

The EAGLE Network Annual Report 2016



- ✓ **306 wildlife and forest criminals arrested in 9 countries**
- ✓ **At least in 23 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation**
- ✓ **156 ivory traffickers arrested with a total of 1,260 kg of ivory, which includes 371 tusks and 1,945 pieces of carved ivory**
- ✓ **19 great ape traffickers arrested with 45 chimpanzee skulls, 19 gorilla skulls and other body parts, one alive chimpanzee was rescued**
- ✓ **36 big cats traffickers were arrested and 33 leopard skins, 2 cheetah skins and several lion skins were seized**
- ✓ **Balla Doumbouya - the head of international wildlife trafficking ring arrested in Guinea**
- ✓ **Ansouame Doumboya, Tierno Barry and Balla Doumboya were sentenced to prison**
- ✓ **82% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars**
- ✓ **2,099 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in 9 countries and 17 international media covered EAGLE's work.**
- ✓ **The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 24 missions to the countries to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries.**

1. Summary

Tangible achievements were registered during 2016 within the EAGLE Network. 306 significant traffickers and other wildlife criminals were arrested in 9 countries. 1,651 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 82% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison. During the year 194 traffickers were prosecuted and condemned, 113 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 ape traffickers the third. The EAGLE Network also extended its remit to illegal logging, with 4 arrested criminals.

Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 23 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.

Balla Doumbouya - a head of international wildlife trafficking ring is finally behind bars. Ever since the landmark arrests of former CITES head of Guinea Doumbouya and Thierno - a major international live animal trafficker, GALF team tried to hunt down a bigger target. This was Balla Doumbouya -Thierno's boss and the main contact in front of the corrupt former wildlife head. Balla had been in hiding ever since, but the GALF team together with Interpol NCB finally managed to locate him and swiftly arrest him. His interrogation is expected to give us insight information on the organized international illegal trade in great apes, manatees and many other endangered species he trafficked for more than 10 years to China, Japan and South Korea.

The court decision in this case was finally delivered in July. Ansouame Doumbouya, charged with abuse of function, forgery, falsification of documents and illegal trafficking of protected species, was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison, Thierno Barry was sentenced to 1 year in prison and Balla Doumbouya to 6 months in prison. An appeal has been filed against the judgment.

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant parts represents most of the focus during this period resulting the largest number of arrested traffickers. 156 ivory traffickers were arrested with a total of 1,260 kg of ivory, which includes 371 tusks and 1,945 pieces of carved ivory

19 great ape traffickers were arrested in 8 operations in 2 countries, with a total of 45 chimpanzee skulls, 19 gorilla skulls and more body parts that represent just a snapshot of their ongoing regular specialized trade. In Guinea the GALF team brought about the arrest of 4 traffickers with ape bushmeat, in of the height of the Ebola epidemic. Alive chimpanzee was rescued and 3 traffickers arrested in Cameroon.

Skins and heads of big cats were in the focus of The EAGLE Network investigations and arrests. 36 big cats traffickers were arrested in 10 operations in 6 countries. 18 leopard skins were seized together with other skins and contraband.

27 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 10 operations in 4 countries, 4 live pangolins were rescued and more than 500 kg of their scales and meat seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most smuggled animal in the world.

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.

Content:

This report refers to activities from January till December 2016. 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.

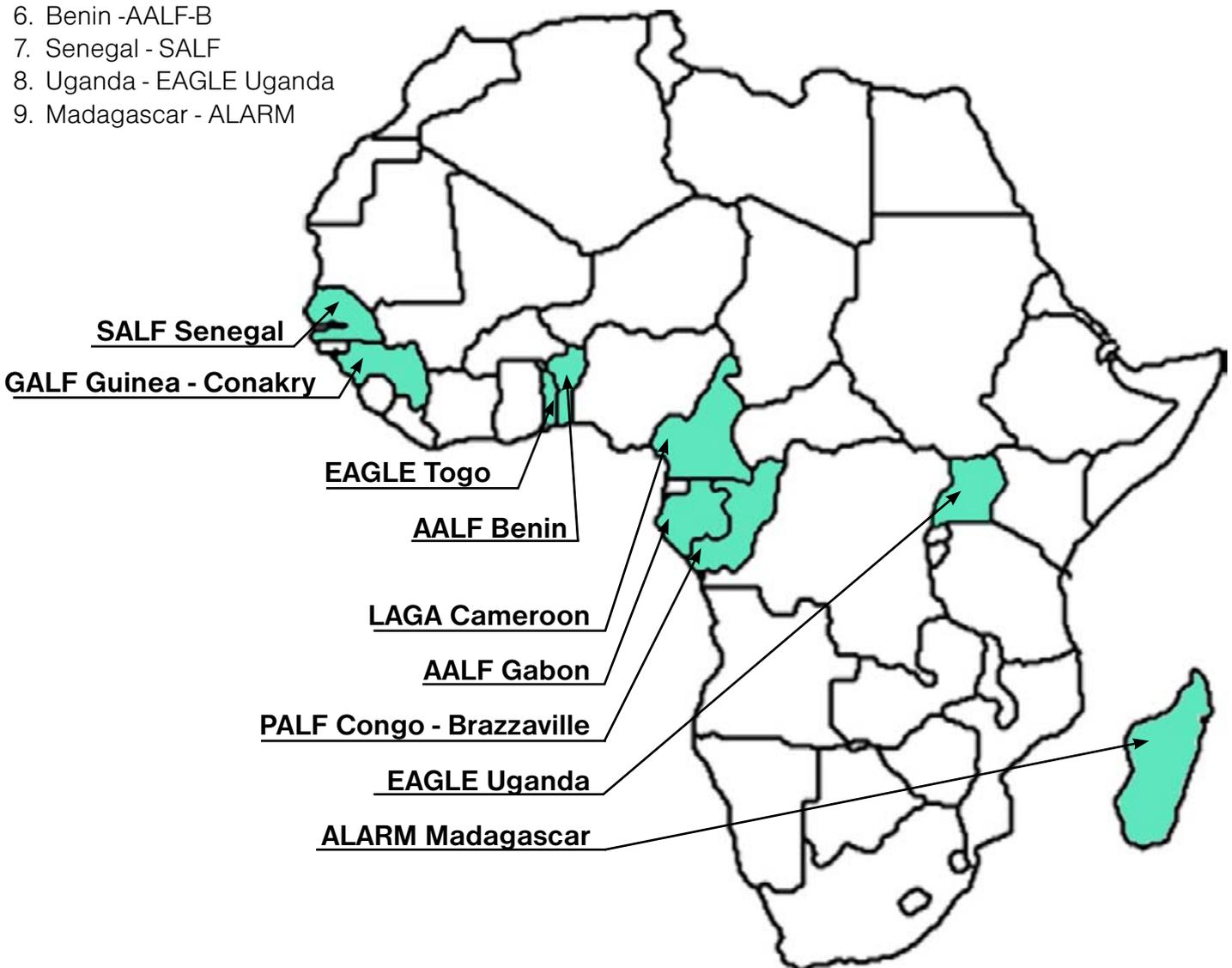
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Structure of the Network

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



3. Investigations

1,651 different investigation missions were carried out in all 9 countries, leading to the arrest of 306 traffickers in 2016.

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

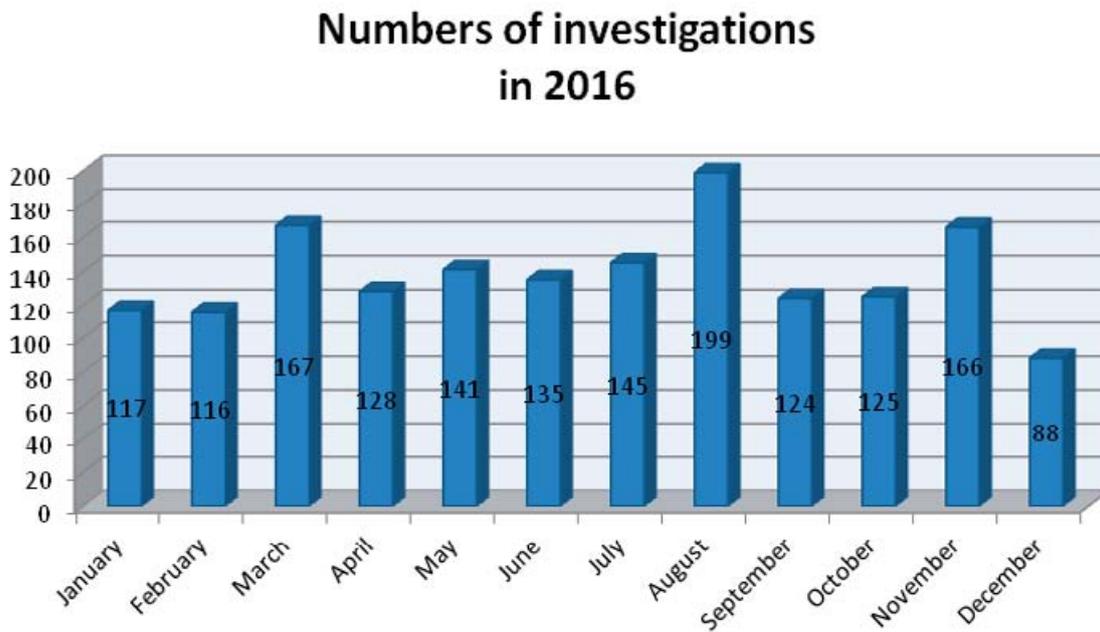


Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January - December 2016

The increasing number of investigation is a result of intense recruitment process, leading to strengthening the teams and investigation departments. In 8 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

306 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 139 operations in 9 countries of central, West and East Africa.

Number of Arrested Traffickers in January - December 2016

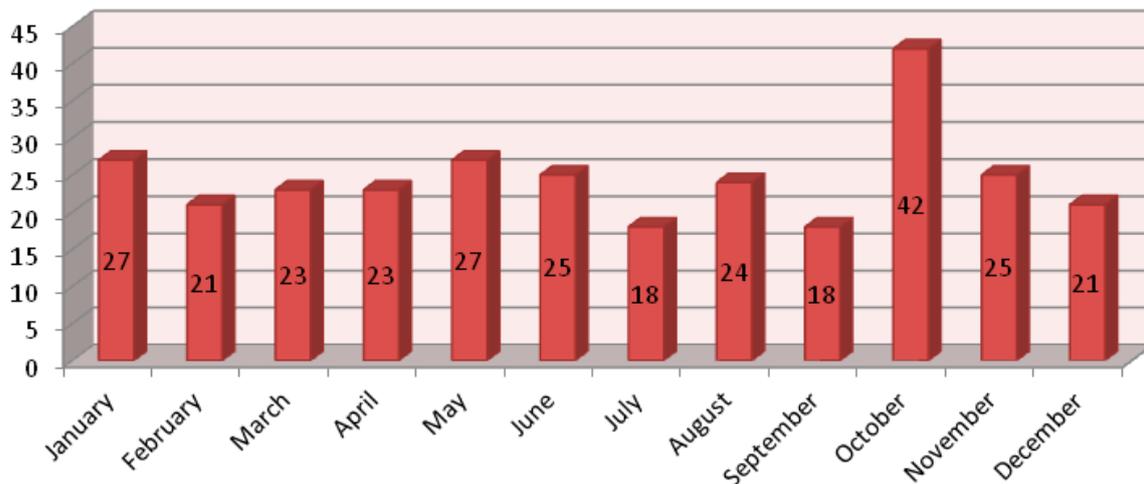


Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - December 2016

Over a half of the arrested traffickers - 51 % were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts – 12%. Third in focus of arrests were pangolins and reptile traffickers - both made 9% of all the arrests. Great apes and hippo ivory traffickers both comprise 6 % of all arrested traffickers.

Distribution of the Arrested Traffickers According to Species

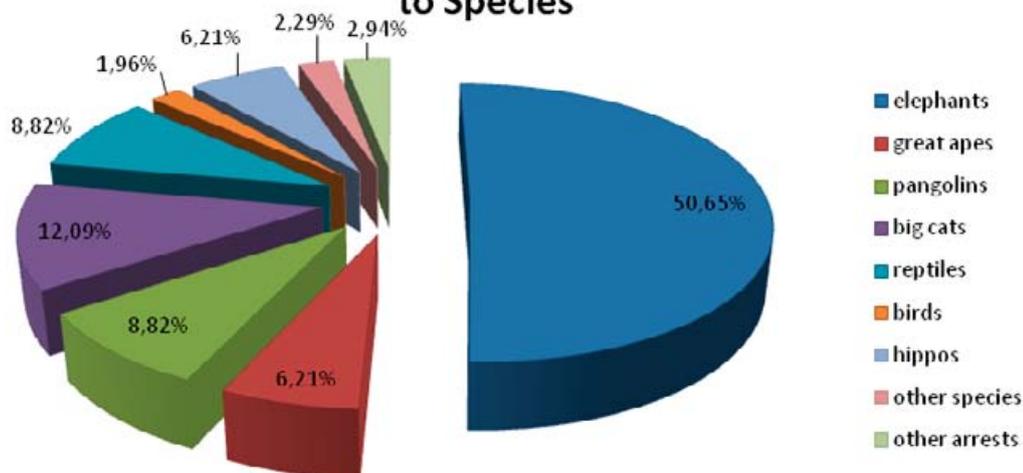


Fig. 3: Distribution of Arrested Traffickers According to the Species

Corruption

- Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 23 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:
- Balla Doumbouya - a head of international wildlife trafficking ring is finally behind bars! Ever since the landmark arrests of former CITES head of Guinea Doumbouya and Thierno - a major international live animal trafficker, GALF team tried to hunt down a bigger target. This was Balla Doumbouya -Thierno's boss and the main contact in front of the corrupt former wildlife head. Balla had been in hiding ever since, but the GALF team together with Interpol NCB finally managed to locate him and swiftly arrest him. His interrogation is expected to give us insight information on the organized international illegal trade in great apes, manatees and many other endangered species he trafficked for more than 10 years to China, Japan and South Korea.
- In January 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 69 kg ivory in Uganda. At the time of arrest, one of the traffickers was driving the contraband and the others in the company of a corrupt policeman, who escorted the consignment and provided security for the dealers. The traffickers then confessed that this police officer was assigned by his superior to participate in the crime.
- 6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory in Uganda in March. Two of them, a corrupt Army Major and Army Corporal - both attached to airport authorities were arrested in a swift operation, carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. Later 3 more accomplices were arrested - a driver from the presidential state house and a former accountant of the state owned company handling airport luggage among them. This is a landmark case exposing and combating the corruption and complicity that enables the international illegal ivory trade. A state house bullet proof car with bullet proof vest inside was seized later from one of the military personnel and a sixth member of this ring was arrested.
- In May 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 12 ivory pieces in Uganda, one of them a corrupt officer of Special Forces. He was a Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defense Force attached to Special Forces Command (SFC) and premised at State House. He functioned as security to the trafficker. More corruption appeared to be involved in this ring of traffickers, as one day later another armed trafficker was arrested in connection to the crime. A search in his house recovered \$40,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills. The police handgun, which was found in his possession, was probably given to him by a corrupt police officer.
- 2 illegal loggers and 2 corrupt Forestry Officers were arrested in June in Gabon. First 2 loggers were arrested in a village in forest area while processing illegally cut wood and preparing it for loading onto a truck. After being asked for the documents, they presented an already expired permit, which appeared to be falsified. On top of that the permit stated 8.9 m3 of wood, while the investigation showed that the real figure was more than three times higher. They then exposed 2 corrupt Forestry Officials, who had sold them the falsified documents, containing the forged signature of their supervisor and falsified government stamps.
- 3 traffickers were arrested with 25 kg of hippo ivory, 4 kg of pangolin scales and two Python skins in Uganda in July. Few days later a public official of the local authority, a representative of a local parish, arrived to the police station and offered a bribe of 650 USD to the police officials attempting to release the trafficker. The bribing attempt was documented in video and the official himself was arrested and will be prosecuted by special anti-corruption court.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 57 hippo teeth in Uganda in July. One of them has been arrested by police in the past and bribed his way out with the reported amount of about 600 USD. The work of the team is to intercept corruption attempts and combat them, so this time the criminal had bad luck.

- The 9th replication in the EAGLE Network in Madagascar kick started the project with a crackdown on reptile trafficking and a series of arrests focused on the organized illegal trade in radiated tortoise. The crackdown faced traffic of influence and corruption - a bribing attempt of about 6,800 USD was reported by police, and a pressure made by a General to release the traffickers was combated. 5 reptile traffickers were arrested with 199 radiated tortoises. The traffickers arrived to a hotel in the centre of capital city with an intention to sell the tortoises. They were carrying them in 3 large suitcases in very harsh conditions for these sensitive animals. When they tried to sell them, they were arrested in act in a swift and well prepared operation. Sixth accomplice, a house guard, was arrested few days later during a house search after he admitted that he removed more tortoises out of the house. Despite all corruption and traffic of influence attempts, the traffickers remained in prison.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo in October with 300 carved ivory pieces, weighing 9 kg. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested by PALF and Interpol in 2014, but released with pretext of health reasons. This time bribing his way out did not help with a far tighter follow up than before. He is kept behind bars together with his accomplice, well known international trafficker of DRC nationality, living also in Angola. Being involved in ivory trafficking for 20 years, he has many international connections that are being investigated.
- A ring of 8 ivory traffickers crushed in Gabon in October. First 2 ivory traffickers with 4 tusks weighing 48 kg were arrested; one of them from Ghana. Although they were violently fighting and tried to bribe the policemen with about 700 USD during the arrest, the team combated the attempts and traffickers remain in prison. During following weeks whole ring of ivory traffickers was revealed, and in several steps 6 more traffickers were arrested. While the two first were leading the whole ring, other participated by supplying the ivory for international trafficking and transporting it. The 6 were employees of a logging company, Compagnie des Bois du Gabon, whose management supported their arrests and held them behind bars until the police with AALF team arrived.
- A case of an elephant poacher was followed in Guinea. The poacher was sentenced 1 year in prison by the court in Macenta in September, but later the GALF legal team discovered that he was let out of prison regularly and worked for the judge as a gardener. GALF intervened and discussed with the Minister of Justice and got a victory against corruption – the trafficker was transferred to a prison in Conakry and the case of the corrupt judge is under investigation of the Minister of Justice. US Ambassador in Conakry followed the case.
- 2 traffickers arrested with a cheetah skin, leopard skin and others near Kenya border in Uganda in October. They were trying to pay their way out by offering a bribe of 150 USD - and as in several other occasions - one of them is a pastor with international connections.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 9 Radiated Tortoises in Madagascar in November, one of them a corrupt policeman. A general tried to use his influence to release him, but this was combated by the ALARM legal team. The other trafficker worked as a consultant for the Ministry of International Affairs. The traffickers brought the animals in a bag to a hotel in the centre of the capital city with intention to sell them for an international market, but were arrested in act instead.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 9 sea turtle shells on an island near the capital city of Guinea in October. The corrupt army captain in charge tried to prevent the arrest and release the traffickers, while threatening to arrest the GALF team. These attempts were combated and two main traffickers arrested while a third one was released. As this arrest happened in an area under military jurisdiction, the arrested traffickers were kept in custody in military barracks, which enabled the corrupt behaviour of the officer.

Elephants

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting the largest number of arrested traffickers. 156 ivory traffickers were arrested during 61 operations in 8 countries. 371 tusks and 1,945 carved pieces of ivory, weighting more than 1,260 kg, were seized. Some examples are presented here:

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda in two operations with 89 kg of ivory in January. 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 69 kg ivory. This operations continued with and an arrest of an ivory trafficker with 20 kg ivory, a 25 year old Guinean citizen, during an attempt to sell two large elephant tusks.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the centre of Dakar in a joint operation of the Brigade of Urban Security and SALF in February. The 3 dealers brought their contraband from their ivory carving workshop to a restaurant, where they were arrested red handed during an attempt to sell 271 (!) pieces of elephant ivory and other contraband.
- A significant Nigerian ivory trafficker arrested with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in February. The trafficker who used the cover of a businessman dealing in car spare parts had a storeroom where huge quantities of wildlife products could be stored. He ran his illegal activity across the Central African sub region from Gabon, Congo, Cameroon right to Nigeria and he equally had as clients Chinese traffickers.
- 9 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda including 2 corrupt army officers in March. 6 were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory. 3 more ivory traffickers were arrested with 45 kg of ivory. The first two were caught in an operation carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. During interrogation, their phone rang as their collaborator asked for the money from the deal. He was then lured and arrested as well. The handcuffed traffickers took the team to the carcass of one of the killed elephants - inside the Karuma reserve.
- 7 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in April. 2 were arrested with 2 tusks. They arrived in a car at the business centre of Port-Gentil, hoping to carry out a deal. One of them carried the tusks to be sold in a bag while the other one was waiting in the car. At this moment they were arrested red handed in a swift operation. One of them is a notorious trafficker, who often carried out his illegal activities around Port-Gentil. 5 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks when a criminal ring was crashed in a well organized operation carried out by Police, wildlife authority and AALF team. The gang of traffickers was in the spotlight of investigation for a long time. The first trafficker was arrested, when he was driving with the contraband to the planned place of transaction. He agreed to reveal to police 2 more traffickers he was dealing with, and even called one of them to get him in the police trap. The remaining 2 members of the gang, brothers, were arrested the following day in nearby villages, where also the tusks were hidden for a short time. They were taken from freshly killed elephant and weighted about 8 kg.
- 6 ivory traffickers of 3 different nationalities were arrested in Gabon in May in a push against illegal ivory trade. 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 16 kg of ivory, one of them a corrupt officer of the prison security force. Later, they admitted that they had been trafficking ivory since 2002. A Cameroonian ivory trafficker was arrested in Libreville with 31 kg of ivory. He was intercepted at police check point, on his way to supply the capital. 2 tusks and 3 pieces of ivory were concealed in the trunk and under the back seats of the car. Another ivory trafficker was arrested in Port Gentil with 4 tusks of young elephants. He was caught red handed while he was trying to sell the tusks, cut in 8 pieces and hidden in a bag. A Malian ivory trafficker was arrested with 3 pieces of ivory and a leopard skin in a series of consecutive operations carried out by AALF team and Police.
- 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in May Uganda, including a corrupt Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Force, 3 more ivory traffickers arrested in Cameroon and Togo
- 6 significant ivory traffickers arrested in Togo in June with 164kg of ivory. 2 of them were arrested with 12 tusks, weighting 124 kg. The 2 Nigerian traffickers were stopped by police with TALFF team in front of the

police station near the Benin border. The search revealed that they were concealing the ivory in the trunk and under the back seats in their 4WD vehicle, to get through border controls without stopping. They attempted to transport it from Nigeria via Benin, Togo and Ghana to Ivory Coast, where they intended to sell it. They both remain behind bars, awaiting trial. 4 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 30 tusks, weighting 40 kg, after a long investigation. They have been trafficking ivory for years and used to work with Nbouke – the notorious ivory kingpin who was arrested in 2013 and sentenced to prison.

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in the north of Congo in July with 8 elephant tusks of very young animals. They were arrested in the act attempting to sell the contraband. They had been trafficking ivory for years, collaborating with many poachers, massacring forest elephants in central Congo and having links to Chinese traffickers. One week later, the traffickers were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay 3,400 USD on fines and damages. This exemplary decision serves well as a deterrent in the fight against wildlife crime, an important precedence in the final stages of reconstructing the project in Congo.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 135 ivory bangles in Senegal in July. The investigation tracking criminals, who were running a workshop, producing ivory jewellery and so generating massacre of elephants, lead to outsmarting this very clever and cautious traffickers by the SALF team together with the Senegalese authorities.
- 3 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin in July with more than 180 pieces of carved ivory like bracelets, pendants, combs and medallions. Additional included contraband from hippo ivory. The 2 Guineans and an Ivorian were arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the contraband in a restaurant in the centre of the town. The traffickers owned a workshop and specialized in transforming and selling ivory jewellery. The amount seized was weighting about 10 kg.
- More ivory trafficker were arrested while selling jewellery. One was arrested with 29 carved pieces of ivory in Cameroon in August. He runs an arts shop in which he sells bronze and wood artifacts also. Another was arrested in his jewellery shop in Gabon in August. The house search revealed 2 tusks, 24 leopard teeth, 50 elephant hair bracelets and 3 elephant tails. In addition to gold, silver, diamond and bronze, he was trading ivory, leopard teeth and other parts of protected animals to produce necklaces, bracelets and other jewellery. These contrabands were particularly sought after by Asian customers.
- August was a successful month for arresting Ivory traffickers in Uganda, as 8 ivory traffickers were arrested. A businessman based in Kampala attempted to sell the ivory in the centre of the capital, but he was arrested in the act with 8 tusks, weighting 20.5 k. After the arrest he revealed that the ivory was brought from Kenya. He was swiftly prosecuted 3 weeks later and sentenced to 1.5 years imprisonment. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks, weighting 10.5 kg. 2 more ivory traffickers arrested at the Congolese border with 6 tusks. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 36 kg of ivory near Congolese border. They had been trafficking ivory between DRC and Uganda for years.
- A trafficker arrested with 109 pieces of carved ivory objects in Cameroon in September during an operation at a very dangerous area, which is considered as the centre of illegal ivory in the country. The trafficker was subject to a long undercover investigation and proved to be smart and suspicious and managed to avoid getting caught in several occasions. This time the team finally managed to outsmart him.
- 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 35 kg ivory in Congo in September. They concealed the 10 tusks, representing 5 killed elephants, in a cooling container, which they brought to a hotel, where they intended to sell the ivory. They are well situated notorious traffickers, one of them a repeat offender arrested before for trafficking ammunition to elephant poachers.
- 2 significant international traffickers arrested with 250 kg of raw ivory in Uganda in September. Both are major players of an international network of ivory traffic which includes many African countries. They belong to the Malian Diaspora, but several ID were found suggesting that one of them is living between Kampala and DRC. They had a meeting arranged with a potential buyer in a private residence, but after arriving at the place, they were stopped by Flying Police Squad with the team of EAGLE Uganda and arrested. They went under intense investigation for more than one month. They were a part of a large chain

of criminals, supplying raw ivory to different Asian traffickers.

- 5 significant traffickers arrested with 29 kg of ivory in Uganda in September, one of them is a pastor. They arrived to the centre of Kampala in a van with an intention to sell 2 tusks, but were arrested by police and EAGLE Uganda team. The van used for the trafficking was seized. It is not uncommon for clergy to be involved in trafficking. Often, criminals use fake pretence of morality to cover illegal activities.
- 8 ivory traffickers were arrested in Benin in October. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks, weighing 12kg. They were trafficking the ivory from Burkina Faso and trying to sell it in Benin's capital. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3.2 kg of ivory. They tried to sell one small tusk of a baby elephant, slaughtered in W National Park. 3 ivory traffickers, one of them Togolese, arrested with 2 kg of elephant ivory, trafficked from Togo. A hippo tooth was also found in his house during house search.
- 3 more traffickers selling carved ivory were arrested in Cameroon in November. 2 were arrested with 2 ivory carved tusks, 2 statuettes and several other carved pieces in Cameroon in November. Both belong to a wider ring of traffickers, operating in the area for years. An ivory trafficker arrested with 14 sculpted ivory objects. He operated from a hotel kiosk, using wood carving as a cover to sell illegal ivory carved objects. The art dealers use the trade as a perfect cover not only to traffic in ivory but also to have an easy access and exposure to clients. The same pattern was witnessed last month during a similar operation.
- 7 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in November. 4 ivory traffickers arrested with 44 kg of ivory, 6 tusks, still fresh. 2 of them, a village chief, who is also a local government official, and a Malian trafficker were arrested in act trying to sell the ivory in the centre of the country. During interrogation they denounced two more members of their ring, one of them an employee of a logging company. Both were arrested a few days later. 3 Nigerian ivory traffickers arrested with 6 pieces of ivory weighing over 5 kg. The first was arrested after his suspicious behaviour called attention of the police and conservation Justice team. After arriving to the police station he revealed his two accomplices, who were immediately arrested too. They were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in jail, the highest possible sentence in Gabon. They also have to pay almost 2,000 USD on fines and damages. After serving the sentence they will be ordered out of the Gabon territory and forbidden from entering the country for 5 years.
- 6 significant ivory traffickers arrested with a tusk weighting more than 10 kg in Congo in December. The ring of traffickers of various nationalities including Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali with connections to other countries was crushed in a well organized series of arrests. First the three Malian members were arrested in the act when trying to sell the ivory. They soon denounced their Guinea accomplice, who was arrested the same day. Two remaining gang members were arrested the next day after they were also denounced by their accomplices. The ring had several tentacles, well covering a large area of operation. One member operated in Angola, another in Point-Noire, and several of them organized trafficking the ivory between Congo and DRC, from where the ivory originated.
- 4 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in December. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks, One of them, a Chadian, is a repeat offender, who had already been arrested by PALF in Congo for ivory trafficking in 2013 and sentenced 5 years. Only 24 hours earlier in the same region another ivory trafficker was arrested with two elephant tails. A Nigerian trafficker arrested with 2 tusks and a fresh leopard skin in the north-east of the country, which is known as a crossroad for trafficking wildlife contraband.

Apes

19 great ape traffickers were arrested in 8 operations in 2 countries, with a total of 45 chimpanzee skulls, 19 gorilla skulls and more body parts that represent just a snapshot of their ongoing

regular specialized trade. One live chimpanzee was rescued in Cameroon. In Guinea the GALF team brought about the arrest of 4 traffickers with ape bushmeat, in of the height of the Ebola epidemic.

- A trafficker with 5 chimps and 4 gorilla skulls arrested in Cameroon in February. He had obtained the contraband from poachers quite close to a logging company in the area, which proves the role that logging companies play in stimulating and sustaining wildlife poaching and trafficking.
- 3 ape traffickers were arrested in south of Cameroon in March with 8 chimp skulls and 4 gorilla skulls and one mandrill skull. One of them is a notorious ivory trafficker and owner of several guns, which he was using to send poachers to kill elephants for ivory and chimpanzees for meat. This accounts for the high number of skulls found in his possession. He had a regular business partner coming in from Yaoundé to pay for the ivory. Another ape trafficker was arrested with 8 chimp skulls, 3 fresh chimpanzee heads and other contraband including an elephant tail. He was buying contraband from a wide ring of poachers who kill all kinds of protected species. He differs from the specialized traffickers as he sold various species. Once again fresh chimpanzee heads were recovered pointing to the parallel illicit trade in ape skulls alongside the bushmeat trade in apes.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon in April in two separate locations with 6 gorilla skulls, 15 mandrill skulls and other contraband. The first trafficker was arrested with the contraband, but the preliminary investigations showed that they worked as a pair and interrogations confirmed that second trafficker was involved. The state counsel immediately issued an arrest warrant and the arresting team travelled over 80 km of dirt roads on motorbikes to get the second trafficker in a town not very far from the Nigeria border. The two towns are considered to be transit area between Cameroon and Nigeria. Another trafficker arrested with 4 chimpanzee skulls, 8 sea turtle shells and 5 kg of pangolin scales.
- 2 ape skull traffickers arrested with 5 gorilla and 5 chimpanzee skulls in Cameroon in May.. They are experienced ape skull traffickers and were arrested despite being suspicious and alert, making efforts to conceal their activities.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 13 chimpanzee skulls in Cameroon in June. The chimps were killed for the international trade in the Dja Biosphere Reserve - a world heritage site that like so many protected areas in Africa is poorly protected. The traffickers were also involved in the illegal transportation and sale of ape meat from the Reserve to far away commercial centers such as Yaounde.
- 3 ape traffickers, members of a circle, specializing on trafficking alive animals, arrested trying to smuggle a chimp in a car in Cameroon in November. A live chimpanzee was rescued. One of them, the declared owner of the chimpanzee, confessed that he had a caged chimp for 12 years, but the rescued chimp is barely 6 years old, which seems to indicate other chimps have been captured, died and replaced during this time. The trafficker concealed the locked cage on the back of the truck with a dusty tarpaulin in order to evade law enforcement detection. The chimp female was probably an orphan chimp that had been separated from her mother after she was shot killed for bushmeat. Akim, as the chimp was called, was frail, underfed and wore a melancholic look when she was rescued. She was taken to the IDA Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre for lifetime care.

Pangolins

27 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 10 operations in 4 countries, 4 live pangolins were rescued and more than 500 kg of their scales and meat seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most smuggled animal in the world. Some examples are presented here:

- 4 traffickers including a corrupt police officer were arrested with two live giant pangolins in Uganda in April. They admitted that they had been involved in wildlife trafficking for many years and were often trafficking large amounts of pangolin scales. The pangolins were taken by the Uganda Wildlife Service for rehabilitation and will be released back in the wild. 2 traffickers arrested with 45 kg giant pangolin scales. The traffickers were linked to Smiko Skin Craft Company, which was in 2014 licensed by Uganda wildlife Authority to export 7,310 kg of pangolin scales from Uganda. Frightening number of pangolins have been captured and killed to meet the demand created by this license. No proper mechanism was put in place to differentiate between the old stock and the illegally obtained scales, which still puts the lives of pangolins in Uganda in danger.
- 3 traffickers were arrested with 70 kg of giant pangolin scales in May in Benin. Two Guineans and one trafficker from Benin got arrested at the airport area, following an investigation on cross border trafficking.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 128 kg of Giant Pangolin scales in Cameroon in August. One of them is a repeat offender – a receipt for a mere payment of a fine for wildlife trafficking was found with him.
- 2 pangolin scale traffickers arrested with 25 kg of giant pangolin scales in Uganda in August. They admitted that they have been trafficking pangolin scales daily, they are connected to a large network of poachers and traffickers. They both remain behind bars waiting for trial.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 48 kg of pangolins scales in Uganda in October in two operations. They were trafficking pangolin scales for many years, selling them in the capital, in this way they were contributing to the extermination of the most trafficked animal in the world.
- 2 wildlife traffickers arrested with a live young pangolin in a small town near the capital city of Uganda in November. Unfortunately the stress endured during capture and captivity had an impact on the animal, and in spite of the intense care of veterinaries of Uganda Wildlife Authority and Entebbe Zoo, the young animal died two days after seizure.
- A trafficker arrested with 8.5 kg of giant pangolin scales in Uganda in December. He is a member of a ring trafficking live pangolins and their scales as well as gold. 4 wildlife traffickers arrested and a giant pangolin rescued in the north of the country. The injured pangolin was transported to the wildlife centre in Murchison Falls National Park, where he got the proper veterinary care.

Big Cats

Skins and heads of big cats were in the focus of The EAGLE investigations and arrests. 36 big cats traffickers were arrested in 16 operations in 6 countries. 33 leopard skins 2 cheetah skins a several lion skins were seized together with other skins and contraband. Some examples are presented here:

- 9 leopard skin traffickers were arrested in 3 operations in Uganda in January. The first one was a head of a gang of traffickers, killing wildlife in Kidepo Valley National Park and terrorizing the rangers there. Though he is a son of a bishop, the moral code has obviously no influence on him, as when he was brought to the police station, first what he heard was: “You? Again?” as he is repeat offender who was arrested for illegal trade in ivory but because of his high level connection with the politicians and military officers his case was never brought to court. 3 Rwandese traffickers crossing the border with a leopard skin were arrested. They will be charged of both wildlife trafficking as well as illegal crossing the border. 4 traffickers arrested in the east of the country with 4 leopard skins, 2 of them corrupt members of different kind of defence forces. Two separated investigations ended up in one joint operation of EAGLE Uganda and police forces

in a well prepared ambush. The four traffickers travelling in one car were stopped on their way to the town, where they wanted to sell the skins. All were immediately arrested.

- A well organized network of wildlife traffickers was attacked after a Beninese ivory trafficker was arrested in Gabon in March attempting to sell two leopard skins. Just before arriving to the sale meeting place he threw the contraband to the floor and ran away, only to come back and be arrested. This was apparently a trick designed to check, if this was a trap, but obviously not good enough. Later two tusks were seized and he revealed an accomplice that was immediately arrested too.
- 4 traffickers with 3 leopard skins and other elephant contraband arrested in Congo in June. 2 of them were caught red handed during an attempt to sell 3 leopard skins. During interrogation they revealed a third culprit. He was arrested the following day, but during his arrest a fourth person tried to hide a bag with an elephant tail and leopard tail from the gendarmerie. She appeared to be a repeat offender, as she was already arrested and prosecuted for the same offence in 2013.
- 4 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins and a chimp skull in Gabon in August. 3 of them arrived to Lambarene to sell the skins and the skull in the town. They intended to carry the transaction out in a hidden area near the port, but were swiftly arrested. After arriving at the police station, they revealed the 4th member of the gang, a poacher.
- A major trafficker arrested with lion and leopard skins in a crackdown on illegal trade in skins in Senegal in October. 106 skins of 11 protected species including lion and leopard skins were seized in the trafficker's shop that served as an international junction for the illegal trade. This was the first SALF operation to be carried in cooperation with the Directorate of the National Parks. He was organizing a wide circle of traffickers, creating a trade chain supplying him the skins and animal parts from Mali, Nigeria and several other countries.
- 4 traffickers arrested with cheetah skins in 2 operations Uganda in October. 2 of them were trying to pay their way out by offering a bribe of 150 USD - and as in several other occasions - one of them is a pastor with international connections.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins in the northeast of Gabon in November. One of them was arrested in act when he was surprised and arrested the moment when was trying to sell the contraband. After he was brought to police station, he revealed the other member of the ring who was arrested an hour later after being identified at a bus station trying to flee.
- A wildlife trafficker arrested with a lion skin, lion bones and a skull in Uganda in November. The skin was fresh, as the lion was killed in nearby Murchison Falls National Park. The trafficker was arrested in act while an attempt to sell the contraband in a liquor shop, although he resisted the arrest and tried to hide the contraband.

Reptiles

Organized large scale trade in totally protected chameleons, turtles, tortoises and other reptiles has been targeted in EAGLE investigations. 27 reptile traffickers were arrested in 11 operations in 7 countries and about 680 of threatened turtles and tortoises and 120 chameleons were rescued and released to the wild.

- 2 reptile traffickers were arrested with 120 fully protected chameleons in Uganda in May. Both of them have been engaged in reptile trafficking on a regular bases for several years. They were advertising their illegal trade through the internet and were focusing on European countries and Kenya. They had been

capturing the chameleons from different locations of Eastern Uganda and usually sold one at a price of 60 USD, presenting a huge margin of illegal profit. Chameleons are traded as pets, but people also believe that they have a medicinal value or they are bought as decorations. These chameleons were lucky, as they were in a good condition, they could be released back to the wild.

- A sea turtle shell trafficker arrested with 16 shells in Senegal in May. He sold a similar quantity just before the arrest, showing the contraband seized is just a snapshot of constant intense illegal trade. Some of the shells were very fresh; therefore the trafficker is facing a charge for capturing and trafficking wildlife products.
- A trafficker arrested with 8 sea turtle shells in Cameroon in July. He had been in the illegal business for a few of years, trafficking in various kinds of protected wildlife species including crocodiles and primates.
- A reptile trafficker arrested in the act with 31 freshwater turtles and one tortoise in Guinea in August near a market, where he intended to sell them. He had worked with an extensive network of traffickers providing him with a supply of protected animals, which he was selling mostly to Chinese, who consider turtles to be a delicacy. He had been trafficking turtles for many years.
- 3 reptile traffickers arrested with 128 helmet freshwater turtles in Senegal in August. They are members of a family, which is a part of a large ring of turtle traffickers and have been trafficking turtles for more than 20 years. African Helmet Turtles are often sold to Chinese as a delicacy, but they are also exported to Europe and USA where they are kept as popular pets. Following the crackdown of the ring of turtle, SALF team with police arrested another trafficker with 84 live freshwater turtles. A day later he denounced his supplier who was arrested and who confessed for his role in the ring. Altogether 212 turtles were sent to a rehabilitation centre and later will be released in the Niokolo-Koba National Park.
- The 9th replication in the EAGLE Network in Madagascar kick started the project with a crackdown on reptile trafficking and a series of arrests focused on the organized illegal trade in radiated tortoise. 5 reptile traffickers were arrested with 199 radiated tortoises. The traffickers arrived to a hotel in the centre of capital city with an intention to sell the tortoises. They were carrying them in 3 large suitcases in very harsh conditions for these sensitive animals. A trafficker arrested with 229 radiated tortoises, during a house raid. The arrested woman concealed the tortoises in her residence. She was trading them for years, having their own collectors in the south of Madagascar. She revealed information about two middlemen, who were arrested two days later. Unfortunately 11 young tortoises were found dead as the trafficker kept them in a bag mixed with big onions.
- A trafficker arrested with 11 dwarf crocodile skins, python skins and other contraband in Benin in December.

Birds

6 bird traffickers were arrested in 3 countries and 2 pelicans, 6 ostriches, 2 crowned cranes and other birds were rescued.

- A bird trafficker was arrested with three Crowned Cranes - an endangered bird that is also the national symbol of Uganda - following EAGLE Uganda internet investigations in February. The team was really proud of getting to protect the national symbol. The joint team of EAGLE Uganda and the police discovered the wide international links of the trafficker and especially with UK. He was starting to invest his illicit revenue to build infrastructure for keeping illegally large quantities of birds and expand his business.
- A Malian bird trafficker arrested in Guinea in May with 2 ostriches trafficked from Mali. Although in the

evening of the same day he was released by a man from the Presidency who used his power to obstruct the legal procedure, the next morning he was again delivered to the court together with another Malian accomplice and both of them ended behind bars thanks to the intensive fight against corruption by the GALF team.

- 3 wildlife traffickers arrested in Senegal in December with 2 pelicans, 4 young ostriches, a yellow billed stork, a black kite, a crocodile and 5 spur-winged geese. The live animals trafficking ring operated since 2006 across Senegal, Gambia and Mauritania and is responsible for international trafficking of a great volume of threatened species including live hyenas and lions. One of their phones include a long list of contacts of magistrates, governors, colonels, customs officers, enforcement officials and many others that probably served as a corrupt circle of complicity ensuring the impunity of this ring.

Hippopotamuses

19 traffickers in hippo ivory and other body parts were arrested in 11 operations in 2 countries, almost 400 kg of hippo ivory and other body parts like skulls and bones were seized.

- 3 operations were carried out in Uganda in the first half of the year. 5 traffickers were arrested and large amount of hippo ivory seized. A trafficker was arrested with 89 kg of hippo teeth in the west of the country in January. He was swiftly prosecuted, found guilty and sentenced to 12 month imprisonment or pay a fine of 50 USD. The legal team of EAGLE Uganda immediately made an appeal against such a low punishment. A trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of hippo ivory in May. He worked with a network of poachers and traffickers supplying the contraband from the DRC for decades. We estimate that thousands of hippos were slaughtered due to his activities. Hippo teeth are often used as a replacement for ivory. 3 traffickers were arrested with more than 50 kg of hippo Ivory in June. They were connected to a ring of ivory and hippo ivory traffickers in the western part of Uganda, and had been operating in the area for decades. They are responsible for killing thousands of hippos as well as other wild animals including elephants.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 hippo skulls, 14 hippo teeth and 15 bones in Togo in September. They brought the contraband on a motorbike to a bar in the capital, where they intended to sell it. They were arrested in the act. One of them used to kill hippos for many years, contributing in this way to the extermination of this fully protected animal.
- 3 hippo ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda in September. A trafficker arrested in western Uganda with 13 kg of hippo teeth. He has been trafficking hippo ivory, bushmeat and other contraband between Uganda and Tanzania for many years, having connection to poachers and traffickers in both countries. 2 traffickers arrested with 11 kg of hippo ivory and a leopard skin in northern part of Uganda.
- 2 more traffickers were arrested in October, one with 32 pieces of hippo ivory, trafficking hippo teeth internationally for years while working with suppliers from Congo. Another trafficker arrested with 15 kg of hippo ivory, pangolin scales and other protected species only few days later in the southwest of the country.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of hippo ivory in western part of Uganda in November. They have been trafficking wildlife products across Uganda and DRC, using canoes to bring contraband across White Nile and Lake Albert. To the place of planned transaction they arrived by motorbike with the contraband concealed inside plastic bag. It was full of 234 pieces of hippo teeth, presenting 58 massacred hippos. The amount of contraband gives a snapshot of the extermination of hippos for the international illegal trade. Hippo ivory is often destined for Asia, where it is carved into jewellery, replacing in this way more expensive elephant ivory. The traffickers were selling it to the agents of international buyers. 10 days after the arrest the traffickers were prosecuted and both sentenced to 2 years in prison - a good deterring

sentence for wildlife trafficking.

- 2 significant traffickers arrested in Uganda in December with 135 kg of hippo teeth and two elephant tusks. They both are long term criminals, trafficking ivory and other contraband for years. They worked as a team for the past 5 years, collecting and storing the hippo and elephant ivory in their village. They emptied their storage for this transaction as they were planning to move their illegal activity to Kenya. When the police and NRCN team surprised them in a hotel room with the contraband concealed in 2 bags, they resisted the arrest violently, but it did not stop the team from putting them behind bars.

Other protected species

7 traffickers in other protected species were arrested in 4 operations in 4 countries. Seized contraband include 145 kg of shark fins, bushmeat of various totally protected species, skins and horns of antelopes, and buffalo horns.

- A trafficker was arrested with 80 kg of shark fins in Togo in January. TALFF team and the Togolese authorities done great work in intercepting this Ghanaian based in Nigeria on the Togo - Benin border hiding the fins in travel bags. He travelled with them from Nigeria to Ghana with intention to sell them.
- 4 wildlife traffickers were arrested in Benin in February with a shocking number of animal parts including ivory, 15 threatened sitatunga skins, elephants bones and trunk, 10 civet skins and more.
- A wildlife trafficker was arrested in well organized operation in Gabon's Port Gentile with 65 kg of shark fins in March. He was stopped by the join team of AALF and Gabon Police forces when driving the 3 boxes of fins in his car. He is Nigerian, and used to export different kinds of contraband illegally through Douala in Cameroon. 1,069 shark fins represent about 300 animals caught, de-finned and thrown alive back to the sea only to die due to suffocation or attack by other animals. This cruel practice is pushing many shark species to the brink of extinction.

Other arrests

8 criminals were arrested for different crimes, as corruption, forgery, illegal logging etc.

- 3 cybercriminals were arrested in Cameroon in January after advertising for sale two lion cubs and two cheetah cubs through the internet. After months of collaborative efforts and days of patience in Douala waiting for the cybercriminals to make a move, LAGA, the team of wildlife officials and the police carried out the operation at the last day of January. The first two criminals were arrested in bank trying to get the money for their transactions, the third one, the boss of the whole group, was arrested soon afterwards. This was not the first attempt by the three who are all family members: two brothers are law students at the University and a cousin of theirs who is an accountant and the boss of the gang. They had used forged CITES permits with a fake signatures of the wildlife minister among other forged documents. Though they are most likely scammers, since the profit from the illegal trade exceeds the one from scamming, this is established as a gateway to real illegal trade.

5. Legal Follow up

The legal departments in the 9 countries followed up the court cases of the 306 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 82% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars.

During the year 194 traffickers were prosecuted and condemned, 113 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while other remain behind the bars, waiting for the trial.

- 4 illegal loggers, arrested in November in Togo by a joint team of TALFF and eco-guards of Franz Weber Foundation and gendarmerie in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, were sentenced 6 months in prison in January. This court decision is one of very few sentences issued for illegal logging in Togo.
- 3 ivory traffickers, arrested in February 2015 in Cameroon, were all found guilty in February 2016 and sentenced for 1 year in prison and 11,000 USD for civil damages and fines.
- High sentences were delivered by the court in Makokou, Gabon, in February, in cases followed by AALF legal team. One poacher was sentenced to 3 years in jail and another 5 poachers and traffickers were sentenced from 6 month to one year in prison.
- Good sentence was obtained at the High Court of Point Noire in Congo in March. A trafficker, arrested in May 2015 with 2 chimp skulls and 2 crocodile was sentenced to 2 years in prison and around 2,000 USD on fines and damages.
- 3 ivory traffickers, who were arrested in Uganda in March with 45 kg of ivory, were prosecuted in March and April. One of them pleaded guilty and was convicted and sentenced to 8 months imprisonment without an option of a fine. The remaining two were sentenced to 8 months imprisonment and 1 year imprisonment or pay a fine of 200 USD.
- The Djoum court of first instance in Cameroon sentenced two traffickers to 10 months imprisonment in June for trafficking in 4 ivory tusks, 3 elephant tails and for killing 2 elephants. They were arrested in March 2016.
- A trafficker, arrested in May in Gabon with 31 kg of ivory, was prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in prison and about 1,700 USD in fines and damages in June.
- A trafficker arrested in February in Benin with 70 kg of pangolin scales, was sentenced 1 year in prison in May.
- An ivory trafficker, arrested with 45 kg of ivory in March, was sentenced to 8 months in prison in Uganda.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo in July with 8 elephant tusks. One week later, they were swiftly prosecuted and sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay 3,400 USD on fines and damages. This exemplary decision serves well as a deterrent in the fight against wildlife crime, an important precedence in the final stages of reconstructing the project in Congo.
- Detering sentences were achieved in 2 cases followed by AALF legal team in Gabon in July. A Cameroonian ivory trafficker, arrested with 10 ivory tusks and 6 cut pieces in July, was sentenced to 2 years in prison. Two of 5 ivory traffickers, arrested in April with 2 ivory tusks, were sentenced to 2 years in prison, while the remaining 3 got 6 months in prison. The collective damages awarded by the traffickers reaches about 17,000 USD in damages.
- The court decision in the case of Ansouame Doumbouya, the former wildlife head and the CITES authority of Guinea, and his accomplices, arrested in August 2015 and in March 2016, was finally delivered in July. Ansouame Doumbouya, charged with abuse of function, forgery, falsification of documents and illegal trafficking of protected species, was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison, Thierno Barry was sentenced

to 1 year in prison and Balla Doumbouya to 6 months in prison. An appeal has been filed against the judgment.

- 4 ivory traffickers, arrested in June 2016 with 30 tusks weighting 40 kg were sentenced in Togo in August. Two of them were handed a 1 year in prison, and the two others a 1.5 years in prison. Additionally, each of them has to pay 2,500 USD in damages and penalties.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 8 tusks, weighting 20.5 kg in Uganda in August, a member of a ring of traffickers, involved in both ivory trade as well as arms trafficking between Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan. The trafficker was swiftly prosecuted 3 weeks later and sentenced to 1.5 years imprisonment.
- Several strong punishments were achieved in followed court cases in Uganda in November. 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in north of the country in August with 2 ivory tusks, were sentenced to 2 years in prison. Another trafficker, arrested in October with 32 hippo teeth, was sentenced to two years in prison. A hippo ivory trafficker, arrested in October with 24 pieces of hippo teeth, 2 python skins and 1 skinned pangolin, was sentenced to 3 years in default or a fine of 400 USD, but as he was not able to pay the fine, he is serving the prison sentence.
- Strong punishments were reached in the court cases followed by the legal team, bringing a good deterrent to wildlife criminals in Madagascar in November. The 6 traffickers arrested in September with 198 Radiated Tortoises were prosecuted, 5 of them were sentenced to 2.5 years in jail, one accomplice to 10 month in jail, and ordered to pay over 60,000 USD in damages and fines. The 2 traffickers arrested with 227 Radiated Tortoises in September were also prosecuted, the head of the ring was sentenced to 1.5 year in prison, her accomplice to 1 year in prison, and they were ordered to pay 1,200 USD in damages and fines.
- In Congo in December the 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in September with 35 kg of ivory, were sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay over 6,000 USD in damages and fines each.
- One of the 3 traffickers arrested in Uganda with 13 kg of ivory, 17 kg of pangolin scales and other contraband in October was prosecuted and sentenced to 1 year in prison in December.

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.

2,099 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.

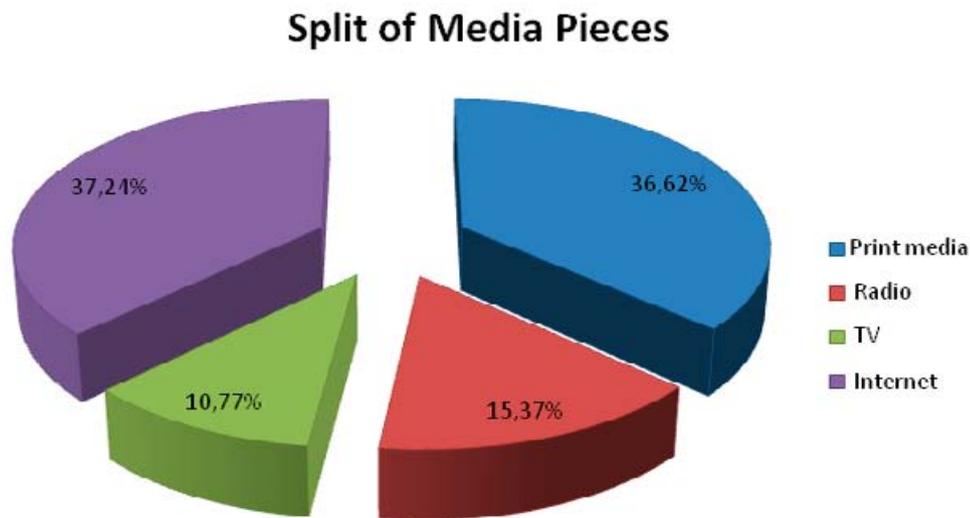


Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces

Number of media pieces published in 2016

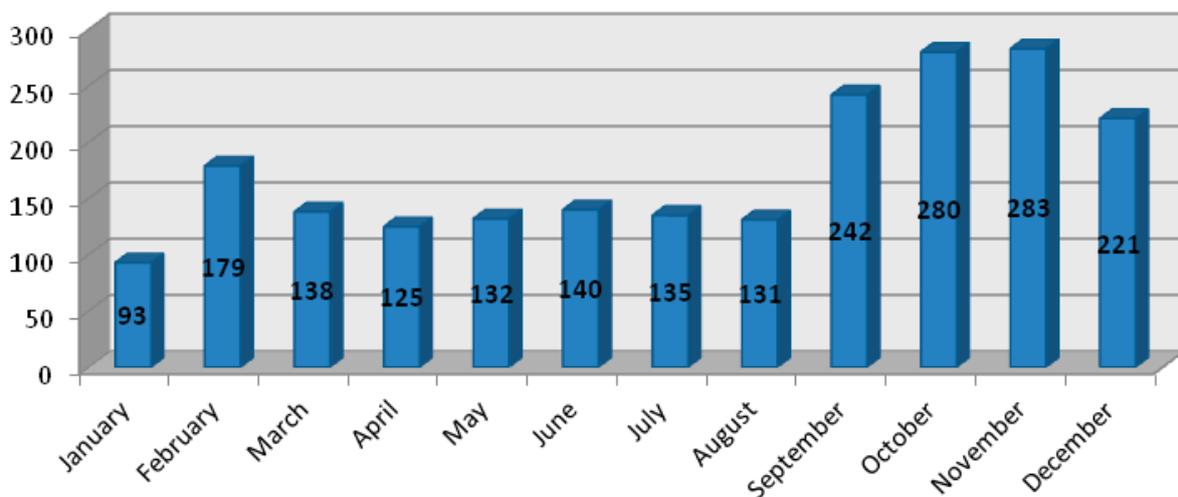


Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January - December 2016

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.

- Le Monde article on exploitation of African forest by Chinese, mentioning Conservation Justice..According to Luc Mathot, the head of the NGO Conservation Justice, the author of an overwhelming report denouncing “an organized mafia laundering timber and corruption at all stages” (in French):
[Link to le Monde](#)
- “The Hunter” – an article about Ofir Drori in Süddeutsche Zeitung (in German)
[Link to Süddeutsche Zeitung](#)
- Reportage on Ofir and EAGLE in Israeli channel 2 prime time weekend news
[Link to the Channel 2](#)
- TV show on Aljazeera “Inside story - Who is gaining from illegal wildlife trade?, Ofir Drori and two more conservationists discussed the new UN report on wildlife crime.
[Link to Aljazeera](#)
- An article in National Geographic about the creation of LAGA. *“Protecting West Africa’s wildlife from poachers is all about making law enforcement and the courts work”*, says activist Ofir Drori.
[Link to National Geographic](#)
- National Geographic introducing Emerging Explorer Naftali Honig, Wildlife Crime Investigator
[Link to National Geographic](#)
- Ofir ´s talk at Business Leaders Meeting- Unternehmertag 2016, Germany
[Link to the video](#)
- *“There are three main problems in tackling the trade,” Drori said. “Corruption, corruption and corruption. The majority of our arrests are corrupt officials - corrupt police officers, corrupt military personnel, and corrupt magistrates. They’re enabling the trade to happen.”*
[Link to Aljazeera](#)
- “UN sanctions must target global kingpins in wildlife trade” - an article on UNEP decision on wildlife crime, quoting Ofir Drori.
[Link to SABC](#)
- “Celebs go wild to stop illegal trade in animals” - article introducing new UNEP campaign, quoting Ofir Drori: *“Illegal wildlife trade is an organized crime. Discussions have been done by biologists and politicians, now we need to have those who are experts in crime. We must also tackle the big fish (in the trade) and not the small guys.”*
[Link to Star2](#)
- “EAGLE Spreads Its Wings with Bravery and Commitment across Africa” An article on the website of US Fish and Wildlife Service on the activities of EAGLE Network.
[Link to USFWS page](#)
- “Mentor GRAD Fights for Wildlife” An article on the website of US Fish and Wildlife Service about Vincent Opyene, the Coordinator of EAGLE Uganda.
[Link to USFWS page](#)
- “Meet the man who’s fighting Africa’s worst wildlife traffickers” – An article in From the Grapevine about Ofir Drori, the founder of EAGLE Network.
[Link to From the Grapevine](#)

- An article in National Geographic on newly adopted ban on pangolin trade, quoting Ofir Drori: *In Africa, pangolin dealers supplying the Asian market have started expanding their businesses to other forms of wildlife trade. “Dealing back to traffickers in China has exposed them to new people, allowing them to build the necessary networks to move up and start trafficking ivory,” Ofir Drori, director of the wildlife law enforcement network EAGLE, told Vice in September.*
[Link to National Geographic](#)
- An article in Chinese media about the 6 reptile traffickers arrested in Madagascar.
[Link to China.org](#)
- Ofir Drori’s talk for TedxEde on Hunting wildlife traffickers - passion and activism in conservation
[Link to TedxEde](#)
- An article in National Geographic about EAGLE Uganda fighting the illegal trade with hippo ivory:
[Link to National Geographic](#)

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.

Several coordinators travelled to USA to participate at different trainings and events held by UD FWS.

Cameroon

- The Government of Cameroon destroyed 3.5 tonnes of ivory in April, and act was well appreciated, especially following the LAGA previous arrest and imprisonment of the high official in charge of the stocks, for selling stock ivory to traffickers.
- The Deputy Director travelled to the United States in October, where he held a number of meetings with staffers of the US Senate, two senior counsels of the Justice Department, several US Fish and Wildlife officials and other experts. Together with the coordinator of EAGLE Uganda they carried out several presentations on the EAGLE's law enforcement model and its implementation on the ground in Cameroon and Uganda. They spent one week participating in a workshop on the illegal commercial bush meat trade organised by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They attended a talk on bankrupting kleptocracy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- The Coordinator of AALF Benin, the Coordinator Assistant of the TALFF project in Togo and the Deputy Director attended a workshop in Cameroon, organised by the French funding body PPI (FFEM) for reflecting on 10 years of assistance to projects working on the environment in Africa. After the workshop they travelled to Yaoundé where some experience exchange was carried out.

Congo

- Several meetings were held in February during the mission of Luc Mathot. Meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development on repositioning PALF through improving the quality and level of communication with the supervisory ministry. Meeting with the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to seek support from the EU not only to repositioning and project sustainability, but also for support in the arrest operation, convicting the traffickers arrested and executing the sentences.

- Perrine Odier was appointed an interim coordinator of PALF. She continued the reconstruction process of the team and recruiting and testing new team members.
- She met the directors of Wildlife Conservation Society and The Aspinall Foundation, the new agreement of the consortium of EAGLE Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and The Aspinall Foundation was signed to confirm the continuation of PALF as a member of EAGLE Network and respect EAGLE Network standards and procedures.
- The coordinator and the head of The Aspinall Foundation met with the new Minister of Environment in June to discuss cooperation with PALF and recent cases of wildlife crime in Congo.
- In September the coordinator met with the Minister of Justice in an important breakthrough in external relations standing with government. The Minister has been very positive in instructing magistrates on severe sentencing in wildlife cases and ensuring good governance in court, he agreed on issuing two memos to bring this attitude to practice. The important meeting was well covered by National TV and other major news outlets.
- The Coordinator met with the Minister of Environment and the General Directors of Wildlife and of Protected Areas in October, another important breakthrough in external relations with the Government after last month meeting with the Minister of Justice. During a very successful meeting, they discussed the review of the ongoing legal cases and renewing of the agreement between the Ministry and PALF. The minister was very supportive to the PALF activities and agreed to sign the agreement soon.
- In November she met with the EU Ambassador, who was very supportive to the PALF activities and willing to help to develop better relationship between PALF and the Government of Congo.

Gabon

- The coordinator met with the Minister of Water and Forest in June, who congratulated him on his good work, especially the arrest of 2 of the Ministry's agents, who are in jail awaiting prosecution for corruption and forgery.
- The coordinator also met with the head of the EU Delegation, Head of ANPN, Head of AFD, the Brazilian Ambassador, the economic officer of the US Embassy and two other EU officers to discuss support for AALF and other cooperation in June.

Guinea

- WARA director met with the Ambassador of the United States of America to discuss strengthening of collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and GALF Project in January
- Charlotte Houpline signed the GALF Agreement with the Government of Guinea. The Protocol on Partnership Agreement on Fight against Wildlife Crime in the Republic of Guinea between GALF project and the Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests was finally signed in March
- In March the GALF coordinator and the WARA Director participated at a videoconference between Guinea, Togo and Burkina Faso, organized by the US embassies for the International Wildlife Day. The videoconference was moderated by Naftali Honig of our Steering Group. Strategy of international collaboration in arresting traffickers between these countries was discussed and the conference will be followed by

another meeting of all the people involved in law enforcement in wider region of West Africa.

- The Coordinator met with the Minister of Justice to reinforce the collaboration in law enforcement and to discuss cooperation and follow up of concrete cases in March.
- Charlotte Houpline, WARA Director, and Saidou Barry, GALF Coordinator presented at the subregional meeting of GRASP UNEP (Great Apes Survival Partnership) in Liberia. As recalled, Saidou Barry was the winner of the last year's GRASP - Ian Redmond Conservation Award. The meeting brought together local, regional and international actors to discuss trafficking, mining and other threats to great apes survival in West Africa. Charlotte's presentation on anti-corruption activities in West Africa and Saidou's presentation on GALF's work were the most popular and stirred lively debate.
- Charlotte Houpline participated at the 17th Conference of the Parties of the CITES UN Convention as a member of the official Guinean Government delegation. She actively fought for increasing the level of protection of elephants, pangolins, African grey parrots and pangolins under international law. She cooperated with other NGOs in this fight. While for pangolins and grey parrots the fight was successful, the battle was lost for lions and elephants, which status did not change.
- The coordinator, Saidou Barry participated at the training in leadership and law enforcement at the International Conservation Chief's Academy in USA in September, bringing together leaders of conservation law enforcement agencies from Africa in an effort to build capacity and collaborate with other leaders. He used the opportunity to meet other leaders from African countries and to network with the officials from US FWS.
- Ofir Drori, the founding director of EAGLE Network and Charlotte Houpline, the Director of WARA, visited Guinea to support the project management and strengthen the relationship with diplomatic community and government authorities. Meetings were held with the US Ambassador, Ambassador of Great Britain, German Chancellor, EU team of active collaborators, Minister of Environment and other officials.

Senegal

- Ofir Drori arrived to Senegal in November to support the management and to strengthen the relationship with diplomatic community and government authorities. More than 20 meetings were held, with ambassadors (USA, United Kingdom, Netherlands), Ministries (Director of Cabinet Justice, SG Environment, Minister of Interior) and other authorities to strengthen external relations and to gain a support for the fight for wildlife law enforcement and fight against corruption. As a result of the intense meetings held with the Minister of Environment the Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and SALF was signed.

Benin

- In May the Director of AALF-Benin met with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss the signature of agreement with the Ministry on the occasion of International Day of Biodiversity. He also met with the Head of the General Directorate of Forestry and Natural Resources (DGFRN) and discussed the case of pangolin scales traffickers arrested earlier this month.
- The coordinator and Luc Mathot met in August with the Minister of Environment to discuss wildlife law enforcement, to introduce the project and to discuss signing the Memorandum of Understanding between

the ministry and AALF-B. They also held meetings with various high officials of the Ministry, namely with the General Director of Forest and Hunting, the General Director of CENAGREF and the General Director of Environment. They also held a meeting with the Minister of Security, to discuss the wildlife law enforcement and to prepare a meeting with the President of Benin, who is personally interested in the issue of wildlife crime.

- The coordinator traveled to USA to represent Nature Tropical at the World Congress of IUCN in Hawaii in September.
- The Collaboration Agreement between AALF-B and the Government of Benin, represented by the Minister in charge of wildlife was signed by the coordinator and the Minister at a small ceremony in December, after several years of negotiation and preparation.

Uganda

- The coordinator met the EU Ambassador in Uganda in January to discuss his support in addressing wildlife trafficking. A presentation on EAGLE Network's work was shared with him. The Ambassador agreed to support the work of the organization in Uganda. Another meeting with the same goal was held with an Attaché to the British High Commission, who was also pleased to support EAGLE Uganda's work.
- In May EAGLE Uganda received an appreciation letter from Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, congratulating EAGLE Uganda for the bold and courageous acts of tracking the traffickers in wildlife products. "Your acts are the first real arrests reported." The Minister wrote.
- A meeting was held in June with the officers from Royal United Service Institute for Defence and security studies (RUSI) to discuss analyzing the linkages between wildlife trade and money laundering.
- The coordinator met the regional USFWS representative based in Tanzania to discuss and identify cases of interest that he would help in strengthening the investigations. Another meeting was held with the Liaison Officer for East Africa of the British National Crime Agency in Nairobi who expressed interest in sharing information on the international traffickers. „
- The Coordinator travelled to Nairobi, Kenya, in June and met other partners involved in wildlife crime law enforcement in Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe and C4ADS. They discussed better transboundary cooperation in combating wildlife trade and training for EAGLE Uganda team. The coordinator also attended and made presentation in the training workshop for wildlife crime law enforcement partners organized by IFAW and African Wildlife Foundation in Kampala.
- EAGLE Uganda hosted the USFWS officer Ms Nancy Gelman in August. The team travelled with her to Lake Mburo National Park. The Coordinator together with Ms Nancy Gelman met with the US Ambassador to Uganda to discuss the support and cooperation in fighting wildlife crime. The Ambassador agreed to support our work and assigned two of her officers to as focal points for cooperation with EAGLE Uganda.
- In September the coordinator travelled to USA to participate in the program of the US State Department "International Visitor Leadership Program" on fight against wildlife trafficking, and stays in the US to attend more US Government meetings.

Madagascar

- Series of meetings with ministers and ambassadors started in August by a meeting with the Minister of Justice to introduce him the project and talk about perspective on collaboration, to inform him that AVG will be the civil party for the case in the south, and to get his support in pushing the case.
- In September the coordinator met with the Minister of Justice, who confirmed his determination to apply the wildlife law. He ensured about his personal commitment in the fight and about severe and exemplary sentences for wildlife traffickers, and with the Minister of Defence, who welcomed the establishment of ALARM project and conveyed his readiness to play a role in the fight.
- The coordinator and Luc Mathot met with the British Ambassador who agreed to push for law enforcement and exemplary punishment for traffickers. He welcomed ALARM's operations and offered joint meetings with Ministers.
- In November the coordinator and the Monitoring and Evaluation officer of the EAGLE Network met with the Ambassador of Germany and his communication officer to introduce the ALARM project and establish a relationship, leading to a support in combating wildlife crime in Madagascar. The Ambassador ensured the coordinator about his support, stating that and law enforcement are the priorities of the German Embassy in Madagascar.

8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network.

A new replication was started in Madagascar. PALF team in Congo underwent a successful re-constructing under the leadership of Perrine Odier, the interim coordinator and reached significant results in arresting wildlife traffickers but also in obtaining several strong punishments.

The TALFF project is transitioning end of year from working through ANCE-Togo to an execution by EAGLE as an international NGO. TALFF will transition to EAGLE-Togo.

The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued the support to the network members. Financial officer was hired in January. The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 24 missions to the countries 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.

The EAGLE Network exchange program to raise the professional level of our projects brought 6 activists for training in other countries, and 3 other activists carried 8 operations support missions in other countries.

- Luc Mathot from Steering Group and Nicolas Charron from CCU conducted a supporting mission to PALF, Congo, in January, where the team was in reconstruction. Nicolas focused on recruitment of new team members and training the team on procedures, data security, managing ICS, recruitment, security analysis and activism. Luc Mathot held several important meetings, a meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development on repositioning PALF through improving the quality and level of communication with the supervisory ministry and the consortium (Wildlife Conservation Society and The Aspinall Foundation).
- In February the intensified support of CCU to recruitment process in the countries brought results in 7 countries, 14 new activists joined the network on test period. Monitoring and evaluation Officer from CCU conducted a mission to Guinea to train the GALF team on security, reporting, following procedure manual and fostering activism and to help with the recruitment. Perrine Odier was assigned an interim coordinator of PALF, Congo, where she started reconstruction of the team, testing the new investigators and legal advisors and looked for a new office. French versions of the Operation Procedure Manuals, Contraband Guides and Identification Guides were printed together with EAGLE Network Pamphlets and partly distributed to the countries.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer carried missions in Benin and Togo in March to assess the teams and their structure, performance, difficulties and define solutions, to assist in recruitment and identify future recruitment needs, to improve the management, to test and train each department with priority given to investigations and operations, to ensure that the team follows the Procedure Manual, is in compliance with all procedures and security. Newly recruited Financial Officer passed her first month of work, she started interacting with coordinators and accountants and review financial reports. Luc Mathot arrived to

Nairobi to work with the CCU. Avaaz, e-activism movement, initiated collaboration with EAGLE Network and started supporting us. Mulago foundation contacted EAGLE Network with offer to help the processes, mentoring and professional support in the construction of the Network.

- New replication led by Luc Mathot started undergoing preparation in Madagascar in April, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed with local executing organization called Alliance Vohary Gasy and the recruitment process of the team started. The Organization Development Officer carried a mission to Guinea with a goal of strengthening GALF team and support recruiting, testing and evaluation of personnel, to help to strengthen the management skills of the coordinator and provide training in fostering activism.
- Ofir Drori gave the keynote speech on his conservation vision and a call for innovation and activism in the Future For Nature Awards in April. He won this award in 2011, and was invited back to present this year's award to 3 impressive passionate innovators. The Future For Nature tries to catalyze a new generation of passionate leaders to bring new ideas from the fringes to the centre of the conservation discussion to create a force of change and shake up conservation. He held a series of meetings in London with several donors to ensure their future support, with Born Free and Avaaz to discuss cooperation with this impressive movement, which manages 43 million members. EAGLE Network will use this power in some of the more challenging operations, and will learn more of how they were growing and turned from a functional structure to an actual movement. Ofir also met with UK National Wildlife Crime Unit to discuss cooperation in international cases which can reach European countries and UK.
- 105 tonnes of ivory was burned in Kenya in April as a strong signal to poachers and traffickers, that the ivory has its value only on living elephants. Ofir Drori participated at the event, and held many side meetings.
- Ofir Drori, founding director of EAGLE Network, participated at a Rounded Table discussion on Wildlife Crime with journalists in May, organized as a part of the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi. He held many interviews, and met with different Government authorities.
- The Financial Officer, who is located in Gabon, arrived to Nairobi for orientation and training in May. Ofir Drori held a meeting with the head of Kenya Wildlife Service to discuss a future extension of EAGLE Network's activities to Kenya.
- In June Naftali Honig was selected as one of Emerging Explorers by National Geographic Society for 2016. The Program recognizes and supports uniquely gifted and inspiring scientists, conservationists, storytellers, and innovators, who are already making a difference and changing the world. Naftali made his presenting on wildlife law enforcement and sniffer dogs program at the National Geographic Explorers Symposium in Washington DC.
- Ofir Drori carried a 3 days intense training on the EAGLE methods of a Lisa Hywood that managed to bring about many imprisonment prosecutions in Zimbabwe. He also helped to organize a two days meeting hosting several NGOs involved with enforcement in East and Southern Africa to exchange experience and push for more traffickers behind bars.
- Jana Hajduchova, the Organization Development Officer, held a public lecture at the Prague Zoo, Czech Republic, where she introduced EAGLE Network and its fight against wildlife crime.
- Luc Mathot met with the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to Gabon, who expressed strong interest in starting an EAGLE replication in his country. Mission to Equatorial Guinea will be organized in cooperation with him to meet the Minister of wildlife and other authorities.
- Danielle Mbui, the Network Financial Officer, started her two weeks mission in Cameroon to carry an audit of expenditures from January 2013 to June 2016, train the new accountant and set new financial procedures.
- Ofir Drori participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana in June. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy 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 now conducted for 5 years.

- In July Luc Mathot arrived to Madagascar to support the recruitment process and development of the new replication. The Financial Officer conducted her mission to Cameroon to carry out an audit of expenditures from January 2013 to June 2016, to train the accountant while setting up new financial procedures.
- The Organizational Development Office conducted a mission to Benin in August with a goal to strengthen AALF-B team by support given in recruiting, testing and evaluation of personnel, strengthening the management techniques of the coordinator, training and fostering activism. The monitoring and Evaluation Officer travelled to Madagascar to strengthen the ALARM project by support in recruiting, testing the new recruited investigators, legal advisors and media officer, support the management, monitor the process and assist the project in logistics. Luc Mathot, the member of Steering Group, arrived at Benin to support the external relations and development of the team.
- In September Ofir Drori participated as a trainer at the International Conservation Chief's Academy in USA, bringing together leaders of conservation law enforcement agencies from Africa. He gave training in fighting corruption to 35 participants from 8 African countries. He gave a presentation to FWS and held a series of meetings in FWS. Luc Mathot participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy 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 now conducted for 7 years. Danielle Mbui, the financial officer, traveled to Cameroon to support the recruitment process of a new accountant. Luc Mathot arrived to Congo and Madagascar to support the teams, the management and external relations of the projects.
- Luc Mathot travelled to Nairobi in October to discuss challenges and development of the Network with Ofir Drori and to work directly with CCU. he also travelled to the EU headquarters in Belgium where he met with the representatives of US FWS, European Union officials and NGO colleagues. He made a presentation on fighting corruption, EAGLE activities and the last important cases in Madagascar and Uganda at the EU-US Reflection Workshop On Tri-Border Conservation, Security and Development: DRC-CAR-South Sudan. Ofir Drori travelled to Holland for a TEDxEDE talk about hunting wildlife traffickers - passion and activism in conservation. He also gave a talk to 300 students at Wageningen University organized by its Future For Nature Academy about fight against wildlife crime and corruption. He also started a short mission in Uganda to address gaps in procedure adherence and in court results. He trained the legal and investigation team and worked on profound changes in the legal unit functioning. He also worked on strengthening the team and management.
- In November Ofir Drori arrived to Senegal and Guinea to support the management and to strengthen the relationship with diplomatic community and government authorities. More than 20 meetings were held, with ambassadors (USA, United Kingdom, Netherlands), Ministries (Director of Cabinet Justice, SG Environment, Minister of Interior) and other authorities to strengthen external relations and to gain a support for the fight for wildlife law enforcement and fight against corruption. As a result of the intense meetings held with the Minister of Environment the Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and SALF was signed. Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of EAGLE Network, conducted a mission to Madagascar to support the recruitment process, to train the team members in procedures and to support external relations. His presence was used to initiate an arrest operation. Danielle Mbui, the financial officer conducted a mission to Uganda to inspect the work of the EAGLE Uganda financial officer, to audit, assess the accounting and support application of financial procedures.
- In December Ofir Drori participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy 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. Danielle Mbui, the

Financial Officer, conducted missions to Guinea and Senegal to support the teams in financial management, to evaluate the accountants and audit the financial management of SALF and GALF and help with recruitment of a new accountant for GALF. Jana Hajduchova, the Organizational Development Officer arrived to Guinea to support GALF team in training the coordinator in management and leadership, recruiting, testing and evaluation of personnel and investigations. Rens Ilgen, the super volunteer finished his training in Cameroon and arrived to Kenya where he continued his training programme.

9. Photos of the selected cases



2 ivory traffickers arrested with 69 kg ivory in an operation, carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police forces. The traffickers were finally arrested after many months of investigations, having brought 20 tusks as a sample of 200 kg which they were willing to sell in case of a successful agreement with the buyers. At the time of arrest, one of the traffickers was driving the contraband and the others in the company of a corrupt policeman, who escorted the consignment and provided security for the dealers. The traffickers then confessed that this police officer

was assigned by his superior to participate in the crime. The two police officers are under investigation, the General inspector of police and the General inspector of Government were contacted with an appeal to have the two officers investigated for their alleged involvement in the crime.



3 cybercriminals were arrested in Cameroon in January after advertising for sale two lion cubs and two cheetah cubs through the internet. After months of collaborative efforts and days of patience in Douala waiting for the cybercriminals to make a move, LAGA, the team of wildlife officials and the police carried out the operation at the last day of January .



A trafficker arrested with 80 kg of shark fins. TALFF team and the Togolese authorities done great work in intercepting this Ghanaian based in Nigeria on the Togo - Benin border hiding the fins in travel bags. He travelled with them from Nigeria to Ghana with intention to sell them.



3 ivory traffickers arrested in the centre of Dakar in a joint operation of the Brigade of Urban Security and SALF. The 3 dealers brought their contraband from their ivory carving workshop to a restaurant, where they were arrested red handed during an attempt to sell 271 (!) pieces of elephant ivory and other contraband.



A significant Nigerian ivory trafficker arrested with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales. The trafficker who used the cover of a businessman dealing in car spare parts had a storeroom where huge quantities of wildlife products could be stored. He ran his illegal activity across the Central African sub region from Gabon, Congo, Cameroon right to Nigeria and he equally had as clients Chinese traffickers.

Balla Doumbouya - the head of international wildlife trafficking is finally behind bars! Ever since the landmark arrests of former CITES head of Guinea Doumbouya and Thierno - a major international live animal trafficker, GALF team tried to hunt down a bigger target. This was Balla Doumbouya -Thierno's boss and the main contact in front of the corrupt former wildlife head. Balla had been in hiding ever since, but the GALF team together with Interpol NCB finally managed to locate him and swiftly arrest him. His interrogation is expected to give us insight information on the organized international illegal trade in great apes, manatees and many other endangered species he trafficked for more than 10 years to China, Japan and South Korea.





6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory in Uganda. Two of them, a corrupt Army Major and Army Corporal - both attached to airport authorities were arrested in a swift operation, carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. Later 3 more accomplices were arrested - a driver from the presidential state house and a former accountant of the state owned company handling airport luggage among them. This is a landmark case exposing and combating the corruption and complicity that enables the international illegal ivory trade. A state house bullet proof car with bullet proof vest

inside was seized later from one of the military personnel and a sixth member of this ring was arrested. During the operation the Major tried to escape by jumping over a high perimeter wall, but one of our team members managed to grab his legs and pull him down to have him arrested. He was awarded for this brave act showing real commitment to fight wildlife crime.



5 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks when a criminal ring was crashed in a well organized operation carried out by Police, wildlife authority and AALF team. The gang of traffickers was in the spotlight of investigation for a long time. The first trafficker was arrested, when he was driving with the contraband to the planned place of transaction. He agreed to reveal to police 2 more traffickers he was dealing with, and even called one of them to get him in the police trap. The remaining 2 members, brothers, of the gang were arrested the following day in nearby villages, where also the tusks were hidden for a short time. They were taken from freshly killed elephant and weighted about 8 kg.

2 ivory traffickers arrested with 12 ivory pieces, one of them a corrupt officer of Special Forces. After several months of investigation, the traffickers were caught red handed when they tried to sell the ivory at a restaurant in Kampala. The arrested corrupt official is a Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Force attached to Special Forces Command (SFC) and premised at State House. He functioned as security to the trafficker.





2 traffickers arrested with 13 chimpanzee skulls. The chimps were killed for the international trade in the Dja Biosphere Reserve - a world heritage site that like so many protected areas in Africa is poorly protected. The traffickers were also involved in the illegal transportation and sale of ape meat from the Reserve to far away commercial centers such as Yaounde.

2 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 12 tusks, weighting 124 kg. The 2 Nigerian traffickers were stopped by police with TALFF team in front of the police station near the Benin border. The search revealed that they were concealing the ivory in the trunk and under the back seats in their 4WD vehicle, to get through border controls without stopping. They attempted to transport it from Nigeria via Benin, Togo and Ghana to Ivory Coast, where they intended to sell it. They both remain behind bars, awaiting trial.



2 ivory traffickers arrested in the north of Congo with 8 elephant tusks of very young animals. . They were arrested in the act attempting to sell the contraband. They had been trafficking ivory for years, collaborating with many poachers, massacring forest elephants in central Congo and having links to Chinese traffickers.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 8 tusks, weighting 20.5 kg in Uganda. A businessman based in Kampala, attempted to sell the ivory in the centre of the capital, but he was arrested in the act. After the arrest he revealed that the ivory was brought from Kenya. He is a member of a ring of traffickers, involved in both ivory trade as well as arms trafficking between Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan.

An ivory trafficker arrested in his jewellery shop in Gabon. The house search revealed 2 tusks, 24 leopard teeth, 50 elephant hair bracelets and 3 elephant tails. For many years, this Senegalese trafficker had been running a small shop with jewellery, famous for products derived from protected animals. In addition to gold, silver, diamond and bronze, he was trading ivory, leopard teeth and other parts of protected animals to produce necklaces, bracelets and other jewellery. These contrabands were particularly sought after by Asian customers.



2 significant international traffickers arrested with 250 kg of raw ivory in Uganda. Both are major players of an international network of ivory traffic which includes many African countries. They belong to the Malian Diaspora, but several ID were found suggesting that one of them is living between Kampala and DRC. They had a meeting arranged with a potential buyer in a private residence, but after the arrival to the place they were stopped by Flying Police Squad with the team of EAGLE Uganda and arrested. They were under an intense investigation for more than one month. They were part of a large chain of criminals, supplying raw ivory to different Asian traffickers. Evidences shows that they have

been in the business for several years. They also held a voter's card from the Democratic Republic of Congo and national identification cards from several African countries.



The 9th replication in the EAGLE Network kick started in Madagascar with a crackdown on reptile trafficking and a series of arrests focused on the organized illegal trade in radiated tortoise. The value of one small radiated tortoise exceeds the price of 1 kg of ivory. 9 traffickers were arrested with 428 radiated tortoises. The total value of the

seized tortoises in their target Asian market is well beyond half a million dollars.

The crackdown faced traffic of influence and corruption - a bribing attempt of about 6,800 USD was reported by police, and a pressure made by a General to release the traffickers was combated.

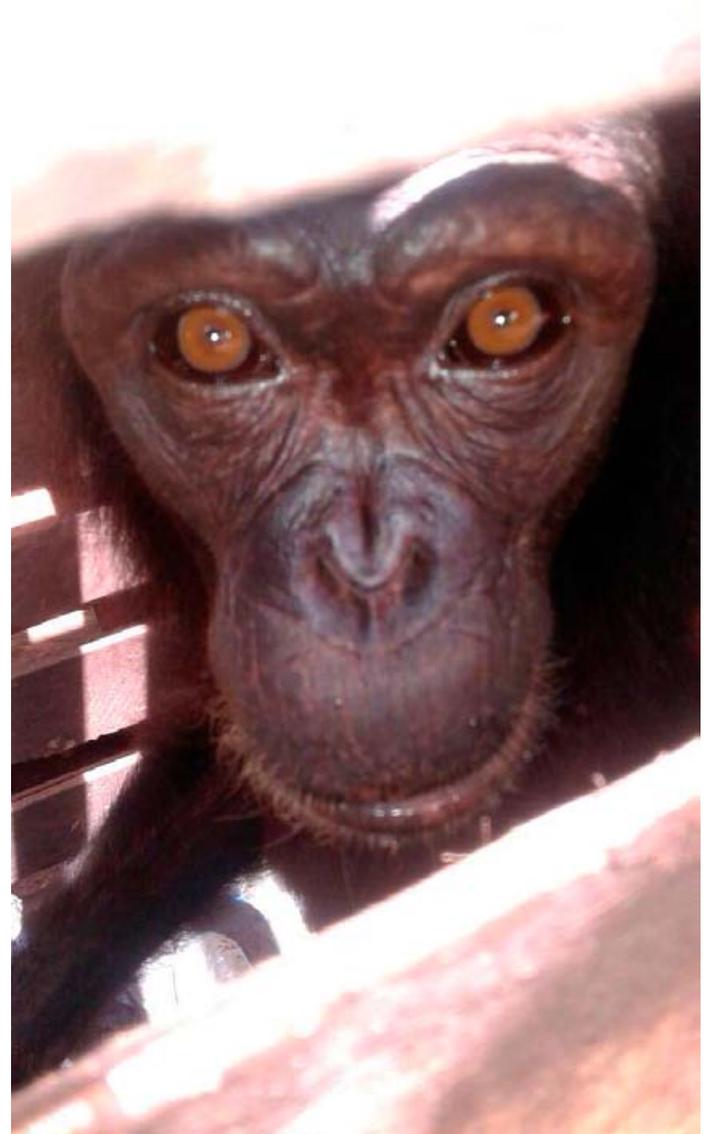
5 reptile traffickers arrested with 199 radiated tortoises during the first operation carried out by the new ALARM team and police. The traffickers arrived to a hotel in the centre of capital city with an intention to sell the tortoises. They were carrying them in 3 large suitcases in very harsh conditions for these sensitive animals. When they tried to sell them, they were arrested in act in a swift and well prepared operation. Sixth accomplice, a house guard, was arrested few days later during a house search after he admitted that he removed more tortoises out of the house.

A major trafficker arrested with lion and leopard skins in a crackdown on illegal trade in skins in Senegal. 106 skins of 11 protected species including lion and leopard skins were seized in the trafficker's shop that served as an international junction for the illegal trade. This was the first SALF operation to be carried in cooperation with the Directorate of the National Parks. He was organizing a wide circle of traffickers, creating a trade chain supplying him the skins and animal parts from Mali, Nigeria and several other countries.





2 traffickers arrested with a cheetah skin in Uganda. There are less than 6,800 cheetahs left in the world making it the most endangered feline in the continent. There are less than 30 cheetahs left in Uganda, Making this a very meaningful arrest operation. EAGLE Uganda team will use forensic science to understand whether it was killed in Uganda or trafficked from another country.



3 ape traffickers, members of a circle, specializing on trafficking alive animals, arrested trying to smuggle a chimp in a car. A live chimpanzee was rescued. One of them, the declared owner of the chimpanzee, confessed that he had a caged chimp for 12 years, but the rescued chimp is barely 6 years old, which seems to indicate other chimps have been captured, died and replaced during this time. The trafficker concealed the locked cage on the back of the truck with a dusty tarpaulin in order to evade law enforcement detection. The chimp female was probably an orphan chimp that had been separated from her mother after she was shot killed for bushmeat. Akim, as the chimp was called, was frail, underfed and wore a melancholic look when she was rescued. She was taken to the IDA Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre for lifetime care.



2 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of hippo ivory in western part of the country. They have been trafficking wildlife products across Uganda and DRC, using canoes to bring contraband across White Nile and Lake Albert. To the place of planned transaction they arrived by motorbike with the contraband concealed inside plastic bag. It was full of 234 pieces of hippo teeth, presenting 58 massacred hippos. The amount of contraband gives a snapshot of the extermination of hippos for the international illegal trade. Hippo ivory is often destined for Asia, where it is carved into jewellery, replacing in this way more expensive elephant

ivory. The traffickers were selling it to the agents of international buyers. 10 days after the arrest the traffickers were prosecuted and both sentenced to 2 years in prison - a good deterring sentence for wildlife trafficking.

2 significant traffickers arrested in West of Uganda with 135 kg of hippo teeth and two elephant tusks. Abel and the team cut short their annual vacation to get these two behind bars. They both are long term criminals, trafficking ivory and other contraband for years. They worked as a team for the past 5 years, collecting and storing the hippo and elephant ivory in their village. They emptied their storage for this transaction as they were planning to move their illegal activity to Kenya. When the police and NRCN team surprised them in a hotel room with the contraband concealed in 2 bags, they resisted the arrest violently, but it did not stop the team from putting them behind bars.





3 wildlife traffickers arrested with 2 pelicans, 4 young ostriches, a yellow billed stork, a black kite, a crocodile and 5 spur-winged geese in Senegal. The live animals trafficking ring operated since 2006 across Senegal, Gambia and Mauritania and is responsible for international trafficking of a great volume of threatened species including live hyenas and lions. One of their phones include a long list of contacts of magistrates, governors, colonels, customs officers, enforcement officials and many others that probably served as a corrupt circle of complicity ensuring the impunity of this ring.

4 wildlife traffickers arrested and a giant pangolin rescued in the north of Uganda. They intended to sell the pangolin in a hotel, and were arrested in act. The injured pangolin was transported to the wildlife centre in Murchison Falls National Park, where he got the proper veterinary care.



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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