



EAGLE

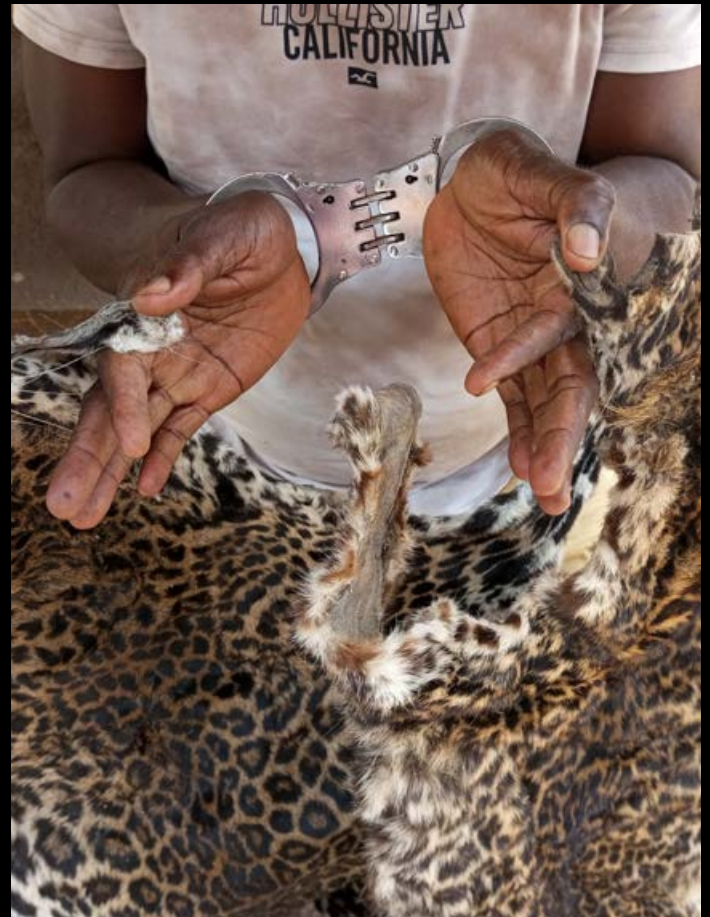
March 2024
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *8 traffickers arrested in 2 countries*
- ✓ *4 traffickers, including a veteran soldier, arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 42 kg in Côte d'Ivoire*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of tusks and a leopard skin in Gabon.*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins, probably a mother and a cub, in Côte d'Ivoire*



3 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of elephant tusks and a leopard skin in Gabon.



A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins, probably a mother and a cub, in Côte d'Ivoire.

Summary

4 traffickers, including a veteran soldier, arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 42 kg in Côte d'Ivoire. They used a motorcycle to transport the elephant tusks that were stored in a nearby village. The traffickers were intending to use the profit from the deal



4 traffickers, including a veteran soldier, arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 42 kg in Côte d'Ivoire



A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins, probably a mother and a cub, in Côte d'Ivoire.

to generate the killing of elephants in the Tai National Park. The operation took place close to the Park which is the biggest contiguous rainforest of West Africa. From several indications, the tusks were from an adult elephant slaughtered in the park that has an estimated population of 300 elephants. Elephants, the country's emblem, are on the brink of extinction in the country: their numbers have halved in thirty years.

3 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of elephant tusks and a leopard skin in Gabon. Two traffickers were arrested with the elephant tusks and a third who was not too far away was arrested soon after. The elephant tusk, weighing 12 kg, were cut into pieces and concealed in a sports bag. The traffickers were arrested while attempting to sell the tusks.

A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins, probably a mother and a cub, in Côte d'Ivoire. The trafficker stored the skins in the house of a traditional chief in an attempt to get impunity. The trafficker worked with several poachers who supplied him with rare animal products. They drove to the place of transaction with the skins concealed inside the car.



3 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of elephant tusks and a leopard skin in Gabon.

Cameroon – LAGA

- An investigator travelled to Uganda where he provided technical assistance and training to the new project.
- The Deputy Director participated at a ceremony organised by WWF to welcome their incoming National Director, Alain Ononino. The new country director of the organisation was formerly the Head of the Legal Department and the first ever Deputy Director of LAGA.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Littoral Focal Point for INTERPOL to discuss issues related to wildlife crime and to strengthen collaboration.
- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the renewal of the MoU with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting with Mrs Sévérine Demerre of the European Union Delegation in Brazzaville to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.
- They held several meetings and discussions with wildlife and law enforcement officials including the Director General of Water and Forests, the legal adviser at the Ministry of Forest Economy, The State Counsel in Oyo, the Commanders of the Owando and Brazzaville Gendarmerie Regions and the Commander of the Brazzaville Judicial Research Section. The meetings and discussions were focused on strengthening the fight against wildlife crime.

Gabon – AALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of elephant tusks and a leopard skin. Two traffickers were arrested with the elephant tusks and a third who was not too far away was arrested soon after. The elephant tusk, weighing 12kg, were cut into pieces and concealed in a sports bag. The traffickers were arrested while attempting to sell the tusks.
- Two traffickers were sentenced to one year in prison. They were arrested on February 9, 2024 with 6 elephant tusks.
- The Executive Director held a meeting with the Minister of Water and Forests to discuss the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of a mixed wildlife brigade
- The Assistant Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department held meetings with several officials including the Director of Anti-Poaching, the



Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Management on the design of posters of protected species.

- The Legal Team held several meetings with wildlife and law enforcement officials to discuss issues related to wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Interim Coordinator participated at a meeting organized by the High Authority for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption and Related Offences (HAPLUCIA). The meeting examined the draft framework agreement for cooperation between HAPLUCIA and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). He highlighted the necessity to effectively fight corruption that underpins wildlife crimes.
- He held a meeting with the Director of the OCRTIDB to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator held several meetings with several international officials to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Directorate General of Customs.
- The Legal Team held meetings with magistrates from the High Court of Tambacounda and Ziguinchor and the Court of Appeal of Ziguinchor to discuss wildlife crime.
- Recruitment was intensified and a legal adviser and an investigator were recruited.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 4 traffickers, including a veteran soldier, arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 42 kg. They used a motorcycle to transport the elephant tusks that were stored in a nearby village. The traffickers were intending to use the profit from the deal to generate the killing of elephants in the Tai National Park. The operation took place close to the Park which is the biggest contiguous rainforest of West Africa. From several indications the tusks were from an adult elephant slaughtered in the park that has an estimated population of 300 elephants. Elephants, the country's emblem, are on the brink of extinction in the country: their numbers have halved in thirty years. Immediately, after the operation the Team travelled to another town for a leopard skin trafficking operation.



4 traffickers, including a veteran soldier, arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 42 kg in Côte d'Ivoire

- A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins, probably a mother and a cub. The trafficker stored the skins in the house of a traditional chief in an attempt to get impunity. The trafficker worked with several poachers who supplied him with rare animal products. They drove to the place of transaction with the skins concealed inside the car.
- The Team worked closely with the OIPR, the Ivorian agency managing the national parks, in the post arrest investigations of the two operations.
- The Coordinator held meetings with officials of the UCT to discuss long term investigations and strengthen collaboration.



A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins, probably a mother and a cub, in Côte d'Ivoire.

Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Team continues to follow the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, cooperates with the National Police, the General Directorate of Customs and discusses a collaborative agreement with the National Central Bureau of INTERPOOL
- Investigation on the trafficking of several wildlife species started and conducted all over the country.
- The training of 3 newly recruited team members; an accountant, a legal adviser and an investigator, continued in Dakar at EAGLE Senegal.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- An investigator from Cameroon arrived the country to assist the Team on several aspects of investigation including field missions, technical support and training.
- Recruitment was intensified with the search for good investigators. Three interviews were conducted. The Team continues to strategize and adopt new recruitment techniques to ensure that quality investigators are recruited.

Headquarters

- The Gabon project under Conservation Justice is no longer part of the EAGLE Network. The project also known as Wildlife Law Enforcement Support Project and known by its French acronym AALF was part of the founding projects of the EAGLE Network and after several years of very successful collaboration that has seen several hundreds of wildlife traffickers arrested and prosecuted in Gabon, the collaboration has now come to an end.
- Ofir Drori was the keynote speaker at the opening of a conference on wildlife crime, artificial intelligence and big data with an emphasis on financial crimes aspects. The conference was organised by the Scotia bank, the Toronto University, and the Big Data AI hub in Canada.
- Under the supervision of the CCU, the various countries carried out diverse activities to mark the International Women's Day. Presentations focusing on issues related to this year's theme were done across the 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