EAGLE

The EAGLE Network Annual Report 2021

- ✓ *Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its many related difficulties, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 160 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals arrested in 9 countries*
- ✓ *At least in 10 of the operation, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation or shortly after*
- ✓ *79 ivory traffickers arrested with 498 kg of ivory, which includes 161 tusks*
- ✓ *33 big cat traffickers arrested, and 30 leopard and one lion skin skins seized*
- ✓ *10 pangolin and pangolin scales traffickers were arrested during 7 operations in Cameroon and one in Côte d'Ivoire. More than 885 kg of scales were seized*
- ✓ *16 primate traffickers were arrested in Cameroon and Congo, 2 baby chimps, 6 live mandrills, a drill, a young baboon and two monkeys were rescued.*
- ✓ *87 % of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars*
- ✓ *2,411 media pieces published in national media, on the effective application of the law highlighting the arrests, prosecution and jailing of convicted traffickers*

1. Summary

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the EAGLE teams pulled through and forward. 160 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested in 9 countries. It is a good example of how team spirit and inner motivation has been playing a strong role during these difficult years in getting results and finding a way through the obstacles created by the Covid-19 regulations - and still comply with all of them. Strict internal measures put in place by the EAGLE Network at the onset of the pandemic continued to be applied and improved upon as time went on. Some countries started relaxing some of the measures and activities gradually returned to normalcy, although there were lockdowns in others as new variants of Covid 19 emerged.

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 continued to be interrupted, it limited the number of prosecutions, which were postponed in some cases. Strict measures in international travel proved a challenge for missions of CCU members to the countries or team members between the countries. Nevertheless, the CCU and Steering Committee pushed forward and a couple of missions were carried out as well as some between member countries. Training of super volunteers resumed. A volunteer from France was trained in Nairobi and Dakar.

2,400 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 87% of the arrested traffickers remained in prison at least in the beginning of their trial. During the year 128 traffickers were prosecuted and convicted, 89 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while others remain behind the bars awaiting trial.

At least in 10 of the operations, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Bribe attempts from family members and a traffic of influence were documented and combated in several arrest operations in Cameroon. A member of the upper house of Cameroon's parliament, a Senator and another high ranking official, a Mayor, tried to pressure officials to release an arrested mandrill trafficker. A former member of parliament was arrested in Côte d'Ivoire alongside other traffickers during an ivory operation. A high ranking military officer tried to free an arrested trafficker but the Team in Congo stood up to the act.

Trafficking in ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus during this period resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 79 ivory traffickers were arrested in 30 operations in 7 countries with almost 500 kg of ivory seized, which includes 161 tusks. 31 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon.

33 big cat traffickers were arrested, and 30 leopard skins, a lion skin, leopard teeth and body parts seized. 15 traffickers were arrested in Senegal with 15 leopard skins. 2 traffickers were arrested in April with 4 leopard skins in Senegal. Three of the skins were from baby leopards, less than 3 months old. It seems an entire family, a mother and her young ones, were slaughtered in Guinea Conakry where the skins were smuggled

from. The Ramadan-fasting team travelled close to 1,000 km to the South of the country where the arrest was done under the sizzling heat of a hot Senegalese day. The traffickers are specialized not only in skins but in the illegal trade in live animals as well.

16 primate traffickers were arrested in Cameroon and Congo, 2 baby chimps, 6 live mandrills, a drill, a young baboon and two monkeys were rescued. In Cameroon, a customs official was arrested in February with a live mandrill. He was arrested in the South of the country, close to the border with Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. He travelled with the mandrill clinging on him, as he drove his car for over 40km to sell the animal. He kept the animal in iron chains in a small and unsuitable cage for over one year. 2 primate traffickers were arrested in March and a small mandrill rescued in Congo. They arrived on a motorbike with the young and fragile animal concealed in a cardboard box and hidden inside a black backpack. A trafficker was arrested in May with a baby chimp in Cameroon. The baby chimp was rescued during a high risk, nerve-racking cross river operation. Three young mandrills were rescued from traffickers successively in June and July in Cameroon.

11 bird traffickers were arrested in Togo, Congo and Cameroon where a network of parrot traffickers was dislodged from their hideout near a national park. They captured African grey parrots form the protected area. 4 traffickers were arrested with 41 African Grey Parrots in October in Togo. The parrots were found in a storeroom in Lomé. The main trafficker is a Nigerian and a veteran reptile and parrots' trafficker. The ring's operation stretched from Central Africa, particularly from Cameroon, to West Africa. The Nigerian had clients all over West Africa. One of the traffickers is nicknamed "Parrot Man". In Congo, 2 traffickers, one of them a corrupt military officer, were arrested in November with 28 African Grey Parrots, an Allen's Swamp Monkey and a Spot-nosed Monkey. One of the traffickers is a military officer in the Republican Guard. During a follow up operation in December, 3 traffickers were arrested with 18 African Grey Parrots in Congo. 2 of the traffickers are from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

10 pangolin and pangolin scales traffickers were arrested during 7 operations in Cameroon and one in Côte d'Ivoire. More than 885 kg of scales were seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction. A pangolins scales trafficker was arrested in July with 331 kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins in Cameroon. The pangolin scales were packed in 32 sacks and found in several storerooms during the crackdown on a regional criminal group. He was arrested in a dangerous neighbourhood known to be hiding several wildlife traffickers in Cameroon's capital city. The arrest was part of an intricate investigations into this major criminal group that has tentacles in the Central African sub region and in Nigeria. The trafficking ring had regularly been sending huge quantities of pangolin scales to Nigeria. Some of its members are based near the Cameroon, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea borders raising possibility that some of the contraband is coming in from these countries.

During investigations into wildlife trafficking in Congo, leads were found into human bones trafficking, which resulted in the arrest of 10 traffickers arrested during a series of intense operations carried out in Brazzaville, Pointe Noire and Madingou. In May, 3 traffickers were arrested with a human skull and drugs including cocaine in Congo. The first trafficker was arrested with a human skull and some cocaine. This led to the arrest of the second who was hiding around a nearby hotel. The third trafficker, who is the owner of the plot

where the remains were dug out, was arrested immediately following the first two arrests. As a follow up of these operations, 7 traffickers were arrested with several human bones in December. They were arrested during 3 separate operations. They denounced a fourth one who was arrested later that day in the same town. The Team moved to Brazzaville where more members of the network were based. This led to the arrest of 2 traffickers with 3 human skeletons in Brazzaville. Finally, the last trafficker was apprehended in Madingou, bringing the total to 7 and putting an end to the creepy activities of this sinister network.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, 2,411 media pieces were published in national media, the distribution of the media pieces on national media were 27 % in print media, 43 % on internet, 24 % in radio and 6 % on TV.

Content:

This report refers to activities from January till December 2021. 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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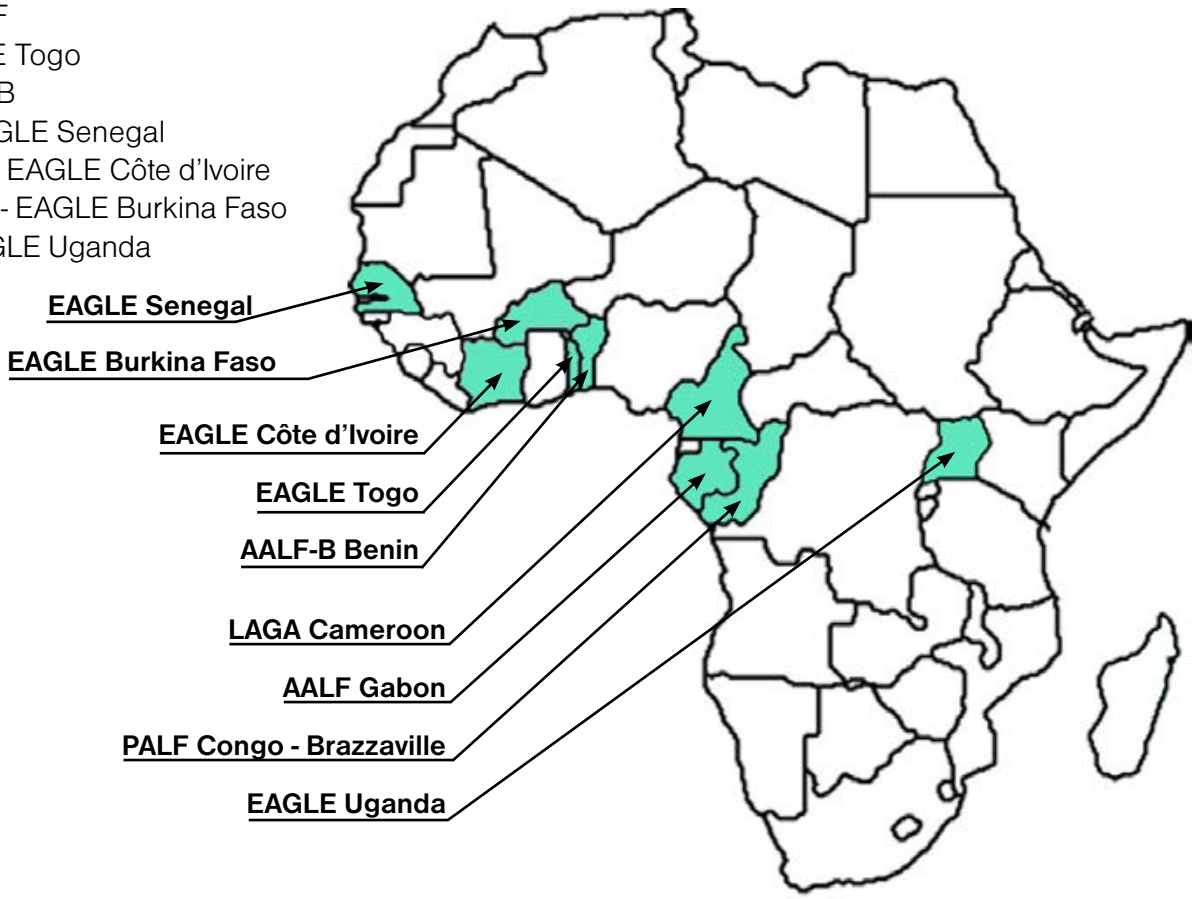
2. Structure of the Network

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 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.*

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
9. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda



The EAGLE NETWORK: LAGA, PALF, AALF, EAGLE Togo, EAGLE Senegal, AALF-B, EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire, EAGLE Burkina Faso, EAGLE Uganda
Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Togo, Senegal, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Uganda

3. Investigations

2,400 different investigations missions were carried out in all 9 countries, leading to the arrest of 160 traffickers in 2021.

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking and also on big cats trafficking, the illegal trade in primates, the trafficking in pangolin scales and birds.

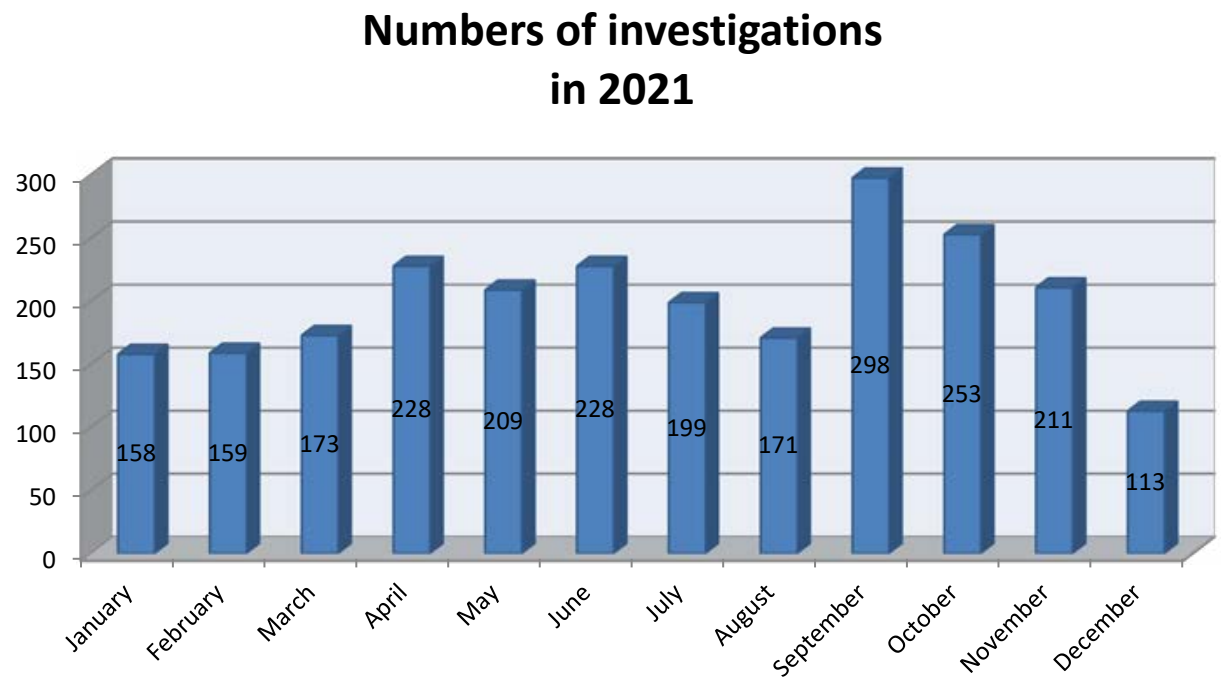


Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – December 2021

Despite the Covid 19 pandemic and the strict measures put in place by governments which presented several obstacles in carrying out investigations, we succeeded to keep pushing and the number of investigations missions were higher than the previous year. The measures were relaxed as time went on allowing the teams to fully carry out investigation missions. Recruitment of new investigators was intensified with investigators tested and some joined the teams in some countries. Investigations missions increased as a result.

4. Arrest Operations

160 significant wildlife and other criminals were arrested. EAGLE Network carried out in 9 countries of Central, West and East Africa. Uganda did its first operation this year.

Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers January – December 2021

The vast majority of arrested traffickers - 49 % were traffickers in ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerned traffickers in big cats and other parts - 21 %. The third primate traffickers representing 10 % of all arrests. 7 % of all arrests were birds' traffickers and pangolin scales and reptiles traffickers represent 7 % as well. A significant portion of all arrested traffickers were human bone traffickers representing 6 %.

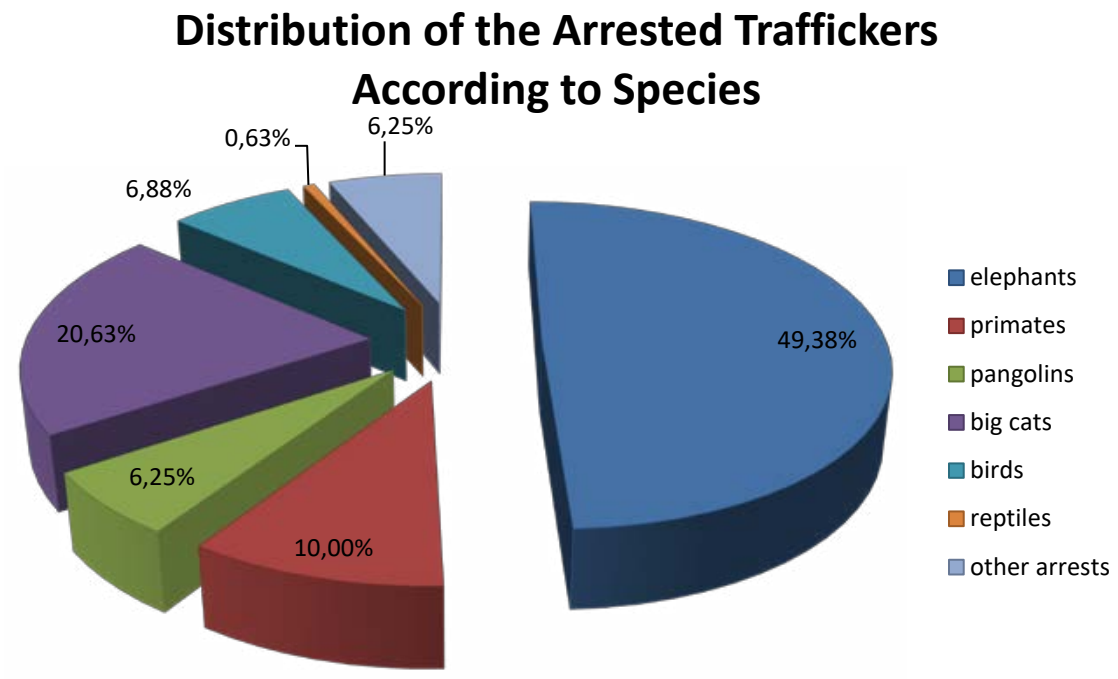


Fig. 3: Distribution of Arrested Traffickers According to Species

Corruption

Corruption is prevalent at all levels of the enforcement and judicial process. At least in 10 of the operations, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. A member of the upper house of Cameroon's parliament, a Senator and another high ranking official, a Mayor tried to pressure officials to release an arrested mandrill trafficker. A former member of parliament was arrested in Côte d'Ivoire alongside other traffickers during an ivory operation. Corruptions attempts by a high-ranking gendarmerie commander in Congo were fought off by the Team in May. The official tried to get the release of a brother using the false pretense of sickness. An arrested Lebanese national from a wealthy community in Côte d'Ivoire tried to free members of a gang of ivory traffickers after their arrest in December. These and many more were some of the corruption cases recorded during the year and found below.

- When a trafficker was arrested in Yaoundé in July with over 330 kg of pangolin scales, an entire network of people brought pressure to bear and attempted to corrupt the brigade commander who heads the unit where the trafficker was detained. He received nocturnal visits from some members of a diplomatic mission in Yaoundé who came around trying to get the trafficker released by proposing several millions

of CFA francs to the commander who simply refused the money. He has worked with us on several occasions and clearly understands our position on corruption.

- When a mandrill trafficker was arrested in Cameroon in July and while wildlife officials were drawing up the complaint reports, they were pressured by the family of the trafficker and two high level personalities; a member of the upper house of parliament, a Senator and a Mayor. They suggested to the MINFOF delegate that they he should find a way to stop proceedings at his level and release the suspect, but the wildlife official stood his ground. Nevertheless, the trafficker was quickly released on bail when the case progressed.
- In November 2020, two suspected traffickers were arrested in Cameroon for parrot trafficking and one other arrested on the instruction of a judge. During the trial of the case in court, a judge would order that the court go to the zoo where the parrots were kept for physical observation and verification. This could not take place because the conservator claimed the parrots had escaped.
- In Congo, two corrupt officials were arrested with 3 ivory tusks in February. A gendarmerie officer and a military man were arrested after an initial arrest of 4 other traffickers with an elephant tusk by the gendarmerie. The Legal Team followed up new information on the ivory trafficking ring and this led to the arrest of the gendarme officer with two tusks and the military man with one tusk. The gendarmerie officer is well known for selling carved ivory and the military man admitted to killing the elephant himself.
- Corruptions attempts by a high-ranking gendarmerie commander in Congo were fought off by the Team in May. The official tried to get the release of a brother using the false pretense of sickness. He had been in prison for one year for ivory trafficking. The Team fought hard, and the court ordered a counter medical examination that proved that the medical diagnosis presented was false.
- In June 2 traffickers, including a corrupt military officer, were arrested with 3 tusks and 5 kg of giant pangolin scales in Congo. The tusks were chopped off from a slaughtered elephant mother and her baby. Tiny tusks were pulled out from deep inside the mouth of the baby elephant. The first traffickers admitted to the slaughter and described that the mother was killed with five shots and the baby with three, in the Lesio Luna Natural Reserve. He concealed the products in a military bag to avoid detection and deceive the vigilance of the authorities. The gendarmerie went to great lengths to retrieve the rifle used in the killing of the elephants and hidden at his home. He admitted that this was the fourth gun seized from him. The military officer was arrested when he came visiting the detained trafficker. He had concealed the contraband and protected the trafficker at his home.
- 2 traffickers including a Filipino national were arrested in September with 4 tusks in Mouila, Gabon. The traffickers belong to a logging company and used the company car to transport the ivory. The tusks were put inside a black travelling bag and concealed inside the car. They used several other tricks, trying to avoid detection, as they moved the ivory around. They were arrested as they made their move to sell the tusks. The operation brings to sharp focus, the corrupt and illegal activities carried out by logging companies' workers in wildlife trafficking.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, 4 traffickers, including a corrupt former Deputy of the National Assembly (similar to a member of congress), were arrested in a hotel in Abidjan while attempting to sell 11 tusks of elephant

ivory. There were initially 6 suspects, including two officers. 3 of the suspects were caught red handed in the hotel room with the tusks, while the other 3 were arrested in the hotel's restaurant and reception.

- The arrest operation was quickly disrupted by the arrival of several men armed with assault rifles and equipped with bulletproof vests. They immediately tried to intimidate the UCT (Unit against Transnational Crime) working with us in order to stop the ongoing arrest, declaring to be officers of the CCDO - a special forces mixed unit of police, gendarmes and military. They had no mission orders, nor uniform or distinctive sign to identify themselves and denied colluding with the traffickers, claiming to investigate them.
- The standoff became quite heated, but the UCT stood their ground and managed to arrest 4 suspects and seize the ivory. The 2 other suspects identified themselves as members of CCDO unit and couldn't be arrested by the UCT. The investigation is ongoing and can expose the role of these armed men, their unit and what was their goal and intention when they interfered on the scene.
- In December, 5 traffickers were arrested with 2 elephant tusks, 4 hippo teeth and a hippo jaw in Côte d'Ivoire. The first 3 were arrested as they attempted to sell the products. The leading trafficker quickly denounced 2 others who were arrested a few hours later. One of the two is a Lebanese national from the wealthy Lebanese community in the country. He is the owner of the contraband. The products were transported to the place of transaction in his car that was impounded during the operation. He tried to corrupt the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to free the traffickers and his car. This shows very well how authorities are perceived and how wealthy traffickers think they can live in impunity.
- In Congo, 2 traffickers arrested in December with 2 elephant tusks, weighing just under 40 kg. One of the traffickers is a pastor and the second is a corrupt military man. The military man was extremely violent and tried to escape during the arrest. He attempted to corrupt officers when behind bars. He is based at the border with Gabon and had transported the ivory two months earlier to Dolisie, as part of his scheme to sell the ivory. He abandoned his post at the border and used his status to conduct the illegal business. He concealed the ivory in a military bag.

Elephants

Trafficking in ivory and other elephant products represent most of the focus during the year resulting in the largest numbers of arrested traffickers. 79 ivory traffickers were arrested in 30 operations in 7 countries with over 498 kg of ivory seized which includes 161 tusks. Some examples are presented below:

- A gendarmerie officer and a military man were arrested in February with 3 elephant tusks in Congo. The 2 traffickers were arrested after the arrest of 4 other traffickers with an elephant tusk by the gendarmerie. The Legal Team followed up new information on the ivory trafficking ring and this led to the arrest of the gendarme officer with two elephant tusks and the military man with one elephant tusk. The gendarmerie officer is well known for selling carved ivory and the military man admitted to killing the elephant himself.

- A trafficker was arrested in February, in Congo, with 8 tusks and 2 ivory pieces weighing 28 kg. He transported the ivory on a motorbike to the capital city where he was arrested as he attempted to trade the contraband. Interrogations uncovered other criminal activities the trafficker carried out including trading in radioactive substances
- 3 traffickers were arrested in February with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. The first two traffickers, of Malian nationality, were arrested in the North of the country as they attempted to sell the tusks. Soon after the arrest, they denounced the third trafficker, a Guinean, who was arrested in another town.
- 2 traffickers were arrested in Benin with 2 elephant tusks in February. They were arrested in the act as they attempted to sell the ivory in the North of the country. They travelled to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the ivory carefully concealed in a jute bag, to avoid detection. A third trafficker is on the run as the Team fights to apprehend him.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in February with 166 pieces of sculpted ivory in Côte d'Ivoire, the arrest was difficult because the Team had to do it at their shop in a busy part of the town. The traffickers attempted to escape but were swiftly caught. The owner of the ivory who is a carver, attempted to sell the ivory in the back court of the shop. The shop that is located in an area of intense trafficking in the commercial capital, was raided and a search found 56 items of ivory jewelry. The search of another shop next door found locked metal boxes containing several other ivory pieces. The area that has been on our radar for years is the center of ivory trafficking in the country with connections all over the continent. The traffickers are the front door to a major Guinean syndicate spanning at least several countries in West, Central and East Africa.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, 5 traffickers were arrested in February with 60 elephant tusks weighing 114 kg. They were arrested in the interior of the country close to the Ghana border in a very small room. The traffickers violently attacked the arresting force and continued to resist even as they were handcuffed. The tusks were of mostly very young elephants and some were fresh with blood stains showing the elephants were recently massacred. The 30 slaughtered elephants in the seizure are a mere snapshot of the regular decimation of elephants generated by this illegal network The trafficking ring was very organized with shared roles. 3 of the traffickers, of Burkina Faso nationality, had the task of smuggling the ivory from Ghana, Togo and Burkina Faso to the Ivorian border where the contraband was stored. Two others, Ivoirians, were in charge of the financing and trade in the country.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in March in connection with the trafficking of 4 elephant tusks in Gabon. The first 2 were arrested attempting to sell 4 elephant tusks. They were taken to the police station where they denounced the third trafficker, a woman, who was arrested 4 days later. She handed the elephant tusks to the two.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in March in connection with the trafficking of 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. The first trafficker was arrested as he arrived his barbing salon with a bag containing the ivory. The arresting team had patiently waited for several hours and he suddenly came in from darkness, moving cautiously to his salon. On realizing the arresting team was closing in on him, he dashed out and tried to flee but was quickly closed down and arrested. He denounced his accomplices who were arrested 5 days later.

- An ivory trafficker was arrested in March with 2 elephant tusks in Benin. He was arrested after he arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with a jute sack that concealed the elephant tusks. The contraband was smuggled from Burkina Faso.
- 2 traffickers were arrested with 3 elephant tusks in a successful kick off of a new project in Uganda in March. The two, Rwandese, transported the ivory concealed in a brown sugar sack and placed in the trunk of their car. One of them drove the car to the place of transaction and on arrival the second moved the sack from the trunk and was immediately arrested. He resisted but was quickly closed down and handcuffed. The bag contained freshly marked elephant tusks weighing 14kg. The base of one of the tusks was cut off using a hand saw. They belong to a network of ivory traffickers in the country. They are connected to other network involved in gold and human skulls trafficking.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in April with 6 elephant tusks in Togo. The ivory has been trafficked from Burkina Faso and stocked in Ghana. The owner of the ivory is of Burkina nationality, while the 2 other traffickers are Togo and Niger nationals. One of the traffickers attempted to escape during the operation and was chased down and captured by the arresting team. The ivory was carefully wrapped in plastics and fabrics and concealed inside a bag.
- 4 traffickers were arrested in April with 4 elephant tusks in Togo. 2 traffickers came from Benin and served as intermediaries to the Benin-based traffickers. They used a motorbike all the way from Benin to smuggle the ivory concealed in a used grain bag and kept inside a backpack. The other 2 were Togolese intermediaries in the illegal deal.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in April with 2 elephant tusks in Burkina Faso. 2 of the traffickers concealed the elephant tusks in a used grain bag, to avoid detection. They arrived on motorbikes in a town close to the border with Ghana, where they were arrested. Soon after the arrest, they denounced the third trafficker who was immediately arrested. He killed the elephant in the Nazinga Game Ranch in the South of the country. He is a repeat offender and had been arrested for poaching a defassa waterbuck in the past.
- A trafficker was arrested in May in Gabon with 5 elephant tusks and 14 ivory pieces. Information on the illegal activity was first received by the General Research Directorate (DGR). The trafficker was found carrying a black backpack and arrested. The contraband was carefully concealed in the bag. He was later transported to the Libreville Special Tribunal and remanded in custody.
- In Togo, 3 traffickers were arrested in May with 8 elephant tusks and some pieces of ivory, dismantling an international ivory trafficking network. The network of Togolese, Malian and Nigerien nationalities used trafficking routes crisscrossing Burkina Faso and Benin. 5 of the elephant tusks were smuggled from Burkina Faso and received by the Togolese who was also in charge of searching for buyers in Togo. The remaining 3 elephant tusks were smuggled from Benin and motorbikes were used to moving the ivory around the three countries. In order to avoid arrest, they moved the illegal transaction away from the capital city. To get to the place of transaction, two of the traffickers transported the ivory on a luxury motorbike belonging to one of them. The contraband was securely packed in a parcel and concealed in a grain bag when it was seized. They belong to an international network of ivory traffickers in the region.

- In Congo, 2 traffickers, including a military officer, were arrested in June with 3 tusks and 5 kg of giant pangolin scales. The tusks were chopped off from a slaughtered elephant mother and her baby. Tiny tusks were pulled out from deep inside the mouth of the baby elephant. The first traffickers admitted to the slaughter and described that the mother was killed with five shots and the baby with three, in the Lesio Luna Natural Reserve. He concealed the products in a military bag to avoid detection and deceive the vigilance of the authorities. He transported the contraband from Inioni to Brazzaville where they ivory was concealed at the home of the second trafficker, the military official for several weeks. The gendarmerie went to great lengths to retrieve the rifle used in the killing of the elephants and hidden at his home. He admitted that this was the fourth gun seized from him. The military officer was arrested when he came visiting the detained trafficker. He had concealed the contraband and protected the trafficker at his home.
- In Gabon, 2 traffickers were arrested in June with 2 elephant tusks and an ivory piece. They were arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the contraband. One of the traffickers who is a worker with a logging company travelled with the contraband from Ndjolé some 100 km to Kango. He spent 3 nights with his accomplice in Kango before moving to the place of transaction as they attempted to sell the elephant tusks.
- 2 traffickers were arrested in June with 4 tusks in Uganda. The 4 large ivory pieces that weighed 25 kg were wrapped in polythene and concealed inside a bag they took to the place of transaction. One of the traffickers is a renowned middleman for the ivory trafficking network.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, 3 traffickers were arrested with 2 tusks in July. The traffickers were arrested in their car on a small discreet street where they were about to carry the transaction. They arrived with the tusks concealed in a bag inside the trunk of the car. They confessed trying to sell the tusks that weighed 23 kg. The trafficker who sold the ivory to them is on the run. One of the arrested traffickers tried to erase the pictures in his phone but was quickly stopped by the law enforcement officers. At least one of them seemed to be connected to gold trafficking. The remaining wild elephant population in the country is only a few hundreds.
- A trafficker was arrested in Gabon in August with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, a python head, giant pangolin scales, an elephant tail, a monkey skull and 12 leopard teeth. The products were contained in a bag at the moment of his arrest as he attempted to sell the contraband. He was transferred to Libreville where he was presented to the State Counsel at the Special Criminal Tribunal.
- 2 traffickers including a Filipino national were arrested in September with 4 tusks in Mouila, Gabon. The traffickers belong to a logging company and used the company car to transport the ivory. The tusks were put inside a black travelling bag and concealed inside the car. They used several other tricks, trying to avoid detection, as they moved the ivory around. They were arrested as they made their move to sell the tusks. The operation brings to sharp focus, the intolerable and illegal activities carried out by logging companies' workers in wildlife trafficking.
- 5 traffickers were arrested in Lastourville and Moanda, Gabon with 6 tusks cut into 20 pieces, 2 guns and ammunition in September. The traffickers, a man and his nephew, were arrested as they attempted to sell the tusks. A 12-guagte gun was found at the home of one of the traffickers during a house search that followed. They denounced two others – they claim are their brother in-laws – to be the real "owners"

of the tusks. They too were arrested during a follow up operation. Another 12-guage gun and ammunition found in their keeping were seized. They claimed to have shot and killed the elephants in December 2020. The crackdown dismantles a chain of closely related poachers and traffickers working together in a vicious cycle of elephants massacres and ivory trafficking in the country. A follow up police investigations resulted in the arrest of one more trafficker with 4 tusks cut into 14 pieces.

- 4 traffickers were arrested in September with 4 elephant tusks in Kango, Gabon. 2 traffickers were first arrested trying to sell the elephant tusks They arrived the place of transaction in car with the ivory concealed inside a small bag one of them was carrying. They were arrested and they denounced their accomplices who were arrested in a nearby bar.
- A trafficker was arrested in October with 2 tusks in Gabon. The trafficker who is nicknamed “Apôtre” (Apostle in English) is a guard with a security company in Mitzic, the town where he was arrested. He arrived the scene of transaction with a green backpack. Inside the bag, 2 small tusks definitely cut from the head of a young elephant, were found. He had been a target ivory trafficker for a long time and was finally caught red handed.
- In Côte d’Ivoire, 4 traffickers, including a former Deputy of National Assembly (similar to a member of congress), were arrested in October in a hotel in Abidjan while attempting to sell 11 tusks of elephant ivory. There were initially 6 suspects, including two officers.3 of the suspects were caught red handed in the hotel room with the tusks, while the other 3 were arrested in the hotel’s restaurant and reception.
- 4 traffickers were arrested in November with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. A Cameroonian and a Nigerian were first arrested in Port-Gentil as they attempted to sell the ivory. They denounced a third trafficker to be owner of the ivory. He was arrested a few days later in the same town. During his interrogation he denounced a fourth trafficker who was also arrested. The 2 elephant tusks that were cut into 4 pieces were concealed inside a black backpack.
- A trafficker was arrested in November with 2 elephant tusks in Côte d’Ivoire. More carved ivory, 17 elephant tail bracelets and 8 rings, a leopard tooth, a full elephant tail with hairs on it and more treated elephant hair were discovered during a house search. Cash registry shows he has been active for more than two decades. He sold elephant tail hair from 1999 to 2018, when he stopped recording the sales in his registry.
- 2 traffickers were arrested in December with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. They arrived the scene of transaction each carrying a backpack with concealed ivory. The tusks were cut into 6 pieces. They both are presently awaiting their transfer to the Special Criminal Tribunal in Libreville.
- 5 traffickers were arrested in December with 2 elephant tusks, 4 hippo teeth and a hippo jaw in Côte d’Ivoire. The first 3 were arrested as they attempted to sell the products. The leading trafficker quickly denounced 2 others who were arrested a few hours later. One of the two is a Lebanese national from the wealthy Lebanese community in the country. He is the owner of the contraband. The products were transported to the place of transaction in his car that was impounded during the operation. He tried to corrupt the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to free the traffickers and his car. This shows very well how authorities are perceived and how wealthy traffickers think they can live in impunity.

- 2 traffickers were arrested in December with 2 elephant tusks, weighing just under 40 kg in Congo. One of the traffickers is a pastor and the second is a military man. The military man was extremely violent and tried to escape during the arrest. He attempted to corrupt officers when behind bars. He is based at the border with Gabon and had transported the ivory two months earlier to Dolisie, as part of his scheme to sell the ivory. He abandoned his post at the border and used his status to conduct the illegal business. He concealed the ivory in a military bag.

Big Cats

33 big cat traffickers were arrested, and 30 leopard skins, a lion skin, leopard teeth and body parts seized. Some examples are presented here:

- 2 traffickers were arrested in Congo with a leopard skin in January. They were arrested in the act in the capital city. This was the network's first operation of 2021.
- In Senegal, 2 traffickers were arrested in January with a leopard skin, 14 hippo teeth and an AK-47 assault rifle that they attempted to trade. Following the arrest of the first trafficker, a house search at the second trafficker's residence swiftly followed with his arrest and seizure of the assault rifle for sale and a magazine containing 14 cartridges. The assault rifle that was being sold is suspected to have been used in the slaughter of many leopards and hippos for over a decade. They both remain in jail, awaiting trial.
- A wildlife trafficker was arrested with a leopard skin in Senegal in January. The trafficker works for a state organ that supports the national police. The arrest was carried out two days after the arrest of two, with a leopard skin in the same town as the team stayed behind to push forward for the operation.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in February with 3 leopard skins in Gabon. The traffickers were arrested during an intense sequence of arrests in a crackdown on this illegal trade. When the first trafficker, who arrived at the place of transaction with a leopard skin concealed inside a bag was arrested, two more arrests swiftly followed.
- In March, 2 traffickers were arrested with 3 leopard skins, a hyena skin and 17 hippo teeth in Senegal. One of the traffickers is a taxi driver who is an accomplice. He used his taxi for the transaction and moved the contraband around. The car was impounded. One of the leopard skins is of a leopard about only 5 months old.
- In Senegal, 2 traffickers were arrested with 4 leopard skins in April. 3 of the skins were from baby leopards, less than 3 months old. It seems an entire family, a mother and her young ones, were slaughtered in Guinea Conakry where the skins were smuggled from. The Ramadan-fasting team travelled close to 1000 km to the South of the country where the arrest was done under the sizzling heat of a hot Senegalese day. The traffickers are specialized not only in skins but in the illegal trade in live animals as well. The traffickers arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skins concealed in a backpack.
- 2 traffickers were arrested in May with a leopard skin and a piece of ivory in Congo. The contraband was rolled up very tightly in a black plastic bag and concealed inside a backpack to avoid detection by law

enforcement. They arrived the scene transaction carrying the parcel. They appeared confident as they moved in to carry out the deal, indicating they were very experienced traffickers. They belong to a trafficking network in the country.

- 4 traffickers were arrested in June with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin in Cameroon. The traffickers belong to a network of experienced leopard skin traffickers. One of them was recently arrested but she bribed her way out of jail. They arrived the place of transaction individually on bikes, with two grain bags containing the skins. They obtained the skins from other regions in the country. The region is notorious for skins trafficking and traffickers use traditional titles and functions to cover their illegal trade in leopard skin. One of the traffickers is a traditional ruler. A fifth trafficker of the gang is on the run.
- A trafficker was arrested in June with 2 leopard skins in Senegal. He doubles as a heavy duty truck driver and used the position to regularly smuggle wildlife products between Mali and Senegal. The leopard skins were wrapped in bed sheets and concealed in a plastic bag.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in Senegal with 2 leopard skins in June. The skins were trafficked by a ring involved in timber trafficking. The traffickers arrived on motorbikes for the illegal transaction and the skins were concealed in a grain bag and a back pack. The Team had to resist traffic in influence from a mayor in the area where the traffickers were arrested.
- A convicted trafficker who was on the run, was arrested in Congo in July. The fugitive was sentenced to a 2-year prison sentence earlier this year. He was one of two traffickers arrested in October 2019 with a leopard skin. Both were unfortunately released on bail in November 2019 and they never returned to face trial. One is still on the run.
- A trafficker was arrested in Gabon in August with 3 leopard skins. He travelled through several towns with the leopard skins concealed inside a bag and when he arrived Lambaréné he was arrested as he attempted to sell the skins.
- In Senegal, 4 traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins in August. The traffickers arrived in pairs in two separate taxis, 5 minutes apart. The first two concealed a skin in a blue plastic back and the second hid theirs in a grains bag. One of the traffickers resisted arrest but was quickly brought under control. This important operation is yet another crackdown on this illegal trade.
- 2 traffickers were arrested in October with lion skin, hyena skin and many more in Côte d'Ivoire. The middleman got arrested first and led the team to the bigger trafficker a Nigerian woman that trafficked all from Nigeria. Skins of honey badger, civet and others were seized together with 451 dried chameleons. In her personal purse she kept a dead bird, probably witchcraft protection... from getting arrested. There are less than 50 lions remaining in Nigeria and this last killed one is unfortunately young. Lions are critically endangered in the whole West African region
- 3 traffickers were arrested in December with 2 leopard skins and leopard teeth in Gabon. The first trafficker, a Malian, was arrested attempting to sell the contraband. His car was also seized. He denounced 2 other traffickers, members of the ring. A follow up operation apprehended a Guinean and a Gabonese trafficker.

Primates

16 primate traffickers were arrested in Cameroon and Congo, two baby chimps, 6 live mandrills, a drill, a young baboon and two monkeys were rescued. The examples are presented here:

- In Cameroon, a customs official was arrested in February with a live mandrill. He was arrested in the South of the country, close to the border with Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. He travelled with the mandrill clinging on him, as he drove his car for over 40 km to sell the animal. He kept the animal in iron chains in a small and unsuitable cage for over one year. He had earlier illegally traded another mandrill in the same town to a live animal trafficker who travelled about 400 km for the deal. He bought the two mandrills from an area of intense trafficking, in the South of the country. He was actively searching for a baby gorilla to buy before his arrest. The hungry and frail looking mandrill was immediately taken care off following its rescue and moved to the Yaoundé zoo for further care.
- 2 primate traffickers were arrested in March and a small mandrill rescued in Congo. They arrived on a motorbike with the young and fragile animal concealed in a cardboard box and hidden inside a black backpack. They brought the animal from over 175 km to the place of transaction, where they were arrested. The dirty looking mandrill was handed over to the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Sanctuary where he will be given special care. Two pieces of lead, probably from the bullet that killed his mother, were removed from his head. He was lucky because the scraps did not touch the skull and was just beneath the skin. But the wounds were badly infected and full with puss. The state of the animal is testimony to the neglect and harsh treatment it received from the traffickers. When he arrived at the sanctuary, he was named Niari after the region where he was rescued.
- A mandrill was seized from a man who had a permit for another animal in March in Congo. Although he was not arrested, the mandrill was rescued and handed to the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Sanctuary where it shall be given special care.
- A trafficker was arrested in May with a baby chimp in Cameroon. The baby chimp was rescued during a high risk, nerve-racking cross river operation. Courage and initiative saved our investigator and the chimp from the hands of a trafficker. He traveled dozens of kilometers to the banks of the Sanaga River (the longest in Cameroon) and camped there holding our investigator captive, refusing to cross over from the wild and lawless side of the river. It needed tremendous courage and initiative of our Head of Operations to cross the river on a canoe and confront the trafficker saving our investigator from possible kidnap or harm. The arresting team stormed in later to take the chimp and trafficker to the safer side of the river. As the team, wildlife officers and the authorities got to the station and prepared for interrogation, the criminal suddenly made a run into the bush attempting to escape. He was hotly chased and captured. The baby chimp, a survivor of the slaughter of his family, was smuggled in a tiny closed box, and was pulled out frightened and stressed. He was given special first aid attention and care by the Team.
- A trafficker was arrested in June with a baby mandrill in Cameroon. The plan was to rescue two mandrills but one died the day before the operation, showing how crucial it is to rescue these baby primates fast as

they live on borrowed time. The trafficker admitted that a third mandrill she tried to sell died as well. She added that her father who is a traditional chief lends his gun to poachers that he activates and he is her supplier, while she has a regular buyer for live primates. He has been accused and stands prosecution.

- A trafficker was arrested and a mandrill rescued in July in Cameroon. He is a city council worker with connections to high officials in a popular seaside resort town in Cameroon. The female was found chained to a very inhospitable cage and placed in open space at the residence of the trafficker. She was immediately released and moved to the zoo for further care. The trafficker bought the animal in a village some 78 km from the seaside resort town.
- A trafficker was arrested and another mandrill rescued in July in Cameroon. The animal was weak, fragile and malnourished. A cord that was tied around the waist of the little female inflicted injuries on her and left a gaping wound. Immediately, the rescue team released the animal of the unbearable chain and instant first aid measures applied. A veterinarian was brought to apply treatment to the animal before she was moved to the Yaounde zoo for special care and comfort. This is the fourth baby mandrill the Team has rescued this year.
- 2 traffickers were arrested and a baby chimp rescued in September in Cameroon. They were arrested following the theft of a baby chimp at a sanctuary. The chimp was found in a large storeroom close to a Chinese tiles shop in the country's economic capital Douala. The 2 traffickers were arrested on the spot and a third, who is considered to be the brain behind the trafficking and was not present during the operation, and efforts continue to apprehend him. The chimp was found with wounds inflicted by the traffickers all over his body as he was cruelly kicked and tossed. He was not given food regularly. The chimp was stolen from a chimpanzee sanctuary in the coastal region of the country.
- 2 chimp traffickers were arrested in October in Cameroon following the seizure of a baby chimp and arrest in September 2021 of 2 traffickers. One of those arrested last month denounced the 2 traffickers as the main traffickers behind the deal and a follow up of the procedure enabled their arrest.
- 3 traffickers were arrested and a baby drill rescued in November in Cameroon. The animal was quickly transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre where he shall be getting specialist care from veterinarians and join a family of drills. The traffickers were arrested during an attempt to sell the animal they recently bought from poachers.

Birds

11 bird traffickers were arrested in Togo, Congo and Cameroon where a network of parrot traffickers was dislodged from their hideout near a national park. They captured African grey parrots form the protected areas. The examples are presented here:

- 2 traffickers were arrested with 20 African grey parrots in September in Cameroon. The traffickers were attempting to sell the parrots at their hideout in the south of the country when they were arrested. They are part of an even bigger parrot trafficking network in the country that includes foreign nationals. The 20

parrots were crammed into a box which was clearly not large enough. The parrots were captured at the Campo Ma'an National Park.

- 4 traffickers were arrested with 41 African Grey Parrots in October in Togo. The parrots were found in a storeroom in Lomé. The main trafficker is a Nigerian and a veteran reptile and parrots' trafficker. The ring's operation stretched from Central Africa, particularly from Cameroon, to West Africa. The Nigerian had clients all over West Africa. One of the traffickers nicknamed "Parrot Man". The parrots were transported in adapted cardboard boxes, passing through borders with the use of corruption.
- In Congo, 2 traffickers, one of them a corrupt military officer, were arrested in November with 28 African Grey Parrots, an Allen's Swamp Monkey and a Spot-nosed Monkey. One of the traffickers is a military officer in the Republican Guard. The animals were held in a tiny cage in horrible conditions and kept outside of a bar that belongs to the military officer. He used his status to protect illicit activities including the illegal trade in African grey parrots. The parrots were stored in deplorable conditions. Following the seizures, the Jane Goodall Institute brought in a team of veterinarians who took charge of the animals and flew them to the Tchimpounga Sanctuary for appropriate care and support.
- In December 3 traffickers were arrested with 18 African Grey Parrots in Congo. 2 of the traffickers are from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They were arrested during 3 follow up operations after last month's operation when 2 were arrested with 28 African grey parrots. The parrots were transported to the Tchimpounga Reserve that again took them in for special care and support. They shall be released in the wild as soon as they become healthy and strong enough after long periods of harsh treatment and malnourishment at the hands of the traffickers.

Pangolins

10 pangolin and pangolin scales traffickers were arrested during 7 operations in Cameroon and one in Côte d'Ivoire. More than 885 kg of scales were seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction. The examples are presented here:

- A trafficker was arrested in March with 109 kg of pangolin scales in Cameron. He was arrested as he offloaded two bags of pangolin scales from his car. A search of his home by the arresting team found smaller quantities of pangolin scales concealed in a black plastic bag and hidden inside his kitchen. He activated a gang of several poachers in a number of localities in the area and regularly supplied the scales in the bigger cities. Depending on the species, this seizure represents up to 250 massacred pangolins.
- 2 traffickers were arrested with 72 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in May. When the arresting team arrived their home of one of the traffickers, they found a grain bag of pangolin scales place at a corner of the living room. The traffickers operated at a strategically important road junction, a gateway to the towns in the south of the country where wildlife traffickers are very active. They are experienced pangolins scales traffickers. One of the traffickers tried every trick in the book to avoid arrest saying he has been arrested in the past.

- In June a trafficker was arrested with 60 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. This seizure is a mere snapshot of the regular two-weeks activity of the trafficker. This one sack represents the killing of up to 300 pangolins (depending on the species). He is an experienced pangolin scales trafficker who posed as a hawker in second hand dresses. He bought pangolin scales from smaller traffickers and poachers he activated in several localities. He is connected to many pangolin scales trafficking networks in the East of the country. He took every precaution to avoid arrest. The arresting team found a grain bag, full with pangolin scales in the living room when they stormed his residence. He admitted having collected the 60 kg of scales in just 6 days.
- A pangolins scales trafficker was arrested in July with 331 kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins in Cameroon. The pangolin scales were packed in 32 sacks and found in several storerooms during the crackdown on a regional criminal group. He was arrested in a dangerous neighbourhood known to be hiding several wildlife traffickers in Cameroon's capital city. The arrest is part of an intricate investigations into this major criminal group that has tentacles in the Central African sub region and in Nigeria. It could provide a trove of valuable information into the ring that involves several traffickers including some closely related family members. The trafficking ring had regularly been sending huge quantities of pangolin scales to Nigeria. Some of its members are based near the Cameroon, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea borders raising possibility that some of the contraband is coming in from these countries. This seizure alone represents up to 1,600 killed pangolins (depending on the species).
- A trafficker was arrested with 77 kg of pangolin scales in October in Cameron. He transported the scales in a pickup truck. He activated several poachers in the East of the country, particularly around a new dam project called Lom Pangar and suppled pangolin scales and other wildlife products to several traffickers coming from some of the big towns in the country. About a third of the scales were giant pangolin scales.
- In Cameroon, a trafficker was arrested with a freshly killed pangolin in October. He was arrested attempting to sell it along a major highway. Blood could be seen on the head of the pangolin that was probably smashed. Protected wildlife species are generally dangled by hand or hung from a piece of a wooden pole or stick along major highways in country for sale, despite their protected status and the illegality of selling them. The operation comes as a reminder that protected species remain protected and it is illegal to trade in them.
- 3 traffickers were arrested in October with 110 kg of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire. This seizure alone represents the killing of up to 550 pangolins (depending on the species). They posed no resistance as the arresting team moved in to apprehend them in the capital city. They were taken to Abidjan to be auditioned. The traffickers belong to a regional network. 2 of them collected the scales and the third assisted with transporting them. They used a taxi car in transporting the scales.
- A trafficker was arrested with 86 kg of pangolin scales and a young baboon rescued in Cameron in November. The animal was found leashed around the waist and tied to a tree at the premises of the trafficker. He bought the young baboon from a poacher who trapped and killed the mother. The scales are from giant pangolins which is more threatened with extinction than the two other species in the country. Seizures are almost always composed of scales from all three species. The trafficker belongs to a bigger group illegally trafficking several wildlife products including elephant ivory around the area where he was arrested.

Reptiles species

- A trafficker was arrested in Burkina Faso with 30 crocodile skins in March. The skins were smuggled into the country from Ghana. He is part of a smuggling ring bringing in contraband from Ghana. They cross the borders in the night using bush roads, which are not easily identified by authorities. The contraband was concealed inside corn flour while crossing the borders.

Other arrests

During investigations into wildlife trafficking in Congo, leads were found into human bones trafficking, which resulted in the arrest of 10 traffickers arrested during a series of intense operations carried out in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire.

- In May, 3 traffickers were arrested with a human skull and drugs including cocaine in Congo. The first trafficker was arrested with a human skull and some cocaine. This led to the arrest of the second who was hiding around a nearby hotel. The third trafficker, who is the owner of the plot where the remains were dug out, was arrested immediately following the first two arrests. They belong to a vast network, trafficking and smuggling various contraband including wildlife products, hard drugs such as cocaine and human bones. A piece of leopard skin and a tomb cross were found under the bed of one of the members of the network. The network seems to be spread across the country with many members based in Brazzaville. These arrests indicate that wildlife traffickers are often part of other illegal activities and networks.
- 7 traffickers were arrested in Congo with several human bones in December. They were arrested during 3 separate operations during a major crackdown on the network. During the first arrest, 3 traffickers were arrested with a human skull and a few bones in Pointe Noire. They denounced a fourth one who was arrested later that day in the same town. The Team moved to Brazzaville where more members of the network were based. This led to the arrest of 2 traffickers with 3 human skeletons in Brazzaville. Finally, the last trafficker was apprehended in Madingou, bringing the total to 7 and putting an end to the creepy activities of this sinister network.
- Information collected during investigations show the bones are used to block evil spells, bewitchment, cure infertility and also, to confer supernatural powers to the holders.

5. Legal Follow Up

The EAGLE Network legal teams in the 9 countries followed up the court cases of the 160 arrested traffickers. All the court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms were handed. 87 % of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial, at least for the beginning.

During the year 128 traffickers were prosecuted and convicted. 89 of them given prison sentences of various time, while others remain behind bars awaiting trial. In some of the countries, court proceedings witnessed slowdown in activities or were simply interrupted due to the pandemic. This was a serious challenge and affected the outcome of cases in court.

- A wildlife trafficker was sentenced to serve 2 years in prison in Cameroon in January. He was arrested last year with 4 elephant tusks.
- 5 traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison in Togo in January. They were arrested in October last year with 3 ivory tusks.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested in November 2020 in Gabon with 5 elephant tusks were sentenced to 3 years in prison in January.
- Another trafficker arrested in November 2020 was sentenced to 3 years in prison in Gabon in January. He was arrested with 6 ivory tusks.
- 2 traffickers arrested in August 2020 with 3 leopard skins were sentenced in January to 6 months in prison in Gabon.
- A trafficker was sentenced in February to 2 years in prison in Burkina Faso. He was arrested in December last year with 4 ivory tusks. The project carried out the legal follow up of the case from the PONASI project.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to a one year of imprisonment for the first and 10 months for the second in March. They were arrested in January this year in Gabon.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced in March to one year in prison in Gabon. They were arrested in December 2020 with 2 ivory tusks.
- A leopard skin trafficker was sentenced in March to 10 months in prison in Gabon. He was arrested in January.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced in March to one year in Prison in Benin. He was arrested in June 2019.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced in March to one year in prison in Benin. They were arrested in February with 2 elephant tusks.
- In March, 5 ivory traffickers were given the maximum prison sentence of one year in Côte d'Ivoire. They were arrested in February with 114 kg of ivory.

- In Uganda, a trafficker was sentenced to 9 months in prison in March. He is one of two Rwandese arrested in the same month with 2 ivory tusks.
- The two traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison in March, in Senegal. They were arrested in the same month with 3 leopard skins, 17 hyena teeth and 1 hyena skin.
- In April, an ivory trafficker was sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment. He was arrested in September 2020 with 6 elephant tusks in Gabon.
- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced in April to 2 years in prison in Gabon. They were arrested in January 2021 by the gendarmerie with 27 ivory pieces.
- Still in Gabon, 2 ivory traffickers were sentence to 2 years of imprisonment in April. They were arrested in February 2021 with 2 elephant tusks.
- In May, 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to one year in Prison prison in Gabon. They were arrested in April 2021 with 2 elephant tusks.
- In May, the Legal Team in Uganda provided technical support in the prosecution by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (URA) of 2 arrested traffickers. The Team also provided support to the URA in the transport of the 2 from the Kidepo National Park.
- 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced in May to one and a half years in prison in Gabon. They were arrested in April 2021 with 4 elephant tusks.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced in May to 4 years in prison in Benin. He was arrested in March 2021 with 2 elephant tusks.
- 3 ivory traffickers were sentenced in June to 12 months in prison in Burkina Faso. They were arrested with 2 elephant tusks in April 2021.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced in July to one year in prison in Gabon. He was arrested in April 2021 by the police for complicity and instigation of an illegal ivory sale.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced in July to one year of imprisonment in Gabon. He was arrested in May 2021 with several ivory pieces.
- Still in Gabon and in July, 2 traffickers in ivory were sentenced to one year in prison. They were arrested in June 2021 with 2 elephant tusks.
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced in July to 8 months in prison in Côte d'Ivoire. He was arrested in October 2020 with several pieces of carved ivory including 3 statutes and 9 bracelets.
- The Legal Team in Congo provided technical assistance in the prosecution of 2 traffickers in July following their arrest by wildlife officials and the police for the killing of 2 chimpanzees and an elephant with a Kalashnikov.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced in August to one year in prison in Gabon. They were arrested in July for leopard skin trafficking. The Legal Team provided technical assistance during the follow up of the case that was initiated by the immigration services.

- An ivory trafficker was sentenced in August to one and a half year of imprisonment in Congo. He was arrested in May for leopard skin and ivory trafficking.
- In October, the Legal Team in Côte d'Ivoire provided assistance to the UCT after they arrested a trafficker in possession of 12 parrots (including 8 timnehs and 2 grey parrots). Sory Ibrahima Balde, is a recidivist and was arrested last December for chimp trafficking. He is still on a 12-month suspended jail sentence from the chimpanzee case. He now faces up to 3 years of imprisonment.
- The Legal Team provided assistance in November in the prosecution of 2 traffickers who were arrested by the Antenna Head of the Directorate General of Research (DGR) in Makokou with 2 ivory tusks in Gabon.
- A pangolin scales trafficker was sentenced in December to 8 months in prison. He was arrested in October 2021 with 77 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon.
- In December, the Legal Team in Gabon provided assistance in the prosecution of a trafficker who was arrested by a joint team of police officers and officials of the Central Office of the Fight Against Drugs (OCLAD) with 2 ivory tusks. He is detained at the Special Criminal Tribunal. Conservation Justice was informed of the arrest by the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DGFAP).

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 go jail.

In order to provide a deterrent effect 2,411 media pieces were published in national media.

The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 27% in print media, 43% on the internet, 24% in radio and 6% on TV. A couple of articles were published in the international media.

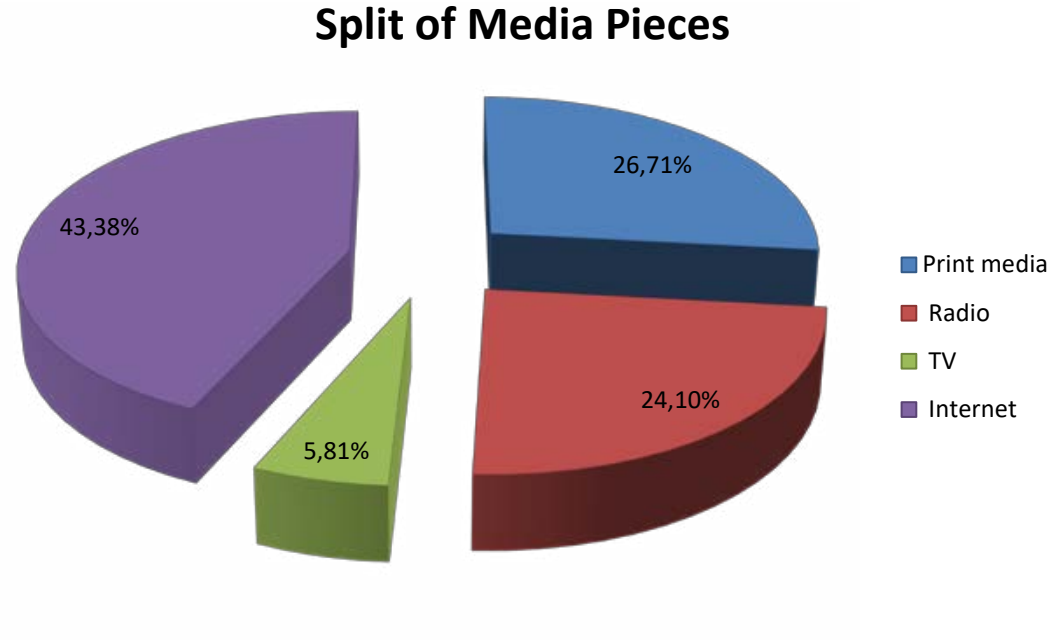


Fig .4: Split of Media Pieces

- In Gabon in February the Coordinator granted an interview to TeleAfrica a Gabonese television channel and l'Union, a national daily.
- Ofir Drori gave a talk at the zoom meeting of the Wilson Institute - End Wildlife Crime Panel with an audience of more than 250 decision makers and NGOs in June.
- He gave another talk at the webinar of the World Commission on Environmental Law on the topic Environmental Liability and Biodiversity with an audience of more than 300.
- The LAGA Deputy Director was a guest on prime-time news on the channel CRTV News in July. The Cameroon national TV channel broadcast the arrest of a pangolin trafficker with 331 kg of pangolin scales.

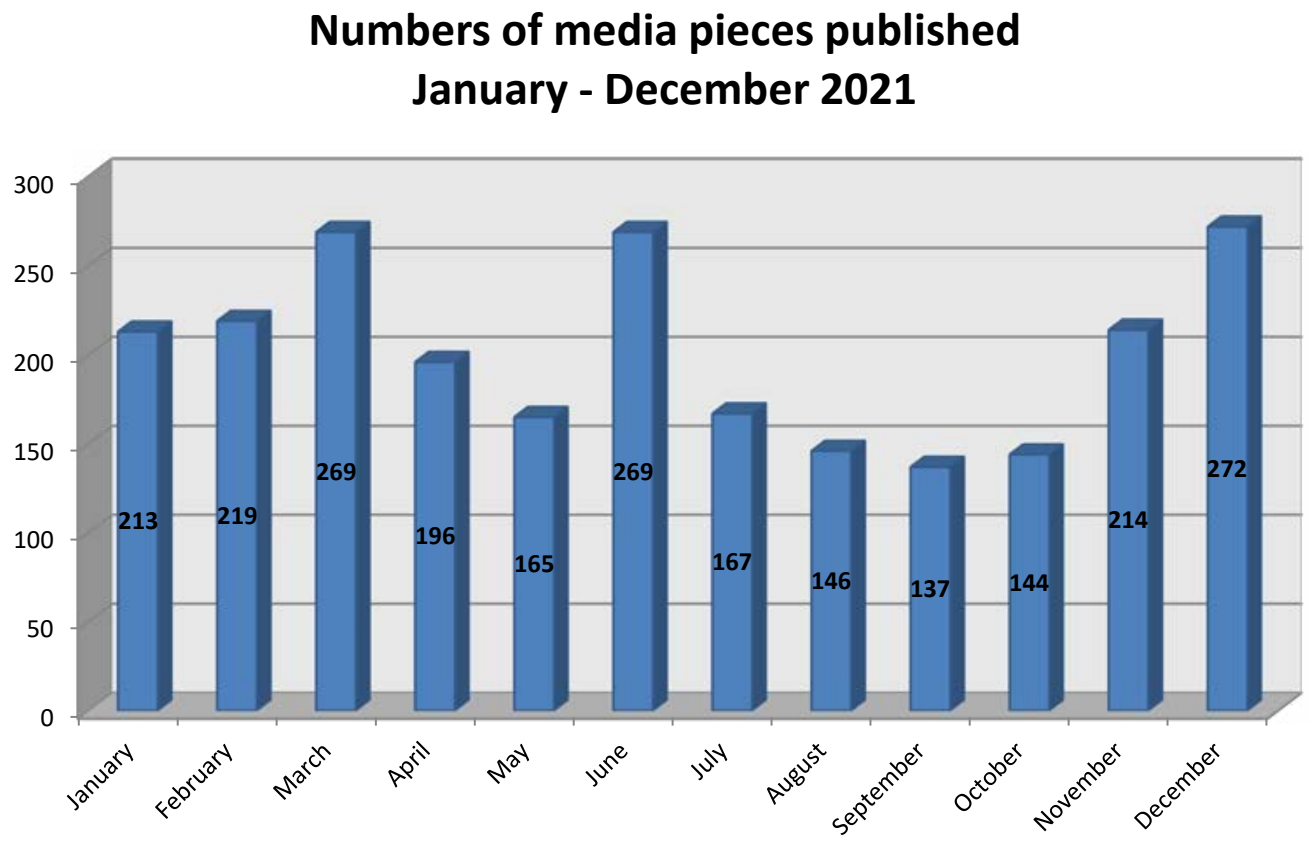


Fig. 5: Numbers of media pieces published in January - December 2021

International media

- Fighting to Save the Last Great Apes with Ofir Drori – a podcast at Talking Apes

  Link to the podcast

- In August, the LAGA Deputy Director gave an interview to an American based conservation news site Mongabay.com, on wildlife trafficking and conflicts in Cameroon. The article was published in October 2021.

  Link to the article

- The Executive Director carried out a support mission to the Ndangui Wildlife Brigade, in the CEB logging company. ARTE, an international TV channel filmed CJ activities with the wildlife brigade in September.

7. External Relations

Building relationship of equals with the government that is an exception from normal NGO-Government relationships and centering on the fight against corruption, ensuring enforcement and consequences for lack of law enforcement 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 message of larger change. Fostering EAGLE Network 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 authorizes, government officials within and outside of their countries, the cooperated with local and international NGOs, participated in conferences and conducted several trainings.

Cameroon

- The Deputy Director participated in January at a meeting chaired by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, that focused on areas of collaboration and intervention by CSOs in the forestry and wildlife subsector.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy with the Deputy Chief of the Political Section and the Environment Specialist to discuss the organization's yearly plan and activities while also focusing on problems affecting effective wildlife conservation in the country.
- The Deputy Director trained rangers of the Dja Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on information collection and management and the fight against corruption, during a training seminar.in February
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting in April with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife on legal procedures and court cases.
- In June, the Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department trained some wildlife rangers and teachers of the Garoua Wildlife School during a training workshop in the North of the country that focused on the law enforcement procedure.
- The Deputy Director joined a one-month long US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Programme in June. The theme of the session was Combatting Wildlife Trafficking; it is being done virtually because of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting in September with the Head of the Legal Unit of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife on issues related to lawyers' representation in court and to strengthen collaboration.

- The Deputy Director participated at a meeting organized by the US Embassy in September to lay the groundwork for the creation of a taskforce for conservation NGOs.
- The Deputy Director did a presentation in August on effective wildlife law enforcement during a training for customs, police, gendarmes, wildlife and other security officials of the Douala International Airport.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting in August with a customs official in charge of studies at the Customs Department to discuss an ongoing wildlife case and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop organized by the British High Commission in October to create synergy on communication strategies for the upcoming CoP26 to hold in Glasgow.
- All through the year, the Legal Team held several meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases at their various courts and jurisdictions and to strengthen collaboration.

Congo

- The Coordinator supported by Perrine Odier (the outgoing Coordinator) held meetings in January with the Director of Cabinet at the Ministry of Justice to introduce herself and to discuss avenues for further collaboration. They also held meetings with the Gendarmerie Regional Commander of Brazzaville and the EU Delegation for the same purpose.
- In March, the Coordinator held a series of high-level meetings with the Interim Departmental Director of the Forestry Economy of Pointe Noire, 3 Chief Wildlife Officers, 3 Regional Gendarmerie Commanders to strengthen collaboration and working relations.
- The Coordinator held an introductory meeting in April with the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development and discussed the signing of the MoU.
- A Legal Adviser trained 30 officers from the military, gendarmerie and police during a training course organized by the gendarmerie in April. He did a presentation on the role PALF plays in the fight against wildlife crime in the country.
- The Coordinator participated at an event organized for civil society by the EU Ambassador to celebrate Europe Day in June. She met with the Minister of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development during the event.
- The Coordinator held meetings in June with the Delegation of the European Union and the French Embassy to discuss wildlife law enforcement.
- Luc Mathot arrived in Brazzaville in August, September and October and together with the Coordinator they held meetings with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy on issues related to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. They held a meeting with the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie to to strengthen collaboration and discuss current cases. They equally held meetings with the Director

of Cabinet of the Ministry of Justice, officials of the US Embassy, German Embassy, the EU Delegation, WCS, and African Parks. Discussions focused on wildlife law enforcement.

- In September, the Coordinator met with John Tomaszewski of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, during an event organized by the US Embassy, bringing together several conservation NGOs.
- The Coordinator participated in an event organized by the US embassy in October to present the Deputy and Special Envoy of the United States of America on Climate Change, Jonathan Pershing and his team. The event brought together several high ranking diplomatic officials including the Ambassadors of France and Germany, the Director of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation, officials from the World Bank, the UN and conservation NGOs.
- The Coordinator held a meeting in October with the German Ambassador and presented some current cases. She held another meeting in October with the new EU Ambassador to discuss wildlife law enforcement in the country.
- The Coordinator held a meeting in November with the Italian Ambassador to strengthen collaboration and discuss some current cases.
- The Coordinator held several meetings in November with the Director General of the Ministry of Forestry Economy and the Divisional Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss a current case
- The Coordinator held a meeting in December with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss the signing of the of the Memorandum of Understanding. It is expected to be signed in the near future.
- The Coordinator held meetings in December with several authorities from the Ministry of Forestry Economy including The Director General, The Wildlife Adviser to the Minister, Departmental Directors in Brazzaville and in Pointe Noire as well as the Regional Commanders of the Gendarmerie of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire to strengthen collaboration.
- Still in December, she held several meetings with US Embassy officials and other institutions to discuss ongoing cases.

Gabon

- In April, the Director and the Activities Coordinator held meetings with the Commander of the Judicial Police, the Director General of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the State Counsel of the Libreville Court of First Instance on legal procedures and to strengthen collaboration.
- The Activities Coordinator held meetings in April with the Head of Investigations at the Directorate General of Research (DGR) and the President of the Libreville Appeals Court to strengthen collaboration.
- The Activities Coordinator held meetings in May with the Attorney General of the Libreville Court of First Instance, the Commander-in-Chief of the Judicial Police and the Commander in Charge of Investigations at DGR to discuss legal procedures and strengthen collaboration.

- He also held a meeting with the Deputy State Counsel of the Libreville Court of First Instance in May to plan for the organization of a training workshop for over 20 Judicial Police Officers. The Team presented two modules on combatting wildlife crime during the training.
- The Activities Coordinator and Assistant Activities Coordinator held a meeting in August with the Director of the National Police on training of student police officers and sub officers.
- The Executive Director and the Activities Coordinator held a meeting in September with the Director of the Interpol National Central Bureau and the Director of the Central Office of the Fight Against Drugs (OCLAD) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- They also held several meetings at Environment Ministry with the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and his team to strengthen collaboration in September.
- The Executive Director carried out a support mission to the Ndangui Wildlife Brigade, in the CEB logging company. ARTE, an international TV channel filmed CJ activities with the wildlife brigade in September.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting in October with the Attorney General of the Libreville Court of First Instance and another meeting with the Director of the National Police to Strengthen collaboration.
- The Activities Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings during all year with administrative and judicial officials including Provincial Gendarmerie Antenna Heads, State Counsels, Water and Forests Provincial Directors and other administrative and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration and follow up cases.

Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator met in January with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the Memorandum of Understanding.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in February with the Customs Chief of Brigade at the Lome Port to examine areas of collaboration and legal assistance.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in February with the Executive Officer of the non-governmental organization Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement to discuss recruitment opportunities for investigators.
- The Coordinator held and Assistant Coordinator held during the year several meetings with Director and other officials of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Traffic and Money Laundering (OCRTIDB) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in April with the Political Attaché at the US Embassy, the Lomé State Counsel, the Kara State Counsel, the Director of Sector No 4 Police and the Kara Regional Delegate of Environment and Forest Resources. He discussed issues related to effective wildlife law enforcement.

- The Assistant Coordinator participated at a workshop organized in June by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources (MERF) to validate the implementation text of the CITES Bill.
- The Coordinator held a meeting in July with the Board Chair of OFFAP and they discussed issues related to the strengthening of collaboration between the association and EAGLE – Togo.
- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held several meetings with the new Head of Division of Civil Society Organisations and Associations on the registration of EAGLE Togo at the Ministry of Territorial Administration.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in August with three officials of the EU Delegation including the Attaché Program Officer - Economy and Governance, the First Secretary Team Leader Infrastructures and Environment and the Infrastructures Program Officer to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife life crime
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in September with the Director of Inspectorate of Forestry Resources to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held another meeting in November with a delegation from Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime. Discussions focused on the evolution of the illicit trade in protected species in the country and the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in December with the Head of the Division of Protected Areas and Wildlife and the CITES Focal Point to discuss the procedure related to the repatriation of the African Grey Parrots that were seized in Togo and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Senegal

- The Legal Team presented various modules on combatting wildlife crime eight trainings for police officers, gendarmerie officers, agents of the Unité Mixte de Contrôle des Conteneurs (UMCC), customs officers, senior rangers of national parks. The training, was organized by EAGLE Senegal in Collaboration with the French Cooperation in January,
- The Coordinator held meetings in February with the internal security service of the French Embassy, the Regional Director of the US Forestry Service, the Director General of the National Police, the Director of the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (DOCRTIS) and the Technical Adviser No 1 to the Director General of the National Police.
- The Coordinator held meetings in Dakar in May with the Urban Security Police Commissioner and the Central Police Commissioner to discuss wildlife crime and to strengthen collaboration.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team participated in May at a zoom training organized by GIABA (Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundry in West Africa) that focused on the illegal wildlife trade and financial investigation in the region.

- The Coordinator held a meeting in July with the UK Ambassador to Senegal to strengthen
- In August, EAGLE Senegal received a distinction from the Deputy Director General of the National Police for its work with the police on fighting wildlife crime, during a ceremony marking the end of a one-month ivory detection dogs and handlers training.
- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs in January, July, August, September, October, November and December with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Directorate of Customs and the General Directorate of the National Police where meetings were held.

Benin

- In January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September and October the Coordinator and the Legal Team held several of meetings with high officials from the police, the judiciary, law enforcement including wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime
- In April, the Director of Nature Tropicale participated at a workshop aimed at creating a network of actors to fight environmental crimes at the W-Arly and Pendjari protected area complex. He gave a talk on the activities of the project.
- The Director did a talk in May at the Directorate of Waters, Forests and Hunting on the fight against wildlife crime in the country.
- The Director and the Legal Team held a discussion in July with the Minister of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development and the Maritime Prefect to strengthen collaboration.

Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator held several meetings with the OIPR, the Ivorian administration in charge of the management of parks and reserves to discuss the modalities for collaboration with EAGLE–Côte d'Ivoire.
- The Assistant Coordinator met several times with with the UCT (Unité de lutte contre la Criminalité Transnationale) to collaborate on important investigations.
- The Assistant Coordinator and a Legal Adviser held a meeting in March with the Economic and Commercial Officer of the US Embassy to discuss the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- The Coordinator and a Legal Adviser held a meeting in April with the Director of Wildlife at the Ministry of Water and Forests to discuss and plan for the sampling of elephant tusks seized in February 2020 for DNA analysis. The analysis is expected to determine the origin of the 60 tusks that were seized from 5 ivory traffickers.

- In June Coordinator and the Project Supervisor met with the Interpol Officer in Charge of Environmental Affairs in the West African Region to discuss future collaboration.
- The Coordinator and the Project Supervisor held meetings in June with the OIPR to pursue collaboration in fighting wildlife crimes.
- The Supervisor and the Coordinator held a meeting in December with the Director of Wildlife and Focal Point of CITES in Côte d'Ivoire, to strengthen collaboration.

Burkina Faso

- In January, the Coordinator participated at a meeting between the PONASI project and the Coordinator of the Police's Police with discussions focusing on the training of magistrates, police officers, gendarmerie and forestry officials in charge of wildlife law enforcement in the Sissili area.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting in March with the new Minister of Environment, the Green Economy and Climate Change to present results obtained by the Team since 2018. The Minister expressed his congratulations.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held meetings in April and May administrative, judicial and wildlife offices to discuss some ivory trafficking cases.
- The Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting in June and July with some Interpol officials to establish a collaborative platform.
- The Coordinator held a meeting in July with the President, Vice President and the Secretary General of the Fauna and Flora Association of Burkina Faso (APFFB) to strengthen collaboration.
- In August, the Coordinator and the Legal Team held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources who doubles as the CITES Focal Point, to strengthen collaboration on the Elephant Trade Information Systems (ETIS)' procedure.
- The Coordinator held a meeting in September with the Conservator of Parc-urbain Bengr Weogo to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime
- The Coordinator held a meeting in November with the Faso State Counsel of the new High Court of Ouaga II to introduce Conservation Justice and the EAGLE Network and strengthen collaboration.
- The Coordinator and a legal adviser held meetings in December with the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources (DFRC) of the Ministry of Ecological, Transition and the Environment to foster collaboration between the project and the Ministry and with Customs.

Uganda

- In April, a Legal Advisor held a meeting with the Principal Wildlife Officer to strengthen collaboration in combatting wildlife crime
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting in May with the URA Commissioner for Co-operate and Public Affairs to discuss operations planning and execution and to strengthen of collaboration.
- The Assistant Coordinator held meetings in September with the Head of Public Relations, Uganda Broadcasting Cooperation (UBC) to foster collaborations with the Uganda media industry.
- In November, and as part of her community activism, the Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Deputy Mayor and District Health Officer of the Mityana District on adopting a strategy for the distribution of rabies vaccine in the district.
- The Legal Team held several meetings in March, September, October and November, with some administrative, wildlife, environment, judicial, prisons and law enforcement officials to foster collaboration and working relations.

8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network

Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic limited possibilities of missions to the countries. The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued support to the network members through a few field missions ad via the internet. Through this avenue and a couple of missions to some countries, the CCU fulfilled its role in supporting and supervising the country projects, improving performance, and getting daily central insight into the network. As a result, security protocols, operational procedures, reporting standards and control systems significantly improved across the Network. The CCU also supported investigations, which resulted in increasing the quality and stabilizing the number of investigations across the entire network.

- In January, Tiffany Gobert was appointed the new Coordinator of PALF, the Congo member of EAGLE Network.
- In January, Tcheyi Prénam, the Assistant Coordinator from Togo arrived to Nairobi for training on management, external relations, communication and command. He produced action plans to apply his training in Togo.
- Nicolas Charron, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, travelled to the Republic of Congo in February for a three-week mission to support the new Coordinator with structural reorganization, training, evaluation, monitoring and application of procedures.
- Jana Hajduchova, the Support Officer, came to the end of her period with the network in February, following 6 years of active and committed service to fighting wildlife crime on the continent.
- In March, Laetitia Bot, a supervolunteer from France arrived in Nairobi where she was trained and tested. She successfully completed the first phase of her training and testing period with the CCU.
- In May, Tiffany Gobert, the Congo Coordinator, travelled to Nairobi for a 3-week working session with the CCU on new strategies, targets and goals for higher efficiency.
- Gaspard Julien-laferrière was appointed the new Coordinator of EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire in June.
- In June, Ofir Drori, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network, gave a talk at the zoom meeting of the Wilson Institute - End Wildlife Crime Panel with an audience of more than 250 decision makers and NGOs.

- He gave another a talk at the webinar of the World Commission on Environmental Law on the topic Environmental Liability and Biodiversity with an audience of more than 300.
- In July, Luc Mathot, the Founding Director of the EAGLE Network, travelled to Congo to support the Coordinator on management and external relations.
- In July, Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer of the CCU travelled to Congo to assist the Team in the training of the new accountant and to update and supervise the financial department.
- In August, Luc Mathot, arrived in Brazzaville and together with the Coordinator, they held meetings with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy on issues related to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. He travelled again in September to Brazzaville for the same mission.
- In August, Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer travelled to the Republic of Congo for a three-week mission to train the new accountant on EAGLE financial procedures.
- In October, Laetitia Bot, arrived in Dakar for a three-month long training and testing in Senegal.
- In October Luc Mathot, travelled to Brazzaville where, accompanied by the Coordinator, they held several meetings with officials of the Ministry of Forestry Economy to discuss issues related to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and with the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie to discuss current wildlife cases.

9. Photos of the selected cases

3 traffickers with leopard skins arrested in Senegal

2 traffickers arrested in January in Senegal with a leopard skin, 14 hippo teeth and an AK-47 assault rifle that they attempted to trade. Following the arrest of the first trafficker, a house search at the second trafficker's residence swiftly followed with his arrest and seizure of the assault rifle for sale and a magazine containing 14 cartridges. The assault rifle that

was being sold is suspected to have been used in the slaughter of many leopards and hippos for over a decade. Another wildlife trafficker was arrested with a leopard skin two days later in the same town as the team stayed behind to push forward for the operation.

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Congo

2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin in Congo in January. They were arrested in the act in the capital city. This was the network's first operation of 2021.

A customs official arrested with a live mandrill in Cameroon

A customs official arrested with a live mandrill in February. He was arrested in the South of the country, close to the border with Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. He travelled with the mandrill clinging on him, as he drove his car for over 40 km to sell the animal. He kept the animal in iron chains in a small and unsuitable cage for over one year. He had earlier illegally traded another mandrill in the same town to a live animal trafficker who travelled about 400 km for the deal. He bought the two mandrills from an area of intense trafficking, in the South of the country. He was actively searching for a baby gorilla to buy before his arrest. The hungry and frail looking mandrill was immediately taken care off following its rescue and moved to the Yaoundé zoo for further care.

8 ivory traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire

3 traffickers arrested with 166 pieces of sculpted ivory in Côte d'Ivoire in February . The arrest was difficult because the Team had to do it at their shop in a busy part of the town. The traffickers attempted to escape but were swiftly caught. The owner of the ivory who is a carver, attempted to sell the ivory in the back court of the shop. The shop that is located in an area of intense trafficking in the commercial capital, was raided and a search found 56 items of ivory jewelry. The search of another shop next door found locked metal boxes containing several other ivory pieces. The traffickers are the front door to a major Guinean syndicate spanning at least several countries in West, Central and East Africa.

5 traffickers arrested with 60 ivory tusks weighing 114 kg. They were arrested in the interior of the country close to the Ghana border. The traffickers violently attacked the arresting force and continued to resist even as they were handcuffed. The tusks were of mostly very young elephants and some were fresh with blood stains showing the elephants were recently massacred. The 30 slaughtered elephants in the seizure are a mere snapshot of the regular decimation of elephants generated by this illegal network. 3 of the traffickers, of Burkina Faso nationality, had the task of smuggling the ivory from Ghana, Togo and Burkina Faso to the Ivorian border where the contraband was stored. Two others, Ivorians, were in charge of the financing and trade in the country.

A trafficker arrested with 109 kg of pangolin scales in March in Cameroon

A trafficker arrested with 109 kg of pangolin scales. He was arrested as he offloaded two bags of pangolin scales from his car. A search of his home by the arresting team found smaller quantities of pangolin scales concealed in a black plastic bag and hidden inside his kitchen. He activated a gang of several poachers in a number of localities in the area and regularly supplied the scales in the bigger cities. Depending on the species, this seizure represents up to 250 massacred pangolins.

3 traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in March in Gabon

3 traffickers arrested in connection with the trafficking of 4 ivory tusks in March in Gabon. The first 2 were arrested attempting to sell 4 ivory tusks. They were taken to the police station where they denounced the third trafficker, a woman, who was arrested 4 days later. She handed the ivory tusks to the two.

2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins in March in Senegal

2 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins, a hyena skin and 17 hippo teeth. One of the traffickers is a taxi driver who is an accomplice. He used his taxi for the transaction and moved the contraband around. The car was impounded. One of the leopard skins is of a leopard about only 5 months old.

The two traffickers were sentenced to 6 months in prison.

7 ivory traffickers arrested in two operations in Togo in April

3 traffickers arrested with 6 ivory tusks. The ivory has been trafficked from Burkina Faso and stocked in Ghana. The owner of the ivory is of Burkina nationality, while the 2 other traffickers are Togo and Niger nationals. One of the traffickers attempted to escape during the operation and was chased down and captured by the arresting team. The ivory was carefully wrapped in plastics and fabrics and concealed inside a bag.

4 traffickers arrested with 4 ivory tusks. 2 traffickers came from Benin and served as intermediaries to the Benin-based traffickers. They used a motorbike all the way from Benin to smuggle the ivory concealed in a used grain bag and kept inside a backpack. The other 2 were Togolese intermediaries in the illegal deal.

2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins in Senegal

2 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins in Senegal in April. 3 of the skins were from baby leopards, less than 3 months old. It seems an entire family, a mother and her young ones, were slaughtered in Guinea Conakry where the skins were smuggled from. The Ramadan-fasting team travelled close to 1,000 km to the South of the country where the arrest was done under the sizzling heat of a hot Senegalese day. The traffickers are specialized not only in skins but in the illegal trade in live animals as well. The traffickers arrived the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skins concealed in a backpack.

Baby chimp rescued

A trafficker arrested with a baby chimp in Cameroon in May. The baby chimp was rescued during a high risk, nerve-racking cross river operation. The trafficker traveled dozens of kilometers to the banks of the Sanaga River and camped there holding our investigator captive, refusing to cross over from the wild and lawless side of the river. It needed tremendous courage and initiative of our Head of Operations to cross the river on a canoe and confront the trafficker saving our investigator from possible kidnap or harm. The baby chimp, a survivor of the slaughter of his family, was smuggled in a tiny closed box, and was pulled out frightened and stressed. He was given special first aid attention and care by the team. The chimp is in the Sanaga Yong Sanctuary for his lifetime care.

3 traffickers arrested with 110 kg of pangolin scales

3 traffickers arrested with 110 kg of pangolin scales. This seizure alone represents the killing of up to 550 pangolins (depending on the species). They posed no resistance as the arresting team moved in to apprehend them in the capital city. They were taken to Abidjan to be auditioned. The traffickers belong to a regional network. 2 of them collected the scales and the third assisted with transporting them. They used a taxi car in transporting the scales.

2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Uganda

2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in June. The 4 large ivory pieces that weighed 25kg were wrapped in polythene and concealed inside a bag they took to the place of transaction. One of the traffickers is a renowned middleman for the ivory trafficking network.

4 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins

4 traffickers arrested with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin in June in Cameroon. The traffickers belong to a network of experienced leopard skin traffickers. One of them was recently arrested but she bribed her way out of jail. They arrived the place of transaction individually on bikes, with two grain bags containing the skins. They obtained the skins from other regions in the country.

A trafficker arrested with 331 kg of pangolin scales

A pangolins scales trafficker arrested with 3 leopard skins and 331 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. The pangolin scales were packed in 32 sacks and found in several storerooms during the crackdown on a regional criminal group. The arrest is part of an intricate investigations into this major criminal group that has tentacles in the Central African sub region and Nigeria. The trafficking ring had regularly been sending huge quantities of pangolin scales to Nigeria. This seizure alone represents up to 1,600 killed pangolins (depending on the species).

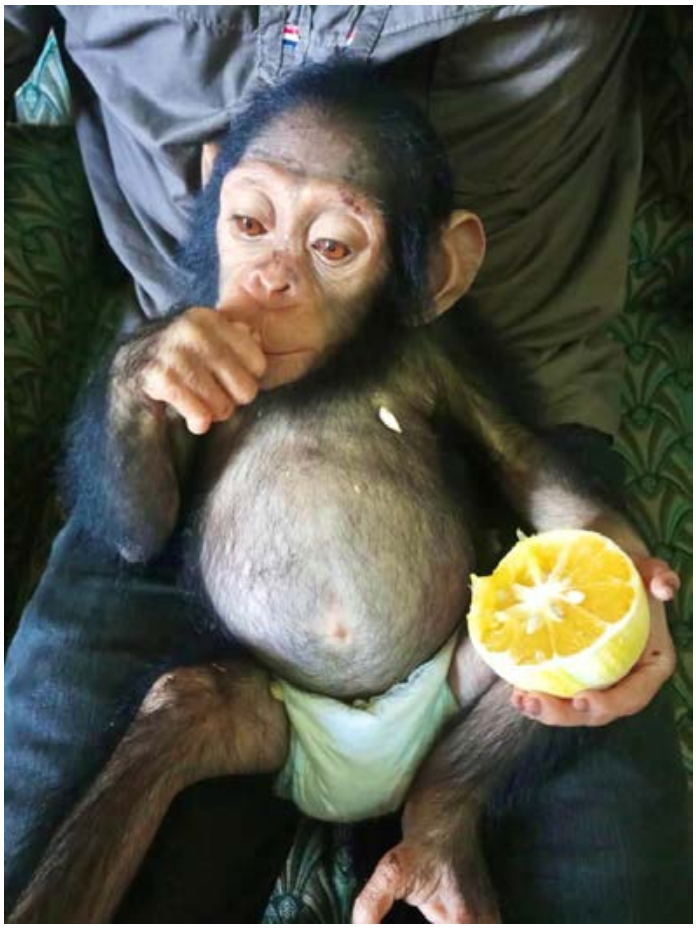
2 traffickers arrested with leopard skins and other contraband in Gabon in August

A trafficker arrested with two elephant tusks, a leopard skin, a python head, giant pangolin scales, an elephant tail, a monkey skull and 12 leopard teeth. The products were contained in a bag at the moment of his arrest as he attempted to sell the contraband.

A trafficker arrested with 3 leopard skins. He travelled through several towns with the leopard skins concealed inside a bag and when he arrived Lambaréné he was arrested as he attempted to sell the skins.

4 arrested and a baby chimp rescued

2 traffickers were arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Cameroon in September. They were arrested following the theft of a baby chimp at a sanctuary. The chimp was found in a large storeroom close to a Chinese tiles shop in the country's economic capital Douala. The 2 traffickers were arrested on the spot. The chimp was found with wounds inflicted by the traffickers all over his body as he was cruelly kicked and tossed. He was not given food regularly. The chimp was stolen from a chimpanzee sanctuary in the coastal region of the country. 2 more traffickers were arrested following this operation in October.



11 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in one month

2 traffickers including a Filipino national arrested with 4 tusks in Mouila. The traffickers belong to a logging company and used the company car to transport the ivory. The operation brings to sharp focus, the intolerable and illegal activities carried out by logging companies' workers in wildlife trafficking.

5 traffickers arrested in Lastourville and Moanda with 6 tusks cut into 20 pieces, 2 guns and ammunition. They claimed to have shot and killed the elephants in December 2020. The crackdown dismantles a chain of closely related poachers and traffickers working together in a vicious cycle of elephants massacres and ivory trafficking in the country. A follow up police investigations resulted in the arrest of one more trafficker.

4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Kango.

2 traffickers arrested with 20 African grey parrots

2 traffickers arrested with 20 African grey parrots in Cameroon in September. The traffickers were attempting to sell the parrots at their hideout in the south of the country when they were arrested. They are part of an even bigger parrot trafficking network in the country that includes foreign nationals. The 20 parrots were crammed into a box which was clearly not large enough. The parrots were captured at the Campo Ma'an National Park.

A former Deputy of National Assembly arrested in Côte d'Ivoire

4 traffickers, including a former Deputy of National Assembly (similar to a member of congress), were arrested in October in a hotel in Abidjan while attempting to sell 11 tusks of elephant ivory. There were initially 6 suspects, including two officers. 3 of the suspects were caught red handed in the hotel room with the tusks, while the other 3 were arrested in the hotel's restaurant and reception.

4 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon

4 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in November. A Cameroonian and a Nigerian were first arrested in Port-Gentil as they attempted to sell the ivory. They denounced a third trafficker to be owner of the ivory. He was arrested a few days later in the same town. During his interrogation he denounced a fourth trafficker who was also arrested. The 2 ivory tusks that were cut into 4 pieces were concealed inside a black backpack.

A trafficker arrested with 77 kg of pangolin scales

A trafficker arrested with 77 kg of pangolin scales in october in Cameroon. He transported the scales in a pickup truck. He activated several poachers in the East of the country, particularly around a new dam project called Lom Pangar and suppled pangolin scales and other wildlife products to several traffickers coming from some of the big towns in the country. About a third of the scales were giant pangolin scales.

4 primate traffickers arrested in Cameroon in November

3 traffickers arrested and a baby drill rescued. The animal was quickly transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre where he shall be getting specialist care from veterinarians and join a family of drills.

A trafficker arrested with 86 kg of pangolin scales and a young baboon rescued. The animal was found leashed around the waist and tied to a tree at the premises of the trafficker. The trafficker belongs to a bigger group illegally trafficking several wildlife products including elephant ivory around the area where he was arrested.

2 traffickers arrested with 28 African Grey Parrots in Congo

2 traffickers, one of them a corrupt military officer, arrested with 28 African Grey Parrots, an Allen's Swamp Monkey and a Spot-nosed Monkey in November in Congo. One of the traffickers is a military officer in the Republican Guard. The animals were held in a tiny cage in horrible conditions and kept outside of a bar that belongs to the military officer. He used his status to protect illicit activities including the illegal trade in African grey parrots. The parrots were stored in deplorable conditions. Following the seizures, the Jane Goodall Institute brought in a team of veterinarians who took charge of the animals and flew them to the Tchimpounga Sanctuary for appropriate care and support. 3 more parrot traffickers were arrested following month.

Allen's Swamp Monkey

Spot-nosed Monkey.

7 traffickers arrested with several human bones in December in Congo

7 traffickers arrested with several human bones. They were arrested during 3 separate operations during a major crackdown on the network. During the first arrest, 3 traffickers were arrested with a human skull and a few bones in Pointe Noire. They denounced a fourth one who was arrested later that day in the same town. The Team moved to Brazzaville where more members of the network were based. This led to the arrest of 2 traffickers with 3 human skeletons in Brazzaville. Finally, the last trafficker was apprehended in Madingou, bringing the total to 7 and putting an end to the creepy activities of this sinister network. Information collected during investigations show the bones are used to block evil spells, bewitchment, cure infertility and also, to confer supernatural powers to the holders.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Congo

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks, weighing just under 40 kg. One of the traffickers is a pastor and the second is a military man. The military man was extremely violent and tried to escape during the arrest. He attempted to corrupt officers when behind bars. He is based at the border with Gabon and had transported the ivory two months earlier to Dolisie, as part of his scheme to sell the ivory. He abandoned his post at the border and used his status to conduct the illegal business. He concealed the ivory in a military bag.

3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins in Gabon

3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and leopard teeth. The first trafficker, a Malian, was arrested attempting to sell the contraband. His car was also seized. He denounced 2 other traffickers, members of the ring. A follow up operation apprehended a Guinean and a Gabonese trafficker.

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon

2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. They arrived the scene of transaction each carrying a backpack with concealed ivory. The tusks were cut into 6 pieces. They both are presently awaiting their transfer to the Special Criminal Tribunal in Libreville.

African Grey Parrots

11 traffickers were arrested with 107 African Grey Parrots in Togo, Cameroon and Congo this year. The main trafficker arrested in Togo is a Nigerian and a veteran reptile and parrots' trafficker. The ring's operation stretched from Central Africa, particularly from Cameroon to West Africa.

Grey parrots birds could be called "pangolins among birds". Why? Because they probably belong to most trafficked birds in the world.

Two species - African grey and Timneh grey parrots are very popular pets in Europe, USA but also Middle East, as well as in other parts of the world. That creates a high demand, triggering decades of trafficking. Both species live in tropical African forests, Timneh occupies a smaller area in the West Africa while African grey spreads from Côte d'Ivoire on West to Kenya on the East.

EAGLE Network's arrests have led to hitting several international traffickers' rings and rescuing more than 4,500 grey parrots since 2007, which presents just a fraction of the total number of trafficked parrots. Tens of thousands of them are trafficked out of Africa every year, which literary decimates their population. Only between 2007 and 2010 LAGA crashed large gang operating in Central Africa with members from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Cameroon, with the complicity of some corrupt MINFOF officials. Many traffickers have been using false CITES permits, others just try to hide them or bribe custom officials.

Parrots are usually trafficked by air, in horrible conditions, smashed in small boxes, without food and water. It causes these highly intelligent birds enormous suffering, and often majority of them does not survive the brutal transport conditions.

In 2017 both species were moved to Appendix I of the CITES convention. Although this means that any trade with them is banned, the trafficking has not stopped yet.

In November 2007, 2 members of the international ring of trafficlers were arrested and 500 African Grey Parrots were rescued at the international airport in Douala. Many of them did not survive.

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*	*total per country*
Cameroon	8	10	16	16	20	17	15	15	19	13	16	10	**175**
Congo	7	5	11	8	7	13	15	0	3	3	16	18	**106**
Gabon	12	8	8	7	7	5	8	10	13	10	8	8	**104**
Togo	23	37	49	46	52	70	47	60	63	51	65	28	**591**
Senegal	35	26	16	12	19	15	6	8	18	19	2	10	**186**
Benin	7	7	8	9	5	28	28	12	17	4	0	0	**125**
Uganda	26	32	36	84	57	23	6	0	58	80	45	0	**447**
Côte d'Ivoire	23	14	13	34	27	35	60	49	76	55	48	35	**469**
Burkina Faso	17	20	16	12	15	22	14	17	31	18	11	4	**197**
total per month	**158**	**159**	**173**	**228**	**209**	**228**	**199**	**171**	**298**	**253**	**211**	**113**	**2,400**

Number of arrests per month per country

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*total per country*
Cameroon	0	1	1	0	3	7	3	0	4	4	4	0	**27**
Congo	2	3	2	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	2	12	**29**
Gabon	0	6	6	0	1	2	0	2	11	1	4	5	**38**
Togo	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	**14**
Senegal	3	0	2	2	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	**15**
Benin	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
Uganda	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4**
Côte d'Ivoire	0	8	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	6	1	5	**26**
Burkina Faso	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4**
total per month	**5**	**20**	**15**	**12**	**15**	**17**	**7**	**6**	**15**	**15**	**11**	**22**	**160**

Number of media pieces by month by country

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*total by country*
Cameroon	22	14	46	3	27	34	67	29	25	38	39	32	**376**
Congo	18	25	25	13	16	33	31	8	0	0	30	49	**248**
Gabon	0	62	39	18	44	22	0	0	43	24	45	44	**341**
Togo	37	43	41	47	0	79	38	43	39	40	45	38	**490**
Senegal	67	14	32	30	0	44	0	36	0	0	0		**223**
Benin	57	31	56	56	30	30	31	30	30	2	0	45	**398**
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Côte d'Ivoire	12	30	30	0	26	0	0	0	0	40	55	64	**257**
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	29	22	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	**78**
total by month	**213**	**219**	**269**	**196**	**165**	**269**	**167**	**146**	**137**	**144**	**214**	**272**	**2,411**

Number of prosecutions by month by country

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*total*
Cameroon	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	1	6	2	**18**
sentenced to jail	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	**9**
Congo	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**4**
sentenced to jail	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**3**
Gabon	4	0	7	13	4	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	**38**
sentenced to jail	4	0	7	9	4	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	**34**
Togo	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	**9**
sentenced to jail	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
Senegal	0	3	2	2	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	**15**
sentenced to jail	0	2	2	2	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	**13**
Benin	5	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**9**
sentenced to jail	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**7**
Uganda	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	**5**
sentenced to jail	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**3**
Côte d'Ivoire	2	3	8	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	5	**26**
sentenced to jail	0	3	8	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	**14**
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4**
sentenced to jail	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
total	**21**	**6**	**22**	**17**	**5**	**15**	**7**	**18**	**0**	**3**	**7**	**7**	**128**
sentenced to jail	**11**	**5**	**21**	**12**	**5**	**12**	**7**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**89**

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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