



**EAGLE**

August 2024  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *7 traffickers arrested in 2 countries*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Cameroon, a retired Colonel of the Ministry in charge of Wildlife that has also been in charge of several National Parks among them*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 81 kg scales of endangered giant pangolins and 24 nails in the north of Congo*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Congo*



3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Cameroon.



2 traffickers arrested with 81 kg scales of giant pangolins in Congo.

# Summary

3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Cameroon. A retired Colonel of the Ministry in charge of Wildlife that has also been in charge of several National Parks was among them. The Colonel that abused his position has been charged and forwarded to court with the others. The traffickers concealed the elephant tusks in the boot of a car. They refused to open the boot in an attempt to foil the arrest operation.



*3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Cameroon.*

2 traffickers arrested with 81 kg scales of endangered giant pangolins and 24 nails in the north of Congo. One is a priest while the other is a worker contracted by city council to lay fiber optic cables around villages - both used their positions to trade



*2 traffickers arrested with 81 kg scales of giant pangolins in Congo.*

in pangolin scales mainly with Chinese nationals. This seizure represents about 40 killed of this endangered animals that is racing to extinction and a mere snapshot of the regular ongoing trade of the two traffickers arrested.

A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Congo. The logging company worker travelled a long distance from the north end of the country. On arrival at his destination he boarded a motorcycle with the



*A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Congo.*

leopard skin concealed inside a bag and was quickly apprehended. The illegal trade in leopard skins is decimating leopards at an alarming rate.

## Cameroon – LAGA

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. A retired Colonel of the Ministry in charge of Wildlife that has also been in charge of several National Parks was among them. The Colonel that abused his position has been charged and forwarded to court with the others. The traffickers concealed the elephant tusks in the boot of a car. They re-



fused to open the boot in an attempt to foil the arrest operation. Two of the traffickers are computer engineers. The traffickers are prosecuted under the new wildlife law that that was recently signed by the President of the Republic.

- The Heads of the Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with the Customs Chief of the South West Region to strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime in the region that borders Nigeria and is a hotspot for smuggling of wildlife contraband.

## Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 81 kg scales of endangered giant pangolins and 24 nails in the north of the country. One is a priest while the other is a worker contracted by city council to lay fiber optic cables around villages - both used their positions to trade in pangolin scales mainly with Chinese nationals. This seizure represents about 40 killed of this endangered species that is racing to extinction and a mere snapshot of the regular ongoing trade of the two traffickers arrested. The traffickers





2 traffickers arrested with 81 kg scales of giant pangolins in Congo.

hid the scales in a car tyre to evade control by wildlife officials while moving the scales around. They ran a network of several smaller traffickers.

- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin. The logging company worker travelled a long distance from the north end of the country. On arrival at his destination he boarded a motorcycle with the leopard skin concealed inside a bag and was quickly apprehended. The illegal trade in leopard skins is decimating leopards at an alarming rate.
- A trafficker was sentenced to 2 years in jail. He was arrested on July 5, 2023 with a leopard skin. An arrest warrant was immediately issued against him because he never returned after being granted bail.



A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Congo.

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Commander of the Judicial Research Section to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He also held a meeting with the Interim Examining Magistrate of the First Cabinet to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.
- He held telephone discussions with several judicial, wildlife and gendarmerie officials on issues related to wildlife crime and law enforcement.

## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Kozah Prefectural Director of the Environment and Forest Resources to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He met with the Head of the Lomé airport customs cargo control post to maintain and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Third Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Lomé High Court to discuss transnational wildlife crime, focusing on the seizure of wildlife contraband from Brazil in February, in Lomé.
- He also held a meeting with National Central Bureau Head of INTERPOL to discuss the Brazilian contraband seizure in Lomé and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- Recruitment was intensified with several interviews conducted and prospections for new investigators carried out.

---

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator travelled to the Republic of Guinea to assist the Guinean Team in the carrying out of preparations for operations against wildlife traffickers. She was accompanied by the Assistant Coordinator, the Heads of the Legal Department and Investigation Department who assisted the new Team with prior operations procedures.
- During the mission, the Coordinator held several meetings with top government authorities and diplomatic officials.

---

## Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator presented at workshop on fighting wildlife trafficking. The workshop that brought together law enforcement officers from the gendarmerie and police from several departments and wildlife officials was organized by Akatia (NGO) and its partners, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance and Legal Atlas. During the event that was funded by INL (US International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section), the Coordinator held discussions with several law enforcement officials to strengthen collaboration.
- The Team worked closely with the UCT for operational and investigation matters.

---

## Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

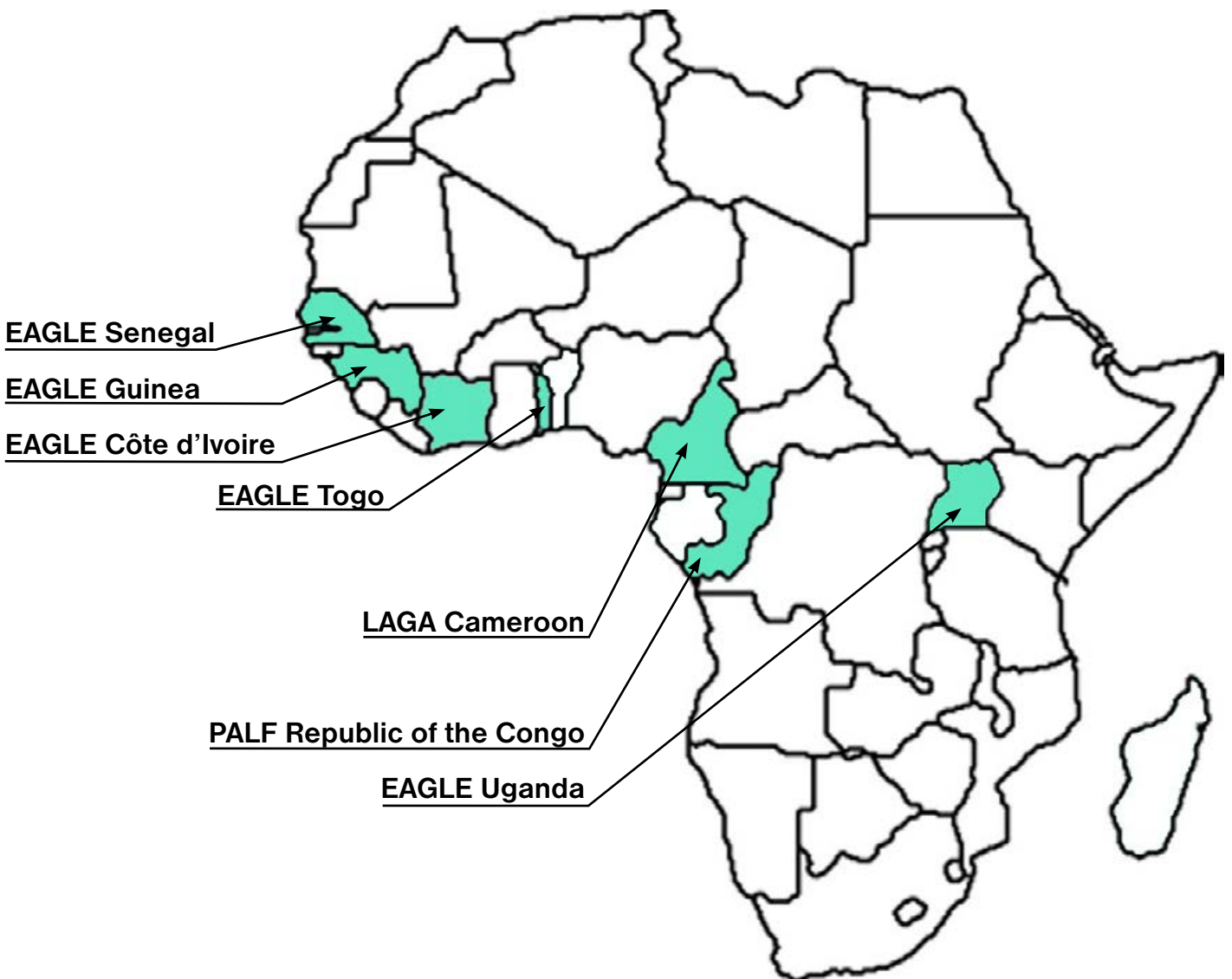
- The EAGLE Senegal and Guinea Coordinator arrived in Guinea to provide assistance to the new Team in the prior operation preparations. She was accompanied by the Assistant Coordinator and the Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments of EAGLE Senegal.
- She held a meeting with the Minister of the Environment on the strengthening of collaboration with the new Guinean project.
- She also held meetings with Head of INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Conakry to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- She held a meeting with two US Embassy officials - the First Advisor and the Economic and Political Advisor - to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

---

## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- The Team held meetings with officials of the URA (Uganda Revenue Authority) and UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority) on issues related to the lion skin trafficking case and to strengthen collaboration.
- Recruitment was intensified and several applications for positions including legal advisers, investigators and accountants received and treated. Interviews are currently ongoing.
- The trafficker arrested with 3 lion skins on June 29 was arrayed in court and remanded at Luzira prison, awaiting trial.

# 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](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)
2. Congo – PALF – [jules@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:jules@eagle-enforcement.org)
3. Togo – EAGLE Togo: [darius@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:darius@eagle-enforcement.org)
4. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)
5. Côte d'Ivoire - [gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org)
6. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)
7. Guinea – EAGLE Guinea - [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)