



**EAGLE**

# The EAGLE Network 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2023 Report



- ✓ *Despite several challenges encountered during the period, the EAGLE teams pushed forward. 43 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 6 countries*
- ✓ *24 ivory traffickers arrested with close to 280 kg of ivory, which include 58 tusks and 14 ivory pieces*
- ✓ *9 pangolin scales traffickers arrested with more than 186 kg of scales*
- ✓ *9 parrot traffickers arrested with 171 parrots in three countries*
- ✓ *83 % of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars*
- ✓ *534 media pieces were published in national media*
- ✓ *At least in 2 cases, corruption was exposed during the arrest operation*
- ✓ *Strikes by magistrates in Gabon slowed the court system; in Congo, appointments and transfers made within the judiciary hampered the smooth holding of court trials*

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# 1. Summary

Despite several challenges encountered during the reporting period, especially at the beginning of the semester, the EAGLE teams pushed forward with 43 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 6 countries. EAGLE Network started a long process of building new strategies to solve some of the challenges posed, in the future. Some countries witnessed a restructuring and reorganisation of personnel for greater efficiency. A new replication project was kick started in Guinea.

Recruitment of investigators continued to pose a significant challenge and new initiatives were carried out to ease the process. The quality of investigations kept improving despite a drop in the quantity as techniques and investigative tools were improved upon. 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.

Several challenges encountered at the beginning of the semester hampered the smooth functioning of the Central Coordination Unit (CCU) and the Steering Group. They extensively used several media platforms instead of travelling, to keep the quality of the work of all teams high.

308 investigation missions were carried out to identify wildlife traffickers. 83 % of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least at the beginning of their trial. During the semester 23 traffickers were prosecuted and 13 of them handed imprisonment sentences of various time. The 10 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. 5 parrot traffickers were arrested in two countries; Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal in April and documents found exposed systemic corruption with bribe amounts included in calculations and a high level of complicity, including falsification of CITES documents, facilitating this transnational trafficking.

3 traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in May with pangolin scales and during the writing of the offence reports by the wildlife officials, they came under severe and relentless attempts of bribery to kill the prosecution but this was pushed back, paving the way for their prosecution.

Traffickers in ivory and other elephant parts represent the vast majority of arrests, while traffickers in pangolin scales are in second place, birds traffickers third, and a trafficker was arrested trafficking a leopard skin and other contraband.

Trafficking in ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 24 ivory traffickers were arrested in 8 operations in 4 countries with close to 280 kg of ivory, which include 58 tusks and 14 ivory pieces.

4 traffickers were arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard in Togo, in March. The arrest operation seizing 167 kg ivory was a hard one as the traffickers were extremely careful.

One that tried to escape was captured in a good teamwork. The contraband was concealed in 2 grains bags found inside the boot of a vehicle.

4 traffickers were arrested with 4 elephant tusks and two 12-gauge shotguns in Gabon, in April. A trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. The driver who transported the ivory to the scene of transaction was also arrested. The trafficker denounced two more traffickers who were arrested the next day. The closely connected network was well organized and experienced.

3 traffickers, including a Burkinabe national, were arrested with 12 elephant tusks in Gabon, in May. The Burkinabe arrived the scene of transaction on a red motorbike, unloaded a cardboard box carefully wrapped in adhesive tape from the motorbike's luggage rack. The box contained another bag where 12 ivory tusks were concealed. He was arrested shortly afterwards and he denounced another trafficker who was arrested a couple of hours later. They both denounced the third trafficker, a village chief. He was arrested 2 days later.

5 traffickers were arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon, in March. They were arrested during their attempts at selling the elephant tusks. 4 traffickers were arrested when they arrived the scene of transaction in a car transporting the ivory. During interrogations they denounced one more trafficker who was also arrested. The tusks were concealed in a grains bag.

3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire, in February. 2 of them trafficked the ivory from the west of the country and collaborated with the third trafficker in Abidjan who stocked the ivory and harbored them. He equally concealed the ivory at his place and participated in the making of the deal as they were swiftly arrested while attempting to sell the elephants tusks.

9 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in 3 operations; 2 in Cameroon and an operation in Congo. More than 186 kg of scales were seized.

3 traffickers were arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in May. They were cautious, tried a number of tricks and came around without the pangolin scales to the place of transaction. They mixed up the scales and parked it in a single bag that was transported on a motorbike.

5 traffickers were arrested with 53 kg of pangolin scales and a hippo tooth in Congo, in May. They were arrested in a complex operation that took much patience and initiatives by the arresting team. Some of the scales are of the rarer giant pangolin. The criminals were also caught trafficking two minerals - red cinnabar (mercury sulphide) and white cinnabar (mercury sulphate), the second being extremely lucrative for trafficking and toxic even for mere inhaling.

A trafficker was arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in April. He travelled 41 km with the bag of pangolins scales strapped to his motorcycle. He was arrested when he arrived at the scene of transaction and attempted to sell the pangolin scales. The operation came at the end of a long investigation that tracked and monitored the pangolins trafficker who is experienced in the illegal business.

9 parrots traffickers were arrested in 3 countries; Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Congo. 5 traffickers were arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. 4 more traffickers were arrested in Congo and 45 parrots were rescued.

2 traffickers were arrested with 115 parrots including 110 African grey parrots in Cote d'Ivoire, in April. One of them is a Senegalese national who was arrested while attempting to sell 91 African grey parrots in Abidjan. He denounced the supplier, an Ivorian national, who was stocking the birds in his hidden aviary. Raiding the quarantine, more evidence was found on the vast stretch and magnitude of the ring and its connection to ape trafficking. 3 cape parrots trafficked from South Africa were also recovered.

3 traffickers were arrested with 11 Timneh parrots in Senegal, in April. The operation was part of a long and meticulous investigation that led to the arrest of 2 traffickers in Abidjan including a Senegalese national with 110 African grey parrots. The house of the Senegalese trafficker in Dakar was searched and 3 traffickers were arrested with 11 Timneh parrots.

4 traffickers were arrested with 45 African grey parrots in Congo, in June. The illegal network, including a DRC national, was trafficking across DRC and Congo. They arrived at the scene of transaction in a taxi. The parrots were transported in makeshift cages in the boot of the car.

In order to maximize the deterrent effect, 534 media pieces were published in national media. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 45 % on internet, 30 % in radio 18 % in print media, and 7 % on TV.

# Content:

This report refers to activities from January till June 2023. 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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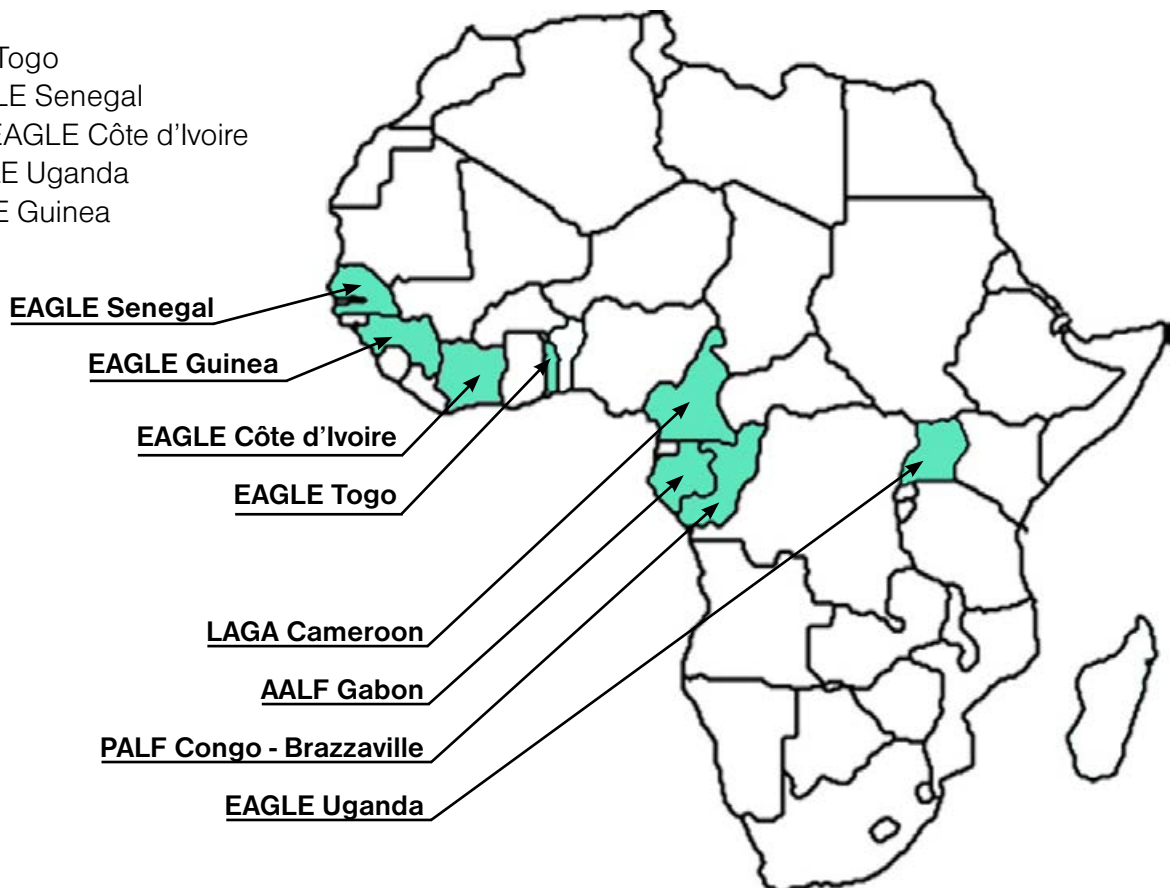
## 2. Structure of the Network

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.

### **EAGLE Network operates in these countries:**

1. Cameroon - LAGA
2. The Republic of the Congo - PALF
3. Gabon - AALF
4. Togo - EAGLE Togo
5. Senegal - EAGLE Senegal
6. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire
7. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda
8. Guinea - EAGLE Guinea



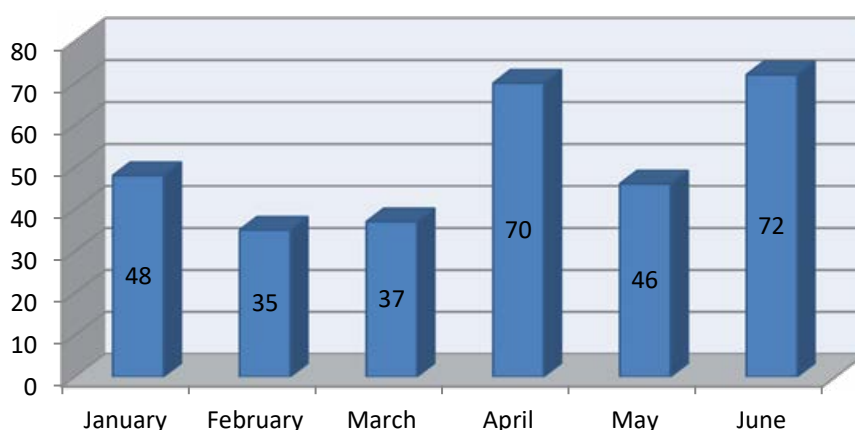


## 3. Investigations

308 different investigation missions were carried out in 6 countries, leading to the arrest of 43 traffickers in the first semester of 2023

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking and also on pangolin scales and the illegal trade in birds.

**Numbers of investigations  
in January - June 2023**



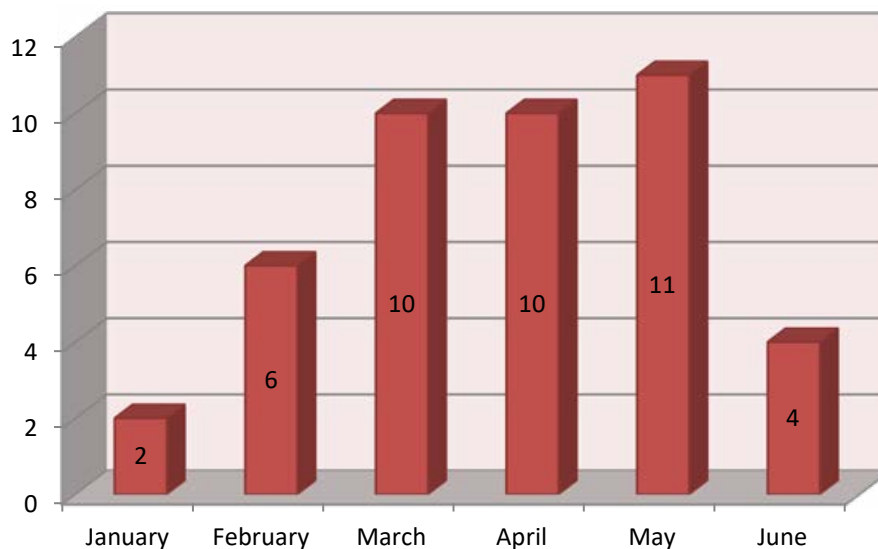
*Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – June 2023*

Investigations were carried out in 6 countries producing some results. Several challenges at the start of the year hampered investigations and it took a while before activities went full flow. As a result, there was a drop in the number of investigation missions within this period as compared to last year. Recruitment was intensified and investigators were tested in all countries. The recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find more good investigators.

## 4. Arrest Operations

43 significant wildlife traffickers were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 16 operations in 6 countries.

**Number of Arrested Traffickers  
in January - June 2023**



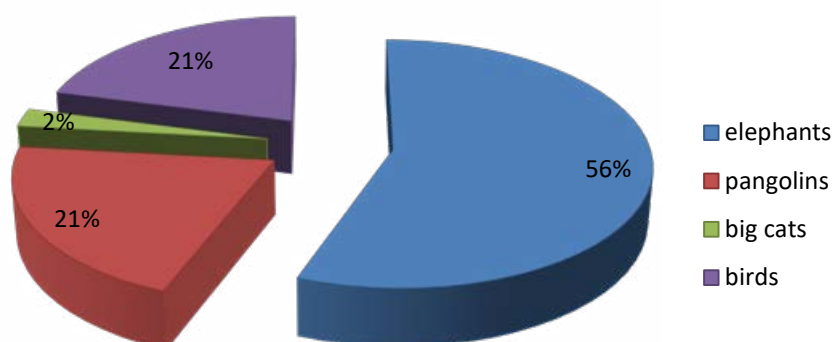
*Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - June 2023*

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers – 56 % were traffickers in ivory and other elephant parts. The second in focus of arrests were pangolin scales traffickers with 21 % and parrot traffickers with 21 % of all the arrests. A trafficker was arrested for leopard skin trafficking.



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

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



## **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.**

- 2 traffickers were arrested with 115 parrots including 110 African grey parrots in Cote d'Ivoire, in April. One of them is a Senegalese national who was arrested while attempting to sell 91 African grey parrots in Abidjan. He denounced the supplier, an Ivorian national, who was stocking the birds in his hidden aviary. Raiding the quarantine, more evidence was found on the vast stretch and magnitude of the ring and its connection to ape trafficking. 3 cape parrots trafficked from South Africa were also recovered. The African grey parrots were transported by road from Cameroon to Côte d'Ivoire by highly professional traffickers who have been doing this kind of business for decades. The Ivorian supplier has been trafficking for 30 years. He sourced birds from Liberia, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Ghana. He was considered as one of the biggest wholesalers in the country. Thanks to collaboration, the long and meticulous investigation involved the Senegal Team. The house of the Senegalese trafficker was searched in Dakar and 3 more traffickers arrested and 11 Timneh parrots seized. Documents exposed systemic corruption with bribe amounts included in calculations and a high level of complicity, including falsification of CITES documents, facilitating this transnational trafficking.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in May with pangolin scales and during the writing of the offence reports by the wildlife officials, they came under severe and relentless attempts of bribery to kill the prosecution and this was pushed back, paving the way for their prosecution.

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## Elephants

**Trafficking in ivory and other elephant products represent most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 24 ivory traffickers were arrested in 8 operations in 4 countries with close to 280 kg of ivory, which include 58 tusks and 14 ivory pieces. Some examples are presented here:**

- A trafficker was arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo, in January. He concealed the tusks for over a week at the residence of the grandmother of one his accomplices. He is part of a bigger network. He denounced two others who are on the run. Efforts continue to track them down and get them arrested.
- A trafficker was arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon, in January. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the tusks. He travelled some 20 km with the tusks concealed inside a polythene bag he carried. He was arrested upon arrival to town while walking to the place of transaction. 4 pieces of tusks were found inside the bag during a search that was immediately carried out. The 4 pieces of ivory were cut from 2 elephant tusks. He was remanded in custody to be transferred to Libreville where they were presented to the Prosecutor of the Special Court.
- 2 ivory traffickers, one a Ghana national, were arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon, in February. A Gabonese was arrested with 2 elephant tusks and he immediately denounced the other trafficker, a Ghanaian, who concealed the elephant tusks at his premises. The Gabonese is known to the police for the illegal trade in an endemic shrub known for its psychoactive effects and regulated by the law. A search found a good quantity of this shrub at his home. He arrived the scene of transaction by car with the ivory concealed in the boot of the vehicle.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire, in February. 2 of them trafficked the ivory from the west of the country and collaborated with the third trafficker in Abidjan who stocked the ivory and harbored them. He equally concealed the ivory at his place and participated in the making of the deal as they were swiftly arrested while attempting to sell the elephants tusks.
- 5 traffickers were arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Gabon, in March. They were arrested during their attempts at selling the elephant tusks. 4 traffickers were arrested when they arrived the scene of transaction in a car transporting the ivory. During interrogations they denounced one more trafficker who was also arrested. The tusks were concealed in a grains bag.
- A convicted trafficker who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in April 2022 and never returned following his release on bail during the trial, was arrested in Congo, in March. He had been evading authorities who went all the way out with the Team's assistance to arrest him. He shall complete his full sentence in prison. This sends a strong message to traffickers that they will be pursued and the law will be applied.
- 4 traffickers were arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard in Togo, in March. The arrest operation seizing 167 kg ivory was a hard one as the traffickers were extremely careful. One that tried to escape was captured in a good teamwork. The contraband was concealed in 2 grains bags found inside the boot of a vehicle.

- 4 traffickers were arrested with 4 elephant tusks and two 12-gauge shotguns in Gabon, in April. A trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. The driver who transported the ivory to the scene of transaction was also arrested. The trafficker denounced two more traffickers who were arrested the next day. The closely connected network was well organized and experienced. They were held in custody before their transfer to Libreville to be presented before the Prosecutor of the Special Court in charge of Wildlife Cases.
- 3 traffickers, including a Burkinabe national, were arrested with 12 elephant tusks in Gabon, in May. The Burkinabe arrived the scene of transaction on a red motorbike, unloaded a cardboard box carefully wrapped in adhesive tape from the motorbike's luggage rack. The box contained another bag where 12 ivory tusks were concealed. He was arrested shortly afterwards and he denounced another trafficker who was arrested a couple of hours later. They both denounced the third trafficker, a village chief. He was arrested 2 days later.

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## Big Cats

**A trafficker was arrested with a leopard skin and several other contraband in Senegal.**

- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband in February. The Burkina Faso national is also involved in gold trafficking in Mali. He activated several cross-border trafficking networks. He was arrested with a suitcase concealing a leopard skin, serval and crocodile skins and head, and hyena skin and head.

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## Pangolins

**9 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in 3 operations; 2 in Cameroon and an operation in Congo. More than 186 kg of scales were seized. They are currently the most trafficked animal in the world. The operations are presented here:**

- A trafficker was arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in April. He travelled 41 km with the bag of pangolins scales strapped to his motorcycle. He was arrested when he arrived at the scene of transaction and attempted to sell the pangolin scales. The operation came at the end of a long investigation that tracked and monitored the pangolins trafficker who is experienced in the illegal business. He activated a host of small traffickers in several villages, who supplied him with pangolins scales.
- 3 traffickers were arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in May. They were cautious, tried a number of tricks and came around without the pangolin scales to the place of transaction. They mixed up the scales and parked it in a single bag that was transported on a motorbike. They were very knowledgeable in the illegal business and did everything they could to avoid arrest.

- 5 traffickers were arrested with 53 kg of pangolin scales and a hippo tooth in Congo, in May. They were arrested in a complex operation that took much patience and initiatives by the arresting team. Some of the scales are of the rarer giant pangolin. The criminals were also caught trafficking two minerals - red cinnabar (mercury sulphide) and white cinnabar (mercury sulphate), the second being extremely lucrative for trafficking and toxic even for mere inhaling.

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## Birds

**9 parrots traffickers were arrested in 3 countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Congo. 5 traffickers were arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. 4 traffickers were arrested in Congo and 45 parrots rescued.**

- 2 traffickers were arrested with 115 parrots including 110 African grey parrots in Cote d'Ivoire, in April. One of them is a Senegalese national who was arrested while attempting to sell 91 African grey parrots in Abidjan. He denounced the supplier, an Ivorian national, who was stocking the birds in his hidden aviary. Raiding the quarantine, more evidence was found on the vast stretch and magnitude of the ring and its connection to ape trafficking. 3 cape parrots trafficked from South Africa were also recovered. The African grey parrots were transported by road from Cameroon to Côte d'Ivoire by highly professional traffickers who have been doing this kind of business for decades. The Ivorian supplier has been trafficking for 30 years. He sourced birds from Liberia, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Ghana. He was considered as one of the biggest wholesalers in the country.
- 3 traffickers were arrested with 11 Timneh parrots in Senegal, in April. The operation was part of a long and meticulous investigation that led to the arrest of 2 traffickers in Abidjan including a Senegalese national with 110 African grey parrots. The house of the Senegalese trafficker in Dakar was searched and 3 traffickers were arrested with 11 Timneh parrots.
- 4 traffickers were arrested with 45 African grey parrots in Congo, in June. The illegal network, including a DRC national, was trafficking across DRC and Congo. They arrived at the scene of transaction in a taxi. The parrots were transported in makeshift cages in the boot of the car. They proceeded cautiously as one of them lagged behind, providing cover. The parrots were crammed in two cages. The parrots were taken to the Jane Goodall Institute for appropriate care before their release to the wild.

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## 5. Legal Follow up

The EAGLE Network legal teams in the countries followed up the court cases of the 43 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 83 % of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial, at least from the beginning.

During the semester 23 traffickers were prosecuted and 13 of them convicted to imprisonment sentences of various time. The 10 others were either handed suspended prison sentences with or without fines and damages. Strikes by magistrates in Gabon slowed the court system and in Congo, appointments and transfers made within the judiciary hampered the smooth holding of court trials. These and many other reasons accounted for the very low court rulings witnessed during the semester. Some examples of good court decisions include:

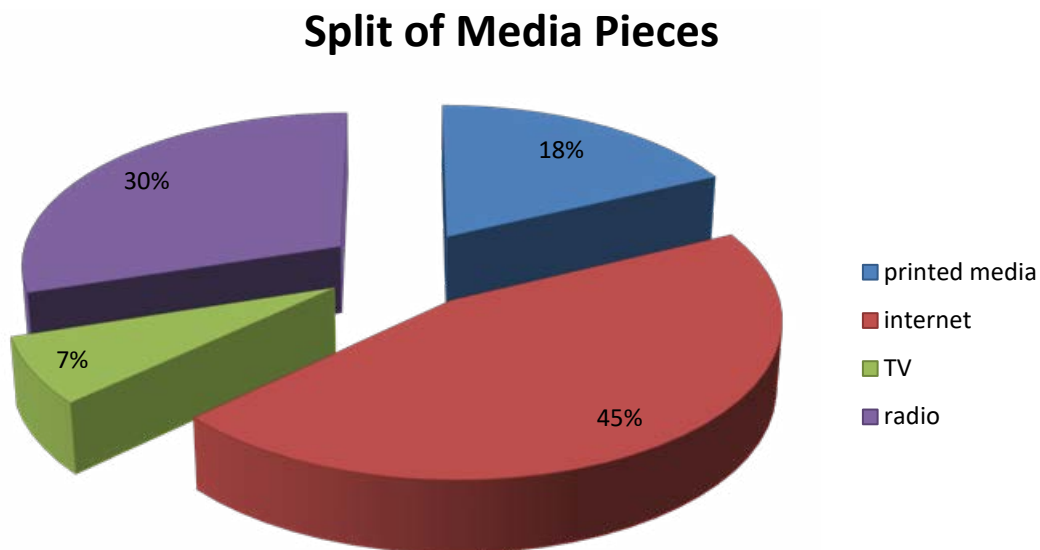
- 3 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison in Togo, in February. They were arrested on November 12, 2022 with two elephant tusks.
- 2 traffickers were convicted to 2 years in prison in Congo, in March. They were arrested in May 2022 with 2 ivory tusks. One of them is a Malian national and the other a multiple repeat offender who has been convicted at least twice for similar offences.
- A trafficker was arrested sentenced to 6 months imprisonment in Cameroon, in June. He was arrested in March with 55 kg of pangolins scales.
- A convicted trafficker who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in April 2022 and never returned following his release on bail during the trial, was arrested in Congo, in March. He had been evading authorities who went all the way out with the Team's assistance to arrest him. He shall complete his full sentence in prison. This sends a strong message to traffickers that they will be pursued and the law will be applied.

## 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.

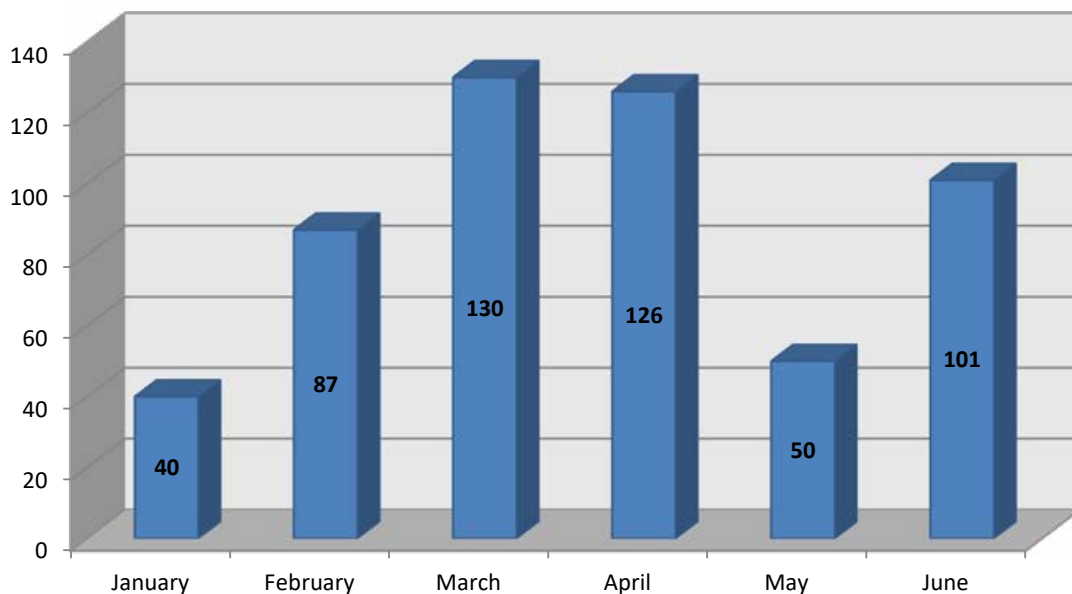
In order to provide a deterrent effect, 534 media pieces were published in national media.

The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 45 % on internet, 30 % in radio, 18 % in print media and 7 % on TV.



*Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces*

### Numbers of Media Pieces Published in January - June 2023



*Fig. 5: Number of Media Pieces Published Nationally in January – June 2023*

## International media

- *Ivory trafficking and Poaching*, a hard-hitting documentary on Conservation Justice's work to combat ivory trafficking was launched. Maxime Ginolin, an activist and a French film maker, and his partner Guillaume Martinez, cameraman, editor and composer, released the documentary that captures the impressive fieldwork to bring down the lucrative and far-reaching illegal ivory trade and reveals the underbelly of international trafficking. While in Gabon in May 2022, the two partners followed the Coordination Team and undercover informants as they risked their lives to help arrest the traffickers who have been slaughtering forest elephants for decades. Conservation Justice (the Gabon Team) was founded by Luc Mathot who is one of the Founding Directors of the EAGLE Network. In the last 12 years, more than 500 wildlife traffickers, mostly ivory traffickers, have been arrested and convicted thanks to the partnership between Conservation Justice and the Gabonese authorities. Ginolin is also the director of a shocking film "Grosse" that has received over 7 million views on Youtube. He is very involved for several years in animal rights activism. He has filmed in slaughterhouses, illegal trafficking and religious sacrifices. He directed the first French fiction film on animal slaughter "Le Jugement".

[Link to the film](#)



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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 and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Advocate General on issues related to the prosecution of wildlife traffickers and the strengthening of collaboration.
- In March, the Deputy Director participated at a pangolin conservation planning workshop in Accra, Ghana, that brought together stakeholders in pangolin conservation. He was part of a panel on the role of law enforcement in pangolin conservation.
- In April, he participated at meeting at the US Embassy in Yaounde that included several conservation stakeholders. He had a brief discussion with the Deputy Chief of Mission during the event.
- In June, he held a meeting with Lisa Hywood, Founding Director of Tikki Hywood Foundation, who was on a visit to Cameroon. Discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration to strengthen the fight against pangolin trafficking.

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### The Republic of the Congo

- In January, the Coordinator met with the Internal Security Attaché of the French Embassy and the Detachment 94 Unit Commander of the French Central Office for combating environmental and public health offences.

- She received a delegation of officials from USAID of the Democratic Republic of the Congo including the Anti-Poaching Officer, Governance and Policy Officer, USAID Regional Forest and Biodiversity Project officials, and the Program Management Specialist of USAID/Congo at the American Embassy in Brazzaville
- In February, she met with a Member of Parliament during 2 working sessions to discuss wildlife crime and environmental issues in the country.
- In March, she was invited by the US Ambassador to a reception organised on the occasion of the arrival in office of the new Resident Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for Congo Brazzaville, to whom she briefly presented the project. During the event, she held discussions with the US Ambassador, the EU Ambassador and the Italian Ambassador.
- She met with the INTERPOL Chief of the Wildlife Crime Brigade for Congo. They discussed operations and ways to restart and improve collaboration on ongoing cases
- In April, she held a meeting with a team of experts from UNODC and discussions focused on the fight against wildlife crime, especially wildlife law enforcement.
- In May, she held a meeting with the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss ongoing cases
- She participated at the Europe Day celebrations where she briefly discussed with EU Ambassador and the Italian Ambassador respectively on wildlife crime.

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## Gabon

- In January, The Executive Director and the Activity Coordinator met and discussed with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Water and Forests, the Director of Investigations at the Directorate of General Research (DGR), the Director of Cabinet of the Commander-in-Chief of the National Gendarmerie and the Chief of Staff of the Departmental Gendarmerie, the Technical Director of the National Parks Agency (ANPN) and the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas.
- They held meetings with the US Ambassador and the Head of the European Union Delegation to discuss collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- They participated at a meeting held at the residence of the US Ambassador bringing together several NGOs and USAID officials in Kinshasa.
- In February, the Activities Coordinator held meetings with the Director of US Agency for Global Media and discussed preparations for a workshop with journalists
- He also held meetings with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the Director of Anti-poaching to discuss preparations for the workshop.
- In March, he held discussions with the principal evaluator of the UNODC project “Strengthening the judicial capacities of ECCAS Member States to combat wildlife crime and the illicit exploitation of natural resources”.

- He also held discussions with the Defence Attaché of the US Embassy on the fight against wildlife crime.
- In May, the Activities Coordinator participated at the Europe Day celebrations at the residence of the Head of the EU Delegation in Gabon.
- He was invited by the US Embassy in Gabon to a cocktail party in honour of the representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- In June, the Director of Conservation Justice met with the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He also met with the Environment Cooperation Attaché of the EU Delegation in Libreville on issues of wildlife crime and law enforcement in the country.

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## Togo

- In January, the Interim Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of Protected Areas and Wildlife Division and CITES Focal Point to follow up on the letter of authorization from the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources for the collection of samples of seized lion and leopard skins for DNA analysis by the Molecular Ecology Group of SLU University
- In February, he held a meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralisation and Territorial Development to discuss issues related to the registration of EAGLE Togo and wildlife crime in the country
- In March, he held a meeting with the Internal Security Attaché at the French Embassy in Togo and Ghana to discuss wildlife trafficking and strengthen collaboration
- In May, he met and discussed with several US diplomatic officials during the farewell ceremony for the former Head of Political and Economic Affairs at the US Embassy.
- He also met and discussed with the Director of Grants of Plan International, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the Fight against Human Trafficking, during the same ceremony.
- In June, on the occasion of the event marking the independence of the USA, the Interim Coordinator had brief discussions with the US Ambassador, the First Secretary and Head of the Infrastructure and Environment Team of the European Union Delegation, a UNDP Programme Officer, the Prosecutor at the Constitutional Court, the Prosecutor at the High Court of Lomé and the Central Director of the Judicial Police during the event.

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## Senegal

- In March, the Team presented various modules on combating wildlife crime during training sessions for 50 gendarmerie officers from 11 African countries. Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, where meetings were held.
- In May the Team presented various modules on combatting wildlife crime during 3 training sessions at the Niokoloko Koba National Park for 29 park officials.
- In June, the Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a workshop that was held to strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies and the judicial system in relation to wildlife crime.

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## Cote d'Ivoire

- In January, the Coordinator met with officials of Akatia, a nongovernmental organisation, to discuss the organization of trainings for wildlife authorities in 2023.
- In March, he participated at a regional workshop in Accra, Ghana, on the conservation of pangolins in West Africa. The workshop brought together stakeholders in pangolin conservation in Africa and abroad.
- In April, he held a meeting with the Director General of Forests and Wildlife on issues related to collaboration with the Ministry.
- In May, the project welcomed a veterinarian from the World Parrot Trust who was invited to examine the parrots seized last month. He tested them for several viruses and checked if they could be released.
- The Coordinator and a Legal Adviser met the Technical Adviser of the Ministry of Justice. The discussions focused on the EAGLE's activities and wildlife law enforcement in the country.

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## Guinea

- In May and June, the administrative procedure for the setting up of EAGLE Guinea went underway with meetings planned and some held on establishing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Environment.
- EAGLE Guinea is following up applications for a partnership with the national office of INTERPOL Conakry.

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## 8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network

Several challenges encountered at the beginning of the semester hampered the smooth functioning of the Central Coordination Unit (CCU) and the Steering group but the CCU continued support to 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, continued and the activities to open a new project in Guinea went well underway with several meetings held and a new office acquired. The Senegal Coordinator travelled to Guinea in April and June for this purpose.

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

- In April Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of EAGLE Network participated at a meeting organised by the EU that brought together several conservation organisations to Brussels. He held several meetings with officials including US Forest Service officials, the Asheville Court Prosecutor, trainers of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, with whom he exchanged views on training in the field of investigations and project funding.
- Homéfa Dovi Zennawoe, the former EAGLE Benin Coordinator arrived in Brazzaville Congo to replace Tiffany Gobert, as the PALF Coordinator. He comes with a wealth of experience after managing the Benin project for close to 4 years.

## 9. Photos of the Selected Cases

### A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon

A trafficker was arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon, in January. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the tusks. He travelled some 20 km with the tusks concealed inside a polythene bag he carried. He was arrested upon arrival to town while walking to the place of transaction. 4 pieces of tusks were found inside the bag during a search that was immediately carried out. The 4 pieces of ivory were cut from 2 elephant tusks. He was remanded in custody to be transferred to Libreville where they were presented to the Prosecutor of the Special Court.





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## A trafficker was arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo

A trafficker was arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo, in January. He concealed the tusks for over a week at the residence of the grandmother of one of his accomplices. He is part of a bigger network. He denounced two others who are on the run. Efforts continue to track them down and get them arrested.



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## 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon



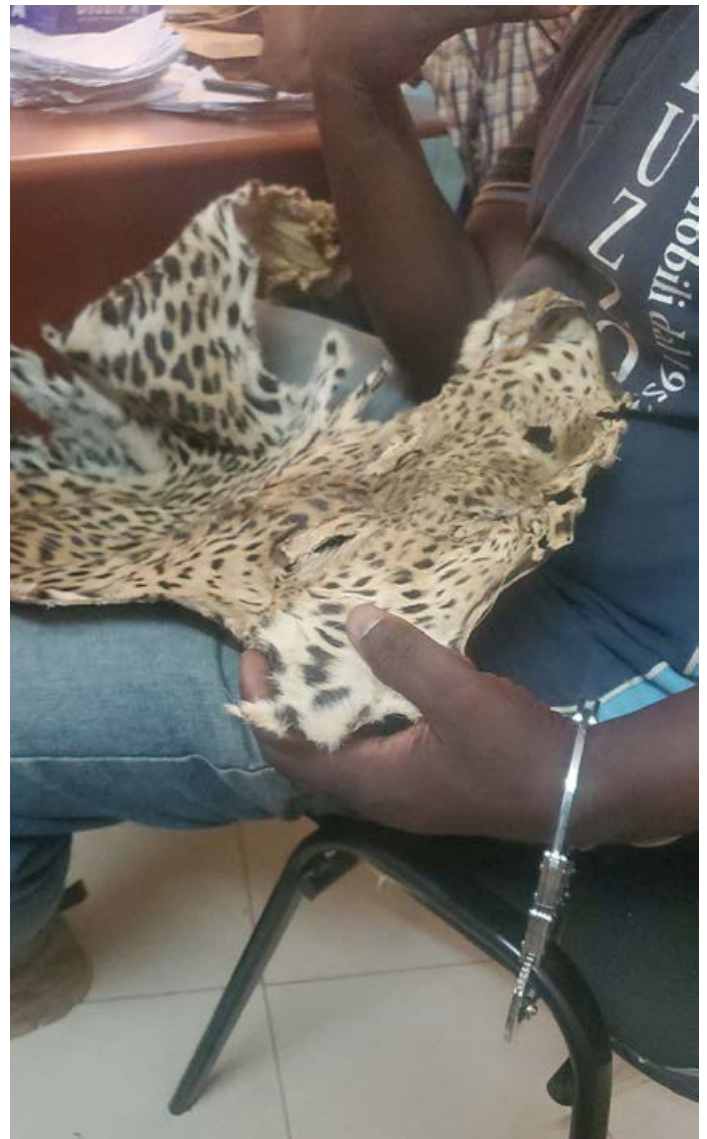
2 ivory traffickers, one a Ghana national, were arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon, in February. A Gabonese was arrested with 2 elephant tusks and he immediately denounced the other trafficker, a Ghanaian, who concealed the elephant tusks at his premises. The Gabonese is known to the police for the illegal trade in an endemic shrub known for its psychoactive effects and regulated by the law. A search found a good quantity of this shrub at his home. He arrived the scene of transaction by car with the ivory concealed in the boot of the vehicle.



## A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Senegal



A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and other contraband in February. The Burkina Faso national is also involved in gold trafficking in Mali. He activated several cross-border trafficking networks. He was arrested with a suitcase concealing a leopard skin, serval and crocodile skins and head, and hyena skin and head.



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## 3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire

3 traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks in Côte d'Ivoire, in February. 2 of them trafficked the ivory from the west of the country and collaborated with the third trafficker in Abidjan who stocked the ivory and harbored them. He equally concealed the ivory at his place and participated in the making of the deal as they were swiftly arrested while attempting to sell the elephants tusks.



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## A convicted trafficker arrested in Congo

A convicted trafficker who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in April 2022 and never returned following his release on bail during the trial, was arrested in Congo, in March. He had been evading authorities who went all the way out with the Team's assistance to arrest him. He shall complete his full sentence in prison. This sends a strong message to traffickers that they will be pursued and the law will be applied.





## 4 traffickers arrested with 167 kg of ivory in Togo

4 traffickers were arrested with 21 tusks and 13 ivory statues and skins of a lion and a leopard in Togo, in March. The arrest operation seizing 167 kg ivory was a hard one as the traffickers were extremely careful. One that tried to escape was captured in a good teamwork. The contraband was concealed in 2 grains bags found inside the boot of a vehicle.



## A trafficker arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon

A trafficker was arrested with 55 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in April. He travelled 41 km with the bag of pangolins scales strapped to his motorcycle. He was arrested when he arrived at the scene of transaction and attempted to sell the pangolin

scales. The operation came at the end of a long investigation that tracked and monitored the pangolin trafficker who is experienced in the illegal business. He activated a host of small traffickers in several villages, who supplied him with pangolin scales.





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## 5 traffickers arrested with 126 African grey parrots

5 traffickers were arrested with 126 African grey parrots in a crackdown on a transnational live animals trafficking ring in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal

2 traffickers were arrested with 115 parrots including 110 African grey parrots in Cote d'Ivoire, in April. One of them is a Senegalese national who was arrested while attempting to sell 91 African grey parrots in Abidjan. He denounced the supplier, an Ivorian national, who was stocking the birds in his hidden aviary. Raiding the quarantine, more evidence was found on the vast stretch and magnitude of the ring and its connection to ape trafficking. The African grey parrots were transported by road from Cameroon to Côte d'Ivoire by highly professional traffickers who have been doing this kind of business for decades. The Ivorian supplier sourced birds from Liberia, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Ghana. He was considered as one of the biggest wholesalers in the country.

3 traffickers were arrested with 11 Timneh parrots in Senegal, in April. The house of the Senegalese trafficker in Dakar was searched and 3 traffickers were arrested with 11 Timneh parrots.





## 8 traffickers arrested with 131 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon and Congo



3 traffickers were arrested with 78 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in May. They were cautious, tried a number of tricks and came around without the pangolin scales to the place of transaction. They mixed up the scales and parked it in a single bag that was transported on a motorbike.



5 traffickers were arrested with 53 kg of pangolin scales and a hippo tooth in Congo, in May. They were arrested in a complex operation that took much patience and initiatives by the arresting team. Some of the scales are of the rarer giant pangolin. The criminals were also caught trafficking two minerals

- red cinnabar (mercury sulphide) and white cinnabar (mercury sulphate), the second being extremely lucrative for trafficking and toxic even for mere inhaling.





## 4 traffickers were arrested with 45 African grey parrots in Congo

4 traffickers were arrested with 45 African grey parrots in Congo, in June. The illegal network, including a DRC national, was trafficking across DRC and Congo. They arrived at the scene of transaction in a taxi. The parrots were transported in makeshift cages in the boot of the car. They proceeded cautiously as one of them lagged behind, providing cover. The parrots were crammed in two cages. The parrots were taken to the Jane Goodall Institute for appropriate care before their release to the wild.





## 3 traffickers arrested with 12 elephant tusks in Gabon

3 traffickers, including a Burkinabe national, were arrested with 12 elephant tusks in Gabon, in May. The Burkinabe arrived the scene of transaction on a red motorbike, unloaded a cardboard box carefully wrapped in adhesive tape from the motorbike's luggage rack. The box contained another bag where 12 ivory tusks were concealed. He was arrested shortly afterwards and he denounced another trafficker who was arrested a couple of hours later. They both denounced the third trafficker, a village chief. He was arrested 2 days later.



## 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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# 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	6	3	2	15	5	15	46
Congo	8	12	16	4	10	11	61
Gabon	8	8	9	9	9	8	51
Togo	6	5	8	5	7	5	36
Senegal	4	1	2	19	4	20	50
Côte d'Ivoire	16	6	0	18	11	13	64
<b>total per month</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>308</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	0	0	0	1	3	0	<b>4</b>
Congo	1	0	1	0	5	4	<b>11</b>
Gabon	1	2	5	4	3	0	<b>15</b>
Togo	0	0	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Senegal	0	1	0	3	0	0	<b>4</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	0	3	0	2	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</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	11	14	1	11	28	17	<b>82</b>
Congo	14	29	30	9	2	23	<b>107</b>
Gabon	0	20	15	14	3	15	<b>67</b>
Togo	15	20	30	15	15	15	<b>110</b>
Senegal	0	4	0	30	0	0	<b>34</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	54	47	2	31	<b>134</b>
<b>total by month</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>534</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>	0	2	4	2	0	3	<b>11</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	2	0	0	0	1	<b>3</b>
<b>Congo</b>	0	0	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Gabon</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>Togo</b>	0	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Senegal</b>	1	0	1	3	0	0	<b>5</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	1	0	1	3	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</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>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>