



EAGLE

The EAGLE Network Annual Report 2020



- ✓ *Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its many related difficulties, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 138 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals arrested in 8 countries*
- ✓ *At least in 10 of the operation, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation or shortly after.*
- ✓ *83 ivory traffickers arrested with over 1,100 kg of ivory, which includes 236 tusks*
- ✓ *23 big cat traffickers arrested, and 20 leopard and one lion skin skins seized*
- ✓ *8 pangolin scales traffickers arrested in three operations in Cameroon, more than 530 kg of scales were seized.*
- ✓ *6 primate traffickers arrested, a baby chimp and three live mandrills rescued*
- ✓ *5 human bones traffickers arrested in Cameroon in two crackdown operations*
- ✓ *80% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars*
- ✓ *2,514 media pieces published in national media, at least 144 media pieces were published in the countries as a result of the effort of the media officers spreading the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and the Covid-1 pandemic. At least 17 international media pieces published*

1. Summary

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 138 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested in 8 countries. It is a good example of how team spirit and inner motivation plays a strong role in getting results and finding way through the obstacles created by the Covid-19 regulations - and still comply with all of them. EAGLE Network also adopted strict internal measures to prevent spreading the infection within teams

Although the travel restrictions in the countries limited the movement of teams, the number of investigation missions increased significantly compared with the same period last year. It creates a good basis for increasing the number of arrests after the pandemic is over. Also, online investigations were pushed forward to produce more targets where field investigators could not find targets easily.

In several countries the public services including courts were interrupted, it limited the number of prosecutions, which are postponed. In some of the countries the state counsels ordered release of the arrested traffickers due to high risk of infections in prisons. Ban on international travel disabled any missions of CCU members to the countries or team members between the countries. CCU and Steering group extensively used videoconferencing instead of travelling, to keep the quality of the work of all teams high.

1,814 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 80% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least in the beginning of their trial. During the year 111 traffickers were prosecuted and convinced, 78 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while others remain behind the bars awaiting trial.

Corruption is prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 10 of the operation, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Three military men were arrested, one of them a member of the Presidential Guard in Cameroon. Bribe attempts from family members and a traffic of influence were documented and combated in several arrest operations in Cameroon.

8 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in four operations in Cameroon. More than 530 kg of scales were seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction. Their trafficking became even more in the focus as there is a possible link between their consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic.

3 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in June. 2 corrupt military men were arrested with 380 kg of pangolin scales as they moved to sell the contraband transported in a pickup car. One of them was a member of the Presidential Guard, he was swiftly removed by his hierarchy following the arrest to serve as a strong message the corps' uniform will not be used to cover illegal activities, and any knowledge of an illegal activity will result in swift action. Third member of the ring, a woman who had sent her son (one of the arrested military men) to carry out the transaction on her behalf, was arrested a couple of hours later. She and one of the military men had been tracked for several years as she carried out illegal pangolin trade. They all explained explicitly how they used their military status to run criminal activities, to avoid arrest. Despite the link between pangolins' consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic, the illegal trade still goes on.

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 83 ivory traffickers were arrested in 31 operations in 7 countries with over 1,100 kg of ivory seized, which includes 236 tusks. 44 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon. One of the arrested traffickers was a corrupt military man.

6 primate traffickers were arrested in Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire, a baby chimp and three live mandrills rescued. A major live-animals trafficker arrested as well as her international supplier, after a long-term high-level investigation by Rens, Gaspard and their team in Côte d'Ivoire in December. Selling protected species for years and connected to several criminal syndicates in the West-African region, the trafficker has been arrested in her house while trading a baby chimp that was rescued. Her phone revealed the supplier that we hunted for 4 years, a part of a major trafficking crime family that has been elusive to us for long. Following surveillance, Rens and the team finally had the chance to arrest the first member of this Guinean family. With all the proof this time for chimpanzee trafficking, the team quickly moved with the UCT special unit against transnational organized crime to swiftly bust him next to his wildlife store. This important arrest operation marks a crackdown on the organized illegal trade in apes, lion cubs and other endangered species in a great cross-EAGLE effort. The baby chimp, less than two years old, was handled to a newly opened orphanage Akatia, which received the government approval only one day before the arrest. He was traumatized and needed deworming, but his condition started improving fast.

During investigations into wildlife trafficking in Cameroon, leads were found into human bones trafficking, which resulted in the arrest of 5 traffickers. 2 independent rings were crashed within two months. Often investigations of wildlife traffickers lead to other connected crimes and when it does, we have to act. 3 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in May with an almost complete human skeleton that still had dried up flesh on the bones and a human skull with hair on it in a sack that they attempted to sell. The three belong to a larger network that specializing in trafficking human bones. They had connections to other countries of the sub region and seemed to be able to supply dozens of human bodies. Some would dig out the corpses from their graves while others tackle the trafficking side of their illegal business. One of the traffickers in the network was a wildlife trafficker who now deals in human bones trafficking. Human body parts and some wildlife species are in high demand in Central Africa sub region to be used by occultists who believe they have supernatural powers. 2 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in June. Investigations on wildlife trafficking led to the discovery of a network of human bones traffickers and arresting 2 members of the ring with almost two full human skeletons packed inside two suitcases. This was the second crackdown on a separated ring of human bones traffickers two months in the same town. The two belong to a network that uses internet to advertise their products under code names and search for clients who they claim included clients from abroad. One of the traffickers travelled from Ambam near the South border to the West to carry out the transaction. The three top TV channels in Cameroon covered the case and broadcasted it in the prime-time evening news in French and English.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, 2,514 media pieces were published in national media, at least 144 media pieces were published in the countries as a result of the effort of the media officers spreading the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and the Covid-19 pandemic. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 28% in print media, 42% on internet, 25% in radio and 5% on TV.

More than 17 international media pieces were published.

Content:

This report refers to activities from January till December 2020. This report includes: the activities in each area of our fight - Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and External Relations; progress in developing the Network and strategic overview of our operations and their impact on wildlife crime.

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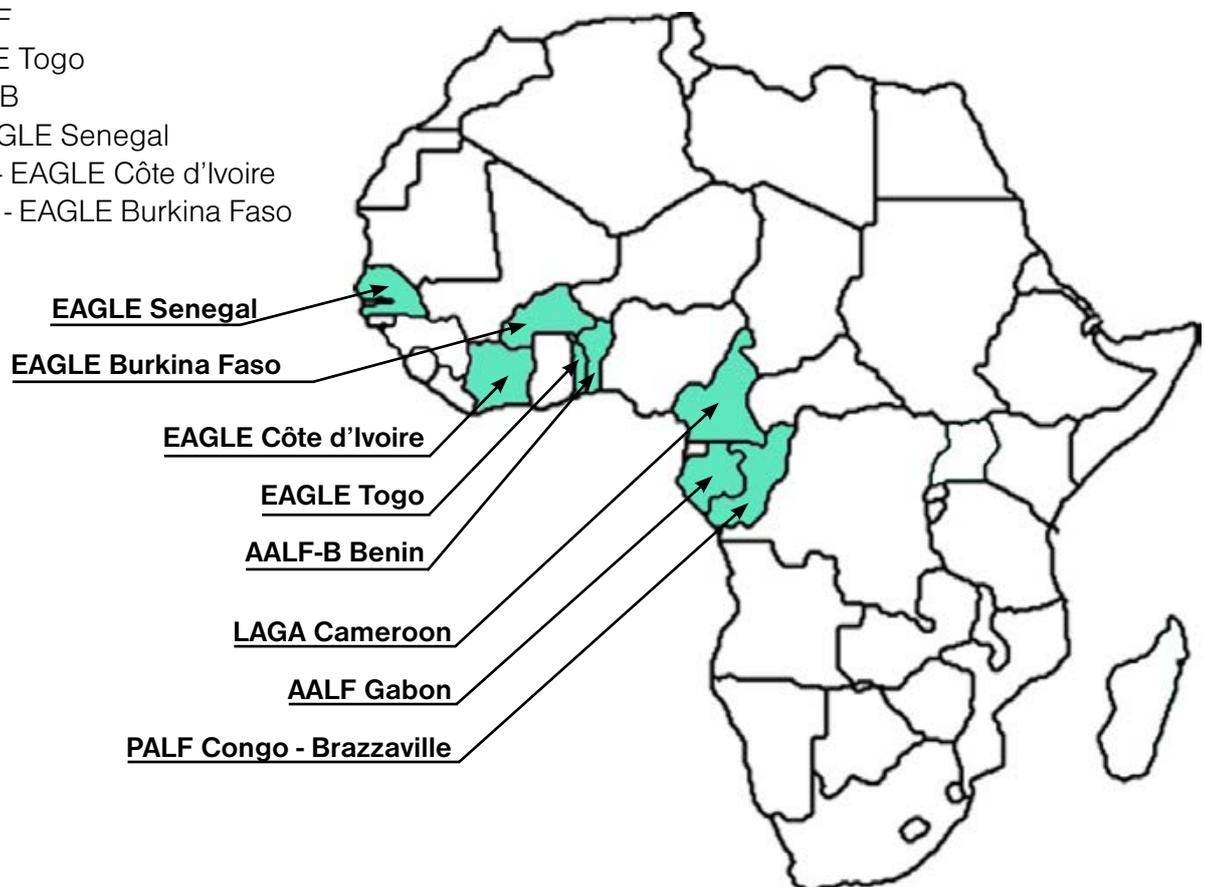
2. Structure of the Network

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

The Central Coordination Unit is located in Nairobi.

The EAGLE Network operates in these countries:

1. Cameroon - LAGA
2. The Republic of Congo - PALF
3. Gabon - AALF
4. Togo - EAGLE Togo
5. Benin -AALF-B
6. Senegal - EAGLE Senegal
7. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire
8. Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso



3. Investigations

1,814 different investigation missions were carried out in 9 countries, leading to the arrest of 138 traffickers in 2020.

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking but also on primate trafficking, illegal trade with big cat skins and pangolin scales and organized illegal trade in reptiles and birds.

**Numbers of investigations
in 2020**

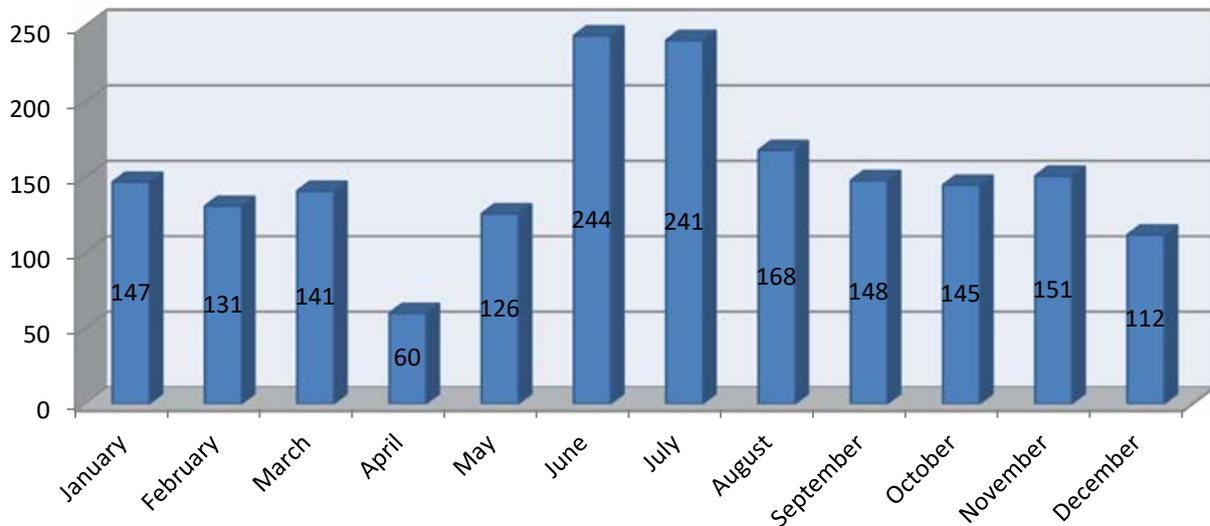


Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – December 2020

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and strict government measures which presented an obstacle in investigations, we succeeded to keep the number of investigation missions higher than the previous year. It creates a good basis for increasing the number of arrests after the pandemic is over. The growing number of investigations is also a result of intense recruitment process, leading to strengthening the teams and investigation departments. In all countries new investigators were tested and some joined the teams. The recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find more good investigators.

4. Arrest Operations

138 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 59 operations in 8 countries of Central and West Africa.

**Number of Arrested Traffickers
in January - December 2020**

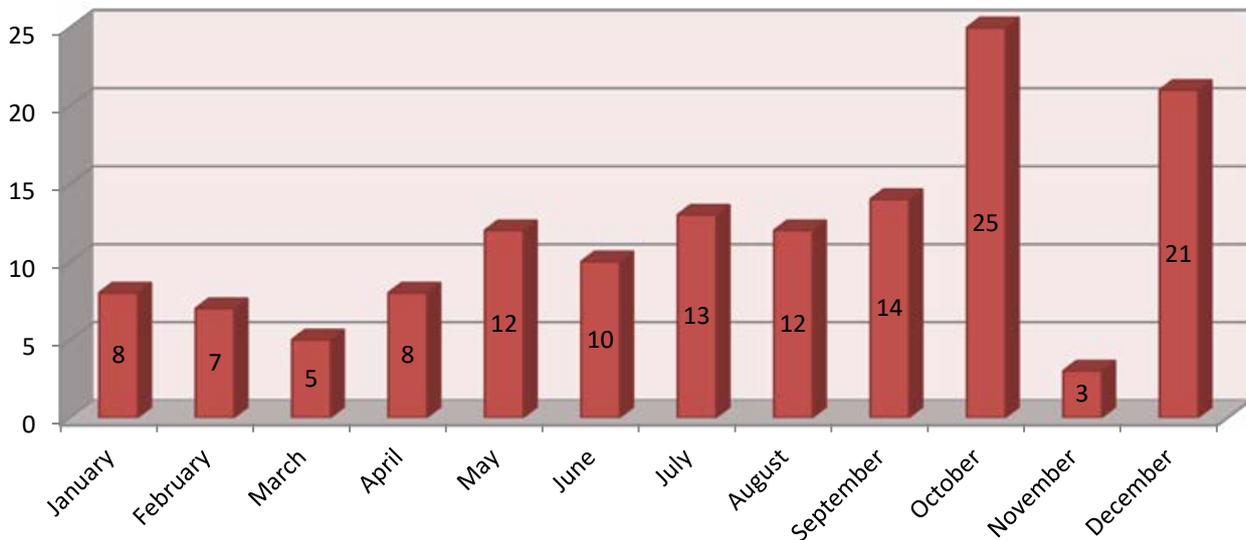


Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - December 2020

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers – 60 % were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts – 17 %. Third in focus of arrests were pangolin scales traffickers with 6 % of all the arrests. 4 % of all arrests were primate traffickers. Large portion of the arrested traffickers represented human bones traffickers – over 4 % of all arrested traffickers.

Distribution of the Arrested Traffickers According to Species

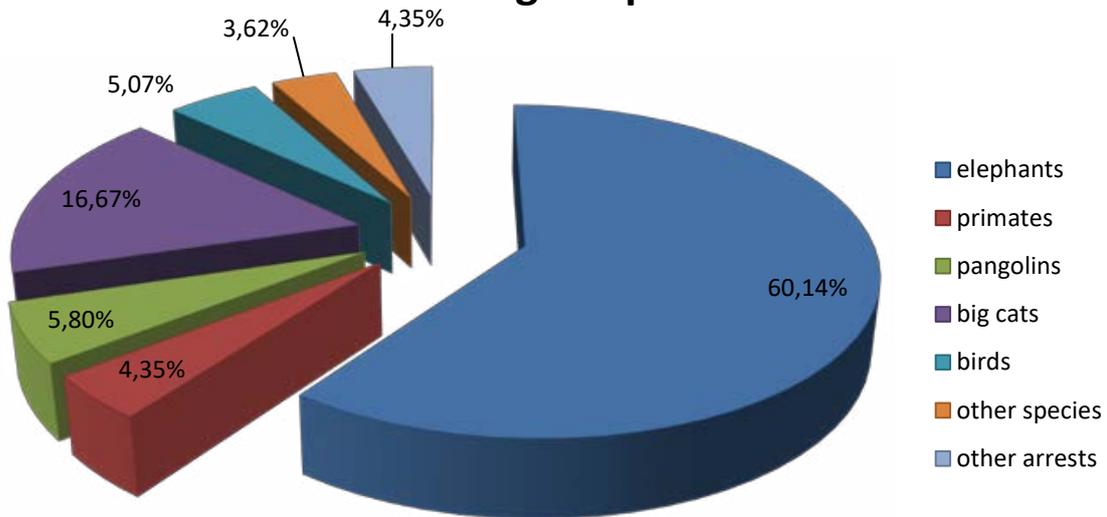


Fig. 3: Distribution of Arrested Traffickers According to Species

Corruption

Corruption is prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 10 of the operation, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Three military men were arrested, one of them a member of the Presidential Guard in Cameroon. Bribe attempts from family members and a traffic of influence were documented and combated in several arrest operations in Cameroon. The examples are presented here:

- 3 pangolin scales traffickers arrested in Cameroon in June. 2 corrupt military men were arrested with 380 kg of pangolin scales as they moved to sell the contraband transported in a pickup car. Third member of the ring, a woman who had sent her son (one of the arrested military men) to carry out the transaction on her behalf, was arrested a couple of hours later. She and one of the military men had been tracked for several years as she carried out illegal pangolin trade. They all explained explicitly how they used their military status to run criminal activities, to avoid arrest. One of them, a member of the Presidential Guard, was swiftly removed by his hierarchy following the arrest to serve as a strong message the corps' uniform will not be used to cover illegal activities, and any knowledge of an illegal activity will result in swift action. Despite the link between pangolins' consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic, the illegal trade still goes on.

- Two ivory traffickers, one of them corrupt military man, arrested with two tusks in Gabon in January. One of them brought the tusks from South of the country to sell them and the military man accompanied him to protect him for arrest during the transaction. They are both behind bars facing a sentence of 10 years in jail thanks to the new legislation adopted by Gabonese Parliament last year.
- A pangolin scale trafficker arrested with 50 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in April. This woman was arrested in the East of the country with 50 kg of pangolin scales. She had been arrested several times by the gendarmerie and released without any charges brought against her. She activated a gang of several poachers who supplied her with the scales, which she sold in the capital city. She violently resisted arrest during the operation hoping her corrupt contacts at the gendarmerie that constantly release her following each arrest would come to her rescue.
- A trafficker arrested in Cameroon in April in the heart of the capital city with a young mandrill he had been keeping with him for some time. He brought the animal from the South of the country. His mother arrived to the offices of the gendarmerie to find a way to stop the matter at the level of the gendarmerie but the wildlife officials and gendarmes handling the matter again stood their ground. She would attempt the same approach with the LAGA team on the ground for the same results.
- 2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of the country the same month with another young and wounded mandrill. They had travelled overnight to avoid detection. They had been collaborating in wildlife trafficking for a long time, one of them specializing in the buying and searching for new clients. Family members of the traffickers came to the brigade to propose a bribe to the brigade commander to end the procedure there but he refused.
- 3 traffickers arrested with two ivory tusks weighing 26kg in Cameroon in May. The two men transported the ivory in the trunk of a car and were arrested during an attempt to sell the tusks. They had carefully and skilfully concealed the tusks inside a bag. The car belongs to a customer at the automobile repair workshop where one of the traffickers worked. The third trafficker, a woman, was arrested a couple of hours later on her way to church. She gave the ivory tusks to one of the arrested traffickers to sell. One of the traffickers belongs to a larger network dealing in illicit trade in wildlife, mining products including ivory and gold. They used common tactics to try to influence officers doing offense reports and later tried the same tactics with the state counsel.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon in June with 2 ivory tusks. One of them had been able to glide through law enforcement for several years as his involvement in ivory trafficking was well know and has been a target for investigations for a long time. He admitted to gold trafficking. They are a part of a network stretching to CAR and connected to Congo. One of the traffickers' brother proposed a huge amount of money as bribe to the MINFOF official, who was in charge of the matter but he refused to take the money. They also approached the LAGA team but obviously failed to get any results.
- 3 ivory traffickers including a retired gendarme arrested in Gabon in October with 4 tusks. The first one was arrested during the attempt to sell the contraband, he soon denounced two other traffickers, one of them a retired gendarme. A rifle was seized in his house.

- 2 parrot traffickers arrested with 3 African Grey Parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets in Cameroon in September. One of them is a major dealer, a member of one of the most important international bird trafficking networks in the country and has spent 3 years evading justice. He is responsible for hundreds of birds exported illegally. The first trafficker was arrested selling 2 African grey parrots and 4 Rose-ringed parakeets at a roadside in the capital city. The owner of the parrots and parakeets was arrested one hour later at his residence with one additional African grey parrot and 2 Rose-ringed parakeets. After they were arrested for the first time a corrupt Commander decided to release them, completely against any procedure. LAGA team pushed strongly for re-arresting, which turned out to be very difficult as they were hiding. One of them attempted to flee but was chased and captured. They ended behind bars awaiting trial.
- The Legal Team of AALF followed up an arrest and provided legal support to a case of a corrupt gendarme, arrested by the Judicial Police with 6 ivory tusks in the West of the country in September.

Elephants

Trafficking ivory and other elephant products represent most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 83 ivory traffickers were arrested in 31 operations in 7 countries with over 1,100 kg of ivory seized, which includes 236 tusks. Some examples are presented here:

- Two ivory traffickers, one of them corrupt military man, arrested with two tusks in Gabon in January. One of them brought the tusks from South of the country to sell them and the military man accompanied him to protect him for arrest during the transaction. They are both behind bars facing a sentence of 10 years in jail thanks to the new legislation adopted by Gabonese Parliament last year.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 7 tusks in Gabon in January. Two of them were arrested in the attempt to sell the tusks cut in several pieces. After the arrest they denounced the head of the gang, who is a teacher in nearby town. He was swiftly arrested the same day and a hunting gun was found in his house.
- 3 ivory traffickers including a repeat offender arrested with 2 tusks in Gabon in January. The repeat offender was arrested in August 2013 with support of Conservation Justice with ten tusks. He was sentenced to 6 months in absentia as he was released on bail before the court hearing. Although an arrest warrant was issued, he never got back to jail.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks cut in ten pieces in Gabon in February. First of them, a former teacher, currently working as an ambulance driver, was arrested in the act. The ivory was concealed in a bucket and hidden near the place of transaction. He denounced the second trafficker, who was arrested a day later. They have connections to an ivory trafficking ring crushed in last October, operating in Gabon and Congo.
- An ivory trafficker arrested in Gabon in February with two tusks. He is Beninese, living in Gabon, he has been in the spot of authorities since 2015. He remains behind bars in the capital city awaiting trial.

- An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in Gabon in March. The Cameroonian national was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the ivory. Due to limited transport possibilities during the Covid-19 pandemic, he was not sent to the court at capital city but was kept in jail in Franceville court of first instance.
- 3 traffickers arrested with two ivory tusks weighing 26kg in Cameroon in May. The two men transported the ivory in the trunk of a car and were arrested during an attempt to sell the tusks. They had carefully and skillfully concealed the tusks inside a bag. The car belongs to a customer at the automobile repair workshop where one of the traffickers worked. The third trafficker, a woman, was arrested a couple of hours later on her way to church. She gave the ivory tusks to one of the arrested traffickers to sell. One of the traffickers belongs to a larger network dealing in illicit trade in wildlife, mining products including ivory and gold.
- 4 ivory traffickers arrested in Benin in May with one large tusk, weighing 16 kg. One of them is a retired military man. They arrived to the place of transaction with the tusk concealed in a jute bag and were arrested in the act.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon in June with 2 ivory tusks. One of them had been able to glide through law enforcement for several years as his involvement in ivory trafficking was well known and has been a target for investigations for a long time. He admitted to gold trafficking. They are a part of a network stretching to CAR and connected to Congo.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 7 tusks, weighing almost 20 kg, in Benin, in June. The trafficker of Burkina Faso nationality was arrested in the act when he tried to sell the tusks, which he brought to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a jute bag.
- 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in July. 3 ivory traffickers, one of them from Burkina Faso, arrested with 4 tusks in the South of the country. Two of them were arrested in the act, after one was monitored when he carried the contraband concealed in a large black bag to the place of transaction, where the other was supposed to carry the transaction. They swiftly denounced the third trafficker, a woman that dealt with the two. They all face a sentence of 10 years in jail. 2 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks and 16 hippo teeth in the South-west of the country. One of them of Benin nationality. They were surprised by the operation team in the middle of the transaction, when all the contraband had been displayed on the floor.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in a crackdown series of arrests of a criminal network in Togo in July. One of them is also a part of a larger gold trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana and evidence was found of his negotiation to buy 600 kg of trafficked gold from Ghana just last week.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon in August. The first two, one Senegalese and one Nigerian, were arrested while they tried to sell the tusks, carefully concealed in a television cardboard box. After arrival to the police station they denounced a third trafficker, also a Nigerian, who was arrested a few hours later.
- 11 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in September. 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the central part of the country with 6 tusks. The first one was arrested in the act with the contraband concealed in a suitcase. He admitted being the owner of two of the tusks, and soon revealed two other traffickers, one of them a

community leader in a nearby village. Both were swiftly arrested and transported to the Libreville Central prison, where they await the trial. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks and a leopard skin in the same region only one day later. Two of them were arrested in the act when they were preparing the contraband for sale. They denounced the third trafficker, who was arrested one hour later, while he was waiting for his share for the illegal transaction. 5 ivory traffickers arrested, and a ring of traffickers crushed in the East of the country. The first trafficker was arrested with one large tusk, weighing 17 kg, during the attempt to sell it. He denounced another trafficker, who was arrested next day. Interrogation later went to revealing the rest of the criminal ring, three more traffickers, who were arrested in their homes with two more tusks.

- LAGA provided technical assistance to customs and wildlife officials following the arrest of a trafficker in South of the country with 118 ivory tusks hidden in a secret built-in compartment in a truck he was driving to the capital city. The ivory was trafficked from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea and was heading to the capital city for an illegal transaction. He is considered to be one of the main traffickers in a ring that deals in huge quantities of ivory in the sub region. The team carried out further investigations into the case exposing international links. Some of the tusks originated from Gabonese government stockpiles, seized in operations carried out in collaboration with Conservation Justice, the EAGLE member based in Gabon.
- 5 ivory traffickers arrested in October in Gabon. 2 ivory traffickers arrested in South of the country with 4 tusks. They were arrested after they arrived at the place of transaction by taxi, carrying the contraband concealed in a bag. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested and sentenced for 6 months in 2016 for ivory trafficking. 3 ivory traffickers including a retired gendarme arrested in the West of the country with 4 tusks. The first one was arrested during the attempt to sell the contraband, he soon denounced two other traffickers, one of them a retired gendarme. A rifle was seized in his house.
- 6 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in Togo in October and an international trafficking ring crushed. They are part of a well-organized international ring with connection to Gabon and Benin. Two of them are of Benin nationality, they trafficked the tusks from Benin. The fifth one was organizing the transaction in his house, where all of them got arrested. A few days after the head of the ring came to the place of transaction and was immediately taken by the family members of the arrested trafficker and handled to forces of law.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Benin in October. Jules, the Coordinator of the AALF-B project, got a bad road accident in the field, the night before the take down, necessitating a complicated surgery of his broken legs. From hospital bed and in great pain, Jules insisted the arrests goes as planned and instructed that Armand would coordinate it in the field. Jules's fighting spirit and the dedication of his team brought down a ring that was a target for a very long time. Two of them were arrested in the act after they arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the contraband concealed in a bag. They denounced two other traffickers who were arrested in their homes.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with carved ivory in Côte d'Ivoire in October. He was arrested in the act with 3 statues and 9 bracelets. He is a long-term sculpture seller, well connected to a network trafficking carved ivory for years.

- 2 major traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks and two small parts in Burkina Faso in October. The two are part of a vast ivory trafficking ring illegally trading live animals as well. Investigation was carried with other EAGLE teams and information obtained in arrest is likely to lead to more arrests in other countries.
- 2 Ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in November. An ivory trafficker arrested with 5 tusks, cut in 15 pieces. The trafficker of Malian nationality was arrested in the act in the capital city. An ivory trafficker arrested with 13 pieces of elephant ivory in the South of the country. We still don't know why the ivory was covered with the black material. In the past some paint on contraband has been used as a black magic protection for the traffickers - that didn't work so well for them as they were jailed. A shotgun was seized in the trafficker's house.
- 6 ivory traffickers arrested and a criminal gang of ivory traffickers crushed in Cameroon in December. The first 2 traffickers were arrested in the act with 4 tusks in the east of the country. 4 more traffickers were arrested in another town one day later during a follow up operation dismantling a hard and cautious network involved in trafficking of ivory from the east of the country to Nigeria. Among them is a Nigerian national, and a repeat offender who already had been arrested and served jail term for ivory trafficking.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with one tusk in Congo in December. They were arrested in the act with the tusk well concealed in a bag. One of them is a notorious trafficker well connected to a trafficking ring.
- 5 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in December. 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the South of the country with 8 tusks, weighing 61 kg. Two of them were arrested with the contraband concealed in two flour bags after they arrived by a public transport to the place of transaction. They denounced third trafficker, the owner of the ivory, who was arrested two days later. 2 ivory traffickers arrested in the South of the country with 2 tusks. The first one, of Burkina Faso nationality, was arrested in the attempt to sell the ivory after he unloaded the bag with concealed contraband off a car. He soon denounced the second trafficker, Guinean, who was arrested the same day.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Benin in December. They were arrested in the act after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a bag to the place of transaction. They remain in the jail awaiting trial.

Primates

6 primate traffickers were arrested in Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire, a baby chimp and three live mandrills rescued. The examples are presented here:

- A trafficker arrested in Cameroon in April in the heart of the capital city with a young mandrill he had been keeping with him for some time. He brought the animal from the South of the country.
- 2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of the country the same month with another young and wounded mandrill. They had travelled overnight to avoid detection. They had been collaborating in wildlife trafficking for a long time, one of them specializing in the buying and searching for new clients.

- A live animal trafficker arrested and young mandrill rescued in Cameroon in December. The young and hungry animal was immediately provided first aid care and food as it thirstily clung to a water bottle. As often is the case, the young animal lived in a filthy small cage. Earlier, another mandrill the animal trafficker tried to sell died in her possession.
- A major live-animals trafficker arrested as well as her international supplier, after a long-term high-level investigation by Rens, Gaspard and their team in Côte d'Ivoire in December. Selling protected species for years and connected to several criminal syndicates in the West-African region, the trafficker has been arrested in her house while trading a baby chimp that was rescued. Her phone revealed the supplier that we hunted for 4 years, a part of a major trafficking crime family that has been elusive to us for long. Following surveillance, Rens and the team finally had the chance to arrest the first member of this Guinean family. With all the proof this time for chimpanzee trafficking, the team quickly moved with the UCT special unit against transnational organized crime to swiftly bust him next to his wildlife store. This important arrest operation marks a crackdown on the organized illegal trade in apes, lion cubs and other endangered species in a great cross-EAGLE effort. The baby chimp, less than two years old, was handled to a newly opened orphanage Akatia, which received the government approval only one day before the arrest. He was traumatized and needed deworming, but his condition started improving fast.

Pangolins

8 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in four operations in Cameroon. More than 530 kg of scales were seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction. Their trafficking became even more in the focus as there is a possible link between their consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic. The examples are presented here:

- A pangolin scale trafficker arrested with 50 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in April. This woman was arrested in the East of the country with 50 kg of pangolin scales. She had been arrested several times by the gendarmerie and released without any charges brought against her. She activated a gang of several poachers who supplied her with the scales, which she sold in the capital city. She violently resisted arrest during the operation hoping her corrupt contacts at the gendarmerie that constantly release her following each arrest would come to her rescue.
- 3 pangolin scales traffickers arrested in Cameroon in June. 2 corrupt military men were arrested with 380 kg of pangolin scales as they moved to sell the contraband transported in a pickup car. Third member of the ring, a woman who had sent her son (one of the arrested military men) to carry out the transaction on her behalf, was arrested a couple of hours later. She and one of the military men had been tracked for several years as she carried out illegal pangolin trade. They all explained explicitly how they used their military status to run criminal activities, to avoid arrest. One of them, a member of the Presidential Guard, was swiftly removed by his hierarchy following the arrest to serve as a strong message the corps' uniform will not be used to cover illegal activities, and any knowledge of an illegal activity will result in swift action. Despite the link between pangolins' consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic, the illegal trade still goes on.

- A trafficker arrested in Cameroon in August with 23kg of pangolin scales. He travelled to the place of transaction at night with the scales concealed in a bag. He belongs to a local network, which activated small-scale traffickers, collecting the scales in surrounding villages. Pangolins trafficking and trade is still on the rise despite the global health situation facing Covid-19 believed to have leaped to humans through pangolins as well.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 70 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in December. An ex-military man was among them, he used his position to protect the trafficking ring that was organized around one experienced pangolin scales trafficker. This seizure, a snapshot of the ongoing trade of these criminals, represents probably more than 200 slaughtered pangolins

Big Cats

23 big cat traffickers were arrested, and 20 leopard, a lion skin and lions' and leopards' claws and body parts seized. Some examples are presented here:

- A trafficker arrested with 5 large leopard skins in Cameroon in January. When arrested, he was wearing an ivory bracelet on his wrist, showing audacity in carrying the illegal activities with a sense of impunity. He is a part of a network of leopard skins traffickers operating in the West Region of the country, he often travels around to collect the contraband. He owns a shop at one of the main markets in Bafoussam, the capital of the West Region.
- 2 leopard skin traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Benin in February. They travelled to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skin carefully concealed in a jute bag. They were swiftly arrested, and they remain behind bars awaiting trial.
- In Cameroon in April 4 traffickers belonging to a trafficking ring close to the Gabon border arrested with a leopard skin. They operate along the border areas between three countries, Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, ensuring smooth illegal trade in parts of protected species including leopard skins and ivory. Two of them negotiated the deals; two others are professional drivers ensuring the trans-boundary trafficking was expertly carried in the area.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard and two crocodile skins in Senegal in June. The long-term traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the skins. One of them is a trained guide and tracker who accompanied the officials of Niokolo Koba National Park on several missions, but he didn't stop his criminal activities. While some of the skins originate from the nearby National Park, other ones were trafficked from Mali. Both traffickers remain behind bars, awaiting the trial.
- 2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins and scales of giant pangolins in Congo in July. They transported the contraband concealed in a bag to conceal the transport and to evade law enforcement. They are notorious traffickers, connected to a wide criminal network. The two traffickers remain behind bars awaiting trial.

- 2 traffickers arrested with 24 wild animals' skins including a leopard skin in Senegal in July. They were arrested in the act. One of them attempted to flee during the arrest but was swiftly stopped. All the skins probably originated from the Niokolo Koba National Park, where one of the suspected traffickers have been active for more than 30 years. They remain in jail awaiting trial.
- 2 traffickers arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin in August in Cameroon. The first trafficker, an owner of two craft shops, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skins. He was arrested with a travelling bag with the two feline skins skillfully packed inside. The second trafficker, a woman, was arrested a couple of hours later at her residence. She gave both the lion skin and leopard skin to her accomplice to sell further. The lion skin was tanned and already prepared to be displayed as a decoration. Lions were once in found in three continents but they were pushed out from 94% of their historical range. There are less than 25,000 lions left and in the past 25 years more than half of the lions' populations disappeared - do the extinction math yourselves. Cameroon is home to less than 300 lions.
- 3 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and skull in Congo in August. They transported the contraband to a nearby town well concealed in a bag, to be arrested in the act.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins in Gabon in August. The first one, a woman of Benin nationality was arrested in the act, during an attempt to sell the skins on a market in capital city. She concealed the contraband in a yellow plastic bag to evade law enforcement. Later she denounced two other traffickers, one of them a Cameroonian, who were arrested a week later.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 48 leopard and lion claws in Senegal in October. The first one of Indian nationality was arrested in the act of selling the contraband. His passport shows frequent travel in many African countries triggering investigations for possible transnational crimes and connection to Asia. He soon denounced the second trafficker, a Nigerian, who was supplying him with the claws. He was swiftly arrested nearby his shop at a market. The claws, originally offered as lion claws, are a subject to DNA analysis to identify the species. Both lion and leopard are fully protected species.

Birds

7 bird traffickers were arrested in Senegal and Cameroon, some of them significant international traffickers, responsible for illegal export of thousands of birds. The examples are presented here:

- An Algerian parrot trafficker arrested in Senegal in February at the airport in Dakar with 131 Senegal parrots and Rose-ringed parakeets. He was arrested on the board of a plane to Algeria at the last moment before taking off. The birds were concealed in two small suitcases, suffering by dehydration, malnutrition and injuries. They were quickly transported to a veterinarian to receive adequate care. After five days of recovery most of them could be released back to the wild.
- 2 parrot traffickers arrested with 3 African Grey Parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets in Cameroon in September. One of them is a major dealer, a member of one of the most important international bird trafficking networks in the country and has spent 3 years evading justice. He is responsible for hundreds of

birds exported illegally. The first trafficker was arrested selling 2 African grey parrots and 4 Rose-ringed parakeets at a roadside in the capital city. The owner of the parrots and parakeets was arrested one hour later at his residence with one additional African grey parrot and 2 Rose-ringed parakeets. After they were arrested for the first time a corrupt Commander decided to release them, completely against any procedure. LAGA team pushed strongly for re-arresting, which turned out to be very difficult as they were hiding. One of them attempted to flee but was chased and captured. They ended behind bars awaiting trial.

- A notorious and longtime parrot trafficker arrested following the arrest of two parrot traffickers in Cameroon in September. After evading justice for several weeks, he was finally arrested when leaving his home early morning. His arrest followed the arrests of a seller illegally selling African Grey Parrots and a second trafficker at his residence where the parrots were hidden. They both revealed the supplier of the parrots, after which the examining judge issued an arrest warrant for this significant trafficker who had been involved in the illegal parrot business in the country for decades.
- A major international birds trafficker arrested in Senegal in October with Ara Macaw and African grey parrots. Having enjoyed impunity for a long time he had been a target of investigations by the competent authorities for years. His illegal ring stretches to Spain, Mali and Morocco. Trading Ara Macaws in Africa may be of a surprise for those unaware of the vast illegal trade in birds between continents.

Hippos and other species

- 4 traffickers arrested with 20 kg of hippo teeth and skulls and 20 packages of ammunition in Senegal near Gambia border in March. One of them was already wanted for 18 different crimes. First two traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the hippo ivory, concealed in a rice bag. They were also carrying 5 packs of ammunition of calibre 12. A house search in their village was carried out in an area with high security risk. It was supported by two army units. It led to an arrest of two more traffickers, one of them, a Gambian national, already wanted for his involvement in drugs trafficking and other crimes.
- An antelope skin trafficker arrested in Benin in May with 15 skins and two horns of bushbuck in the centre of the country.
- 2 Chinese arrested at the international airport in Senegal in October with 16 Sperm Whale teeth, 34 kg of fish bladders and 4.6 kg of fins. They attempted to leave the country for China with the contraband, concealed in their luggage. The sperm whale is highly endangered species, protected by Annex I of CITES convention.
- The Legal Team of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire followed a case of 111kg of shark fins seized by the customs at the airport of Abidjan, resulting later in the arrest of the owner of the contraband. A day after another shipment of 350 kg, destined to Hong Kong and belonging to the same trafficker was seized. Additional 17 kg were found in his house, so the total amount of seized shark fins was almost half ton.

Other arrests

During investigations into wildlife trafficking in Cameroon, leads were found into human bones trafficking, which resulted in the arrest of 5 traffickers. 2 independent rings were crushed within two months.

- 3 human bones traffickers arrested in Cameroon in May with a with an almost complete human skeleton that still had dried up flesh on the bones and a human skull with hair on it in a sack that they attempted to sell. The three belong to a larger network that specializing in trafficking human bones. They had connections to other countries of the sub region and seemed to be able to supply dozens of human bodies. Some would dig out the corpses from their graves while others tackle the trafficking side of their illegal business. One of the traffickers in the network was a wildlife trafficker who now deals in human bones trafficking. Often investigations of wildlife traffickers lead to other connected crimes and when it does we have to act. Human body parts and some wildlife species are in high demand in Central Africa sub region to be used by occultists who believe they have supernatural powers.
- 2 human bones traffickers arrested in Cameroon in June. Investigations on wildlife trafficking led to the discovery of a network of human bones traffickers and arresting 2 members of the ring with almost two full human skeletons packed inside two suitcases. This is the second crackdown on a separated ring of human bones traffickers two months in the same town. The two belong to a network that uses internet to advertise their products under code names and search for clients who they claim included clients from abroad. One of the traffickers travelled from Ambam near the South border to the West to carry out the transaction. The three top TV channels in Cameroon covered the case and broadcasted it in the prime-time evening news in French and English.

5. Legal Follow up

The EAGLE Network legal teams in the 8 countries followed up the court cases of the 138 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 80 % of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial, at least for its beginning.

During the year 111 traffickers were prosecuted and convinced, 78 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while others remain behind the bars awaiting trial. In most of the countries the work of the courts was interrupted due to the pandemic, therefore the number of processed cases was lower.

- 3 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 3 years in jail in Gabon in January. They were arrested in November 2019 with 27 tusks.
- A Cameroonian ivory trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in jail in Gabon in February. He was arrested in October 2019 with 6 tusks.
- 2 ivory traffickers, one of them a military man, were sentenced to two years in jail in Gabon in February. They were arrested in January in the capital city with two tusks.
- Two ivory traffickers were sentenced to jail in Benin in February, one to one year, the other one to 6 months. They were arrested in September last year with 4 elephant tusks.
- The three human bones traffickers arrested in Cameroon May were condemned and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment each in June.
- The PALF Legal team provided legal assistance to a case of two ivory traffickers, one of them a military from republican guard, arrested by Congolese Police with two tusks in June.
- 5 court decisions were delivered in Gabon in June, and 9 ivory traffickers sentenced to jail for various sentences from 2 years to 8 months. They were arrested between August 2019 and March 2020.
- Four ivory traffickers, arrested in September last year in Gabon, were sentenced in July, two of them to 2 years in jail, the other two to 1 year in jail. Another ivory trafficker and a leopard skin trafficker were sentenced to 6 months.
- The Legal Team of EAGLE Togo supported in July a seizure of a significant quantity of raw and worked ivory in Lomé weighing a total of 43kg.
- Two traffickers were prosecuted in Côte d'Ivoire in July. The pangolin scales trafficker arrested in August last year with 148 kg of pangolin scales was prosecuted and sentenced to one year in jail. An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 1 year in jail. He was arrested in March 2019 during an attempt to sell two carved tusks.

- An ivory trafficker, a military from republican guard, has been sentenced to 2 years in jail in Congo in August. He was arrested by police together with another trafficker in June, with 2 large ivory tusks, weighing 20 kg. PALF Legal team provided legal support to this case.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to two years in jail in Gabon in August. He was arrested in October last year with 4 tusks and a hunting rifle. 5 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in jail. They were arrested in July this year. Two other ivory traffickers have been sentenced to one year in jail. Since January 2020, the jail term has decreased compared to the second part of 2019. It is little more than one year (16 months), which is far from the maximum sentence (10 years).
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in jail in Benin in August. They were arrested in May 2020 with an ivory tusk weighing 18 kg.
- The Legal Team of AALF followed up an arrest and provided legal support to a case of a corrupt gendarme, arrested by the Judicial Police with 6 ivory tusks in the West of the country in September.
- 10 traffickers were prosecuted in Gabon in November. An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 2 years in jail. He was arrested in October this year with 4 tusks. 3 ivory traffickers were prosecuted, two of them sentenced to 2 years in jail, one to 6 months. They were arrested in September with 6 tusks. Another three ivory traffickers, arrested in August this year, were sentenced to two years in jail. 3 ivory traffickers, arrested in September this year with 6 tusks, were sentenced to 2 years in jail.
- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in jail in Benin in November. They were arrested in October with 6 tusks.
- 7 traffickers were prosecuted in Gabon in December. 5 ivory traffickers were sentenced to jail, one for one year, four for 2 years. They were arrested in September 2020. Two ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year, one to 6 months in jail. They were arrested in October 2020.
- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 4 months in jail in Togo in December. They were arrested in July 2020.

6. Media

Using the media to inform the public that the law is being actively enforced maximizes the deterrent value of our actions and the rising risks for potential traffickers to get to jail.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, 2,514 media pieces were published in national media.

At least 144 media pieces were published in the countries as a result of the effort of the media officers spreading the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 28% in print media, 42% on internet, 25% in radio and 5% on TV.

More than 17 international media pieces published.

Split of Media Pieces

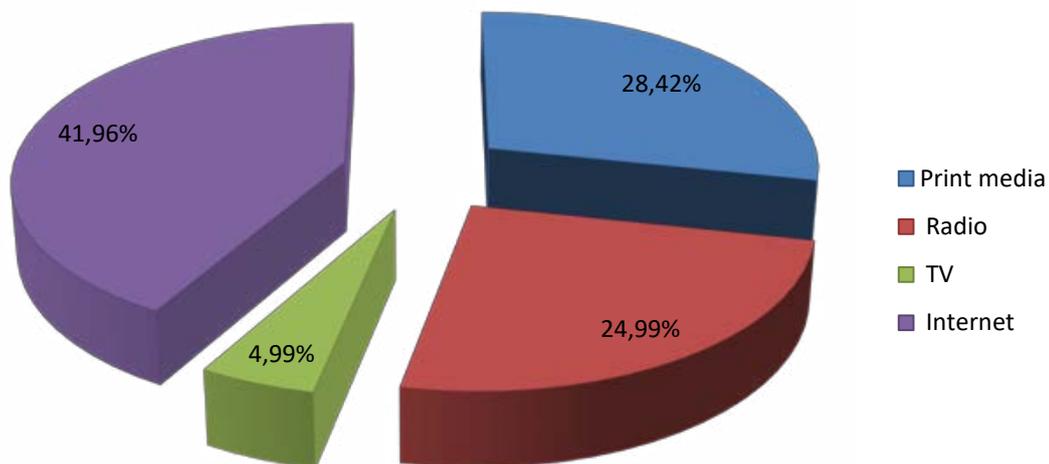


Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces

**Numbers of media pieces published
January - December 2020**

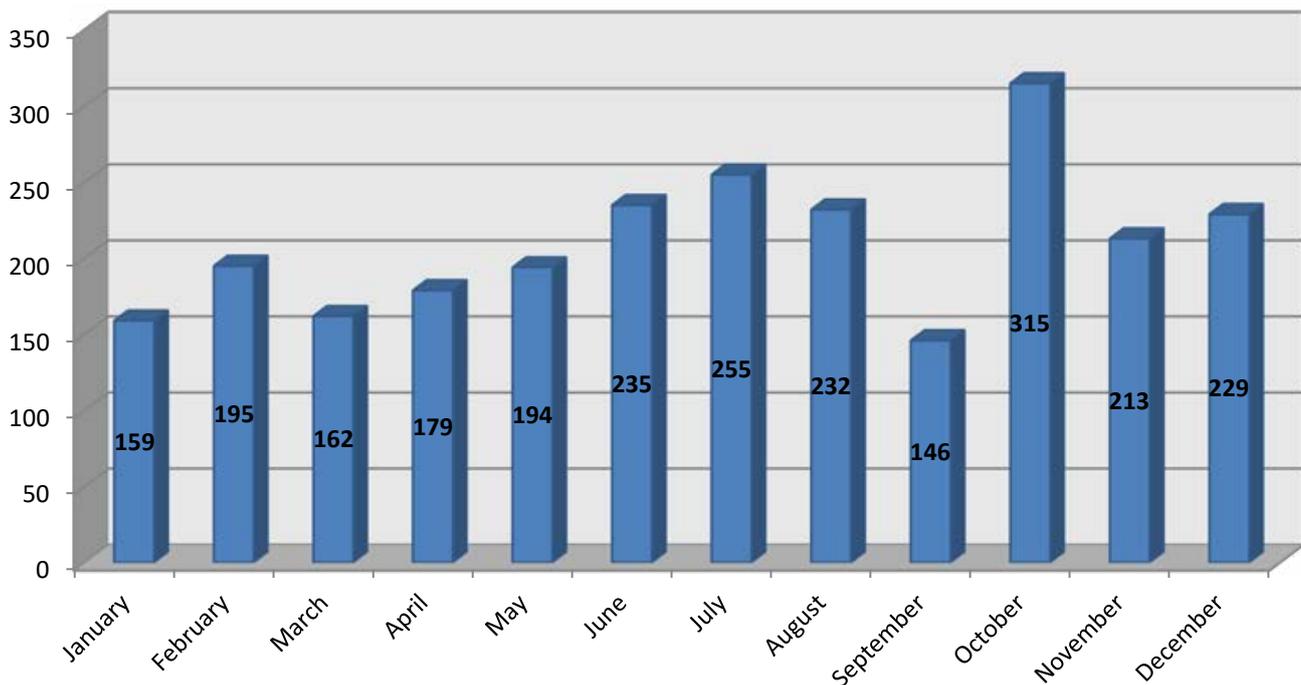


Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January – December 2020

International media

- A short movie was published by a film crew preparing a documentary on the illegal trade with pangolins, showing an interview with Eric Tah, the LAGA Deputy Director.

[Link to the video](#)

- EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire was mentioned and the coordinator Rens Ilgen was quoted by several international media at the opportunity of burning the 3 tons of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire:

[Link to 20 minutes](#)

[Link to La Libre Afrique](#)

[Link to RTBF](#)

[Link to Franceinfo](#)

- La Croix quotes Ofir Drori in an article on pangolin trafficking:
[Link to La Croix](#)
- Reporterre writes about the link between Covid-19 and pangolin trafficking, with a quote from Ofir Drori:
[Link to Reporterre](#)
- Le Monde interviewed Ofir Drori for an article Coronavirus: on the trail of the “pangolin connection”:
[Link to Le Monde](#)
[Link to the full article](#)
- Luc Mathot was quoted in le Monde, “Pangolin sales in Gabon falter with Covid-19”:
[Link to Le Monde](#)
- LAGA was mentioned in Camer.be in an article “COVID-19 and wildlife trade: CAMEROON”:
[Link to Camer.be](#)
- Several articles in Guinea, Burkina Faso and other media were published as a result of push of EAGLE Togo Media Officer, explaining the link between pangolin trafficking and trade in pangolins:
[Link to All Africa](#)
[Link to Afrique News](#)
- Ofir was interviewed by Israeli TV i24news on the illegal trade in pangolins and pangolin scales (in French):
[Link to the interview](#)
- Save Pangolins published an article on LAGA Deputy Director Eric Kaba Tah, who has been nominated for the prestigious Indianapolis Prize in 2020
[Link to Save Pangolins](#)
- French TV channel France 2 during its prime time programme “Sur le front des animaux menacés” showed the pangolin trafficking theme with LAGA and covered the recent crackdown arrest of two military men with 400kg of pangolin scales, as well as a follow-up on a previous arrest of a woman trafficker.
[Link to France 2](#)
- Leadership for Conservation in Africa recorded a zoom talk with Ofir about his life story, called Activists against wildlife trafficking: fighting corruption and wildlife crime with Ofir Drori
[Link to the video](#)
- Initiative Africa broadcasted an interview with Ofir Drori in it’s regular weekly show
[Part one - English version](#) (starts at 7th minute)
[Part one - French French version](#)
[Part two - English version](#) (starts at 10th minute)
[Part two - French version](#)

7. External Relations

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

Cameroon

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Law Enforcement Advisor of the Zoological Society of London who was visiting the country in January. He discussed with him wildlife law enforcement strategies, techniques and conservation in general. They also explored possible areas of cooperation and assistance. He also took part in a meeting organized by the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group that was focused on preparations for the World Pangolin Day planned for the 15th of February.
- In February the Deputy Director had a presentation on LAGA's activities and its collaboration with Interpol at a three-day Interpol meeting that brought together Interpol, Wildlife and Customs officials, focusing on defining state-level priorities and needs for an upcoming Interpol operation against wildlife trafficking which will be carried out in the various member countries within the West and Central African sub regions.
- On the invitation of the Belgian Ambassador, the Deputy Director participated at a meeting at the Secretariat of Defence in Charge of the Gendarmerie that brought together 5 top gendarmerie officials including the Central Deputy Director of Coordination and a technical adviser. The meeting was focused on discussing some wildlife cases at the courts with links to the gendarmerie.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting in March with the President of Global Earth Keeper and a consultant working for the organisation. They discussed issues related to conservation in the northern regions of the country that are facing several challenges including human animal conflicts, transhumant pastoralism etc.
- As a part of an effort to intensify arrests in July, the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments were on an external relations mission to build active and collaborative platforms for eventual operations. They held several meetings with high officials including the South Regional Police Chief, South Regional Forestry and Wildlife Delegate, Head of Customs at the Freight Department at the Doula Airport and at the Nsimalen Airport and the Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post at the Nsimalen Airport.

- The Deputy Director carried out three presentations at a workshop organized by ZSL in July for the benefit of stakeholders within the wildlife law enforcement chain. The first one was on Information Gathering within the context of wildlife law enforcement, a second on Investigation Techniques and a third on Information Management and Operations. The workshop, which he facilitated, brought together stakeholders from the South East regions, a home to some of the most important parks such as the Dja Biosphere Reserve – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- In September The Deputy Director and Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments held a working session with the Centre Regional Delegate, during which they discussed collaborative initiatives to improve wildlife law enforcement in the area and worked on strategies which would lead to the arrest of the parrot traffickers. Before the meeting, the Deputy Director had held an earlier meeting with the newly appointed Delegate to appraise the wildlife law enforcement situation in the region.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Research Officer No. 2 at MINFOF on issues connected to the Memorandum of Understanding between MINFOF and LAGA.
- The Deputy Director accompanied by the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments and a controller from the regional delegation held a meeting with the Commander of the Gendarmerie Operational Command Post to discuss issues pertaining to parrot trafficking and the rearrests of the two parrot traffickers.
- In October The Deputy Director attended the ceremony, presided by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, held to present the National Anti-Poaching and Wildlife Crime Strategy. LAGA's team participation at developing the strategy was appreciated.
- The Deputy Director facilitated a workshop on causes and consequences of agro-pastoral conflicts. The workshop organized by human rights group Recodh brought together state actors and NGOs working in this area.
- The Deputy Director was a guest on prime time CRTV News programme Twilight on the recent seizure of 118 ivory tusks in the South of the country, the causes and consequences of ivory trafficking and elephant extinction.
- The Deputy Director attended a workshop organized by TRAFFIC presenting the preliminary analysis of the impact of training workshops organized and the tools developed by TRAFFIC and WWF to combat wildlife crime in Cameroon between 2015 and 2019.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with a wildlife law enforcement expert assisting a conservation project around the Mt. Cameroon reserve in November. He also met with the new project manager of the Tikki Hywood Foundation who recently arrived the country. The Deputy Director participated at a meeting aimed at relaunching the activities of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group that ceased following the advent of the novel coronavirus.
- The Deputy Director held a Zoom presentation titled Parrot Trafficking in Cameroon; an Insight into the Illegal Trade during a virtual workshop organized by the World Parrot Trust together with the Nigerian CITES Management Authority and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. The workshop was primarily focused on disseminating information from recent research in Nigeria into the status and threats to Grey parrots including (but not limited to) the threat of trade.

- In December the Deputy Director participated at the workshop organized by TRAFFIC and did a presentation on the legal procedure relating to the prosecution of wildlife law offenders.

Republic of the Congo

- The Coordinator participated at the conference “Action for Chimpanzee” which took place in Conakry in January, attended by governments and NGOs from Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast. She actively contributed to drafting the Conakry Declaration on the fight against the illegal trade in chimpanzees from West Africa, adopted at the conference.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Deputy US Ambassador.
- During the year the Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with authorities, including the representatives of the EU Delegation, embassies, many of the Departmental Directors of Waters and Forests, with the Commanders of Gendarmerie, State Counsels and others.

Gabon

- The Coordinator travelled to the Republic of Congo in January to participate at a meeting with EU representatives to discuss EU financial support to several EAGLE projects and regional strategy.
- Two Legal Advisors supported by the Activities Coordinator trained Judicial Police Officers in Tchibanga (Nyanga Province) on the regulations of wildlife conservation and methods of combating wildlife crime in January.
- The Executive Director and the Activities Coordinator met with the General Director of the School of Gendarmerie to prepare the training program on wildlife law enforcement in February.
- The Legal Advisors met with the Director of Cabinet and the Legal Advisor of the Minister of Water and Forests and the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas in March.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting in June with the Executive Secretary of the National Agency for National Parks, the Advisor to the Minister in charge of the Ecosystem Service and Sustainable Development Goals, the Directors General of the Forest Sector Executing Agency and the Director in charge of Wildlife and Hunting Management.
- A Legal Advisor participated at the official launch of the Ndangui anti-poaching brigade in August. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Minister of Water and Forests, the company Precious Wood - CEB and Conservation Justice at this opportunity. The brigade was created to fight against poaching and illegal trafficking in the peripheral area of Ivindo National Park and the Precious Wood - CEB sustainable forest concession.

- The Coordinator and the Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of the General Research Directorate (DGR), the Director of Investigations of DGR and the General Secretary of the Chancellery in September.
- A Legal Adviser participated at a working session at the Ministry of Water and Forest on the validation of the legal guide on wildlife in Gabon in September.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of Justice, her Chief of Staff and the Secretary-General of the Chancellery in October.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the head of the wildlife brigade of Ndangui and the Wildlife Manager of the Precious Woods-CEB forest company in November. He also held a meeting with the State Counsel of the Court of First Instance of Mouila to plan organization of the training workshop for Judicial Police Officers.
- Two Legal Advisors supported by the Activities Coordinator and the National Agency of National Parks trained Judicial Police Officers in wildlife regulations in December.
- The Activities Coordinator participated at the opening ceremony of the training and capacity building workshop for magistrates organized by UNODC. He also met with the State Counsel of the court of first instance of Oyem to plan the organization of the training workshop for Judicial Police Officers of the province of Woleu- Ntem.
- During the year the Legal Team and the Coordinator held a series of meetings with the administrative and judicial authorities of the country both for the follow-up of cases and for the strengthening of collaboration, including the Director of Economic and Financial Affairs of the National Police, the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, several governors, state counsels, the heads of judicial police units in several provinces and others.

Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator held several meetings with the new Head of Forest Resources Division at the Forest Resources Department of the Ministry of Environment to introduce him to the EAGLE project and its activities in the fight against wildlife crime. He also informed him about the collaboration that already exists between EAGLE and the technical services of the Ministry. The Head of the Department expressed his support to the process of bringing the Memorandum of Understanding between EAGLE and the Ministry of Environment to the signature.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in February with the Director of Interpol-DCPJ and the Head Commissioner in charge of fight against narcotic crime. They discussed cooperation during arrest operations.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator met the Assistant to the Director of OCRTIDB to discuss strengthening of collaboration and better monitoring of containers at the autonomous port of Lomé.

- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in March with the Customs' Operational Technical Inspector concerning CITES related cases at the airport to strengthen the collaboration, to discuss sharing information about the future seizures of the wildlife products, and EAGLE Togo legal and investigation support. He supported the cooperation with EAGLE Togo in combating wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held several meetings with the Association Declaration Officer at the Ministry of Territorial Administration to follow up on the EAGLE Togo registration file.
- In April the Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection to follow up on the Memorandum of Understanding, which is in the process of evaluation within the Ministry.
- The Assistant Coordinator and the Media Officer held two meetings with the OCRTIDB and Interpol to strengthen the collaboration in the fight against environmental crime and wildlife trafficking. EAGLE-Togo supported the two law enforcement and security units by providing protective equipment against the corona virus, including 100 surgical masks and 30 bottles of disinfection gel.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of DCPJ-Interpol Lomé in August to discuss the arrest operation in July and the possibilities of now sharing EAGLE network briefings with this partner or collaborating unit. He also met with the Regional Director of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection, Kara to follow up the July arrest operation.
- The Assistant Coordinator held several meetings with the Deputy Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering (OCRTIDB). He discussed with him the evolution of the criminal cases on which EAGLE Togo and OCRTIDB collaborate.
- The Assistant Coordinator participated at the CITES training workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources in October. He used this opportunity to introduce EAGLE's project and present the activities to those involved in the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a series of meetings in October with the authorities including the Commandant representing the MERF, the Captain and Lieutenant of the OCRTIDB, the State Counsel at the Lomé Court, the Regional Director of the Environment of Kara, the judge in charge of the first investigative cabinet at the Kara Tribunal and others.
- The Assistant Coordinator met with the Director of the DCPJ-Interpol to discuss how to collaborate and evolve on investigations for important leads in Togo in November. The Assistant Coordinator also held meetings with the Deputy Regional Director of Environment of Kara and the public prosecutor at Kara Magistrates' Court to discuss the case of KOMNA Baba et al.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of Litigation Division at the Forest Resources Inspection Directorate, the deputy of the State Counsel at the Lomé court and the court judge to discuss the case of Gagnon Kodjo et al.

Senegal

- In January the Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Director of National Parks of Senegal to discuss the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and EAGLE Senegal as well as the obstacles encountered in the implementation of this agreement.
- She held a meeting with the Director of Operations of the Senegalese Customs to discuss a collaboration between the customs services and EAGLE Senegal in the context of the fight against trafficking in products of protected wildlife species.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Head of the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy in Senegal to follow up and to discuss support for finishing the MoU between EAGLE Senegal and the Ministry of the Environment. They also established a schedule of wildlife crime training to be provided.
- She held a meeting with the Lieutenant-Colonel of Gendarmerie to discuss organization of a training in wildlife crime for the cadets of the Gendarmerie national.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the diplomatic representation from the Embassy of the United States of America in Dakar in February. They discussed the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between EAGLE Senegal and the Ministry.
- The same month the Coordinator in cooperation with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy trained officers of the Airport Anti-Traffic Unit in combating wildlife crime. Only one week later this training brought fruit in the arrest of the Algerian bird trafficker.
- The Coordinator in cooperation with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy trained 38 Gendarmerie Officers from different units at the Application Center for Gendarmerie Officers. The training focused on different methods of combating wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a series of meetings with high authorities, including the Colonel in charge of cooperation in the Gendarmerie Officers' Application Course with the heads of the National Gendarmerie Environmental Unit, the Director of the Judicial Police within the framework of collaboration on future operations and for the follow-up of the Partnership agreement with the General Direction of the National Police, the Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS) as part of the follow-up to the Partnership Agreement with the General Directorate of the National Police, the focal point of the CITES Convention in Senegal and Director of Wildlife within the framework of the collaboration on the seizure of 131 parrots, and others.
- In March the Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking as part of the preparation for the successful operation and to resolve difficulties related to the border aspect of the intervention area.
- The Assistant Coordinator trained 46 Gendarmerie officers of 16 different African nationalities on the fight against trafficking in protected animal species in June. The training was organized by EAGLE Senegal, in

collaboration with the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy in Senegal and the CITES Management Authority in Senegal at the Application Center for Gendarmerie Officers.

- The EAGLE Senegal team met with the representatives of the French Embassy in Dakar in July.
- The Coordinator and the Coordinator Assistant held a meeting with the Director of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS) in August.
- The Coordinator and the Head of Legal Department participated in the validation workshop of the assessment report of wildlife crime in Senegal conducted within the framework of the Biodiversity and Climate Change in West Africa Program (WABICC) of the USAID.
- In September The Coordinator met with the Minister of the Interior to present the mission of EAGLE Senegal, to thank the Minister for his active collaboration during the arrest operation of major traffickers in March 2020 and to discuss the agreement of collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and the General Directorate of Police (DGPN).
- EAGLE Senegal is legally supporting the project of sniffer dogs. An instructor arrived for an intense three weeks training with participation of the EAGLE Coordinator and three police officers from drug intervention and enforcement units. The dogs are trained to detect ivory and narcotics.
- The EAGLE-Senegal team met with the Counselor of the French Embassy in charge of development in October who supported the financing of the K9 detection training, the Interior Security Service of the French Embassy, the Police Commissioners of the Brigade of Polyvalent Intervention and of the OCRTIS, to discuss the presence of a canine brigade within the forces of the order, and to demonstrate the work of sniffing dogs detecting ivory in suitcases and vehicles. The meeting was followed by a training course.
- The Coordinator participated at a meeting to the 5th anniversary of the Paris agreement on climate change in December which brought together the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the ambassadors of France, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Benin

- The Coordinator trained twenty police officers of the Commissariat of the Republican Police in Agoué on methods of combating wildlife crime in January.
- In March the Coordinator trained 10 police officers in Azove on methods of combating wildlife crime.
- During the year the Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with high officials, including several State Counsels of different courts, Commissioners and Departmental Police Directors, the Commander of Water and Forests and Representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and others.

Côte d'Ivoire

- The EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team assisted to a movie projection organized by WCF about the Cavally forest, a classified forest of the west under huge human pressure and illegal occupation of lands, in January.
- In February the team met the Senior Economist of the US Embassy to discuss the challenges of fighting wildlife traffickers in Côte d'Ivoire. He confirmed the support of the US Embassy for the team's activities and external relations.
- In March EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team assisted to the burning of the 3 tons of pangolin scales seized in 2017 after an arrest operation done by the UCT with the technical support of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire. The 4 fires were lit by the Minister of Water and Forest, the Public prosecutor, the UK and the US ambassadors.
- A Legal Adviser participated at a series of working sessions organized by the World Bank to assess the risks of wildlife crime in Côte d'Ivoire in March, April and May. The workshop is the follow up of the workshop organized in October and December last year.
- The Coordinator participated via videoconference at a workshop with the Ministry of Waters and Forests and the UCT (Unité de Lutte Contre le Criminalité Transnationale) to establish a proper registration and statistic system concerning the wildlife seizures in order to give more precise and complete figures to the CITES.
- In June the Legal Advisors participated at two on-line meetings organized by the Ministry of Water and Forests for the validation of the national protection policy of reconstitution and recovery of wildlife, alongside with other NGOs. Validation of the policy will be done in July.
- The EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team participated at series of three workshops with the OI-REN, an Ivorian NGO, and Akatia, an American NGO to study the project of the new policy of the government for wildlife law.
- The Legal Advisors participated at a workshop organized by the IUCN to put in contact the different NGOs working on wildlife protection.
- A legal advisor participated at three working sessions to assess the risks of wildlife crime in Côte d'Ivoire. Organized by the World Bank, these workshops were the follow up of the workshop our legal adviser attended to in October, December, March and May.
- The Coordinator had many working session with the Head of Investigations of the UCT to discuss cooperation on combating wildlife trafficking.
- The Coordinator and The Assistant Coordinator had a working session with the NGO Akatia in September to discuss about the future creation of a sanctuary for chimpanzees and the future seizure of animals by the project EAGLE CI.
- The Coordinator and his deputy met several times the OIPR, the Ivorian administration in charge of the management of the parks and reserves, in order to assess the need of their administration in protecting wildlife on national parks. The next step should be in the beginning of the year 2021 with formations given by EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire to the elements of the OIPR.

Burkina Faso

- In January the Coordinator together with the Technical Director of Conservation Justice met with a representative of NITIDAE, and environmental NGO. They discussed a cooperation within PONASI project, focused on support the enhancement of the natural capital of the landscape and increase the resilience of riparian communities. EAGLE Burkina Faso will provide legal support to the court cases resulting from the project.
- The Coordinator together with the Technical Director of Conservation Justice and a Legal Advisor held a meeting with the Technical Advisor of the Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change to discuss EAGLE activities in Burkina Faso. They also discussed the partners who supported EAGLE in carrying out its missions as well as the officials who were creating obstacles.
- The Coordinator held several meetings with senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, the Technical Advisor and the Director of the National Office of Protected Areas in April.
- The Coordinator held a meeting in May with the Coordinator of the PAB-Bio project, the expert for the fight against wildlife crime and the person in charge of monitoring and evaluation of the governance project. They presented the missions of the PAB-Bio project and requested the presence of Conservation Justice in the sub-regional information sharing network as it is identified as a major player in the information sharing system.
- The coordinator held a meeting in June with the Coordinator of the NGO NITIDAE who can facilitate an interview between the EAGLE Burkina Faso Coordinator and the Director General of Waters and Forests. They also discussed training that Conservation Justice could provide for the eco-guards of the PONASI ecological complex.
- He also met with the new Director of Operations of the Ministry of Water and Forests.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the National Office for Protected Areas (OFINAP). He presented the activities of EAGLE to the new executive of OFINAP, and negotiated support in the search for investigators.
- The Coordinator met with the Director General of Water and Forests (DGEF) and the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources (DFRC) to present EAGLE activities and to discuss the files which are not progressing at the level of the Operations Department. They also talked about possibilities to enable EAGLE Burkina Faso to operate safely in the other regions of Burkina.
- The Coordinator participated at a videoconference on the fight against environmental crime in West Africa, organized by IUCN.
- The Coordinator participated at the General Assembly of Veterans and Retired Military in October. During the meeting, he explained the activities of EAGLE Burkina Faso, and agreed on cooperation in recruiting investigators.

- He also met with the Director General of Water and Forests (DGEF) and all his staff. The Director was informed about EAGLE activities and assured the EAGLE Coordinator about his support.
- In December the Coordinator met with the State Counsel at the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Sissili, and presented him the activities carried out by Conservation Justice / EAGLE. He also had a discussion with the officials from the Ministry of the Environment, including the Provincial Director of Water and Forests of the Province of Sissili.

8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network

The travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic limited possibilities of missions to other countries. The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued the support to the network members mostly via internet. Personal missions were replaced by videoconferencing, to continue support newly started replications, to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries.

The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 3 missions to the countries to support management of the countries.

The preparation of new EAGLE Uganda project continued, the first team members were recruited and several investigators were tested.

Several investigators supported activities carried in other countries which helped to achieve more results.

Strict safety rules were applied in all teams to prevent the COVID-19 infection from spreading.

January

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to the Republic of Congo to participate at a meeting with EU representatives to discuss EU financial support to several EAGLE projects and regional strategy.

February

- Perrine Odier, the PALF Coordinator, travelled to Côte d'Ivoire to support the team in recruitment, finances and procedures and to share her experience.
- Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer, conducted a mission to Burkina Faso to support the recruitment process of a new accountant and train the selected one.

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director travelled to Belgium and Great Britain to meet with donors and to discuss future cooperation.

March

- An investigator from Gabon arrived to Cameroon for a three-week training and experience sharing mission.
- Tiffany Gobert, a supervolunteer, arrived to Côte d'Ivoire for training and to support the team

August

- EAGLE Senegal has moved to a new office providing higher safety.

September

- Tiffany, the super volunteer arrived to Cameroon for a three-month long training and experience sharing visit.

October

- The investigation department of EAGLE Senegal supported investigation in Burkina Faso which led to an arrest of 2 major ivory traffickers.

November

- Ofir Drori conducted a short mission to Uganda, to meet authorities and to train the team.
- Lydia Nsubuga was appointed Assistant Coordinator of EAGLE Uganda.

December

- Tiffany returned from Cameroon to Nairobi, where she started preparation for her next mission in Congo.

9. Photos of the selected cases

8 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in one month

Two ivory traffickers, one of them corrupt military man, were arrested with two tusks in the capital city in January. One of them brought the tusks from South of the country to sell them and the military man accompanied him to protect him for arrest during the transaction. They are both behind bars facing a sentence of 10 years in jail thanks to the new legislation adopted by Gabonese Parliament last year.

3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 7 tusks in the central part of the country. Two of them were arrested in the attempt to sell the tusks cut in several pieces. After the arrest they denounced the head of the gang, who is a teacher in nearby town. He was swiftly arrested the same day and a hunting gun was found in his house.

3 ivory traffickers including a repeat offender were arrested with 2 tusks in the North of the country. The

repeat offender was arrested in August 2013 with support of Conservation Justice with ten tusks. He was sentenced to 6 months in absentia as he was released on bail before the court hearing. Although an arrest warrant was issued, he never got back to jail.



3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 7 tusks



Two ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks



3 ivory traffickers including a repeat offender were arrested with 2 tusks

Leopard skin trafficker arrested in Cameroon

A trafficker was arrested with 5 large leopard skins in Cameroon in February. When arrested, he was wearing an ivory bracelet on his wrist, showing audacity in caring the illegal activities with a sense of impunity. He is a part of a network of leopard skins traffickers operating in the West Region of the country, he often travels around to collect the contraband. He owns a shop at one of the main markets in Ba-foussam, the capital of the West Region.



A parrot trafficker arrested in Senegal

An Algerian parrot trafficker was arrested at the airport in Dakar with 131 Senegal parrots and Rose-ringed parakeets in February. He was arrested on the board of a plane to Algeria at the last moment before taking off. The birds were concealed in two small

suitcases, suffering by dehydration, malnutrition and injuries. They were quickly transported to a veterinarian to receive adequate care. After five days of recovery most of them could be released back to the wild.



Hippo teeth traffickers arrested in Senegal

4 traffickers were arrested with 20 kg of hippo teeth and skulls and 20 packages of ammunition in Senegal. One of them was already wanted for 18 different crimes. First two traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the hippo ivory, concealed in a rice bag. They were also carrying 5 packs of ammunition of caliber 12. A house search in their village was carried out in an area with high security risk. It was supported by two army units. It led to an arrest of two more traffickers, one of them, a Gambian national, already wanted for his involvement in drugs trafficking and other crimes.



3 traffickers arrested and two mandrills rescued in Cameroon in April

A trafficker arrested in the heart of the capital city of Cameroon with a young mandrill he had been keeping with him for some time. He brought the animal from the South of the country.

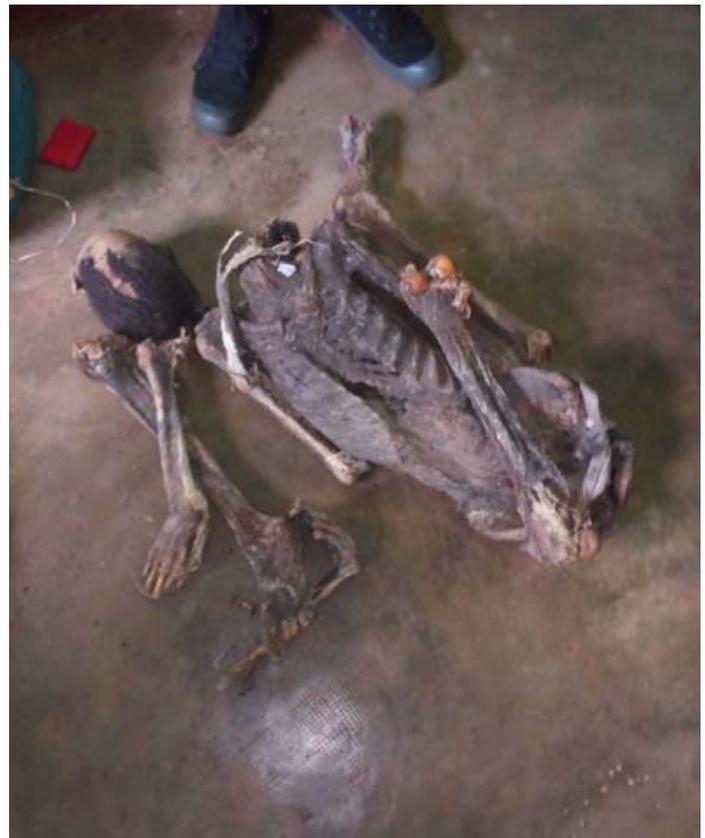
2 primate traffickers arrested in the south of Cameroon with another young and wounded mandrill. They had travelled overnight to avoid detection. They had been collaborating in wildlife trafficking for a long time, one of them specializing in the buying and searching for new clients.

Additional protective measures were taken for the entire teams carrying out the operations; special measures relating to the handling of primates were taken for the rescued mandrills, because of the Covid-19 situation.



4 human bones traffickers arrested in May

4 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon with a human body in a sack that they attempted to sell. During investigations into wildlife trafficking in the West of the country, leads were found into human bones trafficking, which resulted in the arrest of 3 traffickers with an almost complete human skeleton that still had dried up flesh on the bones and a human skull with hair on it. The fourth trafficker was arrested shortly after. They belong to a larger network specializing in trafficking human bones. They had connections to other countries of the sub region and seemed to be able to supply dozens of human bodies. Some would dig out the corpses from their graves while others tackle the trafficking side of their illegal business. One of the traffickers in the network was a wildlife trafficker who now deals in human bones trafficking. Often investigations of wildlife traffickers lead to other connected crimes and when it does we have to act. Human body parts and some wildlife species are in high demand in Central Africa sub region to be used by occultists who believe they have supernatural powers.



A member of the Presidential Guard arrested in Cameroon in June

3 pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in Cameroon. 2 corrupt military men were arrested with 380 kg of pangolin scales as they moved to sell the contraband transported in a pickup car. Third member of the ring, a woman who had sent her son (one of the arrested military men) to carry out the transaction on her behalf, was arrested a couple of hours later. She and one of the military men had been tracked for several years as she carried out illegal pangolin trade. They all explained explicitly how they used their military status to run criminal activities, to avoid arrest. One of them, a member of the Presidential Guard, was swiftly removed by his hierarchy following the arrest to serve as a strong message the corps' uniform will not be used to cover illegal activities, and any knowledge of an illegal activity will result in swift action. Despite the link between pangolins' consumption and the Covid-19 pandemic, the illegal trade still goes on.



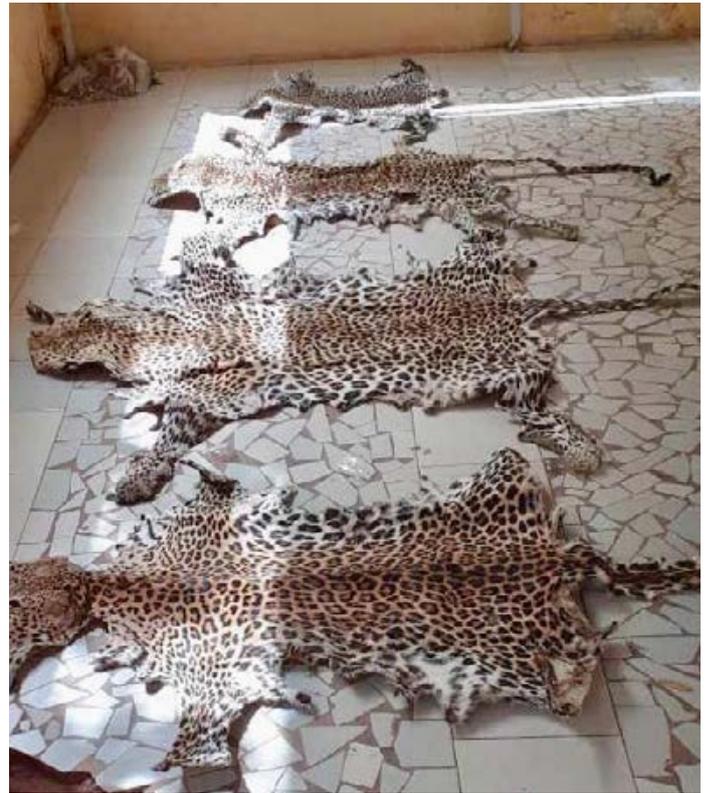
Human bones traffickers arrested in Cameroon in June

2 human bones traffickers were arrested in Cameroon. Investigations on wildlife trafficking led to the discovery of a network of human bones traffickers and arresting 2 members of the ring with almost two full human skeletons packed inside two suitcases. This is the second crackdown on a separated ring of human bones traffickers two months in the same town. The two belong to a network that uses internet to advertise their products under code names and search for clients who they claim included clients from abroad. One of the traffickers travelled from Ambam near the South border to the West to carry out the transaction. The three top TV channels in Cameroon covered the case and broadcasted it in the prime time evening news in French and English.



Leopard skins traffickers arrested in Senegal

2 traffickers were arrested with 4 leopard and two crocodile skins in Senegal. The long term traffickers were arrested in the act when trying to sell the skins. One of them is a tourist guide, who was trained in conservation and accompanied the officers of Niokolo Koba National Park on several missions, but he didn't stop his criminal activities. While some of the skins originate from the nearby National Park, other ones were trafficked from Mali. Both traffickers remain behind bars, awaiting the trial.



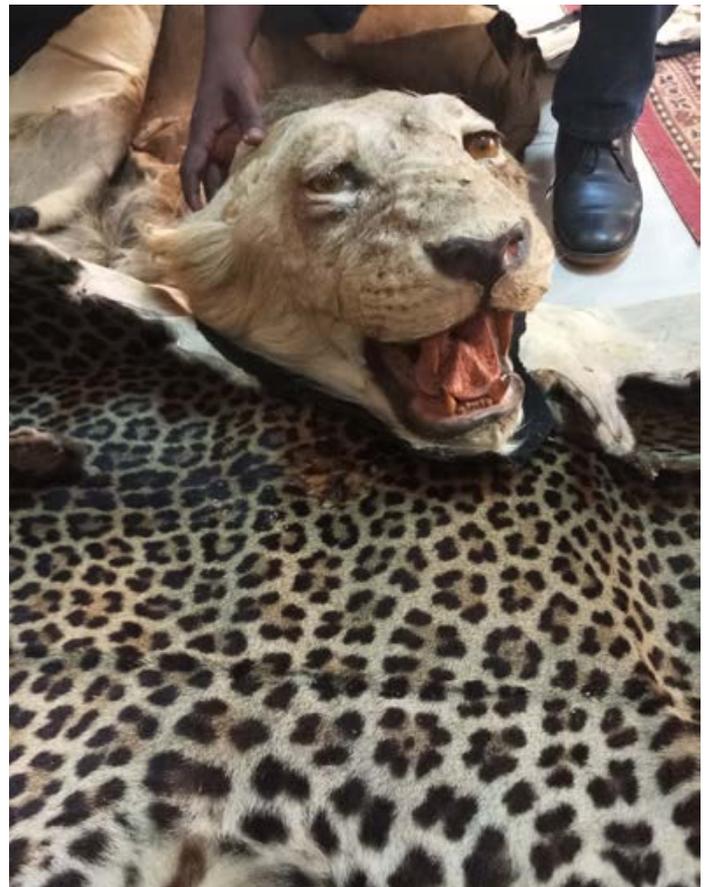
4 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in Togo

4 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in a crackdown series of arrests of a criminal network in togo in July. One of them is also a part of a larger gold trafficking ring stretching to Burkina Faso and Ghana and evidence was found of his negotiation to buy 600 kg of trafficked gold from Ghana just last week.



2 traffickers arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin

2 traffickers arrested with a lion skin and a leopard skin in Cameroon in August. The first trafficker, an owner of two craft shops, was arrested during an attempt to sell the skins. He was arrested with a travelling bag with the two feline skins skillfully packed inside. The second trafficker, a woman, was arrested a couple of hours later at her residence. She gave both the lion skin and leopard skin to her accomplice to sell further. The lion skin was tanned and already prepared to be displayed as a decoration. Lions were once found in three continents but they were pushed out from 94% of their historical range. There are less than a mere 25,000 lions left and in the past 25 years more than half of the lions' populations disappeared - do the extinction math yourselves. Cameroon is home to less than 300 lions.



12 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in September

3 ivory traffickers arrested in the central part of the country with 6 tusks. The first one was arrested in the act with the contraband concealed in a suitcase. He admitted being the owner of two of the tusks, and soon revealed two other traffickers, one of them a community leader in a nearby village. Both were swiftly arrested and transported to the Libreville Central prison, where they await the trial.

4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks and a leopard skin in the same region only one day later. Two of them were arrested in the act when they were preparing the contraband for sale. They denounced the third trafficker, who was arrested one hour later, while he was waiting for his share for the illegal transaction. He also denounced the fourth trafficker, a Gabonese teacher as being the owner of the tusks seized. He was arrested two days later by the Judicial Police.

5 ivory traffickers arrested, and a ring of traffickers crushed in the East of the country. The first trafficker was arrested with one large tusk, weighing 17 kg, during the attempt to sell it. He denounced another trafficker, who was arrested next day. Interrogation later went to revealing the rest of the criminal ring, three more traffickers, who were arrested in their homes with two more tusks.



5 ivory traffickers arrested, and a ring of traffickers crushed



4 ivory traffickers arrested with 4 tusks and a leopard skin



3 ivory traffickers arrested in the central part of the country with 6 tusks.

2 parrot traffickers arrested in Cameroon

2 parrot traffickers arrested with 3 African Grey Parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets in Cameroon in September. One of them is a major dealer, a member of one of the most important international bird trafficking networks in the country and has spent 3 years evading justice. He is responsible for hundreds of birds exported illegally. The first trafficker was arrested selling 2 African grey parrots and 4 Rose-ringed parakeets at a roadside in the capital city. The owner of the parrots and parakeets was arrested one hour later at his residence with one additional African grey parrot and 2 Rose-ringed parakeets. After they were arrested for the first time a corrupt Commander decided to release them, completely against any procedure but they were rearrested following LAGA's intervention. The rearrests turned out to be very difficult as they were hiding. One of them attempted to flee but was chased and captured. They ended behind bars awaiting trial.



An ivory trafficker arrested with 118 tusks

in October LAGA provided technical assistance to customs and wildlife officials following the arrest of a trafficker in South of the country with 118 ivory tusks hidden in a secret built-in compartment in a truck he was driving to the capital city. The ivory was trafficked from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea and was heading to the capital city for an illegal transaction. He is considered to be one of the main traffickers in a ring that deals in huge quantities of ivory in the sub region. The team carried out further investigations into the case exposing international links. Some of the tusks originated from Gabonese government stockpiles, seized in operations carried out in collaboration with Conservation Justice, the EAGLE member based in Gabon.



6 ivory traffickers arrested

6 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in the capital city of Togo in October and an international trafficking ring crushed. They are part of a well-organized international ring with connection to Gabon and Benin. Two of them are of Benin nationality, they trafficked the tusks from Benin. The fifth one was organizing the transaction in his house, where all of them got arrested. A few days after, the head of the ring came to the place of transaction and was immediately taken by the family members of the arrested trafficker and handled to forces of law.



2 Chinese arrested with Sperm Whale teeth

2 Chinese arrested at the international airport in Senegal with 16 Sperm Whale teeth, 34 kg of fish bladders and 4.6 kg of fins. They attempted to leave the country for China with the contraband, concealed in their luggage. The sperm whale is highly endangered species, protected by Annex I of CITES convention.



2 traffickers arrested with 48 leopard and lion claws in Senegal

2 traffickers arrested with 48 leopard and lion claws in Senegal in October. The first one of Indian nationality was arrested in the act of selling the contraband. His passport shows frequent travel in many African countries triggering investigations for possible transnational crimes and connection to Asia. He soon denounced the second trafficker, a Nigerian, who was supplying him with the claws. He was swiftly arrested nearby his shop at a market. The claws, originally offered as lion claws, are a subject to DNA analysis to identify the species. Both lion and leopard are fully protected species.



2 major ivory traffickers arrested

2 major traffickers arrested with 11 elephant tusks and two small parts in Burkina Faso in October. The two are a part of a vast ivory trafficking ring illegally trading live animals as well. Investigation was carried with other EAGLE teams and information obtained in arrest is likely to lead to more arrests in other countries.



3 traffickers arrested with 70 kg of pangolin scales

3 traffickers arrested with 70 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in December. An ex-military man was among them; he used his position to protect the trafficking ring that was organized around one experienced pangolin scales trafficker. This seizure, a snapshot of the ongoing trade of these criminals, represents probably more than 200 slaughtered pangolins



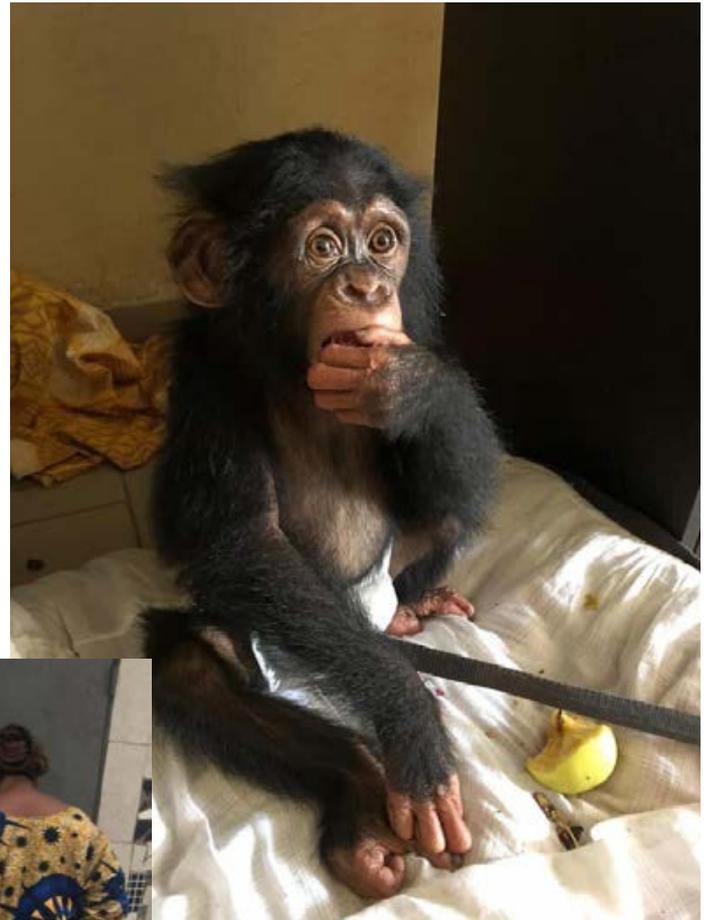
6 ivory traffickers arrested

6 ivory traffickers arrested and a criminal gang of ivory traffickers crushed in Cameroon in December. The first 2 traffickers were arrested in the act with 4 tusks in the east of the country. 4 more traffickers were arrested in another town one day later during a follow up operation dismantling a hard and cautious network involved in trafficking of ivory from the east of the country to Nigeria. Among them is a Nigerian national, and a repeat offender who had already been arrested and served jail term for ivory trafficking.



2 live animal traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Côte d'Ivoire

A major live-animals trafficker arrested as well as her international supplier, after a long-term high-level investigation by Rens, Gaspard and their team. Selling protected species for years and connected to several criminal syndicates in the West-African region, the trafficker has been arrested in her house while trading a baby chimp that was rescued. Her phone revealed the supplier that we hunted for 4 years, a part of a major trafficking crime family that has been elusive to us for long. Following surveillance, Rens and the team finally had the chance to arrest the first member of this Guinean family. With all the proof this time for chimpanzee trafficking, the team quickly moved with the UCT special unit against transnational organized crime to swiftly bust him next to his wildlife store. This important arrest operation



marks a crackdown on the organized illegal trade in apes, lion cubs and other endangered species in a great cross-EAGLE effort.



At the origin of the Covid 19 pandemic is a little known animal - the pangolin. The most illegally traded animal on the planet is slaughtered for its meat and its scales that are sold as traditional medicine in Asia. The illegal trade from Africa to Asia in this threatened animal is still going on. In fact, pangolins trafficked from Africa to Asia have recently been tested positive for the Corona virus, demonstrating that even in the height of the crisis, its origin still continues to risk us all.

In spite of all the threats the illegal trade in pangolins continue and we intensify our efforts. EAGLE team in Cameroon arrested in April a pangolin scale trafficker with 50 kg of pangolin scales. This woman was arrested in the East of the country. She had been arrested several times by the gendarmerie and released without any charges brought against her. She activated a gang of several poachers who supplied her with the scales, which she sold in the capital city. She violently resisted arrest during the operation hoping her corrupt contacts at the gendarmerie that constantly release her following each arrest would come to her rescue.

On top of that EAGLE media officers intensified their work to emphasize the importance of reminding the public in each country the health risks of the illegal trade. They spread around the message about the link between pangolins and Covid-19 pandemic with extraordinary results – 144 articles and radio and TV news were published in all 8 countries. Five major international media also quoted EAGLE in their articles covering the topic of illegal pangolins trade and Covid-19 pandemic.

Annex I - Summary of the Results

Number of investigations per month per country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	1	16	12	9	16	16	18	12	21	18	20	18	177
Congo	4	2	3	0	1	10	5	6	4	4	4	2	45
Gabon	12	11	7	4	27	29	32	8	10	8	10	10	168
Togo	8	15	13	18	16	17	30	38	33	22	43	17	270
Senegal	26	21	13	5	13	19	22	8	7	19	14	8	175
Benin	14	18	11	17	24	11	14	11	8	17	13	8	166
Uganda	82	45	79	0	4	86	97	62	33	33	35	13	569
Côte d'Ivoire	0	3	3	7	25	44	23	23	32	7	12	10	189
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	17	0	26	55
total per month	147	131	141	60	126	244	241	168	148	145	151	112	1,814

Number of arrests per month per country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	0	1	0	8	7	7	0	3	2	1	1	10	40
Congo	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	7
Gabon	8	3	1	0	0	0	5	6	12	5	2	5	47
Togo	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	0	10
Senegal	0	1	4	0	0	2	2	0	0	5	0	0	14
Benin	0	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	4	0	2	14
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
total per month	8	7	5	8	12	10	13	12	14	25	3	21	138

Number of media pieces by month by country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total by country
Cameroon	0	19	31	53	43	43	40	29	17	28	39	28	370
Congo	15	28	0	8	13	27	27	28	13	27	28	25	239
Gabon	32	23	10	14	9	2	34	50	47	37	51	60	369
Togo	46	36	35	42	43	50	36	41	39	40	36	33	477
Senegal	0	31	23	5	0	32	26	0	0	92	0	0	209
Benin	30	32	33	28	55	52	61	84	30	31	59	30	525
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	8	26	30	29	31	29	31	0	0	29	0	53	266
Burkina Faso	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	59
total by month	159	195	162	179	194	235	255	232	146	315	213	229	2,514

Number of prosecutions by month by country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total
Cameroon	0	9	0	0	4	3	1	6	2	0	3	2	30
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	9
Congo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gabon	6	6	0	0	0	9	8	7	0	0	12	8	56
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	6	6	0	0	0	9	8	7	0	0	10	8	54
Togo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senegal	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	9
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	5
Benin	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	4	0	12
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	0	8
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	4
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
total	7	15	5	0	4	12	10	20	2	3	19	14	111
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	7	6	0	0	4	9	9	14	2	2	15	10	78

Annex II - List of Donors



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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7. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire: rens@eagle-enforcement.org
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