

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *13 traffickers arrested in 3 countries.*
- ✓ *4 arrest operations in 2 countries in one day, total of 10 traffickers arrested with 6 leopard skins, a hyena skin and vulture parts*
- ✓ *8 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crackdown in Senegal.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures in Côte d'Ivoire.*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers arrested with a large tusk in a crackdown on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring in Togo.*



8 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crack down in Senegal.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures in Côte d'Ivoire.

Summary

8 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crack down. The arrests near the borders with Guinea and Mali were of mostly Guinean traffickers. One of the traffickers is suspected to be in connection to a local terrorist group. The contraband was concealed in grains bags and a military backpack. The traffickers were arrested during 3 different operations carried out in close succession in the South East of the Country.



2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures in Côte d'Ivoire.



3 ivory traffickers arrested with a large tusk in a crackdown on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring in Togo.



8 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crack down in Senegal

3 ivory traffickers arrested with a large tusk in a crack-down on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring in Togo. The activities of the very cautious and suspicious traffickers were followed for several months before being uncovered. One of them originates from Benin and is a member of a trafficking network that straddles the borders between Togo and Ghana.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures in Côte d'Ivoire. They are a part of a ring trafficking from Burkina Faso. The animal parts were carefully concealed inside fertilizer bags and transported over 300km in public transport from the border to the center of the country. The traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell the contraband.

Cameroon – LAGA

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with three officials of the British based Environmental Investigation Agency to discuss wildfire law enforcement in the country and the sub region as a whole and strengthen the excellent collaboration between the two structures.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to follow up cases pending at their various jurisdictions.

Republic of the Congo – PALF

- A trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in prison and his accomplice to 2 years' imprisonment. They were arrested in May with a leopard skin and pangolins scales.
- 4 traffickers were sentenced to one year in prison. They were arrested in October last year with 3 elephant tusks weighing over 50kg.
- The Legal Team followed up court cases in the Cuvette, Lékoumou, Niari and Likouala Departments and assisted authorities, in the various legal proceedings.
- They held a meeting with the State Counsel of the High Court of Impfondo ongoing cases and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with a large tusk in a crackdown on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring. The activities of the very cautious and suspicious traffickers were followed for several months before being uncovered. One of them originates from Benin and is a member of a trafficking network that straddles the borders between Togo and Ghana. He transported the elephant tusk concealed in a grains bag, on a motorcycle, from the border to the central region of Togo.
- On the occasion of the event marking the celebration of US independence, the Coordinator held brief discussions with the new Chargé d'Affaires and the First Counsellor of the US Embassy, on the fight against wildlife crime and the strengthening of collaboration.
- During this ceremony, he met briefly with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Maritime Prefect and the President of the National Commission for the Fight against Human



Trafficking. He briefly discussed the fight against wildlife crime during the encounters.

- He held a meeting with the Commander of the Atakpamé Research and Investigation Brigade to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration.
- He also held a meeting with the Regional Director of the Plateaux Environment and Forest Resources, to introduce the project and build collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 8 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crack down. The arrests near the borders with Guinea and Mali were of mostly Guinean traffickers. One of the traffickers is suspected to be in connection to a local terrorist group. The contraband was concealed in grains bags and a military backpack. The traffickers were arrested during 3 different operations carried out in close succession in the South East of the Country.
- 3 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins they had carefully concealed in a military backpack. They arrived the scene of transaction on



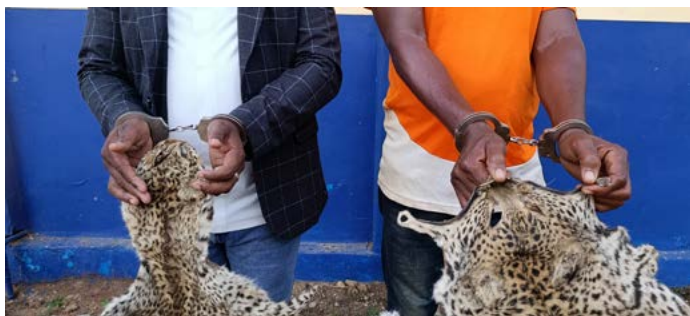
a motorcycle and were arrested as they attempted to sell the leopard skins. All three were later charged with criminal conspiracy, possession and circulation of protected wildlife species.

- About two hours later, the Team arrested 2 other traffickers with a leopard skin they had packaged in an orange plastic bag and concealed in a grains bag. They too were attempting to sell the leopard skin when they fell into the dragnet. They had arrived at the scene of transaction aboard a motorcycle. They denounced a third trafficker following a quick and intense interrogation. He too, was swiftly arrested.

- An hour later, a third operation was carried out with two traffickers, a Guinean and a Senegalese arrested with a leopard skin and a hyena skin concealed in a grains bag. They arrived the scene of transaction in a car with the contraband hidden inside the boot. The operation brought to an end a period of 3 and a half hours during which 8 traffickers were arrested with 4 leopard skins, a hyena skin, two motorcycles and a car seized.
- A Guinean investigator completed his training and will join the Team in Conakry to continue the fight against wildlife trafficking in the Republic of Guinea.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures. They are a part of a ring trafficking from Burkina Faso. The animal parts were carefully concealed inside fertilizer bags and transported over 300km in public transport from the border to the center of the country. The traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell the contraband. One of the traffickers is a Burkina Faso national who was in charge of all financial transactions of the illegal trade.
- The Interim Deputy Coordinator had a meeting with UCT officials to discuss issues related to the execution of an operation and the strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Adviser met with officials of the Pôle Pénal Economique et Financier to discuss ongoing wildlife cases within their jurisdiction.



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.
- Legal Team met with an Investigation Judge at the Conakry Court of First Instance to discuss wildlife law enforcement operations and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime
- An investigator completed a month-long mission to Dakar where he underwent training and shall be returning to Conakry to join the Team.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with council officials on compliance with government procedures for NGOs and a recommendation letter sent to the Town Clerk.
- Follow up of the renewal permit was carried out with the requirements for the Uganda operational permit Renewal submitted to the Uganda Registration Services Bureau. and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) for approval.

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. Togo – EAGLE Togo: darius@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Côte d'Ivoire - eric@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Guinea – EAGLE Guinea - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org