



EAGLE

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EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *6 traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks and a half in Togo*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with an elephant tusk cut into 6 pieces in Congo*



2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks and a half in Togo



A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon

Summary

2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks and a half in Togo. The two reside in Ghana and their trafficking operation has consisted of moving ivory cross-border on a motorbike with no matriculate number and concealed in bags of plantains. They used routes frequented by smugglers to get contraband across the borders.



A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. The first trafficker was arrested when he attempted to sell 2 elephant tusks weighing 16 kg. He arrived at the scene of transaction with the tusks concealed in a sports bag. He denounced the other trafficker, his uncle, who was arrested in the same town 3 days later.

A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. He transported the elephant tusks from Ovan which is located about 500 km from Libreville, where he was arrested. He concealed the tusks, cut into pieces, in spaces inside the doors of his car which he drove to Libreville.

A trafficker arrested with an elephant tusk cut into 6 pieces in Congo. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the ivory. He is linked to an ivory trafficker arrested in September and sentenced to two years in prison. He arrived at the scene of transaction in a taxi, carrying a multicolour shopping bag in which the tusks were concealed.



A trafficker arrested with an elephant tusk cut into 6 pieces in Congo



2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks and a half in Togo

Cameroon – LAGA

- A pangolin scales trafficker sentenced to 6 months in prison. He was arrested in July with 47 kg of pangolins scales.
- The Director held a meeting with three officials of the US Department of Justice to discuss challenges to environmental law enforcement in the country and to map out some areas of interests.
- He held a meeting with the three officials of the French based conservation group Noe and discussions focused on collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime in South East of the country.
- The Investigation Team held meetings with wildlife and customs officials in the North Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.
- Recruitment was intensified and a candidate for the post of a legal adviser started a testing and training period.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- A trafficker arrested with an elephant tusk cut into 6 pieces. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the ivory. He is linked to an ivory trafficker arrested in September and sentenced to two years in prison. He arrived at the scene of transaction in a taxi, carrying a multicolour shopping bag in which the tusks were concealed. He visibly was in haste and tried to pull off the deal as fast as possible.
- The Coordinator and the Regional Coordinator of Conservation Justice, who was on a working visit to Congo, held a meeting with the Attorney General of the Supreme Court to discuss the fight against wildlife crime.
- They held a meeting with the Advocate General of the Supreme Court to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and to strengthen the collaboration.



- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the National Parks Agency to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- The Coordinator participated at the EU-Congo Partnership Forum and the Three Basins Summit. During the two events he met and briefly discussed with several diplomatic, government and NGO officials, notably the German Ambassador to Congo, among others.
- The Legal Team held meetings with State Counsels and court officials on cases pending at the various courts. They also carried out several jail visits.
- The Legal Team did a presentation on fighting wildlife crime at a training course for wildlife crime investigators of the National Gendarmerie School.
- Recruitment was intensified and two candidates were been selected for interviews and testing.

Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks. He transported the elephant tusks from Ovan which is located some 500 km from Libreville, where he was arrested. He concealed the tusks, cut into pieces, in spaces inside the doors of his car which he drove to Libreville. When he arrived Libreville, he put the tusks in a black backpack and took a taxi to the place of transaction, where he was arrested.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. The first trafficker was arrested when he attempted to sell 2 elephant tusks weighing 16 kg. He arrived at the scene of transaction with the tusks concealed in a sports bag. He denounced the other trafficker, his uncle, who was arrested in the same town 3 days later.
- The Director held a meeting with the Minister of Water and Forests, in the presence of the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas, to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime,
- He held meetings with several officials including the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Technical



A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks.





2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks

Director of the National Parks Authority (ANPN); Marc Ona, Senator and 3rd Vice-President of the Senate; the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Water and Forests, in the presence of the Technical Adviser in charge of Climate, Environment and Human-Wildlife Conflict Programs to discuss wildlife law enforcement and the strengthening of collaboration.

- He met with the following embassy officials: the Head of the EU Delegation in the presence of the Environment Attaché, the Head of the Cooperation Section, the Internal Security Attaché of the French Embassy and the USFWS Program Officer for Central Africa, to strengthen collaboration.
- He met the following technical partners: the WWF National Director, the Director of Blessings of The Forest, the Director of Space for Giants in Gabon, the Director of TNC's Project Finance for Perma-

nence (PFP), the UNOCA Climate Security Advisor, the Executive Secretary of Brainforest, the Management and HSE Managers of Somivab and Rougier - Gabon, and the Traceability and Technologies Manager at the Environmental Investigation Agency.

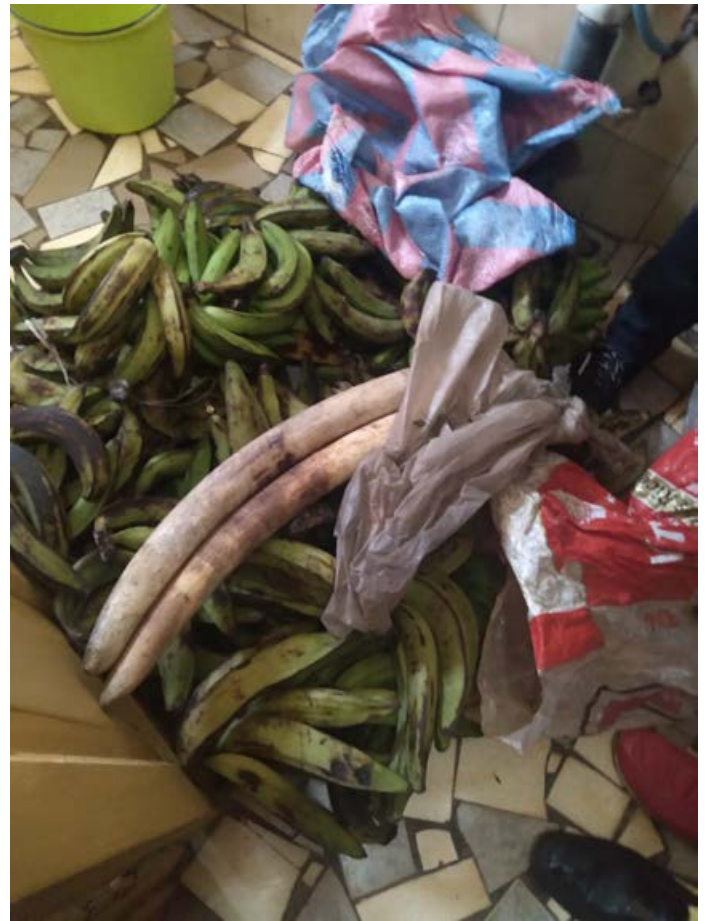
- The Regional Coordinator travelled to Congo where she assisted the PALF Coordinator in several external relations activities.
- The Legal Team held working sessions with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the Head of the Anti Poaching Unit on the extradition of a Cameroonian linked to the recent seizure of 21 elephant tusk and the arrest of 9 traffickers in Gabon. He is believed to be the head of a vast network operating between Gabon and Cameroon.
- Four members of the Team held several meetings with judicial and law enforcement officials in Libreville and in Port Gentil to strengthen collaboration.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks and a half. The two reside in Ghana and their trafficking operation has consisted of moving ivory cross-border on a motorbike with no matriculate number and concealed in bags of plantains. They used routes frequented by smugglers to get contraband across the borders.
- The Interim Coordinator and a legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of the Sotouboua Criminal and Civil Court to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Commissioner of Police of the Blitta City Police Station to build collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



- He held a meeting with the Prefectural Director of the Environment and Forest Resources of Blitta to strengthen collaboration.



Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Team followed up the various pending issues with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, where meetings were held.
- The Coordinator participated at the African Stork training organised by the French Customs and she did a presentation on wildlife trafficking and its links.
- The Team participated at two training sessions for the 14th graduating class of park rangers, forestry engineers and technicians. They presented modules on combating wildlife crime including the wildlife law, techniques in identifying and concealing wildlife contraband and the respect of the defendant's rights.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The case of 2 traffickers arrested in September 2019 with 2 elephant tusks is still under instruction. The 2 traffickers are awaiting trial and a third person is still to be interrogated in connection with his role in the trafficking.
- The case of 4 traffickers arrested with 38 kg of ivory in October 2021 is still under instruction. The role of the armed crew claiming to be part of the CCDO unit is still to be determined in this case.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of Abidjan Airport Customs to discuss wildlife crime and law enforcement.
- The Coordinator and the Head of Legal Department did a presentation on the recognition of wildlife contraband to 20 customs officers of the airport.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for future operations.

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.
- 2 Guinean investigators and a legal adviser recruited in August continue with their training in Senegal.

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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