



EAGLE

August 2022
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *9 traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Gabon with 12 elephant tusks*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested in Togo with 2 tusks*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 122 kg of pangolin scales in Abidjan. One of them is based in Liberia and the other in Côte d'Ivoire. They developed a growing illegal business generating the mass slaughter of pangolins*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Congo with a sea turtle and 123 eggs. He worked as a machine operator for a Chinese fishing company*



2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 122 kg of pangolin scales in Abidjan



A trafficker arrested in Gabon with 12 elephant tusks weighing 19.6 kg

Summary

A trafficker arrested in Gabon with 12 elephant tusks weighing 19.6 kg. He was arrested as he attempted to sell the tusks. The trafficker concealed the tusks inside water in a river. He arrived at the scene of transaction shortly before his arrest with the tusks concealed inside a rice bag.



5 traffickers arrested in Togo with 2 elephant tusks.

5 traffickers arrested in Togo with 2 elephant tusks. In December last year, an elephant was shot and killed in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park by one of the traffickers. He entrusted the 2 tusks from the elephant to a second trafficker who was assisted by 3 others to search for a buyer. The 4 traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell the elephant tusks in Sokodé, a town in Central Togo. They denounced the trafficker who shot the elephant in the park and he too was swiftly arrested.

2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 122 kg of pangolin scales in Abidjan. One of them is based in Liberia and the other in Côte d'Ivoire as they developed a flourishing and growing illegal business generating the mass slaughter of pangolins. The Liberia-based trafficker smuggled the pangolin scales from Liberia to Abidjan. He met the second trafficker who concealed the contraband in her store as they searched for prospective buyers. They were arrested in a small street in a popular neighborhood in Abidjan as they offloaded 3 bags containing the pangolin scales from a hired taxi.

A trafficker arrested in Congo with a sea turtle and 123 eggs in his house in Pointe Noire by the gendarmerie. The trafficker caught the turtle on the beach and unfortunately killed it before he was arrested. He planned to sell the meat even though he was perfectly aware his actions were illegal. He worked as a machine operator for a Chinese fishing company.



A trafficker arrested in Congo with a sea turtle and 123 eggs

Cameroon – LAGA

- No operations were carried out this month and internal meetings were held to redouble efforts and design new strategies to imperatively improve on results next month.
- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop organized by TRAFFIC to train Nsimalen airport officials including customs, police, gendarmerie

officials, among many others. He did a presentation on the wildlife law enforcement process.

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

Republic of Congo – PALF

- A trafficker arrested with a sea turtle and 123 eggs in his house in Pointe Noire by the gendarmerie. The trafficker caught the turtle on the beach and unfortunately killed it before he was arrested. He planned to sell the meat even though he was perfectly aware his actions were -illegal. He worked as a machine operator for a Chinese fishing company. The procedure is ongoing and he shall soon be presented to a State Counsel.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced to 2 years in prison. They were arrested in May with 2 leopard skins and other leopard parts.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the President of the High Court and the Director of Prisons of Oyo to discuss the movement of detainees to Brazzaville and to strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.



Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker arrested with 12 elephant tusks weighing 19.6 kg. He was arrested as he attempted to sell the tusks. The trafficker concealed the tusks inside water in a river. He arrived at the scene of transaction shortly before his arrest with the tusks concealed inside a rice bag. He transported the bag in a wheelbarrow.
- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in April 2022 with 2 elephant tusks.
- 3 traffickers were sentenced to 11 months in jail. Two of them were arrested in March 2022 with several pieces of ivory including sculpted ivory and the third in April 2022.
- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in jail. He was arrested in May 2022 with 2 elephant tusks.
- The Activities Coordinator held discussions with the Chargé des affaires of the cabinet of the Commander in Chief of the National Police Force to strengthen collaboration and plan for the training of police officers from the police academy on wildlife law enforcement.
- He held a meeting with the Deputy General Director of Customs to discuss issues related to the training of customs officials on wildlife law enforcement and to strengthen collaboration.



- The Activities Coordinator and a legal adviser held two working sessions at the General Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas on the creation of a wildlife brigade at Koumameyon and to strengthen collaboration.
- 33 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

- 5 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. In December last year, an elephant was shot and killed in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park by one of the traffickers. He entrusted the 2 tusks from the elephant to a second trafficker who was assisted by 3 others to search for a buyer. The 4 traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell the elephant tusks in Sokodé, a town in Central Togo. They arrived the scene of transaction with the elephant tusks concealed among fresh grass in a rice bag that was strapped to a motorcycle. Two of the traffickers tried to escape during the arrest operation but were quickly apprehended. They



denounced the trafficker who shot the elephant in the park and he too was swiftly arrested.

- The Assistant Coordinator held a series of meetings with authorities including the State Counsel in Sokodé, the Deputy Director of OCRTIDB, the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division, CITES Focal Point, the Central Regional Director of the Environment and Forest Resources and the Director of Police Sector No. 3. The objective of the meetings was to establish and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 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.
- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during 3 training sessions for 45 law enforcement officers including customs,

wildlife and border police officers on 3 different training sites. The objective of the trainings was to provide theoretical, practical and operational skills in fighting wildlife crime. Practical exercises included the use of police dogs.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 2 traffickers arrested with 122 kg of pangolin scales in Abidjan. One of them is based in Liberia and the other in Côte d'Ivoire. They developed a growing illegal business generating the mass slaughter of pangolins. The Liberia-based trafficker smuggled the pangolin scales from Liberia to Abidjan. He met the second trafficker who concealed the contraband in her store as they searched for prospective buyers. They were arrested in a small street in a popular neighbourhood in Abidjan as they offloaded 3 bags con-



taining the pangolin scales from a hired taxi. The case is similar to the arrest last June of 2 brothers in Guiglo, an Ivorian town near Liberia, with 153 kg of pangolin scales. They also smuggled it from Liberia. It shows how corruption effectively enables cross border trafficking.

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



Headquarters

- Danielle Mbui, the EAGLE Finance Officer travelled to the Republic of Congo for a three-week mission to train the accountant on EAGLE financial procedures.

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.

Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
2. Congo – PALF – tiffany@eagle-enforcement.org
3. Gabon – AALF – luc@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Togo – EAGLE Togo: darius@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Côte d'Ivoire - gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org