



EAGLE

June 2022
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *9 traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin. One of the three arrested, a non-permanent worker in the secretariat of the State Prosecutor, was given some of the tusks from the court evidence room to trade*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 153 kg of pangolin scales near the border with Liberia*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 35 ivory bracelets, 20 elephant tail bracelets and a tiny tusk in Senegal*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon in Gabon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo*



2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 153 kg of pangolin scales



A trafficker arrested in Gabon with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon

Summary

3 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin. The ivory trafficking is linked to some personnel of the justice system of the area. One of the three arrested, a non-permanent worker in the secretariat of the State Counsel, was given by other officials some of the tusks from the court evidence room to trade.

2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 153 kg of pangolin scales. They are brothers and were arrested near the border with Liberia. They admitted to trade with Nigerians and Chinese in volumes of tons. They ran a cross-border trade with one based in Liberia and the other across the border.

A trafficker arrested with 35 ivory bracelets, 20 elephant tail bracelets and a tiny tusk in Senegal. The truncated and carved tusk was so small that a baby elephant had to be slaughtered to get it. He was arrested as he attempted trade in the tusk. He spends much of his time in Europe and has been trafficking ivory for 20 years.

A trafficker arrested in Gabon with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon. Links are under investigation for complicity of a local wildlife officer.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo. They were arrested during an attempt to sell them.



3 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin

They arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with a suitcase. The skins were concealed under dresses in the suitcase.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo



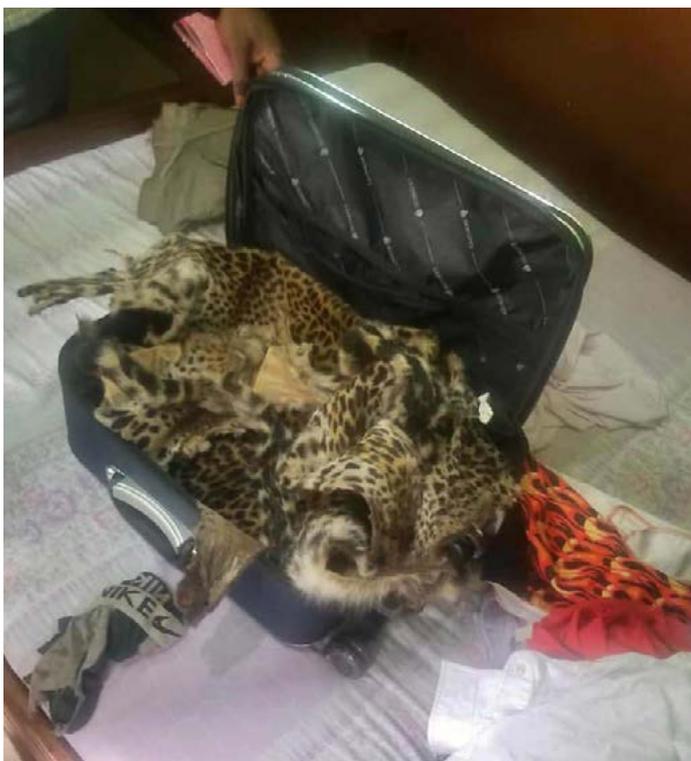
A trafficker arrested with 35 ivory bracelets, 20 elephant tail bracelets and a tiny tusk in Senegal

Cameroon – LAGA

- No operations were carried out this month and efforts were put in place to improve on results next month.
- Deputy Director held a meeting with an INTERPOL Criminal Intelligence Officer of the Regional Bureau for Central Africa to discuss on wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration.
- The Deputy Director held meetings with officials at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife on issues related to the signing of a new MoU.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with officials of the Tikki Hywood Foundation to discuss pangolin rescue and rehabilitation.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

Republic of Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins. They were arrested during an attempt to sell them. They arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with a suitcase. The skins were concealed under dresses in the suitcase. They had been trafficking for a considerable time, linking up poaching activities in remote areas with the illegal trade in towns.
- A mandrill rescued. She had been living in terrible conditions, in a very small cage, for at least a year. Members of the Jane Goodall Institute team took part in the rescue operation. The perpetrator who detained the animal is on the run and efforts are being made to arrest him. The mandrill is in rehabilitation at the Tchimpounga sanctuary by the Jane Goodall Institute with the intention to integrate it back into the wild.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with an INTERPOL Criminal Intelligence Officer of the Regional





2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins ↑

A mandrill rescued. She had been living in terrible conditions, in a very small cage, for at least a year ↓ →



Bureau for Central Africa. They discussed ongoing cases and the strengthening of collaboration.

- The Coordinator held a working session with the Second in Command of the Gendarmerie of Congo, on ongoing cases and the organization of trainings for gendarmerie officials.
- The Coordinator participated at the Italian Republic Day event held at the Italian Ambassador's residence. During the ceremony, she had brief

discussions with the Italian Ambassador, the EU Ambassador and the Ambassador of Venezuela among several other dignitaries and officials.

- The Coordinator, accompanied by the RALFF Coordinator, held a meeting with the Senior Advisor of the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and the Program Management Specialist of the USAID to introduce the organization and discuss wildlife law enforcement.

Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin. The ivory trafficking is linked to some personnel of the justice system of the area. One of the three arrested, a non-permanent worker in the secretariat of the State Counsel, was given by other officials some of the tusks from the court evidence room to trade. The traffickers tried trading the ivory at night. The elephant tusks that had marks on them were concealed in two large suitcases. A total of 6 elephant tusks and 17 ivory pieces were recovered. Investigations continues against accomplices in the court.
- A trafficker arrested with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon. Links are under investigation for complicity of a local wildlife officer. The animals were handed to the Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville (CIRMF) for quarantine before moving to the Lekedi Park which is a natural habitat.
- The project provided legal and logistical assistance to the wildlife and gendarmerie officials for the transfer of a trafficker arrested with 3 elephant tusks, 2 leopard skins, 2 teeth and a 12-gauge



3 traffickers arrested with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin

shotgun, to be presented to a State Council in Libreville.

- 3 traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison. They were arrested in March 2022 with 2 elephant tusks.
- 3 traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in jail. They were arrested in April 2022 with 4 elephant tusks and 3 leopard skins.



A trafficker arrested with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon

- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in February 2022 with 6 pieces of ivory weighing some 20kg.
- 3 traffickers were sentenced to 9 months in jail. They were arrested in May 2022 with 2 ivory tusks.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in jail.

They were arrested in March 2022 with 8 pieces of ivory.

- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with an official in charge of biodiversity at a railway company to discuss wildlife law enforcement.

- 23 meetings were held by the Activities Coordinator and legal advisers with several administrative, judicial and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration and to follow up ongoing wildlife cases

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator participated at the US Independence Day event during which he had brief discussions with the Minister of Environment and Forestry Resources, the US Ambassador, the official in charge of diplomatic issues at the French Embassy. During discussions, he focused on the activities of EAGLE Togo and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Resources to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- A trafficker arrested with 35 ivory bracelets, 20 elephant tail bracelets and a tiny tusk. The truncated and carved tusk was so small that a baby elephant had to be murdered to get it. He was arrested as he attempted trade in the tusk. He was cautious and tough to handle. He spends much of his time in Europe and has been trafficking ivory for 20 years. This was a second arrest operation of the World Environment Day – June 5.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in jail. They were arrested in July 2019 with lion, leopard and crocodile skins.



- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the General Directorate of Customs where meetings were held.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

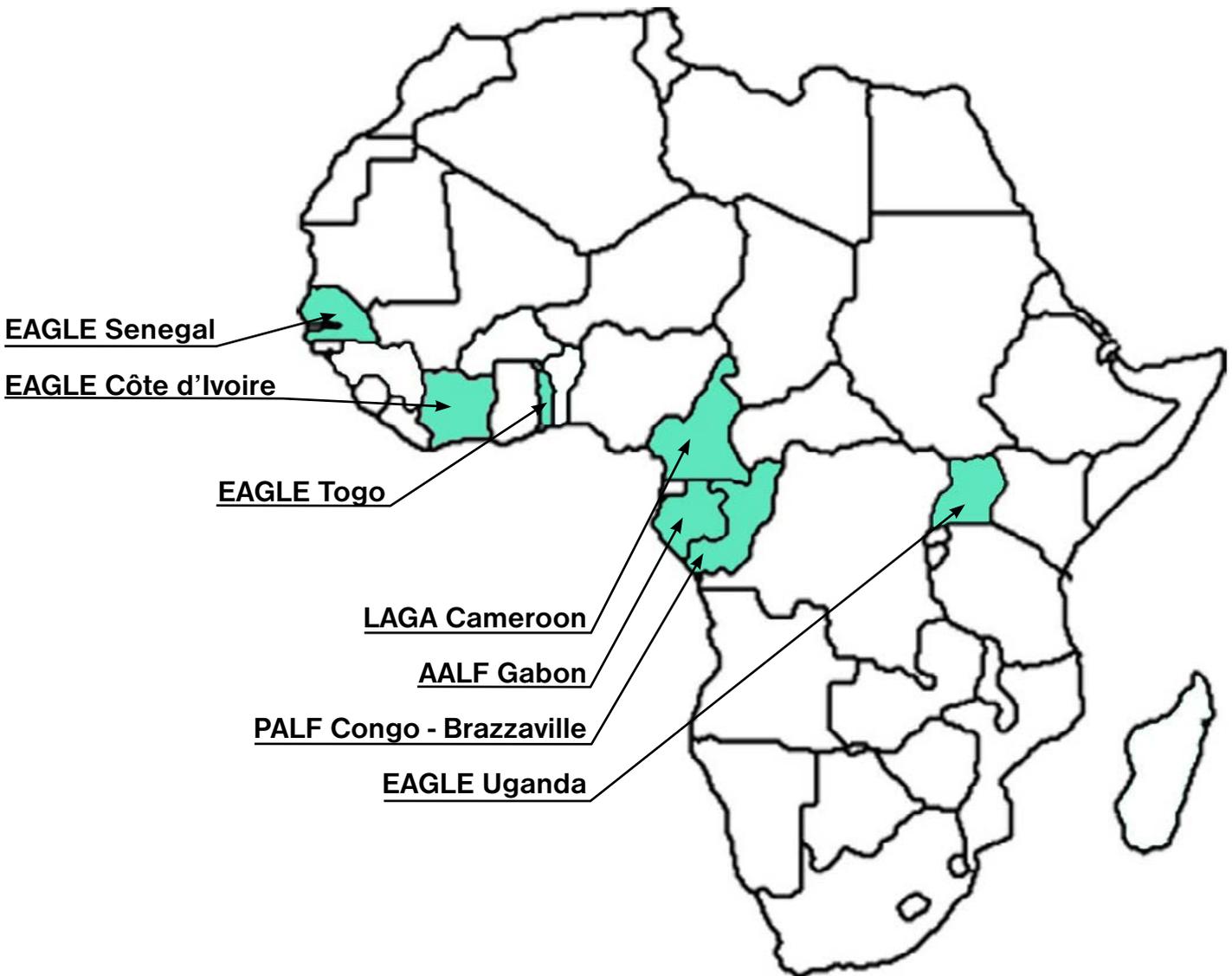
- 2 traffickers arrested with 153 kg of pangolin scales. They are brothers and were arrested near the border with Liberia. They admitted to trade with Nigerians and Chinese in volumes of tons. They ran a cross-border trade with one based in Liberia and the other across the border. The brothers turned very fast against each other revealing much insights on the organised illegal trade threatening pangolins. They used motorcycles to transport the contraband across the border
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife to discuss wildlife trafficking and to strengthen collaboration.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for operations.
- The Coordinator worked closely with the OIPR (the Ivorian administration in charge of the national parks) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Action Needed:

- A letter to the Ministry of Justice in order to reaffirm the necessity of the collaboration of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire with them and the need of long term instruction periods at the court for big cases.



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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