



EAGLE

The EAGLE Network 1st Semester 2026 Report



- ✓ *Despite several challenges encountered during the period, the EAGLE teams pushed forward. 18 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 6 countries*
- ✓ *3 traffickers were arrested with over 700 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in a town located near the border with Congo*
- ✓ *4 traffickers were arrested in Guinea with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg, along with 26 kg of shark and ray fins, in a crackdown on a criminal network stretching over 5 countries*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers were arrested in 5 operations across 4 countries, with over 47 kg of ivory seized, representing 18 tusks*
- ✓ *7 big cat skin traffickers were arrested during 3 operations in 3 countries with 6 leopard skins.*
- ✓ *All of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars*
- ✓ *210 media pieces were published in national media*
- ✓ *At least in 4 cases, corruption was exposed during the arrest operation*
- ✓ *Ofir Drori granted an interview to New Security Beat highlighting the scale of wildlife trafficking in Central and West Africa, its links to conflict and radicalization, amidst growing challenges to conservation funding*

1. Summary

Despite several challenges encountered during the reporting period, the EAGLE teams pushed forward with 18 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in 6 countries. The two young projects of the Network, EAGLE Uganda and EAGLE Guinea, conducted major operations during the semester. In Guinea 4 traffickers were arrested with 41 kg of seahorses. The number of investigation missions and operations dropped significantly due to the challenging financial situation the Network is facing. Huge efforts are underway to addressing this challenge and Ofir Drori granted an interview to New Security Beat where he specifically highlighted this problem. Despite these constraints, EAGLE activists continued to demonstrate extraordinary commitment and sacrifice, ensuring that the fight against wildlife crime remained active and effective.

In June, recruitment, as well as all other activities were temporary suspended for some of the countries in the Network to address the financial situation. Some countries continued operating to full capacity and producing results despite the financial situation. Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire continued to push on and it is expected that these efforts will produce some results. Activities were partially carried out in Cameroon. Importantly, investigations persisted through the use of various media platforms, ensuring that intelligence gathering and monitoring remained active.

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

448 investigation missions were carried out to identify wildlife traffickers. All of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least at the beginning of their trial. During the semester, 5 traffickers were prosecuted and 3 of them handed imprisonment sentences of various length. A 10-year imprisonment term, one of the stiffest ever recorded within the EAGLE Network, was handed to 2 ivory traffickers in Cote d'Ivoire.

Corruption is prevalent at several levels of the enforcement and judicial process. In 4 cases of the operation, corruption was witnessed and exposed on the day of operation or later.

Trafficking in leopard skins represented the focal point during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 7 big cat skin traffickers were arrested during 3 operations in 3 countries with 6 leopard skins.

An army Master Corporal arrested in January, in Cameroon with a leopard skin. He used his position to lend impunity to his trafficking activities and travelled more than 300km with the contraband through checkpoints just before his arrest. The trafficker who understands the intricacies of the illegal trade in leopard skins brought the skin from the East of the country where leopards are facing constant survival threats.

4 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a skull in May, in Congo. One is the personal driver of a high local authority and used his service car to transport contraband with impunity, another is a Christian "prophet" priest. The organized traffickers are also involved in ivory trafficking.

2 traffickers arrested with a fresh large leopard skin in May, in Uganda. They are a part of a vast network across the Western part of the country, working in complicity with some park rangers to expand their criminal business. Their operations extend to five other districts activating poachers in the nature reserves.

4 ivory traffickers were arrested in 5 operations across 4 countries, with over 47 kg of ivory seized, representing 18 tusks.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with two elephant tusks in March, in Cote d'Ivoire. He arrived the scene of transaction with the tusks concealed inside a backpack. He admitted during interrogations to attempt to illegally trade the ivory he claimed he stole from a palm tree farm.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 8 elephant tusks and 52 kg giant pangolin scales in April, in Cameroon. The trafficker based his ring in Mintom in the southern part of the country and the tusks were trafficked from Congo. He displayed a high level of confidence, reflecting both his professionalism and deep knowledge of ivory trafficking in the country. The tusks and scales were transported in a hired taxi to the place of transaction where he was eventually arrested.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 elephant tusks in May, in Togo. He is a part of a trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana. The trafficker is a dangerous figure within the trafficking ring. He is implicated in multiple illicit activities, including ivory trafficking, and is linked to a well-known group of highly dangerous traffickers operating in the far North. The ring frequently smuggles ivory across the northern border between Togo and Burkina Faso.

An ivory trafficker was arrested with 6 elephant tusks and 2 hippo teeth in May, in Cote d'Ivoire. He belongs to a trafficking network, dealing in several wildlife contraband including elephant tusks and hippo teeth.

4 traffickers were arrested in May, in Guinea with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg, along with 26 kg of shark and ray fins, in a crackdown on a criminal network stretching over 5 countries.

This criminal network has been trafficking seahorses for the past four decades evolving into a vast cross-border network stretching across West Africa, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, and Senegal. They were trading with Chinese nationals who according to the traffickers, export the seahorses through organized channels of corruption and bribery, allowing massive quantities of protected marine species to leave the region illegally each year.

3 traffickers were arrested with more than 700 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon, in a town located near the border with Congo.

3 major traffickers arrested with 710 kg of pangolin scales representing more than 2,300 killed pangolins! The ring activated a network of poachers across neighbouring countries including Congo and Central African Republic. They concealed the 12 sacks of scales in a carpenter's workshop in Yokadouma in the south east of the country. These traffickers are specialists who conceal their activities under the guise of trading non timber forest products.

In order to maximize the deterrent effect, 210 media pieces were published in national media. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 53% on internet, 30% in print media, 20% in radio. There were no TV broadcasts.

In April, Ofir Drori granted an interview to New Security Beat highlighting the scale of wildlife trafficking in Central and West Africa, its links to conflict and radicalization, and the methods used to bring traffickers to justice, amidst growing challenges to conservation funding.

During the interview, he explained that wildlife trafficking is increasingly intertwined with arms smuggling, drug trade, and radicalization networks, destabilizing communities and fueling violence. He focuses on the sinister role of traffickers, who run arms workshops supplying rebel groups, granting national park access for weapons, and using online platforms to spread extremist propaganda. Ofir warned of the shrinking conservation funding that now threatens the continuity of law enforcement work.

Content:

This report refers to activities from January till June 2026. 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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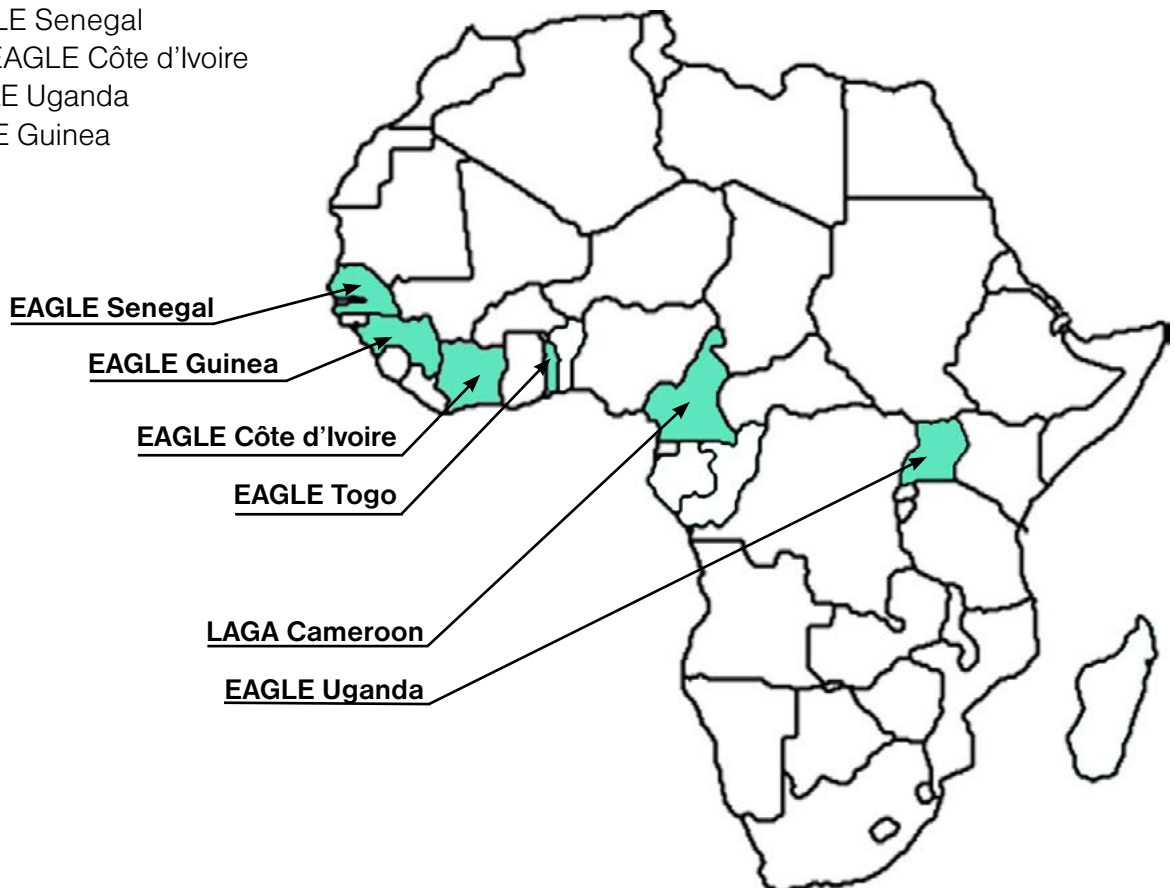
2. Structure of the Network

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 six 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. Togo - EAGLE Togo
3. Senegal - EAGLE Senegal
4. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire
5. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda
6. Guinea - EAGLE Guinea



3. Investigations

448 different investigation missions were carried out in 7 countries, leading to the arrest of 18 traffickers in the first semester of 2026.

Focus during the period was on leopard skins, elephant tusks, pangolin scales and seahorses.

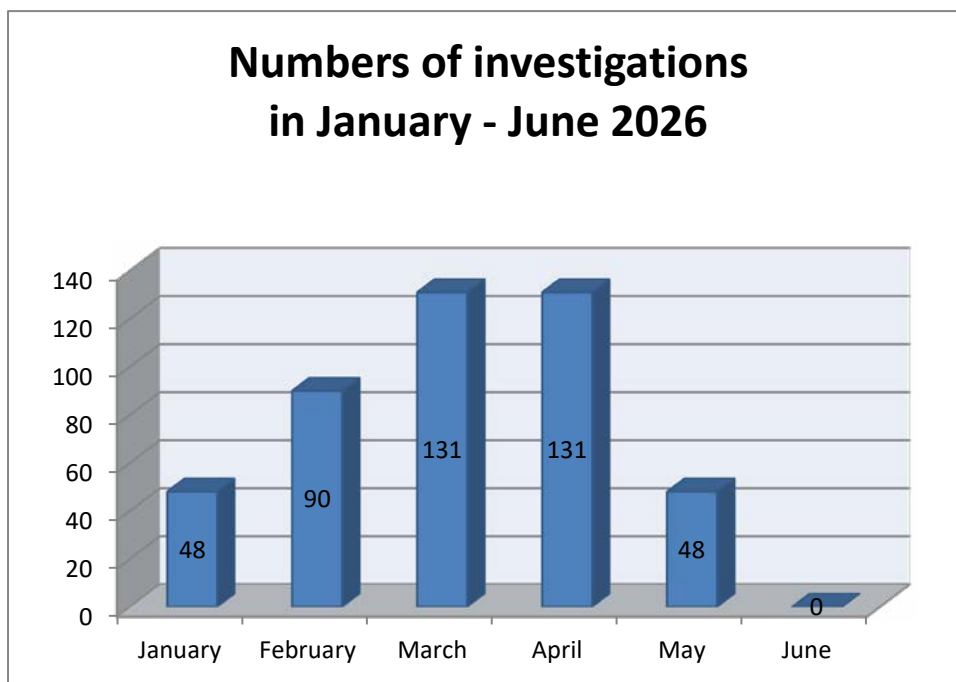


Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – June 2026

Investigations were conducted across seven countries, producing tangible results despite severe financial constraints. There was a significant decrease in the number of missions compared to the same period last year, underscoring the enormous financial challenges faced by the EAGLE Network during this reporting period. A limited number of investigations were carried out in June due to these constraints, and recruitment efforts were cut down pending an improvement in the situation.

4. Arrest Operations

18 significant wildlife traffickers were arrested during 10 operations carried out by the EAGLE Network in 6 countries.



Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - June 2026

The majority of arrested traffickers - 39 % - were involved in the trade of leopard skins. Seahorse and ivory traffickers each accounted for 22 % of arrests, while those arrested trafficking in pangolin scales represented 17 %.

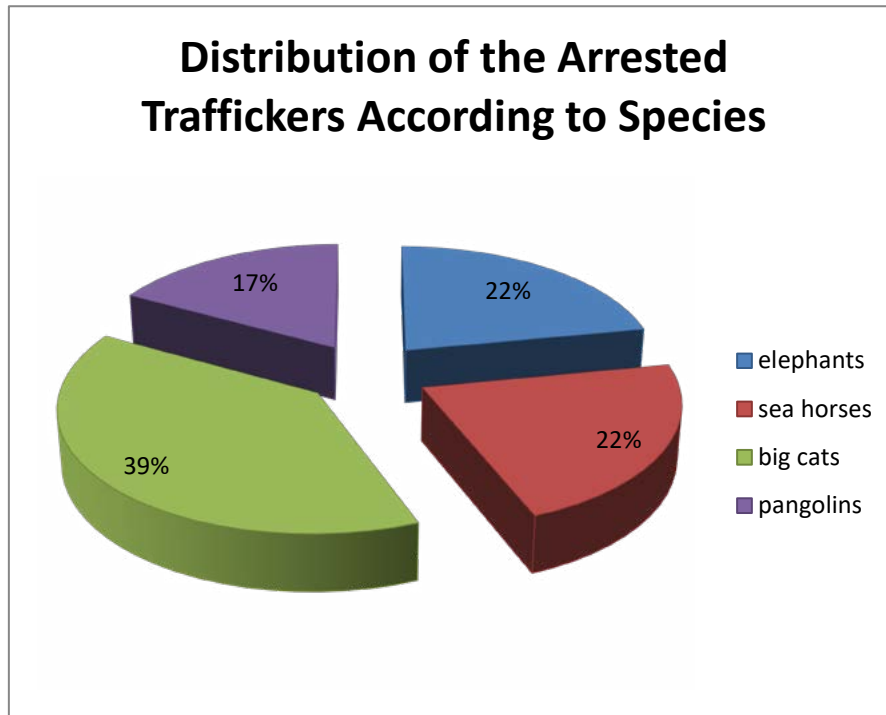


Fig. 3: Distribution of Arrested Traffickers According to the Species

Corruption

Corruption remains prevalent at all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. During the three operations carried out in Cameroon, corruption attempts were witnessed and exposed, either on the day of the operation or in the aftermath. A further incident was recorded in one other instance in Guinea. These incidents highlight the persistent challenge of corruption undermining wildlife law enforcement, while also demonstrating the teams' determination to resist and expose such practices.

- When 3 traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with over 700 kg of pangolin scales, their relatives attempted to influence officials at the level of the delegation. They approached the Divisional Delegate and the Chief of Wildlife, requesting that prosecution be stopped and offering to negotiate the release of the traffickers. They further attempted to persuade the Commander of the Gendarmerie Brigade to halt the

procedure. However, neither the Divisional Delegation of Wildlife nor the Commander accepted to collaborate. The Delegate even went so far as to chase them away, underscoring the refusal to compromise the integrity of the process.

- Corruption attempt was rejected at the police, in Cameroon in April, when an ivory trafficker was arrested with eight elephant tusks. His uncle and wife approached the Head of the Police Unit, proposed an undisclosed sum of money in exchange for the release of the trafficker and the cancellation of the procedure. The officer firmly refused, issued a stern warning, and threatened to report the incident to his hierarchy as a corruption attempt.
- In January, a master corporal in the Cameroon army was arrested with a leopard skin. While wildlife law enforcement officials were establishing the offence report, they faced pressure from the trafficker's family members. His relatives proposed money to the judicial police officer in an attempt to secure his release. The wildlife officials and police handling the matter stood their ground and refused to collaborate. After witnessing the steadfast attitude of the law officials, the family attempted another approach, seeking to negotiate directly with the LAGA team. This effort also failed to produce any effect, reaffirming the resilience of the enforcement process against corruption attempts.
- When three traffickers were arrested in May, in Guinea, with 41kg of seahorses, they were released shortly afterward in what appeared to be a "negotiated" approach to resolving legal procedures. This incident raises serious concerns about the integrity of enforcement and judicial processes, highlighting the vulnerability of wildlife crime cases to informal settlements.

Elephants

4 ivory traffickers were arrested in 5 operations across 4 countries, with over 47 kg of ivory seized, representing 18 tusks.

- An ivory trafficker was arrested with two elephant tusks in March, in Cote d'Ivoire. He arrived the scene of transaction with the tusks concealed inside a backpack. He admitted during interrogations to attempt to illegally trade the ivory he claimed he stole from a palm tree farm.
- An ivory trafficker was arrested with 8 elephant tusks and 52 kg giant pangolin scales in April, in Cameroon. The trafficker based his ring in Mintom in the southern part of the country and the tusks were trafficked from Congo. He displayed a high level of confidence, reflecting both his professionalism and deep knowledge of ivory trafficking in the country. The tusks and scales were transported in a hired taxi to the place of transaction where he was eventually arrested. He operated a trafficking network primarily dedicated to trading elephant tusks. In addition, he used his cocoa business as a cover to source elephant tusks from the region, including parts of the Republic of Congo.
- An ivory trafficker was arrested with 2 elephant tusks in May, in Togo. He is a part of a trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana. The trafficker is a dangerous figure within the trafficking ring. He is implicated in multiple illicit activities, including ivory trafficking, and is linked to a well-known group of highly dangerous traffickers operating in the far North. The ring frequently smuggles ivory across the

northern border between Togo and Burkina Faso. The trafficker transported the elephant tusks on the back of his motorcycle, carefully concealed in a grains bag. He proceeded to the place of transaction cautiously before his arrest.

- An ivory trafficker was arrested with 6 elephant tusks and 2 hippo teeth in May, in Cote d'Ivoire. He belongs to a trafficking network, dealing in several wildlife contraband including elephant tusks and hippo teeth. The trafficker arrived at the place of transaction on a motorcycle, with four elephant tusks carefully concealed in a grain sack and firmly tied to the vehicle. He later returned to fetch additional tusks and was arrested red handed during an attempt at trading the illegal wildlife products.

Big Cats

Trafficking in leopard skins represented most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 7 traffickers were arrested with 6 leopard skins in Cameroon, Uganda and Congo, where the personal driver of a high local authority was among the arrested traffickers. The driver used the service car of the authority to transport the contraband.

- An army Master Corporal was arrested with a leopard skin, in January, in Cameroon. He used his position to lend impunity to his trafficking activities and travelled more than 300 km with the contraband through checkpoints just before his arrest. The trafficker who understands the intricacies of the illegal trade in leopard skins brought the skin from the East of the country where leopards are facing constant survival threats.
- 4 traffickers were arrested with 4 leopard skins and a skull in May, in Congo. One is the personal driver of a high local authority and used his service car to transport contraband with impunity, another is a Christian "prophet" priest. The organized traffickers are also involved in ivory trafficking.
- 2 traffickers were arrested with a fresh large leopard skin, in May, in Uganda. They are a part of a vast network across the Western part of the country, working in complicity with some park rangers to expand their criminal business. Their operations extend to five other districts activating poachers in the nature reserves.

Sea Horses

4 traffickers were arrested in Guinea with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg, along with 26 kg of shark and ray fins, in a crackdown on a criminal network stretching over 5 countries.

- This criminal network has been trafficking seahorses for the past four decades evolving into a vast cross-border network stretching across West Africa, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, and Senegal. They were trading with Chinese nationals who according to the traffickers, export the seahorses through organized channels of corruption and bribery, allowing massive quantities of protected

marine species to leave the region illegally each year. All seahorse species are protected under the CITES convention, yet they are under serious threat by the global illegal trade. A recent study shows the alarming scope of the illegal seahorse trade with 16 species facing the risk of extinction. The dried seahorses are used in the “traditional medicine” business in China.

Pangolins

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5. Legal Follow up

The EAGLE Network legal teams in the 7 countries followed up the court cases of the 18 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, 5 traffickers were prosecuted and handed court decisions. Of these, 3 were convicted and handed heavy prison terms. In Côte d'Ivoire, 2 traffickers received 10 year sentences, marking one of the stiffest penalties ever imposed on convicted traffickers within the Network. In Cameroon, two other traffickers were given five year suspended sentences. These rulings stand out as two of the most significant court decisions of the semester.

- In March, 2 ivory traffickers sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment in Côte d'Ivoire, along with a fine of 10 million FCFA each
- A trafficker was sentenced to 2 years in prison in April, in Congo. He was arrested October 2025 with a baby chimpanzee.

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, 210 media pieces were published in national media.

The distribution of the media pieces on national media stood at 50 % for online media that keeps growing over the years; the print media representing 30 %, radio broadcast stood at 20 % and there was no TV broadcast during the semester. It should be noted that no activity was carried in June due to the financial constraints involved.

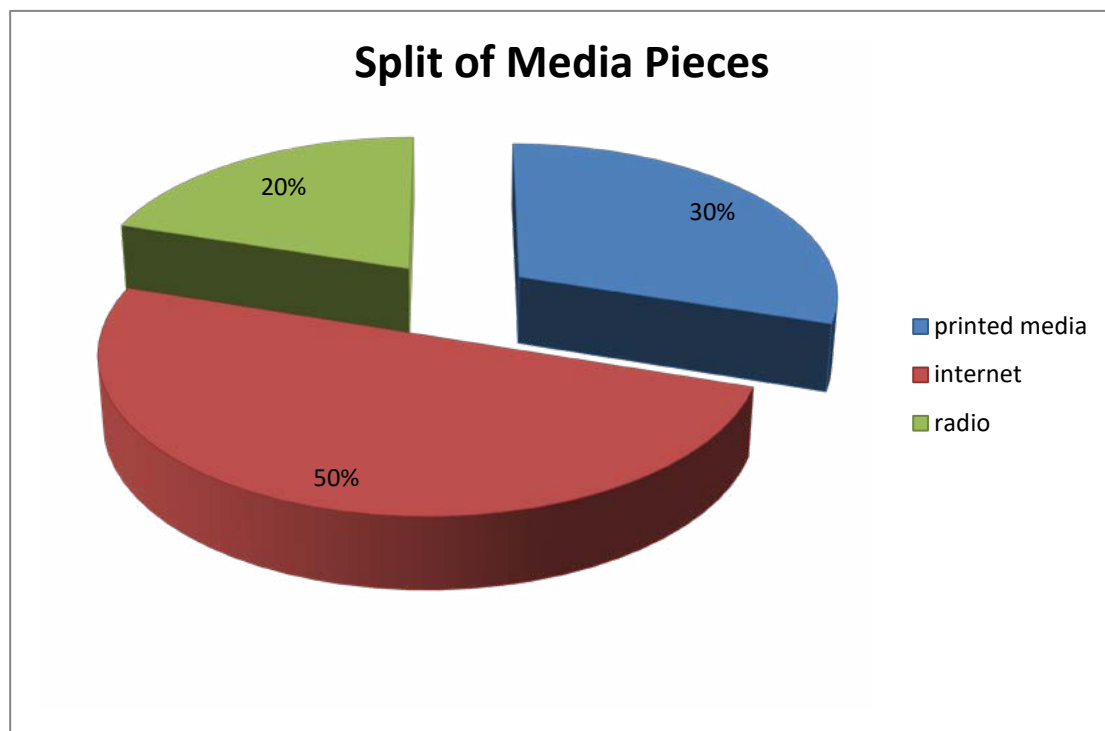


Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces

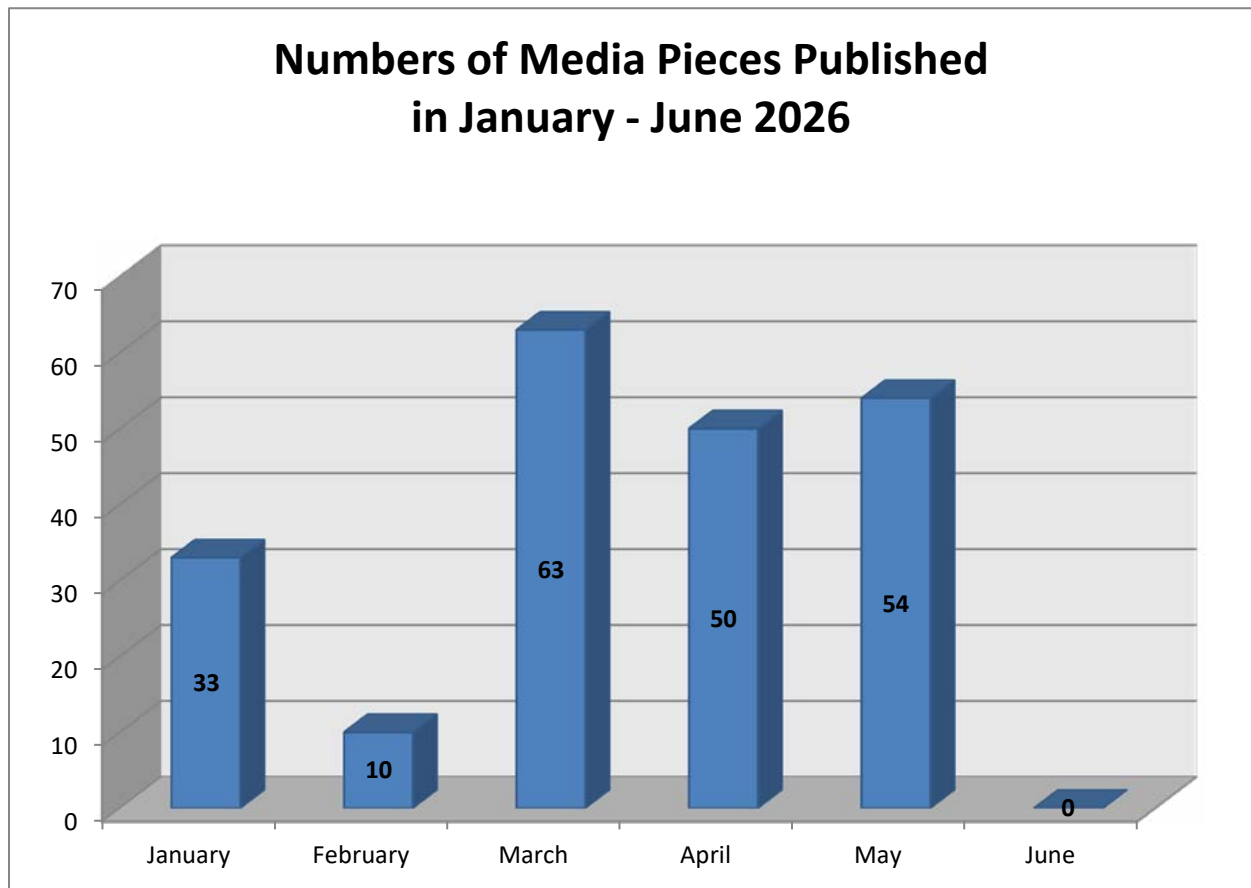


Fig. 5: Number of Media Pieces Published Nationally in January – June 2026

International media

In May, several international media picked up the story of the arrest of four seahorse traffickers, with RFI - France's leading international broadcaster - interviewing the Coordinator. The coverage extended across Africa, with countries such as Cameroon publishing the story, further amplifying the importance of the arrests.

[Links to APA News](#)

In April, Ofir Drori granted an interview to New Security Beat highlighting the scale of wildlife trafficking in Central and West Africa, its links to conflict and radicalization, and the methods used to bring traffickers to justice, amidst growing challenges to conservation funding.

During the interview, he explained that wildlife trafficking is increasingly intertwined with arms smuggling,

drug trade, and radicalization networks, destabilizing communities and fueling violence. He focuses on the sinister role of traffickers, who run arms workshops supplying rebel groups, granting national park access for weapons, and using online platforms to spread extremist propaganda. Ofir warned of the shrinking conservation funding that now threatens the continuity of law enforcement work. “EAGLE plays a unique role as a direct enforcement and accountability mechanism targeting organized wildlife crime. In many of our operating contexts, no comparable structure exists. If this capacity is lost, it will send a clear signal of reduced risk to trafficking networks, likely resulting in a rapid expansion of organized illegal activity”, he said.

He called on governments, donors, and civil society to recognize wildlife trafficking as both a conservation and security crisis and to provide urgent support to sustain enforcement operations. The interview highlights how the EAGLE Network tackles Africa’s wildlife crisis by targeting criminal networks, corruption, and their links to armed groups—jailing over 3,000 traffickers but now facing funding threats that risk undoing decades of progress.

[Please follow the link for more ...](#)

7. External Relations

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

Cameroon

- In February, the Deputy Director and the Legal Department held a meeting with the newly appointed Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. She was also handed a copy of the LAGA 2025 annual report.
- In March, the Deputy Director participated at a meeting to revise the Central Africa wildlife law enforcement action plan dubbed PAPECALF 2 that aims to strengthen the application of the wildlife laws in the sub region.
- He held a video conference with a Team from the Environmental Investigation Agency to discuss the upcoming CITES Standing Committee Meeting and matters related to wildlife law enforcement in the country.
- In April, he held a meeting with an INTERPOL criminal intelligence officer to discuss issues related to wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration.

The Republic of the Congo

- In January, the Coordinator met and had a discussion with the Forestry and Environment Cooperation Officer of the European Union Delegation on wildlife law enforcement and to strengthen collaboration.
- He met with the Commissioner General in charge of Security at the French Embassy to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- He held a meeting with the Secretary General and the Director of Legal Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs to discuss wildlife crime and strengthen collaboration.
- In February, he met and had a discussion with the Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Brazzaville to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In March, he held a meeting with the Commander of the Gendarmerie Region in Brazzaville to present the 2025 annual report and strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- In April, he met and held discussions with the Adviser for Biodiversity Conservation, Anti Poaching, and Promotion of Income Generating Activities under the Minister of Forest Economy. During the meeting, he formally presented the 2025 activity report.

Togo

- In January, the Coordinator held a meeting with the Deputy Central Director of the Judicial Police to establish collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He met with the Director of Togo's anti-corruption commission (HATIC, that was formerly known as HAP-LUCIA).
- In February, he held a meeting with the Inspector General of the Environment, Forest Resources, and Coastal Areas on the judicial handling of illegal wildlife trafficking cases.
- In March, he met with the Director of Forest Resources to renew contact and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with two officials from the Planning Division of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest Resources, Coastal Protection, and Climate Change to discuss and establish collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with the Deputy Chief of INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Lomé to establish collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He met with the team from the Airport Anti-Trafficking Unit (CAAT) in the cargo sector to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife trafficking at the airport.
- In April, he held a discussion at the EU Delegation in Lomé, with the First Secretary, Head of the Sustainable Investments Team in the Cooperation Section, and the Program Officer of the Sustainable Investments Team. The exchanges focused on the fight against wildlife trafficking in the country.
- He held a meeting at the EAGLE Togo offices with the Technical Advisor of the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation and the Head of Mission for International Assistance of the Programme

d'Appui à la lutte contre le Changement Climatique, la protection de la biodiversité et l'agroécologie (Support Programme for the Fight Against Climate Change, Biodiversity Protection, and Agro-ecology). Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

- In May, he met with the State Counsel at the Lomé High Court to discuss new strategies to counter the evolving methods of traffickers and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He also met with the Director of OCRTIDB (Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- He met with the Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Lomé to introduce the EAGLE network and establish collaboration in the fight against cross-border crime.

Senegal

- In January, EAGLE Senegal sent an official letter to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal. The letter aims to draw the attention of the high authority to the shortcomings identified in current legislation and in the mechanisms for prosecuting wildlife-related offenses, as well as to make recommendations for strengthening the legal and institutional framework for combating wildlife crime.
- In March, the Coordinator participated at a training session on environmental crimes and terrorist financing organized by INTERPOL's Regional Bureau for West Africa. This training brought together 20 exclusively female officials from the Police, Gendarmerie, Water and Forests services. She had several discussions with participants, focusing on wildlife crime and strengthening of collaboration.

Cote d'Ivoire

- In February, The Interim Assistant Coordinator held discussions with UCT officials on several issues related to the execution of an operation and strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He met with INTERPOL National Central Bureau officials to discuss issues related to the execution of operations and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- In May, he held a meeting with UCT officials and they discussed the execution of operations and strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Guinea

- In January, the Team held meetings with the Civil Administrator of the office of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, and with some officials of the National Department for the Regulation and Promotion of Association (DNARPROMA), on the administrative procedures for the renewal of the MoU.
- In February, the Coordinator met with the Secretary General of the Presidency in charge of Special Services, to discuss issues related to the execution of operations and to strengthen collaboration.
- EAGLE Guinea and Guinean Directorate General of Customs signed a Memorandum of Understanding that lays down the framework for collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator met with the National Director of the Department for the Regulation and Promotion of Association (DNARPROMA), and the Team followed up the registration application filed with this department that is attached to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization.
- In March, the Coordinator met with the Secretary General of Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development to introduce herself as the New Coordinator and to discuss issues related to the MoU.
- She held a meeting with the Ambassador of Germany to introduce EAGLE Guinea and establish collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. She met with the Director General of the Judicial Training Centre to introduce EAGLE Guinea and discuss potential areas of collaboration.
- She also met with Commanders of the National Brigade for the Fight against Wildlife Crime for her introduction as the new coordinator and held discussions on the technical aspects of future collaboration.
- She discussed potential collaboration with the Director of the NGO Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and the Project Team of “Natura-Guinea”.
- She also met with the Division Commander of the Internal Security Service at the French Embassy.
- In April, the Coordinator was received in audience by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development to follow up on the signing of the MoU.
- Right after the meeting with the Minister, the Coordinator held discussions with the Ambassador and the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Netherlands, based in Senegal.
- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with Director General of the Corps of Nature Conservators, the Commander, and the Deputy Commander of the National Brigade for Combating Wildlife and Flora Crime that focused on the MoU.
- They met with the CITES focal point of Guinea, the Management Authority within the National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife, which is attached to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The focus was on proposing a framework for collaboration and addressing the CITES sanctions against Guinea.

- She held discussions with the Deputy Director General of the Office for the Repression of Economic and Financial Offenses (ORDEF). The meeting focused on tackling the links between wildlife crime and related offenses, particularly money laundering and illegal enrichment.
- As part of the process of training judicial actors on the wildlife law, EAGLE Guinea signed an MoU with the Judicial Training Center (CFJ).
- In May, The Coordinator met officials of the Customs Targeting Unit at the Conakry Airport to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Uganda

- In February, the Interim Coordinator held meetings with some department heads of government agencies including the Head of the Uganda Revenue Authority Intelligence Department, the Commissioner of Investigations and Intelligence at the Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Uganda Revenue Authority Supervisor for Joint Port Control Unit, to foster collaborations in field operations.
- She liaised with an official of the Uganda Women's Network in Advocacy in analyzing documents that would be of help to the operational permit process.
- In March, the Interim Coordinator met the Gender Officer at Kampala Capital City Authority, Nakawa Division Office on the pending EAGLE Uganda operational permit MoU requirement to be able to finalize the application process.
- She met with officials of the Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU), the Uganda Revenue Authority and the Uganda Wildlife Authority and was introduced to the JPCU Interim Coordinator. The meetings were focused on building contacts and fostering collaboration.
- In May, EAGLE Uganda successfully received its MoU with Kampala Capital City Authority Division offices at Nakawa. This will assist in the acquisition of the project's operational permit.

8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network

The Central Coordination Unit (CCU) and the Steering Group maintained close support to network members, using primarily internet-based communication, phone calls, and extensive use of platforms such as Zoom and WhatsApp. This multi channel approach ensured constant contact and assistance, allowing the CCU and Steering Group to remain actively engaged with member countries throughout the reporting period. It also facilitated operational backing, and strengthened collaboration, ensuring that member projects received consistent oversight and support.

- The CCU provided crucial support to EAGLE Uganda and EAGLE Guinea, reinforcing their operational capacity. Both country projects successfully carried out two major operations during the reporting period, demonstrating strengthened functional capabilities. These achievements indicate that the projects have reached a stage of operational maturity, following a long developmental phase marked by gradual improvements and sustained guidance from the CCU.
- Despite their operational maturity, both EAGLE Uganda and EAGLE Guinea face pressing financial constraints. Sustained funding is urgently needed to ensure their continuous development, maintain staff capacity, and support ongoing investigations and enforcement actions. Without immediate financial backing, the progress achieved through years of developmental investment risks being undermined, potentially weakening their ability to deliver impactful operations.
- In March, Ofir Dorri travelled to the US where he gave presentations on wildlife law enforcement and the EAGLE Network. He met and discussed with several US government officials on a wide range of issues including strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. He equally held discussions with donor bodies, institutions and NGO officials.
- Antonia Gustafsson, the super volunteer who was on training in Senegal joined the EAGLE Guinea and was appointed the new Coordinator.
- The PALF project ceased to be a member of the EAGLE Network. The Aspinall Foundation, which had been hosting the project, subsequently assumed full management responsibility.

9. Photos of the Selected Cases

An ivory trafficker arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with two elephant tusks in March.

He arrived the scene of transaction with the tusks concealed inside a backpack. He admitted during interrogations to attempt to illegally trade the ivory he claimed he stole from a palm tree farm.



An army Master Corporal arrested in Cameroon with a leopard skin in January.

He used his position to lend impunity to his trafficking activities and travelled more than 300 km with the contraband through checkpoints just before his arrest. The trafficker who understands the intricacies of the illegal trade in leopard skins brought the skin from the East of the country where leopards are facing constant survival threats.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 8 elephant tusks and 52 kg giant pangolin scales in Cameroon in April

The trafficker based his ring in Mintom in the southern part of the country and the tusks were trafficked from Congo. He displayed a high level of confidence, reflecting both his professionalism and deep knowledge of ivory trafficking in the country. The tusks and scales were transported in a hired taxi to the place of transaction where he was eventually arrested. He operated a trafficking network primarily dedicated to trading elephant tusks. In addition, he used his cocoa business as a cover to source elephant tusks from the region, including parts of the Republic of Congo.



3 major traffickers arrested with 710 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in May.

These were representing more than 2,300 killed pangolins! The ring activated a network of poachers across neighbouring countries including Congo and Central African Republic. They concealed the 12 sacks of scales in a carpenter's workshop in Yokadouma in the south east of the country. These traffickers are specialists who conceal their activities under the guise of trading non timber forest products.



4 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins and a skull in Congo in May.

One is the personal driver of a high local authority and used his service car to transport contraband with impunity, another is a Christian “prophet” priest. The organized traffickers are also involved in ivory trafficking.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Togo in May.

He is a part of a trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana. The trafficker is a dangerous figure within the trafficking ring. He is implicated in multiple illicit activities, including ivory trafficking, and is linked to a well known group of highly dangerous traffickers operating in the far North. The ring frequently smuggles ivory across the northern border between Togo and Burkina Faso. The trafficker transported the elephant tusks on the back of his motorcycle, carefully concealed in a grains bag. He proceeded to the place of transaction cautiously before his arrest.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks and 2 hippo teeth in Côte d'Ivoire in May

He belongs to a trafficking network, dealing in several wildlife contraband including elephant tusks and hippo teeth. The trafficker arrived at the place of transaction on a motorcycle, with four elephant tusks carefully concealed in a grain sack and firmly tied to the vehicle. He later returned to fetch additional tusks and was arrested red handed during an attempt at trading the illegal wildlife products.



2 traffickers arrested in Uganda with a fresh large leopard skin in May.

They are a part of a vast network across the Western part of the country, working in complicity with some park rangers to expand their criminal business. Their operations extend to five other districts activating poachers in the nature reserves.



4 traffickers were arrested in Guinea in May with thousands of seahorses weighing 41 kg, along with 26 kg of shark and ray fins, in a crack-down on a criminal network stretching over 5 countries.

This criminal network has been trafficking seahorses for the past four decades evolving into a vast cross-border network stretching across West Africa, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, and Senegal. They were trading with Chinese nationals who according to the traffickers, export the seahorses through organized channels of corruption and bribery, allowing massive quantities of protected marine species to leave the region illegally each year.

All seahorse species are protected under the CITES UN convention, yet they are under serious threat by the global illegal trade. A recent study shows the alarming scope of the illegal seahorse trade with 16 species facing the risk of extinction.

The dried seahorses are used in the “traditional medicine” business in China.



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	5	4	17	17	3	0	46
Congo	0	0	20	20	5	0	45
Togo	13	15	18	16	13	0	75
Senegal	21	17	31	31	5	0	105
Côte d'Ivoire	0	22	16	13	5	0	56
Uganda	5	22	13	16	6	0	62
Guinea	4	10	16	18	11	0	59
total per month	48	90	131	131	48	0	448

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	1	0	0	1	3	0	5
Congo	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Togo	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Uganda	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Guinea	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
total per month	1	0	1	1	15	0	18

Number of media pieces by month by country

	January	February	March	April	May	June	total by country
Cameroon	18	0	8	8	24	0	58
Congo	0	0	19	19	0	0	38
Togo	15	10	10	10	30	0	75
Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	26	13	0	0	39
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
total by month	33	10	63	50	54	0	210

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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