



**EAGLE**

# The EAGLE Network 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2019 Report



- ✓ *106 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals arrested in 8 countries*
- ✓ *At least in 7 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation*
- ✓ *69 ivory traffickers arrested with over 600 kg of ivory, which includes 203 tusks and 485 carved pieces*
- ✓ *16 pangolin scales traffickers arrested in a series of operations, leading to a successful crackdown on international trafficking rings in Cameroon, more than 1,800 kg of scales were seized.*
- ✓ *2 great ape traffickers arrested in Cameroon and a live chimpanzee rescued*
- ✓ *93% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars*
- ✓ *1,318 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions published in national media and at least 5 international media pieces published*

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# 1. Summary

Tangible achievements were registered during 1st semester of 2019 within the EAGLE Network. 106 significant traffickers were arrested in 8 countries. 556 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 93% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least in the beginning of their trial. During the semester 85 traffickers were prosecuted and convinced, 67 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while others remain behind the bars awaiting trial.

Traffickers in ivory and other elephant parts represent the vast majority of arrests, while traffickers of big cat skins take second place and pangolin scales traffickers the third.

Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 7 of the operation, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt government officer, an army man or a spiritual leader was involved in trafficking, or a traffic of influence or bribing attempt documented.

16 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in a series of operations, leading to a successful crackdown on international trafficking rings in Cameroon. Pangolin scales were also seized in several ivory operations. More than 1,800 kg of scales were seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is increasing. 4 traffickers were arrested with 1.7 tons of pangolin scales and 73 ivory tusks in Cameroon in the most important operation in March. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years. One of them owned a telephone shop and used it as a cover-up for the illegal trade in pangolin scales and ivory. The owner of the shop made regular trips to China. A second trafficker dealt in pepper and local spices called “djansang”. Ivory and pangolin scales were concealed inside the pepper and djansang bags when being transported from the South-East of the country where the traffickers activated groups of small traffickers and poachers. They were stocking the contraband in a house in Douala, which was in a construction with nobody living around. Then they were delivering it to Nigeria. The contraband then continued to Asia, which is the biggest source of demand for pangolin scales and ivory.

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 69 ivory traffickers were arrested during 25 operations in 7 countries. Over 600 kg of ivory, which includes 203 tusks and 485 carved pieces was seized.

2 great ape traffickers were arrested and baby chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon, in January. The couple was arrested when they were just about to sell the baby with the support of one of their sons who is based in Europe. They had been trafficking live animals for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, 1,318 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in eight countries. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 27% in print media, 39% on internet, 26% in radio and 8% on TV. At least 5 international media pieces were published.

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# Content:

This report refers to activities from January till June 2019. 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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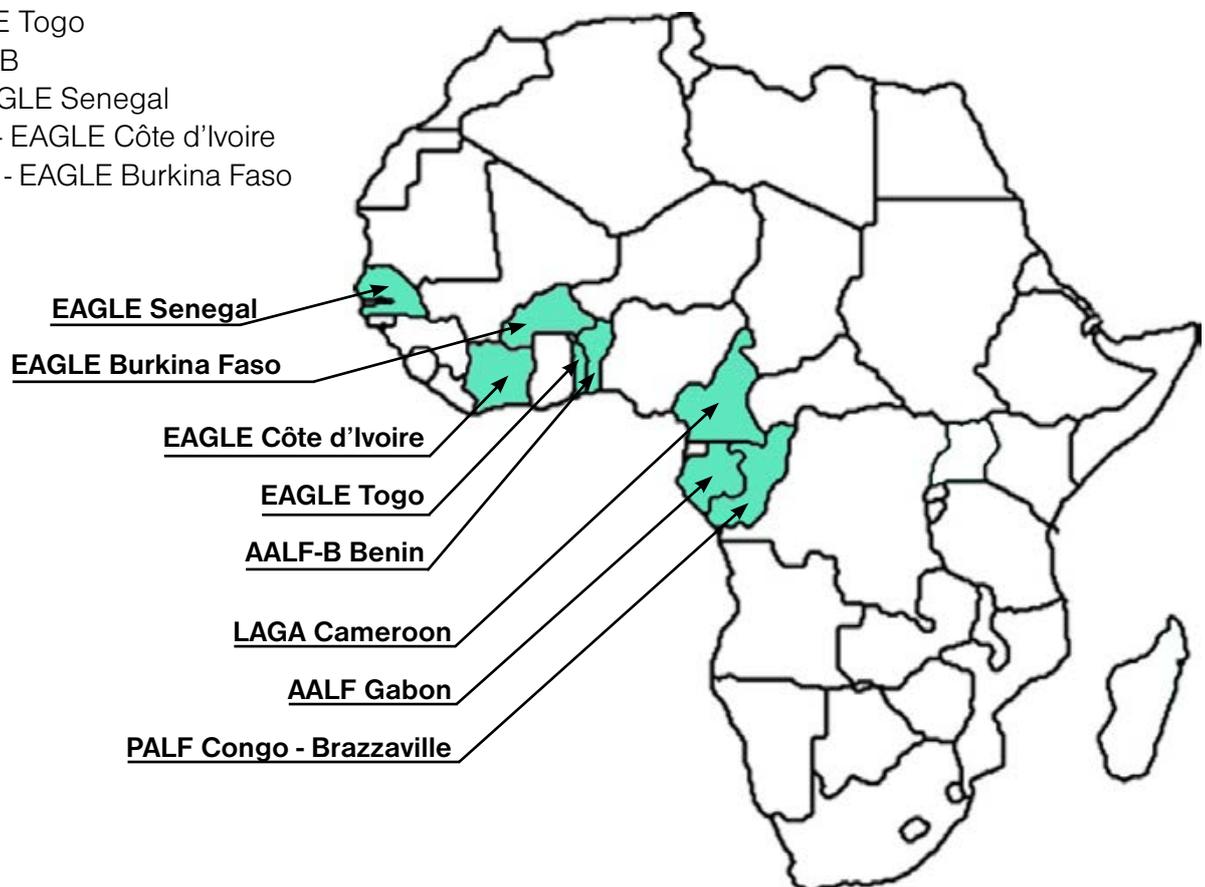
## 2. Structure of the Network

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 eight 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. Togo - EAGLE Togo
5. Benin - AALF-B
6. Senegal - EAGLE Senegal
7. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire
8. Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

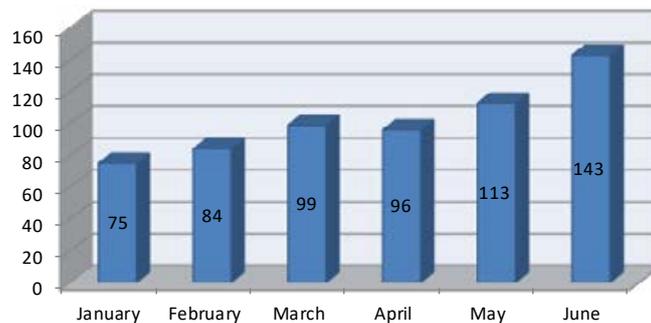


## 3. Investigations

556 different investigation missions were carried out in all 8 countries, leading to the arrest of 106 traffickers in the first semester of 2019.

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

**Numbers of investigations  
in January - June 2019**



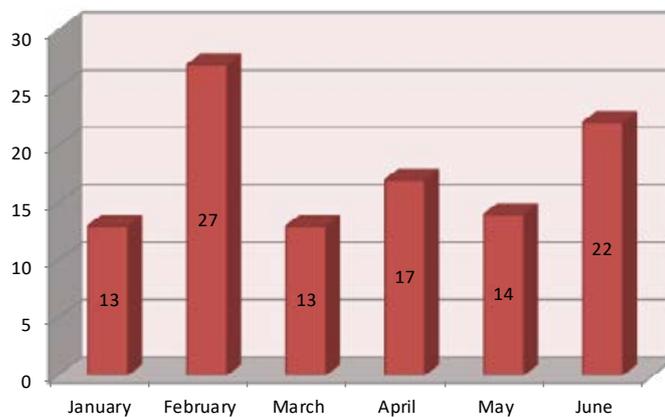
*Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – June 2019*

The growing number of investigations is a result of intense recruitment process, leading to strengthening the teams and investigation departments. In all countries new investigators were tested and some joined the teams. The recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find more good investigators.

## 4. Arrest Operations

106 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 41 operations in 8 countries of Central and West East Africa.

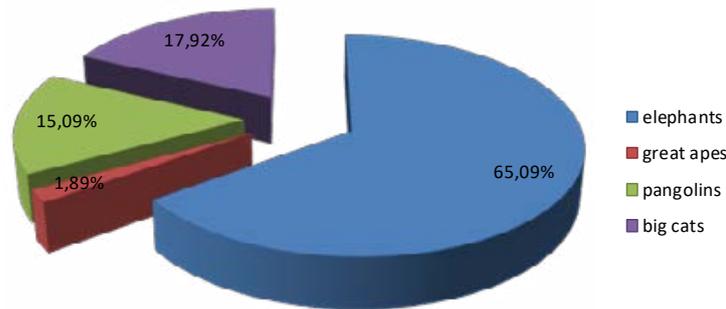
**Number of Arrested Traffickers  
in January - June 2019**



*Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - June 2019*

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers - 66 % were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts – 18%. Third in focus of arrests were pangolin scales traffickers with 15 % of all the arrests, while great ape traffickers made 2%.

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



*Fig. 3: Distribution of Arrested Traffickers According to Species*

## Corruption

**Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 7 of the operation, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt government officer, an army man or a spiritual leader was involved in trafficking, or a traffic of influence or bribing attempt documented. Some examples are presented here:**

- A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins in Côte d'Ivoire in January. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self declared number one dealer in skins in Abidjan has his shop and his nearby house right next to the Adjamé market and bus terminals, which made it difficult to plan his arrest there. But with great work and courage of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team and the UCT to do round the clock surveillance and an operation in this gang infested area, they eventually got to capture him. The trafficker who is also an imam was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team. During the night, the team and UCT continued with another search in his shop in Bassam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in the North of the country in Congo in January. One of them is a military man, he used the impunity of his uniforms to cover the crimes. He is the cousin of the head of the prison he is supposed to be locked in. They are connected to a large ivory trafficking ring, all have been involved in trafficking for years. They transported the ivory concealed in a bag on motorbike and then in a dugout canoe to a hotel, where they were arrested in the act.

- 6 traffickers arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg in Congo in February. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon.
- A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk in Cameroon in May. He has been central for wildlife trafficking in the north of the country where the last remaining lions are. Being on a duty at the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, instead of protecting endangered animals he organized a poaching ring around the National Park and was protecting poachers and traffickers. He used his police cover and credentials to transport the wildlife contraband for more than 1,000 km to the capital city where he intended to sell it.
- In Gabon in May 4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt prefet (a local authority high official, one level below a governor). A woman trafficker was arrested in the act selling 2 ivory tusks. She arrived at the place of transaction in a car, belonging to a prefet of Bagnio in Mayumba. She turned out to be his mistress, and his involvement in ivory trafficking has been exposed quickly during the interrogation, so he was arrested in his home soon after. Two other traffickers were denounced during the interrogation, one of them a repeat offender, already prosecuted twice for trafficking and poaching, he was the one who supplied the tusks. Both were arrested the next day. The prefet acted in an astonishing hypocrisy ensuring AALF operation team his full support for law enforcement during an arrest of another ivory trafficker just a month earlier.
- A corrupt prison security officer arrested in Gabon in June with two other traffickers in the capital city. The three were arrested during an attempt to sell two ivory tusks just after they arrived to the place of transaction by private bus and carried the contraband inside of a motel in a large bag. The prison officer massacred the elephant in the North-East of the country in order to trade the tusks.
- 3 ivory traffickers, one of them a local politician, arrested with two tusks in Benin in June. Two of them were arrested in the act after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a backpack. They revealed a third trafficker, who entrusted them to sell the ivory. He was arrested the next day, he turned out to be an elected local chief.

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## Elephants

**Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 69 ivory traffickers were arrested during 25 operations in 7 countries. Over 600 kg of ivory, which includes 203 tusks and 485 carved pieces was seized. Some examples are presented here:**

- In March a Chinese arrested at the Dakar airport after the CAAT Unit detected ivory in her suitcase. She concealed the contraband, consisting of 6 statues, 2 bracelets and a pendant, inside packets with milk powder, which were hidden in between of 20 illegally exported cigarette cartons. The trafficker, who worked as a shopkeeper in Dakar, remains in jail awaiting trial. She cooperated on identification the traffickers, who traded ivory with her. After three days of intense nonstop investigation the 3 traffickers were captured and arrested, including a repeat offender, who was already arrested for ivory trafficking in 2017 and sentenced to three months in jail. It is a clear proof that stronger sentences, creating better deterrent, are needed. 391 pieces of carved and fresh ivory were found during the house search.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in the North of the country in Congo in January. One of them is a military man, he used the impunity of his uniforms to cover the crimes. He is the cousin of the head of the prison he is supposed to be locked in. They are connected to a large ivory trafficking ring, all have been involved in trafficking for years. They transported the ivory concealed in a bag on motorbike and then in a dugout canoe to a hotel, where they were arrested in the act.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon in January. Three criminals were surprised in the middle of the transaction in a hotel, but they escaped through window, leaving the contraband on the spot. Two of them were arrested two days later thanks to a good work of Conservation Justice and Police.
- 6 traffickers arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg in Congo in February. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon.
- A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Congo in February. He carried the contraband concealed in a suitcase from the North of the country to the town of Oyo, where he was arrested. He activated a ring of poachers and provided them with ammunition in the North part of Congo, and they massacred the elephants also in Odzala-Kokoua National Park.
- 7 traffickers arrested with 3 large tusks, weighing more than 45 kg, 3.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and a leopard skin in Congo in February. Two of the members of the well-organized trafficking ring are from DRC and three from Central African Republic. They collected the contraband in DRC and CAR and brought it to a town on the border to sell it. They are also connected to the high authorities of the locality. Four of them were arrested in the act attempting to trade the ivory. Soon they denounced other 3 traffickers, who were swiftly arrested two of them with the pangolin scales and the third one with the leopard skin.

- 3 Senegalese ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, cut to 8 pieces in Gabon in February. The three brothers brought the ivory in their car, well concealed in a rice bag, packed in boxes. They evaded law enforcement for a long time, being known as notorious traffickers. They were activating a network of traffickers and poachers in Southeast Gabon and trafficking the ivory to Cameroon.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 elephant tusks in Gabon in March. They were surprised in the act while they were getting ready to sell the tusks. The first trafficker was arrested in the act trying to sell the ivory, the woman was arrested shortly after being monitored by operation team while she was bringing the contraband to the place of transaction. The ivory originated from Congo – Brazzaville.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Togo in March with 9 kg of ivory. These two are linked to networks in Benin and Burkina Faso. The connections are under investigation. Phone evidence shows also a link with gold trafficking. The first trafficker was arrested when he tried to sell the tusk, which was concealed in his house. The ivory was found during a house search. The second trafficker, who was also involved in the transaction, was arrested later.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with two carved tusks in Côte d'Ivoire in March. The Senegalese national travelled by overnight bus to sell the contraband in the capital city.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 5 tusks of very young elephants and an elephant tail in Cameroon in April. The first two traffickers were arrested in the act with the contraband concealed in a red backpack. They quickly denounced the third trafficker, who was nearby ready to collect his share of the money. He killed the baby elephants with a gun, belonging to his father, retired policeman. The tusks of the baby elephants, who were massacred just a few days before the transaction in Dja Biosphere reserve, were only 15 cm long and weighed altogether less than a kilogram. The traffickers used a canoe to cross a river into the Dja reserve and travelled through very difficult parts of the forest to avoid being spotted by ecoguards. They activated a chain of several small traffickers and poachers around the reserve. They also trafficked in pangolin scales. They were well known in their community for their lavish lifestyles. After the arrest a member of their family who is a bailiff attempted to intervene in the process, but his attempts were blocked.
- An ivory trafficker arrested Congo in April with 3 tusks. He is notorious well-connected trafficker and has been trading ivory regularly across the country. He brought the tusks concealed in his backpack from a small town in the area near the Gabonese border to avoid detection.
- An ivory trafficker of Cameroonian origin arrested in Gabon in April with 16 tusks, weighing 78.6 kg. He was monitored by the operation team while transporting the contraband concealed in several cardboard boxes to the transaction place, where he was arrested in the act. He was also using a fake ID card with Gabonese identity, to cover his criminal activities. An ivory trafficker arrested in the capital city with 4 tusks. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the ivory. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in the West of the country.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in Benin in April. The first one was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the tusks in a restaurant. Two other traffickers were waiting for the result of the transaction in front of the restaurant with the motorbike used for transporting the tusks. When police approached them one of them escaped, but the Coordinator himself together with police forces chased him and led the team to find him hiding in a room of an old woman nearby.

- 9 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in May. 4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt prefet (a local authority high official, one level below a governor). A woman trafficker was arrested in the act selling 2 ivory tusks. She arrived at the place of transaction in a car, belonging to a prefet of Bagnio in Mayumba. She turned out to be his mistress, and his involvement in ivory trafficking has been exposed quickly during the interrogation, so he was arrested in his home soon after. Two other traffickers were denounced during the interrogation, one of them a repeat offender, already prosecuted twice for trafficking and poaching, he was the one who supplied the tusks. Both were arrested the next day. The prefet acted in an astonishing hypocrisy ensuring AALF operation team his full support for law enforcement during an arrest of another ivory trafficker just a month earlier. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in the North of the country. 4 hunting guns were found during the house search in the house of one of them. 2 traffickers arrested with two tusks. The first one, a Burkina Faso national, was arrested after being monitored by the operation team entering a hotel with the contraband concealed in a black bag. He denounced the other trafficker, who was swiftly arrested nearby.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with four tusks, weighing 20 kg in Congo in June. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested for the same crime two years ago, but he evaded prison due to corruption before being prosecuted. They both are long term traffickers, operating in the area near the Gabonese border. They brought the contraband to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a bag. Photos from their phone revealed some of the slaughter of elephants they generated.
- 11 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in June in 4 operations. A corrupt prison security officer arrested with two other traffickers in the capital city. The three were arrested during an attempt to sell two ivory tusks just after they arrived to the place of transaction by private bus and carried the contraband inside of a motel in a large bag. The prison officer massacred the elephant in the North-East of the country in order to trade the tusks. 4 traffickers arrested with 22 kg of ivory in South-East of the country. The first one, a Ghana national, was arrested in the act selling one tusk, and he denounced the second trafficker, who was arrested soon after. Further interrogation then led to revealing the whole trafficking ring, and two more traffickers were arrested in their village near Doubinda forest, an area known for rampant poaching. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, one of them Cameroonian, the other one Togolese, in the North of the country. The two were arrested during an attempt to trade the tusks. They soon denounced a third trafficker. that was swiftly arrested on the same day. An ivory trafficker was arrested with a tusk after two months on a run. He escaped when other members of the ring were arrested in April with 16 tusks. He was arrested at his home.
- 5 ivory traffickers arrested in Benin in June in two operations. 3 ivory traffickers, one of them a local politician, arrested with two tusks. Two of them were arrested in the act after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a backpack. They revealed a third trafficker, who entrusted them to sell the ivory. He was arrested the next day, he turned out to be an elected local chief. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with three tusks. They were arrested shortly after they arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the contraband. They denounced a third trafficker, an arrest warrant on him was issued immediately.

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## Apes

### **2 great ape traffickers were arrested in Cameroon and a baby chimp was rescued.**

- 2 traffickers arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon, in January. The couple was arrested when they were just about to sell the baby with the support of one of their sons who is based in Europe. They had been trafficking live animals for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past. Anna was taking care of this baby, which is strong and active. The chimpanzee was by decision of authorities placed to the Yaounde zoo that has neither the technical expertise nor the appropriate facility to take care of him, he is kept there in dire conditions. This situation needs redressing as fast as possible otherwise the chimp that is exposed and comes in contact with people visiting the zoo may deteriorate in health.

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## Pangolins

**16 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in a series of operations, leading to a successful crackdown on international trafficking rings in Cameroon. Pangolin scales were also seized in several ivory operations. More than 1,800 kg of scales were 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 animal in the world. Some examples are presented here:**

- 4 traffickers arrested with 1.7 tons of pangolin scales and 73 ivory tusks in Cameroon in March. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years. One of them owned a telephone shop and used it as a cover-up for the illegal trade in pangolin scales and ivory. The owner of the shop made regular trips to China. A second trafficker dealt in pepper and local spices called “djansang”. Ivory and pangolin scales were concealed inside the pepper and djansang bags when being transported from the South-East of the country where the traffickers activated groups of small traffickers and poachers. They were stocking the contraband in a house in Douala, which was in a construction with nobody living around. Then they were delivering it to Nigeria. The contraband then continued to Asia, which is the biggest source of demand for pangolin scales and ivory.
- In May 4 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. The group consisting of two women and two men was well organized and ran a network specializing in selling pangolin scales to traffickers in big cities. They activated a supply chain of smaller traffickers and bushmeat sellers in the villages of their operational area.
- In June a trafficker arrested in Douala, Cameroon, with about 100 kg pangolin scales in a continued crackdown on the trafficking syndicate operating between Cameroon and the Central African Republic. He was arrested shortly after he arrived to the Village neighborhood in Douala with the bags of pangolin scales. He closely followed the car transporting the contraband on a motorcycle and when the car stopped, the operation team and swooped in. He is a member of an international network of pangolin scales traffickers

dismantled in August 2018, when 6 traffickers were arrested with 700 kg pangolin scales. This trafficker was the main link in the network in Douala where he played a crucial role in generating the illegal wildlife trade from the Central African Republic. The exposed modus operandi for this international trafficking ring consisted of sourcing the scales through smaller traffickers in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and exporting them to Nigeria via Cameroon. From Nigeria the contraband has been then trafficked to Asia.

- 4 traffickers arrested with 54 kg of pangolin scales, 5 hippo teeth and 2 unidentified precious stones in Cameroon in January. The pangolins scales were packed inside 3 bags and transported in the taxi car that was watched and followed closely by one of the traffickers on a motorbike. The traffickers activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around Douala. The hippo teeth were brought in from Chad by two of the traffickers. Two of them have been in the pangolin scales business for long time. Another pangolin scales trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of pangolin scales. He was found pulling a bag of pangolin scales out from his home. He was one of two traffickers targeted for their involvement in a pangolin trafficking ring in the area and a sudden influx of gendarmerie officers passing through the town scared one of the traffickers who immediately escaped when he saw the trucks ferrying the gendarme officers stationed in the town.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 42 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in February. They have been trafficking for years, specializing in pangolin scales. The contraband was found inside a taxi they were using at the time of arrest. One of them realized police was moving in on them and tried to escape but was chased and arrested by wildlife officials. The second trafficker, seeing the commotion escaped into a nearby hotel but was also arrested. The two are very popular with bushmeat sellers in a notorious neighborhood well known for illegal trafficking in bushmeat and other parts especially pangolin scales in Yaoundé. They activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around the city.

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## Big Cats

**19 big cat traffickers were arrested in 10 operations in 5 countries. 12 leopard skins, 1 lion skin, 1 lion head and more body parts of big cats were seized. Some examples are presented here:**

- A corrupt policeman arrested in Cameroon in May with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk. He has been central for wildlife trafficking in the north of the country where the last remaining lions are. Being on a duty at the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, instead of protecting endangered animals he organized a poaching ring around the National Park and was protecting poachers and traffickers. He used his police cover and credentials to transport the wildlife contraband for more than 1,000 km to the capital city where he intended to sell it.
- A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins in Côte d'Ivoire in January. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self declared number one dealer in skins in Abidjan has his shop and his nearby house right next to the Adjamé market and bus terminals, which made it difficult to plan his arrest there. But with great work and

courage of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team and the UCT to do round the clock surveillance and an operation in this gang infested area, they eventually got to capture him. The trafficker who is also an imam was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team. During the night, the team and UCT continued with another search in his shop in Bassam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.

- 6 traffickers of leopard skins arrested in Gabon in two operations in February. 4 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins in the North of the country. Two of them were arrested in the act attempting to sell the leopard skins. They soon denounced the other two traffickers, who were arrested the same day in their village 50 km away of the town. A rifle of caliber 12 was also found in the house of one of them. 2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins in the East of the country. The two brothers were surprised by the operation team during the attempt to sell the skins in a hotel. They are behind bars awaiting trial.
- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and 3 crocodile skins in Benin in February. One of them is a seller of animal skins, using his business as a cover for illegal trafficking in protected species. They were arrested in the act in a hotel room.
- 2 leopard skin traffickers arrested with two skins in Gabon in April. The first one was arrested in the capital city with the skins concealed in a backpack during the attempt to sell them. He denounced the other trafficker, who was arrested soon after in Oyem, a town 400 km away.
- 4 big cat skins traffickers arrested in Senegal in April. A trafficker arrested in Dakar with 3 lion heads skins and other contraband, including lion bones, vulture heads, oryx horns and other contraband, concealed in rice bags. 3 leopard skin traffickers arrested in a double-operation clamping down on two different trafficking groups. Two traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 skins of harnessed bushbuck, species fully protected in Senegal. They were arrested in their home in the attempt to sell the skins, concealed in a bag. The third one was arrested with one leopard skin, which he attempted to sell in a market. He carried the skin concealed in a millet bag.
- 3 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Congo in June. They travelled with the skin concealed in a backpack. One of them is a notorious trafficker, a member of a trafficking ring, he has links to the local authorities.

## 5. Legal Follow up

The EAGLE Network legal teams in the 8 countries followed up the court cases of the 106 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 93 % of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial, at least for its beginning.

During the semester 85 traffickers were prosecuted and convinced, 67 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while others remain behind the bars awaiting trial

- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in jail in Congo in January. He was arrested in November 2018 with two tusks.
- AALF legal team followed up an arrest operation of Police in January, 5 ivory traffickers were arrested with 21 kg of ivory.
- In Gabon in February the legal team followed a case of 4 traffickers, arrested with 26 whale bones and a pot of whale fat.
- 4 wildlife traffickers were sentenced to 3 months, 6 months, 6 months and one year in jail, 3 others were sentenced to 4 months in jail in Gabon in February.
- In March in Congo an Ivory trafficker was prosecuted and sentenced to 5 years in jail – a very good deterring sentence. He was arrested last month with 4 elephant tusks. He activated a ring of poachers and provided them with ammunition in the North part of Congo, and they massacred the elephants also in Odzala-Kokoua National Park. 6 ivory traffickers, arrested with 41 tusks last month, were prosecuted. Two of them were sentenced to one year in jail, three to 6 months in jail. One of them was released, but an appeal was made.
- 3 leopard skins traffickers were sentenced to jail for 4 months in Gabon in March. They were arrested in February with 2 leopard skins. The legal team followed a case of 2 Chinese traffickers, arrested by the Central Office of Anti-Drug Control, during a routine check with 2 ivory bracelets, 50 ivory pearls and four panther teeth. They were sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.
- A trafficker was sentenced to 1 year in jail in Benin in March. He was arrested in February with a leopard and 3 crocodile skins together with his accomplice, who was released.
- The three ivory traffickers, arrested in Senegal March with 391 ivory pieces in March, were prosecuted and sentenced to 3 months in jail in April.
- In May LAGA legal team provided a support to the Customs, who have arrested a longtime Ghanaian parrot trafficker with 18 African Grey Parrots. The repeat offender had been already arrested twice for the same offence and released by officials with no prison sentence. In 2015 he was arrested in the South with a consignment of African Grey Parrots and released. In 2017 he was arrested with an accomplice in Yaoundé with over 200 parrots but was released again, so he felt free to continue the illegal capture and

sale of parrots. He is connected to an international group specialized in the illegal export of parrots to Europe, Asia and other African countries.

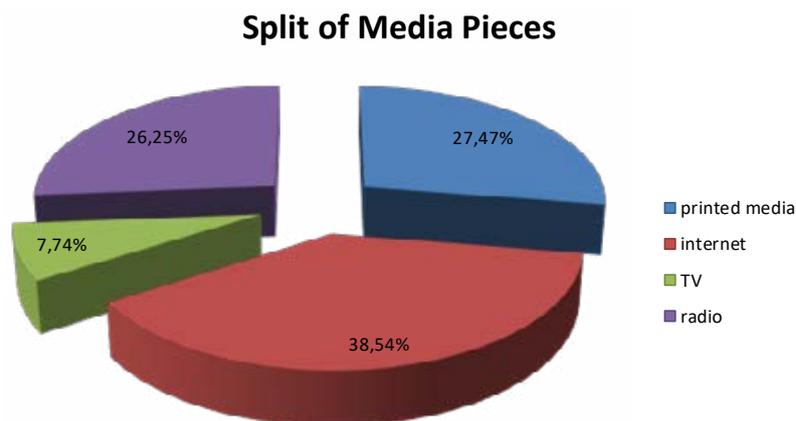
- In Congo in May 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 2 years in jail and a penalty of 1,700 USD both. They were arrested in October 2018 with almost 400 pieces of ivory. They crossed the Congo river from DRC only to be caught in the act, when selling 7 big ivory statues, 2 raw ivory pieces, 260 chopsticks, 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.
- In May in Côte d'Ivoire, the Vietnamese trafficker Tran Van Tu and other six members of his syndicate, crashed in January 2018, were finally prosecuted and all of them sentenced to the maximum penalty for wildlife trafficking, 1 year in prison. They were in prison for a year and five months. However, the sentence is only based on the wildlife crimes, the charge of money laundering as well as possession of drugs and weapons were dropped, even though they were arrested with them.
- 12 ivory traffickers were condemned and sentenced to jail in Gabon in June, however their sentences vary from one to three months only. The maximum penalty for wildlife trafficking in Gabon is 6 months, which is one of the weakest in Africa.
- The legal team of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire followed and provided a legal support to a case of a drug trafficker, a member of an international syndicate of drug traffickers, arrested by UCT in June, who had 7 pieces of carved ivory in his possession.

## 6. Media

Using the media to inform the public that the law is being actively enforced maximizes the deterrent value of our actions and the rising risks for potential traffickers to get to jail.

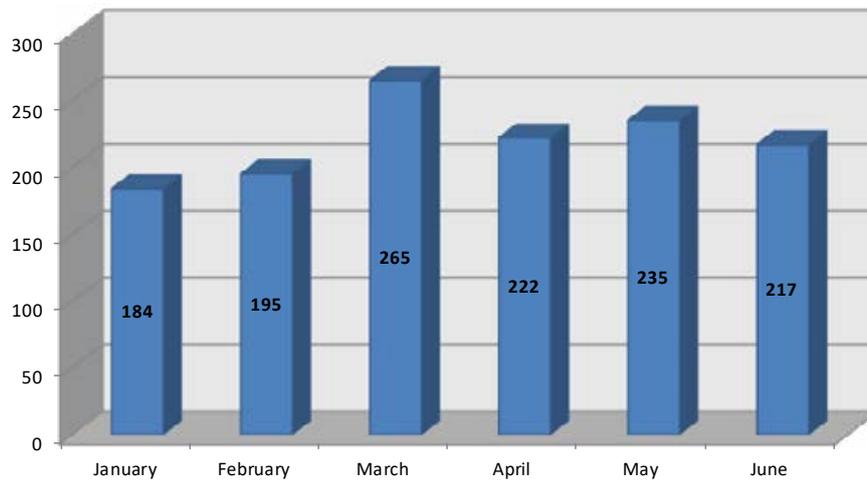
1,318 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in eight countries. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 27% in print media, 39% on internet, 26% in radio and 8% on TV.

At least 5 international media pieces were published.



*Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces*

**Numbers of media pieces published  
in January - June 2019**



*Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January – June 2019*

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## International media

Voice of America published the story of the four Cameroonian traffickers arrested in a crackdown operation in Douala, with 1.7 tons of pangolin scales and 300 kg of ivory. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years.

[Link to VoA](#)

Many French media published articles about the four Cameroonian traffickers arrested.

[Link to RFI](#)

[Link to GEO](#)

[Link to France Info](#)

[Link to 20 minutes](#)

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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 semester, the EAGLE activists held many meetings with international authorities, government officials within and outside of their countries, meetings with traditional rulers, they cooperated with local and international NGOs, participated in conferences and conducted several trainings.

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### Cameroon

- In January The Deputy Director travelled to Ndjamená where he participated at the CBFP organized ministerial conference to tackle a problem posed by armed groups moving between the Sahel, Sudan and north of Equatorial Africa in protected areas and within local communities. During the meeting he met with several high authorities including the Secretary of State for Defence in charge of the Gendarmerie, a GIZ official, who is about to run a project on elephant and rhino poaching on the continent, the TRAFFIC director, South Sudan Undersecretary at the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, a the Regional Coordinator for Central Africa for the Global Programme for Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime of the UNODC and others.
- The Head of Legal Department met with a regional Judicial Police chief, a regional chief of Scientific Police, some state counsels, the head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Douala airport and others.
- The Head of the Investigations Department met with the head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Nsimalen airport.
- The Deputy Director attended a ceremony organized by the British High Commission on the occasion of the 7th International Trade Fair called Promote 2019 in February. The Deputy Director participated at a meeting that aimed at creating a pangolin working group for Cameroon.
- In March the Deputy Director held a meeting at the European Union Delegation to discuss issues related to collaboration in wildlife law enforcement.
- LAGA signed a Collaboration Convention with Customs in Fighting Transboundary Crime. A breakthrough in establishing formal relations with Customs for the EAGLE Network.

- The Heads of the Legal and Investigation Departments held a meeting in April with a pangolin conservationist and the Centre Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife to map out ways to rescuing and rehabilitating pangolins.
- In May The Customs Director and the Deputy Director of LAGA co-chaired the ceremony marking the installation of committee members of the Customs-LAGA joint committee put in place to oversee the implementation of the protocol agreement signed between the two parties.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with a pangolin conservationist from the Tikki Hywood Cameroon office on ways of improving pangolin conservation through sensitization.
- He also held a meeting with a filmmaker to discuss possibilities of featuring a LAGA staff in a film.
- He held another meeting with an official from the Sangha Trinational Foundation to discuss the state of wildlife law enforcement in the area that covers three national parks at the border of Cameroon, Gabon and the Central African Republic.
- A legal adviser attended the anti-poaching committee meeting of the Littoral region where he challenged the authorities to improve on collaboration with LAGA in order to enable effective law enforcement.
- The Deputy Director with the Director of ZSL and AWF accompanied four US Congress Members and the Ambassador to the Mefou Park where he briefed the distinguish guests on LAGA activities and some pressing conservation needs of the country in June.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of Investigations Department visited and held meetings with customs officials of the three Northern regions, the Extreme Nord, North and Adamawa regions. During the visits, they held meetings with State Counsels and Wildlife Officials of the regions.
- The Head of the Legal Department and the Assistant Head of Investigations held similar meetings with Customs officials in the East and Littoral Regions, with State Counsels and the wildlife officials in the regions.

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## Republic of the Congo

- The Coordinator held a series of meetings during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester with many high authorities including the Wildlife Adviser of the Ministry of Justice, the General Director of Water and Forest, several advisers and attaché of US Embassy, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Water and Forest and others.
- She also met twice with ONUDC to discuss strategy in fighting wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held meeting with the Head of the Central African Program of US Forest Service to discuss the fight against illegal logging.

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## Gabon

- The legal team held a series of meetings with State Counsels, Forestry Departmental Directors and other authorities of several departments during the 1st semester.
- In January the Coordinator met with the new Minister of Environment and the new Director of the Cabinet to introduce them to the AALF project and inform them about the results of Conservation Justice
- He also presented AALF and ALEFI results in a regional workshop organized by the Global Environment Fund where authorities of Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, CRA and Equatorial Guinea were represented.
- AALF legal team collaborated with the national customs, the World Custom Organization and Judicial Police in Libreville and North Gabon in February. Controls on the road have been organized and bushmeat and 9 crocodiles have been seized. The main results of this joint operation was on illegal logging with thousands m<sup>3</sup> of Kevazingo (a protected and expensive tree) seized. It is the biggest wood seizure ever in Gabon, worth several million of USD.
- In March the Director of Conservation Justice continued his mission in CAR in the Protected Areas of Dzanga-Sangha, where he held meetings with EU and US officers, with WWF, with WCS. Then he travelled to the Republic of Congo to support the PALF project and to hold a meeting with the EU Governance Officer. He also met the Director General of the National Police, the Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Gabon, the UNODC Manager in Gabon and the Director of the Anti-Poaching Campaign.
- In April the Coordinator made a presentation at the National Assembly in front of 40 Members of Parliament and Senators on a guide of the judicial collaboration in Central Africa. The event was organized by the National Assembly with support of UNODC and ICCF group. He presented results of Conservation Justice in Gabon and EAGLE results in Africa, explaining also the need to increase the penalties in Gabon, where an important effort in the field and in justice is done, but the law on wildlife trafficking is very weak compared to other countries.
- The Coordinator met with the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and with the General Secretary of the Minister to present activities of Conservation Justice.
- Two legal advisors trained police, gendarme and forestry/wildlife officers in collaboration with the Tribunal of Lambarene in methods of fighting wildlife crime.

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## Togo

- The Coordinator and the legal team held a series of meeting with authorities, including INTERPOL, the State Counsel, the officials of the Ministry of Environment and others in March.
- In April two Legal Advisers held a series of meetings with Deputies of State Counsels to handle them the Legal Kit and to discuss the ongoing cases.

- The Media Officer participated in two media conferences, one organized by the Ministry of Agriculture on the protection of the environment and the loss of species, the other organized by the Director of the Cabinet of Minister of Environment, Development and Protection of Nature on the risks for Togo if certain species become extinct.
- In May the EAGLE Togo Coordinator has signed a Partnership Agreement with The Observatory of Fauna, Flora and Protected Areas of Togo. The Agreement covers the support for EAGLE Togo during the temporary period before receiving the registration for EAGLE Togo.
- The Head of Legal department held a series of meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of the Environment of Sustainable Development and Nature to follow up the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister and EAGLE Togo.
- He also met with the SRI Commander, the Security Advisor at the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, and the Senior Legal Adviser of the Minister of Territorial Administration of Decentralization and Local Authorities.
- The Head of Legal department also held a meeting with the Regional Directorate of Forestry Resources in Tsévié to strengthen the cooperation.
- The two legal advisers participated as experts invited to the national training workshop for INTERPOL's law enforcement officers on the fight against environmental crime in June. They presented the methods of EAGLE Togo work and supported the Ministry of Environment by preparation of interactive presentations on the provisions of the Togo Forest Code and the CITES convention. The workshop was organized by the INTERPOL Regional Office for West Africa with the collaboration of BCN-INTERPOL Lomé. The legal advisers took the opportunity to reinforce the collaboration with the Police, Gendarmerie, Waters and Forests and Customs.

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## Senegal

- A Legal Adviser participated at a workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment on the revision of the Hunting and Wildlife Code and its implementing regulations in January, where he proposed several modifications of obsolete and disabling articles of law to improve the conditions for the daily fight against wildlife crime. The legal team was then invited to the National Assembly for further discussion about the new legislation.
- In March the Assistant Coordinator and a Legal Adviser trained the students of the Master in Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar) in the methods of fighting wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator participated in the presentation workshop of the five-year strategic plan of the Network of Parliamentarians for the Protection of the Environment in Senegal (REPES) at the National Assembly of Senegal in April.

- She also held a meeting with the Head of the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy in Senegal and an informal meeting with the Ambassadors of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to strengthen the collaboration.
- In May the Coordinator held a meeting with the representatives of the US Embassy to strengthen the collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and the Embassy.
- Two legal advisors participated in a workshop on the legal framework governing NGOs and associations in Senegal, organized by the Ministry of the Interior at the Ecole Normale de l'Administration.
- The Coordinator and her Assistant held a meeting with the State Counsel of High Court of Mbour and his substitutes on wildlife trafficking, the mission of EAGLE.
- The Coordinator met with the General Director of the National Police and his advisers in June. During this meeting, EAGLE Senegal initiated a partnership agreement with the General Directorate of Police (DGPN) of Senegal to fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A) attached to the US Embassy in Dakar.

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## Benin

- During the 1st semester the Coordinator held a series of meetings with government authorities, including the Head of the Directorate of the W National Park to discuss ongoing cases in the Kandi court, the CENAGREF Technical Director to strengthen the collaboration between AALF-Benin and the National Center for Wildlife Reserves Management, several state counsels, departmental police officers and others.
- In January the coordinator trained 80 students of the Custom School at Porto Novo on the methods of combating wildlife crime.
- In February the coordinator trained 15 police officers from Come on the methods of combating wildlife crime.
- The new German Ambassador visited the headquarters of Nature Tropicale in March and get familiar with AALF-B project and its activities in fighting wildlife crime in Benin. The Coordinator trained 12 officers of the Special Border Monitoring Unit based at Athiémé in Mono on the methods of combating wildlife crime.
- In May the coordinator presented how AALF-B team works to achieve deterring sentences and fights corruption during legal follow up of wildlife crime cases at a workshop organized by NGO ECOBENIN on Establishment of a system of monitoring and judicial follow-up. He also trained twelve officers of the Republican Police in DOUTOU on law enforcement and combating wildlife crime.
- In June he coordinator trained fifteen officers of the Republican Police at the Togo-Benin border on the fight against wildlife crime.

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## Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator held many meetings during the 1st semester with the UCT special unit and other institutions to support the investigation of the January 2018 case of Van Tran Tu and his accomplices.
- In February the Coordinator met with the Head of the Subdivision of General Surveillance at FHB International Airport Abidjan to discuss collaboration. He gave a training to a partner NGO in the interior of the country in order to improve their investigation capacity.
- The Head of the Legal Department presented the fight against wildlife crime at the seminar of OIE in March that focused on animal health issues and in which 26 francophone African countries participated.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the representatives of US Embassy of Abidjan and Accra in April to introduce them the activities of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire and strengthen the cooperation.
- He also met with the representatives of NGO Akatia to discuss the plans for opening the chimpanzee sanctuary and with the UCT to intensify collaboration.
- The legal department participated at an environmentally oriented career event organized by the International School Community of America.
- In June the legal team met the commissaire of the CAAT (Cellule Aéroportuaire Anti Trafic), a special unit based at the Abidjan Airport, in order to start a collaboration with them to be involved in the legal procedure when they seize illegal wildlife products or live animals.
- A legal advisor participated to a workshop for the program for biodiversity and climate change in West Africa, to help Ivory Coast, represented by the Ministry of Waters and Forests, to identify the primary needs to fight wildlife crimes. Alongside EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire, the NGOs ACB CI and AMISTAD were present.

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## **8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network**

The transition period from WARA to EAGLE-Senegal was finished by receiving the registration for EAGLE Senegal. A legal advisor was appointed Assistant Coordinator of EAGLE Senegal, he supported management of the team while the Coordinator left for France for health reasons.

The preparation of new EAGLE Uganda project started and the first team members were recruited.

Following problems of procedure the GALF project has been separated from the EAGLE Network and continues under WARA.

The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued the support to the network members. The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 5 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 of procedures.

2 activists carried support missions in other countries to help develop the other projects within EAGLE exchange program.

A two-round training on accounting using a new software for an EU funding has been organized in Gabon for LAGA (Cameroon), PALF (Congo) and AALF (Gabon) accountants and managers.

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### **January**

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director and Director of Conservation Justice, arrived to Burkina Faso to hold meetings with authorities and to support the management of the newly established project.
- A new supervolunteer arrived to Nairobi for training with CCU.

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## February

- A legal adviser of LAGA travelled to the UK to participate at a training programme organized by the Durrell Conservation Academy.
- LAGA relocated to a new office.
- Nicolas Charon, the Monitoring & Evaluation officer arrived to Senegal to evaluate the work of the team, to train new investigators and to support investigations.
- The investigations and other activities in Burkina Faso were interrupted due to the security situation in the country and six-month long strike.

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## March

- Luc Mathot, a Founding Director, arrived to Congo to support the PALF project and to hold a meeting with the EU Governance Officer.
- The accountant from Benin travelled to Senegal to train the accountant on test.
- Jana Hajduchova, the Support Officer, conducted a mission to Uganda to train the Coordinator on finances, to evaluate recruitment process for the accountant and to support the management of the newly developed project.
- Adams Cassinga, an activist from DRC, arrived to Nairobi for a training. With his small NGO and no funding, he already succeeded in arresting wildlife traffickers and keeping them behind bars.

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## April

- A legal adviser of LAGA successfully completed her course at the Durrell Endangered Species Management Program at the Durrell Conservation Academy in New Jersey, UK.
- Gaspard Julien-laferrière, a supervolunteer, arrived to Côte d'Ivoire for mentoring and to support the management of the project.

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## May

- Luc Mathot travelled to Nairobi to meet with Ofir Drori and CCU to discuss the development of the EAGLE Network.

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## June

- The Assistant Head of the Media and External Relations Department of LAGA returned to the country after a visit to the US to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Programme that focused on the theme Combatting Corruption: Promoting Transparency and Accountability.
- The Interim Director of LAGA returned to Yaoundé after participating in a management course in Nairobi.
- An investigator from Gabon travelled to Burkina Faso and Benin to support the investigations.
- Six projects (LAGA, PALF, EAGLE Togo, AALF-B, EAGLE Senegal and EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire) passed a financial audit contracted by EAGLE to ensure the highest level of financial management procedures and controls.

## 9. Photos of the selected cases

### 4 traffickers arrested, 1.7 tons of pangolin scales and 300 kg of ivory seized

The biggest crackdown on organized trafficking ring in Cameroon this year so far!

On Thursday 14 March 2019 four Cameroonian traffickers have been arrested in a crackdown operation in Douala, with 1.7 tons of pangolin scales and 300 kg of ivory. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years.

They were taken by surprise after they carried the pangolin scales and ivory to the place of transaction in two vans. The cars stopped on a silent and peaceful road in a residential area of Douala, the traffickers ready to do the transaction. Suddenly the forces of law blocked both ends of the road and within seconds all four were handcuffed and arrested in a swift arrest operation.

LAGA has been working on this arrest following a long-term high level investigation, and collaborating with the Cameroon authorities.

The organized ring has been collecting ivory and pangolin scales in large amount in South and East regions of Cameroon, stocking them in a house in Douala, which was in a construction with nobody living around. Then they were delivering the contraband to Nigeria. The contraband then continued to Asia, which is the biggest source of demand for pangolin scales and ivory.

EAGLE Network has identified more cases where this pattern of trafficking repeats – pangolin scales or ivory originating from central Africa, Cameroon being the hub for collecting them, and then send to



Nigeria, from where it is easier to ship them to Asia, due to poor law enforcement in the country.

In August 2018 six traffickers were arrested in Douala due to LAGA work with more than 700 kg pangolin scales in a crackdown on an international syndicate dealing also in rhino horns and lion parts.

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. When the scales arrived in Nigeria, they were assembled for illegal export.

The US consul in Douala accompanied by Jonathan Baas, US Embassy diplomat based in Yaoundé, visited the Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife to see for themselves the huge quantities of wildlife products seized and to congratulate the authorities to their success in fighting wildlife crime.

1.7 tons of pangolin scales represent between 1,700 and 3,400 killed pangolins, depending on the species. And yet this is still only a fracture of all the massacred pangolins. Pangolins are the most trafficked animals of the world, we estimate that between 0.4 and 2.7 million pangolins are hunted every year in central African forests.



## **2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Cameroon in January**

2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Douala. The couple was arrested when they were just about to sell the baby with the support of one of their sons who is based in Europe. They had been trafficking live animals for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past. Anna was taking care of this baby, which is strong and active. The chimpanzee was by decision of authorities placed to the Yaounde zoo that has neither the technical expertise nor the appropriate facility to take care of him; he is kept there in dire conditions. This situation needs re-dressing as fast as possible otherwise the chimp that is exposed and comes in contact with people visiting the zoo may deteriorate in health.



## **A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, May, Cameroon**

A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk. He has been central for wildlife trafficking in the north of the country where the last remaining lions are. Being on a duty at the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, instead of pro-



tecting endangered animals he organized a poaching ring around the National Park and was protecting poachers and traffickers. He used his police cover and credentials to transport the wildlife contraband for more than 1,000 km to the capital city where he intended to sell it.



## **A trafficker arrested with a lion skin, Côte d'Ivoire, January**

A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self declared number



and UCT continued with another search in his shop in Bassam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.



## 6 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo in February

6 traffickers arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon.



## Big cat skin traffickers arrested in Senegal, April

A trafficker arrested in Dakar with 3 lion heads skins and other contraband, including lion bones, vulture heads, oryx horns and other contraband, concealed in rice bags.



3 leopard skin traffickers arrested in a double-operation clamping down on two different trafficking groups. Two traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 skins of harnessed bushbuck, species fully protected in Senegal. They were arrested in their home in the attempt to sell the skins, concealed in a bag.



## 2 ivory traffickers arrested with four tusks, Congo, June

2 ivory traffickers arrested with four tusks, weighing 20 kg. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested for the same crime two years ago, but he evaded prison due to corruption before being prosecuted. They both are long term traffickers, operating

in the area near the Gabonese border. They brought the contraband to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a bag. Photos from their phone revealed some of the slaughter of elephants they generated.



## An Ivory trafficker arrested in Gabon, April

An ivory trafficker of Cameroonian origin arrested with 16 tusks, weighing 78.6 kg. He was monitored by the operation team while transporting the contraband concealed in several cardboard boxes to the transaction place, where he was arrested in the act. He was also using a fake ID card with Gabonese identity, to cover his criminal activities.



## 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:

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3. Gabon – AALF: [luc@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:luc@eagle-enforcement.org)
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6. Benin - AALF-B: [jules@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:jules@eagle-enforcement.org)
7. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire: [rens@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:rens@eagle-enforcement.org)
8. 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

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	15	11	7	16	17	17	<b>83</b>
Congo	13	6	6	7	6	10	<b>48</b>
Gabon	9	14	13	15	15	9	<b>75</b>
Togo	12	19	15	20	12	11	<b>89</b>
Senegal	11	12	8	8	12	15	<b>66</b>
Benin	4	8	27	17	19	7	<b>82</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	11	14	23	13	32	20	<b>113</b>
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	0	54	<b>54</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>556</b>

### Number of arrests per month per country

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	7	2	4	3	5	1	<b>22</b>
Congo	3	14	0	1	0	5	<b>23</b>
Gabon	2	9	2	6	9	11	<b>39</b>
Togo	0	0	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Senegal	0	0	4	4	0	0	<b>8</b>
Benin	0	2	0	3	0	5	<b>10</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	1	0	1	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>106</b>

**Number of media pieces by month by country**

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total by country</i>
Cameroon	16	47	45	52	32	36	<b>228</b>
Congo	54	48	27	27	49	42	<b>247</b>
Gabon	0	4	20	22	35	42	<b>123</b>
Togo	51	0	30	30	30	30	<b>171</b>
Senegal	0	0	58	60	30	0	<b>148</b>
Benin	34	30	52	31	30	31	<b>208</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	0	36	33	0	29	36	<b>134</b>
Burkina Faso	29	30	0	0	0	0	<b>59</b>
<b>total by month</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1318</b>

**Number of prosecutions by month by country**

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total</i>
<b>Cameroon</b>	3	0	2	0	0	8	<b>13</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	1	0	2	0	0	5	<b>8</b>
<b>Congo</b>	0	2	7	2	0	0	<b>11</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Gabon</b>	0	13	11	2	2	14	<b>42</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	11	10	2	2	14	<b>39</b>
<b>Togo</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Senegal</b>	0	0	4	0	4	0	<b>8</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	3	0	1	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Benin</b>	0	0	2	0	0	3	<b>5</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	1	0	0	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	0	0	0	0	6	0	<b>6</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	6	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>85</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>67</b>