that narrates the story of the how he moved from a journalist passing through Cameroon to an activist fighting wildlife crime and corruption. The interview focuses on the work carried out by the Network across the African countries where it operates and the dangers and effects of wildlife criminality.

[Listen to the podcast here.](#)

Structure of the EAGLE Network



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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