



EAGLE

October 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *24 wildlife traffickers arrested in 7 countries*
- ✓ *6 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in Togo and an international trafficking ring crushed*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Benin*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 118 tusks*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in two operations*
- ✓ *2 Chinese arrested at the airport in Senegal with 16 sperm whale teeth*
- ✓ *2 traffickers, one of them Indian, arrested with 48 leopard and lion claws in Senegal*
- ✓ *A major international birds trafficker arrested in Senegal*
- ✓ *2 major traffickers arrested with 13 elephant tusks in Burkina Faso*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with carved ivory in Côte d'Ivoire*



2 major traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks and two small parts in Burkina Faso



6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 3 tusks in Togo and an international trafficking ring crushed.

Summary

24 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 7 countries.

6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 3 tusks in Togo and an international trafficking ring crushed. They are part of a well-organized international ring with connection to Gabon and Benin. Two of them are of Benin nationality, they trafficked the tusks from Benin.

4 traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks in Benin. Jules, the Coordinator of the AALF-B project, got a bad road accident in the field, the night before the take down, necessitating a complicated surgery of his broken legs. From hospital bed and in great pain, Jules insisted the arrests goes as planned and instructed that Armand would coordinate it in the field. Jules's fighting spirit and the dedication of his team brought down a ring that was a target for a very long time.



An ivory trafficker arrested with carved ivory in Côte d'Ivoire

LAGA provided technical assistance to customs and wildlife officials following the arrest of a trafficker in Cameroon with 118 ivory tusks hidden in a secret built-in compartment in a truck he was driving to the capital city. The ivory was trafficked from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea and was heading to the capital city for an illegal transaction. The team carried out further investigations into the case exposing international links. Some of the tusks originated from Gabonese government stockpiles, seized in operations carried out in collaboration with Conservation Justice, the EAGLE member based in Gabon.

5 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in two operations. 2 ivory traffickers were arrested in South of the country with 4 tusks. One of them is a repeat of-

fender, already arrested and sentenced for 6 months in 2016 for ivory trafficking. 3 ivory traffickers including a retired gendarme were arrested in the West of the country with 4 tusks.



4 traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks in Benin.

2 Chinese were arrested at the international airport in Senegal with 16 sperm whale teeth, 34 kg of fish bladders and 4.6 kg of fins. They attempted to leave the country for China with the contraband, concealed in their luggage.

2 traffickers were arrested with 48 leopard and lion claws in Senegal. The first one of Indian nationality was arrested in the act of selling the contraband. His passport shows frequent travel in many African countries triggering investigations for possible transnational crimes and connection to Asia. He soon denounced the second trafficker, a Nigerian, who was supplying him with the claws.

A major international birds trafficker arrested in Senegal with Ara Macaw and African grey parrots. Having enjoyed impunity for a long time he had been a target of investigations by the competent authorities for years. His illegal ring stretches to Spain, Mali and Morocco. Trading Ara Macaws in Africa may be of a surprise for those unaware of the vast illegal trade in birds between continents.

2 major traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks and two small parts in Burkina Faso. The two are part of a vast ivory trafficking ring illegally trading live animals as well.

An ivory trafficker arrested with carved ivory in Côte d'Ivoire. He was arrested in the act with 3 statues and 9 bracelets. He is a long-term sculpture seller, well connected to a network trafficking carved ivory for years.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ LAGA provided technical assistance to customs and wildlife officials following the arrest of a trafficker in South of the country with 118 ivory tusks hidden in a secret built-in compartment in a truck he was driving to the capital city. The ivory was trafficked from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea and was heading to the capital city for an illegal transaction. He is considered to be one of the main traffickers in a ring that deals in huge quantities of ivory in the sub region. The team carried out further investigations into the case exposing international links. Some of the tusks originated from Gabonese government stockpiles, seized in operations carried out in collaboration with Conservation Justice, the EAGLE member based in Gabon.



■ The Deputy Director attended the ceremony, presided by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, held to present the National Anti-Poaching and Wildlife

Crime Strategy. LAGA's team participation at developing the strategy was appreciated.

- The Deputy Director facilitated a workshop on causes and consequences of agro-pastoral conflicts. The workshop organized by human rights group Recodh brought together state actors and NGOs working in this area.
- He was a guest on the prime time CRTV News program, Twilight, on the recent seizure of 118 ivory tusks in the South of the country, the causes and consequences of ivory trafficking and elephant extinction.
- He attended a workshop organized by TRAFFIC presenting the preliminary analysis of the impact



of training workshops organized and the tools developed by TRAFFIC and WWF to combat wildlife crime in Cameroon between 2015 and 2019.

- The LAGA Team held an evaluation meeting to take stock of how things have evolved over the Covid-19 period, examining our efforts and results, along with plans to make a final dash for more results before the year ends. There was a review of measures taken to ensuring comprehensive protection of everyone during the trying period of the pandemic.

Congo – PALF

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with authorities, including the Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests of Dolisie, Pointe-Noire, Owando, Sibiti and Ouesso, with the

Commander of Gendarmerie in the Brazzaville region, representatives of the EU Delegation and others.

- 2 legal advisors continued their test period this month.

Gabon – AALF

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in South of the country with 4 tusks. They were arrested after they arrived at the place of transaction by taxi, carrying the contraband concealed in a bag. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested and sentenced for 6 months in 2016 for ivory trafficking.



- The CJ Director held a meeting with the Technical Director of ANPN (Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux)
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of Justice, her Chief of Staff and the Secretary-General of the Chancellery.



- 3 ivory traffickers including a retired gendarme arrested in the West of the country with 4 tusks. The first one was arrested during the attempt to sell the contraband, he soon denounced two other traffickers, one of them a retired gendarme. A rifle was seized in his house.

- The Legal team held a series of meetings with high authorities including the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Anti-Poaching, the Provincial Directors of Waters and Forests, several State Counsels, the headquarters of the Libreville Special Court, the Judicial Police officers of Mouila, Tchibanga, Libreville and Ogooué-Ivindo, the Head of the Lopé wildlife brigade and others.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 6 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in the capital city and an international trafficking ring crushed. They are part of a well-organized international ring with connection to Gabon and Benin. Two of them

are of Benin nationality, they trafficked the tusks from Benin. The fifth one was organizing the transaction in his house, where all of them got arrested. A few days after, the head of the ring came to the



place of transaction and was immediately taken by the family members of the arrested trafficker and handled to forces of law.

- The Assistant Coordinator held a series of meetings with the authorities including the Commandant representing the MERF, the Captain and Lieutenant of the OCRTIDB, the State Counsel at the Lomé Court, the Regional Director of the Environment of Kara, the judge in charge of the first investigative cabinet at the Kara Tribunal and others.
- The Assistant Coordinator participated at the CITES training workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources. He used this opportunity to introduce EAGLE's project and present the activities to those involved in the fight against wildlife trafficking.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 Chinese arrested at the international airport with 16 Sperm Whale teeth, 34 kg of fish bladders and 4.6 kg of fins. They attempted to leave the country for China with the contraband, concealed in their luggage. The sperm whale is highly endangered species, protected by Annex I of CITES convention.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 48 leopard and lion claws. The first one of Indian nationality was arrested in the act of selling the contraband. His passport shows frequent travel in many African countries triggering investigations for possible transnational crimes and connection to Asia. He soon denounced the second trafficker, a Nigerian, who was supplying him with the claws. He was swiftly arrested nearby his shop at a market. The claws, originally offered as lion claws, are a subject to DNA analysis to identify the species. Both lion and leopard are fully protected species.



2 Chinese arrested at the international airport with 16 Sperm Whale teeth,



- A major international birds trafficker arrested in Dakar with Ara Macaw and African grey parrots. Having enjoyed impunity for a long time he had been a target of investigations by the competent authorities for years. His illegal ring stretches to Spain, Mali and Morocco. Trading Ara Macaws in Africa may be of a surprise for those unaware of the vast illegal trade in birds between continents.



2 traffickers arrested with 48 leopard and lion claws.

who supported the financing of the K9 detection training, the Interior Security Service of the French Embassy, the Police Commissioners of the Brigade of Polyvalent Intervention and of the OCRTIS, to discuss the presence of a canine brigade within the forces of the order, and to demonstrate the work of sniffing dogs detecting ivory in suitcases and vehicles. The meeting was followed by a training course.

- The investigation department supported investigation in Burkina Faso, which led to an arrest of 2 major ivory traffickers.
- The EAGLE-Senegal team met with the Counselor of the French Embassy in charge of development



A major international birds trafficker arrested in Dakar with Ara Macaw and African grey parrots.

Benin – AALF-B

- 4 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the North of the country. Jules, the Coordinator of the AALF-B project, got a bad road accident in the field, the night before the take down, necessitating a complicated surgery of his broken legs. From hospital bed and in great pain, Jules insisted the arrests goes as planned and instructed that Armand would coordinate it in the field. Jules's fighting spirit and the dedication of his team brought down a ring that was a target for a very long time. Two of them were arrested in the act after they arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the contraband concealed in a bag. They denounced two other traffickers who were arrested in their homes.



- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with the authorities, including several State Counsels, several departmental directors of Police, various authorities in the place of the operation and others.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- An ivory trafficker arrested with carved ivory in Abidjan. He was arrested in the act with 3 statues and 9 bracelets. He is a long-term sculpture seller, well connected to a network trafficking carved ivory for years.
- The Legal Team follows a case of 111kg of shark fins seized by the customs at the airport of Abidjan, resulting later in the arrest of the owner of the contraband. A day after another shipment of 350 kg, destined to Hong Kong and belonging to the same trafficker was seized. Additional 17 kg were found in his house, so the total amount of seized shark fins was almost half ton.
- The Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and the Legal Team had a working session with the Head of Investigations of the UCT to continue the collaboration with the unit to improve the results of the project.



Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- 2 major traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks and two small parts in the capital city. The two are a part of a vast ivory trafficking ring illegally trading live animals as well. Investigation was carried with other EAGLE teams and information obtained in arrest is likely to lead to more arrests in other countries.
- The Coordinator participated at the General Assembly of Veterans and Retired Military. During the meeting, he explained the activities of EAGLE Burkina Faso, and agreed on cooperation in recruiting investigators.
- He also met with the Director General of Water and Forests (DGEF) and all his staff. The Director was informed about EAGLE activities and assured the EAGLE Coordinator about his support.



International Media

- Leadership for Conservation in Africa recorded a zoom talk with Ofir about his life story, called Activists against wildlife trafficking: fighting corruption and wildlife crime with Ofir Drori

[Link to the video](#)

- Initiative Africa broadcasted an interview with Ofir Drori in it's regular weekly show

[Part one - English version](#) (starts at 7th minute)

[Part one - French French version](#)

[Part two - English version](#) (starts at 10th minute)

[Part two - French version](#)

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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