



EAGLE

July 2023
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *8 traffickers arrested in 4 countries*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 19 kg of elephant ivory in Congo*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 47 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon*



3 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire.



2 traffickers arrested with 47 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.

Summary

3 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire. A very large pair of tusks weighing 38 kg belonged to an elephant killed in the Taï National Park - one of the biggest males left in the country. The park rangers had lost his tracks since January 2023. The traffickers used a taxi to transport the tusks, concealed in a bag, to the place of transaction.

2 traffickers arrested with 19 kg of elephant ivory in Congo. The couple, a man and a woman, were arrested attempting to sell 4 tusks. They collaborated in trading elephant tusks. The woman transferred a significantly huge amount of money to the man to enable him buy the tusks. The tusks were brought from the Plateaux Department to Brazzaville, where the traffickers were arrested.

A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon. The trafficker, a Burkina Faso national, was arrested shortly after he arrived the place of transaction with a grains bag containing the elephant tusks. The bag was concealed among construction materials, in the boot of a car.



A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon.

2 traffickers arrested with 47 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. The scales are from the endangered giant pangolin. The traffickers took steps to avoid arrest and used a motorcycle to move around. They transported the pangolin scales in a bag and moved hesitantly, conscious of the risks of their illegal business. The pangolin scales were driven from killed giant pangolins poached along the Sanaga River, which is the longest river in the country.



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Cameroon – LAGA

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- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting with wildlife officials that focused on the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Ministry of Wildlife and Protected Areas.
- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels on ongoing wildlife cases and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 19 kg of elephant ivory. The couple, a man and a woman, were arrested attempting to sell 4 tusks. They collaborated in trading elephant tusks. The woman transferred a significantly huge amount of money to the man to enable him buy the tusks. The tusks were brought from the Plateaux Department to Brazzaville, where the traffickers were arrested. They were expertly cautious in their proceedings, shortly before their arrest. The woman arrived first to ensure everything was in good order and the man arrived later in a car with the tusks that were concealed inside a bag. The car waited on them.
- The Coordinator accompanied the Executive Director and the Regional Coordinator of Conservation Justice, to a meeting with the Director General of Forestry Economy to strengthen collaboration with PALF. A representative from Aspinall Foundation also participated in the meeting.
- They also met with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Justice to discuss the fight against wildlife crime in Congo.
- They held meetings with the Technical Director of WCS – Congo, the WWF Representative in Congo and Aspinall Foundation officials to introduce the new Coordinator and strengthen collaboration.



- Luc Mathot, EAGLE Network Founding Director and the Regional Coordinator of Conservation Justice, arrived in the country to provide management and external relations support to the new Coordinator and the project. They held several meetings with wildlife, gendarmerie, and NGO officials.

- They held a meeting with the Internal Security Attaché of the French Embassy in Brazzaville, on strengthening collaboration.
- They held a meeting with the ZSL Regional Director for West and Central Africa to discuss collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- They held several meetings with top gendarmerie officials in Brazzaville to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Gabon – AALF

- A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks. The trafficker, a Burkina Faso national, was arrested shortly after he arrived the place of transaction with a grains bag containing the elephant tusks. The bag was concealed among construction materials, in the boot of a car. He claimed the tusks “belong” to an accomplice who is on the run. He was transferred to Libreville and presented to the State Counsel of the Special Tribunal who remanded him in custody while awaiting trial.



- They also met with the British Ambassador, two officials of the National Parks Authority, the ZSL Director and the BLF Coordinator to discuss wildlife crime
- They met with the Head of Section at the EU Delegation in Libreville to review RALFF activities.
- They also met with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Justice as well as with gendarmerie and security officials in Brazzaville on the fight against wildlife crime.
- They also met several NGOs to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime
- Recruitment was intensified and 4 candidates for the legal department were selected and interviewed while 2 were retained for testing and training. In the investigation department, 2 candidates were selected and interviewed and one retained for training and testing.
- The EAGLE Network’s Monitoring and Evaluation Officer spent 8 days in country to test, evaluate and train the teams in the investigations, operations and legal departments. The mission also aimed at identifying gaps, challenges and solutions, improving the performance and discipline of the teams. He provided support and training in several areas including, strategy, reporting, planning, logistics, security, quality control, procedures and techniques, human and material resource management. Activities also included exercises, simulations and team building initiatives.
- The Executive Director and the Regional Coordinator of Conservation Justice, who both travelled to Congo, held a meeting with the Director General of Forestry Economy to strengthen collaboration with PALF. The PALF Coordinator and a representative of Aspinall Foundation participated in the meeting.
- They met with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Regional Director for West and Central Africa, the Regional Coordinator of the Biodiversity Landscape Fund (BLF) and 2 officials from the UK Department of Environment and Rural Affairs on the fight against wildlife crime.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- No operations were carried out this month and measures, including the intensification of recruitment, were taken to address the poor results. Several interviews were done at the investigation department. Two candidates were selected and tested in field activities.
- The Coordinator held a meeting at the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralisation and Territorial Development with the Head of the Civil Organisations and Associations Division to obtain information on the status of the EAGLE Togo project's registration file.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- Recruitment was intensified at the legal department with several interviews carried out. 2 candidates were selected and are undergoing training and testing.
- The Coordinator, the Head of the Legal Department and the Accountant carried out several activities in Guinea during a mission to prepare the new Guinea project.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development discussed the start of activities of EAGLE Guinea. They equally discussed the possibility of holding a meeting with the Minister of Environment.
- She met with the Technical Adviser of the CITES Focal Point at the Ministry of Environment to discuss the start of activities of EAGLE Guinea and the fight against wildlife crime in the country.
- She held a meeting with the Director of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (DRED) to introduce EAGLE-Guinea and discuss collaboration at the airport.
- She met with the Head of Customs at the airport and the Head of the Targeting Unit to discuss collaboration with EAGLE Guinea in fighting wildlife crime at the airport.
- She held a meeting with all the members of the multidisciplinary wildlife trafficking unit, which includes a magistrate, CITES, police and the environment ministry officials to introduce EAGLE Guinea and discuss the start of its activities.
- She held a meeting State Counsel of the Kaloum Court of First Instance, the wildlife crime focal point for all the courts, to introduce EAGLE-Guinea and inform him of the start of activities.
- The training of four Guinean activists is still ongoing and they shall be returning next month to start the project in Guinea.
- A new investigator for the Guinea project started practical exercises and training. He shall be joining the team in Guinea at the end of the process.
- The Team followed up the various pending issues on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 elephant tusks. A very large pair of tusks weighing 38kg belonged to an elephant killed in the Taï National Park - one of the biggest males left in the country. The park rangers had lost his tracks since January 2023. The traffickers used a taxi to transport the tusks, concealed in a bag, to the place of transaction. Traffickers are targeting the remaining population
- The Coordinator met with the Political Officer of the British Embassy to present the work of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire and discuss wildlife trafficking, corruption and its challenges.
- He also met with the Program Officer in charge of environment issues of the European Union Delegation to present the work of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire and discuss wildlife trafficking challenges.



of elephants and given the small populations left in country, it was a surprise to see the enormous size of the tusks.

- The project kept working closely with the UCT on operational and investigation matters.

Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- Following the first mission in April 2023, a team led by the Coordinator of EAGLE Senegal Cecile Bloch, arrived Guinea to finalise the installation of the EAGLE Guinea office. Office equipment and logistics, including the purchase and installation of office furniture and services were carried out.
- The EAGLE Senegal Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development discussed the start of activities of EAGLE Guinea. They equally discussed the possibility of holding a meeting with the Minister of Environment.
- She met with the Technical Adviser of the CITES Focal Point at the Ministry of Environment to discuss the start of activities of EAGLE Guinea and the fight against wildlife crime in the country.
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- She held a meeting with all the members of the multidisciplinary wildlife trafficking unit, which includes a magistrate, CITES, police and the environment ministry officials to introduce EAGLE Guinea and discuss the start of its activities.
- She held a meeting State Counsel of the Kaloum Court of First Instance, the wildlife crime focal point for all the courts, to introduce EAGLE-Guinea and inform him of the start of activities.
- A recruitment session was held in Conakry. 18 candidates were interviewed for positions in the legal and investigation departments. A candidate for investigations was selected and sent to Senegal for training.

Headquarters

- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer travelled to Gabon for an 8-day mission where he tested, evaluated and trained teams in the investigations, operations and legal departments. The mission also aimed at identifying gaps, challenges and solutions, improving the performance and discipline of the teams. He provided support and training in several areas including, strategy, reporting, planning, logistics, security, quality control, procedures and techniques, human and material resource management. Activities also included exercises, simulations and team building initiatives.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network, and H el ene Blanchard, the Regional Coordinator of Conservation Justice, both travelled to Congo to support the Coordinator on management and external relations.

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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