



# The EAGLE Network

## Annual Report 2015

### Highlights

- ✓ 286 wildlife and forest criminals arrested in 8 countries
- ✓ 99 ivory traffickers arrested with a total of 700 kg of ivory, which includes 143 tusks and 384 pieces of carved ivory
- ✓ 34 great ape traffickers arrested with 3 live chimp babies, 68 chimpanzee skulls, 26 gorilla skulls and other body parts
- ✓ The former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea arrested; he was involved in large scale international wildlife trafficking and corruption for more than 10 years
- ✓ A large international trader involved in the illegal trade in CITES species such as chimpanzees, manatees and other primates, arrested in Guinea.
- ✓ A significant international bird trafficker arrested in Senegal with 111 Critically Endangered Timneth Parrots and thousands of other endangered birds.
- ✓ 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon with 206 kg of ivory - the largest amount in Gabon's history
- ✓ The 8<sup>th</sup> EAGLE project was launched in Uganda as EAGLE expands to East Africa
- ✓ EAGLE's Central Coordination Unit (CCU) was established and started fulfilling its role in supporting and supervising the country projects, improving performance and getting daily insight into the network
- ✓ The arrests of international traffickers showcased how the CCU can take EAGLE to a new era of strategically designed investigations
- ✓ EAGLE website and social media launched

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# 1. Summary

**Tangible achievements were registered during 2015 within the EAGLE Network. 286 significant traffickers and other wildlife criminals were arrested in more than 128 successful operations. 1300 investigation missions were carried out in 8 countries of the network to identify the criminals. 75% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison for at least one week.**

Traffickers in ivory and other elephant products represent the vast majority of arrests, while traffickers of reptiles take second place and ape traffickers the third. The EAGLE Network also extended its remit to illegal logging, with a large number of arrested criminals.

99 ivory traffickers were arrested with a total of 1.5 tonnes of ivory, which includes more than 100 tusks and 263 pieces of carved ivory. In December, 2 traffickers were arrested in Gabon with 206 kg of ivory – the largest seizure in Gabon's history. A spectacular crackdown operation led to an arrest of 7 significant traffickers orchestrating an international illegal business in elephant hair bracelets.

34 great ape skulls traffickers were arrested during which a total of 68 chimpanzee skulls, 26 gorilla skulls and more body parts were seized. This represents just a snapshot of their ongoing regular specialized trade.

Several significant international traffickers were arrested and illegal networks, reaching as far afield as East Asia, USA and Europe were destroyed.

In August the former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea was arrested, following an investigation of a criminal ring involved in large scale international wildlife trafficking and corruption. The arrest of another significant international trafficker involved in the illegal trade in CITES species preceded and enabled this key arrest. Together with another three successful operations in November, during which 4 international ape traffickers were arrested and 2 chimp babies seized, this presents an enormous contribution to destroying the illegal market with live apes in Western Africa. The arrests were welcomed by the international community and Guinean authorities.

A significant international trafficker in live animals was arrested in Senegal after a one year investigation into international wildlife syndicates. He had been involved in an extensive network involving Europe, USA and Asia with well-developed and sophisticated methods of trafficking and falsification of CITES permits and other documents. An impressive amount of more than 3,000 protected birds were discovered in his facilities, which included threatened species.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, more than 1200 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published on national media, and 29 articles were published in international media. The new EAGLE Network website was launched at [www.eagle-enforcement.org](http://www.eagle-enforcement.org), together with a Facebook profile and a Twitter account.

The 8<sup>th</sup> EAGLE project was launched in Uganda in February and started contributing to the Network's results. The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network was staffed and started functioning in March / April. It started fulfilling its role in ensuring better quality control, supervising and supporting country projects, thus improving performance and getting daily insight into the network.

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## Content:

This report refers to activities from January till December 2015. During this period the Network witnessed major managerial improvement and significant structural growth. 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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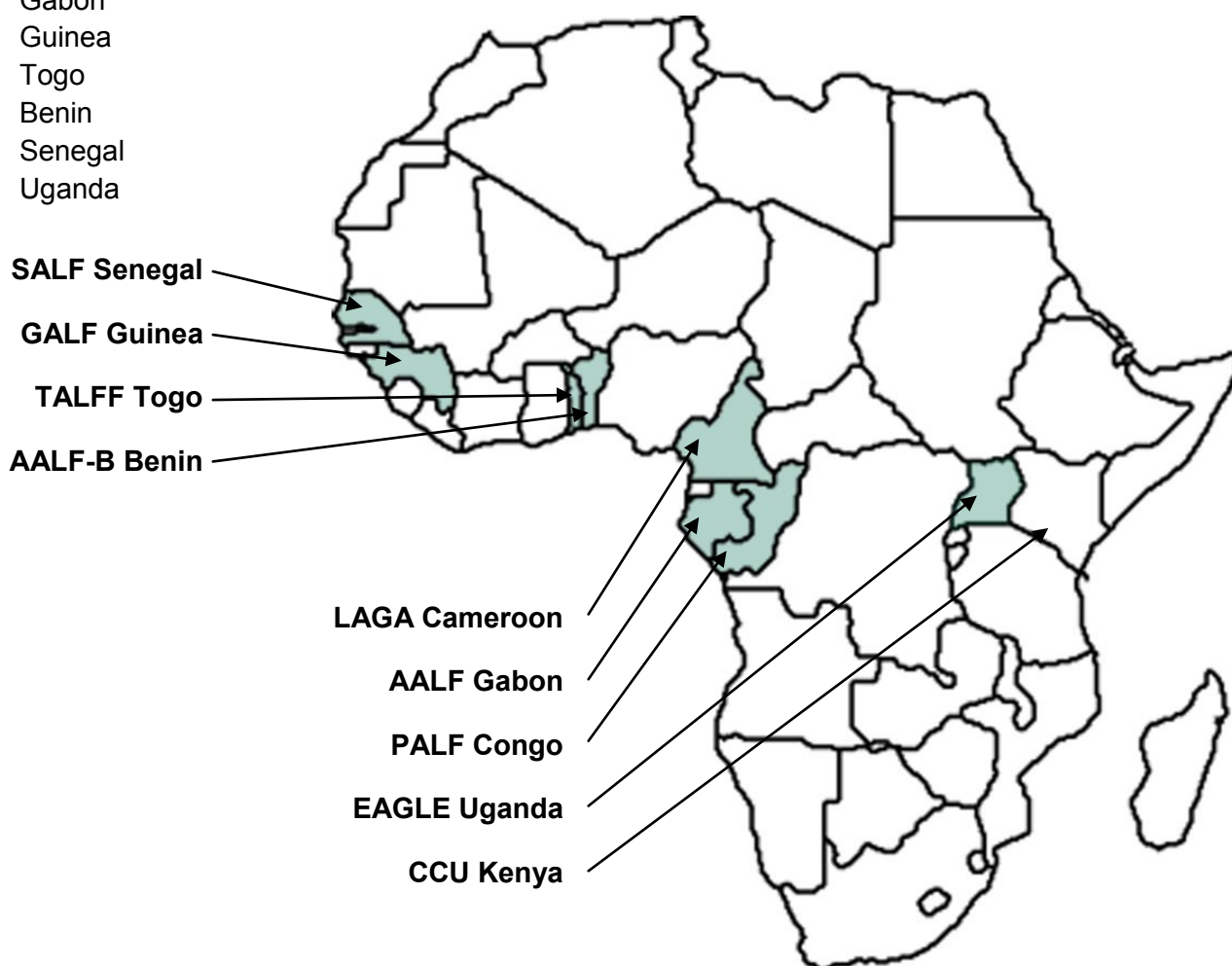
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## 2. Structure of the Network

EAGLE: Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement, is a network of members across Africa, who are replicating an effective 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 overarching 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
2. The Republic of Congo
3. Gabon
4. Guinea
5. Togo
6. Benin
7. Senegal
8. Uganda



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### 3. Investigations

**More than 1300 different investigation missions were carried out in all 8 countries, leading to the arrest of 286 traffickers in 2015.**

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking but also on ape trafficking and organized illegal trade in reptiles. More investigations were carried out on illegal trade in pangolins, currently the most traded mammal in the world.

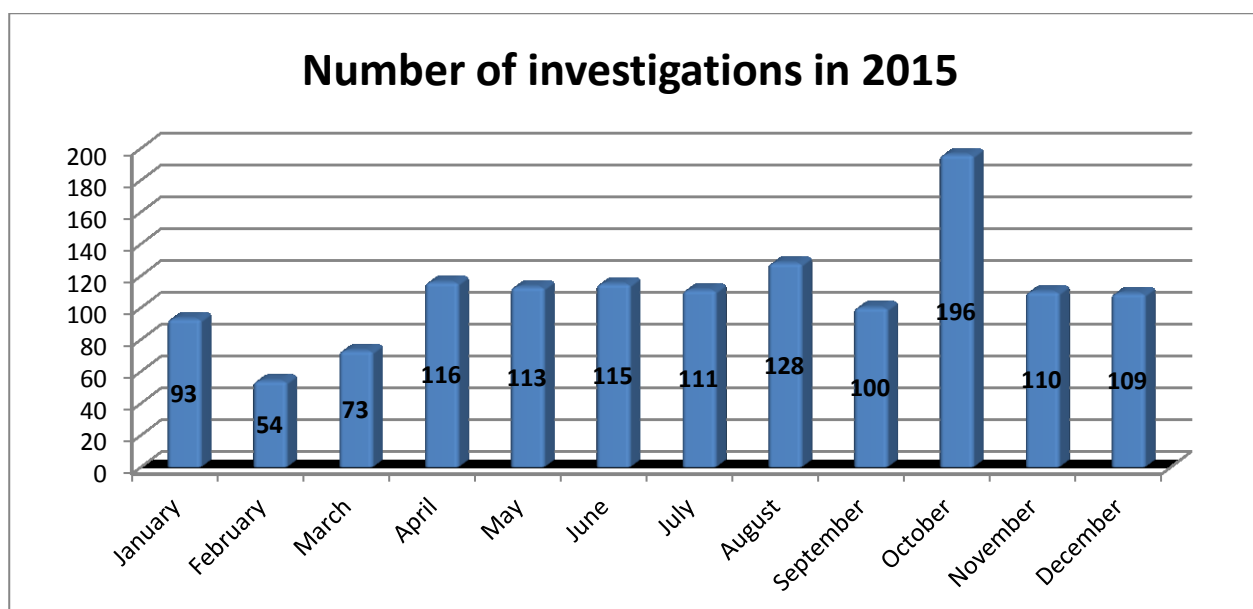
The growth in the number of successful investigations and operations in the second quarter of the year reflects the newly launched Uganda project and an intensified investigatory efforts across the Network in order to improve outputs for the following months. The newly established Central Coordination Unit supported member projects in this effort. The number of successful investigations remained level with the exception of October, when increased effort stabilized the decreasing trend in the previous month.

Due to the work of the interim Investigation Support Officer, the EAGLE Network developed its capacity in international and internet investigations, leading to several arrests of high ranking criminals and international traffickers.

The Dumbouya, Thierno and Aziz arrests showcased how the CCU can take EAGLE to a new era of strategically designed investigations and cover creation, trust building among high value targets, interrogation preparation, real time assistance to interrogation and response verification, and analysis of email correspondence and prosecutorial assistance.

Among the achievements of the Investigation Support Officer so far:

- Designing the back office function for investigations
- Designing the interaction between internet and field investigations
- Creating a back office which provides responses to live investigations in real time
- Production of strategy documents – back office, guidelines to internet investigations etc.
- Production of many investigation analysis documents – for teams and for court cases, strategic and tactical, graphs and power point visualization.
- Open source investigations with real-time analysis back to the members.
- Creation and management of covers.
- Real time support for interrogations and real time cross checking of answers.
- Analysis of several years of email correspondences between traffickers
- Mapping and visualization of criminal activities
- Personal familiarization with large lists of targets.

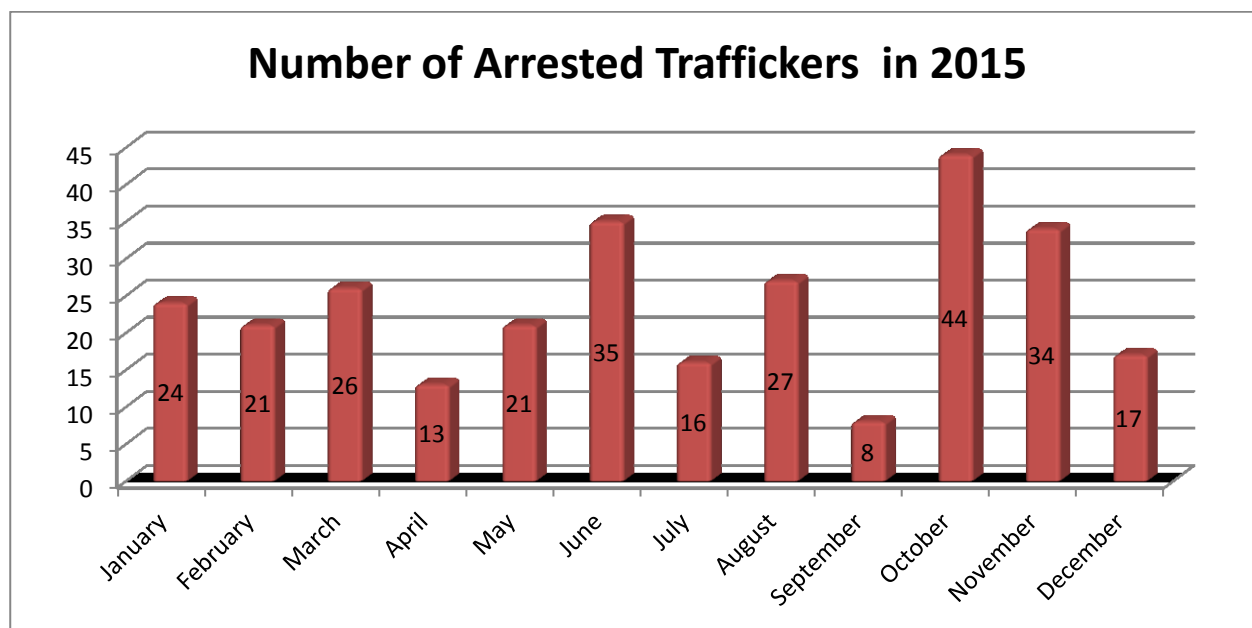


*Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in 2015*

Recruitment processes were undertaken to find new investigators in all the countries and several new investigators joined the network. The network of informants put in place continued working well and provided information leading to operations. The Central Coordination Unit provided direct support for some of the investigations.

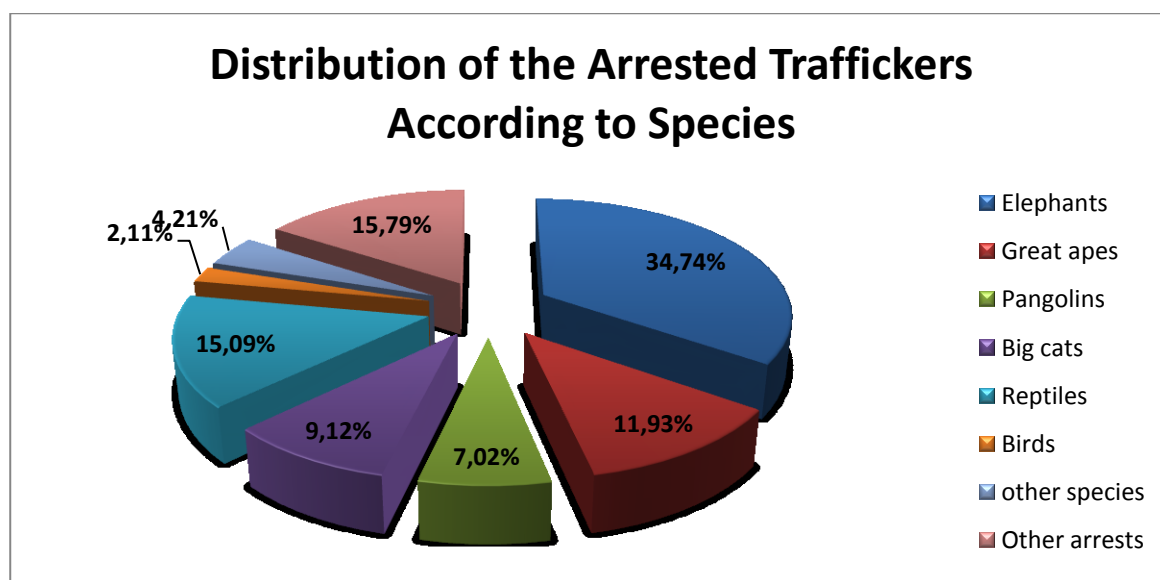
## 4. Arrest Operations

286 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 128 arrest operations in 8 countries of central, West and East Africa.



*Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in 2015*

About one third of the arrested traffickers – 34.7 % were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. The second largest number concerns traffickers in reptiles of different kinds (mostly the totally protected Royal Pythons, tortoises and turtles) – 15 % of the arrested traffickers. Third in terms of arrests - 12% - were ape traffickers, mostly in chimpanzee and gorilla skulls, but also 3 live chimpanzee babies were rescued. The traffickers of big cats followed, namely leopard skins and other body parts with 9.1% of arrests. The EAGLE Network increased its focus on attacking the illegal trade in protected pangolins, their meat and scales, which comprises 7% of the arrested traffickers. Although small in number, but important by the scale of the illegal trade, were the arrests of 4 international bird traffickers. A significant number of arrested criminals were in the area of illegal logging and corruption, thanks to an impressive crack down series of operations in Gabon, where 34 people were arrested, including several high officials in October and November. Total percentage of these arrests is 15.8%



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

## Elephants

**Trafficking ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period, resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 99 ivory traffickers were arrested in 44 operations in 7 countries. A total of 700 kg of ivory, which includes 143 tusks and 384 pieces of carved ivory, were seized. Selected cases:**

- 2 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 206 kg of ivory in Gabon – the largest seizure in the country’s history. One of the traffickers is a forestry and wildlife official. The 42 tusks give a snapshot of the massacre generated by the professional traffickers protected by corruption. The Gabonese authorities took this case very seriously as instructions were given from high levels to prevent all attempts to release the criminals.
- 2 traffickers were arrested in Congo Brazzaville with 126 kg ivory, representing a snapshot of 30 elephants killed just for this shipment alone. In an unprecedented show of support to the application of the wildlife law the US Ambassador, Stephanie Sullivan, visited the gendarmerie, where the traffickers were held.
- A major ivory trafficker was arrested in Djoum, Cameroon, with 18 raw elephant tusks. The dealer belongs to a notorious and high profile network involved in ivory trafficking. He works in partnership with another big ivory trafficker who coordinates all ivory transactions carried out with the arrested trafficker. He buys these ivory tusks from Mintom, South and transports them to Yaoundé, Centre. LAGA is following up the case.
- The biggest known ivory trafficker in Congo – François Ikama - was arrested but subsequently escaped his arrest when his son and rebel leader Marien Ikama violently intervened in the operation with his gang, physically assaulting the police and the project’s team. Corruption remains a challenge for prosecuting this powerful individual.
- 7 traffickers arrested in Senegal in a spectacular crackdown on an organized criminal ring exporting elephant hair bracelets. More than 200 bracelets were seized, with a minimum



value of \$65,000! Part of this long term investigation was done in collaboration with the French government following the seizure of large quantities of the bracelets in Europe. The elephant tails were taken mainly from central Africa through several transit countries.

- Altogether 31 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon, and 464 kg of ivory was seized, which includes 96 tusks and 24 carved pieces of ivory. Some of them had long been suspected of being involved in ivory trafficking as well as trading other totally protected species.
- 14 more ivory traffickers were arrested in Cameroon, selling 7 tusks and 306 carved pieces. One of them had already served two prison terms including the maximum three-year jail term for ivory trafficking. Many of them are members of an ivory trafficking ring recruiting poaches around hotspots in Cameroon.
- 7 more traffickers and poachers were arrested in Congo, one of them a Chinese trafficker with ivory and pangolin scales, thanks to detection by one of the PALF sniffer dogs.
- 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in Togo in July and August with 10 elephant tusks. The traffickers of different nationalities admitted that they often trafficked ivory internationally; they obtained the ivory in the countryside of Burkina Faso on at least three different occasions.
- 6 ivory and elephant product traffickers were arrested in Benin with 2 tusks, 4 elephant feet, 2 leopard skins and scales of 2 pangolins.

## Apes

**34 great ape traffickers were arrested with a total of 68 chimpanzee skulls, 26 gorilla skulls and more body parts in 23 operations carried out in 3 countries. In Guinea the GALF team managed to rescue 3 live baby chimps and arrest several significant ape traffickers.**

### **Selected cases:**

- A significant success in the fight against the international illegal trade in live ape babies was achieved in Guinea. In August the former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea - Ansoumane Doumbouya – was arrested following an investigation against a wildlife ring involved in large scale wildlife trafficking and corruption. In his briefcase several blank government export permits were found. This top public official was a mobile one-stop-shop for all the traffickers' needs. From manatees to parrots to monkeys, illegal trade was conducted out of his briefcase. Different reports, including one from the UN CITES Secretariat, implicated Doumbouya in illegal exports, but he was still holding a position within the Ministry of Environment as Commander of the national wildlife and forestry mobile enforcement brigade.
- The arrest of Thierno Barry, a large international trader involved in the illegal trade in CITES species such as chimpanzees, manatees and other primates, preceded and enabled Doumbouya's arrest. Together with another three successful operations in November, during which 4 international ape traffickers were arrested and 2 chimp babies seized, this presents a significant contribution to destroying the illegal market with ape babies in Guinea. The arrests were welcomed by the international community and Guinean

authorities, who see them as an important step towards regaining the reputation of the country, damaged after being suspended from CITES. All these traffickers remain in prison at the end of the year.

- 22 ape traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in possession of 66 chimpanzee and 26 gorilla skulls, and other body parts. Some of them are high profile ape traffickers belonging to a large illegal network, trafficking also ivory and other protected species. The largest seizure of 19 chimp skulls in November included a chimp skull painted red, and two weeks later a similar situation occurred when 2 ape traffickers were arrested with 3 gorilla skulls, one weirdly painted chimps skull and other contraband. When the first trafficker was asked why he painted the chimp skull in red he answered: "I sell them to Chinese nationals and that's how they like them" In the second case we solved the mystery - the trafficker said the skull was painted as black magic to protect him from arrest and make the contraband invisible.

## Pangolins

**Pangolins are being rapidly driven towards extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most smuggled mammal in the world. 19 traffickers were arrested in 10 operations in 3 countries, 4 live pangolins rescued and hundreds of kg of their scales and meat seized. Selected cases:**

- In Uganda a visit by Ofir Drori led to the arrest of a trafficker with 128 kg of Giant Pangolin scales. The arrested trafficker and his accomplice had also in their possession two pieces of rhino horn.
- In June 9 traffickers were arrested in Uganda in one crackdown operation, selling more than 50 kg of pangolin scales.
- 3 giant pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with more than 120 kg of scales. In November a commercial bus driver was arrested close to the Yaounde Nsimalen International airport as he transported a bag of giant pangolin scales weighing 100 kg from the south of the country to the capital city Yaounde. Two weeks later another giant pangolin scales trafficker was arrested with 14 kg of scales as he attempted to sell the contraband. He belongs to a wildlife trafficking ring that buys giant pangolin scales from poachers who source the pangolins in the Deng Deng National Park. One trafficker was arrested in August with giant pangolin scales during a successful operation carried out in the country's capital.
- A Chinese man arrested for trafficking pangolin scales in northern Congo. Later another trafficker was arrested in the region with 4 live threatened pangolins and 3 dead with more than 200 kg of bushmeat seized. The trafficker was identified by the sniffer dogs during an operation near the Congolese coast. The live pangolins were rescued and released into the Tchimpounga Reserve. In spite of pressure from PALF activists, the regional officer of the Ministry of Environment initiated the release of the trafficker after 3 days in custody.

## Big Cats

**Skins and heads of big cats were the focus of EAGLE investigations and arrests. 26 traffickers were arrested and 20 leopard skins were seized in 15 operations taking place in 3 countries. Selected cases:**

- 18 traffickers arrested with leopard skins in Gabon in 10 operations. Many of those arrested were notorious traffickers, all of them involved in the trade driving these big cats to extinction. One operation led to 3 arrested which remained behind bars, while the fourth, a 79-year-old Catholic priest, was not arrested due to his age. He was buying the skin, already hiding another leopard skin in his home.
- In Congo a Ministry of Forestry lawyer was arrested at the airport for trafficking a leopard skin. Undue pressure and trafficking in influence were observed, but the fight continued to bring this case to justice. Another trafficker was arrested in Congo with a leopard skin and an illegally held gun in an operation carried out by police together with PALF activists and their sniffer dogs. Upon arrest, he turned out to be a drunken police officer.
- A trafficker with fake skins and heads of lion and leopard was arrested as a result of TALF's (Togo) investigation in June. 6 leopard heads and 3 skins as well as 1 lion head and 2 skins were fake, made of dogskin and heads with painted spots, but the trafficker wanted to sell them as real skins and scam buyers.
- 5 traffickers were arrested in 2 operations in Uganda, trying to sell leopard skin, cheetah skin and other contraband.

## Birds

**4 significant international bird traffickers were arrested in 2 operations in Senegal with an impressive amount of birds seized.**

- A significant international live animal's trafficker was arrested in Senegal after a one year investigation into international wildlife syndicates. The investigation revealed that Aziz Sall had been involved in an extensive illegal international network with well developed sophisticated methods of trafficking and falsification of documents. Investigations revealed exchange of birds between international dealers in different African countries, as well as exchange of official documents such as CITES permits or Sanitary Certificate. While Aziz Sall, as a member of this syndicate, seems to have been operating exclusively with birds, others smuggle protected mammals or reptiles. As a scheme, they all cover their illegal activities by legal ones, mainly by pretending to be a breeding facility, or a legal trader. It is the case for Aziz Sall, who is officially recorded as a bird dealer in Senegal. He was finally arrested in a sting operation of the Police, the Ministry of Water and Forest and SALF / WARA, during an attempt to sell Timneh Grey Parrots, a Critically Endangered species. He also held CITES permits for these parrots from Mali, where no population of these birds exist. His illegal activities span over at least a decade and stretch to Spain, the United States, Turkey, Jordan, Singapore, Libya, Hong Kong and many other countries. An impressive amount of more than 3,000 protected birds was discovered in his facilities including threatened species - 111 Timneh Grey Parrots, 700 rose-ringed parakeet, 80 Senegal parrots and many other species. With support from World Parrots Trust, the birds were to be rehabilitated and will be released into the wild soon.

- 3 bird traffickers were arrested in Senegal two month later with 4 threatened Timneh parrots, 2 white pelicans and 10 turtles. Surprisingly, the 4 parrots appeared to be some of the 111 birds, which were seized during the operation in September. The birds were recovering in WPT sanctuary, but 30 of them were stolen. SALF team could identify the parrots thanks to the metal rings on the birds' legs. These rings are stamped with specific information making it easy to prove that the birds were the same that were stolen.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Uganda during their attempt to sell 2 young ostriches. They tried to get 3,500 USD for the two ostriches, in Uganda is totally protected species. It is often poached for its feathers, meat, skin, but also to be kept as a pet.

## Reptiles

**Organized large scale trade in totally protected pythons, turtles, tortoises and other reptiles has been targeted in EAGLE investigations. In 22 operations in 5 countries, 43 traffickers were arrested and hundreds of threatened reptiles were rescued and released to the wild.**

### **Selected cases:**

- Two large consignments of live Royal Pythons, intended for restaurants in Asia, were stopped. In February 2 Togolese traffickers were arrested with 150 royal pythons after investigators found out that they were importing the pythons from Ghana and selling mostly for Asian and local restaurants. In Benin in April 2 traffickers were arrested with 150 live Royal Pythons and pangolin scales following an investigation of international illegal trade in live protected wildlife. The pythons were released back to the wild.
- In Cameroon, Benin and Togo 24 traffickers were arrested with 127 sea turtle shells. In some of the cases other nationalities were involved, a Beninese and a Nigerian were among the 4 traffickers arrested in Cameroon. The Beninese and a Nigerian ganged up - the Beninese doing the sales upfront while the Nigerian spying to identify and alert his gang member of any suspicious activity.
- In Benin a trafficker was arrested with 34 freshwater turtles, 4 crocodiles and 2 Sitatunga antelope skins, later in the same country a Green Sea Turtle and eggs were recovered. The turtles were released and eggs guarded to hatch safely, and hundreds of hatchlings later walked to the sea. This occasion was used to engage the local population in protecting sea turtles. In Congo over a dozen crocodiles and two dozen turtles were seized together with hundreds of kg of bushmeat; they were released to the wild.
- Also terrestrial species of tortoises are the focus of the operations. In Guinea 2 traffickers with 6 crocodiles, a giant tortoise, 3 vultures and a Patas Monkey were arrested. The GALF team under the coordination of Mamadou Saidou worked in collaboration with Interpol NCB. Such a collection of animals often passes through the GALF premises. After the prosecution of the traffickers, the crocs and monkeys were released in the Badiar National Park while the birds and the tortoise were transferred to Senegal. Another joint operation with National bureau of Interpol, GALF and the Water and Forests department in Guinea led to the arrest of 2 traffickers in Conakry with 60 tortoises, 6 python skins and 4 crocodiles (totally protected wildlife species by the Guinean law).

- During two operations in Togo in May 2 traffickers were arrested with 22 respective 38 live terrestrial tortoises and one sea turtle, both totally protected species. The turtles were released back to the wild in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park the day after the seizure.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in Uganda, trying to sell python skins and other contraband in several operations. One of the operations also led to an arrest of a corrupt police officer, who acted as a body guard of the trafficker.

## Other protected species

**A large amount of protected species were seized in 10 operations in 4 countries, and 13 traffickers arrested. Bushmeat of various totally protected species, skins and horns of antelopes, skulls and bones of manatees, hippo ivory and buffalo horns were among the seized contraband. Selected cases:**

- Hundreds of kilos of bushmeat were seized in Congo - Brazzaville, including over a dozen crocodiles and two dozen turtles, which were later released. Bushmeat seized at Kintele was destined for the Elonda Lodge at the outskirts of Brazzaville, despite it being the closed hunting season. Instead of allowing the seizure, a powerful colonel came to the control post and forcibly seized the bushmeat from forestry officials.
- 2 traffickers arrested with a shocking collection of internationally traded species including zebra, elephant and lion in Benin. The huge seizure represents illegal international trade from different parts of the continent. The list of this huge seizure included 3 Tigrine Genet skins, 1 Blesbok Antelope skin, 6 Sitatunga Antelope skins, 1 remains of a vulture, 3 hides and three Nile crocodile heads, 95 specimens of chameleons, 9 turtle shells, 2 elephant bones, a horn of a wildebeest, 1 Patas Monkey skin, 11 Red Duiker skin, 3 jackal skins, 2 python skins, 1 leg of an ostrich, 1 pair of Guib horns, 1 head of a lion cub, 1 remains of a Hornbill, 1 squirrel, 4 hare heads and 1 zebra head.
- In Togo a trafficker was caught with 20 skulls and skeletons of West African Manatees. A similar amount had just been sold to Malians the previous week, exposing an organized trade in this threatened animal of a surprising magnitude. His 19 years involvement in the illegal trade in marine species is still being investigated.
- Several operations were carried out by EAGLE Uganda, leading to the arrest of 8 traffickers of buffalo horns, hippo ivory tusks, antelope skin, horns of several antelope species and other contraband.

## Other arrests

**A significant success has been achieved in fight against illegal logging in Gabon. In a series of operations 39 criminals were arrested for illegal logging or corruption.**

- A Chinese businessman and his 2 local collaborators, one of them a major player in the timber trade and repeat offender, were arrested in Gabon for illegal logging of the Kevazingo tree, a rare and protected tree that is sacred to many communities. Following the arrest, two accomplices came to the Prosecutor's office and offered a \$4,000 bribe for the release of the Chinese trafficker. The Prosecutor, thanks to his integrity, ordered Police

to arrest them and charge them with corruption. 26 more criminals were then arrested in a series of operations, 6 of which of Chinese nationality. Among those arrested were senior government officials, such as two Provincial Directors of Water and Forests, the Head of Ovan province and more provincial officers and several senior administration officials of Water and Forests, including the Secretary General, the Director of Cabinet, the Director General of Forests and the Director General of Industries. These results have been achieved by authorities following a strong political will. It is a strong message to illegal loggers and a great example to follow by other countries to fight illegal logging.

- 4 criminals were arrested for illegal logging or stealing wood earlier this year and one more for trafficking with guns and ammunition - he had been selling ammunition illegally to many poachers for a long time.
- In Togo 4 illegal loggers were arrested in a joint operation of the eco-guards of Franz Weber Foundation and TALF in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park. They cut down 8 large trees of "*Pterocarpus erinaceus*", known to locals as "Tem".
- A Chinese was arrested during a documented attempt of bribery in Congo.



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## 5. Legal Follow up

**The main focus of the legal advisors of the teams in the countries was on following the court cases with the arrested traffickers. On top of 286 court cases, following the arrests by EAGLE Network, more court cases were followed and legal support was provided to the courts. 75% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison for at least one week.**

During the year more than 82 prosecutions resulted in prison sentences for various crimes, while others remained behind bars, waiting for trial. 33 were charged with trafficking ivory and were sentenced from 1 month to one and half year in prison in addition to fines. 20 ape traffickers were sentenced from 2 months to one year in prison. The longest sentence - 3 years in prison - was obtained in Guinea, where a trafficker of bushmeat, consisting of totally protected species, arrested last year, was given 3 years imprisonment.

Other long sentences were obtained in Togo and Cameroon. In Togo two ivory traffickers, arrested in January 2014, were prosecuted for trafficking of 3.8 tonnes of ivory. They were sentenced to 22 and 24 months in jail. In Cameroon a turtle shell trafficker was sentenced to 2 years in prison. Selected cases:

- In Congo after a year of fighting incompetence and corruption in the Brazzaville Court, the first court case was finally pushed into hearing in January. Ongoing efforts are underway concerning the disappearance of ivory from this court.
- Court rulings against 4 traffickers were followed in Gabon in February with the first found guilty of illegal trading in ivory and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, the second found guilty of poaching and trading totally protected wildlife species and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, while the third was convicted for illegal trafficking of ivory and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment. They were given fines ranging from 33 to 7,000 USD and ordered to pay damages ranging from 1,700 to 3,000 USD.
- In Guinea an arrest warrant was issued against a bushmeat trafficker and he was given 3 years imprisonment in February and ordered to pay 1,600 USD, while his 3 accomplices were given 6 months suspended sentence and fines of 13 USD.
- 3 judgments were obtained in March in Cameroon, where ape skulls traffickers were convicted to 2 months of imprisonment and about 1,000 USD in damages awarded. An ivory trafficker was convicted to one year imprisonment and about 90,000 USD in damages awarded.
- In Guinea 2 traffickers were prosecuted for illegal capture and possession of chimpanzee. They were found guilty and sentenced to 6 months comprising 3 months suspended sentence and 3 months of imprisonment.
- 5 traffickers prosecuted this month for selling ivory, with sentences from 6 months to one year in Gabon. The fines and damages awarded reach all together over 18,700 USD. In the same country 8 additional traffickers prosecuted for holding leopard skins, teeth and liver, and other totally protected species including heads of chimpanzee and buffalo, and got varying sentences from 3 to 4 months. And finally a Congolese national, arrested in February this year in Gabon for illegal logging, was found guilty and sentenced to 2 months in prison, and ordered to pay of 3,400 USD as a fine.

- The legal department of EAGLE Uganda followed a case of a seizure of almost one tonne of ivory at the Entebbe international airport. The consignment of 48 boxes was impounded by the Uganda Wildlife Authority, the aviation police and ENHAS (Entebbe Handling services) because the boxes did not have accompanying documents and security stickers. EAGLE team members participated at the inspection of the boxes, which revealed 412 pieces of ivory weighing 912 kg in total.
- The Ugandan court handed down a sentence of 15 months imprisonment to a trafficker in July. The sentence is considered to be one of the most deterrent sentences ever handed down by a court to a convicted wildlife trafficker in the country. EAGLE Uganda followed the court case after the arrest of the trafficker in Kampala with 31 live tortoises.
- In Guinea the former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea, Ansoumane Doumbouya, and a significant international trafficker of CITES species Thierno Barry, were arrested in August. Their case has been intensively followed by the GALF legal team. Both the criminals remain in prison at the end of the year as the final court decision was not obtained yet.
- A sea turtle shell trafficker handed a significant 2-year jail term by a court in Buea, the South West of Cameroon in August. Arrested in April 2015 with 9 sea turtle shells, he was ordered to pay damages of over 10,000 USD to the government.
- Last year a Vietnamese ivory trafficker and his collaborator were arrested in Togo and accused of organizing the largest shipment of illegal ivory in West African history, 3.8 tonnes. This October they were prosecuted and sentenced to 22 and 24 months in jail. The ivory was destined for Vietnam via Malaysia. The operation was made possible thanks to the Mixed Unit Container Control, headed by the Central Office for Repression of Illicit Traffic of Drugs and whitening (OCTRIDB). The TALFF Project supported the authorities in monitoring this case and flying in a Vietnamese translator to assist with court hearings.
- 3 bird traffickers were arrested with 4 threatened Timneh parrots, 2 white pelicans and 10 turtles in November. Within ten days after the operation the court sentenced the 3 traffickers to 6 months behind bars and fines of 11,500 USD each.



## 6. Media

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

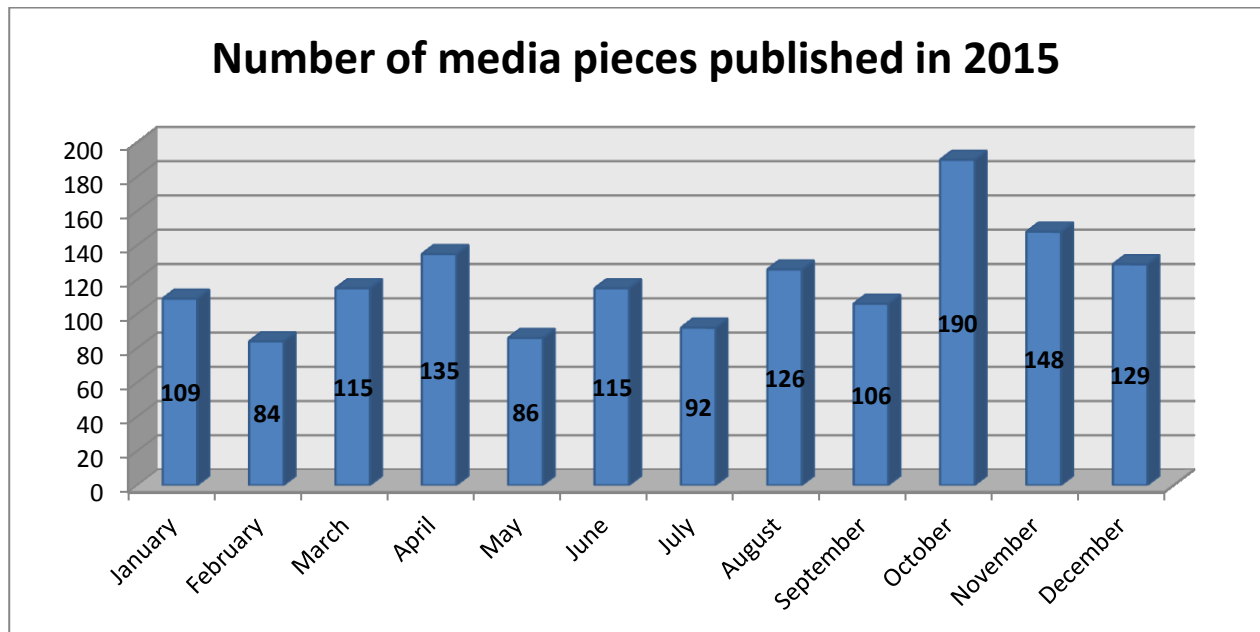


Fig. 4: Number of Media pieces published nationally in 2015

More than 1400 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in eight countries and 29 international media pieces were published. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 33.75% in print media, 30.5% in radio, 6.2% on TV and 29.6% on internet.

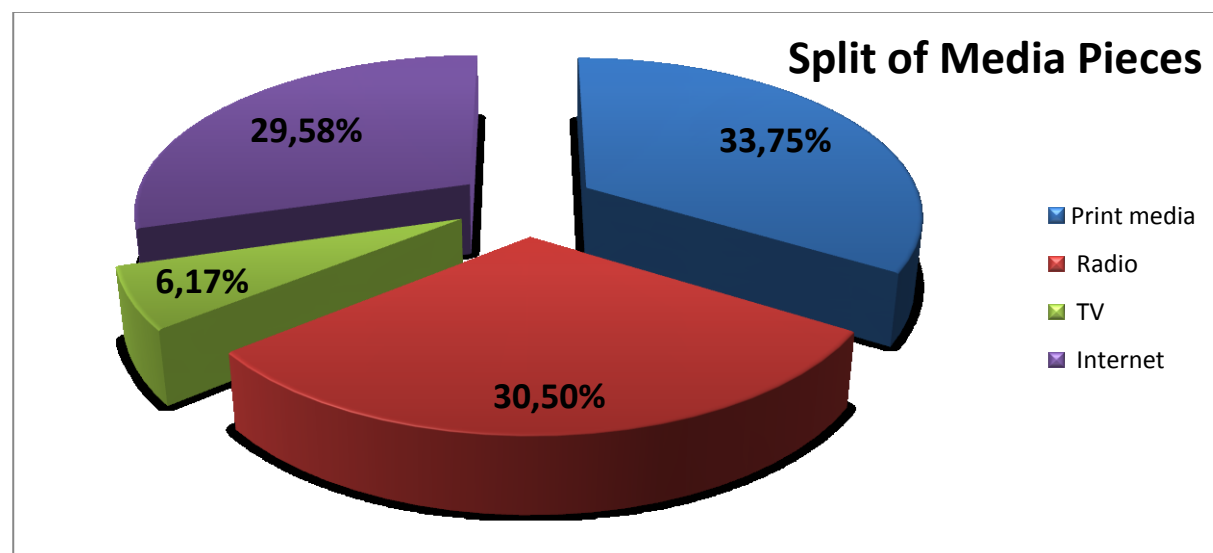


Fig. 5: Split of Media Pieces

### International media

29 media pieces were published in the international press, focusing on EAGLE Network, its members and their working methods. Several successful arrests of high level international traffickers in August brought the attention of international media, namely the arrest of the former head of CITES authority of Guinea - Ansoumane Doumbouya, the largest seizure of ivory in Gabon and the series of arrests for illegal logging and corruption in Gabon. Here are some examples:

- Guinea arrest operation of two ape traffickers in UK Daily Mail. An orphaned baby chimp is rescued after she was found in a tiny wooden box cowering from animal traffickers who had killed her mother. [Link to the article in Daily Mail](#)
- PALF mentioned in an article on elephants poaching and trafficking in The New Yorker. “The poacher isn’t the real problem,” Naftali Honig said. “It’s the person organizing the poaching—the district-level executive. The problem is the organized, illicit extraction of natural resources.” [Link to the article in The New Yorker](#)
- An article mentioning PALF on Africa Geographic critically looking at the role of NGOs in stopping the slaughter of African elephants. PALF is presented as the good example of those, who are “busting their guts trying to expose the corruption inherent in wildlife poaching and trafficking.” [Link to the article in Africa Geographic](#)
- An interview with Ofir Drori in the EU parliament on the urgent need to get serious penalties for wildlife crime in Europe and basic enforcement efforts, in Eureporter [Link to the article in Eureporter](#)
- “Sniffer dogs fight ivory trade in Congo”, in Standard Tribune, Cameroon. Rick, Shon and Cama, the sniffer dogs, trained to identify ivory, pangolin scales, bushmeat and live animals, also weapons and ammunition, help PALF in Congo to fight wildlife crime. [Link to the article in Standard Tribune](#)
- “Dog Happily Catches Elephant Poachers”, The Dodo. The Sniffer Dogs Unit of PALF helps to get wildlife traffickers behind bars in Congo. [Link to the article at Dodo](#)
- “Des Chiens pour lutter contre le trafic d’ivoire”, in ZOOM DisneyNature. Rick, the dog from the Sniffer Dogs Unite of PALF, Congo, just found a well hidden ivory bracelet... [Link to the article at ZOOM DisneyNature](#)
- 2 traffickers were arrested in possession of 12 pieces of cut ivory equal to 6 tusks, totaling nearly 150 kg of ivory in Gabon in July. This case appeared in many international media.

[Link to RFI Afrique \(in French\)](#)

[Link to BMF TV \(in French\)](#)

[Link to Le Matin \(in French\)](#)

[Link to AfricaTime.com \(in French\)](#)

- Low deterrent sentences deal with crimes against surround in Gabon – coverage at Kanal7 in July, a Gabonese Channel but broadcast also on Canalsat, available in all Africa. In Gabon, killing an elephant, ivory or leopard skins trafficking, as well as any other wildlife crime, leads only to low sentences. The prison sentences are 22 days on average, the maximum possible penalty is six months. AALF denounce this form of impunity that is likely to encourage any kind of trafficking. [Link to the video](#)

- The arrest of the former head of CITES authority of Guinea - Ansoumane Doumbouya – called a lot of attention in international media in August:

[Link to New York Times](#)

[Link to ABC News](#)

[Link to Expres](#)

[Link to Mongabay](#)

[Link to GRASP UNEP](#)

[Link to HETQ Armenia](#)

[Link to WWF](#)

[Link to CITES Secretariat](#)

- Parrots Daily News paid attention to the arrest of Aziz Sall, the international live animals trafficker from Senegal in September. [Link to the article](#)
- Hidden cameras, prosecutions, and passion: confronting the corruption at the heart of Africa's illegal wildlife trade. The EAGLE network features as a leader in wildlife law enforcement. [Published in September.](#)
- Luc Mathot, the co-founder of EAGLE Network spoke at Kanal7, widely watched in African countries, in September. [Link to the video](#)
- Corruption keeps Africa's poachers in business – an article on the work of PALF in Congo Brazzaville in The Times, October. [Link to The Times.](#)
- African Conservation Group With Unusual Mission: Enforcement – New York Times about the arrest of Ansoumane Doumbouya, former Guinea CITES head. [Link to The New York Times](#)
- Anna Egbe Etaka, the EAGLE activist from LAGA Cameroon, travelled to the US at the end of September to volunteer in the Elephant Conservation Summit at the Jackson Hole, where she also participated in preparation of a [video with the Summit Message.](#)
- EAGLE Network was mentioned by the Secretary General of CITES John Scanlon in his opening speech to the 6th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the [UN Convention Against Corruption in November:](#)
- Article in Jeune Afrique about the series of arrest of forest criminals in Gabon in November (in French) – [link to the article.](#)
- Article in RFI Afrique about the series of arrest of forest criminals in Gabon, published in November (in French) – [link to the article.](#)
- Article in Mail Online on the biggest seizure of ivory in Gabon history. [Link to the article](#)

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## 7. External Relations

**Building an egalitarian relationship with government that is an exception from normal NGO-Government relationships, centering on the fight against corruption, ensuring effective enforcement and consequences for lack of implementation of relevant laws is one of the main objectives of the EAGLE Network. This is realized through harnessing the leverage of international community to ensure good governance and implementation of relevant laws , and promoting the EAGLE Network internationally. Fostering the 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 year, the coordinators of the country projects held many meetings with Ambassadors, Ministers of Environment, Justices and Interior, other government authorities within and outside of their countries, traditional rulers, and cooperated with local NGOs, participated in conferences and conducted several training sessions.**

Members of the Network were awarded twice. GALF coordinator, Sadiou Mamadou Barry, was awarded the Ian Redmond Conservation Award by GRASP (Great Apes Survival Partnership of UNEP), in appreciation of his contribution to the protection of great apes.

Conservation Justice and the AALF team were awarded the Medal of Recognition by the Gabonese National Police Forces as an appreciation of its significant contribution to combating illegal logging and corruption in November.

Working alongside the Born Free Foundation team, Ofir Drori participated at an event in EU Parliament to push for an EU action plan which allows for stronger penalties for wildlife crime and improved enforcement in Europe. Europe is lagging behind and is a haven for wildlife criminals, with the weakest laws and weakest enforcement .

The media officer of LAGA Cameroon volunteered in the Elephant Conservation Summit at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, USA, in September. Thanks to her work, LAGA took the lead in arguing for ivory stockpiles to be burnt in Africa in order to curb corruption and stop trade in ivory as part of a solution to preserving elephants. She held several important meetings with journalists and US Government officials and participated in the production of a video on the summit message.

Naftali Honig and Ofir Drori participated as trainers at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA is a prestigious US Government 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 has been conducted for 5 years.

AALF team hosted eight students from the National School for Magistrates (l'Ecole Nationale de Magistrature) for a two-month internship training. Their missions focused on forest control and wildlife trafficking. In particular, they were disappointed at the lack of rigor of forest controls and lack of monitoring procedures. As future magistrates, one can only hope that they will participate in this paradigm shift.

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

The 8<sup>th</sup> EAGLE project was launched in Uganda in February as EAGLE expands to East Africa. The new project immediately started contributing to the Network results.

The Central Coordination Unit (CCU) of EAGLE Network has been built and started functioning in March / April. All four staff members were appointed: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (in March), Organizational Development Officer (in April) and Financial Officer, hired in December. Investigation Support Officer, hired in March had to postpone his arrival due health reasons. A temporary IS Officer is taking the responsibility in the interim, focusing also on internet and international investigations. A temporary Finance Officer helped to manage financial issues during April. All of them underwent training and induction process to understand and help fulfill EAGLE Network's mission.

The Central Coordination Unit started fulfilling its role in supporting and supervising the country projects, improving performance and getting daily central insight into the network. As a result following the security protocols, operation procedures, standard of reporting and control systems significantly improved across the Network. New protocols were developed and implemented on data security, exchange and training program, a system of a snapshot graph where the steering group and coordinators can see the monthly results and compare them.

The CCU also started supporting investigations, which resulted into increasing and stabilizing the number of investigation across the whole network. The Dumbouya, Thierno and Aziz arrests showcased how the back office can take EAGLE to a new era of strategically designed investigations and cover creation, trust building with high targets, interrogation, preparation and real time assistance to interrogation and verification of answers, and analysis of email correspondences and assistance for prosecution.

The support to development of the spirit of activism across the network and the dynamic CCU created in it is of great significance of turning EAGLE into a community of activists. The exchange program has been very effective in this regard.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Uganda in September to help with coordinating investigation department and involvement of international investigator, to train the team on procedures for investigation and operations, in risk management and security of the team, and to analyze gaps in procedures. The Organizational Development Officer traveled to Cameroon in October to familiarize themselves with an EAGLE project in the field, to discuss and revise strategy to enhance fostering activism, family spirit values and strength of teams across the network and to support investigations.

The members of the Steering Group carried out several supporting missions to different countries to strengthen the individual projects, provide training and support investigations. They also met several times in Nairobi to meet newly appointed CCU team, to support it by training and to discuss the future development of the network.

The EAGLE Network exchange program to build the capacity of our projects brought 21 activists for training to other countries, and 11 more activists travelled to other countries to provide training there.

The new website of the EAGLE Network ([www.eagle-enforcement.org](http://www.eagle-enforcement.org)), Facebook profile and Twitter account were launched.

Selected events:

- EAGLE participated and was mentioned many times in the EU strategy for Africa meeting in Brussels. Three EAGLE members participated in an anti-corruption meeting in Ethiopia. The UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) coalition met to look at using the Convention to address different issues, among which is wildlife trafficking.
- Naftali Honig represented the EAGLE Network in the Roundtable with the US Assistant Secretary of State William Brownfield. He raised corruption and governance as major factors effecting the fight against wildlife crime. Many others showed support for the work of EAGLE, and it's importance and ability to bring significant results with very limited means.
- Saidou Barry was appointed as GALF coordinator in March after 3 solid years in the project as assistant coordinator.
- Two activists from South Africa and one from Malawi arrived to Nairobi for training in fighting wildlife crime and corruption in October. Victor Banda from Malawi had been the Deputy General Auditor of Malawi and later deputy director of the Anti Corruption Commission. He was responsible for long list of high officials who were prosecuted. In South Africa, an animal rights activist has been in touch with us for more than a year, a candidate for super-volunteers program, and with great passion to bring EAGLE methods to South Africa. Increasing ties with South African activists is important for the EAGLE Network as we have a lot of investigation information which leads to South Africa.
- The EAGLE Network was mentioned by the Secretary General of CITES John Scanlon in his opening speech to the 6th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption in November.



## 9. Photos of the selected cases



2 traffickers were arrested in Congo Brazzaville with 126 kg ivory, representing a snapshot of 30 elephants killed just for this shipment alone. In an unprecedented show of support to the application of the wildlife law the US Ambassador, Stephanie Sullivan, visited the gendarmerie, where the traffickers were held.



A bribe attempt documented in the field: A Chinese arrested for attempting to bribe his colleague out of facing justice with 1 million CFA (about \$2,000). And charged with corruption.



The biggest known ivory trafficker in Congo – Francois Ikama has been arrested but escaped his arrest as his son and rebel leader Marien Ikama violently intervened the operation with his gang, physically assaulting the police force and the project's team. Corruption remains a challenge for prosecuting this powerful individual.



A joint operation with National bureau of Interpol, GALF and the Water and Forests department led to the arrest of two traffickers in Guinea, Conakry, with 60 tortoises, 6 python skins and 4 crocodiles (totally protected wildlife species by the Guinean law).





A significant ivory trafficker was arrested in Cameroon with 18 raw elephant tusks. The dealer belongs to a notorious and high profile network involved in ivory trafficking. He works in partnership with another big ivory trafficker who coordinates all ivory transactions carried out with the arrested trafficker. He buys these ivory tusks from Mintom, South and transports them to Yaounde, Centre.

An ivory dealer arrested in Port-Gentil, Gabon, by the Police Judiciaire, Services de les Aaux et Forêts, with the support of Conservation Justice, with 5 tusks and 19 pieces of ivory that can be used for making Hankos (Chinese seals).





2 Togolese royal python traffickers arrested with 150 royal pythons found in their possession. The traffickers were arrested after investigators found out that they were importing the pythons from Ghana and selling mostly for Asian and local restaurants.



Two ape traffickers arrested in Cameroon following their attempts at selling four chimpanzee skulls in a continued crackdown on specialized trade in apes skulls.





2 traffickers arrested in the act during their attempt to traffic a baby chimp. Two week earlier one of them killed the mother and kept the baby. The arrest was carried in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the Chimpanzee Conservation Centre (CCC). The baby was then transported to the sanctuary at CCC in Houte Niger National Park, where it will recover and later join other orphans, also victims to

the pet trade.



2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 150 kg ivory in Gabon in June. The Gabonese authorities in collaboration with Conservation Justice keep the two locked. This was the third such arrest operation in Gabon this month where a military man was involved in trafficking.

7 traffickers arrested in Senegal a spectacular crackdown on an organized ring exporting elephant hair bracelets. More than 200 bracelets seized with a minimum value of \$65,000!



3 wildlife traffickers were arrested with 4 elephant feet, 2 leopard skins and scales of 2 pangolins. The contraband of mainly totally and partially protected wildlife species included 50 chameleons, heads and skins of crocodile, skins of antelopes and civets and baboon heads.



The legal department of EAGLE Uganda followed a case of seizure of almost one tonne of ivory at the Entebbe international airport. The consignment of 48 boxes was impounded by UWA, the aviation police and ENHAS (Entebbe Handling services) because the boxes did not have accompanying documents and the security stickers. UWA and NRCN activists participated at the inspection of the boxes, which revealed 412 pieces of ivory of the total weight 912 kg. The driver with Entebbe Cargo Handling Services who was driving the consignment within the airport was arrested. The case is now jointly investigated by EAGLE Uganda, Uganda Revenue Authority and Aviation Police from Entebbe International Airport.



In August the former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea - Ansoumane Doumbouya – was arrested by the Interpol NCB, with the assistance of GALF – EAGLE, following an investigation against a wildlife ring involved in large scale wildlife trafficking and corruption. Only three days after the arrest, his brief case was finally opened in front of the prosecutor. The former director held his head as several of empty government export permits were pulled out of his bag. It seems the top public official was a mobile one-stop-shop for all the traffickers' needs. From manatees to parrots and monkeys, illegal trade was carried out of the briefcase. Different reports, including one from the UN CITES secretariat, implicated Ansoumane Doumbouya in illegal exports, but he was still holding a position within the Ministry of Environment as Commander of the national wildlife and forestry mobile enforcement brigade.



2 significant wildlife traffickers arrested in Cameroon with 2 chimp skulls, 2 gorilla skulls, elephant and red river hog teeth. The two are experienced wildlife traffickers who have been supplying contraband, especially ivory and giant pangolin scales to many other traffickers including Chinese. They demonstrated a range of skills reserved for seasoned traffickers with good organisational and planning skills and tricks. Early in the morning of their arrest, they visited the area reserved for their transaction, made an expert examination of the surroundings, checking escape routes and then left. They later came without the contraband and then did a last round of inspection and left. On coming back for their final move, this time with the contraband, they used an entirely different road and strategically placed an undercover to backup their moves.

A significant international live animals trafficker was arrested in Senegal after one year of investigation. He has been involved in an extensive illegal international network with well developed sophisticated methods of trafficking and falsification of documents. He was finally arrested in a sting operation of the Police, the Ministry of Water and Forest and SALF / WARA, during an attempt to sell Timneh Grey Parrots, a critically endangered species. He also held CITES permits for these parrots from Mali, where no population of these birds exists. His illegal activities span over at least a decade and stretch to Spain, the United States, Turkey, Jordan, Singapore, Libya, Hong Kong and many other countries. An impressive amount of birds including 111 Timneh Grey Parrots, 700 roseringed parakeet, 80 Senegal parrots was found in his facilities. Besides illegal trade with protected species he is also accused of forgery.







4 ape traffickers were arrested with 2 chimpanzee babies after several months of intensive investigation building up to another crackdown on illegal trade in apes in Guinea. Hard work of the entire GALF team led to uncovering a large ape trafficking network with links to Chinese traffickers, and enabled 3 operations. The action was filmed by a TV crew of the TF1 French TV station

2 traffickers kept a little female in a small village 75 km from Boké, the town, where they wanted to sell it. Then they brought her into a hotel, where the team was already waiting. Their accomplice was arrested in the evening of the same day. The three traffickers remain behind bars in their place in prison.

Another significant ape trafficker was arrested few days later. He was playing a major role in large ape trafficking network in the region of Boke. He was arrested at his home in the evening in the presence of deputy public prosecutor.

Interrogation of the chimp trafficker in Guinea



3 bird traffickers were arrested with 4 threatened Timneh parrots, 2 white pelicans and 10 turtles in Senegal. Surprisingly, the 4 parrots appeared to be some of the 109 birds, which were seized during the operation in September when a significant international bird trafficker Aziz Sall was arrested. The birds were recovering in WPT sanctuary, but 30 of them were stolen. SALF team could identify the parrots thanks the metal rings on the birds' legs. These rings are stamped with specific information making it easy to prove that the birds were the same that were stolen. The court sentenced the 3 traffickers to 6 months behind bars and each 11,500 USD in damages.



Gabon AALF team in a great operation getting 2 major ivory traffickers arrested with 206 kg of ivory. The two were implicated in the past in illegal trade. One of them is a forestry and wildlife official. The 42 tusks give a snapshot of the massacre generated by the professional traffickers protected by corruption. The Gabonese authorities take this case very seriously as instructions were given from high levels to prevent all attempts to release the criminals.

