



EAGLE

September 2020
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *14 wildlife traffickers arrested this month*
- ✓ *2 parrot traffickers, one of them a member of one of the most important international bird trafficking networks in Cameroon, arrested. They were released by a corrupt Commander and following LAGA's intervention, they were rearrested.*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks, and a ring of traffickers crushed in Gabon*
- ✓ *7 more ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon with 10 tusks in two operations*
- ✓ *Legal team of AALF supported a case of a corrupt gendarme arrested by Judicial Police with 6 tusks in Gabon*



2 parrot traffickers were arrested with 3 African Grey Parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets in Cameroon.



4 ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks and a leopard skin in Gabon.

Summary

14 wildlife traffickers were arrested this month.

2 parrot traffickers were arrested with 3 African Grey Parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets in Cameroon. One of them is a major dealer, a member of one of the most important international bird trafficking networks in the country and has spent 3 years evading justice. He is responsible for hundreds of birds exported illegally. The first trafficker was arrested selling 2 African grey parrots and 4 Rose-ringed parakeets at a roadside in the capital city. The owner of the parrots and parakeets was arrested one hour later at his residence with one additional African grey parrot and 2 Rose-ringed parakeets. After they were arrested for the first time a corrupt Commander decided to release them, completely against any procedure but they were rearrested following LAGA's intervention. The rearrests turned out to be very difficult as they were hiding. One of them attempted to flee but was chased and captured. They ended behind bars awaiting trial.



2 parrot traffickers were arrested with 3 African Grey Parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets in Cameroon.



5 ivory traffickers arrested, and a ring of traffickers crushed in Gabon.

3 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon with 6 tusks. The first one was arrested in the act with the contraband concealed in a suitcase. He admitted being the owner of two of the tusks, and soon revealed two other traffickers, one of them a community leader in a nearby village. Both were swiftly arrested and transported to the Libreville Central prison, where they await the trial.

4 ivory traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks and a leopard skin in the same region only one day later. Two of them were arrested in the act when they were preparing the contraband for sale. They denounced the third trafficker, who was arrested one hour later, while he was waiting for his share for the illegal transaction. He also denounced the fourth trafficker, a Gabonese teacher as being the owner of the tusks seized. He was arrested two days later by the Judicial Police.

5 ivory traffickers arrested, and a ring of traffickers crushed in Gabon. The first trafficker was arrested with one large tusk, weighing 17 kg, during the attempt to sell it. He denounced another trafficker, who was arrested next day. Interrogation later went to revealing the rest of the criminal ring, three more traffickers, who were arrested in their homes with two more tusks.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 2 parrot traffickers arrested with 3 African Grey Parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets. One of them is a major dealer, a member of one of the most important international bird trafficking networks in the country and has spent 3 years evading justice. He is responsible for hundreds of birds exported illegally. The first trafficker was arrested selling 2 African grey parrots and 4 Rose-ringed parakeets at a roadside in the capital city. The owner of the parrots and parakeets was arrested one hour later at his residence with one additional African grey parrot and 2 Rose-ringed parakeets.



After they were arrested for the first time a corrupt Commander decided to release them, completely against any procedure but they were rearrested following LAGA's intervention. The rearrests turned out to be very difficult as they were hiding. One of them attempted to flee but was chased and captured. They ended behind bars awaiting trial.

■ The Deputy Director and Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments held a working session with the Centre Regional Delegate, during which they discussed collaborative initiatives to improve wildlife law enforcement in the area and worked on strategies which would lead to the arrest of the parrot traffickers. Before the meeting, the Deputy Director had held an earlier meeting with the newly appointed Delegate to appraise the wildlife law enforcement situation in the region.

■ The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Research Officer No. 2 at MINFOF on issues con-

nected to the Memorandum of Understanding between MINFOF and LAGA.

■ The Deputy Director accompanied by the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments and a controller from the regional delegation held a meeting with the Commander of the Gendarmerie Operational Command Post to discuss issues pertaining to parrot trafficking and the rearrests of the two parrot traffickers.

■ A super volunteer arrived to the country for a two-month long training and experience sharing visit.



Congo – PALF

- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with authorities, including the Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests of Dolisie and Pointe-Noire, with the Commander of the Research Section in Brazzaville and others.
- Efforts for operations didn't succeed this month but will bring fruit next month.
- 2 legal advisors started their test period this month.

Gabon – AALF

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the central part of the country with 6 tusks. The first one was arrested in the act with the contraband concealed in a suitcase. He admitted being the owner of two of the tusks, and soon revealed two other traffickers, one of them a community leader in a nearby village. Both were swiftly arrested and transported to the Libreville Central prison, where they await the trial.



3 ivory traffickers arrested in the central part of the country with 6 tusks.

- 4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks and a leopard skin in the same region only one day later. Two of them were arrested in the act when they were preparing the contraband for sale. They denounced the third trafficker, who was arrested one hour later, while he was waiting for his share for the illegal transaction. He also denounced the fourth trafficker, a Gabonese teacher as being the owner of the tusks seized. He was arrested two days later by the Judicial Police.
- 5 ivory traffickers arrested, and a ring of traffickers crushed in the East of the country. The first trafficker was arrested with one large tusk, weighing 17 kg, during the attempt to sell it. He denounced another trafficker, who was arrested next day. Interrogation later went to revealing the rest of the



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criminal ring, three more traffickers, who were arrested in their homes with two more tusks.

- The Legal Team follows up an arrest and provides legal support to a case of a corrupt gendarme, arrested by the Judicial Police with 6 ivory tusks in the West of the country.
- The Director and the Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of the General Research Directorate (DGR), the Director of Investigations of DGR and the General Secretary of the Chancellery. They also held a meeting with the General Secretary of the Justice Ministry.



5 ivory traffickers arrested, and a ring of traffickers crushed in the East of the country.

- The Director had four important meetings : with the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the General Director of Forests, with Technical Director of the National Agency of National Parks and with the a EU official in charge of environment aspects.
- The Director and the EAGLE financial officer have been invited by the new CEEAC (ECCAS) Commissaire à l'Environnement, Ressources Naturelles, Agriculture et Développement Rural.
- The Legal Team held series of meetings with the authorities, including the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Anti-poaching, several provincial directors of Water and Forests, several State Counsels, Judicial Police officers and others.

- A Legal Adviser participated at a working session at the Ministry of Water and Forest on the validation of the legal guide on wildlife in Gabon.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Deputy Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering (OCRTIDB). He discussed with him the evolution of the criminal cases on which EAGLE Togo and OCRTIDB collaborate.
- The Media Officer met with 18 journalists from the Plateaux region to strengthen cooperation with the media professionals and support the deterrent role of the media pieces produced by EAGLE Togo.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator met with the Minister of the Interior to present the mission of EAGLE Senegal, to thank the Minister for his active collaboration during the arrest operation of major traffickers in March 2020 and to discuss the agreement of collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and the General Directorate of Police (DGPN).
- EAGLE Senegal is legally supporting the project of sniffer dogs. An instructor arrived for an intense three weeks training with participation of the EAGLE Coordinator and three police officers from drug intervention and enforcement units. The dogs are trained to detect ivory and narcotics.

Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with the authorities, including the Attorney General of Parakou, several State Counsels, the Chief Registrar of the Court of Appeal of Parakou, the Chief Registrar of the Abomey Court, the Clerk of the Correctional Chamber near the Court of Appeal of Parakou, several Clerks of the Chamber of Flagrante delict at different courts, the Secretary of the Chief Registrar of the Aplahoué Tribunal and others.
- Intensive recruitment process continued to strengthen investigation department. One investigator started test period this month.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 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.
- The Coordinator and The Assistant Coordinator had a working session with the NGO Akatia to discuss about the future creation of a sanctuary for chimpanzees and the future seizure of animals by the project EAGLE CI.
- Efforts for operations didn't succeed this month but will bring fruit next month.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- The coordinator held a meeting with the Director and the Secretary General of House of Military Veterans to discuss his participation at the General Assembly of the organisation next month.
- An investigator started testing period this month.

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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