



EAGLE

September 2023
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *9 traffickers arrested in 2 countries*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and 5 ivory pieces all weighing over 27 kg in Congo*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 91 kg of pangolin scales in back-to-back arrests in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers, including a military officer, arrested with a leopard skin in Congo*



4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and 5 ivory pieces all weighing over 27 kg in Congo.



3 traffickers arrested with 91 kg of pangolin scales in back-to-back arrests in Cameroon.

Summary

4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and 5 ivory pieces all weighing over 27 kg in Congo. A trafficker was arrested with an elephant tusk; he denounced another trafficker leading to the arrest of 3 more traffickers with 5 pieces of ivory in a follow up operation. He concealed the elephant tusk in a backpack and arrived on a motorbike. He was apprehended as he attempted to sell the elephant tusk. During questioning, he revealed the identity of the brain behind the trafficking, a well-known woman who lives in a locality called Mbomo. The woman and two other traffickers were arrested over the following days and 5 pieces of ivory seized.

3 traffickers arrested with 91 kg of pangolin scales in back-to-back arrests in Cameroon. 2 traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell a bag of pangolin scales. A third trafficker was arrested immediately after he arrived in the town where the arrest took place. He transported the pangolin scales on a motorbike from a nearby locality. They are well connected, at a significantly high level, to trafficking of pangolin



3 traffickers arrested with 91 kg of pangolin scales in back-to-back arrests in Cameroon.

scales in the area. They had links to smaller traffickers of pangolin scales. Wildlife trafficking is rife in the area that has historically been weak in wildlife law enforcement. Before a road was tarred and a bridge built over the Sanaga River, it was very difficult to access, and wildlife trafficking was intense.



2 traffickers, including a military Marines officer, arrested with a leopard skin in Congo.

2 traffickers, including a military Marines officer, arrested with a leopard skin in Congo. He transported the leopard skin in his car to Pointe Noire where he attempted to sell the contraband. After failing to conclude a deal, he contacted another trafficker, and both were arrested during attempts to sell the skin. The warrant officer resisted arrest and it took several minutes for the gendarmes to subdue the violent trafficker.



4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and 5 ivory pieces all weighing over 27 kg in Congo.

Cameroon – LAGA

- 3 traffickers arrested with 91 kg of pangolin scales in back-to-back arrests in Cameroon. 2 traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell a bag of pangolin scales. A third trafficker was arrested immediately after he arrived in the town where the arrest took place. He transported the pangolin scales on a motorbike from a nearby locality. They are well connected, at a significantly high level, to trafficking of pangolin scales in the area. They had links to smaller traffickers of pangolin scales. Wildlife trafficking is rife in the area that has historically been weak in wildlife law enforcement. Before a road was tarred and a bridge built over the Sanaga River, it was very difficult to access, and wildlife trafficking was intense. The tide seems to be turning and couple of operations has been carried out in towns not too far away from the Sanaga River.
- The Deputy Director and the Interim Director held discussions with two officials of the London-based Environmental Investigations Agency who were on a working visit to the country. They focused on wildlife crime and collaboration.



- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers, including a military Marines officer, arrested with a leopard skin. The warrant officer of the Congolese Navy transported the leopard skin in his car to Pointe Noire where he attempted to sell the contraband. After failing to conclude a deal, he contacted another trafficker, and both were arrested during attempts to sell the skin. The warrant officer resisted arrest and it took several minutes for the gendarmes to subdue the violent trafficker. The traffickers were very cautious in dealing with the illegal transaction and had planted an undercover trafficker spying for them for any suspicious activity at the scene of transaction. The undercover fled when he discovered the arrest was going on.
- 4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and 5 ivory pieces all weighing over 27 kg. A trafficker was arrested with an elephant tusk; he denounced another trafficker leading to the arrest of 3 more traffickers with 5 pieces of ivory in a follow up operation. He concealed the elephant tusk in a backpack and arrived on a motorbike. He was apprehended as he attempted to sell the elephant tusk. During questioning, he revealed the identity of the brain behind the trafficking, a well-known woman who lives in a locality called Mbomo. The woman and two other traffickers were arrested

over the following days and 5 pieces of ivory were seized.

- The Coordinator met with the Commander of the Owando Gendarmerie Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Director of the Brazzaville Zoological and Botanical Park to discuss wildlife law enforcement in the country.
- He met with two USAID officials; a Senior Advisor and a Program Management Specialist to discuss the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held discussions with the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Justice, an official of the Europe-



4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and 5 ivory pieces all weighing over 27 kg.

an Union and the Owando Departmental Director of Water and Forests.

- The Legal Team held several meetings with wildlife and judicial officials to follow up the various cases in courts and carried out jail visits for detainees and convicted traffickers serving a prison sentence.



2 traffickers, including a military Marines officer, arrested with a leopard skin.

Gabon – AALF

- The Executive Director of Conservation Justice met with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Wildlife Management, the Assistant Director of Environment and the Secretary General of Water and Forests respectively. Several issues were discussed including the fight against wildlife crime and the strengthening of collaboration.
- Three legal advisers met with the INTERPOL's Focal Point in Gabon, the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the Director of Anti-Poaching Unit to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Head of the Investigation Department and three legal advisers held a meeting with an official of the Anti-Poaching Unit to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.
- Meetings were also held with the Environmental Investigation Agency, the UNOCA Climate and Safety Advisor, the Libreville DUE Environment Officer and the Noé Foundation.
- There was a change in leadership of the country and a new government was put in place. In this regard, several measures are being put in place to adapt to the change.
- A Legal Adviser held a meeting with Libreville Central Prison officials who informed him of the decision to suspend prison visits following the arrival of the new government.
- Recruitment was intensified following the removal of 4 activists. Two legal advisers, a communications manager and a deputy coordinator all joined the Team.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Territorial Development to discuss the registration of EAGLE Togo.
- The Interim Coordinator met with the Director of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering (OCRTIDB) to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration.
- Recruitment was intensified with the search for informants and investigators at some strategic locations.

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 Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during a training session for non-commissioned gendarmerie officers. The modules focused on wildlife crime, the wildlife law, techniques in identifying and concealing wildlife contraband.
- The Assistant Coordinator participated at a workshop organised by the Dekkal Geej project, an initiative of the Feed the Future and USAID's Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation Program.
- The workshop focused on implementing an action plan to combat wildlife trafficking with a view to conserving marine biodiversity for sustainable fishing.
- The Assistant Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a training session for wildlife officials and park rangers organised by the National Parks Directorate. They gave presentations on wildlife crime, wildlife law, techniques for identifying and concealing wildlife contraband and the respect for the rights of the defence.
- 3 Guinean investigators and a legal adviser recruited in August started their training in Senegal.

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 met with the Political Officer of the US Embassy to discuss wildlife law enforcement and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for future operations.

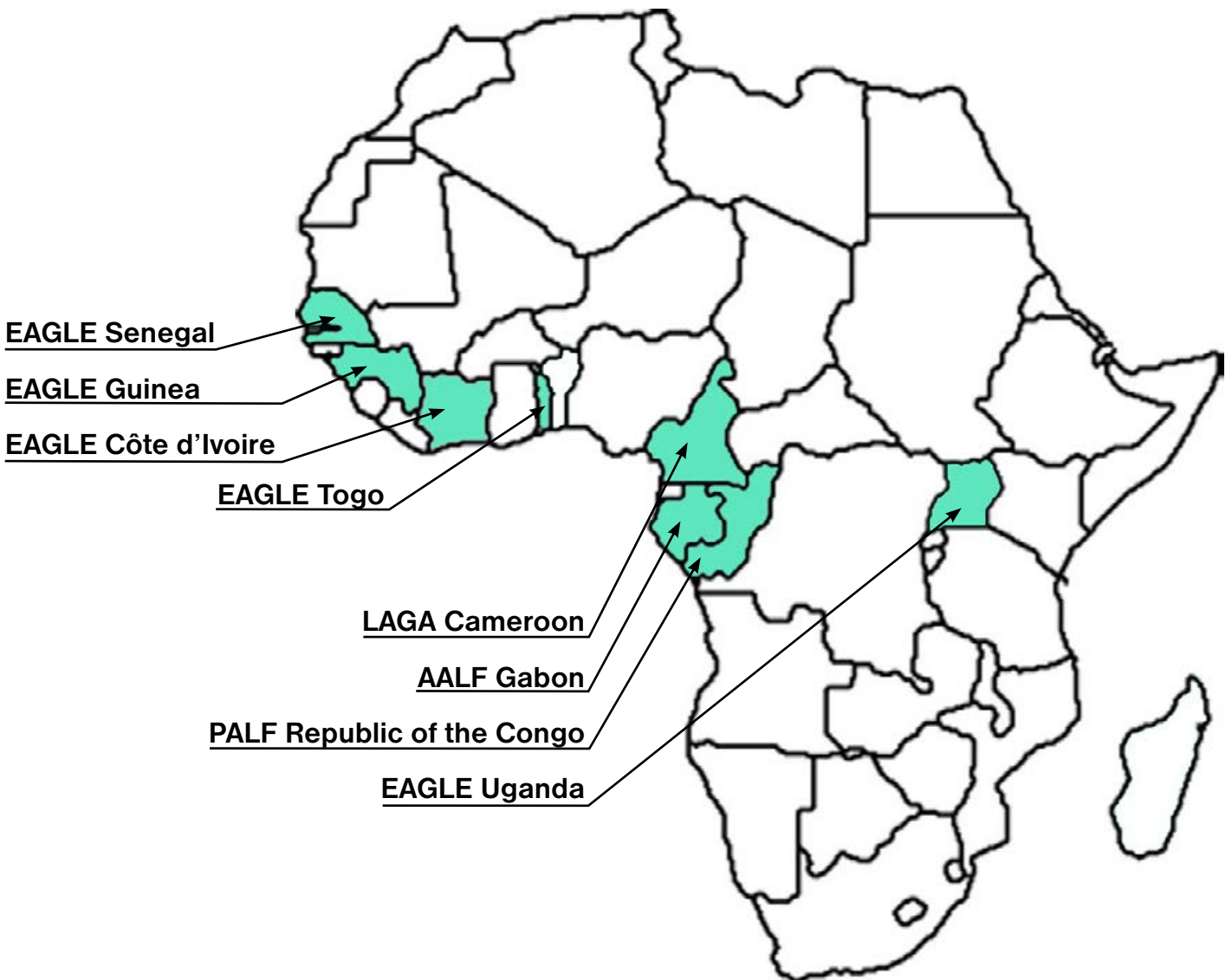
Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- 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.
- 3 Guinean investigators and a legal adviser recruited in August travelled to Senegal where they started their training.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori participated at a meeting held in the UK and organised by Conservation-Litigation.org of the Lancaster University. The meeting focused on environmental litigation - damages awarded in environmental cases or any other forms of reparations. The meeting brought together NGO experts from several countries notably Indonesia, the US, India, Liberia, Kenya among others. He highlighted the vast experiences and examples from the various countries of the EAGLE Network.

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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