



**EAGLE**

December 2022  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **9 traffickers arrested in 2 countries**
- ✓ **4 traffickers arrested with 28 African Grey Parrots in Cameroon, dismantling a ring of parrot trafficker in the East of the country.**
- ✓ **3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon. Two of them were activating several poachers generating a regular massive killing of pangolins**
- ✓ **2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and 11 teeth in Congo.**
- ✓ **EAGLE Senegal Coordinator did a presentation at an INTERPOL meeting in Singapore on different arrests pointing to links between wildlife crime and armed groups in the Sahel.**



3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and 11 teeth in Congo.

# Summary

4 traffickers arrested with 28 African Grey Parrots in Cameroon. The crackdown dismantled a ring of parrot traffickers operating in the East of the country. They transported the parrots, crammed tight in a small wooden cage, in a vehicle to the place of transaction. They were arrested as they attempted to sell the parrots. They were leading a ring of local poachers who captured live African grey parrots.



4 traffickers arrested with 28 African Grey parrots in Cameroon.

3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon. Two of them were activating several poachers generating a regular massive killing of pangolins. One of the traffickers used his motorcycle to transport the scales. They are experienced in trafficking pangolin scales and complained that the Covid 19 pandemic hampered their activity.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and



3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon.

11 teeth in Congo. Both were perfectly aware of the illegality of their activity, took time to carefully conceal the contraband in a black plastic bag they transported to Brazzaville. They were arrested as they attempted to sell the leopard parts. The motorbike of one of the traffickers that was used in moving the contraband around was also seized.

The Coordinator participated at the 33<sup>rd</sup> INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting in Singapore. She did a presentation on different arrests pointing to links between wildlife crime and armed groups and extremists in the Sahel.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and 11 teeth in Congo.

# Cameroon – LAGA

■ 4 traffickers arrested with 28 African Grey Parrots. The crackdown dismantled a ring of parrot traffickers operating in the East of the country. They transported the parrots, crammed tight in a small wooden cage, in a vehicle to the place of transaction. They were arrested as they attempted to sell the parrots. They were leading a ring of local poachers who captured live African grey parrots. They also sold parrots to some notorious parrot trafficking networks in Yaounde and farther afield.



4 traffickers arrested with 28 African Grey Parrots.

Several parrots were sold by the traffickers during the period of the investigations that took a couple of months.

- 3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg pangolin scales. Two of them were activating several poachers generating a regular massive killing of pangolins. One of the traffickers used his motorcycle to transport the scales. They are experienced in trafficking pangolin scales and complained that the Covid 19 pandemic hampered their activity, but they were quickly picking up where they left off before the pandemic started. The area is widely known for the illicit bushmeat trade.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the manager of the Limbe wildlife Centre to discuss issues related to rescued primates and collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with some State Counsels and Attorneys General to discuss ongoing wildlife cases and strengthen collaboration.



3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg pangolin scales.

## Republic of the Congo – PALF

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, a skull and 11 teeth. Both were perfectly aware of the illegality of their activity, took time to carefully conceal the contraband in a black plastic bag they transported to Brazzaville. They were arrested as they attempted to sell the leopard parts. The motorbike of one of the traffickers that was used for moving the contraband around was also seized. Traffickers often use motorbikes as favourite means of transport as it helps them avoid checkpoints and

sentenced to 2 years in prison by the Court of First Instance. The convicts had appealed the court decision.

■ The Coordinator met several times with some top wildlife officials including the General Director, the Cooperation Director and Wildlife Adviser at the Ministry of Forestry Economy to follow up on procedures regarding the recently signed MoU. Discussions also focused on ongoing wildlife cases and strengthening of collaboration.



enables them to take little known roads and paths that law enforcement don't man.

■ 2 traffickers were sentenced to prison; the first one to 3 years and the second to one and a half years in prison. They were arrested in January 2021 with 4 elephant tusks, several carved and sculpted ivory pieces.

■ The Court of Appeal confirmed the prison sentence given to 2 traffickers arrested in May 2022 with 2 leopard skins and other parts. They were

■ She also held a meeting with the Director of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and his team to discuss collaboration.

■ The Coordinator provided assistance to the Tchimpounga reserve with the transfer of 5 African grey parrots from Brazzaville. Thanks to sensitization efforts, the parrots were voluntarily handed over by two families. They shall be released to the wild after care and rehabilitation by the Jane Goodall Institute.

## Gabon – AALF

■ The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with a delegation from the US Embassy to discuss wildlife crime in the country and strengthen collaboration.

■ He held another meeting with the Director General of the National Police Academy to discuss train-

ing opportunities and strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.

■ The Activities Coordinator facilitated a meeting between the delegation of the US Embassy and the officials of the National Police Academy for discussions on issues relating to trainings.

- The Activities Coordinator met with the Chief of Staff of the Judicial Investigation Police to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a phone discussion with the Director of Cabinet of the Commander in Chief of the National Gendarmerie on strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Team held several meetings with judicial, administrative and wildlife officials on ongoing wildlife cases and the strengthening of collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- A trafficker was sentenced to one and a half years in prison. She was arrested in November with 4 elephant tusks.
- A trafficker was sentenced to 6 months in prison. He was arrested in September with 4 elephant tusks.
- 3 traffickers were sentenced to 2 years in prison. They were arrested in September with 6 elephant tusks.

## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.
- He held a meeting with the Director of the Inspectorate of Forest Resources at the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.
- Recruitment of investigators with special skills was intensified.

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator participated at the 33<sup>rd</sup> INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting in Singapore. She did a presentation on different arrests pointing to links between wildlife crime and armed groups and extremists in the Sahel. She equally met and discussed with several INTERPOL officials.
- The Coordinator met briefly with the French Minister of the Interior during a reception organized in his honor at the French Embassy in Senegal.
- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during a training for 60 noncommissioned gendarmerie officers.



# Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator met with officials of Akatia, a nongovernmental organisation, to discuss the organization of trainings for wildlife authorities in 2023. Discussions also focused on strengthening collaboration.
- The Coordinator and a Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Subdirector of Criminal Affairs of Ministry of Justice to discuss wildlife trafficking in the country and strengthen collaboration.
- The Coordinator met the UCT in order to advance on long term investigations.

## Headquarters

- The EAGLE Senegal Coordinator represented the EAGLE Network at the 33<sup>rd</sup> INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting which took place in Singapore. She did a presentation on different arrests pointing to links between wildlife crime and armed groups and extremists in the Sahel. During the presentation she also highlighted the work of the Network across Africa. She met and discussed with several INTERPOL officials on EAGLE Activities, the fight against wildlife crimes and other crimes and the strengthening of collaboration.

## 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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