



# EAGLE

## The EAGLE Network 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Report 2017



- ✓ **218 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals arrested in 9 countries**
- ✓ **At least in 13 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation**
- ✓ **105 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 2,100 kg of ivory, which includes over 350 tusks and 40 carved pieces.**
- ✓ **One of the biggest ape traffickers in the African continent Abdourahamane Sidibe and his son Abdoul Salam Sidibé arrested in Guinea**
- ✓ **The 10<sup>th</sup> replication of the EAGLE Network in Ivory Coast kicked off by a crackdown on ivory and leopard skin traffickers in May**
- ✓ **8 great ape traffickers arrested in 2 countries and 6 live chimpanzees rescued**
- ✓ **22 pangolin traffickers arrested in 7 operations in 4 countries, 5 live pangolins rescued and more than 5,107 kg of their scales seized**
- ✓ **47 big cat traffickers arrested, 36 leopard skins, 3 lion skins, 1 cheetah skin and 9 leopard skulls seized**
- ✓ **11 reptile traffickers were arrested, 118 of threatened turtles and tortoises and 9 crocodiles were rescued and released to the wild, 95 crocodile skins, 817 python skins, 101 monitor lizard skins and other contraband seized**
- ✓ **4 bird traffickers arrested and 218 grey parrots rescued; 500 birds of other protected species seized, 300 of them already dead**
- ✓ **10 traffickers in hippo ivory arrested with 225 kg of hippo ivory**
- ✓ **96,5% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars for the first week**
- ✓ **143 traffickers prosecuted and condemned, 75 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time**
- ✓ **1,187 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions published in national media and 17 international media pieces published**

# 1. Summary

Tangible achievements were registered during 1st semester of 2017 within the EAGLE Network. 218 significant traffickers were arrested in 9 countries. 902 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 96,5% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least for one week. During the semester 143 traffickers were prosecuted and condemned, 75 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while other remain behind the bars, waiting for the trial.

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

Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 13 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented.

One of the biggest ape traffickers in the African continent was arrested in Guinea in February. Abdourahamane Sidibe is responsible for sending more than 130 chimps as well as gorillas, mandrills and even manatees to China and other countries. In July 2016, Abdourahamane Sidibe and his son Abdoul Salam were sentenced in absentia to five years in prison at the same time as Anoumane Doumbouya, the former corrupt CITES head. An international arrest warrant had been issued against them. The GALF team spent years investigating these criminal networks. Now, a year after his sentence was handed, they finally tracked him down and got him arrested. Abdoul Salam Sidibé, was arrested in a continued crackdown on the famous crime family 3 weeks later. Following their conviction, they were on the run abroad as they were aware they were the subject of an arrest warrant. The arrest of the 2 most important members of the Sidibé network is a victory in the fight against international wildlife trafficking and corruption.

A Colonel and 3 other traffickers were arrested and 4 chimps rescued in a high quality two back-to-back operations – a significant victory against impunity and corruption in Guinea in April. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura, an influential army high official, was involved in the wide spread wildlife trade in the country, he was in charge of the army's oil supply, the same lucrative and powerful post that was occupied by the former Dictator before he took power by force (Captain Dadis Camara). These operations have been prepared for a long time as they were extremely difficult logistically as well as challenging in aiming to break impunity and get a powerful colonel behind bars. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura ran an illegal zoo with many animals that kept dying and being replaced by new ones from the wild. He also kept more animals in his home 100km from the zoo. The whole action was covered by the international press by REUTERS crew and Guinean televisions. On the operation coordinated by Charlotte at the zoo the team rescued 4 adult and young chimpanzees, 9 crocodiles, 1 mongoose, 1 civette, 3 furrowed turtles, 2 trionyx turtles, 2 pelomedusa turtles, 2 crowned cranes. On the operation coordinated by Saidou at the Colonel's home: 1 serval, 1 baboon, crowned cranes and parrots. The traffickers are all behind bars including the Colonel. Most of the animals could be released back to the wild, and the four chimpanzees are getting professional care at Chimpanzee Conservation Center.

1.3 ton of ivory was seized and 3 traffickers arrested in a crackdown on a West African criminal syndicate in Uganda in February. Kromah Moazu, the main trafficker arrested is at the center of a vast ring of organized wildlife criminals, dealing in multi millions dollars illicit profits. He is connected to, at least, 4 other



# The EAGLE Network

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major criminal syndicates in Africa. He is also in charge of supplying rhino horns and ivory to the biggest wildlife criminal syndicates known worldwide - in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. He was arrested together with 2 Guinean nationals during a raid of the fortified house that was used to hide contraband stocks. An EAGLE Network long term investigation and cross-country collaboration with GALF team exposed the criminal ring specializing in large scale trafficking of both ivory as well as rhino horns.

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting the largest number of arrested traffickers. 105 ivory traffickers were arrested during 33 operations in 6 countries, 59 of them in only one country - Uganda. Over 350 tusks and 40 carved pieces of ivory, all together weighing more than 2,100 kg, were seized.

22 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 7 operations in 4 countries, 5 live pangolins were rescued and more than 5,107 kg of their scales seized.

LAGA was behind the biggest pangolin scales operation in the history of central Africa in January. 2 Chinese nationals arrested and 5.4 tons of pangolin scales seized, ready for illegal export to China. The scales were concealed in 300 boxes inside two solidly welded sealed containers. The arresting team had to call in a welder who spent several hours to cut open iron boxes welded into frames inside the containers. The shipment was declared as broken machines for export, they were ready for shipment and export formalities were well underway. Six months ago, Hong Kong officials seized over 4 tons of pangolin scales that were trafficked from Cameroon. This two seizures of 10 tons in total within a very short period demonstrate the magnitude of pangolin scale trafficking and the role played by some Chinese nationals in the country. These seizures represent between 10,000 - 20,000 killed pangolins.

1,187 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in eight countries and 17 international media pieces were published. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 37% in print media and internet, 15% in radio and 11% on TV.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, more than 2,099 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published on national media, and 17 international media articles covered EAGLE's work.

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# Content:

This report refers to activities from January till June 2017. This report includes: the activities in each area of our fight - Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and External Relations; progress in developing the Network and strategic overview of our operations and their impact on wildlife crime.

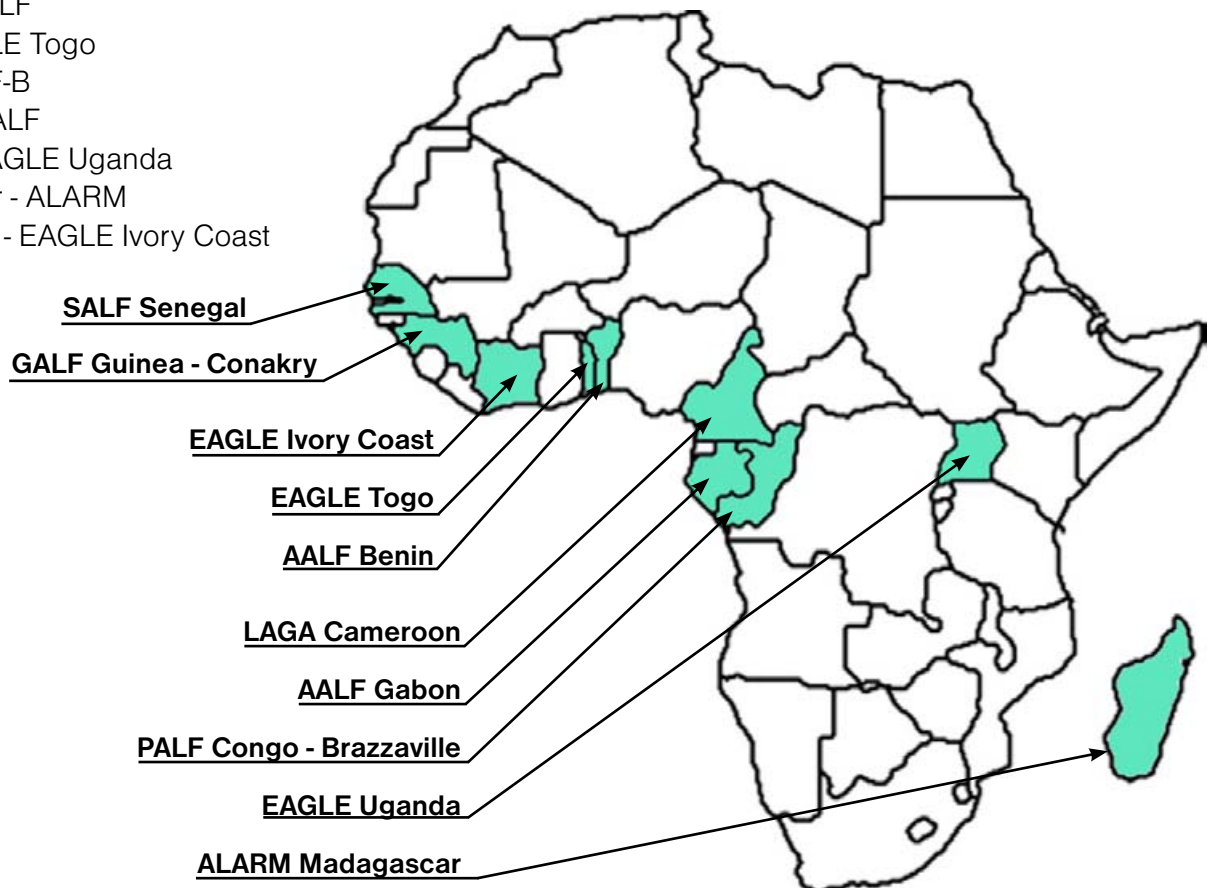
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## 2. Structure of the Network

EAGLE: Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement, is a network of members across Africa, who are replicating effectively a program and operational model to undertake wildlife law enforcement, based on the LAGA-Cameroon model, trailed, practiced and tested since 2003. The EAGLE Network currently operates in eight African countries and keeps expanding. The over-arching objective of the EAGLE Network is: Developing civic activism and collaborating with governments and civil society to improve the application of national and international environmental legislation, through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent against the illegal trade in wildlife, timber and related criminal activities, including corruption. The Central Coordination Unit is located in Nairobi.

### The EAGLE Network operates in these countries:

1. Cameroon - LAGA
2. The Republic of Congo - PALF
3. Gabon - AALF
4. Guinea - GALF
5. Togo - EAGLE Togo
6. Benin - AALF-B
7. Senegal - SALF
8. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda
9. Madagascar - ALARM
10. Ivory Coast - EAGLE Ivory Coast

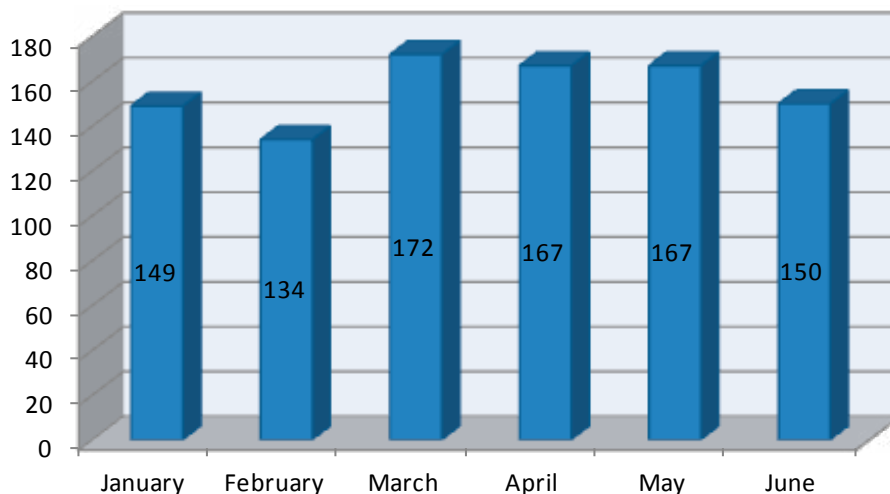


### 3. Investigations

939 different investigation missions were carried out in all 10 countries, leading to the arrest of 218 traffickers in the first semester of 2017.

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking but also on ape trafficking, illegal trade with big cat skins and organized illegal trade reptiles. More investigations were carried on illegal trade in pangolins, currently the most traded animal in the world.

**Numbers of investigations  
in January - June 2017**



*Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – June 2017*

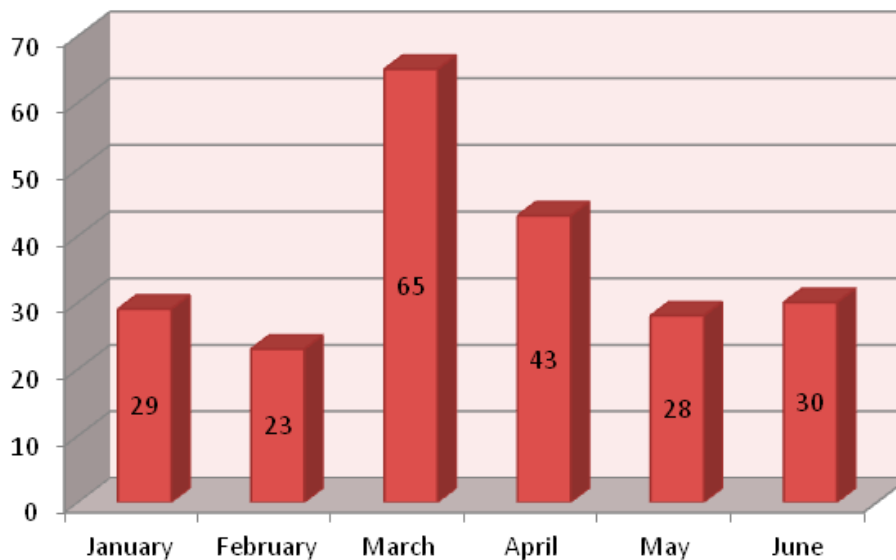
The higher number of investigation is a result of intense recruitment process, leading to strengthening the teams and investigation departments. In all countries new investigators were tested and they joined the teams. Intense recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find more good investigators.



## 4. Arrest Operations

218 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 89 operations in 9 countries of central, West and East Africa.

**Number of Arrested Traffickers  
in January - June 2017**



*Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - June 2017*

Almost a half of the arrested traffickers - 48 % were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts – 22%. Third in focus of arrests were pangolins with 10% of all the arrests, while reptile traffickers made 5%. Hippo ivory traffickers comprise also 5 % and great apes 4% of all arrested traffickers.

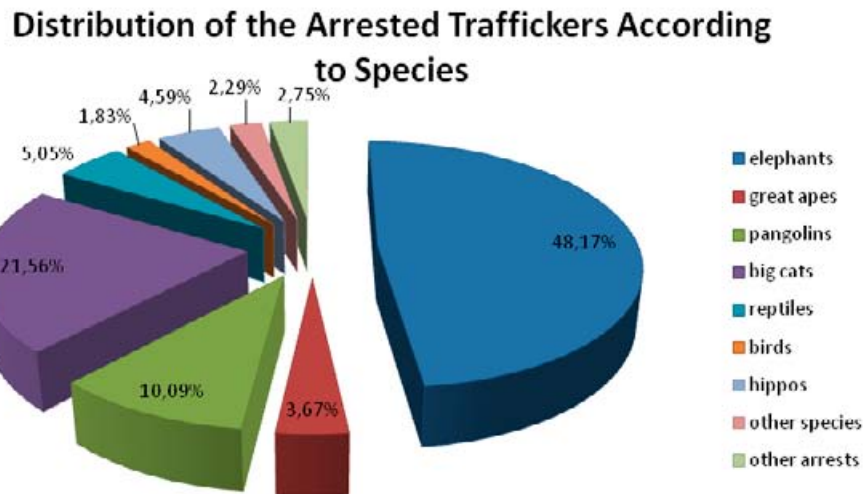


Fig. 3: Distribution of Arrested Traffickers According to the Species

## Corruption

Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 13 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented. Some examples are presented here:

- One of the biggest ape traffickers in the African continent was arrested in Guinea in February. Abdourahamane Sidibe is responsible for sending more than 130 chimps as well as gorillas, mandrills and even manatees to China and other countries. In July 2016, Abdourahamane Sidibe and his son Abdoul Salam were sentenced in absentia to five years in prison at the same time as Anoumane Doumbouya, the former corrupt CITES head. An international arrest warrant had been issued against them. The GALF team spent years investigating these criminal networks. Now, a year after his sentence was handed, they finally tracked him down and got him arrested. Abdoul Salam Sidibé, was arrested in a continued crackdown on the famous crime family 3 weeks later. Following their conviction, they were on the run abroad as they were aware they were the subject of an arrest warrant. The arrest of the 2 most important members of the Sidibé network is a victory in the fight against international wildlife trafficking and corruption.
- A Colonel and 3 other traffickers were arrested and 4 chimps rescued in a high quality two back-to-back operations – a significant victory against impunity and corruption in Guinea in April. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura, an influential army high official, was involved in the wide spread wildlife trade in the country, he was in charge of the army’s oil supply, the same lucrative and powerful post that was occupied by the former Dictator before he took power by force (Captain Dadis Camara). These operations have been



prepared for a long time as they were extremely difficult logistically as well as challenging in aiming to break impunity and get a powerful colonel behind bars. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura ran an illegal zoo with many animals that kept dying and being replaced by new ones from the wild. He also kept more animals in his home 100km from the zoo. WARA/GALF team carried out two simultaneous operations in the two locations which required thorough planning and logistics: employing 12 pickup cars, and 45 people for the operations including INTERPOL NCB, Special Anti-banditism brigade, wildlife officers. 12 team members of WARA/GALF were supported by Cecile Bloch, the coordinator of SALF project, who arrived from Dakar specifically to help with the confiscation of animals, and a vet from Chimpanzee Conservation Center sanctuary. The whole action was covered by the international press by REUTERS crew and Guinean televisions. On the operation coordinated by Charlotte at the zoo the team rescued 4 adult and young chimpanzees, 9 crocodiles, 1 mongoose, 1 civette, 3 furrowed turtles, 2 trionyx turtles, 2 pelomedusa turtles, 2 crowned cranes. On the operation coordinated by Saidou at the Colonel's home: 1 serval, 1 baboon, crowned cranes and parrots. The traffickers are all behind bars including the Colonel. Most of the animals could be released back to the wild, and the four chimpanzees are getting professional care at Chimpanzee Conservation Center.

- A Senior Presidential Adviser and two other traffickers were arrested with 183 kg of hippo teeth in a suburb of the capital city of Uganda in February. The contraband was concealed in the advisor's private car. A live Leopard Tortoise and several shells of tortoises were found in his home after the arrest. The presidency of Uganda sent a clear message after the arrest distancing itself from the illegal activity and condemning it. This has been a victory in the fight against corruption and complicity.
- Oumarou Faroukou, an infamous ivory trafficker arrested in Gabon in June, when trying to sell 2 tusks. He is a notorious repeat offender, already arrested several times, regularly supplying large amounts of ivory for international shipments. For the first time he was arrested on Christmas 2014 with 100 kg of ivory. The tusks were already marked proving they originated from the court in Makokou. Faroukou bought them directly from the the Dean of Judges and the Chief Registrar of the court, who also forced him for false confessions in order to protect themselves from prosecution. After that Faroukou was denounced several times by other arrested traffickers, last time on March 2017 when he was arrested and again released by the court. Feeling well protected, he continued his illegal activities until now. He is finally behind bars awaiting the trial. A taxi driver, cooperating with him, was arrested as well. Gabon June
- 2 Kenyan ivory traffickers arrested with 49 kg of ivory in Uganda in June, one of them a priest. The traffickers used a vehicle of a Ugandan government official donated by UNICEF to carry the contraband across the Kenyan border, as they traded ivory with a fellow priest in West Pokot County in Kenya. They were arrested when they transported the ivory in the car and were intercepted by the operation team. Complicity of government officials in this cross-border trafficking is still under investigation. Trafficking ivory between Kenya and Uganda is common in this part of the country.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 30 kg ivory in Uganda in March. They are all officers – the first of the Army, the second of Police and the third from the Prison Services. The “best of the best” from the 3 forces were violent during the arrest and one was even biting an arresting officer and wounded him with deep bloody cuts with his teeth.
- 3 traffickers arrested with a live pangolin and 3 skinned pangolins in Uganda in March. One of them was

pretending to be a military officer holding a fake military ID, uniforms and ranks. He admitted false pretence and will be charged for this while investigations continue on other crimes he may have committed while pretending to be a military officer, like robbing and harassing people in his region. The other trafficker is a retired military officer.

- 3 traffickers including a corrupt police officer arrested with one live pangolin and two skinned pangolins in Uganda in April. The police officer was known as a big boss in wildlife trade with international connections, involved in it for many years. The other trafficker is a medical officer. They have been trafficking pangolins as well as ivory, which they were trafficking from Kenya. They were arrested in act during an attempt to sell the pangolin and the skins near the capital city. The live pangolin was handed to UWA and taken to a sanctuary to recover.
- In Uganda in March 2 traffickers with a cheetah skin arrested and a corruption attempt combated as 2 more criminals, arrested for bribe in one operation. A circle of poachers supply wildlife trophies to them at their store whenever animals have been killed and they have many loyal buyers for the wild cat skins. They were arrested in a swift operation during an attempt to sell one cheetah and 2 civet skins. After they were taken to the police station, two brothers of the arrested trafficker arrived there and offered a bribe of about 300 USD to release them. They were arrested as well. There are less than 30 cheetahs left in Uganda, making this a very meaningful arrest operation.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 63 kg of ivory and a bribe attempt was combated in Uganda in February. This woman trafficker was followed by EAGLE Uganda team for several months, as she was involved in more trafficking cases. She brought the contraband to a hotel in a northern part of the country on a motorbike with her companion, and was arrested during an attempt to sell it. She has been trafficking ivory for more than 3 years. Her accomplice escaped during the night before the arrest and arrest warrant was issued against him. 2 relatives of the trafficker, both police officers, tried to bribe the police to get her freed.

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## Elephants

**Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting the largest number of arrested traffickers. 105 ivory traffickers were arrested during 33 operations in 6 countries, 59 of them in only one country - Uganda. Over 350 tusks and 40 carved pieces of ivory, all together weighing more than 2,100 kg, were seized. Some examples are presented here:**

- 1.3 ton of ivory seized and 3 traffickers arrested in a crackdown on a West African criminal syndicate in Uganda in February. Kromah Moazu, the main trafficker arrested is at the center of a vast ring of organized wildlife criminals, dealing in multi millions dollars illicit profits. He is connected to, at least, 4 other major criminal syndicates in Africa. He is also in charge of supplying rhino horns and ivory to the biggest wildlife criminal syndicates known worldwide - in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. He was arrested together with 2 Guinean nationals during a raid of the fortified house that was used to hide contraband stocks. An EAGLE Network long term investigation and cross-country collaboration with GALF team exposed the criminal ring specializing in large scale trafficking of both ivory as well as rhino horns.

- The 10<sup>th</sup> replication of the EAGLE Network in Ivory Coast kicked off by a crackdown on ivory and leopard skin traffickers in May. In 3 operations 3 traffickers were arrested with 400 pieces of carved ivory, 40 kg of raw ivory, 7 leopard skins and other contraband. In first two back to back operations 2 major traffickers were arrested, one with 6 tusks, weighting 40 kg and 7 leopard skins, the other one with 165 carved ivory pieces on the same day few hours later. Third trafficker tried to escape the arrest but was captured two days later in the house of his parents with 235 carved pieces of ivory, a crocodile skin and several python skins. All three of them have been involved in an international network, trafficking ivory across the borders of the sub-region, mainly between Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea. The operations were carried in Abidjan with the Ministry in charge of Wildlife and the UTC - the special unit against transnational organized crime. The WARA director led the operation, the Coordinator of GALF and a legal adviser joined her to support the operation.
- 6 ivory traffickers arrested with 14 kg of ivory and a ring of criminals crushed in Benin in March. 3 of them were arrested in a hotel during an attempt to sell 14 kg of ivory, belonging to two different owners. They arrived with 4 kg and when believed that the transaction could have happened, one of them returned to his village to bring 2 more tusks, weighting 10 kg. But they were caught by surprise by police forces and AALF-B team. After arriving at the police station they revealed a fourth trafficker, who was immediately arrested too after he arrived to a bar, where he was supposed to pick up his share for the transaction. The owner of 4 kg arrived to the town and was also arrested by police next day. He later denounced two more accomplices in the capital city, who were also waiting for their share. One of them was arrested two days later.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 12 kg of ivory and a long time operating ring of poaching and trafficking was crushed in Congo in January. Two of them were heads of groups of poachers and provided them with ammunition and weapons. They were carrying the 2 tusks from two different elephants in a suitcase in an attempt to conceal its transportation to a town for sale. In spite of an aggressive resistance, all three of them ended behind bars. One of the traffickers is a driver of a Chinese logging company.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks cut in 4 pieces in Gabon in January. He brought them to the capital city concealed in a back pack, from an area with large population of elephants. He was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell them. Another ivory trafficker arrested with 2 tusks in the northeast of the country. He concealed the contraband, weighting 10 kg, in a bag and brought it to the capital of the province where he attempted to sell it in a hotel near the airport. He was also carrying a saw, which he used to cut the tusks into 4 pieces. The investigation revealed that he was a repeat offender, already prosecuted for illegal possession of weapons.
- 6 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda in January, 2 of them with 58 pieces of ivory, weighing 21 kg. The traffickers admitted that the ivory was smuggled from DRC by another accomplice and then concealed underground. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks weighting 27 kg. The tusks came from a freshly massacred elephant. After the arrest they led the team to the place where the elephant was killed. It was at a farm belonging to Sam Childers, known as Machine Gun Preacher, who dedicates his life to help children in the war zone of Sudan. Sam accepted that his security guard was the one who shot the elephant and is cooperating with police on arresting the man, who was on the run. An ivory trafficker arrested with two tusks, weighing 10.5 kg. He was swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with no option of a fine.

- 4 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 6 tusks, one pair from a very young elephant, in Congo in February. The well-established ring has been trafficking ivory between Congo and other countries like Cameroon, but also Middle East, for years. It was crushed after the arrest of 2 traffickers, the head of the ring and his deputy, who was organizing poachers and providing them with ammunition. They were arrested in the act with the ivory concealed in a bag. They confirmed that 2 other traffickers, who were already monitored by police, were also important members of the ring, so these were arrested as well. All 4 of them were involved in trafficking ivory for years, gaining significant illicit revenue. The 3 elephants were massacred in Sangha – the region with the largest forest elephant population in Congo. An automatic assault rifle was also seized during the arrest. All 4 are behind bars awaiting trial.
- An ivory trafficker was arrested after being a fugitive for 5 years in Gabon in February. The Cameroonian trafficker was arrested in 2012 in the act of ivory trafficking but during the operation he shot the legal adviser of AALF in the leg and escaped. An arrest warrant was issued against him, but he escaped to Cameroon and disappeared. A complaint was therefore lodged against him for attempted manslaughter. Six months ago he again appeared in his village in Gabon.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks and a leopard skin in Gabon in February. The first of them was arrested in the act, when he attempted to sell the tusks. He revealed 2 more traffickers, who were arrested in their house, the leopard skin was seized from them. 3 more traffickers were arrested following this operation after being denounced by their accomplices.
- A Malian ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks weighing 10 kg in Gabon in February. It shows that the trafficking generates also the killing of very young elephants.
- In Congo in March 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 11 tusks, weighting 28 kg, representing 6 massacred elephants including 2 very young ones. The traffickers were hiding the ivory in a bag of cassava. Two of them are brothers, who have been trafficking ivory between DRC and Congo Brazzaville for years. To cover their criminal activity, one of them pretended to be a pastor, but he is the owner of a trading company, that buys ivory from various sources. The other one creates more cross-border connections with the help of some corrupted wildlife officers.
- 4 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon in March. First a trafficker was arrested in a house during an attempt to sell the ivory. He revealed 2 other traffickers; they were swiftly arrested the same day. The 4th trafficker was denounced a day later and arrested the same day.
- 24 ivory traffickers were arrested in Uganda in March in 8 separated operations. 4 traffickers arrested with 16kg of ivory and a serious security risk was dodged. One of the traffickers concealed in the sponge of the seat of his bike an AK47 assault rifle with a bullet already loaded in the chamber, ready to shoot. The trafficker, reportedly a former LRA rebel who was granted amnesty by the Government of the republic of Uganda, came to the deal ready to quickly use the semi-automatic weapon against anyone coming to arrest him. The head of the operation did not underestimate threats, endured police surveillance beforehand and put strong emphasis on swift and strong action. His rigor in operations may have saved lives. The traffickers were all found guilty and swiftly prosecuted. The owner of the assault rifle was sentenced to 2 years for possession of the ivory and 3 years for possession of the weapon, 5 years in jail in total. The three accomplices were each sentenced to 1.5 years in prison. 4 Karamojong rebels arrested with 5 tusks weighting 22.5 kg. They have been trafficking ivory together for long time, getting it from elephants mas-

sacred in Turkana in Kenya and trading ivory for maize. 4 ivory traffickers arrested with one tusk, weighing 15 kg. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 5 very fresh tusks, weighing 58 kg. They have been trafficking ivory from DRC to Uganda for years, but also getting it from poachers in Queen Elizabeth National Park. 2 traffickers arrested in the West of the country with 3 elephant tusks (14.5 kg) and 6 hippo teeth. They were concealing the contraband in their home and brought it to a restaurant where they intended to sell it. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 18 kg of ivory, one of them a South Sudan national, a student at Kampala International University, the other one a trader at Kampala market. 2 ivory traffickers arrested in the capital city with 2 pieces of ivory weighing 12 kg. They intended to sell the ivory in a vehicle, while driving around the town, but were swiftly arrested after they entered a car with the ivory concealed in a blanket and carried in a laundry basket.

- A catholic priest was arrested with 2 elephant tusks, a leopard skin and several teeth from a recently killed leopard in Cameroon in April. The clergy man has been trafficking ivory for over 5 years, running a network of poachers and providing money and supplies of essentials for poaching such as bullets and clothing and food to the poachers' families. He supplied some major Cameroonian cities with raw ivory, transporting the ivory without raising suspicion at checkpoints hiding behind the impression of high morality and was never bothered or his car searched. The arrest highlights that religious positions just as any other influential position can be used as a cover for the illegal wildlife trade.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 20kg of ivory in Congo in April. One of them had been a corrupt wildlife officer for a decade, trafficking ivory while being paid to protect elephants around the Odzala National Park. It seems his illegal activities have been known for years and yet he still kept his job and uniform all along. This laxity and tolerance for corruption and complicity lasting for a decade has to stop. The traffickers transported the elephant tusks of two massacred elephants concealed in a bag. They were prosecuted at the end of the month and sentenced both to 3 years in prison and to pay almost 8,000 USD on fines and damages.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 5 leopard skulls, 4 tusks and an elephant tail in Gabon in April. One of them was arrested during an attempt to sell the ivory tusks, and later leopard skulls were recovered during the house search. A weapon and an elephant tail were found later. He soon revealed a name of his accomplice, who was arrested the day after. Another Malian trafficker arrested in the centre of the country with 2 tusks, weighting about 3.5 kg.
- 15 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda in April. 5 traffickers arrested with 6 ivory pieces weighing 20 kg. They were arrested in act after they brought the ivory, concealed in two bags, to a store of dry beans. They had been regularly trafficking ivory from Uganda's national parks and also from South Sudan. 4 traffickers arrested the same day with 2 large tusks, weighting 70 kg. The team travelled 120 km to arrest the two Karamajong warriors and their accomplices. 2 traffickers arrested with 20 kg of ivory. They have been trafficking ivory from DRC and Uganda's national parks for several years. 4 traffickers arrested in Kampala with 8kg of ivory and 13kg of hippo teeth. They arrived with the contraband concealed in a bag to the capital city and were arrested in a sting operation on the way to a bank. They all are experienced traffickers, who had been running the illegal business for years.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with two pieces of carved ivory in Cameroon in May. He travelled from the South to the capital with the statues wrapped his underwear and placed in a bag in an attempt to conceal



them. He was trafficking ivory regularly, collecting it in the different parts of the country from his collaborators, who were carving statues and other objects from raw ivory. He was then bringing them to the big cities in the South and selling the carved objects there.

- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, 2 tusks and an elephant tail in Gabon in May. The first one, a notorious trafficker, arrived with 2 leopard skins to a small town and was swiftly arrested during an attempt to sell them. The same day during a house search two tusks and other contraband was seized and his accomplice, a taxi driver, arrested too.
- 7 ivory traffickers arrested in May in Uganda. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 35 kg of ivory. A muezzin and a watchman of a mosque were arrested in the act during an attempt to sell 3 tusks in the office of the mosque. On the same day 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks weighing 18.4 kg, when the team rushed to nearby town for more action. The traffickers have been smuggling ivory from Congo regularly, using a trade with car spare parts as a cover for their criminal activity. 2 traffickers arrested near the Congo border with 25kg of ivory in May. Also these traffickers were using the proximity of Congo forests and their elephants as a resource of contraband for their illegal activity for years.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in June. An ivory trafficker from Ivory Coast arrested with 3 tusks, when he was trying to sell the contraband in his apartment. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with one tusk and a leopard. The first one was arrested in the act when he was trying to sell the tusk, later he denounced his father, who was his partner in crime.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Togo near the Burkina Faso border with 4 tusks and skins of honey badgers, servals and other protected animals in June. The two were collaborating with corrupt government officials on the other side of the border. During the arrest they were violent and fierce but their resistance was put under control.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda with fake money, 34 kg ivory and two hippo teeth, showcasing the link between wildlife trafficking and others forms of crime. They have been regularly trafficking in different contraband between Kenya and Uganda. One of the traffickers is also an owner of a restaurant.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Uganda with 6 tusks and a pack of blank bills papers used to print counterfeit money in June. One of them is a priest, the other one is a lawyer. The priest was already prosecuted for ivory trafficking in 2012, but being sentenced only to pay a fine, he continued his criminal activity including dealing with fake money. Now both of them remain behind bars, awaiting trial. Investigations continues on a number of passports that were found in their possession.
- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and two crocodile skins, but released by a corrupt police officer the next morning in Guinea in June. The police officer was arrested a few days later and remained behind bars awaiting trial. An arrest warrant has been issued against the trafficker on run. The police officer has later been prosecuted and sentenced to 2 months in jail for complicity in the escape of the trafficker.



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## Apes

**8 great ape traffickers were arrested in 5 operations in 2 countries, 6 live chimpanzees were rescued in Cameroon and Guinea.**

- One of the biggest ape traffickers in the African continent was arrested in Guinea in February. Abdourahamane Sidibe is responsible for sending more than 130 chimps as well as gorillas, mandrills and even manatees to China and other countries. In July 2016, Abdourahamane Sidibe and his son Abdoul Salam were sentenced in absentia to five years in prison at the same time as Anoumane Doumbouya, the former corrupt CITES head. An international arrest warrant had been issued against them. The GALF team spent years investigating these criminal networks. Now, a year after his sentence was handed, they finally tracked him down and got him arrested. Abdoul Salam Sidibé, was arrested in a continued crackdown on the famous crime family 3 weeks later. Following their conviction, they were on the run abroad as they were aware they were the subject of an arrest warrant. The arrest of the 2 most important members of the Sidibé network is a victory in the fight against international wildlife trafficking and corruption.
- 2 ape traffickers arrested and a trafficking ring crushed as 2 adult chimps rescued in Cameroon in June. The traffickers were arrested at the entrance to the cargo area of the Douala International Airport with the two female chimps, crammed in two small cages. One of the traffickers had been in the business of primate trafficking for a long time. He had been trying to buy a male chimp to mate with the two females which he had been keeping for a long time waiting for the right moment to sell. The chimps were living for years in tiny cages, where they could not even stand up. They were immediately transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre for lifetime care.
- A Colonel and 3 other traffickers were arrested and 4 chimps rescued in a high quality two back-to-back operations – a significant victory against impunity and corruption. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura, an influential army high official, was involved in the wide spread wildlife trade in the country, he was in charge of the army's oil supply, the same lucrative and powerful post that was occupied by the former Dictator before he took power by force (Captain Dadis Camara). These operations have been prepared for a long time as they were extremely difficult logistically as well as challenging in aiming to break impunity and get a powerful colonel behind bars. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura ran an illegal zoo with many animals that kept dying and being replaced by new ones from the wild. He also kept more animals in his home 100km from the zoo. WARA/GALF team carried out two simultaneous operations in the two locations which required thorough planning and logistics: employing 12 pickup cars, and 45 people for the operations including INTERPOL NCB, Special Anti-banditism brigade, wildlife officers. 12 team members of WARA/GALF were supported by Cecile Bloch, the coordinator of SALF project, who arrived from Dakar specifically to help with the confiscation of animals, and a vet from Chimpanzee Conservation Center sanctuary. The whole action was covered by the international press by REUTERS crew and Guinean televisions. On the operation coordinated by Charlotte at the zoo the team rescued 4 adult and young chimpanzees, 9 crocodiles, 1 mongoose, 1 civette, 3 furrowed turtles, 2 trionyx turtles, 2 pelomedusa turtles, 2 crowned cranes. On the operation coordinated by Saidou at the Colonel's home: 1 serval, 1 baboon, crowned cranes and parrots. The traffickers are all behind bars including the Colonel. Most of the animals could be released back to the wild, and the four chimpanzees are getting professional care at Chimpanzee Conservation Center.

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## Pangolins

**22 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 7 operations in 4 countries, 5 live pangolins were rescued and more than 5,107 kg of their scales seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most trafficked animal in the world. Some examples are presented here:**

- LAGA was behind the biggest pangolin scales operation in the history of central Africa in January. 2 Chinese nationals arrested and 5.4 tons of pangolin scales seized, ready for illegal export to China. The scales were concealed in 300 boxes inside two solidly welded sealed containers. The arresting team had to call in a welder who spent several hours to cut open iron boxes welded into frames inside the containers. The shipment was declared as broken machines for export, they were ready for shipment and export formalities were well underway. Six months ago, Hong Kong officials seized over 4 tons of pangolin scales that were trafficked from Cameroon. This two seizures of 10 tons in total within a very short period demonstrate the magnitude of pangolin scale trafficking and the role played by some Chinese nationals in the country. These seizures represent between 10,000 - 20,000 killed pangolins.
- A trafficker arrested with 118 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in April. The owner of a store in the countryside has been regularly supplying pangolin scales to clients in Yaoundé and Douala. He would transport and sell bags of scales to the cities and returning to his base he would buy provisions and supplies for his store.
- A trafficker arrested with one leopard skin and 42 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in June. He resides in Gabon where he ran a criminal ring of smaller traffickers supplying the contraband and a network of Chinese and Nigerian with whom he traded. He partnered with another trafficker who used social media like Facebook to advertise and connect with clients all over the world.
- 3 traffickers arrested in the North-East part of Uganda with live Giant pangolin and 10 kg of pangolin scales. All of them have been trafficking for years. They resisted the arrest violently and they remain behind bars waiting for trial. The pangolin was handed to UWA officers for treatment and care.
- 2 traffickers arrested and two live pangolins rescued in Benin in April. One of them was using the internet to advertise the live animals for sale. He and his accomplice brought the white bellied pangolins to a hotel room, concealed in a box, and were swiftly arrested. They were trading live animals for years, originally supplying a private illegal zoo, which was closed, so they were looking for a new market.

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## Big Cats

**Skins and heads of big cats were in the focus of The EAGLE investigations and arrests. 47 big cat traffickers were arrested in 24 operations in 5 countries. 36 leopard skins, 3 lion skins, 1 cheetah skin, 9 leopard skulls were seized. Some examples are presented here:**

- 7 traffickers arrested and a ring of leopard skin traffickers crushed in Gabon in May. Two leopard skins

and an elephant tail were seized. The first trafficker, a security guard, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skin and he quickly denounced two others, who were arrested a day after. A fourth trafficker, a father to one of the traffickers, was arrested after he arrived to the police station and admitted that he was the owner of the elephant tail. The other 2 traffickers were arrested in their homes four days later when the criminals revealed the source of the contraband. A rifle with cartridges was found in the house of one of them. 3 more leopard skin traffickers arrested in Gabon the same month. First a trafficker was arrested with two leopard skins and leopard teeth, he denounced the two other traffickers, who were arrested the day after. A rifle was found in the house of one of them.

- 7 leopard skin traffickers arrested in Gabon in June. First 3 were arrested in the act with 2 leopard skins, 3 leopard skulls and teeth. The third skin was seized when a fourth member of the ring, a driver, has been arrested. They denounced and led to the arrests of three other traffickers, who were supplying the ring with leopard skins and other contraband, one of them a local village chief.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Gabon in January. Two of them arrived to the town, where they attempted to sell the skins, but were arrested in the act instead. Later they revealed two more accomplices, who were also arrested the same evening.
- A trafficker arrested with 22 skins and 30 more parts of skins of other protected animals including a leopard, clamping down on trafficking between 4 countries in Guinea in January. The woman, who was arrested in the south of the country, has been trafficking wildlife products since 2010 in the area near and across the borders with Liberia, Sierra Leone and other countries. The leopard skin was trafficked from Mali.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Uganda in January with a lion's skin and 12kg of pangolin scales. One of them is a police constable while the other one is an owner of a company. The company owner has been involved in trafficking including ivory for a long time. The lion skin was trafficked from northern Kenya.
- 4 leopard skin traffickers arrested in Gabon in March. 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, the first one, a Nigerian, was arrested when he tried to sell the skins, and the police took him by surprise at the moment, when he was spreading the skins on the floor of a hotel room to have them ready to present them to a customer. During interrogations he revealed identity of the owner of the skins. He was then arrested at a market, where he wanted to pick up money for the transaction, another Nigerian trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins in the capital city. Another trafficker arrested with 2 leopard skins in Libreville. He was concealing the skins in a hotel room, where he intended to sell them.
- 3 traffickers arrested with a lion skin, two leopard skins and two crocodile skins in Cameroon in April. Using a car, one of the traffickers transported the contraband concealed in a bag of maize for hundreds of kilometres and joined an accomplice shortly before the arrest. He had supporting documents proving he was travelling with maize with him. The traffickers have been supplying wildlife contraband to clients based in Yaoundé and Douala for years, one of them is also suspected of gold trafficking.
- A trafficker arrested with a leopard skin and a golden cat skin Gabon in April. He was arrested in the act when he was trying to sell the skin in a secure location.
- 2 traffickers, one of dual citizenship – Guinea and Nigeria - arrested with a lion head skin and two leopard skins in Guinea in April. These arrested are connected to a ring of 7 traffickers arrested in 2012. The

Nigerian Embassy tried to intervene to release the trafficker with Nigerian citizenship, but both of them remain behind bars.

- In Congo in May 3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins, 2 elephant tails and a skull and hand of a baby gorilla among other contraband. One of the traffickers uses his position of a healer, using animal body parts in his witchcraft, to cover trafficking in wildlife contraband. He repeatedly arranged the transactions between the other two traffickers and other buyers. The two arrived to his place with the second skin, concealed in a bag, and they all were arrested in the act.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins. The first one was arrested when he tried to sell them and he denounced another trafficker, who was arrested a day later. A rifle and ammunition was found in his house. They are behind bars awaiting trial. Congo June
- A trafficker arrested with a lion skin and jaws in Uganda in June. He was arrested in his store where he used to trade this kind of contraband for a long time. EAGLE-Uganda team hit a very disastrous illegal trade, as in the 1980s there were just about 150,000 lions left in the wild. Today, the population declined in about 90% and estimated at below 18,000. Uganda is home to less than only 400 remaining lions. Any arrest of lion skin traffickers is of great importance.

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## Reptiles

**Organized large scale trade in totally protected pythons, turtles, tortoises and other reptiles has been targeted in EAGLE investigations. 11 reptile traffickers were arrested in 5 operations in 4 countries. 118 of threatened turtles and tortoises and 9 crocodiles were rescued and released to the wild, 95 crocodile skins, 817 python skins, 101 monitor lizard skins and other contraband was seized.**

- 4 traffickers arrested in SALF team's crackdown on reptile skin trade in March. 558 skins were seized in total in a professional transformation center during the biggest crocodile operation known. 91 crocodile skins, 354 Python skins and 101 Monitor Lizard skins, but also 5 pieces of a Springbok, an antelope living in South Africa, was among the contraband. Two of the 4 arrested are from Mali. The operation started by arresting 3 traffickers with most of the contraband. Another man caused a riot, and he was arrested for violence. One of the traffickers used the chaos to run away only to voluntarily come to the police station later with more contraband. The operation then continued by a search in the illegal transformation centre, where more contraband was seized. This is a strong action against a professional illegal trade that we were not able to hit in a meaningful way till now.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 783 python skins in Togo in April. This quantity represents a weekly trade for the head of the ring, who has been trading skins for years. This is the biggest quantity of snake skins we ever caught exposing a new magnitude of trade in snake skins never imagined possible. The skins, weighing 219 kg, were brought in 3 big new suitcases to the selling point. It seems all the skins are trafficked through Nigeria.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 66 live baby sea turtles and 3 large sea turtle shells in the first operation in Togo

in March after restarting the project with a new team. The traffickers were arrested in the act while attempting to sell the turtles. The baby turtles have been released to the ocean.

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## Birds

**4 bird traffickers were arrested in 2 countries and 218 grey parrots were rescued. 500 birds of other protected species were seized, 300 of them already dead.**

- 2 parrot traffickers, one of them Ghanaian, arrested with 218 African Grey Parrots, which they intended to export illegally from Cameroon in March. This large network of parrot traffickers operates in several West and Central Africa and connects it with Asia and Europe. The illegal trade in African Grey Parrots has always been a well organized international crime with high complicity. The UN CITES convention recently listed this bird in the Appendix I, giving it the highest level of protection from intense illegal trade endangering its population. The parrots are recovering now so they could be released back to the wild.
- 2 Spanish traffickers arrested at the airport with 500 concealed birds in Senegal in January. SALF was asked for assistance immediately after the arrest. The two professional traffickers concealed 500 birds of 14 protected species in their luggage in a sophisticated modus operandi trying to smuggle them to Spain. More than 300 birds were already dead from suffocation at the time of arrest. Cecile and the SALF team fought many attempts to liberate the two, as they are imprisoned while on trial.

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## Hippopotamuses

**10 traffickers in hippo ivory were arrested in 5 operations Uganda, about 225 kg of hippo ivory were seized.**

10 traffickers with hippo ivory were arrested in Uganda. In January 2 traffickers were arrested in the capital city with 68 hippo teeth. The first trafficker was arrested at a gas station during an attempt to sell the contraband. A few hours later his accomplice, an insurance agent, was arrested when he went to pick up the money for transaction. The same month a trafficker was arrested with 24 hippo teeth in the north of the country. He had been collaborating with poachers along the Nile River while working as a ferry clerk. He brought the contraband concealed in a plastic sac to the nearby town with an intention to sell it.

A Senior Presidential Adviser and two other traffickers were arrested with 183 kg of hippo teeth in a suburb of the capital city of Uganda in February. The contraband was concealed in the advisor's private car. A live Leopard Tortoise and several shells of tortoises were found in his home after the arrest.

4 traffickers arrested in Kampala with 8kg of ivory and 13kg of hippo teeth in April. They arrived with the contraband concealed in a bag to the capital city and were arrested in a sting operation on the way to a bank.

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## Other protected species

**5 traffickers in other protected species were arrested in 3 operations in 3 countries. Seized contraband include 3 zebra skins, 5 sprinbok skins, an aardwark skin, and hundreds of antelope skins and horns.**

- 4 traffickers arrested in Uganda in March with 147 pairs of horns and 11 skins of Bushbuck and Duiker, both fully protected species in Uganda. They were concealing the contraband in several bags, carried them on a motorbike to a hotel, where they intended to sell them. A leopard skin trafficker connected to this group was later arrested when trying to sell the skin.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Kampala with 4.5 kg of pangolin scales and a skin of an aardvark in Uganda in February. It's the first time that we saw this animal in the illegal trade, even the traffickers were not sure what kind of skin it was, but it did not prevent them from illegal trafficking it. They arrived to the capital city with the contraband concealed in a cement bag and tried to sell it at a gas station, but they were arrested in the act. They have been trafficking pangolin scales for many years.
- 2 traffickers arrested with several pieces of carved ivory, 3 zebra skins and a leopard skin in Cameroon in January. One of the traffickers was selling art objects in front of a popular bank in the capital city, while the second trafficker is a sculptor who carves ivory among other products. The zebra skins were trafficked all the way from Tanzania, Cameroon is not a zebra range state and has no populations of zebras existing in the wild. This is the first ever arrest operation involving zebra species in the country. This operation, like several recent others in West Africa, demonstrates the wildlife trafficking connections between East Africa to Central and West Africa.

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## Other arrests

**8 criminals were arrested for different crimes, as corruption, forgery, violence etc.**



## 5. Legal Follow up

The legal departments in the 10 countries followed up the court cases of the 218 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 96,5% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars for the first week.

During the semester 145 traffickers were prosecuted and condemned, 77 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while other remain behind the bars, waiting for the trial.

- A record breaking 8 court judgments were passed against 13 wildlife traffickers in Cameroon in January, convicting them to prison sentences of varying degree of severity with the maximum penalty of 3 years given to two ape traffickers. They were ordered to pay civil damages and fines over \$274,000 during the court rulings.
- Another good deterring sentence was reached when 2 traffickers, arrested in September with a leopard skin, were prosecuted and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment, in Uganda in January.
- 3 reptile traffickers, arrested in November 2016 with 9 Radiated Tortoises were condemned and sentenced to 10 months in prison and to pay over 3,000 USD in fine each in Madagascar in February.
- The Cameroonian court handling the case against two Chinese nationals arrested with 5.4 tons of pangolin scales in January sentenced them to 3 months imprisonment with payment of fines and damages of close to \$430 000 in March. The appeal opposing the low sentence was immediately issued.
- 5 ivory traffickers, arrested in Gabon different operations between November 2016 and February 2017, were all sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, the highest possible sentence in Gabon, and to pay between 1,300 and 3,500 USD on fines and damages in March.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 16kg of ivory in Uganda in March and a serious security risk was dodged. One of the traffickers concealed in the sponge of the seat of his bike an AK47 assault rifle with a bullet already loaded in the chamber, ready to shoot. The trafficker, reportedly a former LRA rebel who was granted amnesty by the Government of the republic of Uganda, came to the deal ready to quickly use the semi-automatic weapon against anyone coming to arrest him. They were all found guilty and swiftly prosecuted. The owner of the assault rifle was sentenced to 2 years for possession of the ivory and 3 years for possession of the weapon, 5 years in jail in total. The three accomplices were each sentenced to 1.5 years in prison.
- Besides 5 years in jail for the ivory trafficker arrested this month, several more good deterring sentences were reached in Uganda courts in March. 2 traffickers, arrested in December 2016 with 136 pieces of hippo ivory and 2 elephant tusks were sentenced 3 years behind bars. 2 ivory traffickers arrested in March this year with 3 tusks and 6 hippo teeth were convinced and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. 2 traffickers arrested in October 2016 with 13 kg of ivory and 17 kg of pangolin scales were sentenced to 6 month in jail.
- 8 court judgments were passed convicting 13 wildlife traffickers in Cameroon in April.

- 3 traffickers arrested with 20kg of ivory in Congo in April. One of them had been a corrupt wildlife officer for a decade, trafficking ivory while being paid to protect elephants around the Odzala National Park. The 2 traffickers including the ex-ecoguard were prosecuted at the end of the month and sentenced both to 3 years in prison and to pay almost 8,000 USD on fines and damages.
- A good deterring sentence was achieved in the case of 4 traffickers, arrested in February with 31 kg of ivory in Congo. One of the heads of the ring was sentenced to 5 years in jail in April.
- A deterring sentence was achieved in Benin in April when 4 of the 6 ivory traffickers arrested in March with 14 kg of ivory were sentenced to 1 year in prison and to jointly pay about 26,500 USD – the damages and fines.
- 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in November 2016 with 17 kg of ivory, were both sentenced to 3 years in jail with no option of fine in Uganda in April.
- A trafficker, arrested in March with 58 kg of ivory was prosecuted and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment with no option of fine in Uganda in May.
- 7 leopard skin traffickers, arrested at the end of May in Gabon with 2 leopard skins and an elephant tail, were all convicted and sentenced to 6 months in jail. 4 of them were ordered to pay about 8,500 USD on damages, 3 others over 10,000 USD in fines and damages.
- An ivory trafficker, arrested in April with 20 kg of ivory, was prosecuted and sentenced to 1.5 years in jail in Uganda in June.
- The legal team of EAGLE Ivory Coast followed up the case of 2 ape traffickers, arrested with a chimp baby in December 2016 after the BBC initiated investigation. The traffickers were sentenced to 6 months imprisonment in June. Unfortunately the baby chimp did not survive the traumatizing experience and died in Abidjan zoo, where he was kept. The tragedy occurred after many professionals strongly advised against keeping the baby chimp in the Abidjan zoo that lacks expertise and experience in caring for apes.

## 6. Media

Using the media to inform about the law being actively enforced provides education on the change in enforcement and creates deterrent by raising public awareness of the increased enforcement of wildlife laws and the risks and penalties for wildlife criminals.

1,187 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in eight countries and 17 international media pieces were published. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 37% in print media and internet, 15% in radio and 11% on TV.

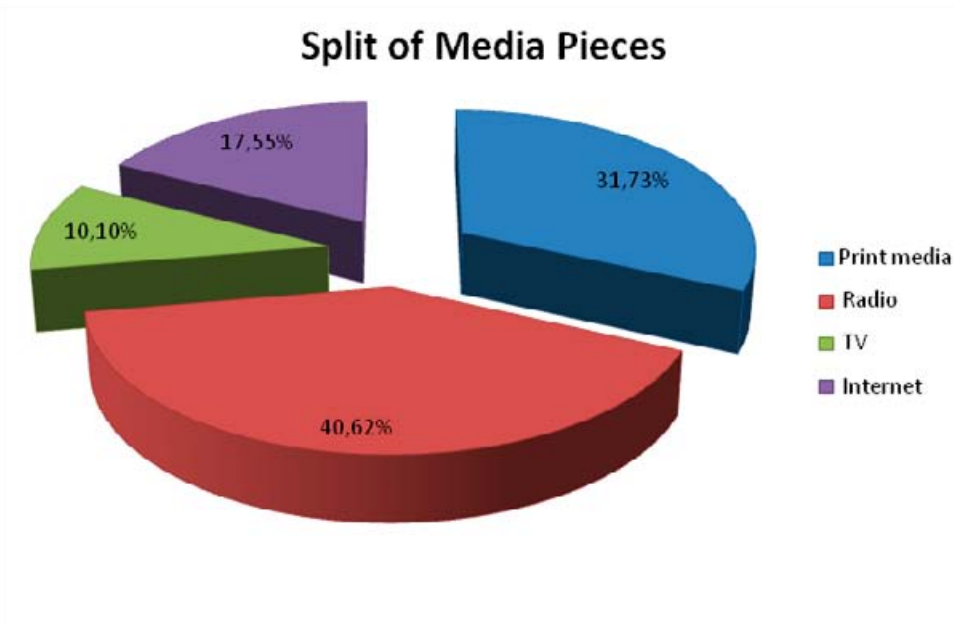


Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces

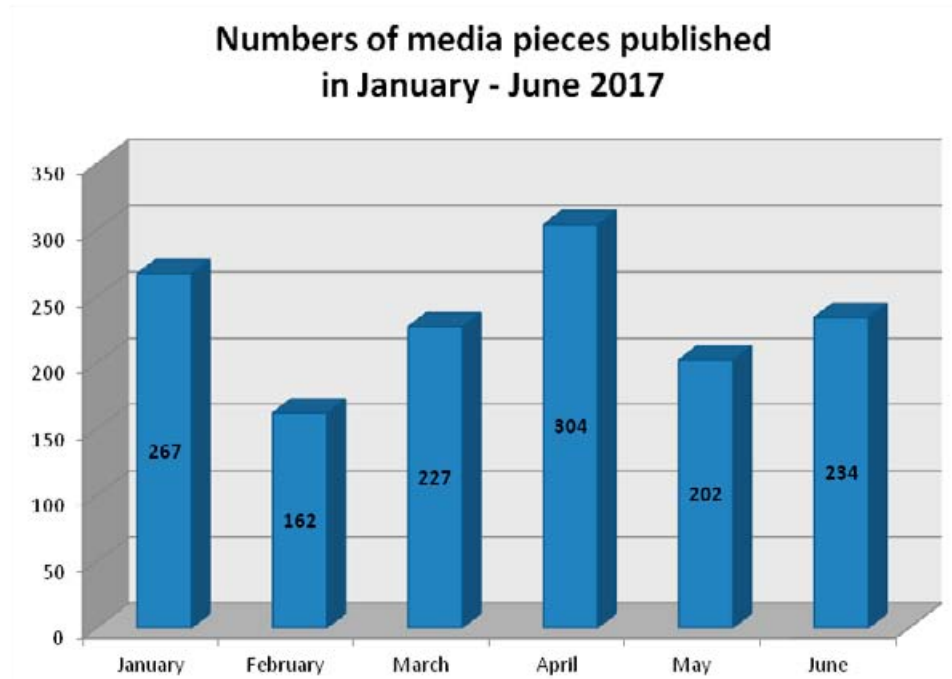


Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January – June 2017

## International media

**17 media pieces were published in the international press. Mainly focused on the EAGLE Network, its members and their method of work. Some examples are below.**

- Great apes and greater challenges: Trafficking in Cameroon – article on Mongabay:

[Link to Mongabay](#)

- In January, US Fish and Wildlife Service highlighted a selection of success stories from 2016 from EAGLE Network. They published them on Facebook, Twitter and their website.

[Link to USFWS](#)

- An article in le Point about the two arrests in Guinea and Uganda – the biggest ape trafficker and the crackdown on a West African ivory trafficking criminal syndicate, dealing in multi millions dollars illicit profits with connection to other major criminal syndicates in Africa and supplying rhino horns and ivory to the biggest wildlife criminal syndicates known worldwide (in French):

[Link to Le Point](#)

- Article in Reuters on arrest of Abdoul Salam Sidibé “Guinea arrests chimpanzee trafficker as part of crackdown”:

[Link to Reuters](#)

- International Business Times reporting on the arrest of Sidibé: “Guinea arrests wildlife trafficker who smuggled endangered chimpanzees for 30 years”

[Link to International Business Times](#)

- BBC article on arrest of Sidibé: “Arrests ‘big step’ in chimp trade battle”:

[Link to BBC](#)

- BBC video about Nemley Junior, a chimpanzee rescued in Ivory Coast, includes an interview of Saidou, GALF coordinator, about the fight against wildlife crime:

[Link to BBC](#)

- In Guinea, an army colonel was arrested for illegal trade in endangered animals, an arrest that resulted in the release of these animals – le Journal Afrique sur TV5Monde.

[Link to the TV5Monde](#)

- Guinea colonel accused of trafficking as police seize his ‘private zoos’ – Article in Reuters:

[Link to Reuters](#)

- “Six suspected wildlife traffickers arrested in Guinea since February” – Article in Sciences Avenir (in French)

[Link to Sciences Avenir](#)

- Guinea colonel accused of trafficking as police seize his “private zoos” – article in Citizen Digital, Kenya

[Link to Citizen Digital](#)

- The first EAGLE-Ivory Coast arrest appeared in several international media. Jeune Afrique was among them:

[Link to Jeune Afrique](#)

- RFI Afrique brings an article about the arrest in Ivory coast:

[Link to RFI Afrique](#)

- The reportage of French TV France24 on the arrest in Ivory Coast:

[Link to the reportage](#)

- The reportage on RTI1 on the arrest in Ivory Coast:

[Link to the reportage](#)

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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 coordinators of the project held many meetings with government authorities within and outside of their countries, meetings with traditional rulers, cooperated with local NGOs, participated in conferences and conducted several trainings.

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### Cameroon

- The Deputy Director attended the occasion that was organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in February to burn three tons of pangolin scales seized during wildlife law enforcement operations in the country and prior to the event he held a brief meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to discuss pangolin matters and the scales destruction. He was accompanied to the scales destruction ceremony by the Head of Investigations Department.
- The Director arrived to the country for a week-long working visit in March and accompanied by the Deputy Director they held meetings with the US Ambassador, the Canadian High Commissioner and the Counselor at the German Embassy. Discussions focused on the evolution and challenges of wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon and Africa and what solutions could be applied to over them.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with several US diplomats to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process and some challenges related to it in April.
- in May The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife to discuss the renewal of the memorandum between LAGA and the Ministry, legal representation in cases and collaboration in general. They also met with the Director of Wildlife to discuss on evolution of wildlife operations in the field. They carried out a visit to one of the Inspectors General at the Ministry.
- The Director visited the country in June and held several meetings including meetings with the US Ambassador and the British High Commissioner.



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## Congo

- The coordinator met with the Minister of the Environment to discuss ongoing cases of wildlife trafficking and to progress in the process of the signature of the agreement between PALF and the Ministry in January.
- The Coordinator held several meetings with the officials of the Ministry of environment, the Legal Advisor, the Wildlife Advisor and the Director of Forest and Protected Areas to continue preparation of the Memorandum of Understanding, which should be ready for signature next month. Congo February
- The coordinator met with the EU Ambassador and the Attaché in charge of international cooperation of the Sector of the Good Governance to discuss PALF activities and results in March.
- The Coordinator held series of meetings with the technical team of the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development to continue the discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding between PALF and the Ministry during the semester.

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## Gabon

- The coordinator met with the President of the Court to discuss a preparation of a workshop on wildlife crime for the magistrates of the courts of the first instance in March. The Conservation Justice team participated at a three day working session with the CAF Coordinator to prepare an analysis of a case of a complaint against the Regional Director of Wildlife Authority, concerning contraband, which disappeared after being seized in March.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Technical Director of ANPN and the General Director of Water and Forests to continue cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Forests and ANPN in March.
- The coordinator met with General Secretary and Deputy of the General Director of the Ministry Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss the Conservation Justice projects and trainings in May by CJ for 100 forest officers in April.
- The coordinator met with the representatives of the AFD (French Development Agency) to discuss the projects they fund in the area of environment, who arrived after meeting with the chief of project of AFD for Agriculture, Rural Development and Biodiversity, based in Paris in April.
- The coordinator met with several officials from US Embassy and US FWS attaché based in Gabon, to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and AALF project in May. He also met with the Environment and Economic Officer of the EU Delegation in Gabon and with the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) representative, who arrived from Brussels within the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

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## Guinea

- The coordinator held a meeting with the British Ambassador to discuss the support of law enforcement in the case of chimpanzee traffickers in Ivory Coast in January. He also met with the Political Advisor of the US Ambassador to discuss the support to the wildlife law enforcement and GALF activities.
- The coordinator met with the British Ambassador and the Political Advisers of US and EU Embassies to discuss their support for the arrest operation of the Colonel in April.
- He also met with the Minister of Environment and with other governmental authorities to prepare the arrest operation and closure of an illegal zoo in April including the National Director of Water and Forests, the Focal Point for Wildlife Crime and the inspector of INTERPOL, the Focal Point of CITES, the State Counsel and the Judge of the court in Kindia and the Head of the Prefecture Department of Water and Forests in Kindia.
- GALF hosted a meeting of the USAID and WABICC regional offices in May. The participants including the Political Adviser of the US Embassy in Guinea, the WABICC National Coordinator, the West Africa Sub-Regional Coordinator on behalf of WABICC and the USAID Regional Environmental Affairs Officer discussed wildlife trafficking in Guinea, reviewed the progress being made and evaluated the obstacles slowing down the fight.

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## Togo

- Starting a new project in Togo required an intense external relations, a lot of meetings with diplomats and authorities were held.
- in January a meeting was held with the Minister of Environment and Forest Resources and his collaborators (Secretary General, Director of Forest Inspection, Director of Forest Resources and Director of Protected Areas) to present him the phase II of the project and prospects for the collaboration agreement. Another meeting was held with The Secretary General of the Minister of Justice and The Secretary General of the Minister of Security and Civil Protection to present them the new project and the prospects for collaboration.
- Series of meetings with ambassadors were organized, including the EU Ambassador, French and German Ambassadors to inform them about the development of the project and to discuss cooperation in January.
- Series of meetings were also held with other authorities, including the Prosecutor of the Republic and the Judge of the 7th Office of the Court of Lomé, the Director of the Central Office for the Control of Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Money Laundering (OCRTIDB) and the Head of the Mixed Unit for Controlling Containers (UMCC), the Director of the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police and the Chief INTERPOL, the Director of Investigation and Information Services (SRI) of the Gendarmerie and others.
- In February a meeting was held with the Director of Cabinet of the General Director of the Gendarmerie,

where Ofir Drori, the Replication Assistant and the Coordination Assistant presented the new phase of the project and discussed the prospects for collaboration.

- Ofir Drori, the Coordination Assistant and Replication Assistant met with the US Ambassador to update him on the new phases of the project and to discuss support in the fight against wildlife crime in February. They also met with the Highest Authority of the Fight Against Corruption and the Assimilated Infractions (HALCIA) to discuss the development of the project and the collaboration.
- The coordinator and deputy coordinator met with the Regional Security Officer of the US Embassy to discuss collaboration during investigations and after arrests in March.
- Several meetings were held with representatives of USFWS on mission in Togo, mainly focused on collaboration on investigations in March.
- The Coordinator and the Deputy Coordinator met with the Director, the Deputy Director, the Chief of UMCC and the Chief of Operations of OCRTIDB to ensure all necessary procedures would be followed in the case of the arrest of snake skins traffickers in April.

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## Senegal

- The Coordinator Assistant met with the US Ambassador to discuss cooperation in the law enforcement and support to SALF project in January.
- in February the Coordinator Assistant met with the President of the Environment Unit of the National Assembly and forged a partnership with it. They agreed on a training course next month for 12 MPs and 12 locally elected representatives, focusing on wildlife crime and corruption and getting stronger penalties handed by the judiciary for wildlife cases.
- A meeting was held with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy to establish the 2017 training program for the defense and security forces and to continue wildlife enforcement operations with the CAAT at Dakar International Airport in February.
- The Coordinator trained Gendarmerie officers about wildlife crime on a seminar organized by French Embassy, its Interior Security Service and the Department of Water and Forest in March.
- SALF organized a training course for 12 Members of Parliament and 12 locally elected representatives, raising awareness on wildlife crime and corruption with a goal to get stronger penalties in March. The Members of Parliament and elected officials signed a letter with a commitment to support the SALF project, which will be handed over to the Ministers of Justice, the Environment and the Interior. Parliament also committed to call for zero tolerance and an immediate increase of the sentences to wildlife crime to be communicated to magistrates.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with several ambassadors in April. With the support of the British Ambassador she met with the Ambassadors of Spain, South Africa and Austria to discuss with them a cooperation and support in the fight against wildlife crime.

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## Benin

- The US Ambassador and three of her collaborators visited the office of Nature Tropical and discussed with the AALF-B team the possibilities of cooperation and support to the fight against wildlife crime in February.
- The coordinator met with the Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministers of the Interior and Security to discuss signing of a letter of recommendation to support activities of AALF-Benin in March.
- The coordinator participated in a workshop on securing West African Park and on coordinating the fight against wildlife crime in the protected areas of Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso in April.
- The Coordinator, the Assistant Coordinator and legal advisers met with representatives of International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to discuss possible cooperation in the fight against wildlife crime in May.
- The coordinator met with the representatives of the African Parks network to discuss their new actions to protect Pendjari National Park and collaboration with Nature Tropicale in June.
- Participation in Capacity Building Workshop on Law Enforcement Against Poaching organized by The W-Arly-Pendjari Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Project (RBT-WAP) in Pendjari National Park in June.

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## Uganda

- Dr. Daphne from USFWS visited the team for 5 days in January and together with the coordinator met with the head of the new specialized wildlife court at Buganda Road Court and officials from the ministry of wildlife Tourism and Antiquities. The discussions focused on improvement of arrest and prosecution of wildlife crime in Uganda. Dr. Daphne and the team also conducted a field trip to Murchison National Park. The visit enabled the new team members to observe in the wild the key species threatened by the illegal trade the team is set to combat.
- In March NRCN team received an award of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities for outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in Uganda in the year 2017. The award was handed over to Vincent Opyene by General Moses Ali, the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda on the International Wildlife Day at the Uganda Museum Kampala.
- Multi-agency investigation team including EAGLE Uganda legal advisors, INTERPOL, Uganda Wildlife Authority and Uganda Police Force was established to continue investigation of the case of 1.3 tons of ivory in March. The team met with the Director of Public Prosecution, who recognized the contribution of EAGLE Uganda to prosecution of wildlife cases. He committed to work closely with the team. He also helped to sign and release the file in respect of the case against the presidential advisor arrested for hippo ivory trafficking, which had taken long without clearance.
- NRCN team met with USFWS service military attaché and Uganda Wildlife Authority to discuss USFWS support of the investigation of wildlife crime in Uganda in April.

- The coordinator presented the work of EAGLE Uganda at the 26th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria, at a side event organised by the Environment Investigation Agency in May.
- The coordinator had a joint meeting with USFWS attaché to East Africa to discuss the further investigation and prosecution of Koromah case and to strengthen the cooperation on this case in June.

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## Madagascar

- The coordinator met with the Minister of Public Security in February. During the joint meeting with the Executive Director of Transparency International – Madagascar Initiative and General Director of BIANCO they discussed the joint initiative by BIANCO, TIIM and AVG/ALARM requesting the four ministers concerned (Environment, Justice, Gendarmerie and Police) to launch similar action plans to fight against forest resources trafficking. As a result the agreement between the four ministers was signed.
- The coordinator met with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry in February. She committed to strengthen collaboration with ALARM in all of the 22 regions of Madagascar and to the fight against all forms of trafficking of protected species throughout the national territory.

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## Ivory Coast

- Opening a new replication required a lot of meetings with international community, government officials and authorities.
- The WARA Director held series of meetings with authorities in May to introduce them the newly established replication and to discuss cooperation, including the First Adviser of British Embassy, the Director of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Environment and UTC officials.
- The EAGLE-Togo Deputy Coordinator and LAGA Deputy Director met with the Director of Wildlife at the Ministry of Water and Forests, and the LAGA Deputy Director held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and the Director of Legal Affairs at the same ministry, to work on the basis of a collaborative platform in wildlife law enforcement in June.

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

The 10<sup>th</sup> replication of the EAGLE Network in Ivory Coast kicked off by a crackdown on ivory and leopard skin traffickers in May.

New project started in Togo after TALFF 's transition to EAGLE-Togo, new team was built and first results were brought in during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

SALF team underwent a reconstruction, new team is being built and Cecile Bloch was appointed the Coordinator.

The ALARM project has been temporarily suspended for organizational reasons.

The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued the support to the network members. The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 8 missions to the countries to support newly started replications, to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries. The EAGLE members significantly raised standards of reporting, Internal Control Systems and adherence of procedures.

8 Coordinators, Deputy coordinators or heads of department carried support missions in other countries, mostly in Ivory Coast and Togo, to help develop the new replications and carry the first arrest operations.

The EAGLE Network exchange program to raise the professional level of our projects brought 5 activists for training in other countries.

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### January

- January was the kick-off for EAGLE - Togo. Ofir Drori, the founding director, arrived to restart the Togo replication. Rens Ilgen, the replication assistant officer, started a long term mission to support building the project. The Head of Investigations from Gabon travelled to Togo to support investigations and to train investigators.
- Luc Mathot conducted a mission to Congo to support PALF in external relations and development of the project.
- Charlotte Houpline, the WARA director, conducted a mission to Ivory Coast to support preparation of the



new replication and to support the government in the case of the ape trafficking arrests.

- Cecile Bloch, the Coordination Assistant of SALF, joined the Gabon team for training as a part of her preparation for being appointed the Coordinator of SALF.
- A legal adviser travelled to Ivory Coast to provide a legal support in the case of Traoré family, one of the largest ape trafficking networks in Africa. The members of the gang were arrested in December.

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## February

- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Madagascar to support a recruitment of new team members, to select a new Coordination Assistant and test the new selected team members.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director of EAGLE, conducted another mission to support the development of the new project and to help with external relations. Rens Ilgen continued his long term mission as the Replication Assistant Officer.
- Ofir Drori trained 38 magistrates from Gabon, Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin and Ivory Coast on fighting against corruption at a workshop organized by the US Department of Justice and WA-BICC in Togo.
- Cecile Bloch, the Coordination Assistant of SALF joined the Cameroon team for training as a part of her preparation for being appointed the coordinator of SALF.

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## March

- Ofir Drori arrived to Cameroon for a week-long working visit to hold meetings with the US Ambassador, the Canadian High Commissioner and the Counselor at the German Embassy. Discussions focused on the evolution and challenges of wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon and Africa and what solutions could be applied to over them.
- Ofir Drori travelled to Holland to participate in Future for Nature 2017, a ceremony of giving Future for Nature Awards to new winners. Ofir won this award in 2011 and since then actively promoted the idea of creating a community of the award winners. This vision was fulfilled this year, when most of the winners participated at the event and they drafted and signed a manifesto laying the ground work for a young generation to contribute to a paradigm shift shaking up the old ineffective conservation machine. The Guest of Honor, His Majesty the King of Holland was present at the event and addressed the forum, and briefly discussed with Ofir and the other winners.
- Cecile Bloch was appointed the Coordinator of SALF project after receiving training in Cameroon and Gabon.

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## April

- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Ivory Coast to support recruitment new team members for a newly prepared replication, testing and training them.
- A legal adviser from Guinea arrived to Cameroon for training under the EAGLE Network Exchange Programme.

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## May

- Ofir Drori, the founding director, conducted a mission to Uganda to support the project by making the management more effective, to improve the interrogation capacity of legal advisers, to train investigators in using technique and bring general improvement in following procedures.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation officer arrived to Ivory Coast to support recruitment process and building the new team, to test and train new team members. 2 legal advisers and 1 investigator started their test period. He also arrived to Senegal to support the recruitment process, to test and train newly selected activists. Senegal May
- The head of Legal Department from Gabon graduated from one year long Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program at the University of California, Davis, in the area of Natural Resources, Environmental Policy and Climate Change.
- The Coordinator, the head of investigations and a legal adviser from Guinea travelled to Ivory Coast to support the first operation of the new EAGLE replication.
- The Deputy Coordinator from Togo arrived to Ivory Coast to manage the project, test new candidates and continue the recruitment process.

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## June

- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Guinea to give training support for the coordinator on management as well as team recruitment and evaluations.
- Mensah Akomedi, the Deputy Coordinator of EAGLE Togo, arrived to Nairobi where he was trained by the Founding Director and CCU in leadership and management according to a list of points to improve before nominated a coordinator.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, trained at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana wildlife officers, police and gendarmes, magistrates and custom, including some were high ranking officials. There were 34 participants - Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, Zambia, Kenya and Botswana.



# The EAGLE Network

## 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Report 2017

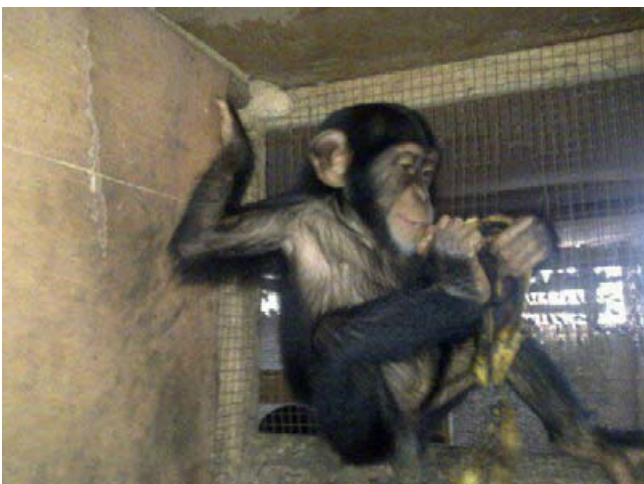
ILEA is a US Government prestigious training program for enforcers from all over Africa. EAGLE has been asked to develop training on ethics and anti-corruption for ILEA's Wildlife Crime Course, which is being conducted for 7 years now.

- The Deputy Director of LAGA, Cameroon, travelled to Ivory Coast to continue training and recruitment of new staff for the project. After his return the Interim Director also travelled there to continue the same mission.
- The Deputy Coordinator of Togo travelled to Nairobi where he was trained by The Founding Director and CCU in leadership and management according to a list of points to improve before nominated a coordinator.

## 9. Photos of the selected cases

### Sidibe Case

One of the biggest ape traffickers in the African continent was arrested in Guinea in February. Abdourahamane Sidibe is responsible for sending more than 130 chimps as well as gorillas, mandrills and even manatees to China and other countries. In July 2016, Abdourahamane Sidibe and his son Abdoul Salam were sentenced in absentia to five years in prison at the same time as Anoumane Doumbouya, the former corrupt CITES head. An international arrest warrant had been issued against them. The GALF team spent years investigating these criminal networks. Now, a year after his sentence was handed, they finally tracked him down and got him arrested. Abdoul Salam Sidibé, was arrested in a continued crackdown on the famous crime family 3 weeks later. Following their conviction, they were on the run abroad as they were aware they



were the subject of an arrest warrant. The arrest of the 2 most important members of the Sidibé network is a victory in the fight against international wildlife trafficking and corruption.



### Bangoura Case

A Colonel and 3 other traffickers were arrested and 4 chimps rescued in a high quality two back-to-back operations – a significant victory against impunity and corruption in Guinea in April. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura, an influential army high official, was involved in the wide spread wildlife trade in the country, he was in charge of the army’s oil supply, the same lucrative and powerful post that was occupied by the former Dictator before he took power by force (Captain Dadis Camara). These operations have been prepared for a long time as they were extremely difficult logistically as well as challenging in aiming to break impunity and get a powerful colonel behind bars. Colonel Ibrahima Bangoura ran an illegal zoo with many animals that kept dying and being replaced by new ones from the wild. He also kept more animals in his home 100km from

the zoo. WARA/GALF team carried out two simultaneous operations in the two locations which required thorough planning and logistics: employing 12 pickup cars, and 45 people for the operations including INTERPOL NCB, Special Anti-banditism brigade, wildlife officers. 12 team members of WARA/GALF were supported by Cecile Bloch, the coordinator of SALF project, who arrived from Dakar specifically to help with the confiscation of animals, and a vet from Chimpanzee Conservation Center sanctuary. The whole action was covered by the international press by REUTERS crew and Guinean televisions. On the operation coordinated by Charlotte at the zoo the team rescued 4 adult and young chimpanzees, 9 crocodiles, 1 mongoose, 1 civette, 3 furrowed turtles, 2 trionyx turtles, 2 pelomedusa turtles, 2 crowned cranes. On the operation coordinated by Saidou at the Colonel’s home: 1 serval, 1 baboon, crowned cranes and parrots. The traffickers are all behind bars including the Colonel. Most of the animals could be released back to the wild, and the four chimpanzees are getting professional care at Chimpanzee Conservation Center.



### 5.4 tons of pangolin scales

LAGA was behind the biggest pangolin scales operation in the history of central Africa in January. 2 Chinese nationals arrested and 5.4 tons of pangolin scales seized, ready for illegal export to China. The scales were concealed in 300 boxes inside two solidly welded sealed containers. The arresting team had to call in a welder who spent several hours to cut open iron boxes welded into frames inside the containers. The shipment was declared as broken machines for export, they were ready for shipment and export formalities were well underway. Six months ago, Hong Kong officials seized over 4 tons of pangolin scales that were trafficked from Cameroon. This two seizures of 10 tons in total within a very short period demonstrate the magnitude of pangolin scale trafficking and the role played by some Chinese nationals in the country. These seizures represent between 10,000 - 20,000 killed pangolins.



### 1.3 ton of ivory

1.3 ton of ivory seized and 3 traffickers arrested in a crackdown on a West African criminal syndicate in Uganda in February. Kromah Moazu, the main trafficker arrested is at the center of a vast ring of organized wildlife criminals, dealing in multi millions dollars illicit profits. He is connected to, at least, 4 other major criminal syndicates in Africa. He is also in charge of supplying rhino horns and ivory to the biggest wildlife criminal syndicates known worldwide



- in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. He was arrested together with 2 Guinean nationals during a raid of the fortified house that was used to hide contraband stocks. An EAGLE Network long term investigation and cross-country collaboration with GALF team exposed the criminal ring specializing in large scale trafficking of both ivory as well as rhino horns.



## 2 fake money cases

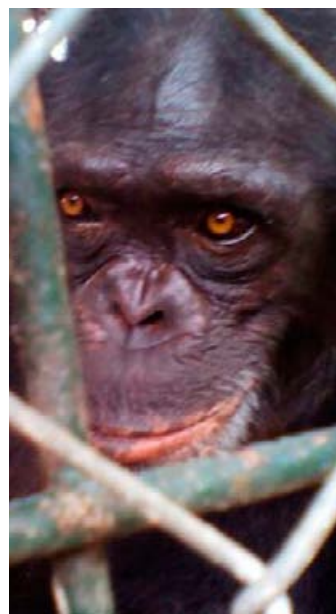
3 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda with fake money, 34 kg ivory and two hippo teeth, showcasing the link between wildlife trafficking and others forms of crime. They have been regularly trafficking in different contraband between Kenya and Uganda. One of the traffickers is also an owner of a restaurant.

2 traffickers arrested in Uganda with 6 tusks and a pack of blank bills papers used to print counterfeit money in June. One of them is a priest, the other one is a lawyer. The priest was already prosecuted for ivory



trafficking in 2012, but being sentenced only to pay a fine, he continued his criminal activity including dealing with fake money. Now both of them remain behind bars, awaiting trial. Investigations continues on a number of passports that were found in their possession.

## 2 adult chimps rescued



2 ape traffickers arrested and a trafficking ring crushed as 2 adult chimps rescued in Cameroon in June. The traffickers were arrested at the entrance to the cargo area of the Douala International Airport with the two female chimps, crammed in two small cages. One of the traffickers had been in the business of primate trafficking for a long time. He had been trying to buy a male chimp to mate with the two females which he had been keeping for a long time waiting for the right moment to sell. The chimps were living for years in tiny cages, where they could not even stand up. They were immediately transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre for lifetime care.

### The Crocodile skins operation in Senegal

4 traffickers arrested in SALF team's crackdown on reptile skin trade in March. 558 skins were seized in total in a professional transformation center during the biggest crocodile operation known. 91 crocodile skins, 354 Python skins and 101 Monitor Lizard skins, but also 5 pieces of a Springbok, an antelope living in South Africa, was among the contraband. Two of the 4 arrested are from Mali. The operation started by arresting 3 traffickers with most of the contraband. Another man caused a riot, and he was arrested for violence. One of the traffickers used the chaos to run away only to voluntarily come to the police station later with more contraband. The operation then continued by a search in the illegal transformation centre, where more contraband was seized. This is a strong action against a professional illegal trade that we were not able to hit in a meaningful way till now.



### Python skins operation in Togo

3 traffickers arrested with 783 python skins in Togo in April. This quantity represents a weekly trade for the head of the ring, who has been trading skins for years. This is the biggest quantity of snake skins we ever caught exposing a new magnitude of trade in snake skins never imagined possible. The skins, weighing 219 kg, were brought in 3 big new suitcases to the selling point. It seems all the skins are trafficked through Nigeria.





### Ivory and leopard skins operation Ivory Coast

The 10th replication of the EAGLE Network in Ivory Coast kicked off by a crackdown on ivory and leopard skin traffickers in May. In 3 operations 3 traffickers were arrested with 400 pieces of carved ivory, 40 kg of raw ivory, 7 leopard skins and other contraband. In first two back to back operations 2 major traffickers were arrested, one with 6 tusks, weighting 40 kg and 7 leopard skins, the other one with 165 carved ivory pieces on the same day few hours later. Third trafficker tried to escape the arrest but was captured two days later in the house of his parents with 235 carved pieces of ivory, a crocodile skin and several python skins. All three of them have been involved in an international network, trafficking ivory across the borders of the sub-region, mainly between Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea. The operations were carried in Abidjan with the Ministry in charge of Wildlife and the UTC - the special unit against transnational organized crime. The WARA director led the operation, the Coordinator of GALF and a legal adviser joined her to support the operation.



### 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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10. Ivory Coast - [charlotte@eagle-enforcement.org](mailto:charlotte@eagle-enforcement.org)

# Annex - summary of the results

### Number of investigations per month per country

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	29	13	20	22	14	12	<b>110</b>
Congo	3	4	4	4	8	6	<b>29</b>
Gabon	29	29	24	26	10	14	<b>132</b>
Guinea	6	3	36	27	41	15	<b>128</b>
Togo	28	31	45	49	37	18	<b>208</b>
Senegal	37	20	4	0	0	1	<b>62</b>
Benin	5	14	18	12	26	43	<b>118</b>
Uganda	10	17	18	23	22	20	<b>110</b>
Madagascar	2	3	3	4	0	0	<b>12</b>
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	9	21	<b>30</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>939</b>

### Number of arrests per month per country

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	4	0	2	5	1	3	<b>15</b>
Congo	3	4	2	3	3	2	<b>17</b>
Gabon	6	6	11	5	11	13	<b>52</b>
Guinea	1	1	2	6	0	2	<b>12</b>
Togo	0	0	2	3	0	2	<b>7</b>
Senegal	2	0	4	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Benin	2	0	6	3	0	0	<b>11</b>
Uganda	11	12	36	18	10	8	<b>95</b>
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>218</b>

### Number of media pieces by month by country

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total by country</i>
Cameroon	23	21	22	56	20	19	<b>161</b>
Congo	20	13	15	39	17	31	<b>135</b>
Gabon	34	16	13	5	12	0	<b>80</b>
Guinea	33	34	35	44	1	37	<b>184</b>
Togo	0	2	0	22	37	44	<b>105</b>
Senegal	23	0	56	0	0	0	<b>79</b>
Benin	57	28	24	57	39	35	<b>240</b>
Uganda	23	0	17	81	45	37	<b>203</b>
Madagascar	27	24	45	0	0	0	<b>96</b>
Ivory Coast	27	24	0	0	31	31	<b>113</b>
<b>total by month</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1396</b>

### Number of prosecutions by month by country

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>total</i>
<b>Cameroon</b>	13	0	4	1	0	0	18
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	7	0	2	1	0	0	10
<b>Congo</b>	2	0	3	4	0	0	9
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Gabon</b>	0	0	11	5	9	9	34
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	11	3	7	9	30
<b>Guinea</b>	4	0	0	1	0	3	8
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Togo</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Senegal</b>	0	2	3	0	0	0	5
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Benin</b>	3	1	0	5	0	2	11
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	1	1	0	5	0	0	7
<b>Uganda</b>	4	9	22	17	2	1	55
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	3	1	9	3	2	1	19
<b>Madagascar</b>	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>total</b>	26	15	43	33	11	17	145
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	11	5	24	15	9	13	75