



# EAGLE

## The EAGLE Network Annual Report 2018



- ✓ *181 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals arrested in 10 countries*
- ✓ *In at least 13 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed and fought on the day of operation.*
- ✓ *122 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 1,300 kg of ivory, which includes over 400 tusks and 600 carved pieces*
- ✓ *A major crackdown was achieved on an international ivory trafficking network in Côte d'Ivoire in January. The leader, Tran Van Tu, a Vietnamese national, was arrested in Abidjan with five other members of his network, a criminal syndicate that had been operating for years in at least seven different countries*
- ✓ *Carlos Corces Bustamante, a Spanish wildlife criminal, was arrested in Guinea. He had illegally rented a hunting reserve in a remote area, abounding in wildlife, where he had organized hunting expeditions for trophy hunters from all around the world, with no respect for any law*
- ✓ *Harouna Traoré, a member of the notorious Traoré trafficking family, arrested in Guinea in December.*
- ✓ *The 10<sup>th</sup> replication of the EAGLE Network in Burkina Faso kicked off by a crackdown on ivory and leopard skin traffickers in December*
- ✓ *8 great ape traffickers were arrested in 3 countries, 4 live chimpanzees and two mandrills were rescued*
- ✓ *23 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 3 countries, over 1,800 kg of their scales seized.*
- ✓ *88% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial*
- ✓ *2,816 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions published in national media and 11 international media pieces published*

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# 1. Summary

Tangible achievements were registered during 2018 within the EAGLE Network. 181 significant traffickers were arrested in 10 countries. 1,331 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 88% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial.

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers - 68% - were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in pangolin scales – 13%. Third in focus of arrests were traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts with 11% of all the arrests. Great ape traffickers presented 4.5% of all traffickers arrested.

Fighting corruption remained EAGLE's main mission as most of our cases involved combatting corruption and traffic of influence. At least in 13 of the arrest operations corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented. Also religious authorities often feature in our operations.

Carlos Corces Bustamante, a Spanish wildlife criminal, was arrested in Guinea in October. He had illegally rented a hunting reserve in a remote area, abounding in wildlife, where he had organized hunting expeditions for trophy hunters from all around the world, with no respect to any rules, for years. The hunting reserve was established with complicity and corruption of some officers, well hidden from the spotlight of the higher authorities, who did not even know that it existed. The operation started by arresting his accomplice with guns and wildlife trophies. Based on this evidence an arrest warrant was issued and Carlos was arrested in his house. The investigation revealed his illegal possession of guns and his involvement in drugs trafficking.

Mamadou Dia, the Head of Wildlife Division in the Guinean Ministry in charge of wildlife was arrested a month later. Dia has created a fraudulent hunting reserve for Carlos Corces Bustamante and took bribes from him. This high-level corruption facilitated the slaughter of protected species by hunters from all over the globe under the pretence of Safari hunting.

In March and April GALF followed a case of a leopard skin trafficker, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin at the end of March. Thanks to good support of the legal adviser, two more traffickers were arrested in April, one of them the head of hunter's association and the other one the government official, the conservator of Tinkisso protected area. The trafficker – public official - has been trained within a conservation program – this example of corrupt behavior creates the grounds for our push for more investments in governance building and control of corruption. In March this year the corrupt official was brought to participate at EU workshop on the launch of a 5-million-euro Security Sector Reform Project.

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus in 2018 resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 122 ivory traffickers were arrested during this year in 7 countries. Over 400 tusks and 600 carved pieces of ivory, weighing more than 1,300 kg in total, were seized.

A major crackdown was achieved on an international ivory trafficking network in Côte d'Ivoire in January. The leader, Tran Van Tu, a Vietnamese national, was arrested in Abidjan with five other members of his network, a criminal syndicate that had been operating for years in at least seven different countries and is estimated to have generated the slaughter of tens of thousands of elephants for their tusks. This arrest led to the confiscation of 478 kg ivory, over half a ton of pangolin scales, some packed and ready for export, four illegal handguns, leopard parts including crushed and boiled bones, 7 cutting and carving machines and more contraband. The head of the criminal organization in Cote d'Ivoire is directly linked to two prior seizures, one in Vietnam and another in Cambodia, where 619 kg and 941 kg of Ivory was seized by authorities, respectively. The syndicate was also involved in money laundering and human trafficking to China.

Moussa Ouedraogo, the right hand of Tran Van Tu, was arrested in March. Moussa was the one delivering tons of ivory in containers and only for two containers seized in Vietnam and Cambodia this was already more than 1.5 tons of ivory! He also played an important role in delivering the ivory for the syndicate. At the time of the arrest of the Vietnamese, Moussa was in Burkina Faso. After all the arrests in January his chances of reappearing were slim. But he did - probably because he felt protected by his complicity connections with the authorities in San Pedro. Because of the same corruption, the legal adviser of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire went alone to San Pedro, with two agents of the UCT, to start discretely verifying Moussa's presence without informing local authorities. After 48 hours of around the clock surveillance, Moussa was arrested in his house in an operation led by UCT and EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire with the help of local gendarmerie.

8 great ape traffickers were arrested in 3 countries, 4 live chimpanzees and two mandrills were rescued in Cameroon, Gabon and Guinea.

23 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 3 countries, over 1,800 kg of their scales seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most trafficked animals in the world.

In Cameroon in August 6 traffickers were arrested with more than 700 kg pangolin scales in a crackdown on a syndicate involving DRC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria dealing in rhino horns and lion parts as well in connection to Vietnam. A couple of days to the operation, one of the traffickers sent a truck with the scales from CAR, which arrived to Douala shortly after he had flown to the port city. The pangolin scales were then driven in two cars to a neighborhood in the town, where an illegal transaction was about to take place, but all 6 traffickers were arrested in a police ambush. One of them attempted to escape but was quickly stopped. The exposed modus operandi of the syndicate consisted of buying the scales from smaller traffickers in Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and exporting them to Nigeria via Cameroon. Most of the 700kg of giant pangolin scales originated from the DRC where they have strong cover from members of the ruling elite. When the scales arrived in Nigeria, they were assembled for illegal export. A journalist of National Geographic covered the arrest operation.

4 traffickers including a corrupt policeman were arrested with 270 kg of pangolin scales in the capital city of Cameroon in September. The well organized ring was activating the illegal trade in pangolin scales within a network of lower level traffickers and poachers in the south of the country. They brought the pangolin scales concealed in a car in hidden suitcases, knack sacks and even stuffed in several spaces in the car,

including under the carpets. On the way to the capital city, they were exposed by a control post composed of gendarmerie, police and wildlife officials but bribed them with 700 USD to be allowed to continue their journey. The bribing corruption charges were brought against them. The policeman, wearing his uniform at the moment of arrest, tried to use his position to avoid arrest, but he ended behind bars together with the other traffickers.

A trafficker was arrested with more than 150 kg of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire in October. He's a well-known supplier in the illegal trade, who has been activating poachers and supplying the Asian market for years. He supplied 600 kg scales to the ring of traffickers, arrested in July 2017 in Abidjan with 3 tons of pangolin scales. His link to Chinese traffickers is being investigated.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, 2,816 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published on national media, and 11 international media articles covered EAGLE's work.

# Content:

This report refers to activities from January to December 2018. This report includes: the activities in each area of our fight - Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and External Relations; progress in developing the Network and strategic overview of our operations and their impact on wildlife crime.

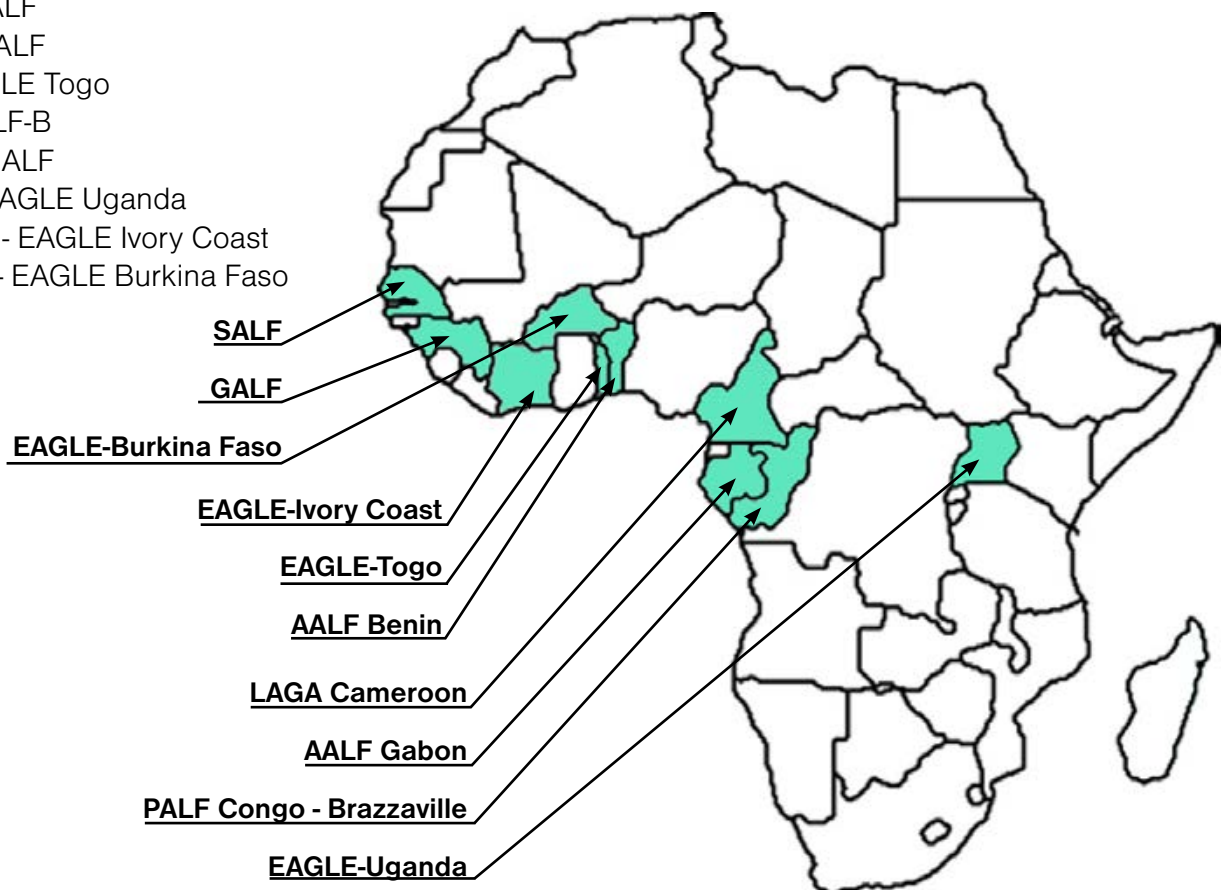
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## 2. Structure of the Network

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, 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. The Central Coordination Unit is located in Nairobi.

### The EAGLE Network operates in these countries:

1. Cameroon - LAGA
2. The Republic of Congo - PALF
3. Gabon - AALF
4. Guinea - GALF
5. Togo - EAGLE Togo
6. Benin - AALF-B
7. Senegal - SALF
8. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda
9. Ivory Coast - EAGLE Ivory Coast
- Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

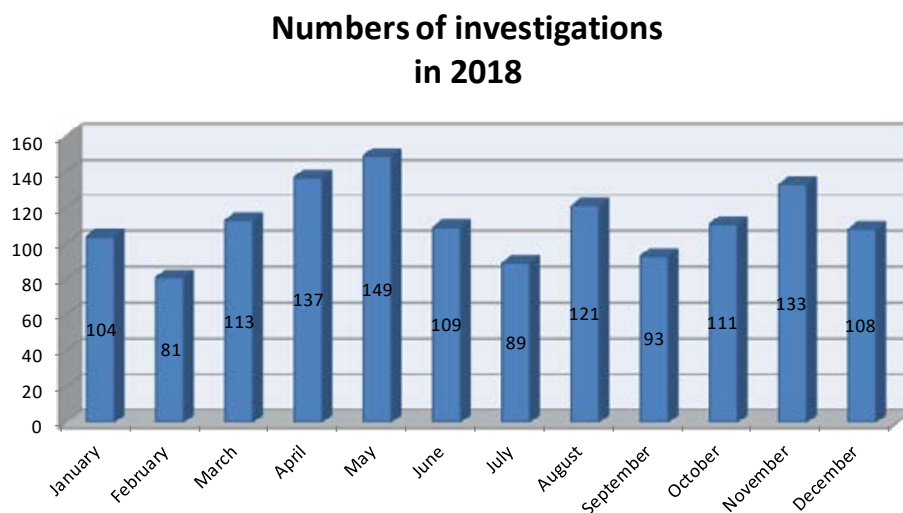




## 3. Investigations

1,348 different investigation missions were carried out in all 10 countries, leading to the arrest of 181 traffickers in 2018.

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking, but also on ape trafficking, illegal trade with big cat skins and organized illegal trade reptiles.



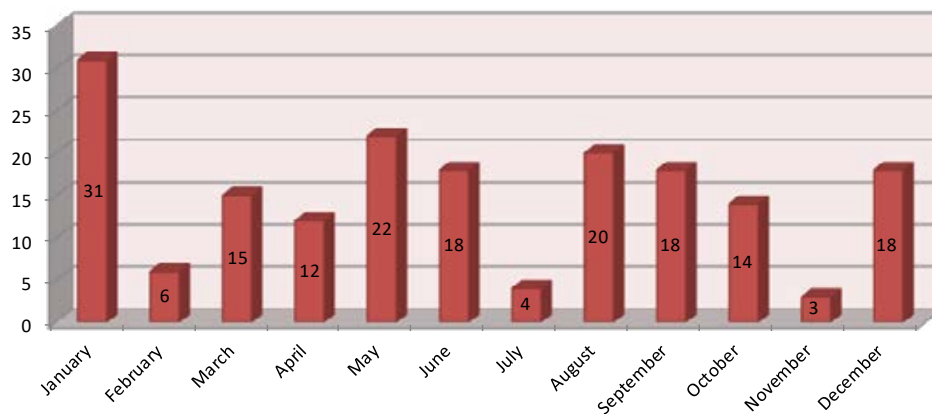
*Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – December 2018*

Intense recruitment process continued in all countries, leading to strengthening the teams and investigation departments. In all countries new investigators were tested and they joined the teams. Intense recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find more good investigators.

## 4. Arrest Operations

181 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested in 10 countries of central, West and East Africa.

**Number of Arrested Traffickers  
in January - December 2018**

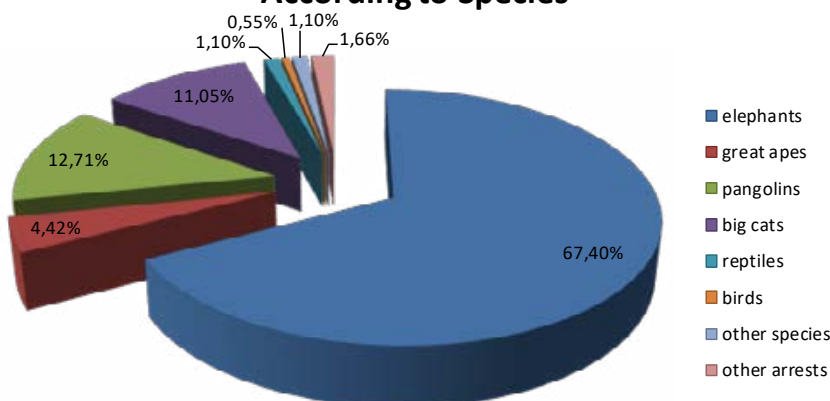


*Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - December 2018*

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers - 68% - were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in pangolin scales – 13%. Third in focus of arrests were traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts with 11% of all the arrests. Great ape traffickers presented 4.5% of all traffickers arrested.



**Distribution of the Arrested Traffickers  
According to Species**



*Fig. 3: Distribution of arrested traffickers according to the species*

## Corruption

**Fighting corruption remains EAGLE's main mission as most of our cases involved combatting corruption and traffic of influence. In at least 3 of the arrest operations corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented. Also, religious authorities often feature in our operations. Some examples are presented here:**

- Carlos Corces Bustamante, a Spanish wildlife criminal, arrested in Guinea in October. He had illegally rented a hunting reserve in a remote area, abounding in wildlife, where he had organized hunting expeditions for trophy hunters from all around the world, with no respect to any rules, for years. The hunting reserve was established with complicity and corruption of some officers, well hidden from the spotlight of the higher authorities, who did not even know that it existed. He and his clients were repeatedly hunting elephants, bongos, hippos, leopards and other species, fully protected by Guinean law, sometimes even using cruel methods, like bows and arrows. The operation started by arresting his accomplice with guns and wildlife trophies. Based on this evidence an arrest warrant was issued and Carlos was arrested in his house. The investigation revealed his illegal possession of guns and his involvement in drugs trafficking.
- Mamadou Dia, the Head of Wildlife Division in the Guinean Ministry in charge of wildlife was arrested a month later. Dia has created a fraudulent hunting reserve for Carlos Corces Bustamante arrested in October and took bribes from him. This high-level corruption facilitated the slaughter of protected species by hunters from all over the globe under the pretence of Safari hunting. The reserve was well hidden from

high authorities, including the Minister of Environment. The tariff of Carlos the Spanish jailed hunting operator and Dia his high official crony: 5,000 USD - killing an elephant; 3,000 USD - killing a leopard; 1,800 USD - killing a hippo.

- In March and April GALF followed a case of leopard skin trafficker, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin at the end of March. Thanks to good support of the legal adviser, two more traffickers were arrested in April, one of them the head of hunter's association and the other one the government official, the conservator of Tinkisso protected area. The trafficker – public official - has been trained within a conservation program – this example of corrupt behavior creates the grounds for our push for more investments in governance building and control of corruption. In March this year the corrupt official was brought to participate at EU workshop on the launch of a 5-million-euro Security Sector Reform Project.
- 4 traffickers including a corrupt policeman were arrested with 270 kg of pangolin scales in the capital city of Cameroon in September. Well organized ring was activating the illegal trade in pangolin scales within a network of lower level traffickers and poachers in the south of the country. They brought the pangolin scales concealed in a car in hidden suitcases, knack sacks and even stuffed in several spaces in the car, including under the carpets. On the way to the capital city, they were exposed by a control post composed of gendarmerie, police and wildlife officials but bribed them with 700 USD to be allowed to continue their journey. The bribing corruption charges were brought against them. The policeman, wearing his uniform at the moment of arrest, tried to use his position to avoid arrest, but he ended behind bars together with the other traffickers.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 16 tusks in Gabon in January. One of them was arrested in the act in a motel, trying to sell the contraband, concealed in a rice bag, while the other two were waiting in neighboring room for their share. A fourth one, the uncle of the traffickers, got arrested for corruption after attempting to bribe officers in order to release the traffickers.
- 3 traffickers, one of them former army officer, arrested in Congo in February with 4 tusks. One of them is a DRC national. They transported the contraband to the place of transaction in a canoe, concealed in a bag. They all are long-term traffickers, well connected to networks in the country as well as abroad.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Cameroon in March. 2 of them, members of a large trafficking ring, were intercepted along a major highway, often used to transport ivory from South to major towns. A rifle, military uniforms, electronic weighing scales and other equipment were seized from them. The rifle was handed to them by a widow of a police commissioner that got arrested as well. The used military uniforms were given by a colonel, a relative of one of the traffickers.
- Also in Cameroon, 2 traffickers were arrested with 121 carved ivory objects, one of them the owner of an art and craft shop on the ground floor of a popular Yaoundé hotel, displaying the ivory among wooden art objects. She is a notorious trafficker, dealing ivory for more than 40 years and working with a large supplying network. She was getting cover from her husband, an army colonel, who used his influence to get her out of jail. The other trafficker, a seller in the shop, was arrested as well.

- 6 ivory traffickers including an army man arrested in Benin in June with 4 ivory tusks. The soldier, who organized the transaction, was arrested together with four other traffickers in a restaurant in the act. At the police station they quickly denounced the last trafficker, who was arrested the same day at his house. He had links to other trafficking ring in the country, trafficking ivory regularly, bringing these 4 tusks from Niger.
- 3 ivory traffickers, one of them retired military man, another one from Burkina Faso, arrested in Benin in August with 8 ivory tusks. They were arrested in the act, with the contraband carefully packed in a jute bag and concealed in a travel bag full of clothes to deceive the attention of the authorities. The retired soldier organized the transaction, he had been involved in ivory trafficking for years, he used to operate in several neighboring countries including Mali.
- 3 ivory traffickers, one of them retired police officer, arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon in October. They brought the ivory to the place of transaction in a car concealed between the front and rear seats in a rice bag. Two of them have been trafficking ivory for 10 years.
- A corrupt military man arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Congo in November. He is a member of a forest infantry battalion, operating at the border with the Central African Republic, an army unit supporting eco-guards in combating the trafficking of weapons and wildlife products. He transported the ivory concealed in army bag and used his function to deceive the authorities at control posts.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 35 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in May. First two traffickers were arrested with a bag containing the pangolin scales and were taken to the gendarmerie brigade alongside two bikes they had used for transporting the contraband. The third one escaped leaving behind his bike. When he realized that the bike had been impounded, he arrived to the gendarmerie brigade to bribe for the release of the bike and was immediately arrested. He had been collecting pangolin scales from surrounding villages and supplying to other traffickers from the big commercial centers of Yaoundé and Douala.
- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Guinea in April. The imam of a mosque from an influential family was arrested near a bus station. Trying to create a riot and blaming police for kidnapping did not prevent the team from putting him behind bars.

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## Elephants

**Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus in 2018 resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 122 ivory traffickers were arrested during this year in 7 countries. Over 400 tusks and 600 carved pieces of ivory, all together weighing more than 1,300 kg, were seized.**

- A major crackdown was achieved on an international ivory trafficking network in Côte d'Ivoire in January. The leader, Tran Van Tu, a Vietnamese national, was arrested in Abidjan with five other members of his network, a criminal syndicate that had been operating for years in at least seven different countries and

is estimated to have generated the slaughter of tens of thousands of elephants for their tusks. This arrest led to the confiscation of 478 kg ivory, over half a ton of pangolin scales, some packed and ready for export, four illegal handguns, leopard parts including crushed and boiled bones, 7 cutting and carving machines and more contraband. The head of the criminal organization in Cote d'Ivoire is directly linked to two prior seizures, one in Vietnam and another in Cambodia, where 619 kg and 941 kg of Ivory was seized by authorities, respectively. The syndicate was also involved in money laundering and human trafficking to China.

- Moussa Ouedraogo, the right hand of Tran Van Tu, was arrested in March. Moussa was the one delivering tons of ivory in containers and only for two containers seized in Vietnam and Cambodia this was already more than 1.5 tons of ivory! He also played an important role in delivering the ivory for the syndicate. At the time of the arrest of the Vietnamese, Moussa was in Burkina Faso. After all the arrests in January his chances of reappearing were slim. But he did - probably because he felt protected by his complicity connections with the authorities in San Pedro. Because of the same corruption, the legal adviser of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire went alone to San Pedro, with two agents of the UCT, to start discretely verifying Moussa's presence without informing local authorities. After 48 hours of around the clock surveillance, Moussa was arrested in his house in an operation led by UCT and EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire with the help of local gendarmerie.
- 6 traffickers arrested with 15 tusks in Congo in January. One member of the ring is Cameroonian and he had been organizing poaching squads. The ring was activating poachers, supplying guns and ammunition. An automatic assault rifle with 4 magazines was seized as well as a motorcycle, used to transport the contraband. For transport to the place of transaction the traffickers concealed the ivory under a carpet in the trunk of a taxi, in the space used for a spare wheel, so it went unnoticed at checkpoints.
- 11 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in January. 4 traffickers arrested with 16 tusks. One of them was arrested in the act in a motel, trying to sell the contraband, concealed in a rice bag, while the other two were waiting in neighboring room for their share. A fourth one, the uncle of the traffickers, got arrested for corruption after attempting to bribe officers in order to release the traffickers. 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the South of the country with 2 tusks. One of them, a Burkina Faso national, was already monitored by police when arriving to a hotel on a motorbike with the contraband concealed in a black travel bag. Few minutes later he was arrested in the act when he was weighing the ivory to proceed with the transaction. He denounced two other traffickers who were arrested on the same day. An ivory trafficker arrested in the capital city with 4 tusks. He was arrested in an attempt to sell the ivory in an apartment building and remains behind bars awaiting trial. 3 ivory traffickers arrested in an attempt to sell 2 tusks in the North of the country. Two of them, of Malian nationality, were arrested in the act when they tried to sell the tusks. The third one was arrested one day later after he fell in a trap, when he was going to pick up his share for the transaction.
- In Uganda in January 3 traffickers were arrested with 25 kg ivory, 100 hippo teeth weighing 50kg and pangolin scales in the West of the country. They are Ugandans, residing in Congo, and trafficking various kinds of contraband for years, getting it from Congo or nearby Murchison Falls National Park. Another ivory trafficker was arrested with 3 tusks and 124 pieces of hippo ivory in the North of the country. He is a repeat offender, already arrested for trafficking ivory and illegal possession of firearms in 2014.

- A trafficker arrested with worked ivory in a mining town in Guinea in January, trying to sell 9 ivory necklaces and 4 bracelets. He is a sculptor, connected to a highly organized ring of traffickers with connection to Chinese traffickers, to whom he had been selling ivory for years.
- 3 traffickers, one of them former army officer, arrested in Congo in February with 4 tusks. One of them is a DRC national. They transported the contraband to the place of transaction in a canoe, concealed in a bag. They all are long-term traffickers, well connected to networks in the country as well as abroad.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Cameroon in March. 2 of them, members of a large trafficking ring, were intercepted along a major highway, often used to transport ivory from South to major towns. A rifle, military uniforms, electronic weighing scales and other equipment were seized from them. The rifle was handed to them by a widow of a police commissioner that got arrested as well. The used military uniforms were given by a colonel, a relative of one of the traffickers.
- Also in Cameroon, 2 traffickers were arrested with 121 carved ivory objects, one of them the owner of an art and craft shop on the ground floor of a popular Yaoundé hotel, displaying the ivory among wooden art objects. She is a notorious trafficker, dealing ivory for more than 40 years and working with a large supplying network. She was getting cover from her husband, an army colonel, who used his influence to get her out of jail. The other trafficker, a seller in the shop, was arrested as well.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 3 ivory tusks and 6.5 kg of giant pangolin scales in Congo in March. The traffickers are connected to trafficking rings in Congo and Gabon. They smuggled the ivory and pangolin scales across the border from Gabon, concealed in a travel bag. The first trafficker was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the ivory, the second was denounced by the first and arrested two days later.
- 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in March. 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the capital city with 2 tusks cut to 4 pieces and an elephant tail. They trafficked the ivory from the east of the country and were arrested in an attempt to sell it. An ivory trafficker, a repeat offender, arrested, after he was released by mistake from jail during a presidential pardon. He was arrested and prosecuted for the first time in 2014, but in August 2017 he was arrested again and sentenced 1 year in jail. He still had to serve 7 months. An ivory trafficker arrested with 5 tusks in the west of the country. He was surprised by the operation team during an attempt to sell the tusks in a hotel.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 ivory tusks in Congo in April. They transported the ivory to the place of transaction on a canoe, concealed in a bag of cassava flour, to deceive the authorities. They are connected to a ring of traffickers operating at the border area with Democratic Republic of Congo. They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to jail, one of them for 3 years, the two others for 2 years in prison.
- 4 traffickers arrested in Gabon in April with 6 ivory tusks. One of them is Malian worker of a logging company, another, an Ivorian, is a security guard of the same logging company. Three of them were arrested in their vehicle during an attempt to sell 4 tusks. After the arrest upon arriving to the police station they denounced the fourth trafficker, who was swiftly arrested in his house with two more ivory tusks. He had been leading a network of poachers, supplying him ivory for many years.



- 4 traffickers arrested with an ivory tusk, pangolin scales and elephant bones in Cameroon in May. They used motorbikes to transport the contraband as it is very flexible and easy to use for escape when threatened. They were arrested shortly after they began negotiations to sell the contraband, originating from the Santchou wildlife reserve that has been depleted of its wildlife resources and now is in a very bad state. One of the traffickers has been known by the conservator of the reserve as a major target for arrest. He was very alert and attempted to escape when he realized the team was moving in for the operation.
- An ivory trafficker was arrested with 7 ivory tusks and hippo teeth in Cameroon the same month as he attempted to move the ivory from its hideout. He transported the contraband concealed inside a truck with cattle from the North where he bought the ivory to East of the country. The operation uncovers a new trafficking route with the opposite direction to that used by ivory traffickers generally. Usually ivory is trafficked from the South and East regions to the North where it crosses border to Nigeria that has not yet put in place strong wildlife law enforcement measures. But this time the ivory was trafficked from the North to the East. The trafficker also dealt in leopard and lion skins as well.
- An ivory trafficker arrested in Congo in May with 2 ivory tusks, 5 elephant tails, hippo teeth and other contraband. He used his shop and practice of a traditional healer to cover his illegal activities, while he trafficked wildlife contraband as far as the major cities of the country and beyond the Congo border in Gabon.
- 13 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in May. 4 ivory traffickers including a corrupt gendarme arrested at a coast town on the South of the country. First a Nigerian trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell 27 kg of ivory. As a head of a large ivory trafficking ring operating in coastal area of South Gabon he had been in a target of investigations for several months. He was arrested while attempting to traffic a large amount of ivory, concealed in a box. He denounced three more criminals, including a corrupt gendarme at the Naval Brigade, who was providing poachers with ammunition. The two poachers, one of them from Mali, were arrested as well, and more ammunition was found during a house search. A logging company officer arrested trafficking two tusks in the centre of the country. He has been trafficking ivory for months, and finally was arrested in the act with the ivory concealed in a bag. An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 ivory tusks, elephant hairs and leopard teeth. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the contraband, which was concealed in his backpack. Later he admitted killing the elephant. 3 traffickers arrested with 2 ivory tusks, one of them Nigerian, in the East of the country. The Nigerian trafficker, well known to authorities as a long-term criminal, was arrested in a hotel room when he was waiting for his client. He quickly denounced two more traffickers involved in the case, they were arrested afterwards in their houses. 4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the North-East of the country. First of them, a notorious Nigerian trafficker, was arrested in the act with the contraband. After arriving to the police station, he denounced three other traffickers involved in the illegal activity. They were arrested the same day.
- 3 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in June. An ivory trafficker, a member of a large ivory trafficking ring, arrested with 4 tusks and 2 ivory pieces in North of the country. He was connected to circles to poachers, who used to provide him with the ivory in the region. He was also involved in an illegal mining of gold. He transported the ivory across the country through several police posts concealed in a travel bag, only to be surprised by the team when he spread the contraband on a floor to show it to his buyer. An ivory trafficker arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks. A member of an organized traf-



ficking and poaching ring was arrested in the act in a hotel room, a rifle caliber 12 and some ammunition was found in his house. An ivory and pangolin scales trafficker arrested in Lambaréné. He was arrested in the act when unpacking the two tusks, elephant tail and 3 kg of giant pangolin scales from a bag, which he used to conceal the contraband. He admitted he shot the animals few weeks before and intended to sell the tusks and the scales.

- 11 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin in June. 6 ivory traffickers including an army man arrested in the capital city with 4 ivory tusks. The soldier, who organized the transaction, was arrested together with four other traffickers in a restaurant in the act. At the police station they quickly denounced the last trafficker, who was arrested the same day at his house. He had links to other trafficking ring in the country, trafficking ivory regularly, bringing these 4 tusks from Niger. 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in the North of the country. Two traffickers were arrested in a hotel during an attempt to sell 2 tusks and one piece of ivory right after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a plastic bag. They denounced a father of one of them, the owner of the ivory, who was arrested in his house. Two more traffickers were arrested later, when they wanted to pick up their share of the illegally made profit.
- An ivory trafficker arrested in Congo in July with 9 tusks. He carried the ivory on a motorcycle concealed in a bag to evade detection. He is a notorious trafficker well known to authorities and well connected, trafficking ivory for years in several countries, especially Cameroon and Nigeria, using the logging trucks operating in the region. He also used his mobile phones shop as a cover for the criminal activities, collecting the ivory from a ring of poachers, concealing it in his shop and then re-selling it. Trafficking with corrupt policemen, he hoped for impunity, however he has been arrested in the act and he remains behind bars awaiting trial.
- 4 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in August. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Lambaréné. The first one, a gold miner, was arrested in the act, and soon he denounced two other traffickers. They were arrested the same day on the way to the place of transaction, when they wanted to pick up their share. The gang has been trafficking ivory in Gabon regularly. Another Ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks. He is a member of the same network and a nephew of the first trafficker, arrested. Not knowing, that his uncle was already behind bars, he contacted him offering ivory for sale. A swift operation brought him behind bars as well.
- 3 ivory traffickers, one of them retired military man, another one from Burkina Faso, arrested in Benin in August with 8 ivory tusks. They were arrested in the act, with the contraband carefully packed in a jute bag and concealed in a travel bag full of clothes to deceive the attention of the authorities. The retired soldier organized the transaction, he had been involved in ivory trafficking for years, he used to operate in several neighboring countries including Mali.
- 10 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in September. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 large tusks, cut to 3 pieces each, in South-East of the country. The first two traffickers were arrested with the ivory in their vehicle at a car park. They quickly denounced a third trafficker, who was swiftly arrested the same day in his village, 100 km away from the place of the first arrest. A rifle with ammunition, belonging to the first trafficker, was sized in his house. He is a repeat offender, already arrested a sentenced for 3 months last year for trafficking ivory. It is another flagrant example showing that the weak law in Gabon doesn't serve

the purpose of deterrent. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks at the South of the country. 2 of them were arrested during the attempt to sell the contraband and shortly after they denounced a third trafficker, a father of one of them. He was arrested a day later. 2 traffickers arrested in the South of the country. First trafficker, a Senegalese, was arrested in the act with 6 tusks. He bought the tusks at a coastal town from another trafficker, who was arrested two days later. 2 ivory traffickers, both Senegalese, arrested in North-East of the country with 2 ivory tusks, cut in 4 pieces. The first one was arrested in the act and he quickly denounced the other trafficker, who was arrested in his house few hours later. They were prosecuted the same month and sentenced to 5 months in jail.

- A trafficker arrested with two large pieces of ivory, weighing 14 kg, in Benin in September. He denounced two other traffickers. One of them tried to escape the arrest, hiding in a church, but thanks to persistence of the operation team he was arrested four days later in a bar near the Nigerian border. The third one was arrested at the beginning of the next month with one more tusk. The seized ivory has been stolen from a government storage on Benin-Nigeria border.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo in October with almost 400 pieces of ivory. They crossed the Congo river from DRC only to be caught in the act, when selling 7 big ivory statues, 2 raw ivory pieces, 260 chopsticks, 4 necklaces and more 111 other curved ivory items. On top of that they attempted to sell 3 leopard skins. They both are notorious traffickers with long connections between DRC and the Republic of Congo, but also with Angola, and China. This large seizure and arrest also show the rampant unchecked illegal trade in Kinshasa.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 large tusks in Congo the same month. They trafficked the tusks from the Northern part of the country and transported it to the capital city by public transport, concealed in a bag covered with fish for part of the journey, and in an empty cassava flour bag for the rest. They are were operating for many years the trafficking line between DRC and Republic of Congo and connected to a large ring of traffickers, crushed last year when two traffickers, one of them a pastor, were arrested with 30 kg of ivory and prosecuted.
- 3 ivory traffickers, one of them retired police officer, arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon in October. They brought the ivory to the place of transaction in a car concealed between the front and rear seats in a rice bag. Two of them have been trafficking ivory for 10 years.
- 3 traffickers arrested including a head of a large trafficking ring with 252 kg of ivory in Benin in October. The traffickers were arrested with 167 kg ivory in an arrest operation, supported by AALF-B team. They carried all 167 kg of the ivory in three bags into a hotel room where they were taken by surprise by the operation team in the middle of the transaction. The head of this criminal activity, Salvador Hounye, is a real estate agent using it as a cover for his criminal activities. Another 85 kg of ivory was found during a search in his office, so the total amount is 252 kg, cut in 78 pieces. Hounye has links to criminal gangs, trafficking ivory in Benin, but also in other African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. He was arrested in the possession of financial documents, with copies of checks showing amounts up to 1,000,000 EUR, and 9 cheque books in his bags. His financial activities concerned his real estate company, but also an NGO, which he supposedly set up.

- A corrupt military man arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Congo in November. He is a member of a forest infantry battalion, operating at the border with the Central African Republic, an army unit supporting eco-guards in combating the trafficking of weapons and wildlife products. He transported the ivory concealed in army bag and used his function to deceive the authorities at control posts.
- A Malian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks and an elephant tail in Gabon in November. He was arrested with the ivory concealed in a rice bag in his jewelry shop, which he used to cover his illegal activities. He had activated a network of poachers who were supplying him with ivory for years.
- A Cameroonian trafficker arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Gabon the same month. He is a member of a large trafficking ring operating in Gabon. Living in Gabon illegally, he had been trafficking ivory for at least five years. He has been prosecuted the same month and sentenced to 6 months in jail – unfortunately, the maximum sentence possible in Gabon.
- 4 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in December. 3 traffickers, 2 of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with two leopard skins and an ivory tusk. An ivory trafficker arrested with 4 tusks. He was arrested in the act in a hotel in the North of the country. He massacred two elephants to get the tusks.

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## Apes and primates

**8 great ape traffickers were arrested in 3 countries, 4 live chimpanzees and two mandrills were rescued in Cameroon, Gabon and Guinea.**

- A baby chimp rescued and 3 ape and pangolin traffickers arrested in Cameroon in January. One of the three is a Niger national. The baby chimp was found concealed inside a toilet of a house belonging to one of the traffickers; 80 kg of pangolin scales were behind the main door. Two traffickers were arrested inside the house, the third, who arrived on a bike, stumbled on the arresting team that gave him no chance as he attempted to escape. The baby chimp has been taken to the Mvogbetsi zoo that lacks appropriate structure, the expertise and the manpower to cater for the chimp, which risks dying from negligence, therefore LAGA team pushed the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to send him to an appropriate sanctuary.
- A chimpanzee baby was rescued by the joint team of Conservation Justice and Wildlife officers in Gabon in January, and handed to the International Center for Medical Research in Franceville to receive a proper care.
- A trafficker arrested in South Cameroon in April with two live young mandrills, which he had kept in a dilapidated and small cage at his residence. He had been keeping the female illegally for a couple of years and recently bought a male. He then decided to sell the two shortly before he was arrested. He was well known in the area for keeping protected species and had been given assurances by a corrupt wildlife officer that he could keep the mandrill without any fears.

- 2 traffickers arrested, and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea in June. First trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell the baby, and soon he denounced his sister, who had been holding the chimp for several days after it was trafficked from Boke mining area, where the chimp's family probably fell victim to the bushmeat trade. The small male, who was very weak and in a bad condition, was quickly handed to professionals from the Chimpanzee Conservation Center for lifetime care. This is the 20th chimp saved in a GALF arrest operation since 2012, when the project started.
- 2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Cameroon in July. The first trafficker carried the chimpanzee across the town, concealed inside a cardboard box and strapped behind a motorcycle. When he arrived to the place of transaction, he called for an accomplice who had been keeping watch over the area and they both unloaded the box and stepped into a nearby bar. They were arrested in the attempt to sell the animal.

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## Pangolins

**23 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 3 countries, over 1,800 kg of their scales seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most trafficked animals in the world. Some examples are presented here:**

- In Cameroon in August 6 traffickers were arrested with more than 700kg pangolin scales in a crackdown on a syndicate involving DRC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria dealing in rhino horns and lion parts as well in connection to Vietnam. A couple of days to the operation, one of the traffickers sent a truck with the scales from CAR, which arrived to Douala shortly after he had flown to the port city. The pangolin scales were then driven in two cars to a neighborhood in the town, where an illegal transaction was about to take place, but all 6 traffickers were arrested in a police ambush. One of them attempted to escape but was quickly stopped. The exposed modus operandi of the syndicate consisted of buying the scales from smaller traffickers in Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and exporting them to Nigeria via Cameroon. Most of the 700kg of giant pangolin scales originated from the DRC where they have strong cover from members of the ruling elite. When the scales arrived in Nigeria, they were assembled for illegal export. The arrest operation was covered by a journalist of National Geographic.
- 4 traffickers including a corrupt policeman arrested with 270kg of pangolin scales in the capital city of Cameroon in September. Well organized ring was activating the illegal trade in pangolin scales within a network of lower level traffickers and poachers in the south of the country. They brought the pangolin scales concealed in a car in hidden suitcases, knack sacks and even stuffed in several spaces in the car, including under the carpets. On the way to the capital city, they were exposed by a control post composed of gendarmerie, police and wildlife officials but bribed them with 700 USD to be allowed to continue their

journey. The bribing corruption charges were brought against them. The policeman, wearing his uniform at the moment of arrest, tried to use his position to avoid arrest, but he ended behind bars together with the other traffickers.

- A trafficker arrested with more than 150 kg of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire in October. He's a well-known supplier in the illegal trade, who has been activating poachers and supplying the Asian market for years. He supplied 600 kg scales to the ring of traffickers, arrested in July 2017 in Abidjan with 3 tons of pangolin scales. His link to Chinese traffickers is being investigated.
- A trafficker arrested in front of his bar with 40 kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippo teeth and 2 boa skins in Cameroon in February. He is known as a notorious trafficker, dealing in several illegal products including gold, with connections to Chinese traffickers. He used his bar not only for selling drinks but as a cover for wildlife trafficking.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 35kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in May. First two traffickers were arrested with a bag containing the pangolin scales and were taken to the gendarmerie brigade alongside two bikes they had used for transporting the contraband. The third one escaped leaving behind his bike. When he realized that the bike had been impounded, he arrived to the gendarmerie brigade to bribe for the release of the bike and was immediately arrested. He had been collecting pangolin scales from surrounding villages and supplying to other traffickers from the big commercial centers of Yaoundé and Douala.
- 5 traffickers arrested with 31 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon in December. The pangolin scales were stuffed into rice bags and sacks and they were arrested during the attempted sale. After the arrest the traffickers were brought to the Wildlife authority office, which was soon surrounded by their families and friends, pressuring for their release. With complicity of a wildlife official, an accomplice agitator managed to facilitate the escape of one the traffickers under the pretext of taking him to the toilets. Amidst the violence LAGA team member managed to catch the facilitator of the escape to bring him to justice, so all five are now in jail. LAGA is pushing for the arrest of the sixth. The agitator accomplice facilitating the escape was supposed to get married this weekend. The two families argued outside the court as he was transported to prison. This traffickers' ring has been active in East Cameroon for years, activating poachers in the area and having connection to bigger traffickers in capital city.
- 2 traffickers, a mother and her son, arrested with 37 kg of pangolin scales in Togo in December. They belong to a trafficking ring, which has been activating poachers in Togo for several years.

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## Big Cats

**Skins and heads of big cats were in the focus of The EAGLE investigations and arrests. 20 big cat traffickers were arrested in 4 countries. 23 leopard skins, 3 lions skins and hundreds of different pieces of lion and leopard skins were seized. Some examples are presented here:**

- 3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including at least 3 lions, several leopards cut into pieces and 5 more protected species in Senegal in December. The first two were arrested in the act with a part of the contraband including lion's and leopard's head skin, a leopard's head skin, two skins of cut lion's heads, pieces and stripes of lion skin and an ammunition of caliber 22. They used their herbs shops as covers to their illegal activities. During a search in their shops, skins of more than 20 different species, 5 of them fully protected, were discovered. During an interrogation they denounced a third trafficker, who was arrested on the same day in his house with several pieces of lion skins and other contraband.
- 2 traffickers arrested with two skins of lion heads, one of a leopard and several other skin parts in Senegal in February. The two brothers, notorious traffickers, used a shop, owned by one of them, as a cover for their illegal activities. They were arrested at their father's house during the attempt to sell the contraband.
- In March and April GALF followed a case of leopard skin trafficker, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin at the end of March. Thanks to good support of the legal adviser, two more traffickers were arrested in April, one of them the head of hunter's association and the other one the government official, the conservator of Tinkisso protected area. The trafficker – public official - has been trained within a conservation program – this example of corrupt behavior creates the grounds for our push for more investments in governance building and control of corruption. In March this year the corrupt official was brought to participate at EU workshop on the launch of a 5-million-euro Security Sector Reform Project.
- A Guinean trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and 4 skins of bushbuck in Senegal in March. He has been trafficking wildlife contraband between Guinea and Senegal for years. He was arrested in his shop during the attempt to sell the skins.
- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Guinea in April. The imam of a mosque from an influential family was arrested near a bus station. Trying to create a riot and blaming police for kidnapping did not prevent the team from putting him behind bars.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Gabon in June. The first trafficker from Burkina Faso was taken by surprise during an attempt to sell two fresh leopard skins. A rifle caliber 12 was later found in his house. When taken to the police station, he denounced another trafficker, who was arrested in his house three days later.
- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Upper Guinea in July. The taxi-driver, who had been involved in trafficking leopard skins between Mali and Guinea regularly, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skin of a very large leopard in a hotel.
- 5 leopard skin traffickers were arrested in Gabon in August. 2 traffickers arrested in Lambaréné with 2 leopard skins and a skull. They attempted to sell the contraband in a motel room. The town in the eastern part of the country is still known as a hub for wildlife trafficking. 3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in the South of the country. The first one was arrested when attempted to sell the contraband in a hotel room. He denounced two more traffickers, who were arrested in their village immediately.
- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in guinea in December. He was arrested in the act in the central part of the country and kept behind bars.



- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins and 3 leopard skins in Burkina Faso in December. This operation marks the start of our latest replication. The traffickers collected the lion skins in the WAP complex (W - Arly – Pendjari National parks), at Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin border, the largest protected area still rich in wildlife in West Africa.

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## Reptiles and sea horses

**Organized large-scale trade in totally protected pythons, turtles, tortoises and other reptiles has been targeted in EAGLE investigations. 2 reptile traffickers were arrested in Senegal and Guinea. 41 of threatened turtle shells and 22 python skins were seized. 3.5 kg of sea horses were also seized in one of the operations. Sea horse trafficking is an overlooked crime, common in coastal African countries. They are sold as souvenirs or trafficked to China where they are sold in the "traditional medicine" business.**

- A trafficker arrested with 41 sea turtle shells and 3.5 kg of sea horses in Senegal in March. He was arrested in his shop. He used to sell the shells to tourists as souvenirs, killing hundreds of them by breaking the shell by a pickaxe to puncture the lungs suffocating them to death. Several of them were Hawksbill Turtles, a critically endangered species.
- A trafficker arrested with 22 python skins in Guinea in April. He is a graduated civil engineer, he was arrested in the act when selling the skins. He was trafficking wildlife products to Mali and other countries. The seized contraband is just a small fraction of the widespread illegal market with reptile skins.

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## Birds

**A bird trafficker was arrested in Guinea and 150 Senegal Parrots and other protected species were rescued.**

- Harouna Traoré, a member of the notorious Traoré trafficking family, arrested in Guinea in December. Traoré family is one of the main international network, trafficking live animals in West Africa. They have been involved in ape trafficking for many years. 150 Senegal Parrots and other protected bird species were found during a house search in his premises. GALF team provided the birds with necessary care, they were transported to a new aviary in Forecariah, where they will be rehabilitated and released back to the wild.

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## Other protected species

- 2 poachers were arrested in Gabon in Minkébé National park with 13 duikers, 12 antelopes, 2 dwarf crocodiles, a pangolin and more protected animals, and a 12 caliber Baikal shotgun with ammunition in August.

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## Other arrests

**3 criminals were arrested for different crimes, such as corruption, forgery, violence etc.**

- Carlos Corces Bustamante, a Spanish wildlife criminal, arrested in Guinea in October. He had illegally rented a hunting reserve in a remote area, abounding in wildlife, where he had organized hunting expeditions for trophy hunters from all around the world, with no respect to any rules, for years. The hunting reserve was established with complicity and corruption of some officers, well hidden from the spotlight of the higher authorities, who did not even know that it existed. He and his clients were repeatedly hunting elephants, bongos, hippos, leopards and other species, fully protected by Guinean law, sometimes even using cruel methods, like bows and arrows. The operation started by arresting his accomplice with guns and wildlife trophies. Based on this evidence an arrest warrant was issued and Carlos was arrested in his house. The investigation revealed his illegal possession of guns and his involvement in drugs trafficking.
- Mamadou Dia, the Head of Wildlife Division in the Guinean Ministry in charge of wildlife was arrested a month later. Dia has created a fraudulent hunting reserve for Carlos Corces Bustamante arrested in October and took bribes from him. This high-level corruption facilitated the slaughter of protected species by hunters from all over the globe under the pretence of Safari hunting. The reserve was well hidden from high authorities, including the Minister of Environment. The tariff of Carlos the Spanish jailed hunting operator and Dia his high official crony: 5,000 USD - killing an elephant; 3,000 USD - killing a leopard; 1,800 USD - killing a hippo.

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## 5. Legal Follow up

**The legal departments in the 10 countries followed up the court cases of all the 181 arrested traffickers. The court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 88% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars at least for the first week after the arrest.**

**During the year 156 traffickers were prosecuted, 100 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while other remain behind bars, waiting for the trial. Very good deterring sentences were reached in Congo, where the average length of sentence is 1.8 years.**

- 2 traffickers, arrested in Guinea in December 2017 with 2 dead chimpanzees and alive chimp baby, were prosecuted and sentenced in January to one year in jail, the maximum sentence possible, and to pay over 55,000 USD in fines and damages each.
- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced in Uganda in January, 2 of them, arrested in September 2017 with 4 tusks, for 1 year. An ivory trafficker, arrested in November 2017 with 2 tusks, was sentenced 2 years and 10 months in prison. A trafficker, arrested in July with one okapi skin and 4 ivory tusks, was sentenced to 10 months in jail.
- Two ivory traffickers, arrested in January in Guinea, were sentenced to 6 months in jail in March, and the third one to 2 months in jail.
- The EAGLE Togo legal team followed up a case of two Beninese poachers arrested after killing a hippo in March. They were swiftly prosecuted. One was sentenced to 1.5 year in prison for the killing of an endangered species in a protected area and the illegal possession of a weapon. The second one was released due to lack of evidence. A third Beninese, on the run, has been convicted to 6 months in prison.
- 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 8 ivory tusks in Congo in April. They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to jail, one of them for 3 years, the two others for 2 years in prison.
- In the same month the PALF team supported the Anti-Poaching Unit in the transport of a juvenile chimpanzee seized during a patrol in a poaching camp on the North of the country. The baby chimp was transported to the Tchimpounga rehabilitation Centre where he quickly recovered from being malnourished and dehydrated.
- 7 ivory traffickers were prosecuted in Congo in May. Of 5 ivory traffickers, arrested in January 2018, 3 were sentenced to 3 years in jail, while the two others to 1.5 year suspended. 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in February 2018, one of them former military officer, were prosecuted and sentenced to one year in jail both.
- In May The PALF legal team followed up a case of a Chinese arrested with giant pangolin scales by wildlife officers of Odzala National Park. Two suppliers providing him with the scales were also arrested, the poacher who killed the pangolin is a teacher at a school supported by UNICEF.

- GALF followed a case of leopard skin trafficker, arrested by wildlife authorities with one leopard skin at the end of March together with the head of hunter's association and a conservator of a protected area. They were prosecuted in May. While the conservator received suspended sentence of 3 months, the two poachers were sentenced to one year in jail.
- The legal team of Benin followed up the case of the arrest of traffickers, one of them Chinese, arrested at the International Airport in Cotonou during a routine control by the Airport Anti-Traffics Unit in March. They intended to ship twenty-three jute bags containing pangolin scales from Nigeria with of total weight of 513 kg. The Chinese trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in jail, while the other traffickers were handed a suspended sentence.
- Two ivory traffickers sentenced to 6 months in jail in Congo in June. They were arrested in March 2018 with 24 kg of ivory and some pangolin scales.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in jail in Gabon in June, the highest sentence possible in Gabon. They were arrested in May with 2 tusks. 3 another ivory traffickers were also sentenced to 6 months. They were arrested in January with 16 tusks.
- 2 ape traffickers arrested with a baby chimpanzee in November last year in Guinea were prosecuted and sentenced to 7 months in jail in June.
- 26 wildlife traffickers in 12 cases were convicted and sentenced to jail in Gabon in July, 19 of them for six months in jail, the highest sentence possible in Gabon.
- The ivory traffickers, arrested in Benin in June in the North of the country, were condemned in July, 3 of them were sentenced to 2 years in jail, the remaining two to 1 year in jail.
- Another well-organized ring of 6 ivory traffickers, arrested in December 2017 in benin, has been convicted in July. The ring was led by a local king and his sons, who have been trafficking ivory for many years. They were all convicted in absentia and sentenced for 2 years in jail. The Judge ordered an arrest warrant being issued on them, the Legal team pushes for early execution of the warrant.
- The PALF team was fighting a difficult situation in Ouessou court in August, where a corrupt State Counsel repeatedly releases the arrested traffickers, sometimes even those who were sentenced to jail for several years, giving them a permission to leave often based on fake health reasons or similar excuses. The State Counsel also attacks the Ministry of Forest Economy and prevents PALF from carrying out jail visits and legal follow up. A complaint to the General State Counsel has been submitted and the problem was reported to the Inspection of the Ministry of Justice.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 1 year in jail in Gabon in August. He was arrested in June 2018 with 2 tusks, 1 elephant tail, giant pangolin scales and an illegally held riffle with ammunition. An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 5 months in jail the same month. He was arrested in March 2018 with 5 tusks.
- In September PALF team supported the Wildlife Officers in seizure of an adult chimpanzee, who was kept illegally in a house of a Colonel for more than 14 years. The animal was quickly transported to the Chimpounga Sanctuary, run by Jane Goodall Institute, for a lifetime care. As the Colonel was absent at the

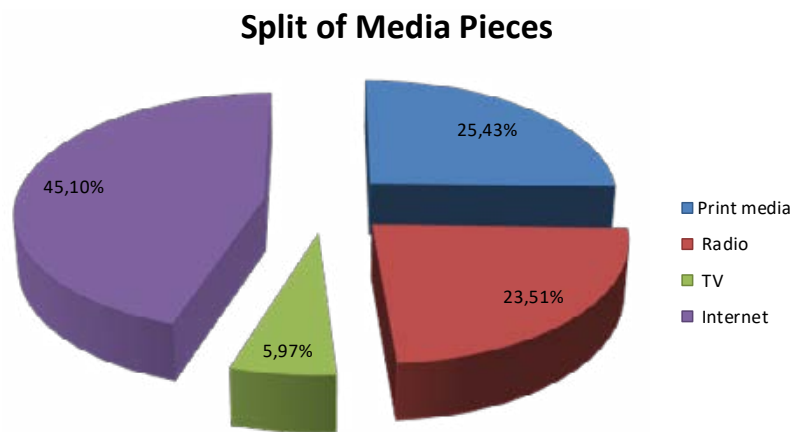
time of the seizure, PALF Legal team assisted in preparation of a complaint against him, which was sent to the Departmental Director of the Police, to the Commander of the regional department of the National Gendarmerie and to the Colonel Commander of Defense Military Zone No. 2

- 11 wildlife traffickers were prosecuted and sentenced to jail in Gabon in September, two of them for the maximum penalty of six months.
- Two ivory traffickers, arrested in December 2017 in Congo were sentenced in November to 1.5 year in absentia, the PALF legal team fights for an arrest warrant to be issued against them.
- Two of three ivory traffickers, arrested in September 2018, were prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in jail in Gabon in November.
- In Cameroon in December two traffickers were prosecuted and sentenced to one-year imprisonment following their arrest in March this year with 4 ivory tusks, military fatigues and a rifle which was used in killing elephants. They were ordered to pay fines and damages of over 17,000 USD.
- The legal team of PALF supported a case of two gorilla meat traffickers, who were found guilty for killing a gorilla and sentenced in December to jail for 3 years. The two Central-Africans were arrested by anti-poaching unit in July 2018 with 13 body parts of gorilla, which they had shoot the week before the arrest. They were arrested near the northern border of the country in proximity to Dzanga-Sangha National Park, which is still rich in wildlife including gorilla population.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 6 months in jail in December – unfortunately, the maximum sentence possible in Gabon. He was arrested in November with two tusks.

## 6. Media

The EAGLE Network is using the media to inform about the law being actively enforced. It provides education on the change in enforcement and creates deterrent by raising public awareness of the increased enforcement of wildlife laws and the risks and penalties for wildlife criminals.

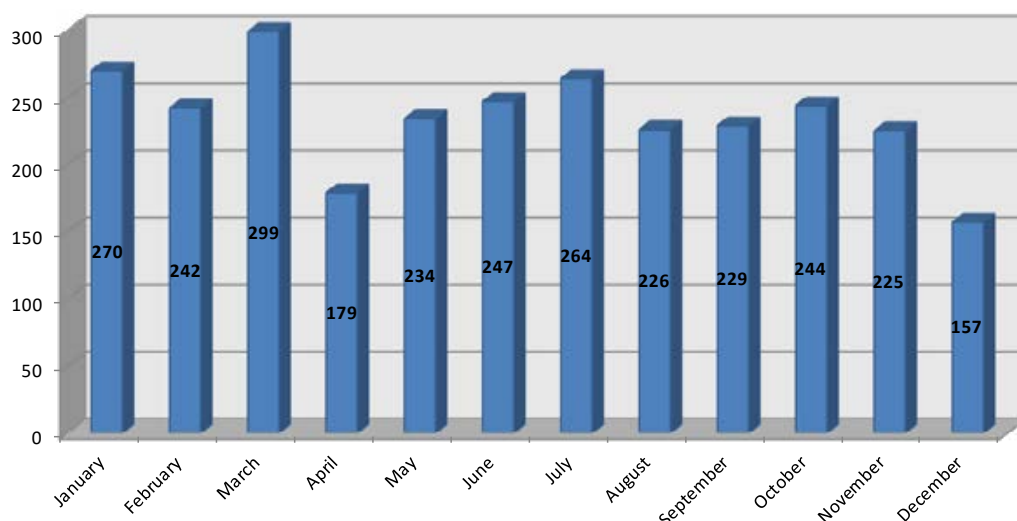
2,816 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in nine countries and 11 international media pieces were published. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 25.43% in print media, 45.10% on internet, 23.51% in radio and 5.97% on TV.



*Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces*



**Numbers of media pieces published  
January - December 2018**



*Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January – December 2018*

## International media

**11 media pieces were published in the international press. Mainly focused on the EAGLE Network, its members and their method of work. Examples are below.**

- NY Times reported on the Côte d'Ivoire arrest: Ivory Coast Arrests Six in Ring That Smuggled Parts of Elephants, Leopards and Pangolins

[Link to New York Times](#)

- Reuters article about the Côte d'Ivoire arrest: Ivory Coast seizes huge haul of elephant tusks and pangolin scales

[Link to the Reuters](#)

- Several international media published the Reuters' article in English:

[Link to Mail Online](#)

[Link to Yahoo News](#)

[Link to New Straight Times](#)

[Link to VN Express](#)

[Link to MedAfrica](#)

- Many articles were published in French as well:

[Link to Le Quotidien](#)

[Link to Al Wihda](#)

[Link to Africa News](#)

[Link to La Nouvelle Tribune](#)

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## 7. External Relations

Building a relationship of equals with government that is an exception from normal NGO-Government relationships and centering on the fight against corruption, ensuring effective enforcement and consequences for lack of law application is one of the main objectives of the EAGLE Network. This is realized through fostering government relations and engaging the international community to ensure good governance and law application, while pushing the EAGLE Network international messages of larger change. Fostering EAGLE Network's relations with Embassies and other members of the international community is therefore of high importance in the sensitive domain of law enforcement. During this year, the coordinators of the projects held many meetings with government authorities within and outside of their countries, meetings with traditional rulers, cooperated with local NGOs, and shared their expertise at international conferences and meetings and conducted trainings.

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### Cameroon

- The Deputy Director attended a meeting organized by TRAFFIC in January, which brought together a US Embassy official, WWF, and ZSL, to prepare for the World Pangolin Day, coming up next month. He also held a meeting with Chris Plowman, ZSL law enforcement coordinator who was on a working visit to Cameroon.
- The Deputy Director had a presentation on corruption in wildlife law enforcement at the French Cultural Centre in February and held a meeting with the officials of the CABAG project. He also held a meeting with officials of the European Union to discuss the court trial of two arrested in Djoum with 216 ivory tusks in the car of a gendarmerie colonel.
- In March the Deputy Director was one of the panelists and made a presentation on LAGA's enforcement work with government at a workshop in Addis Ababa on the use of GIS in combatting wildlife crime. The workshop brought together CSOs, institutions and government representatives who work principally in the field of GIS, Geography, and data. The aim of the workshop was to come out with a GIS platform that all can use to combatting trafficking and equally participate in providing data for the platform. He also held a meeting with the President of the association Papaye International on the chimpanzees conservation and the association's role in the Douala Edea Reserve. He held a meeting with Russ Stanford of the USFWS on collaboration in combating wildlife crime. He held another meeting with the new Deputy Chief of the Political - Economic section of the US Embassy, Jonathan Baas, and the environment specialist Ramatou Njanzou on continuing collaboration with the Embassy.

- In April the Deputy Director carried out an anti-corruption training for students of the Garoua Wildlife School that trains wildlife specialists from Francophone African countries.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Damaris Thompson of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement of the US State Department in May, to review wildlife trafficking and law enforcement efforts in the country. He also accompanied her during a visit to the Mvogbetsi Zoo.
- Ofir Drori, the LAGA Coordinator, arrived to Cameroon in June to hold several meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. During one of the meetings with the minister, he was accompanied by the Deputy Director. They discussed issues of collaboration and wildlife law enforcement. They also met with the British High Commissioner, French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador and the European Union Head of Mission to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process in the country and its associated governance problems. They held a meeting with ZSL officials to examine the state of collaboration and proposals for better partnership. The Deputy Director held meetings with some US Embassy officials to discuss strategies for effective wildlife law enforcement. He participated in a workshop on illegal wildlife crime organized by the British High Commission. He held a meeting with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife together with the Head of Investigations and Legal Departments. Discussions focused on investigations at the Nsimalen airport. They also met with the chief of Nsimalen wildlife and forestry control post and the customs chief of brigade at the airport's freight section.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Mary Pons of the Papaye chimp sanctuary who was accompanied by the conservator of the Douala Edea Reserve, the meeting focused on examining and proposing solutions to some conservation and security problems at the sanctuary.
- In July the Deputy Director participated at a dinner on the International Wildlife Trade organized by the British High Commissioner at his residence and met there with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife and the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas. Several other diplomats including the Chinese Ambassador were present. The Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting at the US Embassy on illegal trade in ivory in the country.
- The Deputy Director travelled to the Democratic Republic of Congo the same month where he was the main speaker at a Conference organized by the Goma University of Nature Conservation and Development. He made a presentation on wildlife law enforcement and held meetings with university teachers and officials to discuss ways for the inclusion of wildlife criminality and law enforcement in their various programmes. He also held meetings with some NGO officials to discuss challenges in wildlife law enforcement and lessons learnt.
- The Deputy Director held two meetings at the US Embassy in September to discuss steps and actions needed to fight corruption and traffic of influence during the arrest and prosecution of wildlife crime defaulters. Two other diplomatic missions and three other international NGOs were present. He also held a meeting with a UN researcher to discuss issues related to the illegal pangolin scales trade.
- The Deputy Director travelled to Brussels to participate at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in November. The CBFP is a conservation forum created to preserve the wildlife

and forests of the Central African sub region holding discussions between Governments and non-governmental stakeholders. He held meetings with over a dozen conservation actors and important EU officials as well as with USFWS officials and updated them on LAGA and EAGLE activities. He also travelled to Douala where he coordinated an open discussion session for NGOs, law enforcement officers and prosecutors during a US Justice Department sub regional workshop on fighting illegal logging.

- The same month he participated at an international preparatory meeting for the ministerial conference on fighting poaching and other transboundary criminal activities in the Central African sub region, where ministers of defense, security and protected areas will meet. During the preparatory meeting he was coopted into the technical committee preparing working documents for the conference that shall be held in N'Djamena early next year. A legal advisor participated at a regional workshop in Sangmelima, organized by WWF, where she had a presentation on the LAGA's experience in fighting corruption

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## Republic of the Congo

- The Assistant Coordinator met with the Director General of the Forest Economy about the procedure concerning the chimpanzee seized in Dolisie in January. She also held a meeting with the Departmental Director of Waters and Forests of Pointe-Noire on the legal follow-up of the case at the TGI of Pointe-Noire and with the Owando Departmental Director of Water and Forests, the State Counsel and the Court of Owando on the legal follow-up of cases at the TGI of Owando and the transfer of prisoners to Brazzaville.
- The coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of Forest economy in March to discuss the ongoing cases of wildlife crime and the damages and penalties used.
- The coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of Justice to introduce PALF, its objectives and challenges of fighting wildlife crime in April.
- The Coordinator participated at an international workshop drafting the Legislative Guide for the Fight against Wildlife and Floristic Crime at UNODC headquarters in Vienna in May.
- In June the Coordinator held a meeting with several high authorities including the General Director of the Penitentiary Administration, concerning convicts, the new General State Counsel at the Supreme Court about legal follow-ups, the MEF Wildlife Adviser on the MEF-WCS-TAF Consortium Protocol pending signature and the Director Interpol Brazzaville about potential collaboration.
- The Assistant Coordinator of PALF participated at a workshop on the National Plan for Protection of Elephants in the Republic of Congo (PANE) in August. The plan serves as a framework, providing solution to the elephant poaching and ivory trafficking, the maintenance of their habitat, cross-border cooperation and the reduction of man-elephant conflicts.

- The Coordinator held a meeting with the US Ambassador and the Consul to introduce them to the PALF activities and achievements and to discuss their support in combating wildlife crime in November. She also held a series of meetings with several high authorities including the EU Co-operation Forest Officer, the Director of Africa of the USFWS and other officials, the Administrative and Legal Advisor and the Wildlife Adviser of the Ministry of Environment on the progress of the MEF protocol, the General Director of Waters and Forests, the Colonel Commandant of Brazzaville Region, the Director General of the Penitentiary Administration of the Ministry of Justice, several State Counsels and Departmental Director of Waters and Forests and others.
- A legal adviser of PALF coordinates an UCF unit (a Unit fighting against wildlife crime) at Bayanga Protected Area in Central African Republic. His mission started in November and is 3 months long.

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## Gabon

- The coordinator travelled to Congo and Central African Republic in May to meet with WWF, WCF, African Parks and UNFWS, where he discussed cooperation in fighting wildlife crime.
- The assistant coordinator participated at an international workshop in Duala on combating illegal logging in Congo basin in June.
- In September the coordinator held a series of meetings with high Gabonese authorities and diplomats including EU officers, the Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Environment, the General Inspector of the Ministry of Environment, the General Director of Forests, UNODC officers and others.

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## Guinea

- The Coordinator had a meeting with the UK Ambassador and the External Relations Officer of the UK Embassy in January to discuss the project activities and the support of the Ambassador in the fight against wildlife crime. He also held a series of meetings with Guinea authorities including the Focal Point of the Fight Against Wildlife Crime of the Ministry of Environment, the General Director of the Corps des Conservateurs de la Nature, the Focal Point of CITES, the General Director of Water and Forests, several State Counsels and Regional Directors of Water and Forests and others. He also met with the Director of Guinea Ecology, the Coordinator of WABICC and with the USAID I Representatives.
- Charlotte Houpline, the director of WARA, travelled to UK in February to participate at a workshop organized by ARCUS foundation, bringing together twenty experts on the illegal trafficking of great apes in the



world. She also held a meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UK to discuss the London Summit on International Wildlife Trafficking planned for October, and participation of Guinea at the Summit.

- The Media Officer and a legal adviser participated in a workshop on rays and sharks conservation organized by the CITES Management Authority in February. The workshop focused on identifying threats to fish species, mainly rays and sharks. It was attended by custom officers, scientific authority of CITES, the Representative of the Ministry of the Environment, the Police and conservation organizations.
- The WARA Director and the Coordinator participated in an EU workshop in March on the launch of Security Sector Reform Project. They met there with the Minister of Environment, Water and Forest, Head of the EU Delegation, the Regional Coordinator of UNOPS and other officials. The Head of Legal Department and one legal advisor trained officers of Conservative Corps of Nature on combating wildlife crime at a workshop organized by CITES authority.
- The coordinator met with the UK Ambassador and the Political Advisor of the US Embassy in Guinea to discuss combating wildlife crime in April.
- This June the new Wildlife Protection and Hunting regulation Code was adopted by the Guinean National Assembly, increasing the sentencing penalties for wildlife trafficking to 5 years in jail and implementing CITES in better way. The GALF team, who had been one of the main actors in the creation and adoption of the new law, made the revision of the law with the Ministry of Environment and participated actively during the 3 years long process at many national workshops, made multiple revisions and corrections of the code and pushed it to the National Assembly.
- In July the GALF Legal Adviser and the CITES office trained 47 officers of the Conservation Corps on CITES, the professional ethics, effective combatting international wildlife trafficking and the implementation of the CITES Convention in the border areas. The training was supported by EU within the Security Sector Reform Support Project (PARSS 3). The Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment to discuss GALF's support to the authorities in the lifting the CITES sanction imposed to Guinea.
- A legal adviser participated at a meeting held at the National Directorate of Water and Forests in August to review the status of wildlife trafficking in Guinea and to create a sub-regional database on endangered species of plants and animals. The meeting was initiated by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- The Coordinator and the WARA Director held a series of meetings with various authorities and diplomats in September to inform them about the arrest operation, including the UK Ambassador, the Head of Cooperation and Environmental Programme of EU, the Political Advisor of the US Ambassador, the National Director of Judicial Police, the focal points for Wildlife Crime at the Ministries of Environment, Justice and Security and Civil Protection, the CITES Focal Point and others.
- The Media Officer participated at a workshop launching the Ziamah-Wonegizi-Wologizi (ZWW) project in Nzérékoré on the border with Liberia under the invitation of the Minister of Environment in October.

The workshop brought together environmental professionals from both countries in order to join efforts for elephant conservation in the forest landscape in the border area. The same month the Coordinator and the WARA Director held a series of meetings with various authorities and diplomats to inform them about the arrest operation, including the UK Ambassador in Guinea, the UNDP Environment Officer, the Environment Officer of AFD, The Environmental Affairs Officer of the US Embassy in Guinea, the UNOPS Coordinator, The National Director of Water and Forests, the CITES Focal Point, the Focal Point for Wildlife Crime in the Ministry of the Environment, the Focal Point of the Ministry of Security, the General Substitutes of the Court of Appeal of Conakry and others.

- In November the WARA Director and the Coordinator participated at Paris Peace Forum, presided on by president Emmanuel Macron. The Forum gathers all actors of global governance under one roof – states, international organizations, local governments, NGOs and foundations, companies, experts, journalists, trade unions, religious groups and citizens. Through debates and presentations, it creates a platform for discussing a range of themes around cross-cutting issues like peace, security, environment etc... The Paris Forum organized a public hearing between GALF and the Guinean Presidency, where the GALF project was presented as a model of governance and the fight against corruption, and the WARA Director and GALF Coordinator held a private meeting with the Presidency. The Presidency follows the case closely in real time and is committed to prosecuting corrupt officials. The WARA Director also had a private meeting with the President of Senegal, who promised an audience for the project. Besides that the Coordinator and the WARA Director held a series of meetings with various authorities and diplomats, including , the President of the Economic and Social Council of Guinea, the Environmental Officer of AFD, the Ukrainian ambassador to Guinea, the representative of the US interim embassy in Guinea, the Program Officer of the Governance Section at the European Delegation in the Republic of Guinea, the UNOPS Coordinator, the National Director of Water and Forests, the CITES Focal Point, the Focal Point for Wildlife Crime in the Ministry of the Environment of Water and Forests and others.
- In December a legal adviser participated at a workshop to present and validate the CITES report in Guinea, which precedes the mission of CITES secretariat to Guinea to assess the level of implementation of the CITES recommendations in Guinea.
- A legal adviser participated at a workshop approving the report of the institutional audit of the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests, evaluating the effectiveness of the reform of the Ministerial services.

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## Togo

- The Coordinator held meetings with various authorities, including the Chief of Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy in Togo and the Political Officer of the US Embassy to discuss the registration of EAGLE Togo and signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment, the Head of Protected Area Division and the Civil Jurist-Administrator at MERF to discuss the MoU and the Director of OCTRIBD to intensify collaboration.

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## Senegal

- In February the coordinator trained 51 officers of OCRTIS the (Central Office for the Repression of Illegal Traffic in Narcotics) including its Director General, and the head of the BIP on wildlife crime. She was assisted by a Commander of the DEFC and a Commander of the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy. She held a meeting with the General Director of OCRTIS and a Commander of the SSI of the French Embassy to discuss issuing permanent badges for the EAGLE Senegal team for access to airport. The same month she met with the UK Ambassador and a Chief of the Border Force to discuss more effective collaboration at the country borders, the port and the international airport of Dakar.
- In April the coordinator trained participants of three workshops around the country organized by UNOPS and MEDD on drafting of the PV related to the trafficking of wildlife and timber, combating Wildlife Crime and on the wildlife law. More than 100 officials took part in the training.
- SALF team participated at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of African Forestry and Wildlife Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in June. About 200 participants from 53 African countries discussed there how to sustainably manage and restore Africa's forests, landscapes and wildlife resources. The SALF team presented for three days at a stand of DEFCCS (the Directorate of Waters and Forests and Hunting) the results of its work including the trafficked and seized contraband. The stand was visited by the Minister of Environment, the Director of Water and Forest, representatives of European Union and other officials. The SALF team met with the Deputy Director of Criminal Affairs of the Ministry of Justice and several Attorneys General of the Republic, the representatives of the Instance and High Instance prosecutor's offices as well as and several Presidents and Judges of the Instance and Grande Instance courts.
- The coordinator met with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and the UK Ambassador in December. They discussed the challenges of fight against wildlife crime in Senegal, bad governance, the lack of seriousness of judges in the application of exemplary sentences and the high level of wildlife crime in Senegal. She also held a meeting with US Homeland Security to follow up the case of the arrest operation.

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## Benin

- The coordinator met with an US delegation including the US Ambassador in Cotonou in January, to introduce them the project and discuss the fight against wildlife crime.
- The coordinator and the assistant coordinator trained about fifteen state counsels on wildlife crime, its legal aspects and the fight against it in April. They also trained about twenty INTERPOL officers in combating wildlife crime.

- The coordinator trained 15 officers of the central Commissariat of the Republican Police in Calavi on the methods of combating wildlife crime in September. He also trained the officers of the Custom Brigade at Hilacondji on Benin - Togo border on wildlife crime.
- The coordinator trained 8 officers of the central Commissariat of the Republican Police in Allada on the methods of combating wildlife crime in October. The Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Political and Economic Section and other representatives of the US Embassy in Benin, to solicit their involvement in the case of Salvador Houne and to discuss the support of the Embassy in meeting the Minister of Justice.
- The coordinator trained 8 officers of the Custom office in Bohicon and 12 members of the Special Border Surveillance Unit at Idigni on the methods of combating wildlife crime in November.
- The coordinator trained 8 officers of the Special Border Surveillance Unit at Agoué on the methods of combating wildlife crime in December.

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## Côte d'Ivoire

- Ofir Drori, the founding director of EAGLE Network, visited Côte d'Ivoire in January to support the operation. He and the Coordinator held several external relations meetings. Both the Minister of Forestry and Minister of Interior participated at a press conference held after the arrest. There were several meetings held with the Chargé des Affaires of the US Embassy, the RSO and his deputies and other representatives of US government to assist with the case. Meetings were also held with the State Counsel General, the Republic State Counsel, his first substitute and the 4th Instruction Judge to explain the case.
- In February the coordinator met with the UK Minister for Africa, who visited Côte d'Ivoire to congratulate authorities on last month's operations.
- The Minister of Water and Forestry in Côte d'Ivoire signed the Memorandum of Understanding with EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire in March.

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## Burkina Faso

- The Gabon Coordinator travelled to Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso in September, where he held a series of meetings to support the opening of EAGLE Burkina Faso. He met with the Belgian Ambassador, the Environment Officers of EU, the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, the Director of Judicial

Police, the General Director of OFINAP (Office nationale des aires protégées), the Head of INTERPOL and the General Director of Criminal Policy. He introduced them to the project, its goals and activities, the need of support from international community and the way of cooperation with the authorities.

- In December the Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities, including the General Director of Water and Forest to coordinate the follow up of the arrest operation and prepare a meeting with the Minister of Environment, the Director of Operations of the General Directorate of Water and Forests, the Director of Institutional Development and Legal Affairs, with the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice and others.

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## 8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network

The 10<sup>th</sup> replication of the EAGLE Network in Burkina Faso kicked off by an arrest of leopard and lion skin traffickers in December.

The transition of the SALF project from WARA to EAGLE Senegal started in the second half of the year and was finalized in January 2019.

The EAGLE Uganda project has been suspended for organizational reasons, preparations of a new project started and EAGLE-Uganda has registered in the country.

The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued the supervision of and support to the network members. The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 17 missions to the countries to support newly started replications, to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries. The EAGLE members significantly raised standards of reporting, Internal Control Systems and adherence to safety and security procedures.

15 coordinators and other team members carried support missions in other countries in order to train activists, help develop the new replications and support the arrest operations.

The EAGLE Network exchange program raised the professional level of our projects brought 5 activists for training in other countries. 4 Activists went for a training outside of the network.

The coordinators and assistant coordinators from 8 French speaking countries and Ofir Drori, the founding director, participated at a 5-day training on leadership and management in Accra, Ghana, prepared by MDF Training and Consultancy Company. The training brought together almost all project leaders within EAGLE Network and allowed daily EAGLE meetings to discuss strategies and a leap towards higher level of targets similar to the January Côte d'Ivoire action.



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## January

- Daniele Mbui, the Financial Officer, arrived to Senegal to support the financial department and to start a recruitment process of a new accountant.
- Ofir Drori, the founding director, Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and the acting Deputy Coordinator of Togo travelled to Côte d'Ivoire to coordinate and support the arrest operation.

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## March

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, arrived to Congo to support the team in management.
- The Assistant Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department from Congo participated at a training organized by US Forest Service on illegal logging in Gabon.
- The accountant from Benin arrived to Senegal to train a new accountant.
- Ofir Drori, the founding director, trained at a Rangers summit, organized by the South African Government, Department of Environmental Affairs. He trained on corruption and ethics more than 263 Environmental Management Inspectors (Green Scorpions). He also held a meeting with several representatives of South African NGOs active in law enforcement and animal rights and discussed further cooperation with them.
- He also had a presentation at EU Parliament on implementation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and challenges of wildlife law enforcement, followed by a long discussion. He also held a series of meeting with European Commission about funding for law enforcement in West Africa.

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## April

- A legal advisor from Senegal arrived to Cameroon to undergo a training within the EAGLE Network Exchange program.
- The head of the investigations department of Gabon arrived to Congo to support investigations.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation officer arrived to Côte d'Ivoire to evaluate and train the investigators.
- Ofir Drori and Luc Mathot, the Founding Directors, held a three days meeting to discuss the management of the entire EAGLE Network.
- The Financial Officer arrived to Côte d'Ivoire to evaluate the financial management and train the accountant. She then traveled to Togo to support recruitment of a new accountant.

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## May

- The head of investigation from Cameroon travelled to Togo to support investigations.
- Ofir Drori, the founding director, held a presentation on wildlife organized crime and corruption to the meeting of 60 members of African Parliaments and European Parliament in Rwanda. He highlighted the need for cooperation, to put spotlight on cases and raise it in the priorities of national agenda. The presentation was followed by a long and lively debate and several offers for cooperation.
- Luc Mathot travelled to Congo and Central African Republic to meet with WWF, WCF, African Parks and UNFWS, where he discussed cooperation in fighting wildlife crime in the area of national parks on the Congo, CRA and Cameroon border. He also spent several days in Brazzaville and supported PALF project in management.
- Rebeca Sandoval, a Spanish activist based in Uganda, arrived to Nairobi for training.

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## June

- A legal adviser from Côte d'Ivoire arrived to Cameroon to undergo a training within the Exchange Program.
- The Head of investigations together with another investigator from Gabon travelled to Benin to train the new investigation team.
- Jules Dovi has been appointed a coordinator of AALF-Benin. He joined the team in 2014 as a legal adviser and shortly after became Assistant Coordinator. He traveled to Nairobi to undergo training in management with CCU.
- Ofir Drori participated at the Wilton Park preparatory meeting for the Summit on Illegal Wildlife Trade in London, organized by UK Government. He held a series of meetings with high level officials and partners to talk about cooperation in combating wildlife crime including the UK Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Anti-corruption Champion, representatives of INTERPOL, OECD and Environmental Investigation Agency, the analyst from the Royal Foundation and other experts involved in investigations of wildlife crime.
- Ofir Drori arrived to Cameroon to hold several meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues of collaboration and wildlife law enforcement. Together with the Deputy Director they also met with the British High Commissioner, French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador and the European Union Head of Mission to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process in the country and its associated governance problems. They held several meetings with ZSL officials to examine the state of collaboration and proposals for better partnership.

- The registration of Conservation Justice in Burkina Faso was finished and preparation of launching a new EAGLE project started.
- Luc Mathot, the founding director of EAGLE Network, visited Congo to support the management of the team.

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## July

- Luc Mathot, the Coordinator and the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network traveled to Brussels to hold a meeting with EU officers at DEVCO to discuss a potential project fighting wildlife crime in Central Africa. They discussed the financial and administrative aspects of the project.
- He also travelled to Burkina Faso, where he worked on preparation of launching the new EAGLE project. He held a series of meetings with Burkina Faso authorities including the General Director of Water and Forest, the Director of Judicial affairs, the Heads of IUCN, GIZ and other NGOs. He also met with the Co-operation Officer at Belgian Embassy and the Economic and Commercial Officer at US Embassy.
- 2 investigators from Gabon conducted a mission to Benin to support the investigation department and to train investigators.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of CCU conducted a mission to Senegal to do an inspection of GALF and SALF projects and evaluate the functioning of the projects.

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## August

- The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Cameroon to support the operation.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network traveled to Brussels to hold a meeting with EU officers at DEVCO to discuss a potential project fighting wildlife crime in Central Africa. They discussed the financial and administrative aspects of the project.
- The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Cameroon to support the operation.
- A coordinator of the prepared project in Burkina Faso arrived to Nairobi to conduct a training with CCU in management and organization of the project.

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## September

- The media officer of LAGA Cameroon conducted following a three-week training on media campaigns for development and social change in the Netherlands.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, where he held a series of meetings to support the opening of EAGLE Burkina Faso. He met with the Belgian Ambassador, the Environment Offices of EU, the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, the Director of Judicial Police, the Head of INTERPOL and the General Director of Criminal Policy. He introduced them to the project, its goals and activities, the need of support from international community and the way of cooperation with the authorities.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, conducted a short mission to Uganda to support establishing the new project, to meet authorities and to train the Coordinator.
- Antoinette MacKenzie, the Organization development Officer conducted a mission to Cameroon to get familiar with the LAGA project, to observe its functioning and management.
- The transition of the SALF project from WARA to EAGLE – Senegal started.

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## October

- Antoinette MacKenzie, the Organization Development Officer, conducted mission to Congo to support the project management and to strengthen PALF team by support given to Coordinator in ensuring team health, respect and cooperation, understanding and using emotional intelligence, handling and dealing with stress, conflict management, lack of respect, establishing authority and others.
- Luc Mathot, the founding Director, travelled to Congo for the Forum Governance, organized by Center for International Development and Training - CIDT (Wolverhampton University). CIDT has become a CJ and EAGLE partner through their project Citizen Voices for Change (CV4C) - Strengthening Forest and Wildlife Monitoring and Law Enforcement in the Congo Basin. He made a presentation on Conservation Justice activities in Gabon and the opportunity to increase collaboration with CIDT and the Independent Forests Monitoring in Central Africa. He held a series of meetings in Congo, including with CIDT – CV4C Team leader, Independent Forest Monitoring projects, the EU officer for Environment, DFID – Forest Governance, Markets & Climate Programme Team Leader and others.
- Luc Mathot also travelled to Burkina Faso, where he held a series of meetings to support the opening of EAGLE Burkina Faso, including the General Director of the National Office of Protected Areas, high officers of Gendarmery, Security and Environment Officers of EU Embassy, Cooperation and Security Officers of Belgian Embassy and others.

- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director participated at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London, where he presented as a panel speaker on money laundering. He presented EAGLE Network's work in front of 400 people and described the obstacle for money laundering investigations using examples from the EAGLE operations. He explained the main obstacles of priority, of potential, of difficulties of some governmental officers to understand the importance of money laundering investigations; and of the obstacle of corruption giving more examples. He got very good response to his talk and several money laundering contacts offered help. He also participated at the meeting of the Interpol Wildlife Working Group in London. He met and discussed with many of the participants of both meetings, some of them of high importance, he negotiated possible cooperation or improvement of already existing cooperation with many partners. He also met with many potential donors and negotiated future financial support of EAGLE Network.
- Ofir Drori presented at Remembering Great Apes event in London, where he addressed 600 people. He introduced EAGLE Network activities and he held again many meetings with supporters.
- Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer, conducted missions to Burkina Faso to support the financial management of the newly established project and to Benin to follow up the results of the 2017 financial audit final report and to revise administrative and financial aspects of the project.

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## November

- An Investigator from Gabon travelled to Benin and to Burkina Faso to support these two projects in investigations.
- Eric Tah, the LAGA Deputy Director and Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Brussels to participate at the 18th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. The CBFP is a conservation forum created to preserve the wildlife and forests of the Central African sub region holding discussions between Governments and non-governmental stakeholders. They held meetings with many conservation actors and important EU officials as well as with USFWS officials and updated them on LAGA and EAGLE activities.
- Luc Mathot held a meeting with EU representatives and signed a contract for financial support of the EAGLE Network.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, participated at a meeting in Malawi of the Corruption Hunter Network, a global group of activists fighting corruption all around the world.

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## December

- An investigator from Gabon travelled to Burkina Faso to support the operation and launching the new replication.
- An investigator from Gabon arrived to Benin to support the investigations
- The Coordinator and a legal advisor travelled to Burkina Faso to support the operation and launching the new replication.



## 9. Photos of the selected cases

### A major crackdown on an international ivory trafficking network in January



*The leader, a Vietnamese national, was arrested in Abidjan*

This is the story of how Ofir, Cecile and Rens as well as most of the Côte d'Ivoire team, cancelled their holidays vacation at the last minute and instead started cooking something big for a few intensive weeks...

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the EAGLE Network and the government of Ivory Coast began the coordination of a crackdown operation against an international ivory trafficking network. The leader, a Vietnamese national, was arrested in Abidjan with five other members of his network, a criminal syndicate that has been operating for years in at least seven different countries and is estimated to have generated the slaughter of tens of thousands of elephants for their tusks. The arrests led to the confiscation of 478 kg ivory, over half a ton of pangolin scales, some packed and ready for export, four illegal handguns, leopard parts, 7 cutting



*Four illegal handguns*



*The Minister of Forestry and Minister of Interior of Côte d'Ivoire participated at a press conference held after the arrest in Ivory Coast.*



*UCT in action*



and carving machines and more contraband. The head of the criminal organization in Cote d'Ivoire is directly linked to two prior seizures, one in Vietnam and another in Cambodia, where 619 kg and 941 kg of Ivory seized by authorities, respectively.

The arrests were carried by the UCT (The Unit Against Transnational Organized Crime) and the Ministry of Waters and Areas with the assistance of the EAGLE Network, a wildlife law en-



forcement NGO. The US Government carried out an extensive investigation against the international trafficking ring. The arrests are the result of a tight American-Cote d'Ivoirian enforcement collaboration.

The exposed *modus operandi* of the syndicate consisted of hollowing out timber logs, hiding ivory inside them, and filling up the remaining space with wax. The logs were then reclosed with glue, mixed with normal timber, and exported in containers to Asia.

The same method has been observed in additional seizures, in Kenya and Mozambique where more than two tons of ivory have been seized. At least four African countries (Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire ) and two Asian ones (Cambodia, Vietnam) are implicated, making this criminal syndicate an extremely important one in wildlife trafficking.

Phone analysis shows calls from those arrested to three known tax haven countries. The extent of the money laundering hints at the level of organization in the syndicate's operations.

One of those arrested in the operation, a Chinese national, was found in possession of pages listing the identities of young Ivorian women, their pictures, height and weight, and whether they had a female genital mutilation. This starts an investigation on Traffic in Persons for prostitution in China using fake passports.



*478 kg ivory, over half a ton of pangolin scales, some packed and ready for export, 7 cutting and carving machines and more contraband.*



*Almost half ton pangolin scales was seized*





## 5 ivory traffickers arrested in Cameroon in two operations

3 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks. 2 of them, members of a large trafficking ring, were intercepted along a major highway, often used to transport ivory from South to major towns. A rifle, military uniforms, electronic weighing scales and other equipment were seized from them. The rifle was handed to them by a widow of a police commissioner that got arrested as well. The used military uniforms were given by a colonel, a relative of one of the traffickers.



2 traffickers arrested with 121 carved ivory objects, one of them the owner of an art and craft shop on the ground floor of a popular Yaoundé hotel, displaying the ivory among wooden art objects. She is a notorious trafficker, dealing ivory for more than 40 years and working with a large supplying network. She was getting cover from her husband, an army colonel, who used his influence to get her out of jail. The other trafficker, a seller in the shop, was arrested as well.



## 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 ivory tusks in Congo in April

3 ivory traffickers arrested with 8 ivory tusks in the centre of the country. They transported the ivory to the place of transaction on a canoe, concealed in a bag of cassava flour, to deceive the authorities. They are connected to a ring of traffickers operating at the border area with Democratic Republic of Congo.

They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to jail, one of them for 3 years, the two others for 2 years in prison.





## 13 ivory traffickers arrested in 4 operations in Gabon including a corrupt gendarme in May

4 ivory traffickers including a corrupt gendarme arrested at a coast town on the South of the country. First a Nigerian trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell 27 kg of ivory. As a head of a large ivory trafficking ring operating in coastal area of South Gabon he had been in a target of investigations for several months. He was arrested while attempting to traffic a large amount of ivory, concealed in a box. He denounced three more criminals, including a corrupt gendarme at the Naval Brigade, who was providing poachers with ammunition.

A logging company officer arrested trafficking two tusks in the centre of the country. He has been trafficking ivory for months, and finally was arrested in the act with the ivory concealed in a bag.

An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 ivory tusks, elephant hairs and leopard teeth. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the contraband, which was concealed in his backpack. Later he admitted killing the elephant.



*4 ivory traffickers arrested*



*A logging company officer arrested*



*3 traffickers arrested with 2 ivory tusks*

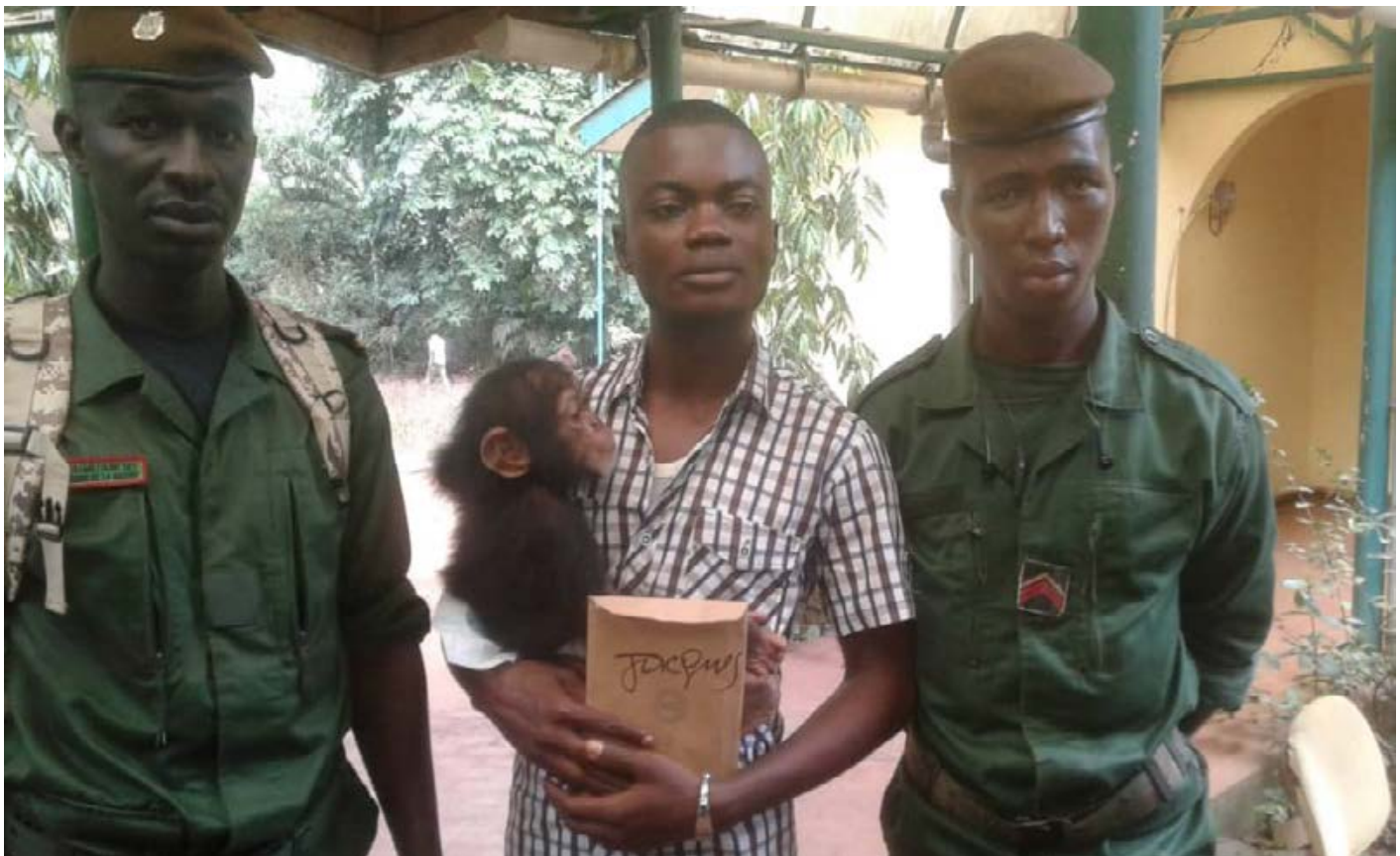
3 traffickers arrested with 2 ivory tusks, one of them Nigerian, in the East of the country. The Nigerian trafficker, well known to authorities as a long-term criminal, was arrested in a hotel room when he was waiting for his client. He quickly denounced two more traffickers involved in the case, they were arrested afterwards in their houses.

4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the North-East of the country. First of them, a notorious Nigerian trafficker, was arrested in the act with the contraband. After arriving to the police station, he denounced three other traffickers involved in the illegal activity. They were arrested the same day.



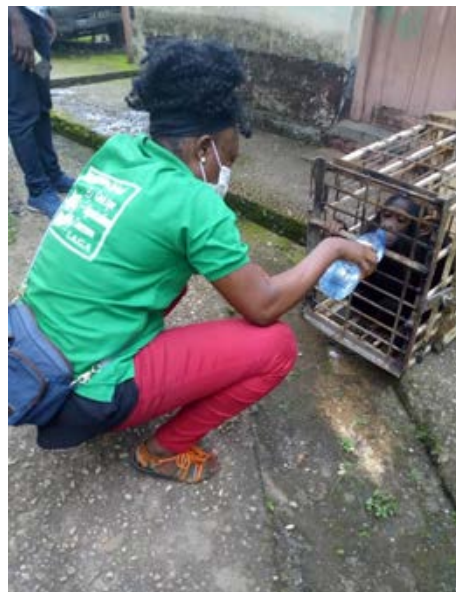
## 2 traffickers were arrested, and a baby chimp rescued in Guinea in June

2 traffickers arrested, and a baby chimp rescued. First trafficker was arrested during an attempt to sell the baby, and soon he denounced his sister, who had been holding the chimp for several days after it was trafficked from Boke mining area, where the chimp's family probably fell victim to the bushmeat trade. The small male, who was very weak and in a bad condition, was quickly handed to professionals from the Chimpanzee Conservation Center for lifetime care. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> chimp saved in a GALF arrest operation since 2012, when the project started.



## 2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Cameroon in July

2 ape traffickers arrested and a juvenile male chimp rescued in Douala. The first trafficker carried the chimpanzee across the town, concealed inside a cardboard box and strapped behind a motorcycle. When he arrived to the place of transaction, he called for an accomplice who had been keeping watch over the area and they both unloaded the box and stepped into a nearby bar. They were arrested in the attempt to sell the animal.



## 3 traffickers arrested in Benin with 252 kg of ivory in October

3 traffickers arrested including a head of a large trafficking ring with 252 kg of ivory. The traffickers were arrested with 167 kg ivory in an arrest operation, supported by AALF-B team. They carried all 167 kg of the ivory in three bags into a hotel room where they were taken by surprise by the operation team in the middle of the transaction. The head of this criminal activity, Salvador Hounye, is a real estate agent using it as a cover for his criminal activities. Another 85 kg of ivory was found during a search in his office, so the total amount is 252 kg, cut in 79 pieces. Hounye has links to criminal gangs, trafficking ivory in Benin, but also in other African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. He was arrested in the possession of financial documents, with copies of checks showing amounts up to 1,000,000 EUR, and 9 cheque books in his bags. His financial activities concerned his real estate company, but also an NGO, which he supposedly set up.





## An International Pangolin Scales Trafficking syndicate Arrests in Cameroon in August

6 traffickers were arrested with more than 700 kg of pangolin scales in a crackdown on a syndicate involving DRC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria dealing in rhino horns and lion parts as well in connection to Vietnam.



A couple of days to the operation, one of the traffickers sent a truck with pangolin scales from Bangui, which arrived Douala shortly after he had flown to the port city. The contraband was then driven in two cars to a neighborhood in the town, where an illegal transaction was about to take place, but all 6 traffickers were swiftly arrested in a police operation, assisted by LAGA team. One of them attempted to escape but was quickly stopped.

The international network was operating in four central African countries including Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Central Africa and Nigeria. One of the 6 arrested is from the Central African Republic while the rest are Cameroonians.

The exposed modus operandi of the syndicate consisted of sourcing the scales from lower level traffickers in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and exporting to Nigeria via Cameroon. When the scales arrived to Nigeria, they were assembled for illegal export to Asia. Most of the 700 kg of giant pangolin scales originated from the DRC where they had strong impunity and cover from members of the ruling elite.

The traffickers are also linked to rhino horn and lion trophies trafficking, these criminal activities are under investigation.

Central Africa region is considered to be a hotspot for sourcing illegal pangolin scales which are exported mainly to Asian countries. Over the years several tons of pangolin scales have been seized in Asian cities, originated from the region. In January 2017 two Chinese nationals were arrested in Cameroon with over 5 tons of pangolin scales ready for illegal export - the largest seizure of pangolin scales in central Africa so far.

## Carlos Corces Bustamante, a Spanish wildlife criminal, was arrested in Guinea in September



Carlos Corces Bustamante, a Spanish wildlife criminal, arrested. He had illegally rented a hunting reserve in a remote area, abounding in wildlife, where he had organized hunting expeditions for trophy hunters from all around the world, with no respect to any rules, for years. The hunting reserve was established with complicity and corruption of some officers, well hidden from the spotlight of the higher authorities, who did not even know that it existed. He and his clients were repeatedly hunting elephants, bongos, hippos, leopards and other species, fully protected by Guinean law, sometimes even using cruel methods, like bows and arrows. The operation started by arresting his accomplice with guns and wildlife trophies. Based on this evidence an arrest warrant was issued and Carlos was arrested in his house. The investigation revealed his illegal possession of guns and his involvement in drugs trafficking.





## 2 ivory traffickers were arrested in Congo with almost 400 pieces of ivory in October

2 ivory traffickers arrested in Brazzaville with almost 400 pieces of ivory. They crossed the Congo river from DRC only to be caught in the act, when selling 7 big ivory statues, 2 raw ivory pieces, 260 chopsticks, 4 necklaces and more 111 other curved ivory items. On top of that they attempted to sell 3 leopard skins. They both are notorious traffickers with long connections between DRC and the Republic of Congo, but also with Angola, and China. This large seizure and arrest also show the rampant unchecked illegal trade in Kinshasa.



## The Head of Wildlife Division in the Ministry in charge of wildlife in Guinea arrested in October

Mamadou Dia, the Head of Wildlife Division in the Ministry in charge of wildlife is now in prison. Dia has created a fraudulent hunting reserve for the Spanish safari hunter arrested last month and took bribes from him. This high-level corruption facilitated the slaughter of protected species by hunters from all over the globe under the pretence of Safari hunting. The tariff of Carlos the Spanish jailed hunting operator and Dia his high official crony: 5,000 USD - killing an elephant; 3,000 USD - killing a leopard; 1,800 USD - killing a hippo.



## **3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including at least 3 lions, several leopards cut into pieces and 5 more protected species in Senegal in December**

3 traffickers arrested with more than 500 wildlife skins, including at least 3 lions, several leopards cut into pieces and 5 more protected species. The first two were arrested in the act with a part of the contraband including lion's and leopard's head skin, a leopard's head skin, two skins of cut lion's heads, pieces and stripes of lion skin and an ammunition of caliber 22. They used their herbs shops as covers to their illegal activities. During a search in their shops, skins of more than 20 different species, 5 of them fully protected, were discovered. During an interrogation they denounced a third trafficker, who was

arrested on the same day in his house with several pieces of lion skins and other contraband.





## 2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins and 3 leopard skins in Burkina Faso in December

■ 2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins and 3 leopard skins. This operation marks the start of our latest replication. The traffickers collected the lion skins in the WAP complex (W - Arly – Pendjari National parks), at Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin border, the largest protected area still rich in wildlife in West Africa.



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

# Annex - summary of the results

## Number of investigations per month per country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total per country
Cameroon	22	29	29	29	32	24	26	25	20	24	22	15	<b>297</b>
Congo	5	5	9	6	8	6	8	8	3	5	6	3	<b>72</b>
Gabon	14	9	15	4	14	14	3	24	13	16	13	12	<b>151</b>
Guinea	17	8	8	6	39	25	13	22	7	11	8	7	<b>171</b>
Togo	8	16	23	11	8	9	8	11	10	7	28	9	<b>148</b>
Senegal	11	8	8	27	9	11	11	8	11	0	12	11	<b>127</b>
Benin	12	4	9	34	11	6	8	12	11	8	9	7	<b>131</b>
Uganda	7	0											<b>7</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	8	2	12	20	28	14	12	11	18	40	35	27	<b>227</b>
Burkina Faso												17	<b>17</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1331</b>

## Number of arrests per month per country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total per country
Cameroon	3	1	5	1	8	0	2	6	4	0	0	5	<b>35</b>
Congo	6	3	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	<b>21</b>
Gabon	11	0	5	4	13	5	0	11	10	3	2	4	<b>68</b>
Guinea	1	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	<b>13</b>
Togo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
Senegal	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	<b>7</b>
Benin	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	3	2	4	0	0	<b>20</b>
Uganda	4	0											<b>4</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	<b>9</b>
Burkina Faso												2	<b>2</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>181</b>

## Number of media pieces by month by country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total by country
Cameroon	19	45	26	24	47	24	25	24	36	32	42	22	<b>366</b>
Congo	20	38	32	39	37	29	32	22	16	30	37	28	<b>360</b>
Gabon	40	12	20	16	39	47	18	28	34	4	4	0	<b>262</b>
Guinea	32	9	20	33	6	30	30	11	20	16	8	17	<b>232</b>
Togo	30	47	121	43	25	46	46	46	52	58	52	42	<b>608</b>
Senegal	5	15	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	<b>57</b>
Benin	37	40	30	24	50	40	80	59	51	66	50	30	<b>557</b>
Uganda	8												<b>8</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	79	36	31	0	30	31	33	36	20	38	32	0	<b>366</b>
Burkina Faso												0	<b>0</b>
<b>total by month</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2816</b>

## Number of prosecutions by month by country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total
<b>Cameroon</b>	2	0	4	2	0	8	2	0	4	4	0	9	<b>35</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Congo</b>	0	2	0	3	7	6	0	1	0	0	2	0	<b>21</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	<b>12</b>
<b>Gabon</b>	0	0	0	0	0	6	26	5	12	5	6	1	<b>61</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	5	26	5	12	4	4	1	<b>57</b>
<b>Guinea</b>	2	0	1	1	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	<b>15</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	2	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>Togo</b>	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Senegal</b>	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	<b>7</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Benin</b>	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	<b>11</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	<b>7</b>
<b>Uganda</b>	4												<b>4</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	3												<b>3</b>
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>												0	<b>0</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>												0	<b>0</b>
<b>total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>156</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>