



EAGLE

May 2026
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *15 traffickers arrested in 6 countries*
- ✓ *3 major traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 710 kg of pangolin scales representing more than 2,300 killed pangolins!*
- ✓ *4 traffickers were arrested in Guinea with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg, along with 26 kg of shark and ray fins, in a crackdown on a criminal network stretching over 5 countries*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a skull in Ewo, Congo*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks and 2 hippo teeth in Côte d'Ivoire*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Uganda with a fresh large leopard skin*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Lome, Togo*



3 major traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 710 kg of pangolin scales



4 traffickers were arrested in Guinea with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg

Summary

3 major traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 710 kg of pangolin scales representing more than 2,300 killed pangolins! The ring activated a network of poachers across neighbouring countries including Congo and Central African Republic. They concealed the 12 sacks of scales in a carpenter's workshop in Yokadouma in the south east of the country.

4 traffickers were arrested in Guinea with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg, along with 26 kg of shark and ray fins, in a crackdown on a criminal network stretching over 5 countries. This criminal network has been trafficking seahorses for the past four decades evolving into a vast cross-border network stretching across West Africa, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, and Senegal. They were trading with Chinese nationals who according to the traffickers, export the seahorses through organized channels of corruption and bribery, allowing massive quantities of protected marine species to leave the region illegally each year.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks and 2 hippo teeth in Côte d'Ivoire.

4 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a skull in Ewo, Congo. One is the personal driver of a high local authority and used his service car to transport contraband with impunity, another is a Christian "prophet" priest. The organized traffickers are also involved in ivory trafficking.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks and 2 hippo teeth in Côte d'Ivoire. He belongs to a trafficking network, dealing in several wildlife contra-

band including elephant tusks and hippo teeth. The trafficker arrived at the place of transaction on a motorcycle, with four elephant tusks carefully concealed in a grain sack and firmly tied to the vehicle.

2 traffickers arrested in Uganda with a fresh large leopard skin. They are a part of a vast network across the Western part of the country, working in complicity with some park rangers to expand their criminal business. Their operations extend to five other districts activating poachers in the nature reserves.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Lome, Togo. He is a part of a trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana. The trafficker is a dangerous figure within the trafficking ring. He is implicated in multiple illicit activities, including ivory trafficking, and is linked to a well known group of highly dangerous traffickers operating in the far North. The ring frequently smuggles ivory across the northern border between Togo and Burkina Faso. The trafficker transported the elephant tusks on the back of his motorcycle, carefully concealed in a grains bag.



2 traffickers arrested in Uganda with a fresh large leopard skin

Cameroon – LAGA

■ 3 major traffickers arrested with 710 kg of pangolin scales representing more than 2,300 killed pangolins! The ring activated a network of poachers across neighbouring countries including Congo and Central African Republic. They concealed the 12 sacks of scales in a carpenter's workshop in Yokadouma in the south east of the country. These traffickers are specialists who conceal their activities under the guise of trading non timber forest products.



tions for the upcoming evaluation mission of our activities, in view of the renewal of the MoU.

■ The Legal Team held a meeting with the wildlife officials on the operation and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



■ The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Ministry's focal point in charge of the MoU renewal. The meeting focused on prepara-

Republic of the Congo – PALF

4 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a skull in Ewo. One is the personal driver of a high local authority and used his service car to transport contra-

band with impunity, another is a Christian "prophet" priest. The organized traffickers are also involved in ivory trafficking.

The PALF project ceased to be a member of the EAGLE Network. The Aspinall Foundation, which had been hosting the project, subsequently assumed full management responsibility.



Togo – EAGLE Togo

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Lome. He is a part of a trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana. The trafficker is a dangerous figure within the trafficking ring. He is implicated in multiple illicit activities, including ivory trafficking, and is linked to a well known group of highly dangerous traffickers operating in the far North. The ring frequently smuggles ivory across



the northern border between Togo and Burkina Faso. The trafficker transported the elephant tusks on the back of his motorcycle, carefully concealed in a grains bag. He proceeded to the place of transaction cautiously before his arrest.

- The Coordinator met with the State Counsel at the Lomé High Court to discuss new strategies to counter the evolving methods of traffickers and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He also met with the Director of OCRTIDB (Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- He met with the Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Lomé to introduce the EAGLE network and establish collaboration in the fight against cross-border crime.



Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the MoUs with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Directorate General of Customs.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks and 2 hippo teeth. He belongs to a trafficking network, dealing in several wildlife contraband including elephant tusks and hippo teeth. The trafficker arrived at the place of transaction on a motorcycle, with four elephant tusks carefully concealed in a grain sack and firmly tied to the vehicle. He later returned to fetch additional tusks and was arrested red handed during an attempt at trading the illegal wildlife products.



- The Interim Deputy Coordinator held a meeting with UCT officials and they discussed the execution of operations and strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Legal Advisor followed up on legal cases from past operations.



Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- 4 traffickers were arrested in Conakry with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg, along with 26 kg of shark and ray fins, in a crackdown on a criminal network stretching over 5 countries.
- This criminal network has been trafficking seahorses for the past four decades evolving into a vast cross-border network stretching across West Africa, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, and Senegal. They were trading with Chinese nationals who according to the traffickers, export the seahorses through organized channels of corruption and bribery, allowing massive quantities of protected marine species to leave the region illegally each year.
- All seahorse species are protected under the CITES UN convention, yet they are under serious threat by the global illegal trade. A recent study shows the alarming scope of the illegal seahorse trade with 16 species facing the risk of extinction.
- The dried seahorses are used in the “traditional medicine” business in China.
- The Coordinator met officials of the Customs Targeting Unit at the Conakry Airport to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- Following a request from a State Counsel, the Team assisted officials in the rescue of an osprey, confiscated in Conakry. Thanks to an internation-



al network of ornithologists, it was discovered that the bird originated from England. It was wearing a ring on the foot and this how contact was made by the Coordinator with the person who ringed it in England. It was ringed in mid last year. It was captured by a passing bike rider in Conakry, who kept it in poor conditions.



- The bird was eventually entrusted to an ornithologist and a veterinarian for care and support prior to its release back into the wild. It was not injured, but just very dehydrated and underfed - it weighed just 1,6kg, according to the ornithologist - and full of parasites.
- The Team assisted Customs in procedural follow up after the seizure of 92 shark fins imported from Sierra Leone, reinforcing future collaboration with the Customs Directorate.

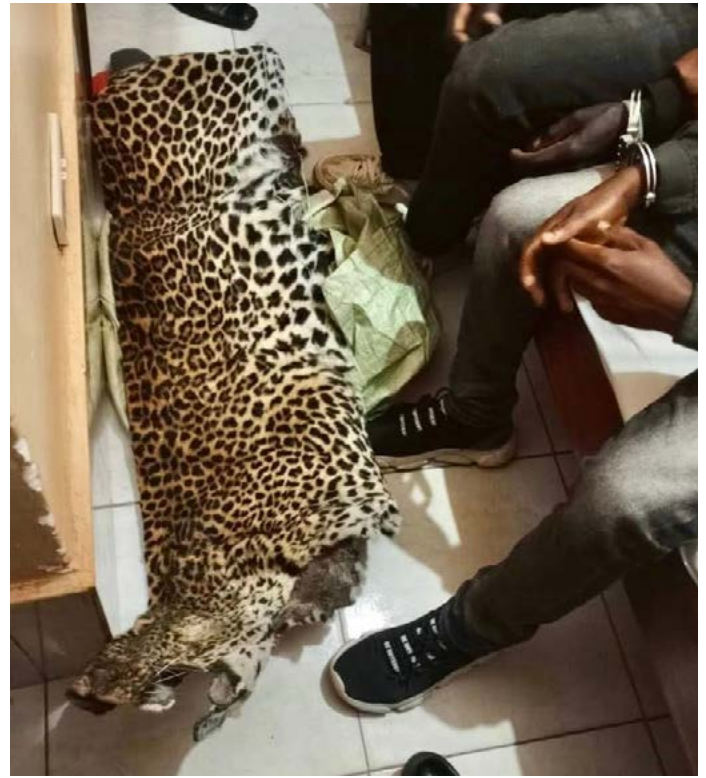
- The Team followed up on the registration application filed with the National Department for the Regulation and Promotion of Association (DNAR-PROMA), attached to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization.
- In collaboration with the Services Spéciaux, the Coordinator held a press conference announcing the arrest of four seahorse traffickers. The story was widely covered by national media, including television, radio, newspapers, and online outlets. International media also carried the news, with RFI—France’s leading international broadcaster—interviewing the Coordinator. The coverage extended across Africa, with countries such as Cameroon publishing the story, further amplifying the importance of the arrests.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 2 traffickers arrested in Kampala with a fresh large leopard skin. They are a part of a vast network across the Western part of the country, working in

complicity with some park rangers to expand their criminal business. Their operations extend to five other districts activating poachers in the nature reserves.

- The Legal Department pursued follow up on convicts sentenced for illegal possession of ivory, stemming from the EAGLE Uganda operation of 2020.
- EAGLE Uganda successfully received its MoU with Kampala Capital City Authority Division offices at Nakawa. This will assist in the acquisition of the project's operational permit.
- The Legal Adviser conducted jail visits to Luzira and Kigo prisons of traffickers from the 2020 and 2024 arrest operations.



International Media

Several international media picked up the story of the arrest of four seahorse traffickers, with RFI—France's leading international broadcaster—interviewing the Coordinator. The coverage extended across Africa, with countries such as Cameroon publishing the story, further amplifying the importance of the arrests.

[Link to APA News](#)

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