



**EAGLE**

June 2021  
EAGLE Network

# Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *17 traffickers arrested in 5 countries*
- ✓ *2 traffickers, including a military officer, arrested with 3 tusks, and some pangolin scales in Congo.*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Uganda*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin in Cameroon*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with a baby mandrill in Cameroon*
- ✓ *2 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 2 elephant tusks and an ivory piece.*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 60kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.*
- ✓ *A trafficker in Senegal arrested with 2 leopard skins*
- ✓ *3 traffickers with 2 leopard skins bringing the number of skins seized this year to 10 in Senegal*



*2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Uganda.*



*A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with a baby mandrill.*

# Summary

A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 60kg of pangolin scales. This seizure is a mere snapshot of the regular two-weeks activity of the trafficker. This one sack represents the killing of up to 300 pangolins (depending on the species). He is an experienced pangolin scales trafficker who posed as a hawker in second hand dresses. He bought pangolin scales from smaller traffickers and poachers he activated in several localities.



*A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with 60kg of pangolin scales.*

4 traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin. The traffickers belong to a network of experienced leopard skin traffickers.

A trafficker arrested in Cameroon with a baby mandrill. The plan was to rescue two mandrills but one died the day before the operation, showing how crucial it is to rescue these baby primates fast as they live on borrowed time. The trafficker admitted that a third mandrill she tried to sell died as well. She added that her father who is a traditional chief lends his gun to poachers that he activates and he is her supplier, while she has a regular buyer for live primates. He has been accused and stands prosecution

2 traffickers, including a military officer, arrested with 3 tusks and 5kg of giant pangolin scales in Congo. The tusks were chopped off from a slaughtered elephant mother and her baby. Tiny tusks were pulled out from deep inside the mouth of the baby elephant.

The first trafficker admitted to the slaughter and described that the mother was killed with five shots and the baby with three, in the Lesio Luna Natural Reserve.

2 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 2 elephant tusks and an ivory piece. They were arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the contraband. One of the traffickers who is a worker with a logging company travelled with the contraband from Ndjolé some 100km to Kango. He spent 3 nights with his accomplice in Kango before moving to the place of transaction as they attempted to sell the ivory tusks.

A trafficker arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins. He doubles as a heavy duty truck driver and used the position to regularly smuggle wildlife products between Mali and Senegal. The leopard skins were wrapped in bed sheets and concealed in a plastic bag.

3 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins. The skins were trafficked by a ring involved in timber trafficking. The traffickers arrived on motorbikes for the illegal transaction and the skins were concealed in a grain bag and a back pack. The number of leopard skins the Team seized during arrests from the beginning of the year reached 10 - a shocking testament to the magnitude of the illegal trade that drives leopards to extinction.

2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Uganda. The 4 large ivory pieces that weighed 25kg were wrapped in polythene and concealed inside a bag they took to the place of transaction. One of the traffickers is a renowned middleman for the ivory trafficking network.



*3 traffickers arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins.*

# Cameroon – LAGA

- A trafficker arrested with 60kg of pangolin scales. This seizure is a mere snapshot of the regular two-weeks activity of the trafficker. This one sack represents the killing of up to 300 pangolins (depending on the species). He is an experienced pangolin scales trafficker who posed as a hawkler in second hand dresses. He bought pangolin scales from smaller traffickers and poachers he activated in several localities. He is connected to many pangolin scales trafficking networks in the East of the country. He took every precaution to avoid arrest. The arresting team found a grain bag, full with pangolin scales in the living room when they stormed his residence. He admitted to have collected the 60kg of scales in just 6 days.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin. The traffickers belong to a network of experienced leopard skin traffickers. One of them was recently arrested but she bribed her way out of jail. They arrived the place of transaction



*A trafficker arrested with 60kg of pangolin scales.*

*A trafficker arrested with a baby mandrill.*

individually on bikes, with two grain bags containing the skins. They obtained the skins from other regions in the country. The region is notorious for skins trafficking and traffickers use traditional titles and functions to cover their illegal trade in leopard skin. One of the traffickers is a traditional ruler. A fifth trafficker of the gang is on the run.

- A trafficker arrested with a baby mandrill. The plan was to rescue two mandrills but one died the day before the operation, showing how crucial it is to rescue these baby primates fast as they live on borrowed time. The trafficker admitted that a third mandrill she tried to sell died as well. She added that her father who is a traditional chief lends his gun to poachers that he activates and he is her supplier, while she has a regular buyer for live primates. He has been accused and stands prosecution.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department trained some wildlife rangers and teachers of the Garoua Wildlife School during a training workshop in the North of the country that focused on the law enforcement procedure.
- The Deputy Director participated at the signing ceremony of an MoU between the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and a pangolin rehabilitation project – the Tikki Hywood Foundation. He met with several MINFOF officials.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss cases pending at the various courts.



4 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin.

## Congo – PALF

- 2 traffickers, including a military officer, arrested with 3 tusks and 5kg of giant pangolin scales. The tusks were chopped off from a slaughtered elephant mother and her baby. Tiny tusks were pulled out from deep inside the mouth of the baby elephant. The first trafficker admitted to the slaughter and described that the mother was killed with five shots and the baby with three, in the Lesio

Luna Natural Reserve. He concealed the products in a military bag to avoid detection and deceive the vigilance of the authorities. He transported the contraband from Inioni to Brazzaville where they ivory was concealed at the home of the second trafficker, the military official for several weeks. The gendarmerie went to great lengths to retrieve the rifle used in the killing of the elephants and

hidden at his home. He admitted that this was the fourth gun seized from him. The military officer was arrested when he came visiting the detained trafficker. He had concealed the contraband and protected the trafficker at his home.

- The Coordinator participated at an event organized for civil society by the EU Ambassador to celebrate Europe Day. She met with the Minister of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development during the event.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the Delegation of the European Union and the French Embassy to discuss wildlife law enforcement.
- The Coordinator returned from Nairobi after a 3-week working session with the CCU on new strategies, targets and goals for higher efficiency.



## Gabon – AALF

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks and an ivory piece. They were arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the contraband. One of the traffickers who is a worker with a logging company travelled with the contraband from Ndjolé some 100km to Kango. He spent 3 nights with his accomplice in Kango before moving to the place of transaction as they attempted to sell the ivory tusks.



- The Legal Team supported by the Deputy Activities Coordinator held seven meetings with the judicial and administrative authorities including The Prefect, Gendarmerie Commander, Waters and Forests Cantonment Head of Kango and with Deputy Prosecutors at the Special Chambers in Charge of Wildlife and Forestry Offences, the Sec-

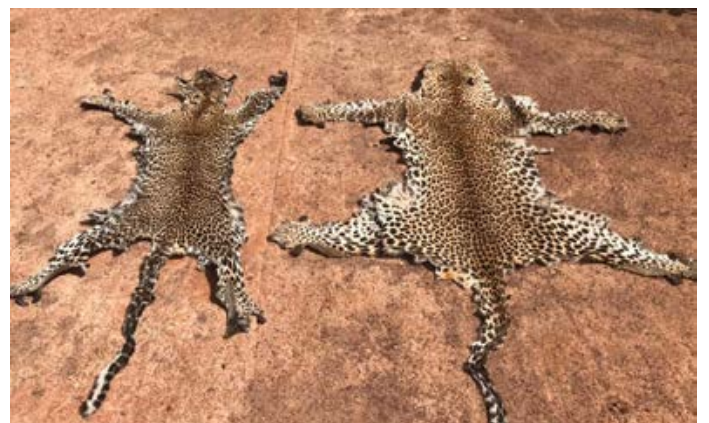
retary General of the Legal Department and the Anti-Poaching Director to discuss collaboration on ongoing cases and arrests of traffickers.

## Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Deputy Director of OCRTIDB and the Judge in charge of the First Investigative Cabinet at the Kara Tribunal to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Regional Director of the Environment and Forest Resources of Kara to discuss an ongoing ivory trafficking case at the Kara Tribunal.
- He participated at a workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources (MERF) to validate the implementation text of the CITES Bill.
- Intense recruitment continued and a legal adviser started his test period.

## Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins. He doubles as a heavy duty truck driver and used the position to regularly smuggle wildlife products between Mali and Senegal. The leopard skins were wrapped in bed sheets and concealed in a plastic bag.



*A trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins.*

*3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins.*

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins. The skins were trafficked by a ring involved in timber trafficking. The traffickers arrived on motorbikes for the illegal transaction and the skins were concealed in a grain bag and a back pack. The Team had to resist traffic in influence from a mayor in the area where the traffickers were arrested. The number of leopard skins the Team seized during arrests from the beginning of the year reached 10

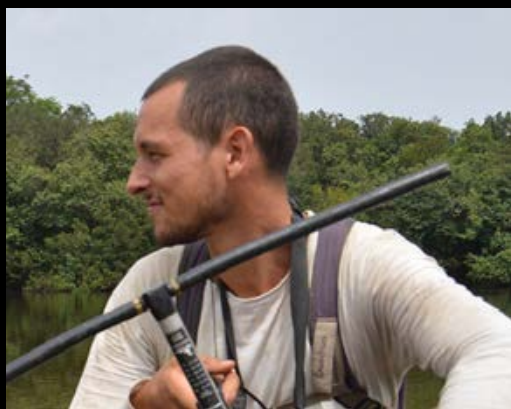
- a shocking testament to the magnitude of the illegal trade that drives leopards to extinction.

- The Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during 2 training meetings for 10 gendarmerie officers in charge of environmental protection and 44 gendarmerie officers from 15 African countries.

## Benin – AALF-B

- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with some high officials including State Counsels, Court Registrars, Gendarmerie, Forestry, Park, and Interpol officials.

- Measures and strategies are being put in place to ensure operations are carried out next month.



### Gaspard Julien-laferrière - a New Coordinator of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

As far as he could remember, Gaspard has always loved wildlife and animals in general and wanted to work in conservation.

After a few years in the movie industry as an assistant director, he decided to take a few months break as a volunteer in the Chimpanzees Conservation Center in Guinea in 2014. He didn't know how much this experience would change him.

Living in the bush and taking care of chimpanzees was a thrilling experience that made him realize the threat and the large scale of wildlife trafficking. Devastated by the health of some of the rescued animals, and the tragic fate of others he bounded with, he decided to fight the traffickers responsible of such situations. It is at this moment he heard of the work of the EAGLE Network, who brought many chimpanzees he took care of while he was working in the Chimpanzee Conservation Center.

Volunteering for 10 months, he then became the Manager of the release site of the sanctuary for 2 years.

After leaving Guinea in 2018, Gaspard wrote directly to Ofir Drori to join the Network. He went through an intensive training and was sent in the project in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019 to assist the Coordinator, Rens Ilgen. After 2 years in Côte d'Ivoire, he became the new Coordinator.

Finally, what was supposed to be a 6 month break is still an ongoing journey, full of challenges, difficult moments and amazing experiences.



---

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

- The Coordinator and Project Supervisor held a meeting with the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to collaborate on some important investigations.
- They met with the Interpol Officer in Charge of Environmental Affairs in the West African Region to discuss about future collaboration.
- The Coordinator and the Project Supervisor held meetings in Abidjan, with the OIPR, the Ivorian administration in charge of the management of parks and reserves to pursue collaboration in fighting wildlife crimes.

---

## Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- 3 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 12 months in prison. They were arrested in April 2021.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings with the Ministry of Environment, the Green Economy and Climate Change Regional Director of Zoundweogor and the Provincial Director of Nahouri to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration. The Regional Director expressed satisfaction for the strong court decision that sent 3 ivory traffickers to 12 months in prison.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting with the Interpol Focal Point on Environment to establish a collaborative platform.
- They held a meeting with the State's Judicial Agent to discuss the representation of lawyers in court cases.

---

## Uganda - EAGLE Uganda

- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks. The 4 large ivory pieces that weighed 25kg were wrapped in polythene and concealed inside a bag they took to the place of transaction. One of the traffickers is a renowned middleman for the ivory trafficking network.
- Both traffickers were remanded at Kitalya Maximum prison but unfortunately granted bail after 3 weeks on very weak grounds
- One of the traffickers convicted in March 2021 continues to serve his sentence at Kitalya Maximum





- The Project's activities were drastically slowed down due to the government declaring a 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid-19 total lockdown for 42 days from 19<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021.



## Headquarters

- Ofir gave a talk at the zoom meeting of the Wilson Institute - End Wildlife Crime Panel with an audience of more than 250 decision makers and NGOs.
- He gave another talk at the webinar of the World Commission on Environmental Law on the topic Environmental Liability and Biodiversity with an audience of more than 300.
- Congo Coordinator, Tiffany Gobert, returned to Brazzaville after a 3-week working session with the CCU on new strategies, targets and goals for higher efficiency

## International Media

- Fighting to Save the Last Great Apes with Ofir Drori – a podcast at Talking Apes

[Link to the podcast](#)

## 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 - [tiffany@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:tiffany@eagle-enforcement.org)
3. Gabon – AALF - [luc@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:luc@eagle-enforcement.org)
4. Togo – EAGLE-Togo - [rens@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:rens@eagle-enforcement.org)
5. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)
6. Benin - AALF-B - [jules@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:jules@eagle-enforcement.org)
7. Côte d'Ivoire - [gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org)
8. Burkina Faso - [josias@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:josias@eagle-enforcement.org)
9. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)