



The EAGLE Network Report

First Semester 2016

for the WildCat Foundation

Highlights

- ✓ **146 wildlife and forest criminals arrested in 8 countries**
- ✓ **At least in 15 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation**
- ✓ **72 ivory traffickers arrested with a total of 650 kg of ivory, which includes 142 tusks and 1,128 pieces of carved ivory**
- ✓ **16 great ape traffickers arrested with 44 chimpanzee skulls, 18 gorilla skulls and other body parts**
- ✓ **21 big cats traffickers were arrested and 18 leopard skins were seized**
- ✓ **Balla Doumbouya - the head of international wildlife trafficking ring arrested in Guinea**
- ✓ **87% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars**
- ✓ **807 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in 8 countries and 13 international media covered EAGLE's work.**
- ✓ **The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 10 missions to the countries to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries.**

1. Summary

Tangible achievements were registered during the first half of 2016 within the EAGLE Network. 146 significant traffickers and other wildlife criminals were arrested in 8 countries. 800 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 87% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison.. During the first half of the year 95 traffickers were prosecuted and condemned, many of them to imprisonment sentences for different kind of crimes, while other remain behind the bars, waiting for the trial.

Traffickers in ivory and other elephant parts represent the vast majority of arrests, while traffickers of big cat skins take second place and ape traffickers the third. The EAGLE Network also extended its remit to illegal logging, with 4 arrested criminals.

Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 15 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented.

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

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant parts represents most of the focus during this period resulting the largest number of arrested traffickers. 72 ivory traffickers were arrested during 28 operations in 7 countries. 142 tusks and 1,128 carved pieces of ivory, weighting more than 650 kg, were seized.

16 great ape traffickers were arrested in 7 operations in 2 countries, with a total of 44 chimpanzee skulls, 18 gorilla skulls and more body parts that represent just a snapshot of their ongoing regular specialized trade. In Guinea the GALF team brought about the arrest of 4 traffickers with ape bushmeat, in of the height of the Ebola epidemic.

Skins and heads of big cats were in the focus of The EAGLE Network investigations and arrests. 21 big cats traffickers were arrested in 7 operations in 4 countries. 18 leopard skins were seized together with other skins and contraband.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, more than 800 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published on national media, and 13 international media articles covered EAGLE's work.

Content:

This report refers to activities from January till June 2016. This report includes: the activities in each area of our fight - Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and External Relations; progress in developing the Network and strategic overview of our operations and their impact on wildlife crime.

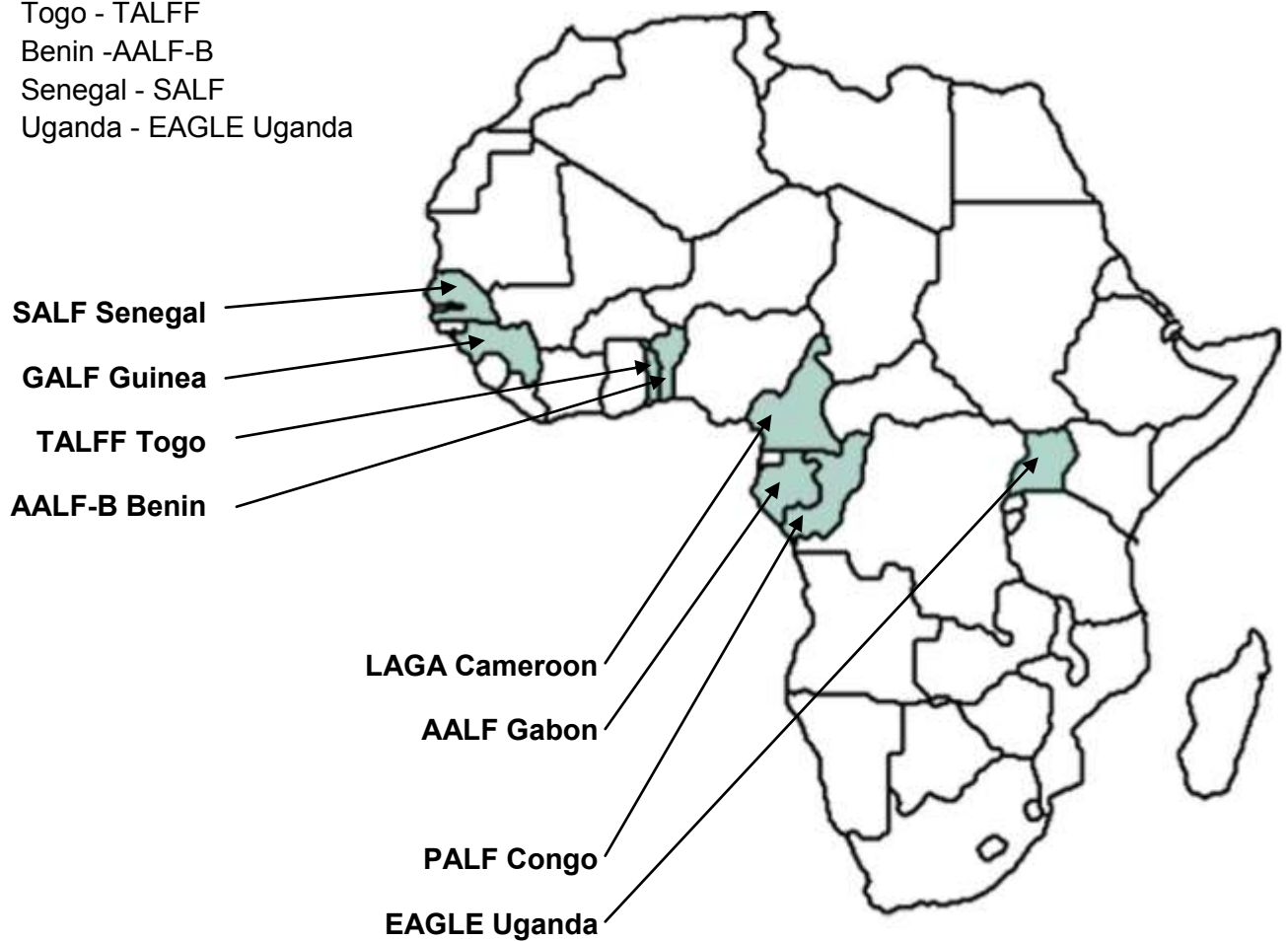
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2. Structure of the Network

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

The EAGLE Network operates in these countries:

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



3. Investigations

804 different investigation missions were carried out in all 8 countries, leading to the arrest of 146 traffickers in months January to June.

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

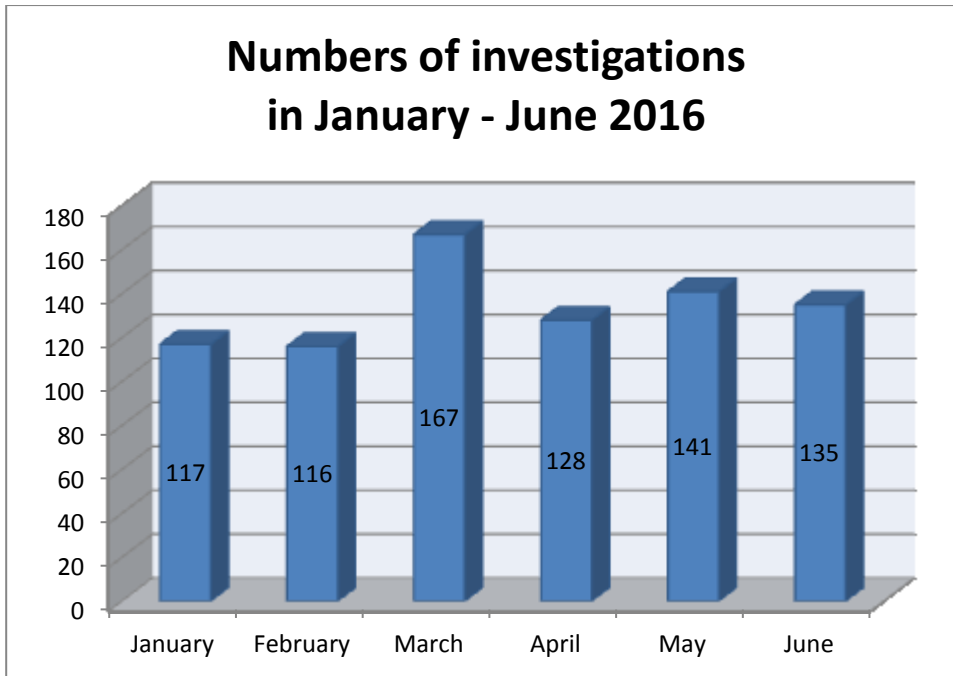


Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January - June 2016

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

4. Arrest Operations

146 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested. EAGLE Network members carried out 67 operations in 8 countries of central, West and East Africa.

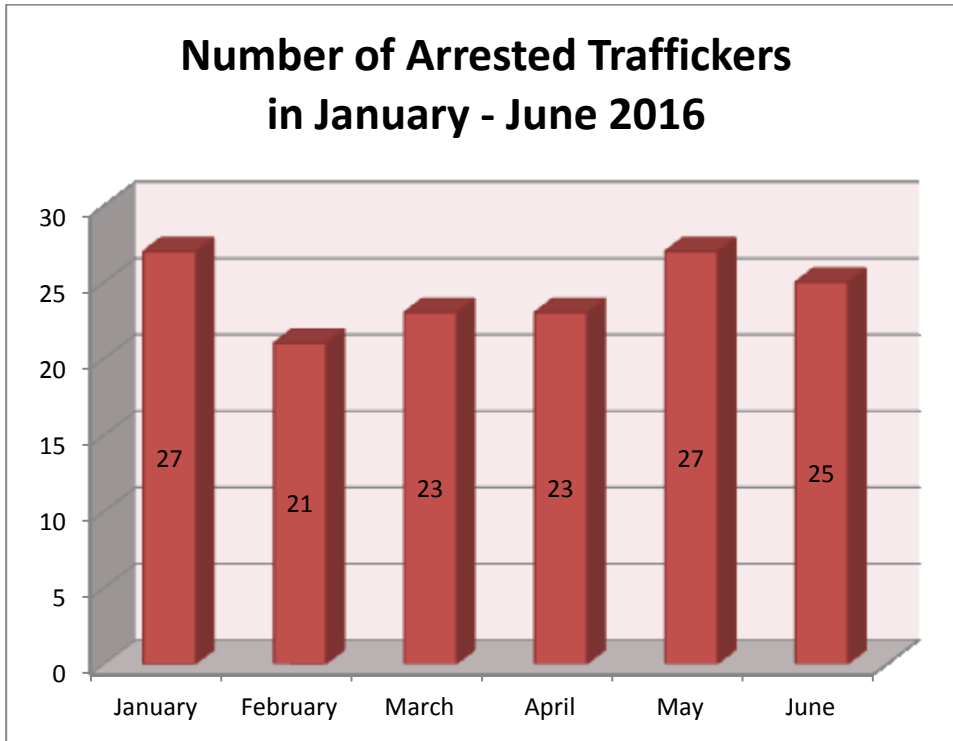


Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - June 2016

Almost half of the arrested traffickers - 49 % were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in big cat skins and other body parts – 14%. Third in focus of arrests were traffickers of apes, mostly in chimpanzee and gorilla skulls, totaling 11% of arrests. Traffickers of reptiles of different kinds (mostly the carapaces of sea turtles, but also alive chameleons) make 8% of the arrested traffickers. The illegal trade in protected pangolins, their meat and scales comprise 6% of the arrested traffickers.

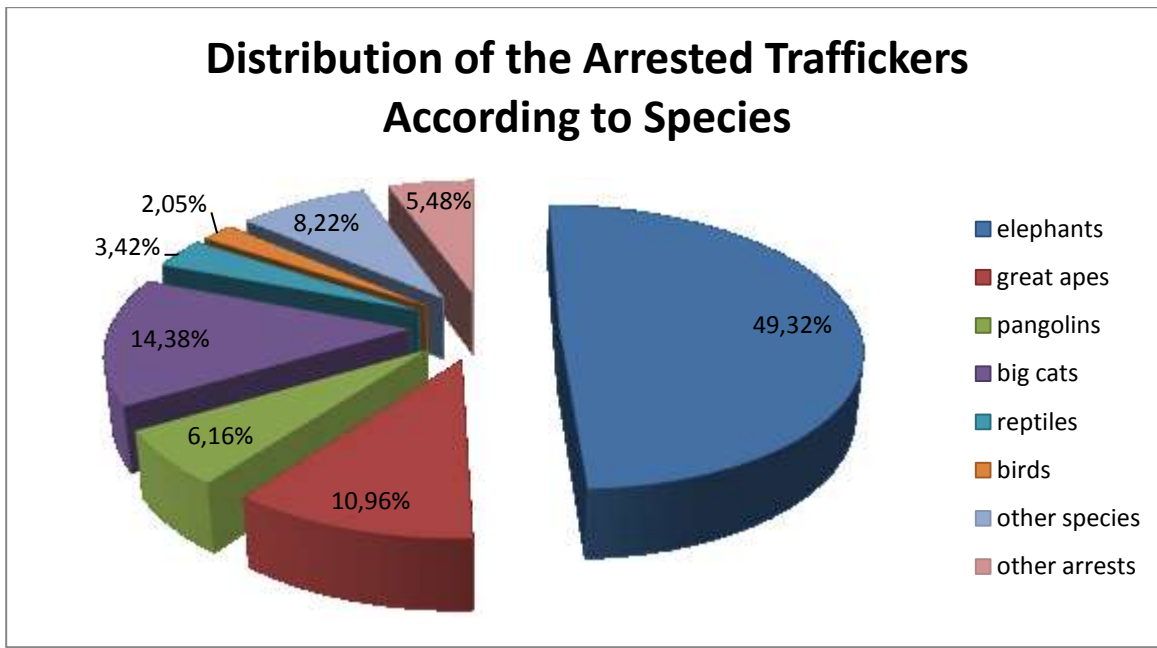


Fig. 3: Distribution of Arrested Traffickers According to the Species

Corruption

Corruption was prevalent in all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 15 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented. Some examples are presented here:

- Balla Doumbouya - a head of international wildlife trafficking ring is finally behind bars! Ever since the landmark arrests of former CITES head of Guinea Doumbouya and Thierno - a major international live animal trafficker, GALF team tried to hunt down a bigger target. This was Balla Doumbouya -Thierno's boss and the main contact in front of the corrupt former wildlife head. Balla had been in hiding ever since, but the GALF team together with Interpol NCB finally managed to locate him and swiftly arrest him. His interrogation is expected to give us insight information on the organized international illegal trade in great apes, manatees and many other endangered species he trafficked for more than 10 years to China, Japan and South Korea.
- In January 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 69 kg ivory. At the time of arrest, one of the traffickers was driving the contraband and the others in the company of a corrupt policeman, who escorted the consignment and provided security for the dealers. The traffickers then confessed that this police officer was assigned by his superior to participate in the crime.
- 6 ivory traffickers were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory in Uganda in March. Two of them, a corrupt Army Major and Army Corporal - both attached to airport authorities were arrested in a swift operation, carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. Later 3 more accomplices

were arrested - a driver from the presidential state house and a former accountant of the state owned company handling airport luggage among them. This is a landmark case exposing and combating the corruption and complicity that enables the international illegal ivory trade. A state house bullet proof car with bullet proof vest inside was seized later from one of the military personnel and a sixth member of this ring was arrested.

- In May 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 12 ivory pieces in Uganda, one of them a corrupt officer of Special Forces. He was a Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defense Force attached to Special Forces Command (SFC) and premised at State House. He functioned as security to the trafficker. More corruption appeared to be involved in this ring of traffickers, as one day later another armed trafficker was arrested in connection to the crime. A search in his house recovered \$40,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills. The police handgun, which was found in his possession, was probably given to him by a corrupt police officer.
- 2 illegal loggers and 2 corrupt Forestry Officers were arrested in June in Gabon. First 2 loggers were arrested in a village in forest area while processing illegally cut wood and preparing it for loading onto a truck. After being asked for the documents, they presented an already expired permit, which appeared to be falsified. On top of that the permit stated 8.9 m3 of wood, while the investigation showed that the real figure was more than three times higher. They then exposed 2 corrupt Forestry Officials, who had sold them the falsified documents, containing the forged signature of their supervisor and falsified government stamps.

Elephants

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting the largest number of arrested traffickers. 72 ivory traffickers were arrested during 28 operations in 7 countries. 142 tusks and 1,128 carved pieces of ivory, weighting more than 650 kg, were seized. Some examples are presented here:

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda in two operations with 89 kg of ivory in January. 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 69 kg ivory. This operations continued with and an arrest of an ivory trafficker with 20 kg ivory, a 25 year old Guinean citizen, during an attempt to sell two large elephant tusks.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the centre of Dakar in a joint operation of the Brigade of Urban Security and SALF in February. The 3 dealers brought their contraband from their ivory carving workshop to a restaurant, where they were arrested red handed during an attempt to sell 271 (!) pieces of elephant ivory and other contraband.
- A significant Nigerian ivory trafficker arrested with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in February. The trafficker who used the cover of a businessman dealing in car spare parts had a storeroom where huge quantities of wildlife products could be stored. He ran his illegal activity across the Central African sub region from Gabon, Congo, Cameroon right to Nigeria and he equally had as clients Chinese traffickers.

- 9 ivory traffickers arrested in Uganda including 2 corrupt army officers in March. 6 were arrested with 22.5 kg of ivory. 3 more ivory traffickers were arrested with 45 kg of ivory. The first two were caught in an operation carried out by EAGLE Uganda team and Police. During interrogation, their phone rang as their collaborator asked for the money from the deal. He was then lured and arrested as well. The handcuffed traffickers took the team to the carcass of one of the killed elephants - inside the Karuma reserve.
- 7 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in April. 2 were arrested with 2 tusks. They arrived in a car at the business centre of Port-Gentil, hoping to carry out a deal. One of them carried the tusks to be sold in a bag while the other one was waiting in the car. At this moment they were arrested red handed in a swift operation. One of them is a notorious trafficker, who often carried out his illegal activities around Port-Gentil. 5 ivory traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks when a criminal ring was crashed in a well organized operation carried out by Police, wildlife authority and AALF team. The gang of traffickers was in the spotlight of investigation for a long time. The first trafficker was arrested, when he was driving with the contraband to the planned place of transaction. He agreed to reveal to police 2 more traffickers he was dealing with, and even called one of them to get him in the police trap. The remaining 2 members of the gang, brothers, were arrested the following day in nearby villages, where also the tusks were hidden for a short time. They were taken from freshly killed elephant and weighted about 8 kg.
- 6 ivory traffickers of 3 different nationalities were arrested in Gabon in May in a push against illegal ivory trade. 3 ivory traffickers were arrested with 16 kg of ivory, one of them a corrupt officer of the prison security force. Later, they admitted that they had been trafficking ivory since 2002. A Cameroonian ivory trafficker was arrested in Libreville with 31 kg of ivory. He was intercepted at police check point, on his way to supply the capital. 2 tusks and 3 pieces of ivory were concealed in the trunk and under the back seats of the car. Another ivory trafficker was arrested in Port Gentil with 4 tusks of young elephants. He was caught red handed while he was trying to sell the tusks, cut in 8 pieces and hidden in a bag. A Malian ivory trafficker was arrested with 3 pieces of ivory and a leopard skin in a series of consecutive operations carried out by AALF team and Police.
- 5 ivory traffickers were arrested in May Uganda, including a corrupt Senior Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Force, 3 more ivory traffickers arrested in Cameroon and Togo
- 6 significant ivory traffickers arrested in Togo in June with 164kg of ivory. 2 of them were arrested with 12 tusks, weighting 124 kg. The 2 Nigerian traffickers were stopped by police with TALFF team in front of the police station near the Benin border. The search revealed that they were concealing the ivory in the trunk and under the back seats in their 4WD vehicle, to get through border controls without stopping. They attempted to transport it from Nigeria via Benin, Togo and Ghana to Ivory Coast, where they intended to sell it. They both remain behind bars, awaiting trial. 4 significant ivory traffickers arrested with 30 tusks, weighting 40 kg, after a long investigation. They have been trafficking ivory for years and used to work with Nbouke – the notorious ivory kingpin who was arrested in 2013 and sentenced to prison.

Apes

16 great ape traffickers were arrested in 7 operations in 2 countries, with a total of 44 chimpanzee skulls, 18 gorilla skulls and more body parts that represent just a snapshot of their ongoing regular specialized trade. In Guinea the GALF team brought about the arrest of 4 traffickers with ape bushmeat, in of the height of the Ebola epidemic.

- A trafficker with 5 chimps and 4 gorilla skulls arrested in Cameroon in February. He had obtained the contraband from poachers quite close to a logging company in the area, which proves the role that logging companies play in stimulating and sustaining wildlife poaching and trafficking.
- 3 ape traffickers were arrested in south of Cameroon in March with 8 chimp skulls and 4 gorilla skulls and one mandrill skull. One of them is a notorious ivory trafficker and owner of several guns, which he was using to send poachers to kill elephants for ivory and chimpanzees for meat. This accounts for the high number of skulls found in his possession. He had a regular business partner coming in from Yaoundé to pay for the ivory. Another ape trafficker was arrested with 8 chimp skulls, 3 fresh chimpanzee heads and other contraband including an elephant tail. He was buying contraband from a wide ring of poachers who kill all kinds of protected species. He differs from the specialized traffickers as he sold various species. Once again fresh chimpanzee heads were recovered pointing to the parallel illicit trade in ape skulls alongside the bushmeat trade in apes.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Cameroon in April in two separate locations with 6 gorilla skulls, 15 mandrill skulls and other contraband. The first trafficker was arrested with the contraband, but the preliminary investigations showed that they worked as a pair and interrogations confirmed that second trafficker was involved. The state counsel immediately issued an arrest warrant and the arresting team travelled over 80 km of dirt roads on motorbikes to get the second trafficker in a town not very far from the Nigeria border. The two towns are considered to be transit area between Cameroon and Nigeria. Another trafficker arrested with 4 chimpanzee skulls, 8 sea turtle shells and 5 kg of pangolin scales.
- 2 ape skull traffickers arrested with 5 gorilla and 5 chimpanzee skulls in Cameroon in May.. They are experienced ape skull traffickers and were arrested despite being suspicious and alert, making efforts to conceal their activities.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 13 chimpanzee skulls in Cameroon in June. The chimps were killed for the international trade in the Dja Biosphere Reserve - a world heritage site that like so many protected areas in Africa is poorly protected. The traffickers were also involved in the illegal transportation and sale of ape meat from the Reserve to far away commercial centers such as Yaounde.

Pangolins

9 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 3 operations in 2 countries., 2 live pangolins were rescued and hundreds of kg of their scales and meat seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most smuggled animal in the world. Some examples are presented here:

- 4 traffickers including a corrupt police officer were arrested with two live giant pangolins in Uganda in April. They admitted that they had been involved in wildlife trafficking for many years and were often trafficking large amounts of pangolin scales. The pangolins were taken by the Uganda Wildlife Service for rehabilitation and will be released back in the wild. 2 traffickers arrested with 45 kg giant pangolin scales. The traffickers were linked to Smiko Skin Craft Company, which was in 2014 licensed by Uganda wildlife Authority to export 7,310 kg of pangolin scales from Uganda. Frightening number of pangolins have been captured and killed to meet the demand created by this license. No proper mechanism was put in place to differentiate between the old stock and the illegally obtained scales, which still puts the lives of pangolins in Uganda in danger.
- 3 traffickers were arrested with 70 kg of giant pangolin scales in May in Benin. Two Guineans and one trafficker from Benin got arrested at the airport area, following an investigation on cross border trafficking.

Big Cats

Skins and heads of big cats were in the focus of The EAGLE investigations and arrests. 21 big cats traffickers were arrested in 7 operations in 4 countries. 18 leopard skins were seized together with other skins and contraband. Some examples are presented here:

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

- A well organized network of wildlife traffickers was attacked after a Beninese ivory trafficker was arrested in Gabon in March attempting to sell two leopard skins. Just before arriving to the sale meeting place he threw the contraband to the floor and ran away, only to come back and be arrested. This was apparently a trick designed to check, if this was a trap, but obviously not good enough. Later two tusks were seized and he revealed an accomplice that was immediately arrested too.
- 4 traffickers with 3 leopard skins and other elephant contraband arrested in Congo in June. 2 of them were caught red handed during an attempt to sell 3 leopard skins. During interrogation they revealed a third culprit. He was arrested the following day, but during his arrest a fourth person tried to hide a bag with an elephant tail and leopard tail from the gendarmerie. She appeared to be a repeat offender, as she was already arrested and prosecuted for the same offence in 2013.

Reptiles

Organized large scale trade in totally protected chameleons, turtles, tortoises and other reptiles has been targeted in EAGLE investigations. 5 reptile traffickers were arrested in 3 operations in 4 countries and hundreds of threatened reptiles were rescued and released to the wild.

- 2 reptile traffickers were arrested with 120 fully protected chameleons in Uganda in May. Both of them have been engaged in reptile trafficking on a regular bases for several years. They were advertising their illegal trade through the internet and were focusing on European countries and Kenya. They had been capturing the chameleons from different locations of Eastern Uganda and usually sold one at a price of 60 USD, presenting a huge margin of illegal profit. Chameleons are traded as pets, but people also believe that they have a medicinal value or they are bought as decorations. These chameleons were lucky, as they were in a good condition, they could be released back to the wild.
- A sea turtle shell trafficker arrested with 16 shells in Senegal in May. He sold a similar quantity just before the arrest, showing the contraband seized is just a snapshot of constant intense illegal trade. Some of the shells were very fresh; therefore the trafficker is facing a charge for capturing and trafficking wildlife products.

Birds

3 bird traffickers were arrested in 2 countries and 2 ostriches and 2 crowned cranes were rescued.

- A bird trafficker was arrested with three Crowned Cranes - an endangered bird that is also the national symbol of Uganda - following EAGLE Uganda internet investigations in February. The team was really proud of getting to protect the national symbol. The joint team of EAGLE

Uganda and the police discovered the wide international links of the trafficker and especially with UK. He was starting to invest his illicit revenue to build infrastructure for keeping illegally large quantities of birds and expand his business.

- A Malian bird trafficker arrested in Guinea in May with 2 ostriches trafficked from Mali. Although in the evening of the same day he was released by a man from the Presidency who used his power to obstruct the legal procedure, the next morning he was again delivered to the court together with another Malian accomplice and both of them ended behind bars thanks to the intensive fight against corruption by the GALF team.

Other protected species

12 traffickers in other protected species were arrested in 7 operations in 5 countries. Seized contraband include: 145 kg of shark fins, 130 kg of hippo ivory, bushmeat of various totally protected species, skins and horns of antelopes, and buffalo horns..

- A trafficker was arrested with 80 kg of shark fins in Togo in January. TALFF team and the Togolese authorities done great work in intercepting this Ghanaian based in Nigeria on the Togo - Benin border hiding the fins in travel bags. He travelled with them from Nigeria to Ghana with intention to sell them.
- 4 wildlife traffickers were arrested in Benin in February with a shocking number of animal parts including ivory, 15 threatened sitatunga skins, elephants bones and trunk, 10 civet skins and more.
- A wildlife trafficker was arrested in well organized operation in Gabon's Port Gentile with 65 kg of shark fins in March. He was stopped by the join team of AALF and Gabon Police forces when driving the 3 boxes of fins in his car. He is Nigerian, and used to export different kinds of contraband illegally through Douala in Cameroon. 1,069 shark fins represent about 300 animals caught, de-finned and thrown alive back to the sea only to die due to suffocation or attack by other animals. This cruel practice is pushing many shark species to the brink of extinction.
- 3 operations were carried out in Uganda, 5 traffickers were arrested and large amount of hippo ivory seized. A trafficker was arrested with 89 kg of hippo teeth in the west of the country in January. He was swiftly prosecuted, found guilty and sentenced to 12 month imprisonment or pay a fine of 50 USD. The legal team of EAGLE Uganda immediately made an appeal against such a low punishment. A trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of hippo ivory in May. He worked with a network of poachers and traffickers supplying the contraband from the DRC for decades. We estimate that thousands of hippos were slaughtered due to his activities. Hippo teeth are often used as a replacement for ivory. 3 traffickers were arrested with more than 50 kg of hippo Ivory in June. They were connected to a ring of ivory and hippo ivory traffickers in the western part of Uganda, and had been operating in the area for decades. They are responsible for killing thousands of hippos as well as other wild animals including elephants.

Other arrests

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

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

5. Legal Follow up

The legal departments in the 8 countries followed up the court cases of the 146 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 87% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars.

During the first half of the year 95 traffickers were prosecuted and condemned, many of them to imprisonment sentences for different kind of crimes, while other remain behind the bars, waiting for the trial.

- 4 illegal loggers, arrested in November in Togo by a joint team of TALFF and eco-guards of Franz Weber Foundation and gendarmerie in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, were sentenced 6 months in prison in January. This court decision is one of very few sentences issued for illegal logging in Togo.
- 3 ivory traffickers, arrested in February 2015 in Cameroon, were all found guilty in February 2016 and sentenced for 1 year in prison and 11,000 USD for civil damages and fines.
- High sentences were delivered by the court in Makokou, Gabon, in February, in cases followed by AALF legal team. One poacher was sentenced to 3 years in jail and another 5 poachers and traffickers were sentenced from 6 month to one year in prison.
- Good sentence was obtained at the High Court of Point Noire in Congo in March. A trafficker, arrested in May 2015 with 2 chimp skulls and 2 crocodile was sentenced to 2 years in prison and around 2,000 USD on fines and damages.
- 3 ivory traffickers, who were arrested in Uganda in March with 45 kg of ivory, were prosecuted in March and April. One of them pleaded guilty and was convicted and sentenced to 8 months

imprisonment without an option of a fine. The remaining two were sentenced to 8 months imprisonment and 1 year imprisonment or pay a fine of 200 USD.

- The Djoum court of first instance in Cameroon sentenced two traffickers to 10 months imprisonment in June for trafficking in 4 ivory tusks, 3 elephant tails and for killing 2 elephants. They were arrested in March 2016.
- A trafficker, arrested in May in Gabon with 31 kg of ivory, was prosecuted and sentenced to 6 months in prison and about 1,700 USD in fines and damages in June.
- A trafficker arrested in February in Benin with 70 kg of pangolin scales, was sentenced 1 year in prison in May.
- An ivory trafficker, arrested with 45 kg of ivory in March, was sentenced to 8 months in prison in Uganda.

6. Media

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

807 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in eight countries and 13 international media pieces were published. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 38% in print media, 12% in radio, 10% on TV and 41% on internet.

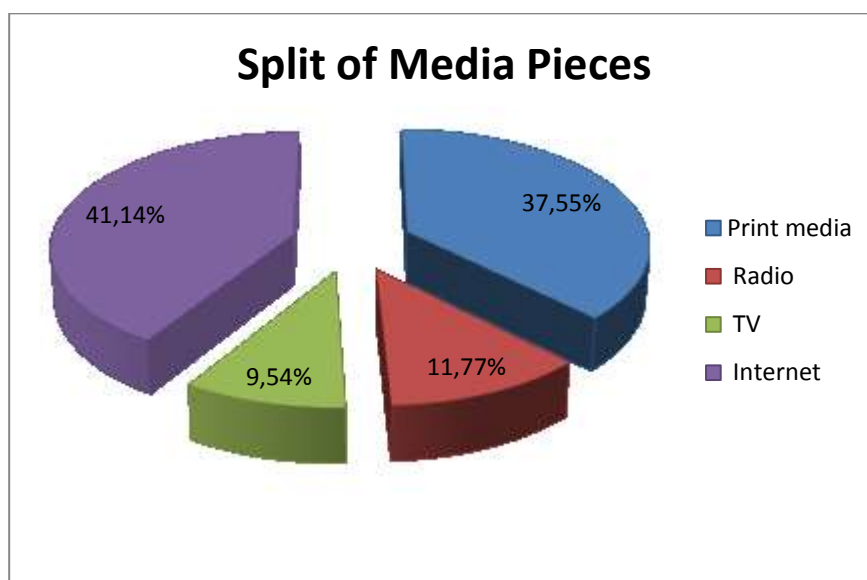


Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces

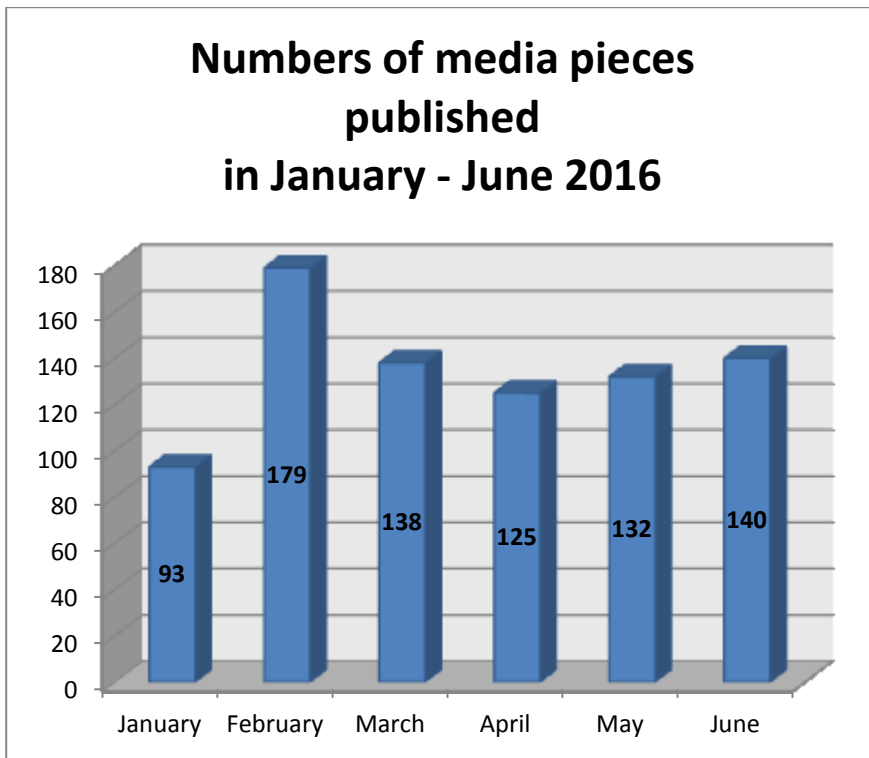


Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January - June 2015

International media

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

- Le Monde article on exploitation of African forest by Chinese, mentioning Conservation Justice..According to Luc Mathot, the head of the NGO Conservation Justice, the author of an overwhelming report denouncing “an organized mafia laundering timber and corruption at all stages” (in French):
[Link to le Monde](#)
- “The Hunter” – an article about Ofir Drori in Süddeutsche Zeitung (in German)
[Link to Süddeutsche Zeitung](#)
- Reportage on Ofir and EAGLE in Israeli channel 2 prime time weekend news
[Link to the Channel 2](#)
- TV show on Aljazeera “Inside story - Who is gaining from illegal wildlife trade?, Ofir Drori and two more conservationists discussed the new UN report on wildlife crime.
[Link to Aljazeera](#)

- An article in National Geographic about the creation of LAGA. “Protecting West Africa’s wildlife from poachers is all about making law enforcement and the courts work”, says activist Ofir Drori.
[Link to National Geographic](#)
- National Geographic introducing Emerging Explorer Naftali Honig, Wildlife Crime Investigator
[Link to National Geographic](#)
- Ofir’s talk at Business Leaders Meeting- Unternehmertag 2016, Germany
[Link to the video](#)
- “There are three main problems in tackling the trade,” Drori said. “Corruption, corruption and corruption. The majority of our arrests are corrupt officials - corrupt police officers, corrupt military personnel, and corrupt magistrates. They’re enabling the trade to happen.”
[Link to Aljazeera](#)
- “ UN sanctions must target global kingpins in wildlife trade” - an article on UNEP decision on wildlife crime, quoting Ofir Drori.
[Link to SABC](#)
- “Celebs go wild to stop illegal trade in animals” - article introducing new UNEP campaign, quoting Ofir Drori: “Illegal wildlife trade is an organized crime. Discussions have been done by biologists and politicians, now we need to have those who are experts in crime. We must also tackle the big fish (in the trade) and not the small guys.”
[Link to Star2](#)

7. External Relations

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

Cameroon

- The Government of Cameroon destroyed 3.5 tonnes of ivory in April, and act was well appreciated, especially following the LAGA previous arrest and imprisonment of the high official in charge of the stocks, for selling stock ivory to traffickers.

Congo

- Several meetings were held in February during the mission of Luc Mathot. Meeting with the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development on repositioning PALF through improving the quality and level of communication with the supervisory ministry. Meeting with the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to seek support from the EU not only to repositioning and project sustainability, but also for support in the arrest operation, convicting the traffickers arrested and executing the sentences.
- Perrine Odier was appointed an interim coordinator of PALF. She continued the reconstruction process of the team and recruiting and testing new team members.
- She met the directors of Wildlife Conservation Society and The Aspinall Foundation, the new agreement of the consortium of EAGLE Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and The Aspinall Foundation was signed to confirm the continuation of PALF as a member of EAGLE Network and respect EAGLE Network standards and procedures.
- The coordinator and the head of The Aspinall Foundation met with the new Minister of Environment in June to discuss cooperation with PALF and recent cases of wildlife crime in Congo.

Gabon

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

Guinea

- WARA director met with the Ambassador of the United States of America to discuss strengthening of collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and GALF Project in January
- Charlotte Houpline signed the GALF Agreement with the Government of Guinea. The Protocol on Partnership Agreement on Fight against Wildlife Crime in the Republic of Guinea between GALF project and the Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests was finally signed in March
- In March the GALF coordinator and the WARA Director participated at a videoconference between Guinea, Togo and Burkina Faso, organized by the US embassies for the International Wildlife Day. The videoconference was moderated by Naftali Honig of our Steering Group. Strategy of international collaboration in arresting traffickers between these countries was discussed and the conference will be followed by another meeting of all the people involved in law enforcement in wider region of West Africa.
- The Coordinator met with the Minister of Justice to reinforce the collaboration in law enforcement and to discuss cooperation and follow up of concrete cases in March.
- Charlotte Houpline, WARA Director, and Saidou Barry, GALF Coordinator presented at the subregional meeting of GRASP UNEP (Great Apes Survival Partnership) in Liberia. As recalled, Saidou Barry was the winner of the last year's GRASP - Ian Redmond Conservation Award. The meeting brought together local, regional and international actors to discuss trafficking, mining and other threats to great apes survival in West Africa. Charlotte's presentation on anti-corruption activities in West Africa and Saidou's presentation on GALF's work were the most popular and stirred lively debate.

Benin

- In May the Director of AALF-Benin met with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss the signature of agreement with the Ministry on the occasion of International Day of Biodiversity. He also met with the Head of the General Directorate of Forestry and Natural Resources (DGFRN) and discussed the case of pangolin scales traffickers arrested earlier this month.

Uganda

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

8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network.

A new replication is under preparation in Madagascar. PALF team in Congo underwent a successful reconstructing under the leadership of Perrine Odier, the interim coordinator and reached first arrests.

The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued the support to the network members. Financial officer was hired in January. The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 10 missions to the countries to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries. The EAGLE members significantly raised standards of reporting, Internal Control Systems and adherence of procedures.

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

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

and started supporting us .Mulago foundation contacted EAGLE Network with offer to help the processes, mentoring and professional support in the construction of the Network.

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

- Jana Hajduchova, the Organization Development Officer, held a public lecture at the Prague Zoo, Czech Republic, where she introduced EAGLE Network and its fight against wildlife crime.
- Luc Mathot met with the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to Gabon, who expressed strong interest in starting an EAGLE replication in his country. Mission to Equatorial Guinea will be organized in cooperation with him to meet the Minister of wildlife and other authorities.
- Danielle Mbui, the Network Financial Officer, started her two weeks mission in Cameroon to carry an audit of expenditures from January 2013 to June 2016, train the new accountant and set new financial procedures.
- Ofir Drori participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana in June. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy is a US Government prestigious training program for enforcers from all over Africa. EAGLE has been asked to develop training on ethics and anti-corruption for ILEA's Wildlife Crime Course, which is now conducted for 5 years.

9. Photos of the selected cases



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

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



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



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



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



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



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

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



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



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

weighted about 8 kg.



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



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



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