



EAGLE

September 2021
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *15 wildlife traffickers arrested in 2 countries*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers including a Filipino national arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon.*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks, 2 guns and ammunition in Gabon*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks, bringing the total to 11 ivory traffickers arrested just within the month in Gabon.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 20 African grey parrots*



2 arrested in Cameroon and a baby chimp rescued.



5 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 tusks cut into 20 pieces, 2 guns and ammunition.

Summary

2 arrested in Cameroon and a baby chimp rescued. They were arrested following the theft of a baby chimp at a sanctuary. The chimp was found in a large storeroom close to a Chinese tiles shop in the country's economic capital Douala. The 2 traffickers were arrested on the spot and a third, who is considered to be the brain behind the trafficking and was not present during the operation, and efforts continue to apprehend him.



2 arrested in Cameroon and a baby chimp rescued.

2 traffickers arrested with 20 African grey parrots in Cameroon. The traffickers were attempting to sell the parrots at their hideout in the south of the country when they were arrested. They are part of an even bigger parrot trafficking network in the country that includes foreign nationals.

2 traffickers including a Filipino national arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon. The traffickers belong to a logging company and used the company car to transport the ivory. The tusks were put inside a black travelling bag



4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon.



2 traffickers including a Filipino national arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon.

and concealed inside the car. They used several other tricks, trying to avoid detection, as they moved the ivory around. They were arrested as they made their move to sell the tusks.

5 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 tusks cut into 20 pieces, 2 guns and ammunition. The traffickers, a man and his niece, were arrested as they attempted to sell the tusks. A 12-gauge gun was found at the home of one of the traffickers during a house search that followed. They denounced two others – they claim are their brother-in-laws – to be the real “owners” of the tusks. They too were arrested during a follow up operation. Another 12-gauge gun and ammunition found in their keeping were seized.

4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon. 2 traffickers were first arrested trying to sell the elephant tusks. They arrived the place of transaction in car with the ivory concealed inside a small bag one of them was carrying. They were arrested and they denounced their accomplices who were arrested in a nearby bar.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 20 African grey parrots. The traffickers were attempting to sell the parrots at their hideout in the south of the country when they were arrested. They are part of an even bigger parrot trafficking network in the country that includes foreign nationals. The 20 parrots were crammed into a box which was clearly not large enough. The parrots were captured at the Campo Ma'an National Park.



with wounds inflicted by the traffickers all over his body as he was cruelly kicked and tossed. He was not given food regularly. The chimp was stolen from a chimpanzee sanctuary in the coastal region of the country.

■ The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Head of the Legal Unit of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife



■ 2 arrested and a baby chimp rescued. They were arrested following the theft of a baby chimp at a sanctuary. The chimp was found in a large store-room close to a Chinese tiles shop in the country's economic capital Douala. The 2 traffickers were arrested on the spot and a third, who is considered to be the brain behind the trafficking and was not present during the operation, and efforts continue to apprehend him. The chimp was found



on issues related to lawyers' representation in court and to strengthen collaboration.

- The Deputy Director participated at a meeting organized by the US Embassy to lay the groundwork for the creation of a taskforce for conservation NGOs.
- The Deputy Director did a presentation on effective wildlife law enforcement during a training for customs, police, gendarmes, wildlife and other security officials of the Douala International Airport.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with a customs official in charge of studies at the Customs Department to discuss an ongoing wildlife case and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss cases pending at the various courts.



Congo – PALF

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network arrived in Brazzaville to support the Coordinator on external relations. They met with several officials of the Ministry of the Forestry Economy to discuss issues related to the Memorandum of Understanding.
- They also held a meeting with the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie to strengthen collaboration and discuss ongoing cases.
- The Coordinator met with John Tomaszewski of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, during an event organized by the US Embassy,

bringing together several conservation NGOs.

- EAGLE Congo was officially registered this month as an association, according to the laws of the country, following a lengthy administrative process that took over a year. The association is now duly registered with the Brazzaville city council. The act of registration was published in the official government journal that publishes all laws, decrees, and administrative acts of the Republic of Congo.
- Recruitment intensified and a new legal adviser started his test period.

Gabon – AALF

- 11 traffickers arrested this month.
- 2 traffickers including a Filipino national arrested with 4 tusks in Mouila. The traffickers belong to a logging company and used the company car to transport the ivory. The tusks were put inside a black travelling bag and concealed inside the car. They used several other tricks, trying to avoid detection, as they moved the ivory around. They were arrested as they made their move to sell the



4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks.



2 traffickers including a Filipino national arrested with 4 tusks.



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tusks. The operation brings to sharp focus, the intolerable and illegal activities carried out by logging companies' workers in wildlife trafficking.

- 5 traffickers arrested in Lastourville and Moanda with 6 tusks cut into 20 pieces, 2 guns and ammunition. The traffickers, a man and his nephew, were arrested as they attempted to sell the tusks. A 12-gauge gun was found at the home of one of the traffickers during a house search that followed. They denounced two others – they claim are their brother in-laws – to be the real “owners” of the tusks. They too were arrested during a follow up operation. Another 12-gauge gun and ammunition found in their keeping were seized. They claimed to have shot and killed the elephants in December 2020. The crackdown dismantles a chain of closely related poachers and traffickers working together in a vicious cycle of elephants massacres and ivory trafficking in the country. A follow up police investigations resulted in the arrest of one more trafficker with 4 tusks cut into 14 pieces.

- 4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Kango. 2 traffickers were first arrested trying to sell the elephant tusks. They arrived the place of transaction in car with the ivory concealed inside a small bag one of them was carrying. They were arrested

and they denounced their accomplices who were arrested in a nearby bar. They are currently behind bars. This brings to 10 traffickers in ivory arrested in the country, just within a month alone.

- The Executive Director and the Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Interpol National Central Bureau and the Director of the Central Office of the Fight Against Drugs (OCLAD) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- They also held several meetings at Environment Ministry with the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and his team to strengthen collaboration.
- The Executive Director carried out a support mission to the Ndangui Wildlife Brigade, in the CEB logging company. ARTE, an international TV channel filmed CJ activities with the wildlife brigade.
- The Legal Team held a series of meetings with several administrative and judicial authorities including Provincial Antenna Heads of the Gendarmerie and the Police, Provincial Directors and Chiefs of Cantonment of Water and Forests, State Counsels, the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Wildlife Management and Hunting, and the Director of Anti-Poaching to strengthen collaboration and follow up cases.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Inspectorate of Forestry Resources to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- Recruitment was intensified and an online investigator and a legal adviser, successfully completed their test period.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Directorate of Customs and the General Directorate of the National Police where meetings were held.
- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during a training for 90 rangers, 5 officers and sub officers of national parks and during a second training for 27 police officers.

Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with several administrative, judicial, wildlife, forestry, CITES and police officials to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime and follow up some pending cases.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator held meetings with officials of OIPR (the Ivorian administration in charge of the national parks) to strengthen the collaboration between the two structures in several regions of the country.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to collaborate on some important investigations and to move forward with the prosecution procedure on some of the big cases.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Conservator of Parc-urbain Bengr Weogo to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime
- He held another meeting with lawyers to discuss possibilities for collaboration on wildlife cases.
- Recruitment was intensified and an investigator started his test period.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- The country still continues to operate under a partial lockdown although a portion of the previous Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.
- The Assistant Coordinator held meetings with Head of Public Relations, Uganda Broadcasting Cooperation (UBC) to foster collaborations with the Uganda media industry.
- The Legal Team held a meeting with the Head of Operations and another meeting with the Field Operations Officer of Human Rights, Environment and Wildlife, at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime
- The Legal Team held meetings with the Public Relations Officer of Uganda Prisons to strengthen collaboration.

Action Needed

- Facilitate meetings with the ODPP to continue further discussions on the MoU with EAGLE Uganda.

Headquarters

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network, travelled to Congo to support the Coordinator on external relations.

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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