



EAGLE

December 2023
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested in Congo and a shipment of 40 primates stopped in Togo*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 7 elephant tusks. He is a priest and carried the ivory in a suitcase and a bag. He travelled over 400 km to Pointe Noire, where he was arrested, with the concealed elephant tusks.*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested attempting to trade an African hawk-eagle in Pointe Noire.*
- ✓ *EAGLE Togo assisted in stopping the smuggling of 40 primates. A shipment of 40 live primates locked in 3 crates, each divided to 10 tiny cells, left DRC and reached Togo on the way to its final destination, Thailand.*



A trafficker arrested with 7 elephant tusks in Congo.



Togo stopped the smuggling of 40 primates.

Summary

Togo stopped the smuggling of 40 primates. A shipment of 40 live primates locked in 3 crates, each divided to 10 tiny cells, left the Democratic Republic of the Congo and reached Togo on the way to its final destination, Thailand. After consultation with EAGLE, the CAAT at the Lomé airport stopped the shipment.

Together with the EAGLE Togo team the authorities determined the illegalities of the absence of a CITES permit for 7 species and the absence of a re-export permit. The illegal shipment was seized and returned to DRC.



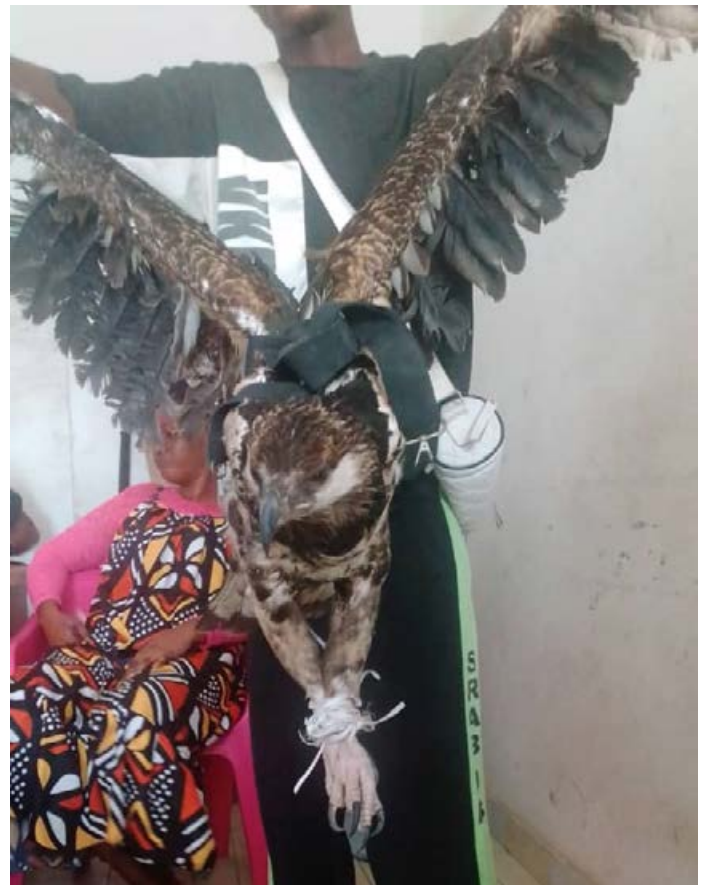
A trafficker arrested with 7 elephant tusks in Congo.



Togo stopped the smuggling of 40 primates.

A trafficker arrested with 7 elephant tusks in Congo. He is a priest, who betrayed the moral principles he should uphold. He carried the ivory in a suitcase and a bag. He travelled over 400 km to Pointe Noire, where he was arrested, with the concealed elephant tusks. He also concealed a hammer that was probably there for attack in case the deal goes wrong.

3 traffickers arrested attempting to trade an African hawk-eagle in Congo. The arrest was carried out by the Gendarmerie shortly after a meeting with the Team.



3 traffickers arrested attempting to trade an African hawk-eagle in Congo

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director held a brief discussion with the US Ambassador on strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime during an event at the US Residence. A presentation on the The Sanaga Young Chimpanzee Sanctuary was done by her Director, Sheri Speede, during the event.
- He, accompanied by the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments, held a meeting with the

Chief of Service in charge of wildlife crime at the Interpol National Central Bureau to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.



LAGA was hit by death in October with the passing away of one of its founding fathers, Julius Anunet. The LAGA family assisted at a solemn ceremony organised by the police in honour of the fallen hero.

Julius started LAGA with us. It was a crazy time where we had to invent every day in the field what we do today in EAGLE. Julius brought in a fierce fighting spirit to our cause and never hesitated to take on any corrupt official or officer trying to sabotage an arrest. He had the charisma that allowed him to always be in control

and command respect and even fear from anyone threatening justice.

In the early days, Julius would encourage us when things got hard and reminded all is possible if we fight for it. He led hundreds of arrest operations and showed inspiring courage throughout.

As one of the founding fathers, Julius left a legacy that keeps on going, his wish to bring about a small ripple of positive change for all that is around us.



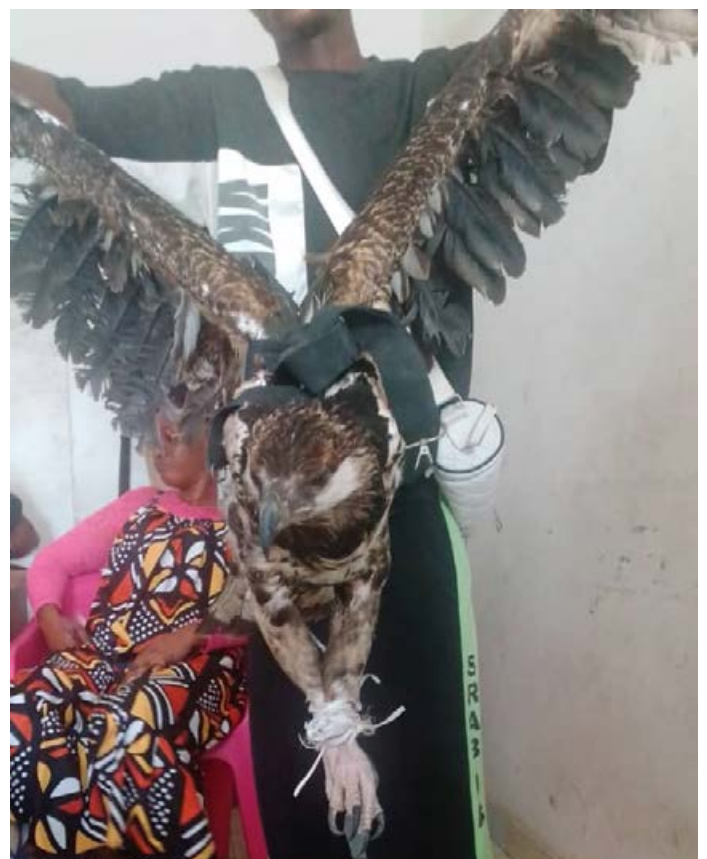
Republic of the Congo – PALF

- A trafficker arrested with 7 elephant tusks. He is a priest and carried the ivory in a suitcase and a bag. He travelled over 400 km to Pointe Noire, where he was arrested, with the concealed elephant tusks. He also concealed a hammer that was probably there for attack in case the deal goes wrong.
- 3 traffickers arrested attempting to trade an African hawk-eagle in Pointe Noire. The bird was



taken to the Jane Goodall Institute for appropriate treatment and care.

- The Coordinator held a meeting with an official from USAID on the fight against wildlife crime in the country.
- He held a meeting at the French Embassy with French Gendarmerie representatives to discuss wildlife law enforcement.
- He met with several wildlife, law enforcement and NGO officials to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Gabon – AALF

- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to one and a half year in prison. He was arrested in November with 2 elephant tusks.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year and two months in prison. They were arrested in October with 2 elephant tusks weighing over 16 kg.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in July with 4 elephant tusks.
- 5 ivory traffickers arrested by the Gendarmerie in November, were sentenced to 2 years in prison. They were arrested with an elephant tusk and the case was followed up by the Legal Team.
- The Regional Coordinator met with the Vice-President of the Senate to discuss achievements in the fight against wildlife crime in the country.
- The Regional Coordinator met with the Minister of Water and Forests, Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the Director General of Forest, respectively, to discuss collaboration and achievements in the fight against wildlife crime.
- She held a meeting with the Environment Cooperation Officer of the Delegation of the European Union in Libreville, as part of the follow-up to the EU-funded RALFF project.
- As part of the joint Conservation Justice-Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) training program for security guards at the Libreville airport, she met with the Director General and the Deputy Director General of the National Office for Airport Security and Facilitation (ONSFAG) in Libreville and the WCS Marine Program Coordinator.
- During a meeting on human elephant conflict organized by The Nature Conservancy in Libreville, she met with several conservation and NGO officials.
- The Administrative and Financial Head and a legal adviser met with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the Woleu Ntem Head of the General Directorate of Research and an official of the Anti-Poaching Department, respectively, to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- Togo stopped the smuggling of 40 primates. A shipment of 40 live primates locked in 3 crates, each divided to 10 tiny cells, left the Democratic Republic of the Congo and reached Togo on the way to its final destination, Thailand. After consultation with EAGLE, the CAAT at the Lomé airport stopped the shipment.
- Together with the EAGLE Togo team the authorities determined the illegalities of the absence of a CITES permit for 7 species and the absence of a re-export permit. The illegal shipment was seized and returned to DRC.
- The primates were transported in appalling conditions in tiny cells with hardly any space to move. One of the monkeys was sitting on the dead body of another that was covered in fesses.



- Corruption and complicity are commonplace in the live animals' trade and especially in DRC. This is a test case for DRC to show that it has changed by finally prosecuting the traffickers behind this.
- The response of DRC has been very disappointing, changing the plan to take the primates directly to the sanctuary at the last minute. Instead, the illegal exporter himself transferred the primates to the Kinshasa Zoo, where due to negligence and delays 13 primates died. At the end the remaining 27 surviving primates were transferred, 24 to the JACK sanctuary and 3 to a controversial facility called P-WAC.
- The events caused a shake-up in the DRC CITES Office responding to allegation of corruption and complicity triggering two CITES Notifications to Parties.
- So far, no legal action to prosecute the offence of the illegal exporter has been carried by the DRC government as prescribed mandatory by law. And no corruption offence of the CITES Management Office has been treated.
- The Interim Coordinator met with the Head of Political and Economic Affairs of the US Embassy to strengthen collaborative links in the fight against wildlife crime.



- He initiated a meeting with the Director of OCRTIDB, the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division, CITES Focal Point and the Head of CAAT to discuss emergency actions to save the lives of 40 primates who were in illegal transit at Lomé airport.
- He also took part in a workshop organized by the High Authority for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption and Related Offences (HAPLUCIA) to mark International Anti-Corruption Day.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator gave a presentation on corruption and wildlife crime during the 34th Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group Meeting in Lyon. The session was attended by 165 people of 56 nationalities, including 145 government representatives and 20 NGOs including EAGLE.
- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during a training session for non-commissioned gendarmerie officers. The modules focused on wildlife crime, the wildlife law, CITES, techniques in identifying and concealing wildlife contraband.



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The case of 2 traffickers arrested in September 2019 with 2 elephant tusks is still under instruction. The 2 traffickers are awaiting trial and a third person is still to be interrogated in connection with his role in the trafficking.
- The case of 4 traffickers arrested with 38 kg of ivory in October 2021 is still under instruction. The role of the armed crew claiming to be part of the CCDO unit is still to be determined in this case.
- The project kept working closely with the UCT for operational and investigation matters.

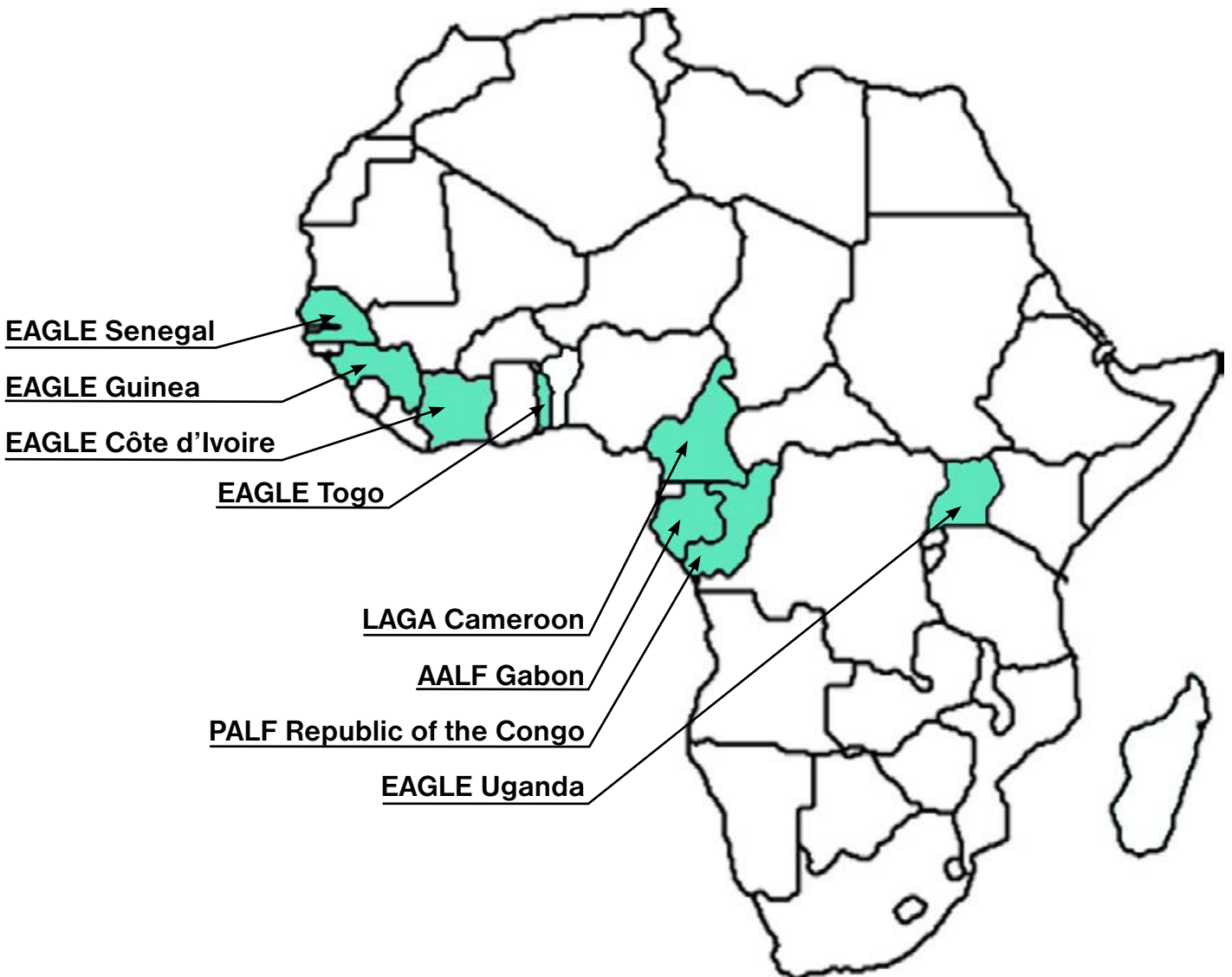
Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Directorate General of the National Police and the Directorate General of Customs.
- 2 Guinean investigators and a legal adviser recruited in August and the Assistant Coordinator recruited in November, continue with their training in Senegal.

Headquarters

- Ofir gave a presentation to Canada Environmental Enforcement on the illegal trade in great apes and investigations techniques.

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.

Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
2. Congo – PALF – jules@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
8. Guinea – EAGLE Guinea - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org