



EAGLE

March 2025
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested in 2 countries*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins in Côte d'Ivoire*



3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo



2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 3 leopard skins

Summary

3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo. Two traffickers were arrested with the leopard skins that were carefully hidden inside a backpack and concealed inside a cab. They were immediately whisked off to a gendarmerie station, where, during interrogation, they denounced the third trafficker who was arrested a few days later.

2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 3 leopard skins near the Ghana border. One of the traffickers is from Niger. The seizure included also more pieces of leopard skins, a hyena skin among many other wild-life trophies. The first trafficker was arrested while attempting to illegally trade the 2 two leopard skins. He quickly denounced the other trafficker who was arrested during a house search. More wildlife contraband was recovered during the arrest.

The operation took place in the north-east of the country, at a town located some 600 km from the capital, Abidjan. The traffickers took care to conceal the skins in a fertilizer bag to avoid detection. One of the traffickers used to illegally trade skins at the local market.

The illegal trade is threatening the survival of the leopard, especially in Central and West Africa where we believe a silent race to extinction is going below conservationists' radar.



2 traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 3 leopard skins

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Head of the Legal Department participated at a training on wildlife management in production forests. The training highlighted the fight against wildlife crime especially in areas of the forests where logging is ongoing.
- The Legal Team held meetings with the State Counsels of Abong Mbang, Djoum and Ntui to discuss matters ongoing in court and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- A Legal Adviser held a meeting with a court official on a matter pending before an examining Judge at the Yaounde Centre Administratif High Court.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins. Two traffickers were arrested with the leopard skins that were carefully hidden inside a backpack and concealed inside a cab. They were immediately whisked off to a gendarmerie station, where, during interrogation, they denounced the third trafficker who was arrested a few days later. The illegal trade is threatening the survival of the leopard, especially in Central and West Africa where we believe a silent race to extinction is going below conservationists' radar.
- The Legal Team held meetings with the State Counsel of the Dolisie High Court, the President of the Dolisie Court of Appeal, the Niari Departmental Director of the Forestry Economy and the Gendarmerie Commandant of Niari, to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator participated at the meeting of the Consultative Council meeting of the country's Anti-Corruption Commission (HAPLUCIA). He used the opportunity to discuss and strengthen collaboration with actors involved in the fight against corruption. The meeting was chaired by the President of the commission.
- He held a meeting with the Secretary General of Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources to discuss issues related to the MoU. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the pending adoption of CITES in Togo.
- He also met with the Director of Forest Resources Inspectorate on improving the handling of wildlife trafficking cases by judicial authorities. To this end, the Coordinator gave him a document that sets out a summary of cases brought before the judicial authorities between 2019 and 2024.
- He met with the Head of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Division and CITES Focal Point to discuss the case of the golden lion tamarins trafficking from Brazil.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator received a special recognition from the Cour d'Application des Officiers de la Gendarmerie (CAOG) in appreciation of the efforts made by EAGLE Senegal in fighting wildlife crime in the country.
- The special recognition was presented during a training for 49 gendarmerie officers from eight African countries. A number of presentations on different themes include wildlife crime wildlife, criminal law and CITES were carried out during the event.

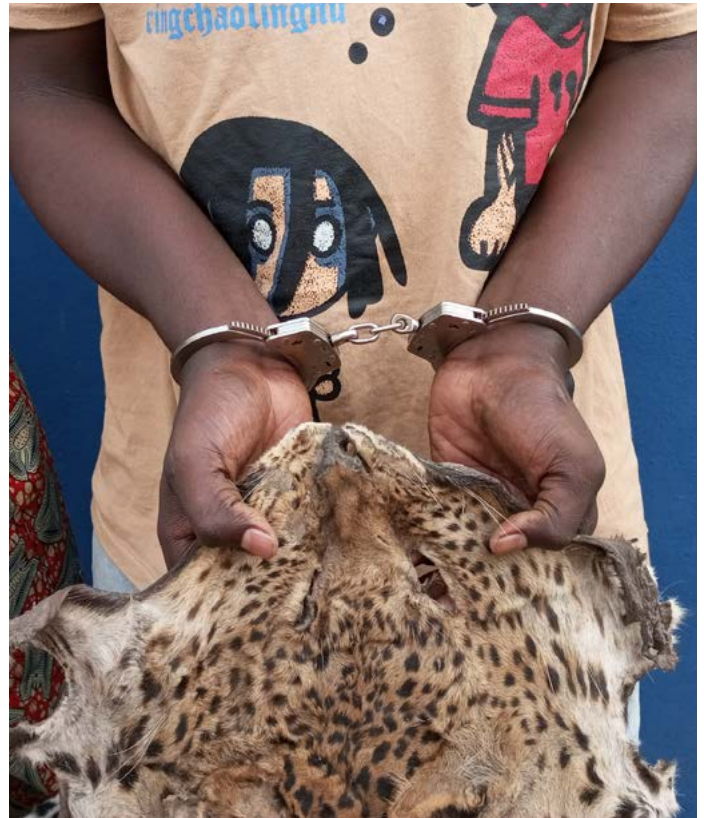
Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

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He quickly denounced the other trafficker who was arrested during a house search. More wildlife contraband was recovered during the arrest.

- The operation took place in the north-east of the country, at a town located some 600 km from the capital, Abidjan. The traffickers took care to conceal the skins in a fertilizer bag to avoid detection. One of the traffickers used to illegally trade skins at the local market.
- The Interim Assistant Coordinator held discussions with the UCT on several issues related to the execution of operations and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Coordinator of EAGLE Senegal and the accountant travelled to Conakry where they held several activities related to finance and personnel management with the EAGLE Guinea Team.
- They also carried a number of activities with INTERPOL NCB in Conakry to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Team followed up on the registration application filed with the National Department for the Regulation and Promotion of Association (SER-PROMA), attached to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- The Interim Coordinator participated in a virtual discussion on taxes hosted by Uganda Revenue Authority.
- The Legal Adviser followed up on court cases from operations in 2024.
- Recruitment and recommender follow up was intensified with several interviews held to fill the vacant positions in respective departments.

Headquarters

- Jana Hajduchová, the Financial Officer of the EAGLE Network, held a presentation at the European meeting of the Great Apes Taxonomy Advisory Group of EAZA, held in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

She summarized the activities of EAGLE Network in Africa and lead a discussion on the newly established mega-zoo Vantara in India, and its impact on the global trade with wildlife.

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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