



EAGLE

November 2024
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *8 traffickers arrested in 3 countries*
- ✓ *4 major traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire in a crackdown on the notorious Koumassi criminal network*
- ✓ *3 ivory traffickers including two military officers arrested with three and a half tusks in a crackdown on corruption and complicity in Cameroon*
- ✓ *An ivory trafficker arrested with 3 tusks in Congo*
- ✓ *The EAGLE meeting of 2024 took place in Kenya - a week of fruitful discussions and bonding of activists managers*



Summary

4 major traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire in a crackdown on the notorious Koumassi criminal network. They were connected to two Asian criminal syndicates and supplied them with large quantities of ivory and pangolin scales. One trafficker was first arrested with more than 200 carved ivory items during a deal and the others arrested in their shops with more than 30 carved ivory items. They were implicated in our big case of 2018 dismantling an Asian organized crime for which one of them was arrested and jailed already.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 3 tusks in Congo.

3 ivory traffickers including two military officers arrested with three and a half tusks in a crackdown on corruption and complicity in Cameroon. One of the military officers resisted arrest violently making threats to the arresting force as he struggled. A warrant officer and a sacked army sergeant were arrested alongside a civilian. They all belong to a gang involved in trafficking wildlife and other illegal products using the cover of military personnel.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 3 tusks in Congo. He travelled over 150 km with the ivory carefully concealed in a bag and arrived the place of transaction on a motorcycle. During his arrest, he put up a stiff resistance before being restrained, handcuffed and taken away by the arresting team.

The EAGLE meeting of 2024 took place in Kenya - a week of fruitful discussions and bonding of activists managers. The meeting was held November 1 - 7 and brought together 9 EAGLE managers - Coordinators



3 ivory traffickers including two military officers arrested with three and a half tusks in Cameroon.

from Senegal, Togo, Congo, Uganda and Cameroon, 4 Central Coordination Unit members and the EAGLE Director. A broad range of issues affecting the network were discussed during in-depth sessions working together to improve our way of work, growth and planning. Time with nature connected better the EAGLE leaders to the wildlife we are fighting to protect and to each other.



Cameroon – LAGA

- 3 ivory traffickers including two military officers arrested with three and a half tusks in a crackdown on corruption and complicity. One of the military officers resisted arrest violently making threats to the arresting force as he struggled. A warrant officer and a sacked army sergeant were arrested alongside a civilian. They all belong to a gang involved in trafficking wildlife and other illegal products using the cover of military personnel. One of the officers refused to let go his military bag raising suspicions as to the content of the bag, further intensifying the struggle to arrest him.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the fellows of the Mentor Bat programme of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Discussions focused on wildlife law enforcement and conservation initiatives.
- The Legal Team held meetings with judicial and wildlife officials on ongoing cases in several courts and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Republic of the Congo – PALF

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 3 tusks. He travelled over 150 km with the ivory carefully concealed in a bag and arrived the place of transaction on a motorcycle. During his arrest, he put up a stiff resistance before being restrained, handcuffed and taken away by the arresting team.
- The Legal Team provided assistance to the gendarmerie following the arrest of two people with Marijuana. One of them was found in possession of an elephant tusk.





- The Coordinator held discussions with Head of the Forests and Environment Programme of the European Union Delegation in Brazzaville on wildlife law enforcement operations.
- He held discussions with the Director General of Forest Economy on the arrest of two traffickers with Marijuana and an elephant tusks.

- The Coordinator and his deputy, held a meeting with the Regional Commander of the Owando Gendarmerie to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- They held a meeting with the Owando Departmental Director of Forest Economy to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- They held several other meetings with wildlife, gendarmerie and judicial officials of Owando, Niari and Cuvette to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime
- The Legal Team held a meeting with wildlife officials to prepare for the operations against the ivory traffickers.
- The Legal Team held meetings with several judicial, wildlife and prison officials on ongoing court cases and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Coordinator participated at a Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources' national workshop on the review and validation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. He held brief discussions with some wildlife officials in strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- He participated at the meeting of the Consultative Council of the Anti-Corruption Commission (HAP-LUCIA), chaired by the President of the institution. Discussions focused on the difficulties encountered in signing partnership agreements between civil society organizations and government institutions.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- The Coordinator and the Head of the Investigation Department travelled to Côte d'Ivoire to provide support to EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire. The support resulted in the arrest of 4 traffickers with hundreds of pieces of sculpted ivory.
- The Team provided technical support to Customs on the identification of shark fins at the Diass Blaise Diagne International Airport.
- The Coordinator participated at a meeting that brought together stakeholders of the fishing industry and discussion focused on shark fin identification.
- Recruitment was intensified and several interviews carried out. An online investigator started his test and training and an investigator will begin his next month.

Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- 4 major traffickers arrested in Abidjan in a crackdown on the notorious Koumassi criminal network. They were connected to two Asian criminal syndicates and supplied them with large quantities of ivory and pangolin scales. One trafficker was first arrested with more than 200 carved ivory items during a deal and the others arrested in



their shops with more than 30 carved ivory items. They were implicated in our big case of 2018



dismantling an Asian organized crime for which one of them was arrested and jailed already. The



carved ivory items were concealed in a number of sculpture workshops located in the Koumassi neighbourhood of Abidjan. They used their workshops and sculpting trade as a cover for their illegal trafficking activities.

- The Deputy Director of LAGA arrived in Cote d'Ivoire to assist the Team following the departure of Gaspard Julien-lafferriere.
- He held a meeting with the Director of UCT to discuss the crackdown operation against the Koumassi criminal gang and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Team held several meetings before and after the operation with the UCT.

Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

- The Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Directorate General of the National Police and the Directorate General of Customs.
- 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 Legal Team followed up on court cases from Operations in 2020 and 2024.
- The Interim Coordinator worked on a draft MoU with UWA.
- The Interim Coordinator held a meeting with Officer Charles Olet at the Police Forensics Department offices to follow up on law enforcement procedures.
- Recruitment was intensified 2 investigators started their test and training.

Headquarters

- The EAGLE meeting of 2024 took place in Kenya - a week of fruitful discussions and bonding of activists managers.
- The meeting was held November 1 - 7 and brought together 9 EAGLE managers - Coordinators from Senegal, Togo, Congo, Uganda and Cameroon, 4 Central Coordination Unit members and the EAGLE Director. A broad range of issues affecting the network were discussed during in-depth sessions working together to improve our way of work, growth and planning. Time with nature connected better the EAGLE leaders to the wildlife we are fighting to protect and to each other.
- The EAGLE meeting served as a forum for reflection, analysis, problem solving and exchange of ideas on how to improve the network and the country projects. It is also a conceptual framework designed to tackle issues related to EAGLE's vision and direction.



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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