



EAGLE

November 2022
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **9 traffickers arrested in 4 countries**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested in Senegal with a leopard skin. This arrest shows a link between the illegal wildlife trade and jihadists and armed factions in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger**
- ✓ **3 ivory traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 4 pieces of tusks weighing 26 kg indicating corruption in Mali**
- ✓ **3 ivory traffickers of Benin nationality arrested with 2 tusks in Togo indicating corruption in Benin**
- ✓ **A trafficker arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon**
- ✓ **A new Collaboration Agreement has been signed between the PALF project and the Government of the Republic of the Congo**



A trafficker arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon



2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Senegal.

Summary

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Senegal. On their phones were horrible images of massacred lions and elephants as well as human rights atrocities, dead human bodies, and huge stocks of automatic weapons. The traffickers, one of whom is a Niger national, smuggled the skin from Mali. This arrest shows a link between the illegal wildlife trade and jihadists and armed factions in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger with connections to some North African countries.

3 ivory traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 4 pieces of tusks weighing 26 kg. Their criminal operation stretched to Mali where this ivory was trafficked



from. The markings on the ivory indicates corruption in Mali, and authorities reselling of seized contraband back to criminals.

3 ivory traffickers of Benin nationality arrested with 2 tusks in Togo. The tusks were concealed in a suitcase and, like in another operation carried out 24 hours earlier in Côte d'Ivoire, the tusks were marked indicating that they had already been seized before in Benin. This clearly shows the corruption and complicity of officials in Benin, where the ivory was trafficked from.

A trafficker arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon. She concealed the tusks in a grains bag which she transported by vehicle to the scene of transaction. She was arrested in the act as she attempted to sell the elephant tusks.

The official renewal of the Collaboration Agreement has been signed between the Government of the Republic of the Congo and the Aspinall Foundation on behalf of the PALF project. Several high diplomats attended the ceremony including the European Union Ambassador, the German Ambassador and the Attaché of Internal Security representing the French Embassy. This ceremony came after a long-time effort by the PALF Coordinator.



↑ 3 ivory traffickers of Benin nationality arrested with 2 tusks in Togo.

← 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Senegal.

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels on building legal strategies on ongoing cases and strengthen collaboration.
- The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with the Chief of the General Directorate

of External Relations in Ambam and some wildlife officials of the South Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- The official renewal of the Collaboration Agreement has been signed between the Government of the Republic of the Congo and the Aspinall Foundation on behalf of the PALF project. Several high diplomats attended the ceremony including the European Union Ambassador, the German Ambassador and the Attaché of Internal Security representing the French Embassy. This ceremony came after a long time effort by the PALF Coordinator.
- The Legal Team provided assistance in the legal follow up for an arrest of a poacher by the military and wildlife officials of the Lesio Louna reserve in possession of an SKS type weapon, 6 rounds of ammunition and several pieces of a partially protected species.
- The Legal Team also provided assistance in legal follow up of 5 poachers arrested by Lesio Louna reserve officials. One of them was found with carcasses of De Brazza's monkeys, a partially protected species.
- The Coordinator of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire arrived in Congo for a two-week long experience sharing mission. Both Coordinators worked on recruitment and training of the PALF team.
- During his stay, he accompanied the Coordinator to several meetings including a meeting with the Italian Ambassador.
- They also met with representatives of USAID and INL on a mission to Congo to discuss wildlife trafficking and law enforcement in the country.
- They held a meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Justice to discuss ongoing cases and strengthen collaboration.

- Accompanied by the Aspinall Foundation Coordinator, they held several meetings with the wildlife adviser to the Minister and the Director of Cooperation of the Ministry of Forestry Economy in preparation for the signing ceremony of the MoU.
- The Coordinator held meetings with some gendarmerie officials including the Commander of the Gendarmerie of Brazzaville. She introduced the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire Coordinator to the officials.
- They both gave presentations on the EAGLE Network and the importance of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime during a working session with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy, the Congolese Wildlife and Protected Areas Agency (ACFAP) and Aspinall Foundation workers at the Lesio Louna reserve.
- They also travelled to the Tchimpounga reserve and held discussions on the CARE project with PALF expecting to join the training next year.



The European Union Ambassador to Congo Brazzaville, the Director General of the Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas, the Coordinator of PALF and the Coordinator of EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire.

Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker arrested with 4 tusks. She concealed the tusks in a grains bag which she transported by vehicle to the scene of transaction. She was arrested in the act as she attempted to sell the elephant tusks. She was transferred to Libreville and presented to the State Counsel of the Special Tribunal who remanded her in custody while awaiting trial.
- The project provided legal and logistical assistance to wildlife authorities and gendarmerie officials of the Directorate of General Research for the transfer and prosecution of a trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in the Ogooué-Maritime Province on November.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Inspector General of the Ministry of Justice to strengthen collaboration.
- He also held a working session with the Chief of Staff of the Judicial Investigation Police who was preparing to attend to a UNODC meeting on wildlife crime in Bangkok, Thailand in late November.
- The Activities Coordinator and some legal advisers held meetings with several authorities in Mouila including the State Counsel, some Judges of the special chamber in charge of wildlife and forestry offenses, the Head of the Judicial Police, the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas as well as the Provincial Director of Water and Forests of Ngounié to discuss various topics including collaboration on ongoing cases and arrests of traffickers.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 3 ivory traffickers of Benin nationality arrested with 2 tusks. The tusks were concealed in a suitcase and, like in another operation carried out 24 hours earlier in Cote d'Ivoire, the tusks were marked indicating that they had already been seized before in Benin, where it was trafficked from, trading back seized ivory with traffickers. They remain behind bars awaiting trial
- The Coordinator held a meeting with Assistant Director of the OCRTIDB and his collaborators



to improving working relationship and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

cases and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- A legal adviser held a meeting with the third Deputy State Counsel in Lomé on ongoing wildlife

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin. On their phones were horrible images of massacred lions and elephants as well as human rights atrocities, dead human bodies, and huge stocks of auto-



matic weapons. The traffickers, one of whom is a Niger national, smuggled the skin from Mali. Examining the skin, we believe the poacher they activated shot the leopard a few times at the spine, crippling it and only after a lot of misery, shot it to death in short range.

- This arrest shows a link between the illegal wildlife trade and jihadists and armed factions in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger with connections to some North African countries.

- 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.
- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during a training for 30 wildlife law enforcement officers that took place at the premises of Panthera, an NGO, at the Niokolo-Koba National Park.



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 pieces of tusks weighing 26 kg. Their criminal operation stretched to Mali where this ivory was trafficked from. The markings on the ivory indicates corruption in Mali, authorities reselling of seized contraband back to criminals. The traffickers used a vehicle to move the contraband that was hidden in cardboard boxes
- The Coordinator travelled to Congo for a two-week long mission Congo. He worked with the PALF Coordinator on investigations, recruitment and participated at the signing ceremony of the Collaboration Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Congo and the PALF project.
- They met several top diplomats including the Italian, German and the European Union Ambassadors and high level officials of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Forestry Economy.
- They did a presentation to the guards of Lesion Louna reserve on the EAGLE Network, the PALF project the fight against wildlife crime and corruption.



- The Coordinator and the legal advisers participated in the training of Ivorian magistrates on wildlife investigations and the fight against wildlife crime, during a training organized by Akatia, a non-governmental organisation.
- The Coordinator met the UCT in order to advance on long term investigations.

Headquarters

- On the side-lines of the CITES 19th Conference of Parties that took place in Panama City, Ofir Drori participated at a zoom meeting of IUCN Cat Specialist Group that worked on drawing up an action plan for African lions in the northern half of the continent. He focused on pushing for the inclusion of trafficking in lion parts in the action plan.
- He also gave a talk to Canadian wildlife law enforcement officials on Investigations and Enforcement relating to the illegal ivory trade.
- Ofir did a presentation on fighting the illegal trade in great apes and corruption during a side event of the CITES CoP 19. The event that focused on how to stop the illegal trade in primates was organised by CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society and the International Primate Protection League.

[You can watch the presentation here](#)

International Media

- The online streaming site Mojo Streaming did an interview with Ofir Drori on his early beginnings, fight against wildlife crime and corruption, activism and wildlife law enforcement within the EAGLE Network.

[Listen to the interview here](#)

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