Despite several challenges encountered during the period, the EAGLE teams pushed forward. 73 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 7 countries

- 40 ivory traffickers arrested with over 283 kg of ivory, which include 69 tusks and 74 ivory pieces
- 14 big cat skin traffickers arrested with 17 leopard skins and 2 lion skins.
- 13 pangolin scales traffickers arrested with more than 1,250 kg of scales.
- 5 primate traffickers arrested; 4 in Cameroon with 2 baby chimps and a mandrill and one in Gabon with a baby chimp and a Moustache Guenon.
- 85% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars
- 938 media pieces were published in national media
- At least in 2 of the operations, corruption was exposed during the procedure to prosecute the traffickers
1. Summary

Despite several challenges encountered during the reporting period, the EAGLE teams pushed forward with 73 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 7 countries. The teams functioned normally after a long period of Covid 19 pandemic that disrupted normal activities. The EAGLE Network continued to apply internal measures which were adopted from the onset of the pandemic, although they were gradually relaxed.

New investigations strategies and techniques were deployed to improve on the efficacy of field missions. The quality of investigations carried out improved, although, quantitatively the number was lower as compared to the same period last year. A significant number of quality results were obtained as an indication of the improvement of investigation quality. Also, online investigations were pushed forward to produce more targets where field investigators could not find targets easily.

Travel restrictions continued to be in place making smooth travelling for CCU and Steering group members difficult. They extensively used several media platforms instead of travelling, to keep the quality of the work of all teams high.

A structural reorganization of the EAGLE Uganda Team was put in place and the project shall soon be functional again. The Burkina Faso project was closed due to structural and financial difficulties impeding the carrying out of arrest operations and other activities.

827 investigation missions were carried out to identify wildlife traffickers. 85 % of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least in the beginning of their trial. During the semester 98 traffickers were prosecuted and 67 of them handed imprisonment sentences of various time. This semester saw an improvement in sentencing as Gabon and Congo got more deterring punishments handed. The majority of the 29 others were given sanctions and or suspended sentences of varying levels of severity.

Corruption is prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. In 2 cases of the operation, corruption was witnessed and exposed on the day of operation or later. A non-permanent worker at a secretariat of a State Counsel in Gabon was given ivory taken from the court evidence room by some officials. He was arrested in June.

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

Trafficking in ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 40 ivory traffickers were arrested in 15 operations in 7 countries with over 283 kg of ivory, which include 69 tusks and 74 ivory pieces.

4 traffickers were arrested in February with 14 elephant tusks in Congo. The first trafficker was arrested attempting to sell the tusks. He led the arresting team to the home of the second trafficker who was apprehended. The second trafficker denounced 2 others who were arrested a couple of minutes later. The
tusks were concealed inside grain bags and transported on a motorbike. This seizure represents at least 7 elephants slaughtered.

3 traffickers were arrested in June with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin in Gabon. The ivory trafficking is linked to some personnel of the justice system of the area. One of the three arrested, a non-permanent worker in the secretariat of the State Counsel, was given by other officials, some of the tusks from the court evidence room to trade. The traffickers tried trading the ivory at night. The elephant tusks that had marks on them were concealed in two large suitcases.

6 traffickers were arrested in March with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of Cameroon. The first trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested in a series of arrests during the following two days. One of them concealed parts of protected wildlife species including the limbs and other parts of a chimp in his car. A dead pangolin was also recovered from the vehicle.

4 traffickers were arrested in April, in Burkina Faso with an elephant tusk and several carved ivory items, an elephant tail and 8 pieces of elephant hide, a hippo skull and teeth, 8 crocodile skins and more. The first trafficker was arrested with the contraband which he transported in a three-wheeler motorcycle. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested.

A trafficker was arrested in June with 35 ivory bracelets, 20 elephant tail bracelets and a tiny tusk in Senegal. The truncated and carved tusk was so small that a baby elephant had to be slaughtered to get it. He was arrested as he attempted trade in the tusk. He spends much of his time in Europe and has been trafficking ivory for 20 years.

14 big cat skin traffickers were arrested in 8 operations in 5 countries. 17 leopard skins and 2 lion skins were seized.

2 traffickers were arrested in February with a leopard skin and nine 12-gauge shotguns in Senegal. One of the traffickers is part of an improvised arms factory producing these guns in large quantities that are not only used for poaching of large animals but also to commit violent crimes.

3 traffickers were arrested in April with 2 leopard skins and 3 aardvark feet in Senegal. The trafficking ring has been active for two decades, generating the killings of big cats in the east of the country and in the Niokolo-Koba national park.

13 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in 6 operations; 3 in Cameroon, 2 in Cote d’Ivoire and an operation in Gabon. More than 1,250 kg of scales were seized.

3 traffickers were arrested in April with 386 kg pangolin scales in a crackdown on a pangolin scales trafficking network in Cameroon. The traffickers, a Malian national and two Cameroonians, ran a lucrative illicit business in pangolin scales. They operated from an area in Centrale Cameroon that is notorious for wildlife trafficking and weak law enforcement. They also had connections close to the Cameroon border with the Central African Republic where the Malian had hidden huge quantities of pangolins scales.

A trafficker was arrested in April with 328 kg of pangolin scales in Côte d’Ivoire. He is “the Money Man”
financing the illicit operations of an organized criminal ring that had already been attacked twice in the past years by EAGLE Côte d’Ivoire team. One of the operations took place in 2017 when 3 tons of pangolin scales were seized. They are a very closed and cautious ring. It took huge efforts to net this key player of the network. A large cash amount was found at his home during a house search.

In February, a trafficker was arrested in Cameroon with 246 kg of pangolin scales, and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected.

5 primate traffickers were arrested, 4 in Cameroon and 1 in Gabon during 5 operations. Three baby chimps, two mandrills and a moustache guenon were rescued. Primate skulls were also seized from a trafficker.

A traditional chief was arrested in March and 2 baby chimps rescued in Cameroon. He had iron cages to detain and imprison wild animals including the baby chimps that kept holding the bars desperately longing to be outside. At one point during his arrest, the traditional chief shouted - “bring me my gun! I will kill these animals; they will not be taken alive from here”.

A trafficker was arrested in June with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon in Gabon. Links are under investigation for complicity of a local wildlife officer. The animals were handed to the Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville (CIRMF) for quarantine before moving to the Lekedi Park which is a natural habitat.

In order to maximize the deterrent effect, 938 media pieces were published in national media. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 51 % on internet, 26 % in radio 18 % in print media, and 5 % on TV.
Content:

This report refers to activities from January till June 2022. This report includes: the activities in each area of our fight - Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and External Relations; progress in developing the Network.

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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 effectively replicating 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. Senegal - EAGLE Senegal
6. Côte d’Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d’Ivoire
7. Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso
8. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda
3. Investigations

827 different investigation missions were carried out in 7 countries, leading to the arrest of 73 traffickers in the first semester of 2022.

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking and also on big cat trafficking, pangolin scales and the illegal trade in primates.

![Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – June 2022](image)

Investigations were carried out in 7 countries producing some significant results. New investigation strategies and techniques were used to improve on investigations. There were improvements in the quality and results of investigations although there was a drop in the number of investigation missions within this period as compared to last year. This could be accounted for by the nature of investigations carried out, the closing of the Burkina Faso project and the restructuring process that is presently taking place in Uganda. Some of the investigations required fewer missions on the ground. Recruitment was intensified and investigators were tested in all countries and some joined the teams. The recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find more good investigators.
4. Arrest Operations

73 significant wildlife traffickers were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 36 operations in 7 countries.

![Number of Arrested Traffickers in January - June 2022](image)

Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - June 2022

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers - 55% were traffickers in ivory and other elephant parts. The second largest number concerned traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts - 19%. Third in focus of arrests were pangolin scales traffickers with 18% of all the arrests. There was a substantial number of primate traffickers arrested and this represented the fourth position with 7%. An African grey parrot trafficker was also arrested.
Corruption

Corruption is prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. In 2 cases of the operation, corruption was witnessed and exposed on the day of operation or later. A non-permanent worker at a secretariat of a State Counsel in Gabon was given ivory taken from the court evidence room by some officials. He was arrested.

- The team in Congo fought off corruption attempts when a trafficker was arrested in February in connection with ivory trafficking. The trafficker was on the run after an arrest warrant was issued against him following the arrest of an ivory trafficker in November 2021 with 5 ivory pieces and 3 elephant tails.

- In June 3 traffickers were arrested in June with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin in Gabon. The ivory trafficking is linked to some personnel of the justice system of the area. One of the three arrested, a non-permanent worker in the secretariat of the State Counsel, was given by other officials, some of the tusks from the court evidence room to trade. The traffickers tried trading the ivory at night. The elephant tusks that had marks on them were concealed in two large suitcases. A total of 6 elephant tusks and 17 ivory pieces were recovered. Investigations continues against accomplices in the court.
Elephants

Trafficking in ivory and other elephant products represent most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 40 ivory traffickers were arrested in 15 operations in 7 countries with over 280 kg of ivory, which include 69 tusks and 74 ivory pieces. Some examples are presented here:

- 2 traffickers were arrested in February, with 15 tusks in Côte d’Ivoire, near the Ghana border. The traffickers also smuggle gold and silver and moved the ivory in the trunk of their car. The crackdown on this important ivory ring was filmed by BBC. Wait for the broadcast to get an insight on the special people in the shadows behind this arrest operation.

- Some of the tusks were very small, indicating the extent of the massacres of young elephants. DNA analysis carried out by the Dr. Samuel Wasser of the University of Washington from an earlier seizure of 60 tusks in the same town, Abengourou, show that 90% of the tusks seized were from the WAP complex, where most of the elephants remain. The area is now under heavy pressure from jihadists and more accessible to poachers as the states sharing the complex (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) are finding it more and more difficult to secure.

- 4 traffickers were arrested in February, in Congo, with 14 elephant tusks. The first trafficker was arrested attempting to sell the tusks. He led the arresting team to the home of the second trafficker who was apprehended. The second trafficker denounced 2 others who were arrested a couple of minutes later. The tusks were concealed inside a suitcase and transported on a motorbike. This seizure represents at least 7 elephants slaughtered.

- A trafficker was arrested in Congo connection with ivory trafficking in February. The trafficker was on the run after an arrest warrant was issued against him following the arrest of an ivory trafficker in November 2021 with 5 ivory pieces and 3 elephant tails. The Team fought off corruption attempts.

- A trafficker was arrested in February, in Gabon with 2 tusks weighing 20kg. He concealed the ivory in a cardboard box and used a familiar tactic by refusing to move from his hideout shortly before his arrest. He cut 2 tusks into 6 ivory pieces so that they could easily and perfectly fit into the cardboard box where he concealed the ivory.

- 6 traffickers were arrested in March with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of the Cameroon. The first trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested in a series of arrests during the following two days. One of them concealed parts of protected wildlife species including the limbs and other parts of a chimp in his car. A dead pangolin was also recovered from the vehicle.

- 2 traffickers were arrested in March with 2 tusks in Gabon. The traffickers were arrested during their attempts to sell the elephant tusks they had cut into 8 pieces. The ivory that weighed a total of 55.6 kg was concealed in two backpacks.
3 traffickers were arrested in March with 2 tusks in Gabon. The traffickers, 2 Gabonese women and a Cameroonian, were arrested in Libreville as they attempted to sell the ivory. They carefully concealed the ivory in a backpack, took a cab to an area close to the scene of the transaction. They completed the rest of the distance on foot while keeping a careful watch on the surroundings.

3 traffickers were arrested in Togo, in March with 6 elephant tusks. The elephant tusks were smuggled all the way from Burkina Faso by an international trafficking ring. One of the traffickers who is based in Burkina Faso organized the smuggling of the contraband out of the country. In Togo, one of them received the tusks and the others were responsible for selling them. The smart and cautious traffickers transported the tusks concealed in a grain bag. They were arrested while attempting to sell the ivory. One of the traffickers took up an undercover position not very far from where negotiations were going on. He too was arrested shortly after the first two were apprehended.

A trafficker was arrested with 5 tusks and an elephant tail in Côte d’Ivoire in March. He was arrested in the North East of the country, close to the Ghanaian border and in an area with major security concerns. He admitted to killing the elephants in the Comoe National Park that has only about 120 wild elephants left in a country that counts around 600 elephants. The park has come under severe pressures in the recent past, from the political crisis and civil wars and now from terrorists’ infiltrations from Burkina Faso, drawn to it by its natural resources. It is one of the largest parks in West Africa.

Big Cats

14 big cat skin traffickers were arrested in 8 operations in 5 countries. 17 leopard skins and 2 lion skins were seized. Some examples are presented here:

2 traffickers were arrested in February with a leopard skin and nine 12-gauge shotguns in Senegal. One of the traffickers is part of an improvised arms factory producing these guns in large quantities that are not only used for poaching of large animals but also to commit violent crimes. The illegal manufacturing workshop is about an hour drive from the small town of Kolda not far from the Guinea Bissau border. The criminal buys hardware materials from Kolda - steel pipes, springs, metal plates and pieces, hard wood etc. In his workshop he fits the pipes as a barrel, carves the wood into a stock and makes each part from trigger to mechanism. Some of what he manufactures are “mini shotgun” - that cannot be used for hunting but for either defense from or attacks of criminals in lawless areas. He sells a gun for around 100 USD and his manufacturing rate as well as the demand are staggering.

2 traffickers were arrested in February with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Cameroon. One of the traffickers transported the skins hidden in bags containing locally made kitchen utensils for over 60km to the town where they were arrested. He ran a small shop as a cover business for wildlife trafficking. He belongs to a network of traffickers dealing in cat skins in an area notorious for the illegal activity. They arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skins.
A convicted trafficker who was on the run arrested in April, in Congo. He was given bail during his trial back in May 2021 and went into hiding. A few months later, he was sentenced to serve 18 months in prison. He was chased down and arrested to complete his sentence. The mission to arrest him again was extremely important to show that traffickers cannot avoid justice and will not benefit from impunity. The project and the authorities are working hard to ensure traffickers serve their sentences. He was first arrested with a leopard skin and ivory.

4 traffickers were arrested with 4 elephant tusks, 3 leopard skins, an elephant tail and 5 leopard teeth in April, in Gabon. A worker with the public works department and a high school student were arrested during their attempt to sell the contraband in Oyem, a town in northern Gabon.

3 traffickers were arrested in April with 2 leopard skins and 3 aardvark feet in Senegal. The trafficking ring has been active for two decades, generating the killings of big cats in the east of the country and in the Niokolo-Koba national park. Two of the traffickers transported the contraband in a vehicle belonging to one of them. They concealed the leopard skins in a grain bag and the aardvark feet in a school bag. A fourth trafficker was arrested by the gendarmerie 24 hours later. The arresting team persisted in getting the traffickers arrested despite several challenges.

2 traffickers were arrested in May with 2 leopard skins, a skull and a tooth in Congo. One of the traffickers was arrested with the contraband concealed inside a white flour bag. He denounced the second trafficker, a woman, who also was arrested. She transported the contraband to Oyo where they were arrested. Her husband, a policeman, accompanied her to Oyo, using his status and rank to protect her illegal business all along. Sensing danger he escaped and is still on the run. He shall be charged and prosecuted. They are experienced professionals with a defined and refined modus operandi.

2 traffickers were arrested in May with 2 lion skins, 5 leopard skins and 3 serval skins in a major crackdown on big cat skin trafficking in Togo. 16 hippo teeth and 30 lion claws were also seized. They used a motorcycle to move the contraband that was concealed in two bags. One of them was arrested as he attempted to sell the contraband and he led the arresting team to the second trafficker who was waiting for his share of the money. He was arrested at his residence. The skins were trafficked from West and Central Africa.

2 traffickers were arrested in June with 2 leopard skins in Congo. They were arrested during an attempt to sell them. They arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with a suitcase. The skins were concealed under dresses in the suitcase. They had been trafficking for a considerable time, linking up poaching activities in remote areas with the illegal trade in towns.
Pangolins

13 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in 6 operations; 3 in Cameroon, 2 in Cote d’Ivoire and an operation in Gabon. More than 1,250 kg of scales were seized. They are currently the most trafficked animal in the world. The examples are presented here:

- A trafficker was arrested in January with 46 kg of pangolin scales in Gabon. He was arrested as he attempted to sell the pangolin scales. The 37-year-old Gabonese arrived in a taxi at the place of transaction with two grains bag containing the illegal products. The bags were concealed in the boot of the car. He first claimed that the scales belong to someone else and quickly changed his story. He then admitted he obtained the pangolin scales from poachers around the Northwest of Gabon. He posted photos of the scales on social media, in search of customers. He is a French-born Gabonese who recently visited France.

- A trafficker was arrested in Cameroon, in February with 246 kg of pangolin scales, and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected. The seizure represents a massacre of more than a thousand pangolins.

- 5 traffickers were arrested in April with 90 kg of pangolin scales in a crackdown on a trafficking network in Cameroon. The traffickers were found in several different locations. They attempted to thwart arrest efforts by taking up different locations. They were chased down by the arresting team and each trafficker arrested with booty in hand. They also comprised a complete gang with a driver, middlemen and suppliers.

- 3 traffickers were arrested in April in Cameroon with 386 kg of pangolin scales. The traffickers, a Malian national and two Cameroonians, ran a lucrative illicit business in pangolin scales. They operated from an area in Centrale Cameroon that is notorious for wildlife trafficking and weak law enforcement. They also had connections close to the Cameroon border with the Central African Republic where the Malian had hidden huge quantities of pangolins scales. He transported the contraband from a town near the border, concealed in a truck that transported maize to the capital city Yaounde. When he arrived, they hid the contraband at the home of one of the traffickers. They also trafficked African Grey Parrots but were switching to other products. They claimed it was increasingly difficult to find parrots.

- A trafficker was arrested in Côte d’Ivoire in April with 328 kg of pangolin scales. He is “the Money Man” financing the illicit operations of an organized criminal ring that had already been attacked twice in the past years by EAGLE Côte d’Ivoire team. One of the operations took place in 2017 when 3 tons of pangolin scales were seized. They are a very closed and cautious ring. It took huge efforts to net this key player of the network. A large cash amount was found at his home during a house search. This seizure, a snapshot of the ongoing regular illegal trade of this gang, represents a maximum of around 2,000 killed pangolins. The traffickers use remoted villages in the country to conceal tons of scales.
2 traffickers were arrested in Côte d’Ivoire in June with 153 kg of pangolin scales. They are brothers and were arrested near the border with Liberia. They admitted to trade with Nigerians and Chinese in volumes of tons. They ran a cross-border trade with one based in Liberia and the other across the border. The brothers turned very fast against each other revealing much insights on the organised illegal trade threatening pangolins. They used motorcycles to transport the contraband across the border.

Primates

5 primate traffickers were arrested, 4 in Cameroon and 1 in Gabon. Three baby chimps, two mandrills and a moustache guenon were rescued. Primate skulls were also seized from a trafficker.

A traditional chief was arrested and 2 baby chimps rescued in March, in Cameroon. He had iron cages to detain and imprison wild animals including the baby chimps that kept holding the bars desperately longing to be outside. At one point during his arrest, the traditional chief shouted - “bring me my gun! I will kill these animals; they will not be taken alive from here”. He resisted arrest and tried to bully the arresting team to letting him free. He bought the animals in the south of the country and attempted to sell them in Yaounde.

A trafficker was arrested in April with 2 gorilla skulls, a chimp skull and 5 other primate skulls in Cameroon. He was a regular trafficker in skulls and reptiles with international connections in Europe. He extensively used Facebook for his business. He sealed the skulls with plastic tapes and concealed them inside dresses in a plastic bag that is widely used in travelling across the region. He travelled from the crisis hit Anglophone part of the country to the commercial capital Douala where he attempted to sell the skulls. The operation was carried in collaboration with the Czech-based NGO Save Elephants.

A trafficker was arrested in April and a mandrill rescued in Cameroon. The mandrill was tied at the waist with a heavy metal chain to a tree in his dirty yard. The trafficker was supplied with the mandrill a few months before and was trying to get a high profit for it. The animal was malnourished and weak.

A trafficker was arrested in May a follow up to a live mandrill rescue and bust in Douala, Cameroon. This other member of the ring was exposed during interrogation as the brains and money behind the trafficking, but disappeared and stayed away from his house to avoid arrest. A different strategy was put in place and one of his “girlfriends” lured him to a bar where he was arrested. The arrest put an end to the primate trafficking network that had links to the south of the country.

In June, a trafficker was arrested with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon in Gabon. Links are under investigation for complicity of a local wildlife officer. The animals were handed to the Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville (CIRMF) for quarantine before moving to the Lekedi Park which is a natural habitat.
In June, a mandrill was rescued in Congo. She had been living in terrible conditions, in a very small cage, for at least a year. Members of the Jane Goodall Institute team took part in the rescue operation. The perpetrator who detained the animal is on the run and efforts are being made to arrest him. The mandrill is in rehabilitation at the Tchimpounga sanctuary by the Jane Goodall Institute with the intention to integrate it back into the wild.

In February, in Congo, the Coordinator and Jane Goodall Institute team took over a dying baby chimpanzee from the zoo in Brazzaville. The Coordinator kept and took special care of the one-year-old baby before he was sent to the Tchimpounga sanctuary for lifetime care and support. Moukoudzi, the baby chimp, was initially rescued from a village.

In March, the project provided logistics assistance in the transportation of a chimpanzee that was rescued from a remote village by officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy in Congo. In collaboration with the Aspinall Foundation and the Jane Goodall Institute, it was taken to Tchimpounga sanctuary after a long journey by river, air and road.

### Birds

A trafficker arrested in the Republic of Congo with 94 African Grey Parrots in February. They were squeezed and smuggled in used plastic containers causing 11 of them to die. The rescued parrots were taken to the Tchimpounga sanctuary. This is the sixth parrot trafficker arrested in 3 months. We believe he is the supplier of many traffickers in Brazzaville and elsewhere. Investigations are ongoing. The illegal trade in African Grey Parrots is underestimated in its criminality. Its illicit revenue margin is higher than of ivory, turning it to a highly centralized and organized form of trafficking enabled by complicity and corruption.
5. Legal Follow up

The EAGLE Network legal teams in the 7 countries followed up the court cases of the 73 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 85% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial, at least from the beginning.

During the semester 98 traffickers were prosecuted and 67 of them convicted to imprisonment sentences of various time. The majority of the 29 others were either handed suspended prison sentences with or without fines and damages. This semester saw an improvement in sentencing as Gabon and Congo got more deterring punishments handed. Some examples of good court decisions include:

- 2 traffickers were sentenced in March in Cameroon to 19 months in jail. They were arrested in August with 246 kg of pangolin scales.
- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced in March to 6 months in prison in Gabon. They were arrested in September 2021 with 4 elephant tusks.
- A trafficker was sentenced in March in Gabon to one year in prison. He was arrested in August 2021 with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, a python head, giant pangolin scales, an elephant tail, a monkey skull and 12 leopard teeth.
- 3 traffickers were sentenced in Gabon in March to one and a half year in jail. They were arrested in December 2020 with 8 elephant tusks.
- A trafficker was sentenced in March to one and a half year in jail in Cote d'Ivoire. He was arrested in the same month with 5 elephant tusks.
- A trafficker was sentenced in March to 6 months in prison in Cote d'Ivoire. He was arrested in February with 15 elephant tusks.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced in April to 5 years in prison. They were arrested in Congo by the police last year for killing chimpanzees and elephants.
- A trafficker was sentenced in April to one year in prison in Gabon. He was arrested in February 2022 with 2 elephant tusks.
- A trafficker was sentenced in April to one year in jail. He was arrested in December last year in Gabon with 2 elephant tusks
- A trafficker was sentenced in April to 8 months in prison in Gabon. He was arrested in March with 4 elephant tusks.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced in May to 8 months in jail. They were arrested in November last year with 9 ivory tusks.
- 3 ivory traffickers were sentenced in May to 5 years in prison in the Republic of Congo. They were arrested in February with 14 elephant tusks.

- An ivory trafficker was sentenced in May to 2 years in prison in the Republic of Congo. He was arrested in February last year with 3 elephant tusks and 11 ivory pieces.

- 3 traffickers were sentenced in June to 6 months in prison in Gabon. They were arrested in March 2022 with 2 elephant tusks.

- 3 traffickers were sentenced in June to 6 months in jail in Gabon. They were arrested in April 2022 with 4 elephant tusks and 3 leopard skins.

- A trafficker was sentenced in in June to one year in prison. He was arrested in February 2022 with 6 pieces of ivory weighing some 20 kg in Gabon.

- 3 traffickers were sentenced in June to 9 months in jail in Gabon. They were arrested in May 2022 with 2 ivory tusks.

- 2 traffickers were sentenced in June to 6 months in jail in Gabon. They were arrested in March 2022 with 8 pieces of ivory.

- 2 traffickers were sentenced in June to 6 months in jail in Senegal. They were arrested in July 2019 with lion, leopard and crocodile skins.
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.

In order to maximize a deterrent effect, 938 media pieces were published in national media.

The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 51% on internet, 26% in radio, 18% in print media and 5% on TV.

![Split of Media Pieces](image.png)

*Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces*
Numbers of media pieces published in January - June 2022

Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January – June 2022

International media

- The Activities Coordinator in Gabon granted an interview in March to Euronews, an international TV news channel, on wildlife trafficking and law enforcement efforts in Gabon.

- In May the Deputy Director of LAGA participated in the filming of the series dubbed Unsung Heroes by Wildaid. The series seek to shed light on conservationists for their contribution in protecting wildlife.

- LAGA was quoted in several articles from a Belgian based website Camer.be on several of the operations carried out in Cameroon and here are a few examples:

  [Link to Camer.be](#)
  [Link to Camer.be](#)

- The Coordinator in Congo gave interviews in February to a film crew shooting a documentary on the work of the Tchimpounga sanctuary that shall feature the rescue and care of the African Grey Parrots.
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.

Cameroon

- In January, the Deputy Director held a meeting with a consultant from Tetra Tech, a US–based group, to introduce the EAGLE Network and discuss the fight against wildlife crime.
- In February, the Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the South African based Institute for Security Studies to discuss wildlife crime in the sub region.
- He participated in February at a meeting that included wildlife and NGO officials to discuss sections of the new wildlife bill that tackles wildlife crime.
- In April, the Deputy Director travelled to Abidjan where he participated at workshop that focused on illicit economies and conflict in West Africa. Organized by Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime (GI TOC), participants were drawn mainly from areas linked to the fight against organized crime in the sub region.
- He held a meeting in April with the Dan Chandler and Matt Shirley from the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group to discuss the fight against pangolin scales trafficking and the management of seized scales in Cameroon.
- In May the Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy in Yaounde with officials of the Regional Environment Office of the US Embassy in Accra, Ghana. Discussions focused on several conservation initiatives including wildlife law enforcement.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting in May with officials of the US Department of Justice who were trainers at workshop on fighting illegal logging. He held another meeting with Elinor Corlburn a senior counsel of the Justice Department.
Congo

- In February, the Coordinator met with some high ranking wildlife officials from Guinea to strengthen collaboration and the fight against wildlife trafficking. She held meetings with Charlotte Houpline, the Director of a Guinean-based NGO WARA and formerly Coordinator of the EAGLE project in Guinea and discussions focused on the fight against wildlife crime.

- In March, the Coordinator, accompanied by the Aspinall Foundation Coordinator, met with the new Italian Ambassador to discuss the fight against wildlife trafficking in the country.

- She also held meetings in March with the Regional Commander of the Gendarmerie of Brazzaville as well as the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy.

- In April, the Coordinator held meetings with WWF delegations from France, Netherlands and Cameroon during a mission to the north of Congo to discuss wildlife trafficking and strengthen collaboration. She was accompanied by the ETIC (Espace TRIDOM Interzone Congo) Manager.

- The Coordinator participated in May at the Europe Day celebrations where she met with several diplomatic officials including Ambassadors of the European Union, the United States and Italy. She also met with the General Director of the Ministry of Forest Economy, the General Director of the Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas.

- In May, the Coordinator participated at an event organized for the departing Head of the Consular Section and the Head of the Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy.

- In May, the Coordinator held several meetings with the General Director of the Ministry of Forest Economy to hand over lawyers’ contracts and discuss ongoing cases.

- Still in May, she held meetings with the Commander of the Brazzaville Gendarmerie Region and the Captain in charge of the Research Section to discuss an arrest operation.

- The Coordinator held a meeting in June with an INTERPOL Criminal Intelligence Officer of the Regional Bureau for Central Africa. They discussed ongoing cases and the strengthening of collaboration.

- The Coordinator held a working session in June with the Second in Command of the Gendarmerie of Congo, on ongoing cases and the organization of trainings for gendarmerie officials.

- The Coordinator participated in June at the Italian Republic Day event held at the Italian Ambassador’s residence. During the ceremony, she had brief discussions with the Italian Ambassador, the EU Ambassador and the Ambassador of Venezuela among several other dignitaries and officials.

- The Coordinator, accompanied by the RALFF Coordinator, held a meeting in June with the Senior Advisor of the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and the Program Management Specialist of the USAID to introduce the organization and discuss wildlife law enforcement.
Gabon

- In January, the Executive Director held a meeting with the Minister of Water and Forests and the Director General of Wildlife and Protected areas to strengthen collaboration
- The Executive Director and the Activities Coordinator held a meeting in January with the Director of Cabinet of the Commander-in-Chief of the National Gendarmerie on the possibility of organizing trainings for officers and agents at the National Gendarmerie School
- In April a Legal Adviser, assisted by the Activities Coordinator, facilitated a workshop that focused on the role played by Conservation Justice in fighting wildlife crime. The workshop brought together 25 trainee officers from all branches of the gendarmerie. It served as a prelude to a workshop for cadet officers to be organized in the coming months
- In June, the Activities Coordinator held a meeting with an official in charge of biodiversity at a railway company to discuss wildlife law enforcement.
- Several meetings were held by the Activities Coordinator and Legal Advisers with several diplomatic, high-ranking administrative, judicial and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration and to follow up ongoing wildlife cases.

Togo

- In January, the Coordinator held a meeting with the US Ambassador who was assisted by his close collaborators to introduce the organization and strengthen collaboration.
- In January, the Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator had a series of meetings with European Union officials, namely, the First Secretary, the Head of the Infrastructure and Environment Team, the Attaché in Charge of the Decentralization, Security and Justice Program and the Infrastructure Program Officer to strengthen collaboration and request for support in order to advance the process of registering EAGLE Togo with the Ministry of Territorial Administration.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in January with the Police Commander of the French Embassy to strengthen collaboration.
- They held a meeting in January with the International Technical Expert and Technical Advisor to the Director General of the National Police to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Division of Civil Organizations and Associations at the Ministry of Territorial Administration to discuss the registration file of EAGLE Togo.
- In February the Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division, CITES Focal Point who was assisted by the OCRTIDB and Interpol Project Officer and Focal...
Point for Operations to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. They equally discussed issues related to the repatriation of parrots seized in Togo in October 2021 to Cameroon.

- In April, the Assistant Coordinator and the Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Director of the Inspectorate of Forest Resources (IRF) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against environmental crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) Focal Point to discuss the ETIS data collection procedures and strengthen collaboration.
- In June the Assistant Coordinator participated at the US Independence Day event during which he had brief discussions with the Minister of Environment and Forestry Resources, the US Ambassador, the official in charge of diplomatic issues at the French Embassy. During discussions, he focused on the activities of EAGLE Togo and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in June with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Resources to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held several meetings officials of OCRTIDB, the State Counsels Forestry officials to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal

- In January, the Coordinator held meetings with some high officials of the French, US and UK Embassies to strengthen collaboration.
- She also held a meeting with authorities from the General Directorate of the National Police to strengthen collaboration.
- The Team presented various modules on combatting wildlife crime during two trainings for 18 and 19 park rangers, respectively. The trainings were organized in January by EAGLE Senegal and Panthera, an NGO.
- In April, EAGLE Senegal and the General Directorate of the National Police of Senegal signed a partnership agreement to fight wildlife crime in the country.
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with the MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Directorate of Customs and the General Directorate of the National Police where meetings were held.

Côte d’Ivoire

- In April, the Coordinator and a Legal Adviser participated at workshop that focused on illicit economies and conflict in West Africa. Organized by GI TOC, participants were from the West and Central Africa sub regions.
The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for operations.

In May, the Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife to discuss wildlife trafficking and to strengthen collaboration.

The Coordinator worked closely with the OIPR (the Ivorian administration in charge of the national parks) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

The Coordinator several held meetings with the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to advance on long term investigations and to prepare for operations.

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**Burkina Faso**

- A Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Technical Advisor of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Environment to discuss the holding of a meeting with the new Minister of Ecological Transition and the Environment.

- In February, the Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition and with two of his collaborators to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.

- The Coordinator held a meeting in February with the Coordinator of Innovation for Poverty in Action and another meeting with the NGO’s investigation officer to discuss recruitment opportunities for investigators to strengthen the fight against wildlife crime.

- In March, the Coordinator had a call with a Provincial Director of Water, Energy and the Environment to discuss measures to ensure 3 traffickers ordered to pay damages to the state in June 2021 comply with the court decision.

- In April, the Coordinator and a Legal Adviser discussed with the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources on the online completion of the Elephant Trade and Information System (ETIS) form.

- The Coordinator and a Legal Adviser, assisted students in May on the setting up of a wildlife crime unit within the framework of the PONASI project.

- In May, the Coordinator held meetings with officials of the Justice and Project Management Program of the European Union. Discussions focused on the progress made by Conservation Justice in Burkina and the obstacles encountered.
8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network

Travel restrictions continued to be in place making smooth travelling for Central Coordination Unit (CCU) and Steering group members difficult. The CCU continued support to the network members mostly via internet. Personal missions were replaced by several media platforms to keep the quality of the work of all teams high.

The restructuring of the EAGLE Uganda project, with support from CCU, was done with recruitment well underway.

Several investigators supported activities carried in other countries which helped to achieve more results.

- Ofir Drori travelled in May to Holland for a week-long meeting with Future For Nature that gave him an award in 2016. He had handed awards to other winners in the past. He has been central in the process of turning the Future for Nature from an annual award to a vibrant community and family of passionate entrepreneur conservationists. This time the group met for intense five days of discussions, presentations, and meetings with audiences of nature lovers, students and private sector. It was also used for networking and increasing collaboration on specific work.

- EAGLE advised and supported Czech conservationists in cracking down an Indonesian live animals trafficking ring in Sumatra and the arrest of its top member - a trafficker nicknamed "Greed".
9. Photos of the Selected Cases

A trafficker arrested with 94 African Grey Parrots in Congo in February

A trafficker arrested with 94 African Grey Parrots. They were squeezed and smuggled in used plastic containers causing 11 of them to die. The rescued parrots were taken to the Tchimpounga sanctuary. This is the sixth parrot trafficker arrested in 3 months. We believe he is the supplier of many traffickers in Brazzaville and elsewhere. Investigations are ongoing. The illegal trade in African Grey Parrots is underestimated in its criminality. Its illicit revenue margin is higher than of ivory, turning it to a highly centralized and organized form of trafficking enabled by complicity and corruption.
A trafficker arrested with 246 kg of pangolin scales in February in Cameroon

A trafficker arrested with 246 kg of pangolin scales, and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected. The seizure represents a massacre of more than a thousand pangolins.
A trafficker arrested in Cameroon in March with 2 baby chimps

A traditional chief arrested and 2 baby chimps rescued. He had iron cages to detain and imprison wild animals including the baby chimps that kept holding the bars desperately longing to be outside. At one point during his arrest, the traditional chief shouted - “bring me my gun! I will kill these animals; they will not be taken alive from here”. He resisted arrest and tried to bully the arresting team to letting him free. He bought the animals in the south of the country and attempted to sell them in Yaoundé.
4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in April in Gabon

4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks, 3 leopard skins, an elephant tail and 5 leopard teeth. A worker with the public works department and a high school student were arrested during their attempt to sell the contraband in Oyem, a town in northern Gabon. The worker denounced a third trafficker who was arrested at his home and a house search done. Several 375 rifle bullets were found during the search. He also denounced 2 other traffickers who were arrested. One of them is the father of the high school student. He shot and killed an elephant from which he extracted a pair of tusks and the tail. A house search found rifle bullets at his home some 34km from Oyem. He also led the arresting team to the carcass of the elephant he killed 6 months ago. The second is a teacher who admitted to owning 2 tusks. The products were found in two travelling bags that were concealed inside a vehicle that was driven by the student. Charges were not brought against the student.

A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in April in Gabon

A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks. The trafficker, a Beninese national, was arrested as he attempted to sell the ivory. He arrived at the place of the transaction in a taxi carrying a backpack that concealed the tusks.
6 traffickers arrested with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in March in Cameroon

6 traffickers arrested with 5 elephant tusks and chimpanzee meat in a crackdown on a criminal ring in the south of the country. The first trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested in a series of arrests during the following two days. One of them concealed parts of protected wildlife species including the limbs and other parts of a chimp in his car. A dead pangolin was also recovered from the vehicle.
3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 aardvark feet in April in Senegal

3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 aardvark feet. The trafficking ring has been active for two decades, generating the killings of big cats in the east of the country and in the Niokolo-Koba national park. Two of the traffickers transported the contraband in a vehicle belonging to one of them. They concealed the leopard skins in a grain bag and the aardvark feet in a school bag. A fourth trafficker was arrested by the gendarmerie 24 hours later. The arresting team persisted in getting the traffickers arrested despite several challenges.
4 traffickers arrested in April in Burkina Faso

4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and several carved ivory items, an elephant tail and 8 pieces of elephant hide, a hippo skull and teeth, 8 crocodile skins and more. The first trafficker was arrested with the contraband which he transported in a three-wheeler motorcycle. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested. They had been in the illegal business for a long time and this runs through the family, from father to son. 3 of the traffickers are brothers.
A trafficker arrested with 328 kg of pangolin scales in April in Côte d’Ivoire

A trafficker arrested with 328 kg of pangolin scales. He is “the Money Man” financing the illicit operations of an organized criminal ring that had already been attacked twice in the past years by EAGLE Côte d’Ivoire team. One of the operations took place in 2017 when 3 tons of pangolin scales were seized. They are a very closed and cautious ring. It took huge efforts to net this key player of the network. A large cash amount was found at his home during a house search. This seizure, a snapshot of the ongoing regular illegal trade of this gang, represents a maximum of around 2,000 killed pangolins. The traffickers use remoted villages in the country to conceal tons of scales.

2 traffickers arrested with 153 kg of pangolin scales in June in Côte d’Ivoire

2 traffickers arrested with 153 kg of pangolin scales. They are brothers and were arrested near the border with Liberia. They admitted to trade with Nigerians and Chinese in volumes of tons. They ran a cross-border trade with one based in Liberia and the other across the border. The brothers turned very fast against each other revealing much insights on the organised illegal trade threatening pangolins. They used motorcycles to transport the contraband across the border.
2 traffickers of big cats skins arrested in May in Togo

2 traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins, 5 leopard skins and 3 serval skins in a major crackdown on big cat skin trafficking in the country. 16 hippo teeth and 30 lion claws were also seized. They used a motorcycle to move the contraband that was concealed in two bags. One of them was arrested as he attempted to sell the contraband and he led the arresting team to the second trafficker who was waiting for his share of the money. He was arrested at his residence. The skins were trafficked from West and Central Africa.
2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in May in Congo

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks weighing 20 kg. They were arrested during a brief but intense chase. The cautious and smart traffickers attempted to escape on a motorcycle at the moment of their arrest. The arresting team that was on the alert, quickly responded to the fleeing traffickers, immobilized and handcuffed them. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender who had been convicted several times and the second is a Malian. They were extremely suspicious and tried several clever moves to avoid arrest.
A trafficker arrested with a baby chimpanzee in Gabon in June

A trafficker arrested with a baby chimpanzee and a moustache guenon. Links are under investigation for complicity of a local wildlife officer. The animals were handed to the Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville (CIRMF) for quarantine before moving to the Lekedi Park which is a natural habitat.

3 traffickers arrested with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin in Gabon in June

3 traffickers arrested with 81 kg of ivory and a leopard skin. The ivory trafficking is linked to some personnel of the justice system of the area. One of the three arrested, a non-permanent worker in the secretariat of the State Counsel, was given by other officials some of the tusks from the court evidence room to trade. The traffickers tried trading the ivory at night. The elephant tusks that had marks on them were concealed in two large suitcases. A total of 6 elephant tusks and 17 ivory pieces were recovered. Investigations continues against accomplices in the court.
An ivory trafficker arrested in Senegal in June

A trafficker arrested with 35 ivory bracelets, 20 elephant tail bracelets and a tiny tusk. The truncated and carved tusk was so small that a baby elephant had to be murdered to get it. He was arrested as he attempted trade in the tusk. He was cautious and tough to handle. He spends much of his time in Europe and has been trafficking ivory for 20 years. This was a second arrest operation of the World Environment Day – June 5.

THE EAGLE Network

EAGLE: Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement, is a network of members across Africa, who are replicating effectively a program and operational model to undertake wildlife law enforcement, which is based on the LAGA-Cameroon model, trailed, practiced and tested since 2003. The EAGLE Network currently operates in nine African countries and keeps expanding.

The over-arching objective of the EAGLE Network is: Developing civic activism and collaborating with governments and civil society to improve the application of national and international environmental legislation, through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent against the illegal trade in wildlife, timber and related criminal activities, including corruption.

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8. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
# Annex - Summary of the Results

## Number of investigations per month per country

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<th>Country</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
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<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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