

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

✓ *2 traffickers arrested with more than 80 kg giant pangolin scales in Cameroon*



# Summary

2 traffickers arrested with more than 80 kg giant pangolin scales. This seizure represents the slaughter of at least 35 individuals of this rare and declining species. The traffickers who were part of a bigger network, were involved in the illegal trade in pangolin scales and ivory, among other wildlife products. They operated across vast regions of the country—including major urban centers like Yaoundé and Douala, and including parts of Northern Cameroon. They were very cautious and have long experience in trafficking in the region which is the gateway to the north of the country and to Nigeria. Traffickers frequently use this route to export contraband to the North of Nigeria.





# Cameroon – LAGA

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- The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the US-based Animal Welfare Institute to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with wildlife officials on the assessment of civil claims relating to the seizure of live chimpanzees. This meeting is a direct result of the workshop he participated at in Cochin, India, that focused on the assessment of environmental damages.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to follow up cases pending at their various jurisdictions.



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## Republic of the Congo – PALF

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of National Central Bureau of INTERPOL in Brazzaville to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He also held discussions with the Intelligence Manager of African Parks at the Odzala-Kokoua National Park on information exchange and legal follow up of wildlife cases in the area.

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## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator participated at the official launch ceremony of a project integrating anti-corruption education into education and training curricula in Togo. The event was organized by the country's anti-corruption commission (HAPLUCIA) and ministries in charge of education and training.
- He participated at a conference organized by HAPLUCIA in collaboration with state control and regulatory bodies, as well as private sector and civil society actors involved in the fight against corruption, to mark the celebration of the 9th African Anti-Corruption Day.
- He held a meeting with two officials; a Programme Officer of the Legal Unit of the CITES Secretariat and Togo's CITES Focal Point. The meeting enabled the CITES Secretariat expert to have an insight into the EAGLE network, its mission and results.

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## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 7 leopard traffickers were sentenced to prison sentences of varying length with the highest getting 6 months. They were arrested last month for trafficking in leopard skins.
- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Directorate General of Customs.

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

- The Legal Adviser followed up the procedure to acquire a permit to visit at the Abidjan Penitentiary where she was presented with a new set of cumbersome procedures. She managed to overcome the procedures and visited the traffickers.
- She followed up ongoing court cases from past operations.

## Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- 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.
- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable

Development and Directorate of the Guinean National Police, the General Directorate of Customs and collaboration with the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, Conakry office.

## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- The Legal Team followed up a wildlife case at the Anti-Corruption Court, which resulted from the arrest of 2 traffickers in June 2021, with 28 kg of ivory.
- Recruitment was intensified with several interviews carried for positions in the investigation and legal departments.
- EAGLE Uganda obtained a recommendation letter from the District. The document is requirement for the renewal of an operational permit valid for 60 months.

## 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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