



EAGLE

February 2023
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *6 traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephants tusks in Côte d'Ivoire*
- ✓ *2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband in Senegal*
- ✓ *Ivory trafficking and Poaching, a hard-hitting documentary on Conservation Justice's work to combat ivory trafficking in Gabon launched*



3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire.



A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband in Senegal.

Summary

3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire. 2 of them trafficked the ivory from the west of the country and collaborated with the third trafficker in Abidjan who stocked the ivory and harbored them.



3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire.

2 ivory traffickers, one a Ghana national, arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. A Gabonese was arrested with 2 elephant tusks and he immediately denounced the other trafficker, a Ghanaian, who concealed the elephant tusks at his premises.

A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband in Senegal. The Burkina Faso national is also involved in gold trafficking in Mali. He activated several cross-border trafficking networks.

Ivory trafficking and Poaching, a hard-hitting documentary on Conservation Justice's work to combat



A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband in Senegal.



2 ivory traffickers, one a Ghana national, arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon.

ivory trafficking was released. Maxime Ginolin, an activist and a French film maker and his partner Guillaume Martinez, cameraman, editor and composer released the documentary that captures the impressive fieldwork to bring down the lucrative and far-reaching illegal ivory trade and reveals the underbelly of international trafficking. Ginolin is also the director of a shocking film "Grosse" that has received over 7 million views on Youtube. He is hugely involved in animal rights activism. He and his team have been specialising in the production of socially-aware films for over 10 years. He has filmed in slaughterhouses, illegal trafficking and religious sacrifices. He directed the first French fiction film on animal slaughter "Le Jugement".



Ivory trafficking and Poaching, a hard-hitting documentary on Conservation Justice's work to combat ivory trafficking was released.

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director and the Head of Legal Department participated at an event to raise the awareness of young people on the plight of the pangolin. They both did presentations on the pangolin and law enforcement against pangolin trafficking. The event that was organised by Wildaid brought together hundreds of students from some high schools in Douala, Littoral Region.
- The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with some police and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration in investigating wildlife crimes.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels and Attorney Generals to discuss legal strategies on cases pending at their various courts and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



The Head of Legal Department at the event to raise the awareness on the plight of the pangolin.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- A convicted trafficker who was serving a 5-year sentence was shot and wounded on the leg while trying to escape from prison alongside 26 other prisoners. The Team provided financial assistance for his treatment, recovery and reintegration into prison to continue serving his penal sentence.
- The Coordinator met with a Member of Parliament during 2 working sessions to discuss wildlife crime and environmental issues in the country.
- She also met with the Director of Prisons and Correctional Institutions at the Ministry of Justice to discuss the granting of medical leave to sentenced traffickers. 3 convicted traffickers granted temporary medical leave never returned to prison, highlighting a worrying trend. The Team is fighting to end this phenomenon.
- The Coordinator handed a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between the Ministry and the Aspinall Foundation to all 12 departmental directors during a conference of departmental directors.
- The Coordinator met with the Legal and Compliance Head and the Wildlife Crime Hub Officer for WWF Congo to discuss wildlife crime cases. They also discussed the recent circular letter by the President of the Supreme Court on corrupt practices in court procedures. PALF is building a case to denounce these malpractices to the Supreme Court.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Conservator of the Tchimpounga Reserve to discuss ongoing cases in the reserve and at the level of the judiciary in Pointe Noire.
- She also held meetings with the Noé team, specifically the Fundraising Manager on a mission in the country, the Director of Conkouati-Douli and the Program Assistant. They met with the Director General of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss problems in the reserve and media strategy. She introduced them to the Aspinall Coordinator.

Gabon – AALF

- 2 ivory traffickers, one a Ghana national, arrested with 2 elephant tusks. A Gabonese was arrested with 2 elephant tusks and he immediately denounced the other trafficker, a Ghanaian, who concealed the elephant tusks at his premises. The Gabonese is known to the police for the illegal trade in an endemic shrub known for its
- He also held meetings with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the Director of Anti-poaching to discuss preparations for the workshop.
- He discussed and planned with the Director of Cabinet of the Commander-in-Chief of the National Gendarmerie and the Director General of the Gendarmerie School on the organisation of a training seminar for judicial police officers and officers of the National Gendarmerie on the regulations and criminal procedures applicable to water and forests.



the organisation of a training seminar for judicial police officers and officers of the National Gendarmerie on the regulations and criminal procedures applicable to water and forests.

- The Activities Coordinator and legal advisers held meetings with several judicial, police and wildlife officials on collaboration in fighting wildlife crime, among others.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several judges of the Special

psychoactive effects and regulated by the law. A search found a good quantity of this shrub at his home. He arrived the scene of transaction by car with the ivory concealed in the boot of the vehicle.

- The Activities Coordinator and a Legal Adviser participated at a workshop that aimed at providing journalists with tools to better address environmental crime issues in the country. During the event, the Activities Coordinator was invited to speak on wildlife trafficking and the Legal Adviser gave a presentation on illegal logging. The event was organised by the US Agency for Global Media.
- The Activities Coordinator held meetings with the Director of US Agency for Global Media and discussed preparations for the workshop with journalists.



Ivory trafficking and Poaching, a hard-hitting documentary on ConservationJustice's work to combat ivory trafficking was released.

Tribunal in charge of wildlife cases to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.

- *Ivory trafficking and Poaching*, a hard-hitting documentary on Team's work to combat ivory trafficking in Gabon released. See box for more on this.



Ivory trafficking and Poaching

Ivory trafficking and Poaching, a hard-hitting documentary on Conservation Justice's work to combat ivory trafficking was launched. Maxime Ginolin, an activist and a French film maker, and his partner Guillaume Martinez, cameraman, editor and composer, released the documentary that captures the impres-

sive fieldwork to bring down the lucrative and far-reaching illegal ivory trade and reveals the underbelly of international trafficking. While in Gabon in May 2022, the two partners followed the Coordination Team and undercover informants as they risked their lives to help arrest the traffickers who have been slaughtering forest elephants for decades. Conservation Justice (the Gabon Team) was founded by Luc Mathot who is one of the Founding Directors of the EAGLE Network. In the last 12 years, more than 500 wildlife traffickers, mostly ivory traffickers, have been arrested and convicted thanks to the partnership between Conservation Justice and the Gabonese authorities.

Ginolin is also the director of a shocking film "Grosse" that has received over 7 million views on Youtube. He is very involved for several years in animal rights activism. He has filmed in slaughterhouses, illegal trafficking and religious sacrifices. He directed the first French fiction film on animal slaughter "Le Jugement". These numerous subjects feed into his narrative and that have led him to give conferences in universities such as the Sorbonne, the University of Sciences of Marseille and the Animal Rights National Conference in Los Angeles. He and his team at MagiCJack Production have been specialising in the production of socially-aware films for over 10 years.

The documentary is available, you can watch it here:

[Link to the film](#)

[Link to the teaser](#)

[Link to the press release](#)



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralisation and Territorial Development to discuss issues related to the registration of EAGLE Togo and wildlife crime in the country.
- 3 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison. They were arrested on November 12, 2022 with two elephant tusks.
- Recruitment of investigators was intensified with a selection of some candidates for testing.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband. The Burkina Faso national is also involved in gold trafficking in Mali. He activated several cross-border trafficking networks. He was arrested with a suitcase concealing a leopard skin, serval and crocodile skins and head, and hyena skin and head.



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks. 2 of them trafficked the ivory from the west of the country and collaborated with the third trafficker in Abidjan who stocked the ivory and harbored them. He equally concealed the ivory at his place and participated in the making of the deal as they were swiftly arrested while attempting to sell the elephants tusks.
- The Coordinator met with officials of Akatia, a non-governmental organisation, to discuss the organization of trainings for wildlife authorities in 2023.
- The Coordinator met the UCT in order to advance on long term investigations and on preparations for the operation leading to the arrests of the ivory traffickers.



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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