



**EAGLE**

# The EAGLE Network 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2025 Report



- ✓ *Despite several challenges encountered during the period, the EAGLE teams pushed forward. 34 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 5 countries*
- ✓ *22 traffickers were arrested with 16 leopard skins in Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal where 8 traffickers were arrested on the same day in 3 back to back operations.*
- ✓ *9 ivory traffickers were arrested in 5 operations in 4 countries with over 21 kg of ivory representing 9 tusks seized from the traffickers.*
- ✓ *3 live animals' traffickers were arrested with 2 young live hyenas in February, in Senegal*
- ✓ *All of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars*
- ✓ *573 media pieces were published in national media*
- ✓ *At least in 2 cases, corruption was exposed during the arrest operation*
- ✓ *Paris Match, a renowned French magazine, dedicated several pages of its April 2 edition to the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network with an article and an interview.*

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# 1. Summary

Despite several challenges encountered during the reporting period, the EAGLE teams pushed forward with 34 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 5 countries. The two young projects of the Network, EAGLE Uganda and EAGLE Guinea continued to receive support from the Central Coordination Unit as well as from the other projects. A new audit company was recruited and it carried out audits of some of the projects. Huge efforts were made to sharpen investigation departments of the projects as it proved very complicated to land as many traffickers as would have been wished during the semester. Stringent efforts are being made for the next semester.

Recruitment of investigators continued to pose a significant challenge and new initiatives targeting investigators with specific skills commenced. 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.

The Central Coordination Unit (CCU) and the Steering group continued to support the network members mostly via internet. There was constant contact and assistance through diverse communication platforms to support the member countries.

582 investigation missions were carried out to identify wildlife traffickers. 100 % of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least at the beginning of their trial. During the semester 28 traffickers were prosecuted and 13 of them handed imprisonment sentences of various length. 15 others were given sanctions, suspended sentences of varying levels of severity or ordered to pay fines.

Corruption is prevalent at several 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.

Trafficking in leopard skins represents most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 22 big cat skin traffickers were arrested in 9 operations in 3 countries with 16 leopard skins.

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and scales of giant pangolin in February, in Congo. The illegal trade is threatening the survival of the leopard, especially in Central and West Africa where we believe a silent race to extinction is going below conservationists' radar. During the arrest, one of the traffickers tried to escape. He scaled a fence and hid in a nearby bush, leading to a man hunt in the area.

3 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins in March, in Congo. Two traffickers were arrested with the leopard skins that were carefully hidden inside a backpack and concealed inside a cab. They were immediately whisked off to a gendarmerie station, where, during interrogation, they denounced the third trafficker who was arrested a few days later.

2 traffickers arrested in March, in Côte d'Ivoire with 3 leopard skins near the Ghana border. One of the traffickers is from Niger. The seizure included also more pieces of leopard skins, a hyena skin among many

other wildlife trophies. The first trafficker was arrested while attempting to illegally trade the 2 two leopard skins. He quickly denounced the other trafficker who was arrested during a house search. More wildlife contraband was recovered during the arrest. The operation took place in the north-east of the country, at a town located some 600 km from the capital, Abidjan. The traffickers took care to conceal the skins in a fertilizer bag to avoid detection. One of the traffickers used to illegally trade skins at the local market.

2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and two skulls in April, in the north east of Cote d'Ivoire. The skins were trafficked from Burkina Faso. This is a snapshot of the ongoing large scale massacre of leopards driven by wildlife trafficking. To evade detection, the traffickers concealed the wildlife contraband in a fertilizer bag while transporting it to the place of transaction.

3 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and 28 kg of scales of endangered giant pangolin in May, in the north of Congo. The first two traffickers arrived at the place of the transaction on a motorcycle with the contraband carefully concealed in a bag and a suitcase. A few minutes later, they were arrested and taken to the gendarmerie station, where they denounced a third trafficker. The arresting team was quickly remobilized, arrived at the trafficker's house some 75 km away, and arrested him.

8 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crackdown in June, in Senegal. The arrests near the borders with Guinea and Mali were of mostly Guinean traffickers. One of the traffickers is suspected to be in connection to a local terrorist group. The contraband was concealed in grains bags and a military backpack. The traffickers were arrested during 3 different operations carried out in close succession in the South East of the Country.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures in June, in Côte d'Ivoire. They are a part of a ring trafficking from Burkina Faso. The animal parts were carefully concealed inside fertilizer bags and transported over 300 km in public transport from the border to the center of the country. The traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell the contraband.

9 ivory traffickers were arrested in 5 operations in 4 countries with over 21 kg of ivory representing 9 tusks seized from the traffickers.

2 traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks in January, in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. They are a part of a ring trafficking ivory from Burkina Faso. The traffickers, concealed the elephant tusks in a bag and a backpack, rode a motorcycle from a locality a few kilometers from the border and arrived the Ferkessedougou, a border town, where they attempted to trade the tusks. The elephants were allegedly killed in Burkina Faso, in an area with jihadists activities.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 tusks in January, in Congo. He was attempting to sell the elephant tusks. He travelled over 300 km with the elephant tusks concealed in a backpack. He used a motorcycle to arrive the place of transaction and was instantly arrested, handcuffed and whisked away.

2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 elephant tusks in February, in Cameroon. One of them is a notorious regional trafficker at the center of criminal networks stretching to Chad, Congo and CAR. He is linked to several illicit activities including trafficking in precious stones and cars, in the sub region. He travelled over 500 km from the north of the country to Douala to organize the illegal trade of the tusks.

A woman was arrested in April, for her connection to ivory trafficking arrests that took place in February, in Cameroon. She was arrested during a follow up operation, after additional investigations and interrogation, revealed she was the holder of the elephant tusks that were seized from 2 traffickers in February. She concealed the elephant tusks at her residence in a neighborhood in Douala, where the first arrests took place.

3 ivory traffickers arrested with a large tusk in a crackdown on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring in June, in Togo. The activities of the very cautious and suspicious traffickers were followed for several months before being uncovered. One of them originates from Benin and is a member of a trafficking network that straddles the borders between Togo and Ghana.

3 live animals' traffickers were arrested with 2 young live hyenas in February, in Senegal

The hyenas were ordered and captured with their mother that has already been traded away. The two pups were kept chained to a wall and fed only rice leftovers. Hyenas are targeted by the illegal trade as mystical animals for black magic. The traffickers travelled 3 hours with the young hyenas and put them in small cages so besides the wounds from the chains they were also wounded at their faces from the bars.

In order to maximize the deterrent effect, 573 media pieces were published in national media. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 53 % on internet, 25 % in print media, 20 % in radio and 2 % on TV.

Ofir Drori - The Protector of Wildlife. Paris Match, a renowned French magazine, dedicated several pages of its April 2 edition to Ofir Drori the founding Director of the EAGLE Network with an article and interview. The feature that appears on the 'Heroes of the Planet' section of the newspaper, narrates his fight against wildlife trafficking and corruption, his early beginnings, his love for nature and Africa. In an article by Anne-Cecile Beaudoin, we learn about his military experience, his voyages to Africa – Kenya, the Congo with the pygmies, the desert and the war zones of Liberia and Sierra Leone. And eventually his arrival in Cameroon, the birth place of LAGA. The journalist recounts Ofir's meeting with Future the chimpanzee he saved and which forever changed his life and conservation in sub Saharan Africa.

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# Content:

This report refers to activities from January till June 2025. 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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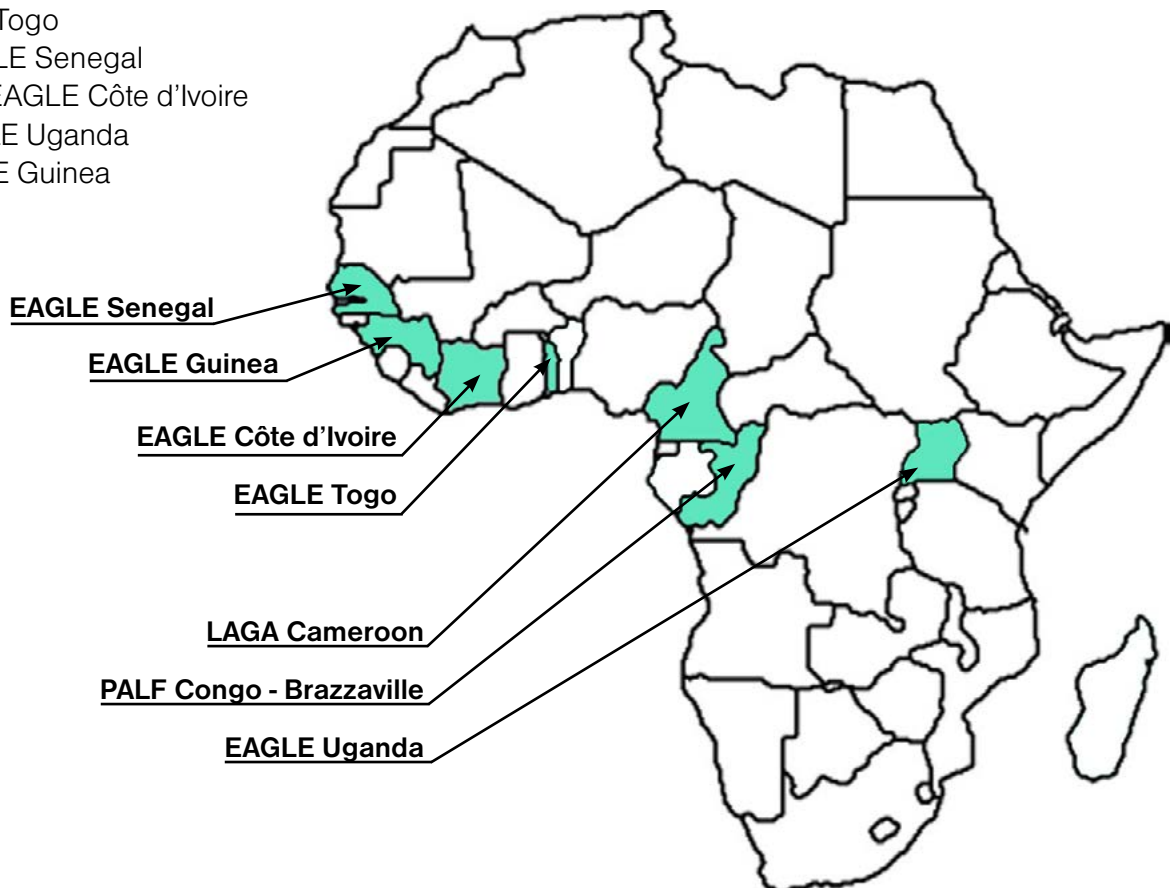
## 2. Structure of the Network

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 seven 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 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. Togo - EAGLE Togo
4. Senegal - EAGLE Senegal
5. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire
6. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda
7. Guinea - EAGLE Guinea

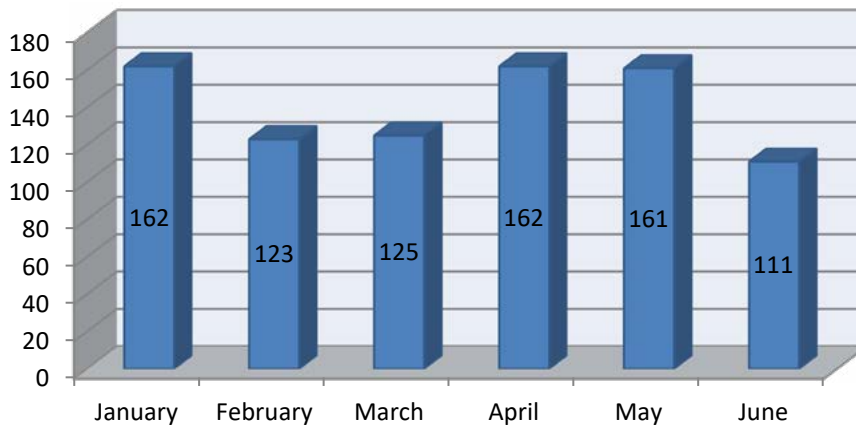


## 3. Investigations

844 different investigation missions were carried out in 7 countries, leading to the arrest of 34 traffickers in the first semester of 2025

The investigations focused mainly on leopard skin and ivory trafficking. Investigation missions also targeted hyena traffickers while investigations into trafficking of other species are ongoing and are expected to produce good results in the second semester.

**Numbers of investigations  
in January - June 2025**



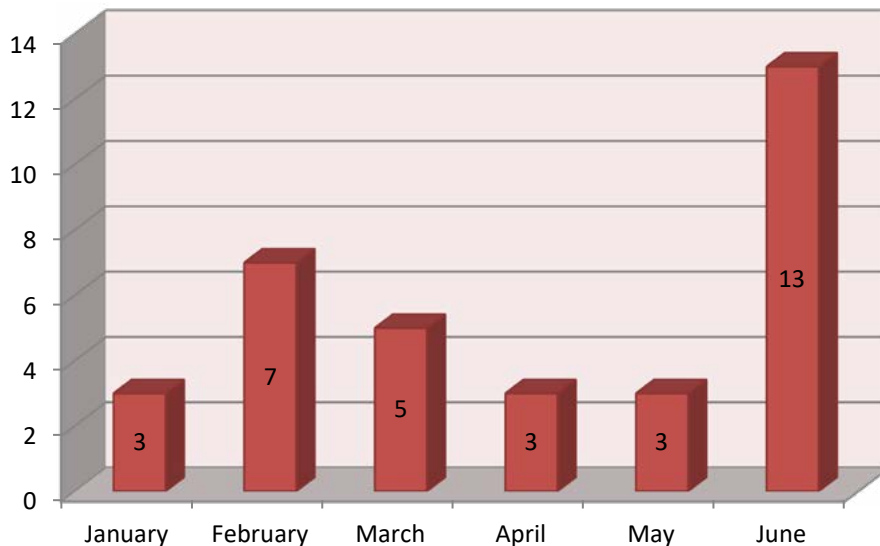
*Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – June 2025*

Investigations were carried out in 7 countries producing some results. There was a slight increase in investigation missions compared to the same period last year. This was aimed at improving results and the number of arrested traffickers during the semester. Recruitment was intensified and investigators were tested in all countries. The recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find investigators with specific skills and experience.

## 4. Arrest Operations

34 significant wildlife traffickers were arrested during 15 operations carried out by the EAGLE Network in 5 countries.

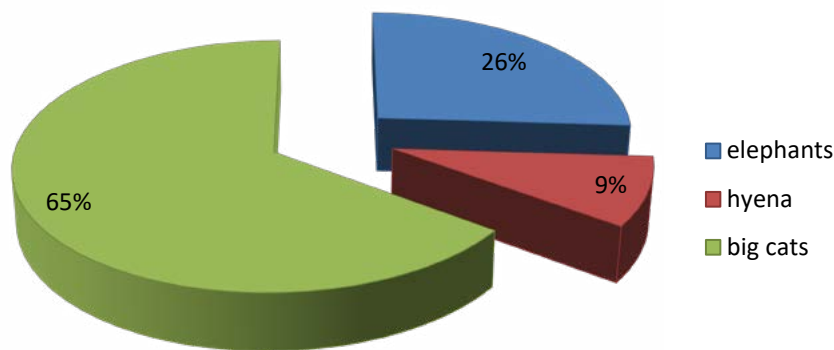
**Number of Arrested Traffickers  
in January - June 2025**



*Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - June 2025*

The vast majority of the arrested traffickers - 65 % were traffickers in leopard skins. The second in focus of arrests were ivory traffickers with 26 % while hyena traffickers represented 9 % of the arrest.

### Distribution of the Arrested Traffickers According to Species



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

- When 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with a large tusk in a crackdown on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring in Togo, family members attempted to “negotiate” their freedom through meetings with a judge at the tribunal and an official at the legal department to no success,
- When 2 ivory traffickers were arrested in February in Cameroon, family members of one of the arrested traffickers tried to bribe the wildlife law enforcement officials who were establishing the offence report. They proposed money to the judicial police officers who stood their grounds. They did not stop there, they also tried with LAGA team members present on the ground and finally tried to bribe the examining magistrate handling the case with the sum of 500 0000 FCFA (about \$1000) but failed.

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## Elephants

**9 ivory traffickers were arrested in 5 operations in 4 countries with over 21 kg of ivory representing 9 tusks seized from the traffickers.**

- 2 traffickers were arrested with 4 tusks in January, in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. They are a part of a ring trafficking ivory from Burkina Faso. The traffickers, concealed the elephant tusks in a bag and a backpack, rode a motorcycle from a locality a few kilometers from the border and arrived the Ferkessedougou, a border town, where they attempted to trade the tusks. The elephants were allegedly killed in Burkina Faso, in an area with jihadists activities.
- An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 tusks in January, in Congo. He was attempting to sell the elephant tusks. He travelled over 300 km with the elephant tusks concealed in a backpack. He used a motorcycle to arrive the place of transaction and was instantly arrested, handcuffed and whisked away.
- 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 elephant tusks in February, in Cameroon. One of them is a notorious regional trafficker at the center of criminal networks stretching to Chad, Congo and CAR. He is linked to several illicit activities including trafficking in precious stones and cars, in the sub region. He travelled over 500 km from the north of the country to Douala to organize the illegal trade of the tusks.
- A woman was arrested for her connection to ivory trafficking arrests that took place in April in Cameroon. She was arrested during a follow up operation, after additional investigations and interrogation, revealed she was the holder of the elephant tusks that were seized from 2 traffickers in February. She concealed the elephant tusks at her residence in a neighborhood in Douala, where the first arrests took place.
- 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with a large tusk in a crackdown on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring in June, in Togo. The activities of the very cautious and suspicious traffickers were followed for several months before being uncovered. One of them originates from Benin and is a member of a trafficking network that straddles the borders between Togo and Ghana. He transported the elephant tusk concealed in a grains bag, on a motorcycle, from the border to the central region of Togo.

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## Big Cats

**Trafficking in leopard skins represented most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 22 traffickers were arrested with 16 leopard skins in Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal where 8 traffickers were arrested on the same day in 3 back to back operations.**

- 2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin and scales of giant pangolin in February, in Congo. The illegal trade is threatening the survival of the leopard, especially in Central and West Africa where we believe a silent race to extinction is going below conservationists' radar. During the arrest, one of the traffickers tried to escape. He scaled a fence and hid in a nearby bush, leading to a man hunt in the area. While in hiding, he changed his clothes but was recognized, and arrested.

- 3 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins in Congo, in March. Two traffickers were arrested with the leopard skins that were carefully hidden inside a backpack and concealed inside a cab. They were immediately whisked off to a gendarmerie station, where, during interrogation, they denounced the third trafficker who was arrested a few days later.
- 2 traffickers were arrested with 3 leopard skins near the Ghana border in March, in Côte d'Ivoire. One of the traffickers is from Niger and the seizure included also more pieces of leopard skins, a hyena skin among many other wildlife trophies. The first trafficker was arrested while attempting to illegally trade the 2 two leopard skins. He quickly denounced the other trafficker who was arrested during a house search. More wildlife contraband was recovered during the arrest.
- 2 traffickers were arrested with 3 leopard skins and two skulls in April, in the north east of Côte d'Ivoire. The skins were trafficked from Burkina Faso. This is a snapshot of the ongoing large scale massacre of leopards driven by wildlife trafficking. To evade detection, the traffickers concealed the wildlife contraband in a fertilizer bag while transporting it to the place of transaction.
- 3 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin and 28 kg of scales of endangered giant pangolin in May, in the north of Congo. The first two traffickers arrived at the place of the transaction on a motorcycle with the contraband carefully concealed in a bag and a suitcase. A few minutes later, they were arrested and taken to the gendarmerie station, where they denounced a third trafficker. The arresting team was quickly remobilized, arrived at the trafficker's house some 75 km away, and arrested him.
- 2 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures in June, in Côte d'Ivoire. They are a part of a ring trafficking from Burkina Faso. The animal parts were carefully concealed inside fertilizer bags and transported over 300 km in public transport from the border to the center of the country. The traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell the contraband. One of the traffickers is a Burkina Faso national who was in charge of all financial transactions of the illegal trade.
- 8 traffickers were arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crackdown in June, in Senegal. The arrests near the borders with Guinea and Mali were of mostly Guinean traffickers. One of the traffickers is suspected to be in connection to a local terrorist group. The contraband was concealed in grains bags and a military backpack. The traffickers were arrested during 3 different operations carried out in close succession in the South East of the Country
- 3 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins they had carefully concealed in a military backpack. They arrived the scene of transaction on. a motorcycle and were arrested as they attempted to sell the leopard skins. All three were later charged with criminal conspiracy, possession and circulation of protected wild-life species.
- About two hours later, the Team arrested 2 other traffickers with a leopard skin they had packaged in an orange plastic bag and concealed in a grains bag. They too were attempting to sell the leopard skin when they fell into the dragnet. They had arrived at the scene of transaction aboard a motorcycle. They denounced a third trafficker following a quick and intense interrogation. He too, was swiftly arrested.
- An hour later, a third operation was carried out with two traffickers, a Guinean and a Senegalese arrested with a leopard skin and a hyena skin concealed in a grains bag. They arrived the scene of transaction in a

car with the contraband hidden inside the boot. The operation brought to an end a period of 3 and a half hours during which 8 traffickers were arrested with 4 leopard skins, a hyena skin, two motorcycles and a car seized.

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## Hyenas

### **3 live animals' traffickers were arrested with 2 young live hyenas in February, in Senegal.**

- The hyenas were ordered and captured with their mother that has already been traded away. The two pups were kept chained to a wall and fed only rice leftovers. Hyenas are targeted by the illegal trade as mystical animals for black magic. The traffickers travelled 3 hours with the young hyenas and put them in small cages so besides the wounds from the chains they were also wounded at their faces from the bars.
- The hyenas are believed to have been captured in Saloum Delta National Park. Hyenas are an integral part of the fragile natural balance in the park, being its largest predator in the food chain.
- The hyenas, now free of chains and out of cages, were placed in quarantine by the Department of National Parks with the view of releasing them back to the wild if possible.

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## 5. Legal Follow up

The EAGLE Network legal teams in the 5 countries followed up the court cases of the 34 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. All of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars at least from the beginning of the prosecution process.

During the semester 28 traffickers were prosecuted and 13 of them convicted to imprisonment sentences of various time. The 15 others were either handed suspended prison sentences with or without fines and damages. Some examples of court decisions obtained during the first semester include:

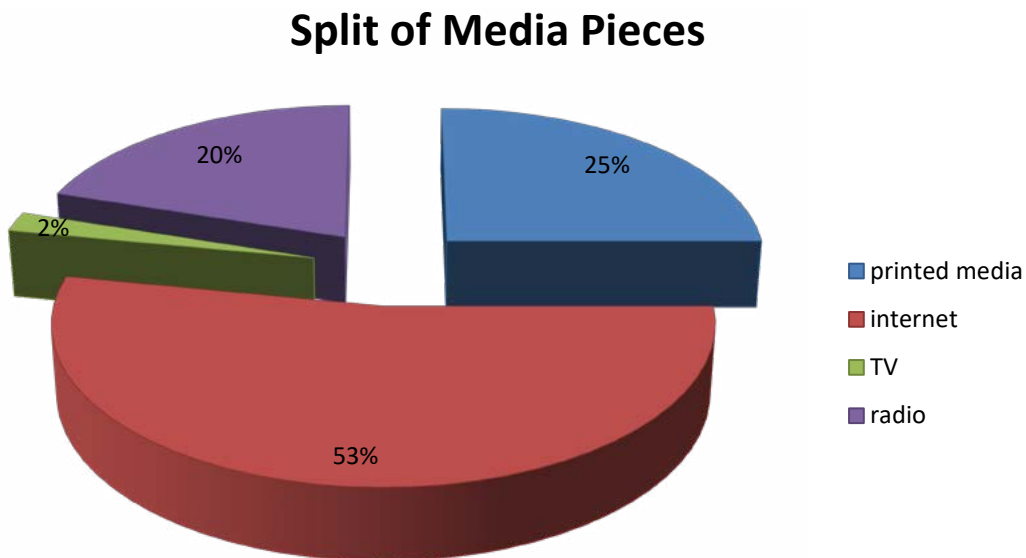
- 4 traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison in January, in Cameroon. They were arrested in December 2022 with 28 African grey parrots.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced to 2 years in prison in April, in Congo. They were arrested in February with a leopard skin and a bag of pangolin scales.
- A trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in prison and his accomplice to 2 years' imprisonment in June, in Congo. They were arrested in May with a leopard skin and pangolins scales.
- 4 traffickers were sentenced to one year in prison in June, in Congo. They were arrested in October last year with 3 elephant tusks weighing over 50 kg.

## 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, 573 media pieces were published in national media.

The distribution of the media pieces on national media stood at 53 % for online media that keeps growing over the years; the print media representing 25 %, radio broadcast stood at 20 % and TV at 2 %.

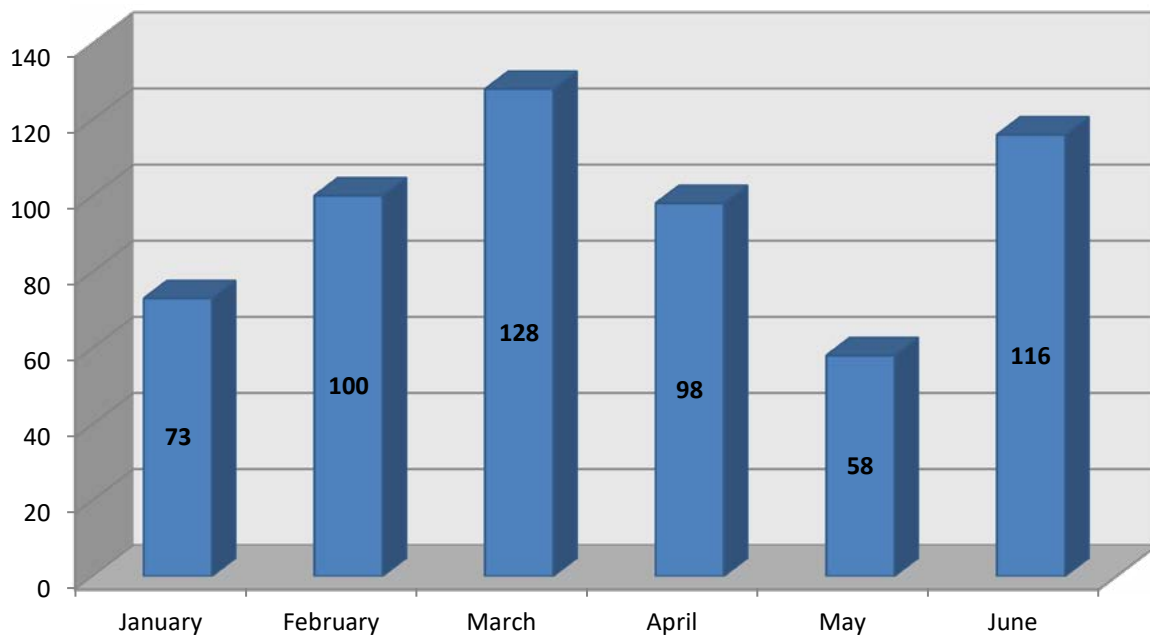


*Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces*

In Uganda, the Interim Coordinator was hosted on CIVIC media/TV on the Women Rise to leadership talk show which highlighted her work as an activist, conservationist, wife and mother.

[\*Please follow this link for more.\*](#)

## Numbers of Media Pieces Published in January - June 2025



*Fig. 5: Number of Media Pieces Published Nationally in January – June 2025*

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## International media

- EAGLE’s investigation uncovered corruption in the DRC and complicity with traffickers in plans for export of apes to India. It has been covered in international media.

[Radio France](#)

[Mongabay](#)

[Le Point](#)

[Geo](#)

[Vakita on Instagram](#)

[France Inter on LinkedIn](#)

■ *[Ofir Drori, the Protector of Wildlife](#)*

Paris Match, a renowned French magazine, dedicated several pages of its April 2 edition to Ofir Drori the founding Director of the EAGLE Network with an article and interview. The feature that appears on the 'Heroes of the Planet' section of the newspaper, narrates his fight against wildlife trafficking and corruption, his early beginnings, his love for nature and Africa. In an article by Anne-Cecile Beaudoin, we learn about his military experience, his voyages to Africa – Kenya, the Congo with the pygmies, the desert and the war zones of Liberia and Sierra Leone. And eventually his arrival in Cameroon, the birth place of LAGA. The journalist recounts Ofir's meeting with Future the chimpanzee he saved and which forever changed his life and conservation in sub Saharan Africa.

The article highlights the activities of the EAGLE Network, its operational methods, infiltrating trafficking networks and the successes recorded in over 20 years of activity – over 3,000 traffickers arrested and prosecuted in several countries. He says what made the difference was "Determination and refusal to do nothing in the face of injustice". Ofir talks of one of his most important operations which happened in 2013 in Gabon with the busting of an ivory trafficking Chinese network with 600 kg of elephant tusks and a strong fight against political pressures and corruption.

The coverage is made graphic with several photos from operations and a full page photo of Ofir clad in his trade mark black t-shirt and black jeans with an elephant in a pool of water providing a matching background. He pushes his chest out like a proud silver back gorilla and expresses his pride, "Young Cameroonians, Congolese and Gabonese no longer accept corruption as inevitable, and are fighting to preserve their heritage. This is perhaps my greatest source of pride".

He is nicknamed "the Protector of Wildlife" by the Paris Match. You can also watch excerpt of the video on Paris Match's Instagram page [using this link](#).

- Future for Nature, one of the main supporters of the EAGLE Network, carry a publication on its website highlighting the important work and results obtained last year by the EAGLE Network. [Please follow this link for more](#).

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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 April, the Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the Wildlife Conservation Network to discuss issues related to pangolin scales trafficking and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. He participated at a meeting organized by the Wildlife Conservation Network bringing together conservation groups that deal with pangolin protection. He did a presentation on pangolin scales trafficking in the country during the meeting.
- In May, he held a meeting with the Head of the Division of Cooperation at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues related to wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. He was accompanied during the meeting by the Head of the Legal Department.
- In June, he held a meeting with three officials of the British based Environmental Investigation Agency to discuss wildfire law enforcement in the country and the sub region as a whole and strengthen the excellent collaboration between the two structures.

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### The Republic of the Congo

- In January, the Coordinator held discussions with Head of the Forests and Environment Programme of the European Union Delegation in Brazzaville on activities carried out by PALF and to the strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In April, he did a talk on the theme "the Legislation on the Protection of Protected Areas and Wildlife

Crime” at the National Gendarmerie School during a conference for 58 gendarmerie cadet officers. He held a meeting and discussions with the Director General of Forest Economy to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- In May, he participated at the “Regional Conference on Integrated Management of Transboundary Landscapes and the Role of Protected Areas in Securing Borders in Central Africa”. During the event he met with Magistrates, National Park Directors, a Congolese Wildlife and Protected Areas Advisor and the Technical and Scientific Director of the Congolese Wildlife and Protected Areas Agency (ACFAP).
- He met with a UNODC Programme Officer, to discuss matters related to a regional conference to be held in Brazzaville.

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## Togo

- In January, The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering (OCRTIDB) to discuss trafficking cases and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against trafficking in endangered wildlife species.
- He met with the Heads of the Forestry Brigade and Wetlands Management and Development Section to discuss the best way to deal with cases of seizure of live species and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In February, The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Inspectorate of Forest Resources to discuss past operations and legal follow up of the cases. Discussions were also held on strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He met with the Head of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Division to discuss handling of live animals that are seized from traffickers and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In March, he participated at the meeting of the Consultative Council meeting of the country’s Anti-Corruption Commission (HAPLUCIA). He used the opportunity to discuss and strengthen collaboration with actors involved in the fight against corruption. The meeting was chaired by the President of the commission.
- He held a meeting with the Secretary General of Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources to discuss issues related to the MoU. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the pending adoption of CITES in Togo. He also met with the Director of Forest Resources Inspectorate on improving the handling of wildlife trafficking cases by judicial authorities. To this end, the Coordinator gave him a document that sets out a summary of cases brought before the judicial authorities between 2019 and 2024.
- In April, the Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Customary Chieftaincy to discuss and find ways of relaunching the EAGLE-Togo registration file.

- In May and on the occasion of the Europe Day celebrations, the Coordinator had brief discussions with the new European Union Ambassador to Togo to introduce the project. He seized the opportunity to arrange for a more formal meeting with the Ambassador at a later date.
- During the event, he also held discussions with other top officials of the EU including the First Secretary, the Sustainable Investment Team Leader and the Attaché in charge of Programs - Security and Justice, to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In June, on the occasion of the event marking the celebration of US independence, the Coordinator held brief discussions with the new Chargé d’Affaires and the First Counsellor of the US Embassy, on the fight against wildlife crime and the strengthening of collaboration.
- During this ceremony, he met briefly with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Maritime Prefect and the President of the National Commission for the Fight against Human Trafficking. He briefly discussed the fight against wildlife crime during the encounters.

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## Senegal

- In March, the Coordinator received a special recognition from the Cour d’Application des Officiers de la Gendarmerie (CAOG) in appreciation of the efforts made by EAGLE Senegal in fighting wildlife crime in the country.
- The special recognition was presented during a training for 49 gendarmerie officers from eight African countries. A number of presentations on different themes include wildlife crime wildlife, criminal law and CITES were carried out during the event.
- In April, she met with the Head of Security at the UK Embassy in Senegal in to discuss wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. She met with the new Head of the Customs subdivision at the Blaise Diagne Airport International in Diass.

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## Cote d’Ivoire

- In February, the Team held discussion with the UCT on operations that are being planned and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- Over the months, the Interim Assistant Coordinator held several discussions with the UCT officials on several issues related to the execution of operations and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

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## Guinea

- In March, the Coordinator of EAGLE Senegal and the accountant travelled to Conakry where they held several activities related to finance and personnel management with the EAGLE Guinea Team. They also carried a number of activities with INTERPOL NCB in Conakry to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- During the course of the semester, the Team followed up the administrative procedures on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Directorate of the Guinean National Police, the General Directorate of Customs and collaboration with the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, Conakry office.
- They also followed up the renewal of registration application, filed with the National Department for the Regulation and Promotion of Association (SERPROMA), attached to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization.

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## Uganda

- In March, the Interim Coordinator participated in a virtual discussion on taxes hosted by Uganda Revenue Authority.
- In April, the Interim Coordinator and the Legal Advisor held an interaction with Uganda Revenue Authority Head Intelligence on operations and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In May, she held meetings with the Assistant Superintendents of Police and Investigating Officers of Wampewo, Mbuya, Mukono, Naguru and Jinja Road Police stations respectively to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In June she held a meeting with council officials on compliance with government procedures for NGOs and a recommendation letter sent to the Town Clerk.

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

**The Central Coordination Unit (CCU) and the Steering group continued to support the network members mostly via the internet, phone calls and extensive use of other communication platforms like zoom and whatsapp. There was constant contact and assistance through the diverse communication platforms to support the member countries.**

- The CCU provided vital support to EAGLE Uganda project to attain the final stage of its development with a very good operation against a lion skin trafficker.
- In Guinea the project is still very much in its developmental stages with a series of recruitment carried out. Training of those recruited was done in Senegal. In January, EAGLE Guinea project activists including an Assistant Coordinator, a Legal Adviser and two investigators, completed a five-month long training in Senegal and returned to Guinea. The Senegal Coordinator travelled to Guinea in February where they held meetings with judicial and diplomatic authorities accredited to Guinea.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, was the keynote speaker at the opening of a conference on wildlife crime, artificial intelligence and big data with an emphasis on financial crimes aspects in March 2024. The conference was organised by the Scotia bank, the Toronto University, and the Big Data AI hub in Canada.
- He travelled to the US where he held meetings and talks at several events in April. He gave a presentation to the US Government's Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking that brings together 17 federal departments and agencies to implement the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking.
- He held a meeting with a Deputy Undersecretary in the Department of Interior. Three senior officials of the USFWS were also present.
- He was a keynote speaker in two different Primate Conferences - one in South Carolina of the International Primate Protection League (IPPL), and the other in Florida of the Annual Florida Primates Meeting.
- The CCU continued to provide vital support to EAGLE Uganda and EAGLE Guinea which are still very young projects and grappling with the several challenges for projects at that stage of their development. Training of EAGLE activist from Guinea continued in Dakar with the Senegal Team.
- In January, the training of a member of EAGLE Guinea who arrived to the country in December 2024 was carried out and he later returned to join the Team in Conakry at the end of the training and another candidate for the position of an investigator arrived to Dakar for training.

- In March, Jana Hajduchová, the Financial Officer of the EAGLE Network, held a presentation at the European meeting of the Great Apes Taxonomy Advisory Group of EAZA, held in Ostrava, Czech Republic. She summarized the activities of EAGLE Network in Africa and lead a discussion on the newly established mega-zoo Vantara in India, and its impact on the global trade with wildlife
- In January, The Deputy Director of LAGA and member of the CCU came to the end of a two-month mission to Côte d'Ivoire where he assisted the Team following the departure of Gaspard Julien-laferriere, the former Coordinator. Several activities have been planned in this regard. While in Cameroon, he continued to supervise the Team on a weekly basis to assist the project grow to the next level.
- The CCU has organized annual general audits for the period of 2023 which were carried out by the international audit firm BDO based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The countries that were undergoing auditing include Cameroon, Cote dlvoire, Togo, the Republic of the Congo and Senegal.

## 9. Photos of the Selected Cases

### An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks in Congo in January.

He was attempting to sell the elephant tusks. He travelled over 300 km with the elephant tusks concealed in a backpack. He used a motorcycle to arrive the place of transaction and was instantly arrested, handcuffed and whisked away.



border and arrived the Ferkessedougou, a border town, where they attempted to trade the tusks. The elephants were allegedly killed in Burkina Faso, in an area with jihadists activities.

### 2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in the north of Côte d'Ivoire.

They are a part of a ring trafficking ivory from Burkina Faso. The traffickers, concealed the elephant tusks in a bag and a backpack, rode a motorcycle from a locality a few kilometers from the



**2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Cameroon in February**

One of them is a notorious regional trafficker at the center of criminal networks stretching to Chad, Congo and CAR. He is linked to several illicit activities including trafficking in precious stones and cars, in the sub region. He travelled over 500 km from the north of the country to Douala to organize the illegal trade of the tusks.



**3 live animals' traffickers arrested with 2 young live hyenas in Senegal in February.**

The hyenas were ordered and captured with their mother that has already been traded away. The two pups were kept chained to a wall and fed only rice leftovers. Hyenas are targeted by the illegal trade as mystical animals for black magic. The traffickers travelled 3 hours with the young hyenas and put them in small cages so besides the wounds from the chains they were also wounded at their faces from the bars.

The hyenas are believed to have been captured in Saloum Delta National Park. Hyenas are an integral part of the fragile natural balance in the park, being its largest predator in the food chain.

The hyenas, now free of chains and out of cages, were placed in quarantine by the Department of National Parks with the view of releasing them back to the wild if possible.

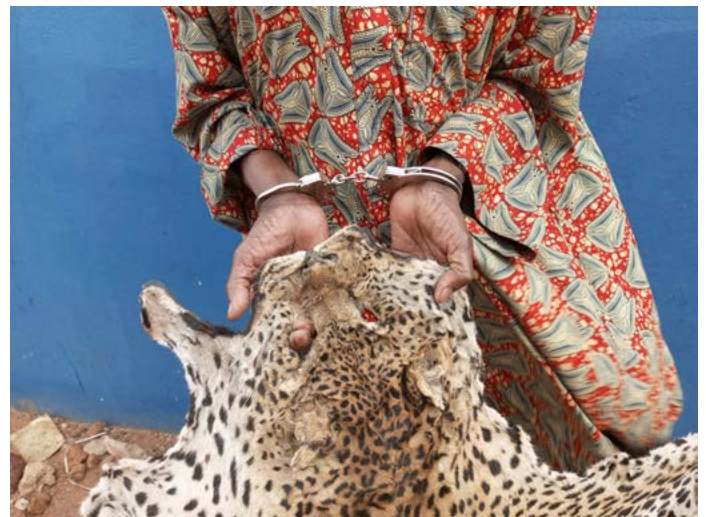




**2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins in Côte d'Ivoire near the Ghana border in March.**

One of the traffickers is from Niger and the seizure included also more pieces of leopard skins, a hyena skin among many other wildlife trophies. The first trafficker was arrested while attempting to illegally trade the 2 two leopard skins. He quickly denounced the other trafficker who was arrested during a house search. More wildlife contraband was recovered during the arrest.

The operation took place in the north-east of the country, at a town located some 600 km from the capital, Abidjan. The traffickers took care to conceal the skins in a fertilizer bag to avoid detection. One of the traffickers used to illegally trade skins at the local market.



**2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and two skulls in the north east of Cote d'Ivoire in April**

The skins were trafficked from Burkina Faso. This is a snapshot of the ongoing large scale massacre of leopards driven by wildlife trafficking. To evade detection, the traffickers concealed the wildlife contraband in a fertilizer bag while transporting it to the place of transaction.



**3 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and 28 kg of scales of endangered giant pangolin in Congo in May**

The first two traffickers arrived at the place of the transaction on a motorcycle with the contraband carefully concealed in a bag and a suitcase. A few minutes later, they were arrested and taken to the gendarmerie station, where they denounced a third trafficker. The arresting team was quickly remobilized, arrived at the trafficker's house some 75 km away, and arrested him.



**8 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a hyena skin in 3 back-to-back operations and a major crack down in Senegal in June**

The arrests near the borders with Guinea and Mali were of mostly Guinean traffickers. One of the traffickers is suspected to be in connection to a local terrorist group. The contraband was concealed in grains bags and a military backpack. The traffickers were arrested during 3 different operations carried out in close succession in the South East of the Country.



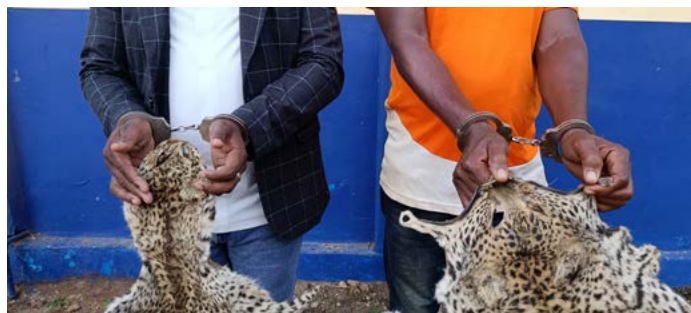
### 3 ivory traffickers arrested with a large tusk in a crackdown on Ghana-Togo trafficking ring in Togo in June

The activities of the very cautious and suspicious traffickers were followed for several months before being uncovered. One of them originates from Benin and is a member of a trafficking network that straddles the borders between Togo and Ghana. He transported the elephant tusk concealed in a grains bag, on a motorcycle, from the border to the central region of Togo.



### 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and heads and claws of 4 vultures in Côte d'Ivoire in June

They are a part of a ring trafficking from Burkina Faso. The animal parts were carefully concealed inside fertilizer bags and transported over 300km in public transport from the border to the center of the country. The traffickers were arrested as they attempted to sell the contraband. One of the traffickers is a Burkina Faso national who was in charge of all financial transactions of the illegal trade.



# Annex - Summary of the Results

## Number of investigations per month per country

	January	February	March	April	May	June	total per country
Cameroon	14	20	19	13	11	15	<b>92</b>
Congo	20	21	21	18	26	16	<b>122</b>
Togo	4	9	13	17	13	20	<b>76</b>
Senegal	89	4	7	42	41	6	<b>189</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	15	13	0	<b>28</b>
Uganda	29	49	48	30	36	32	<b>224</b>
Guinea	6	20	17	27	21	22	<b>113</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>844</b>

## Number of arrests per month per country

	January	February	March	April	May	June	total per country
Cameroon	0	2	0	1	0	0	<b>3</b>
Congo	1	2	3	0	3	0	<b>9</b>
Togo	0	0	0	0	0	3	<b>3</b>
Senegal	0	3	0	0	0	8	<b>11</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Guinea	2	0	2	2	0	2	<b>8</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>

### Number of media pieces by month by country

	January	February	March	April	May	June	total by country
Cameroon	13	21	17	26	4	7	<b>88</b>
Congo	28	41	28	30	24	24	<b>175</b>
Togo	16	30	30	30	15	30	<b>151</b>
Senegal	0	0	26	0	0	24	<b>50</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	16	8	27	12	15	31	<b>109</b>
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>total by month</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>573</b>

## THE EAGLE Network

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

The over-arching objective of the EAGLE Network is: *Developing civic activism and collaborating with governments and civil society to improve the application of national and international environmental legislation, through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent*

*against the illegal trade in wildlife, timber and related criminal activities, including corruption.*

#### Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA: [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)
2. Congo – PALF: [jules@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:jules@eagle-enforcement.org)
3. Gabon – AALF: [luc@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:luc@eagle-enforcement.org)
4. Togo – EAGLE Togo: [darius@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:darius@eagle-enforcement.org)
5. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal: [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)
6. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire: [gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org)
7. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - [ofir@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@eagle-enforcement.org)
8. Guinea - EAGLE Guinea: [cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org)