



EAGLE

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EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *23 traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with almost 100 kg of ivory in a crackdown on a Nigerian ivory gang*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 2 human skeletons*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 10 elephant tusks weighing 56 kg, in a crackdown on an ivory network that operates in the sub region*
- ✓ *3 traffickers, including a corrupt wildlife officer, arrested in Congo with 2 ivory tusks*
- ✓ *3 traffickers, including a Chadian national, arrested in Gabon with 6 elephant tusks weighing 24 kg*
- ✓ *3 traffickers, including a logging company worker, arrested in Gabon with 2 tusks*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested and a mandrill rescued in Cameroon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued in Congo*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins and 2 crocodile skins*
- ✓ *A fugitive mandrill trafficker arrested in Congo*



3 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with almost 100 kg of ivory



A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued in Congo.

Summary

3 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with almost 100 kg of ivory in a crackdown on a Nigerian ivory gang. The ring controlled trafficking lines to Nigeria and to Cote d'Ivoire and moved ivory from as far as Congo. One of them claimed to have been smuggling ivory for over 35 years.

4 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 2 human skeletons. Their arrest is a result of an investigation into the illegal online trade in pangolin scales and leopard skins to India. LAGA and the entire EAGLE Network, as activists, do our best to fight injustice. Human sacrifice and the illegal trade in human bones for black magic and rituals is one of such horrible crimes.



3 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 elephant tusks weighing 24 kg.

2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 10 elephant tusks weighing 56 kg. The traffickers are linked to Abdoul Salami, arrested in 2021 with 2 tons of pangolin scales and leopard skins. The ring operates in Congo, Gabon, Nigeria and beyond.

3 traffickers, including a corrupt wildlife officer, arrested in Congo with 2 ivory tusks. The arrested official is a Chief of Post at the Ministry of Forestry Economy. The wildlife officer of 15 years of service was violent during the arrest and injured a policeman in his fight to escape. For long, the corrupt officer was deep into ivory trafficking, taking a percentage of the profits and leading negotiations and transactions.

3 traffickers, including a logging company worker, arrested in Gabon with 2 tusks. One of the traffickers was arrested with the elephant tusks concealed in a

knapsack. The others, one of them a Chadian, were arrested three days later in another town.

3 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 elephant tusks weighing 24 kg. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender, arrested 5 years ago before Gabon changed the law to a more deterring imprisonment. This time he will feel the difference.

2 traffickers arrested and a mandrill rescued in Cameroon. The mandrill was forcefully pushed into a sack and transported to be traded illegally. The animal was brought by a worker in a logging company near the Congolese border.

A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued in Congo. He is a national of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. The mandrill was transferred to the Tchimpounga sanctuary for care and support.

A trafficker arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins and 2 crocodile skins. He arrived on a motorbike with the skins concealed inside a rice bag.

A fugitive mandrill trafficker arrested in Congo. He had been on the run since June when a mandrill was seized from his property.



A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued in Congo.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 10 elephant tusks weighing 56 kg. They concealed the tusks in a suitcase and transported it on a motorcycle to a residence where they were expected to carry out the transaction. Soon after they arrived, the arresting team moved in and apprehended them. The contraband was concealed in Briqueterie, a notorious neighbourhood in Yaounde known for

wildlife trafficking and other dangerous criminal activities. The traffickers belong to a trafficking ring operating in major ivory trafficking hotspots in the country and especially in a town close to the border with Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. The traffickers are linked to Abdoul Salami, arrested in 2021 with 2 tons of pangolin scales and leopard skins. The ring operates in Congo, Gabon, Nige-



2 traffickers arrested with 10 elephant tusks weighing 56 kg.



ria and beyond. Close relatives attempted to free the traffickers by applying pressure on wildlife officials but the attempts were combated.

■ 4 traffickers arrested with 2 human skeletons. They transported the skeletons concealed inside a big plastic bag the south west of the country to Douala where they lodged in a luxury hotel. Later, they moved to another hotel to sell the skeletons



4 traffickers arrested with 2 human skeletons



3 traffickers arrested with almost 100 kg of ivory in a crackdown on a Nigerian ivory gang.



2 traffickers arrested and a mandrill rescued.



when the arresting team jumped in and apprehended them red handed. Their arrest is a result of an investigation into the illegal online trade in pangolin scales and leopard skins to India. LAGA and the entire EAGLE Network, as activists, do our best to fight injustice. Human sacrifice and the

illegal trade in human bones for black magic and rituals is one of such horrible crimes.

- 3 traffickers arrested with almost 100 kg of ivory in a crackdown on a Nigerian ivory gang. They were arrested in Douala's notorious New Bell neighbourhood. The arresting team stormed the residence of one of the traffickers and seized the ivory concealed in two suitcases. The traffickers blocked the entrance to the residence, hid inside different rooms but were found one after the other and arrested. The ring controlled trafficking lines to Nigeria and to Cote d'Ivoire and moved ivory from as far as Congo. One of them claimed to have been smuggling ivory for over 35 years.
- 2 traffickers arrested and a mandrill rescued. The mandrill was forcefully pushed into a sack and transported to be traded illegally. The animal was brought by a worker in a logging company near the Congolese border. The poor little animal lived chained to a tree. When rescued it moved nervously and frantically inside the bag as wildlife officials tried to free him. He was taken to a zoo where he shall be given care and support, while waiting to be transferred to a sanctuary.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Sub Director of Development and Wildlife Exploitation to discuss issues related to the signing of a new

Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and lawyers' representation in wildlife cases in court.

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Centre Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

- Recruitment was intensified and a candidate put on test for investigations.
- The Media Officer travelled to Austria where she participated at the Jackson Wild Summit 2022. She held several meetings with film makers, producers, media and NGO officials on possible areas of media collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Republic of Congo – PALF

- A fugitive mandrill trafficker arrested. He had been on the run since June when a mandrill was seized from his property. His girlfriend was arrested at the time and released. He went hiding, and was not seen for weeks. Three months later, he returned home, was tracked and arrested. He shall now face the full force of the law.
- A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued. A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued. He is a na-

tional of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. The mandrill was transferred to the Tchimpounga sanctuary for care and support. He shall be rehabilitated at the sanctuary with the intention to integrate him back into the wild.

- 3 traffickers, including a corrupt wildlife officer, arrested with 2 ivory tusks. The arrested official is a Chief of Post at the Ministry of Forestry Economy. The wildlife officer of 15 years of service was violent during the arrest and injured a gendarme in his fight to escape. For long, the corrupt officer



A fugitive mandrill trafficker arrested.



was deep into ivory trafficking, taking a percentage of the profits and leading negotiations and transactions. He also facilitated movements using his rank as cover to get through control barriers and checkpoints without being checked. This is a strong action by the Ministry against bad practices and for good governance and a win in the fight against corruption. The Ministry responded vigorously, fighting corruption and trafficking in its ranks.

- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested last month with a dead sea turtle and 123 eggs. This is a strong decision especially as marine cases are often overlooked.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Justice to discuss ongoing cases and further collaboration.
- She also held several meetings with the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss media coverage as well as lawyer contracts and ongoing cases.

3 traffickers, including a corrupt wildlife officer, arrested with 2 ivory tusks.



A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued.

- The Coordinator held several meetings in Dolisie with high officials including the Regional Commander of the Gendarmerie, the State Counsel, and the Ministry’s lawyer. Discussions focused on the fight against wildlife crime and ongoing cases in Dolisie.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the new Coordinator of the Aspinal Foundation to discuss the signing of the MoU with the Ministry of Forestry Economy.

Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers, including a logging company worker, arrested in Gabon with 2 tusks. One of the traffickers was arrested with the elephant tusks concealed in a knapsack. He boarded a taxi to the place of transaction. He denounced two other traffickers. The others, one of them a Chadian, were arrested three days later in another town. The fourth trafficker, who is a repeat offender and well known to the police for his criminal activities, is still on the run. The tusks were cut into 4 pieces
- 3 traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks weighing 24 kg. The three were arrested in two swift



3 traffickers, including a logging company worker, arrested in Gabon with 2 tusks.

back-to-back operations in two different towns. One of the traffickers, who operates under the guise of an entrepreneur, was arrested as he attempted to sell the elephant tusks that were cut into 8 pieces. He is the middleman of the group. He travelled over 100 km with the tusks concealed inside a black knapsack. After his arrest, investigations continued and two others were arrested in

another town. During a house search that followed, two 12-gauge guns and several rifle bullets were found. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender, arrested 5 years ago before Gabon changed the law to a more deterring imprisonment. This time he will feel the difference.

- A Lebanese manager of a logging company has been arrested by the police with 2 elephant tusks found in his room. The project helped with the legal follow up and logistics.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in March with 3 elephant tusks.
- The Team participated in the training of 65 student police officers of the National Police School on wildlife law enforcement.
- Several meetings were held in the Estuaire, Ogooué-Lolo and Ngounié provinces with judicial, customs, police, and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration, follow up ongoing wildlife cases and discuss the organization of training sessions on wildlife law enforcement.



3 traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks weighing 24 kg.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator met with the Minister of the Environment and Forest Resources to discuss the signing of the MoU and strengthen the fight against wildlife trafficking in the country. He used the occasion to present the results obtained by EAGLE Togo within the framework of the collaboration with the Ministry.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Chief of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division and CITES Focal Point, to explore collaborative avenues to effectively combat illegal wildlife exports.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins and 2 crocodile skins. He was arrested after a game of “cat and mouse” which lasted more than 72 hours between the trafficker and the arresting team. He used well known tricks to avoid giving out his location and trying to evade arrest. He arrived on a motorbike with the skins folded and concealed inside a rice bag. The trafficker travelled some 90 km with the contraband in a public transport car to the town where he was arrested. He looked confident during his attempts to sell the skins, indicating he mastered the trade. He had once been arrested by Niokolo Koba National Park officials for trafficking and not jailed. The illegal trade in leopard skins is growing and a real threat to their survival.



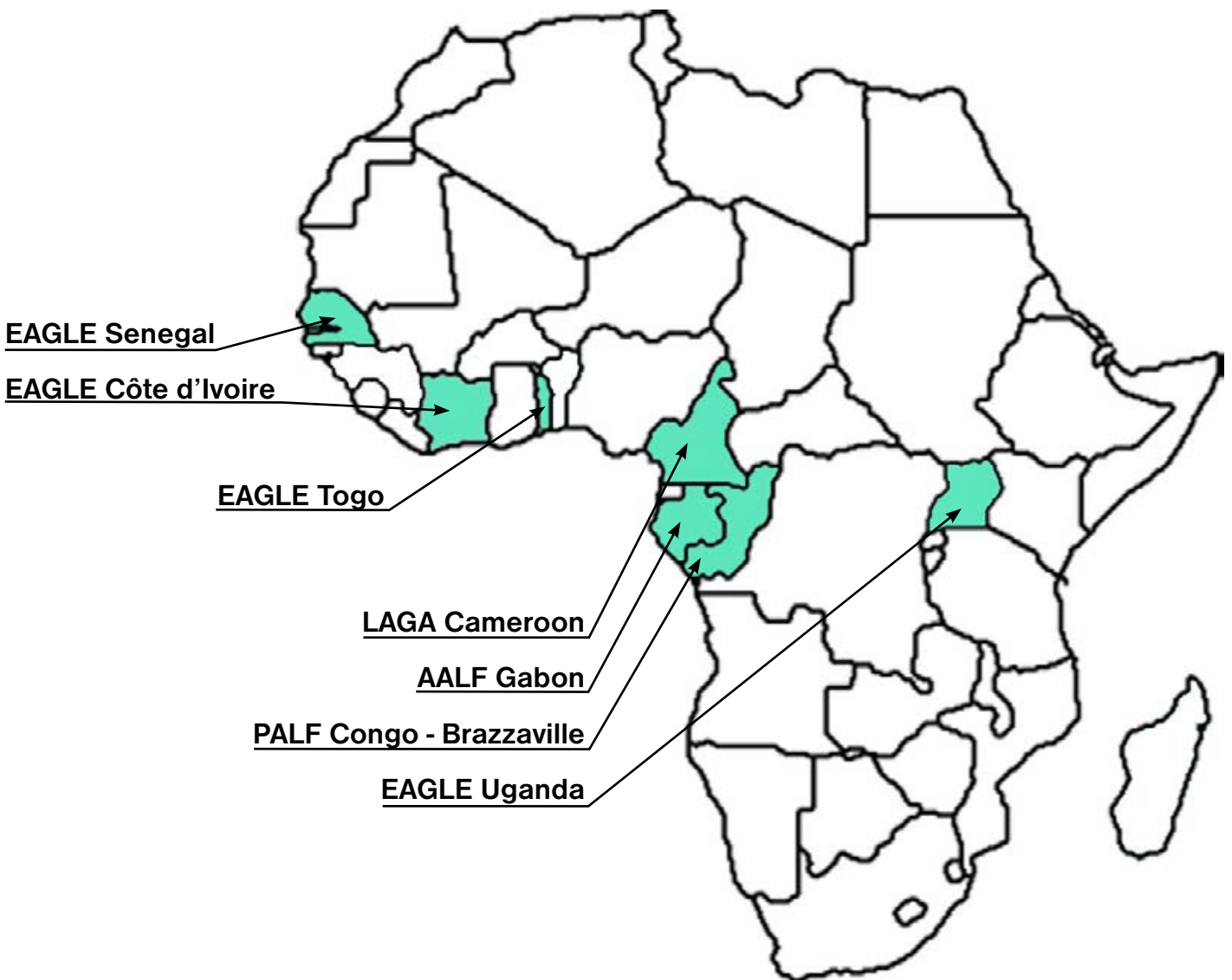
Côte d’Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d’Ivoire

- The Coordinator met the Director of Wildlife and CITES focal point to discuss training sessions for wildlife agents and to strengthen collaboration with Ministry officials.
- The Coordinator met the UCT in order to advance on long term investigations and to strengthen collaboration.

Headquarters

- Danielle Mbui, the EAGLE Finance Officer travelled to Côte d’Ivoire for a three-week mission to provide assistance in financial management and train the Team on EAGLE financial procedures.

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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