



EAGLE

March 2022
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *16 traffickers arrested in 4 countries.*
- ✓ *6 traffickers arrested with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of Cameroon*
- ✓ *A traditional chief arrested and 2 baby chimps rescued in Cameroon. They were being held captive in iron cages.*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 5 tusks and an elephant tail in Côte d'Ivoire during the dismantling of an international trafficking ring*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Togo*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon*



3 traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Togo



A traditional chief arrested and 2 baby chimps rescued in Cameroon

Summary

6 traffickers arrested with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of Cameroon. The first trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested in a series of arrests during the following two days. One of them concealed parts of protected wildlife species including the limbs and other parts of a chimp in his car. A dead pangolin was also recovered from the vehicle.

A traditional chief arrested and 2 baby chimps rescued in Cameroon. He had iron cages to detain and imprison wild animals including the baby chimps that kept holding the bars desperately longing to be outside. At one point during his arrest, the traditional chief shouted - "bring me my gun! I will kill these animals; they will not be taken alive from here".

A trafficker arrested with 5 tusks and an elephant tail. He was arrested in the North East of Côte d'Ivoire, close to the Ghanaian border and in an area with major security concerns. He admitted to killing the elephants in the Comoe National Park that only has about 120 wild elephants left in a country that counts around 600 elephants.

3 traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Togo. The elephant tusks were smuggled all the way from



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Burkina Faso by an international trafficking ring. One of the traffickers who is based in Burkina Faso organized the smuggling of the contraband out of the country. In Benin, one of them received the tusks and the others were responsible for selling them. The



6 traffickers arrested with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of Cameroon.

smart and cautious traffickers transported the tusks concealed in a grain bag. They were arrested while attempting to sell the ivory.

3 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon. The traffickers, 2 Gabonese women and a Cameroonian, were arrested in Libreville as they attempted to sell the ivory. They carefully concealed the ivory in a backpack and took a cab to an area close to the scene of the transaction. They completed the rest of the distance on foot while keeping a careful watch on the surroundings.

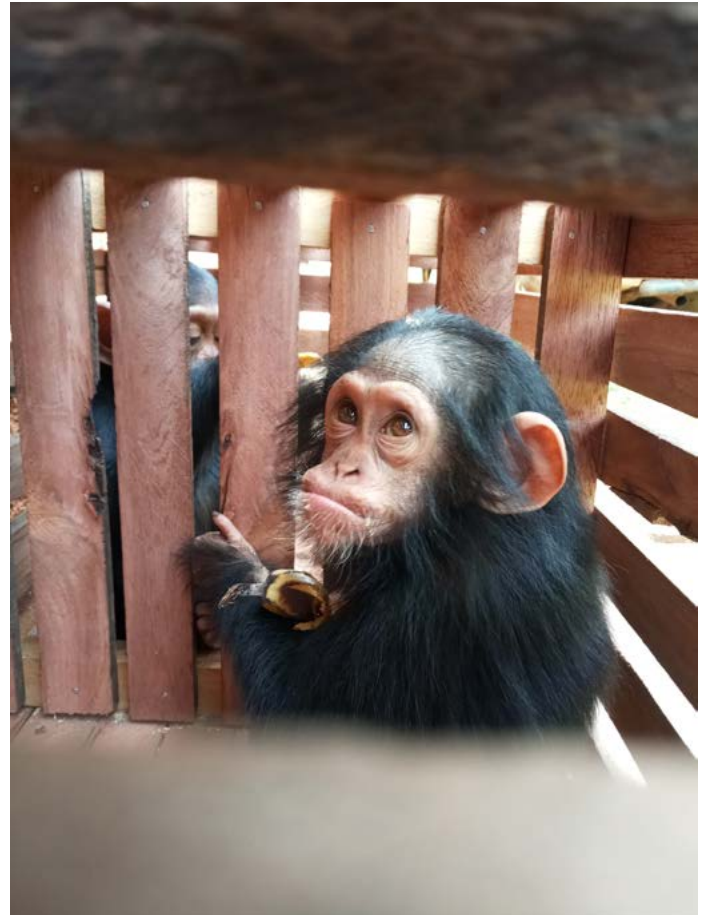
2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon. The traffickers were arrested during their attempts to sell the elephant tusks which they had cut into 8 pieces. The ivory that weighed a total of 55.6kg was concealed in the two backpacks.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 6 traffickers arrested with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of the country. The first trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested in a series of arrests during the following two days. One of them concealed parts of protected wildlife

species including the limbs and other parts of a chimp in his car. A dead pangolin was also recovered from the vehicle.

■ A traditional chief arrested and 2 baby chimps rescued. He had iron cages to detain and imprison wild animals including the baby chimps that kept holding the bars desperately longing to be out-





6 traffickers arrested with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of the country.



side. At one point during his arrest, the traditional chief shouted - "bring me my gun! I will kill these animals; they will not be taken alive from here". He resisted arrest and tried to bully the arresting team

- to letting him free. He bought the animals in the south of the country and attempted to sell them in Yaoundé.
- The Deputy Director did a presentation on wildlife law enforcement procedures during a training for police, customs and wildlife officials of the three northern regions of the country.
- He held a meeting with the State Counsel in Garoua to pave the way for close collaboration with the team during operations.
- He held another meeting with the Chief of Customs in the North Region to strengthen collaboration.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels to discuss ongoing wildlife cases at their respective jurisdictions.

Congo – PALF

- In a landmark prosecution, a trafficker was sentenced to 2 years in jail. He was arrested in February with 94 African grey parrots. This is the first significant ruling by the courts against an African grey parrot trafficker in the country.
- The project provided logistics assistance in the transportation of a chimpanzee that was rescued from a remote village by officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy. In collaboration with the Aspinall Foundation and the Jane Goodall Institute, it was taken to Tchimpounga sanctuary after a long journey by river, air and road.
- The project signed up to the CARE project (Confiscated Animals- Rescue & Enforcement Project) of the Jane Goodall Institute. It consists of a first aid training to be given to the Team following the recent increase in confiscations of live primates, birds and other wildlife that need proper care and support.
- The Coordinator, accompanied by the Aspinall Foundation Coordinator, met with the new Italian Ambassador to discuss the fight against wildlife trafficking in the country.
- She also held meetings with the Regional Commander of the Gendarmerie of Brazzaville as well as the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy.
- The recruitment process was intensified to strengthen the legal department. Two legal advisers started their test periods.

Gabon – AALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks. The traffickers were arrested during their attempts to sell the elephant tusks they had cut into 8 pieces. The ivory that weighed a total of 55.6 kg was concealed in two backpacks.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 tusks. The traffickers, 2 Gabonese women and a Cameroonian, were arrested in Libreville as they attempted to sell the ivory. They carefully concealed the ivory in a backpack, took a cab to an area close to the scene of the transaction. They completed the rest of the distance on foot while keeping a careful watch on the surroundings.
- The project provided logistics assistance to the Directorate of General Research (DGR) for the transfer of 3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks, to be presented to a State Council in Libreville.



The Activities Coordinator granted an interview to Euronews, an international TV news channel, on wildlife trafficking and law enforcement efforts in Gabon.

- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison. They were arrested in September 2021 with 4 elephant tusks.
- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in August 2021 with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, a python head, giant pangolin scales, an elephant tail, a monkey skull and 12 leopard teeth.

- 3 traffickers were sentenced to one and a half year in jail. They were arrested in December 2020 with 8 elephant tusks.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Gendarmerie School to plan for the training of officers of the Gendarmerie headquarters.
- 26 meetings were held by the legal advisers with several high-ranking administrative, judicial and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration and to follow up ongoing wildlife cases. Meetings were

held with some Commanders of Judicial Police, Antenna Heads of the DGR, the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Director of Economic and Financial Affairs of the National Police. Provincial Directors of Water and Forests and some State Counsels.

- The Activities Coordinator granted an interview to Euronews, an international TV news channel, on wildlife trafficking and law enforcement efforts in Gabon.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 3 traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks. The elephant tusks were smuggled all the way from Burkina Faso by an international trafficking ring. One of the traffickers who is based in Burkina Faso organized the smuggling of the contraband



out of the country. In Benin, one of them received the tusks and the others were responsible for selling them. The smart and cautious traffickers transported the tusks concealed in a grain bag. They were arrested while attempting to sell the ivory. One of the traffickers took up an undercover position not very far from where negotiations were going on. He too was arrested shortly after the first two were apprehended.

- The Assistant Coordinator held several meetings with the Assistant Director of OCRTIDB, the State Counsel in Lomé and the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division who is the CITES Focal Point to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Country Representative of GRET (the Exchange and Technological Group) to discuss avenues for collaboration.

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.
- Measures including the recruitment of new investigators are being implemented to boost the number arrests.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- A trafficker arrested with 5 tusks and an elephant tail. He was arrested in the North East of the country, close to the Ghanaian border and in an area with major security concerns. He admitted to killing the elephants in the Comoe National Park that has only about 120 wild elephants left in a country that counts around 600 elephants. The park has come under severe pressures in the recent past, from the political crisis and civil wars and now from terrorists' infiltrations from Burkina Faso, drawn to it by its natural resources. It is one of the largest parks in West Africa.
- He was quickly tried and sentenced to a stiff prison sentence of one and a half year. The sentence is exceptionally high according to the wildlife law, as the case attracted public interest because the elephants were killed in Côte d'Ivoire and their dwindling population is now a concern in the country.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife who is the CITES focal point to discuss wildlife trafficking.



- The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for operations.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

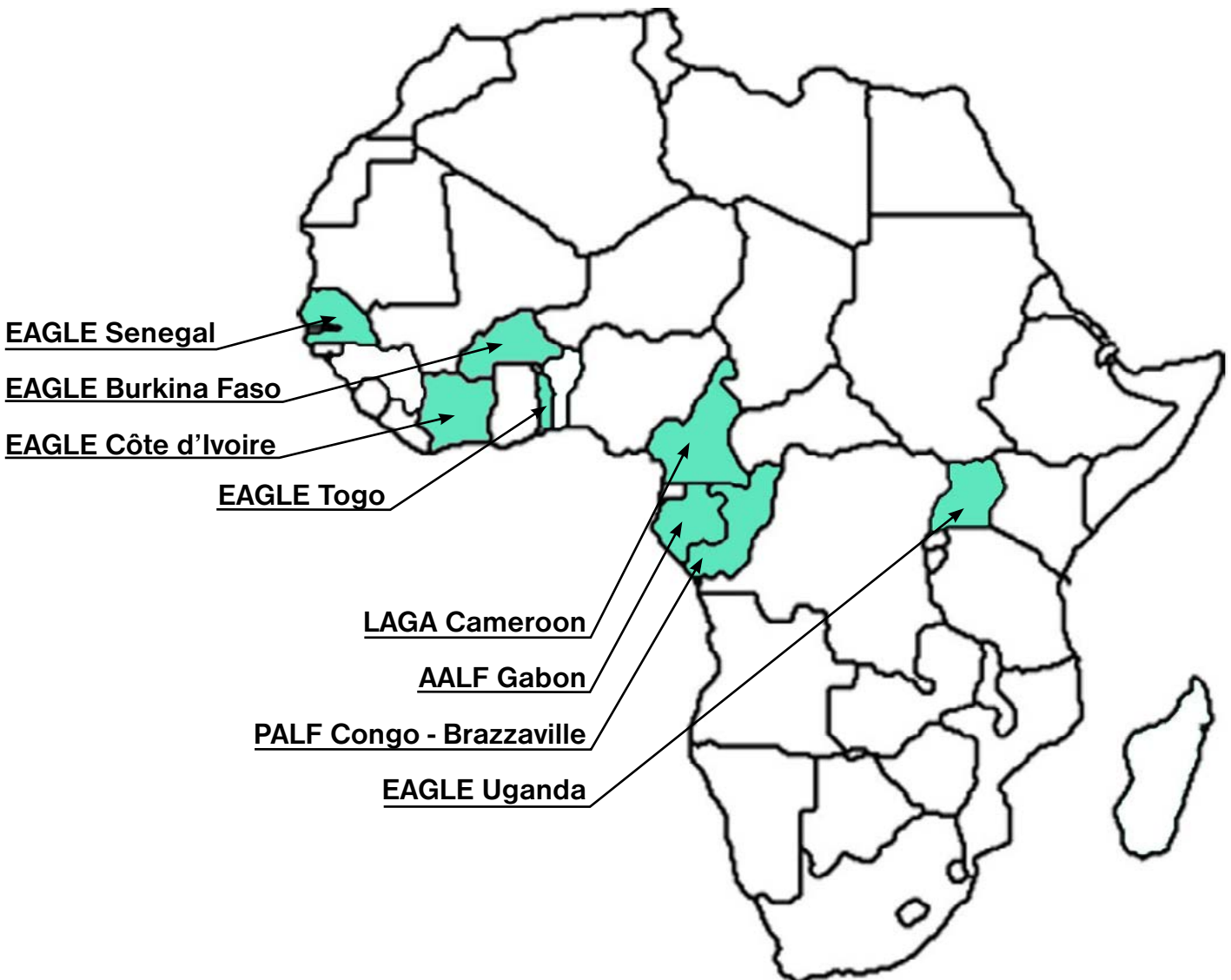
- The security situation continues to pose challenges as jihadist attacks in parts of the country make it difficult for investigations and operations to be carried out smoothly.
- The Coordinator had a call with a Provincial Director of Water, Energy and the Environment to discuss measures to ensure 3 traffickers ordered to pay damages to the state in June 2021 comply with the court decision.

Headquarters

- EAGLE advised and supported Czech conservationists in their bringing about of the crackdown on an Indonesian live animals trafficking ring in

Sumatra and the arrest of its top member - a trafficker nicknamed "Greed".

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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