



# EAGLE

## The EAGLE Network Annual Report 2019



- ✓ *171 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals arrested in 10 countries*
- ✓ *At least in 9 of the cases, corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed and fought on the day of operation.*
- ✓ *5 ivory traffickers including a son of former Minister of Finance arrested with two large tusks in Cameroon.*
- ✓ *112 ivory traffickers arrested with more than 1,000 kg of ivory, which includes over 300 tusks and 500 carved pieces*
- ✓ *4 ivory traffickers arrested with 128 kg of ivory in Gabon in November*
- ✓ *3 great ape traffickers were arrested in 2 countries, 2 live chimpanzees and one mandrill were rescued in Cameroon and Congo.*
- ✓ *18 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 2 countries, over 1,800 kg of their scales seized.*
- ✓ *15 pangolin scale traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in a series of five operations, crushing organized international gangs of traffickers. More than 1.8 tons of pangolin scales were seized.*
- ✓ *2 human bone traffickers arrested in Congo in November.*
- ✓ *90% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial*
- ✓ *2,505 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in nine countries and 10 international media pieces were published.*

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# 1. Summary

Tangible achievements were registered during 2019 within the EAGLE Network. 171 significant traffickers were arrested in 8 countries. 1,622 investigation missions were carried out to identify the criminals. 90% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars while on trial.

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers - 66% - were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in big cats - 17%. Third in focus of arrests were traffickers in pangolin scales with 11% of all the arrests. Reptile traffickers presented 4% of all traffickers arrested.

Fighting corruption remain EAGLE's main mission as most of our cases involved combatting corruption and traffic of influence. At least in 9 of the arrest operations corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented. Also, religious authorities often feature in our operations.

5 ivory traffickers including a son of former Minister of Finance were arrested with two large tusks in Cameroon. The ex-minister's son was transporting the tusks, weighing 53 kg and measuring close to 2 m in length, in his car together with the other four traffickers. Right before they intended to offload the contraband, they were swiftly arrested in a police ambush. One of them attempted to escape but was quickly arrested too. The trafficking ring is connected to the syndicate of pangolin scales and ivory traffickers who were arrested in Douala in March 2019. Tusks of this size are rarely seen nowadays as poachers massacre younger and younger elephants for the tusks.

Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus in 2019 resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 112 ivory traffickers were arrested during this year in 8 countries. Almost 300 tusks and 500 carved pieces of ivory, all together weighing more than one ton were seized.

4 ivory traffickers were arrested with 128 kg of ivory in Gabon in November. One of them is a Cameroonian, well connected to trafficking rings in Cameroon. He, together with another trafficker, was arrested after police stopped their car, and ivory was intercepted in the car concealed in rice bags. The third trafficker escaped in another car, after being chased and stopped by police he was arrested as well, and more ivory was found in his car concealed under the seats in rice bags. After arriving to the police station, they denounced a fourth trafficker who was arrested the same day.

3 great ape traffickers were arrested in 2 countries, 2 live chimpanzees and one mandrill were rescued in Cameroon and Congo.

PALF team was fighting hard and saved a baby chimp, which was held in North-East of the country illegally in December. The authorities were hesitating as they first thought that the baby was already dead but being pushed by the PALF Coordinator then finally seized the baby, who was in a critical condition, suffering from fever and dehydration. However, nobody was arrested and prosecuted as the owner voluntarily surrendered himself to authorities. The little female, named Perrine after PALF Coordinator, was then transported

to Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre, run by Jane Goodall Institute. The dedicated sanctuary director Rebeca Atencia interrupted her holiday in Europe and returned to Congo to continue the fight for the life of the baby, who had to receive intense veterinary care including blood transfusion and artificial nutrition. After three weeks she finally started feeding by herself and hopefully won the fight for life. This is the second chimpanzee baby seized in this area in four months.

18 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 2 countries, over 1,800 kg of their scales seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most trafficked animal in the world. 15 pangolin scale traffickers were arrested in Cameroon in a series of five operations, crushing organized international gangs of traffickers. More than 1.8 tons of pangolin scales were seized.

4 traffickers were arrested with 54 kg of pangolin scales, 5 hippo teeth and 2 unidentified precious stones in Cameroon in January. 2 traffickers were arrested with 42 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in February.

4 traffickers were arrested with 1.5 tons of pangolin scales and 73 ivory tusks in Cameroon in March. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years. One of them owned a telephone shop and used it as a cover-up for the illegal trade in pangolin scales and ivory. The owner of the shop made regular trips to China. A second trafficker dealt in pepper and local spices called “djansang”. Ivory and pangolin scales were concealed inside the pepper and djansang bags when being transported from the South-East of the country where the traffickers activated groups of small traffickers and poachers. They were stocking the contraband in a house in Douala, which was in a construction with nobody living around. Then they were delivering it to Nigeria. The contraband then continued to Asia, which is the biggest source of demand for pangolin scales and ivory. In May 4 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. The group consisting of two women and two men was well organized and ran a network specializing in selling pangolins scales to traffickers in big cities.

In June a trafficker arrested in Douala, Cameroon, with about 100 kg pangolin scales in a continued crackdown on the trafficking syndicate operating between Cameroon and the Central African Republic. He is a member of an international network of pangolin scales traffickers dismantled in August 2018, when 6 traffickers were arrested with 700 kg pangolin scales. This trafficker was the main link in the network in Douala where he played a crucial role in generating the illegal wildlife trade from the Central African Republic. The exposed modus operandi for this international trafficking ring consisted of sourcing the scales through smaller traffickers in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and exporting them to Nigeria via Cameroon. From Nigeria the contraband has been then trafficked to Asia.

In order to provide a deterrent effect, 2505 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published on national media, and 10 international media articles covered EAGLE’s work.

# Content:

This report refers to activities from January to December 2019. 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.

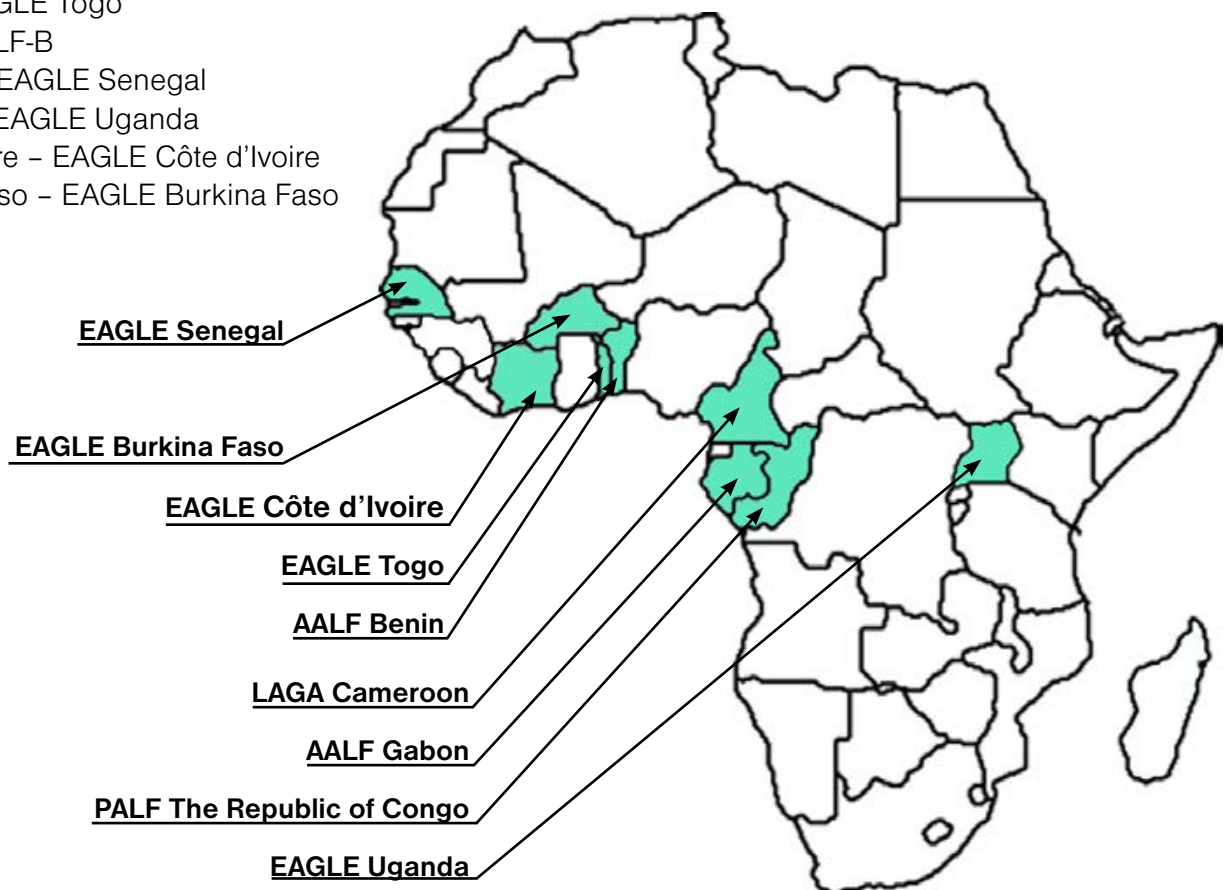
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## 2. Structure of the Network

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:

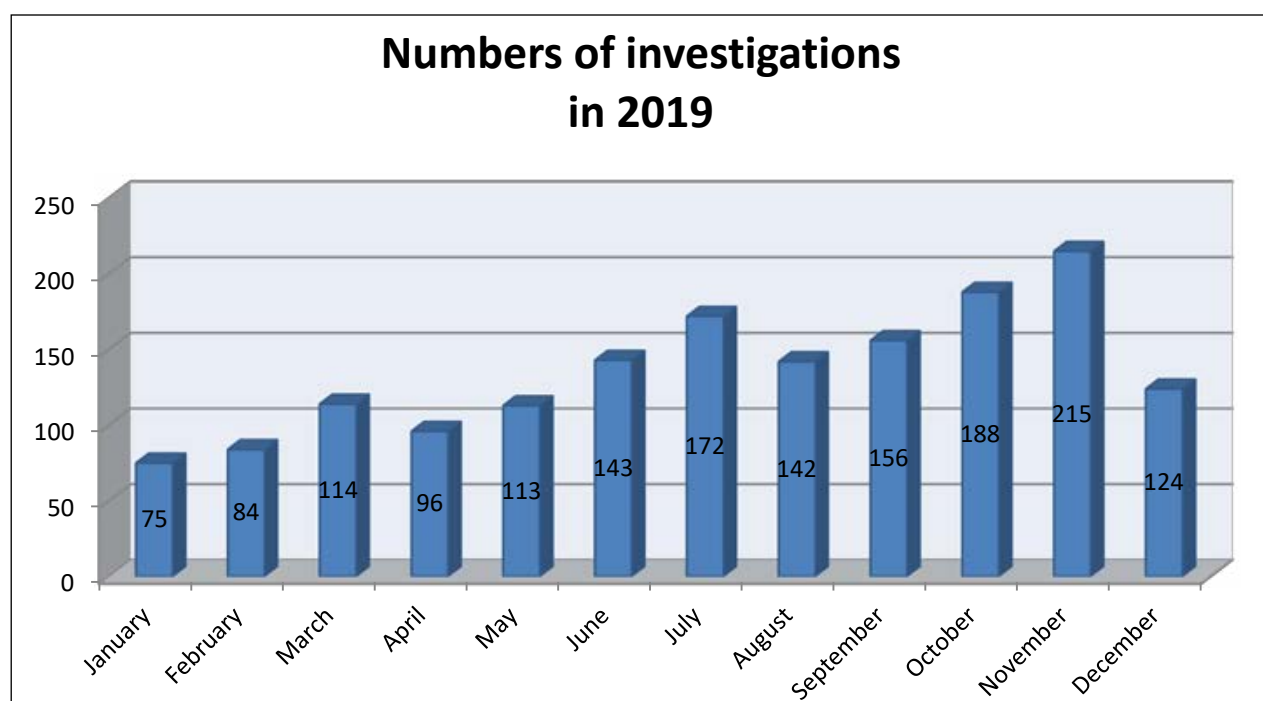
1. Cameroon - LAGA
2. The Republic of Congo - PALF
3. Gabon - AALF
4. Togo - EAGLE Togo
5. Benin - AALF-B
6. Senegal - EAGLE Senegal
7. Uganda - EAGLE Uganda
8. Côte d'Ivoire - EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire
9. Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso



## 3. Investigations

1,622 different investigation missions were carried out in all 9 countries, leading to the arrest of 171 traffickers in 2019.

The investigations focused mainly on ivory trafficking, but also on ape trafficking, illegal trade with big cat skins and organized illegal trade reptiles.



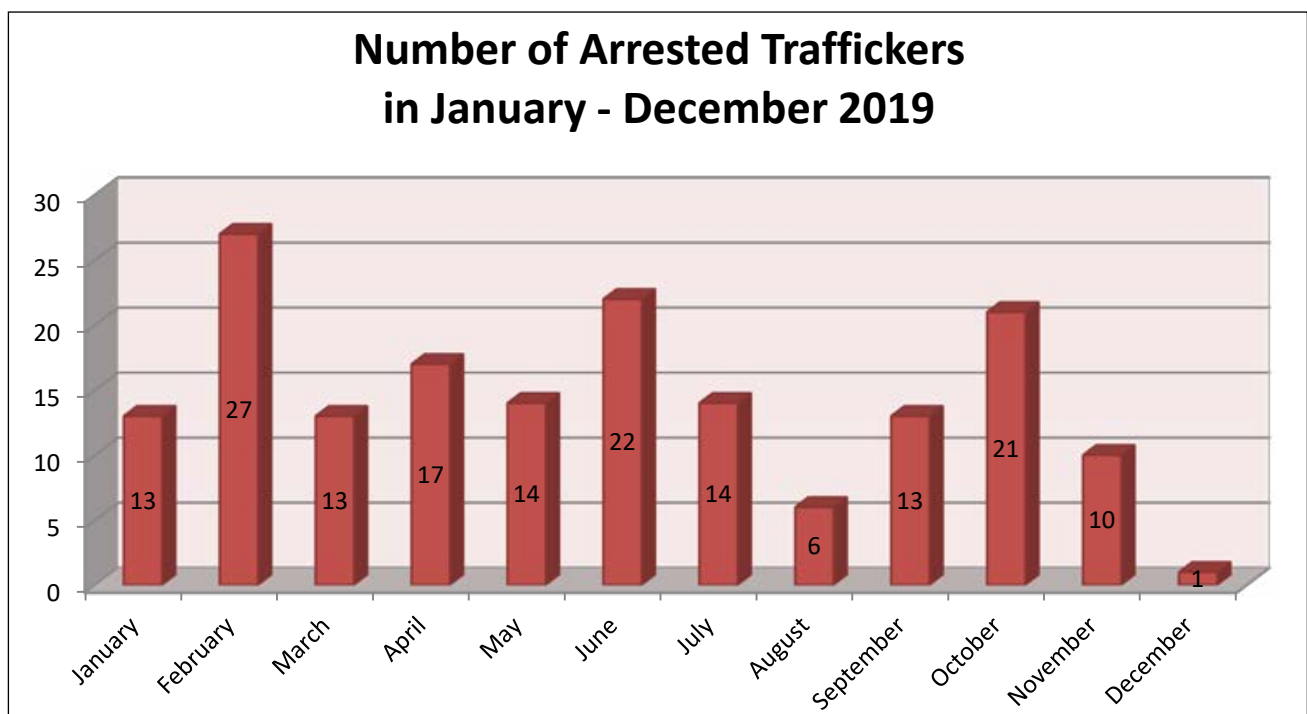
*Fig. 1: Numbers of investigations in January – December 2019*

Intense recruitment process continued in all countries, leading to strengthening the teams and investigation departments. In all countries new investigators were tested and they joined the teams. Intense recruitment processes continue in all the countries to find more good investigators.



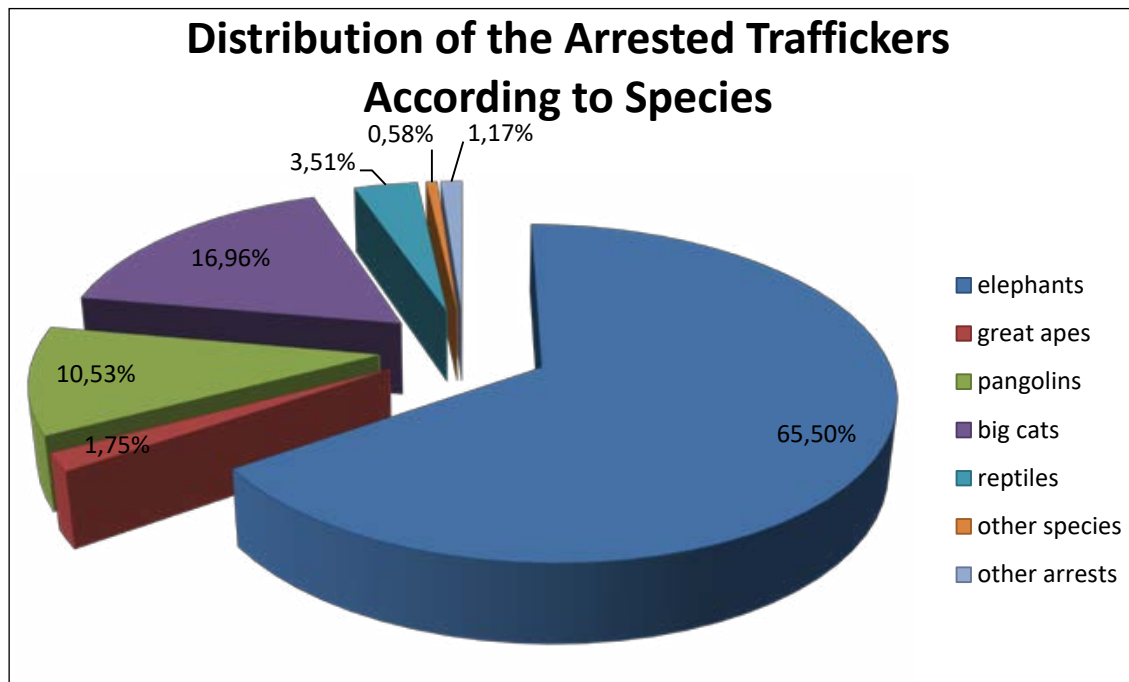
## 4. Arrest Operations

171 significant wildlife traffickers and other criminals were arrested in 8 countries of central, West and East Africa.



*Fig. 2: Number of arrested traffickers in January - December 2019*

Vast majority of the arrested traffickers - 66% - were traffickers of ivory and other elephant parts. Second largest number concerns traffickers in big cats – 17%. Third in focus of arrests were traffickers in pangolin scales with 11% of all the arrests. Reptile traffickers presented 4% of all traffickers arrested.



*Fig. 3: Distribution of arrested traffickers according to the species*

## Corruption

Fighting corruption remain EAGLE's main mission as most of our cases involved combatting corruption and traffic of influence. At least in 9 of the arrest operations corruption was so flagrant that it was exposed on the day of operation. Often a corrupt police or army officer was involved in trafficking, or bribing attempt documented. Also, religious authorities often feature in our operations. Some examples are presented here:

- A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins in Côte d'Ivoire in January. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self-declared number one dealer in skins in Abidjan has his shop and his nearby house right next to the Adjamé market and bus terminals, which made it difficult to plan his arrest there. But with great work and courage of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team and the UCT to do round the clock surveillance and an operation in this gang infested area, they eventually got to capture him. The trafficker who is also an imam was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team. During the night, the team and UCT continued with another search



in his shop in Bassam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.

- 3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in the North of the country in Congo in January. One of them is a military man, he used the impunity of his uniforms to cover the crimes. He is the cousin of the head of the prison he is supposed to be locked in. They are connected to a large ivory trafficking ring; all have been involved in trafficking for years. They transported the ivory concealed in a bag on motorbike and then in a dugout canoe to a hotel, where they were arrested in the act.
- 6 traffickers arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg in Congo in February. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon.
- A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk in Cameroon in May. He has been central for wildlife trafficking in the north of the country where the last remaining lions are. Being on a duty at the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, instead of protecting endangered animals he organized a poaching ring around the National Park and was protecting poachers and traffickers. He used his police cover and credentials to transport the wildlife contraband for more than 1,000 km to the capital city where he intended to sell it.
- In Gabon in May 4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt préfet (a local authority high official, one level below a governor). A woman trafficker was arrested in the act selling 2 ivory tusks. She arrived at the place of transaction in a car, belonging to a préfet of Bagnio in Mayumba. She turned out to be his mistress, and his involvement in ivory trafficking has been exposed quickly during the interrogation, so he was arrested in his home soon after. Two other traffickers were denounced during the interrogation, one of them a repeat offender, already prosecuted twice for trafficking and poaching, he was the one who supplied the tusks. Both were arrested the next day. The préfet acted in an astonishing hypocrisy ensuring AALF operation team his full support for law enforcement during an arrest of another ivory trafficker just a month earlier.
- A corrupt prison security officer arrested in Gabon in June with two other traffickers in the capital city. The three were arrested during an attempt to sell two ivory tusks just after they arrived to the place of transaction by private bus and carried the contraband inside of a motel in a large bag. The prison officer massacred the elephant in the North-East of the country in order to trade the tusks.
- 3 ivory traffickers, one of them a local politician, arrested with two tusks in Benin in June. Two of them were arrested in the act after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a backpack. They revealed a third trafficker, who entrusted them to sell the ivory. He was arrested the next day, he turned out to be an elected local chief.
- 5 ivory traffickers including a son of former Minister of Finance arrested with two large tusks in Cameroon. The ex-minister's son was transporting the tusks, weighing 53 kg and measuring close to 2 m in length,

in his car together with the other four traffickers. Right before they intended to offload the contraband, they were swiftly arrested in a police ambush. One of them attempted to escape but was quickly arrested too. The trafficking ring is connected to the syndicate of pangolin scales and ivory traffickers who were arrested in Douala in March 2019. Tusks of this size are rarely seen nowadays as poachers massacre younger and younger elephants for the tusks.

- 2 human bone traffickers arrested in Congo in November. 2 others on the run, one of them a corrupt police officer, after pulling out guns during the arrest. PALF and all the EAGLE network projects, as activists, do our best to fight any injustice to our ability. Human sacrifice and illegal trade in human parts for black magic is one of such horrible problems.
- The Legal Team of PALF supported a case of an ivory trafficker, prosecuted and sentenced to five years to jail in August. He is a repeat offender, arrested by PALF and sentenced for ivory trafficking in 2017 to 2 years, but escaped from the jail shortly after with the complicity of a corrupt police officer. He continued his criminal activity and was arrested again in June 2019 with 2 tusks by wildlife officers with support of WCS. He will serve the previous sentence as well; therefore he will spend 7 years in jail. His accomplice was sentenced to 1.5 years in jail.

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## Elephants

**Trafficking Ivory and other elephant products represents most of the focus in 2019 resulting in the largest number of arrested traffickers. 112 ivory traffickers were arrested during this year in 8 countries. Almost 300 tusks and 500 carved pieces of ivory, all together weighing more than one ton were seized.**

- In March a Chinese arrested at the Dakar airport after the CAAT Unit detected ivory in her suitcase. She concealed the contraband, consisting of 6 statues, 2 bracelets and a pendant, inside packets with milk powder, which were hidden in between of 20 illegally exported cigarette cartons. The trafficker, who worked as a shopkeeper in Dakar, remains in jail awaiting trial. She cooperated on identification the traffickers, who traded ivory with her. After three days of intense nonstop investigation the 3 traffickers were captured and arrested, including a repeat offender, who was already arrested for ivory trafficking in 2017 and sentenced to three months in jail. It is a clear proof that stronger sentences, creating better deterrent, are needed. 391 pieces of carved and fresh ivory were found during the house search.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 9 tusks of very young elephants in the North of the country in Congo in January. One of them is a military man, he used the impunity of his uniforms to cover the crimes. He is the cousin of the head of the prison he is supposed to be locked in. They are connected to a large ivory trafficking ring; all have been involved in trafficking for years. They transported the ivory concealed in a bag on motorbike and then in a dugout canoe to a hotel, where they were arrested in the act.

- 2 traffickers arrested with 4 tusks in Gabon in January. Three criminals were surprised in the middle of the transaction in a hotel, but they escaped through window, leaving the contraband on the spot. Two of them were arrested two days later thanks to a good work of Conservation Justice and Police.
- 6 traffickers arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg in Congo in February. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon.
- A trafficker arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Congo in February. He carried the contraband concealed in a suitcase from the North of the country to the town of Oyo, where he was arrested. He activated a ring of poachers and provided them with ammunition in the North part of Congo, and they massacred the elephants also in Odzala-Kokoua National Park.
- 7 traffickers arrested with 3 large tusks, weighing more than 45 kg, 3.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and a leopard skin in Congo in February. Two of the members of the well-organized trafficking ring are from DRC and three from Central African Republic. They collected the contraband in DRC and CAR and brought it to a town on the border to sell it. They are also connected to the high authorities of the locality. Four of them were arrested in the act attempting to trade the ivory. Soon they denounced other 3 traffickers, who were swiftly arrested two of them with the pangolin scales and the third one with the leopard skin.
- 3 Senegalese ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, cut to 8 pieces in Gabon in February. The three brothers brought the ivory in their car, well concealed in a rice bag, packed in boxes. They evaded law enforcement for a long time, being known as notorious traffickers. They were activating a network of traffickers and poachers in Southeast Gabon and trafficking the ivory to Cameroon.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 elephant tusks in Gabon in March. They were surprised in the act while they were getting ready to sell the tusks. The first trafficker was arrested in the act trying to sell the ivory, the woman was arrested shortly after being monitored by operation team while she was bringing the contraband to the place of transaction. The ivory originated from Congo – Brazzaville.
- 2 traffickers arrested in Togo in March with 9 kg of ivory. These two are linked to networks in Benin and Burkina Faso. The connections are under investigation. Phone evidence shows also a link with gold trafficking. The first trafficker was arrested when he tried to sell the tusk, which was concealed in his house. The ivory was found during a house search. The second trafficker, who was also involved in the transaction, was arrested later.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with two carved tusks in Côte d'Ivoire in March. The Senegalese national travelled by overnight bus to sell the contraband in the capital city.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 5 tusks of very young elephants and an elephant tail in Cameroon in April. The first two traffickers were arrested in the act with the contraband concealed in a red backpack. They quickly denounced the third trafficker, who was nearby ready to collect his share of the money. He killed the baby elephants with a gun, belonging to his father, retired policeman. The tusks of the baby elephants, who were massacred just a few days before the transaction in Dja Biosphere reserve, were only 15 cm

long and weighed altogether less than a kilogram. The traffickers used a canoe to cross a river into the Dja reserve and travelled through very difficult parts of the forest to avoid being spotted by ecoguards. They activated a chain of several small traffickers and poachers around the reserve. They also trafficked in pangolin scales. They were well known in their community for their lavish lifestyles. After the arrest a member of their family who is a bailiff attempted to intervene in the process, but his attempts were blocked.

- An ivory trafficker arrested Congo in April with 3 tusks. He is notorious well-connected trafficker and has been trading ivory regularly across the country. He brought the tusks concealed in his backpack from a small town in the area near the Gabonese border to avoid detection.
- An ivory trafficker of Cameroonian origin arrested in Gabon in April with 16 tusks, weighing 78.6 kg. He was monitored by the operation team while transporting the contraband concealed in several cardboard boxes to the transaction place, where he was arrested in the act. He was also using a fake ID card with Gabonese identity, to cover his criminal activities. An ivory trafficker arrested in the capital city with 4 tusks. He was arrested during an attempt to sell the ivory. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 tusks in the West of the country.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in Benin in April. The first one was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the tusks in a restaurant. Two other traffickers were waiting for the result of the transaction in front of the restaurant with the motorbike used for transporting the tusks. When police approached them one of them escaped, but the Coordinator himself together with police forces chased him and led the team to find him hiding in a room of an old woman nearby.
- 9 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in May. 4 ivory traffickers arrested including a corrupt prefet (a local authority high official, one level below a governor). A woman trafficker was arrested in the act selling 2 ivory tusks. She arrived at the place of transaction in a car, belonging to a prefet of Bagnio in Mayumba. She turned out to be his mistress, and his involvement in ivory trafficking has been exposed quickly during the interrogation, so he was arrested in his home soon after. Two other traffickers were denounced during the interrogation, one of them a repeat offender, already prosecuted twice for trafficking and poaching, he was the one who supplied the tusks. Both were arrested the next day. The prefet acted in an astonishing hypocrisy ensuring AALF operation team his full support for law enforcement during an arrest of another ivory trafficker just a month earlier. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in the North of the country. 4 hunting guns were found during the house search in the house of one of them. 2 traffickers arrested with two tusks. The first one, a Burkina Faso national, was arrested after being monitored by the operation team entering a hotel with the contraband concealed in a black bag. He denounced the other trafficker, who was swiftly arrested nearby.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with four tusks, weighing 20 kg in Congo in June. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested for the same crime two years ago, but he evaded prison due to corruption before being prosecuted. They both are long term traffickers, operating in the area near the Gabonese border. They brought the contraband to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a bag. Photos from their phone revealed some of the slaughter of elephants they generated.

- 11 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in June in 4 operations. A corrupt prison security officer arrested with two other traffickers in the capital city. The three were arrested during an attempt to sell two ivory tusks just after they arrived to the place of transaction by private bus and carried the contraband inside of a motel in a large bag. The prison officer massacred the elephant in the North-East of the country in order to trade the tusks. 4 traffickers arrested with 22 kg of ivory in South-East of the country. The first one, a Ghana national, was arrested in the act selling one tusk, and he denounced the second trafficker, who was arrested soon after. Further interrogation then led to revealing the whole trafficking ring, and two more traffickers were arrested in their village near Doubinda forest, an area known for rampant poaching. 3 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks, one of them Cameroonian, the other one Togolese, in the North of the country. The two were arrested during an attempt to trade the tusks. They soon denounced a third trafficker, that was swiftly arrested on the same day. An ivory trafficker was arrested with a tusk after two months on a run. He escaped when other members of the ring were arrested in April with 16 tusks. He was arrested at his home.
- 5 ivory traffickers arrested in Benin in June in two operations. 3 ivory traffickers, one of them a local politician, arrested with two tusks. Two of them were arrested in the act after they arrived with the contraband concealed in a backpack. They revealed a third trafficker, who entrusted them to sell the ivory. He was arrested the next day, he turned out to be an elected local chief. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with three tusks. They were arrested shortly after they arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the contraband. They denounced a third trafficker, an arrest warrant on him was issued immediately.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in the attempt to sell them in Burkina Faso in July. Two of them brought the tusks from the border area of Ghana to the capital city to sell them but were swiftly arrested instead. They denounced the third trafficker, who was arrested few days later.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 11 tusks weighing 80 kg in Gabon in August. They were arrested in the act shortly after they carried several bags with the contraband from a taxi to a hotel room. One of them is a long-term trafficker, the other one travelled the long way from the capital city to commit the crime. A hunting rifle of caliber 375 was found in the trafficker's house. According to the new Gabon legislation, they are facing a sentence of 10 years in jail if judged in a special court in the capital.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in Gabon in August. The woman was arrested during an attempt to trade the tusks and she quickly denounced her partner, a trafficker of Malian origin. He was arrested shortly after.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 6 ivory tusks in Gabon in September. They were arrested when they were transporting the ivory, concealed in a suitcase, by car to the place of transaction. They are behind bars awaiting trial, facing a sentence of 10 years in jail according to the new Gabon legislation.
- An ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in Gabon in September. He got the tusks from traffickers operating near Cameroonian border and intended to sell them in the provincial capital but was swiftly arrested in the act.



- 3 traffickers, one of them Nigerian, arrested with 4 tusks in Benin in September. They waited until the midnight before they arrived at the place of transaction, with the contraband carefully packed in two jute bags, hoping that late night will serve them as a cover. Instead, they were swiftly arrested and remain behind bars awaiting trial.
- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 tusks in Côte d'Ivoire in September. One of them a wood carver, the other one an art teacher and former art student, they arrived with the contraband well concealed in a bag into a hotel where they were swiftly arrested. The investigation showed their links to high officials of the country.
- A trafficker arrested with three elephant tails and other contraband in Congo in October. He is a notorious trafficker, well connected and equipped, one of the major traffickers in the area. However, after two weeks in detention he was diagnosed with a tuberculosis, therefore he was released on bail.
- 10 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in October. 3 ivory traffickers arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks. The first one, a worker at a Chinese logging company, was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the tusks. During interrogation he denounced two other traffickers, who were swiftly arrested the same day. In accordance with the new provisions of the penal code in force all three have been transported to Libreville, where they remain in jail awaiting trial. 2 ivory traffickers, Burkina Faso nationals, arrested with 1 large tusk in the capital city. They transported the ivory from the East of the country, region near the Congolese border. One of them has connections to the trafficking rings based in Congo. 2 ivory traffickers arrested in the South-East of the country with 4 tusks in the act. A large 458 calibre hunting rifle was found during the house search. 2 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in the same town just few days later. One of them is a village chief. Later they admitted massacring the elephant. They remain in a jail in Libreville awaiting trial. A Cameroonian Ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in the capital city. He carried the ivory from Port-Gentil.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in Benin in October. Two arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike and the third one carried the contraband on a motor tricycle concealed in jute bag. They were arrested in the act and they remain behind bars awaiting trial.
- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire with 2 big tusks, weighing 31 kg in October. One of them, Burkina Faso nationality, carried the tusks from Burkina Faso to Abidjan, where the other two traffickers, one of them a prophet, concealed them in a church. They then attempted to sell them but were all swiftly arrested in the act.
- 2 ivory traffickers, one of them a repeat offender, arrested with 2 tusks weighing 20kg in Cameroon in November. They are part of an international trafficking ring based near the border between Central African Republic and Cameroon and operating between the two countries. They trafficked ivory from CAR in a border town, stored it and then transported it to bigger cities including Bertoua, Douala and Yaoundé. The head of the ring had been arrested by gendarmery in March 2019 with 262 kg of ivory and he was released without any charges brought against him after he bribed the gendarmes by 3,300 USD. The ivory was stolen by the gendarmes and sold to another trafficker, the original buyer. Wildlife officials who have competence over combating wildlife crime were never involved in this case.



- An ivory trafficker arrested with two tusks in Congo in November. He transported the contraband by boat and bus from Likouala, where the elephant was massacred.
- 4 ivory traffickers arrested with 128 kg of ivory in Gabon in November. One of them is a Cameroonian, well connected to trafficking rings in Cameroon. He, together with another trafficker, was arrested after police stopped their car, and ivory was intercepted in the car concealed in rice bags. The third trafficker escaped in another car, after being chased and stopped by police he was arrested as well, and more ivory was found in his car concealed under the seats in rice bags. After arriving to the police station, they denounced a fourth trafficker who was arrested the same day.

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## Apes and primates

**3 great ape traffickers were arrested in 2 countries, 2 live chimpanzees and one mandrill were rescued in Cameroon and Congo.**

- 2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon, in January. The couple was arrested when they were just about to sell the baby with the support of one of their sons who is based in Europe. They had been trafficking live animals for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past. Anna was taking care of this baby, which is strong and active. The chimpanzee was by decision of authorities placed to the Yaoundé zoo that has neither the technical expertise nor the appropriate facility to take care of him, he is kept there in dire conditions. This situation needs redressing as fast as possible otherwise the chimp that is exposed and comes in contact with people visiting the zoo may deteriorate in health.
- A military man arrested with live mandrill with illegally issued permit in Congo in November. The young mandrill was transported to Tchimpounga Rehabilitation Centre for life-long care.
- PALF team was fighting hard and saved a baby chimp, which was held in North-East of the country illegally in December. The authorities were hesitating as they first thought that the baby was already dead but being pushed by the PALF Coordinator then finally seized the baby, who was in a critical condition, suffering from fever and dehydration. However, nobody was arrested and prosecuted as the owner voluntarily surrendered himself to authorities. The little female, named Perrine after PALF Coordinator, was then transported to Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre, run by Jane Goodall Institute. The dedicated sanctuary director Rebeca Atencia interrupted her holiday in Europe and returned to Congo to continue the fight for the life of the baby, who had to receive intense veterinary care including blood transfusion and artificial nutrition. After three weeks she finally started feeding by herself and hopefully won the fight for life. This is the second chimpanzee baby seized in this area in four months.

- The Legal Team of PALF supported the case of a trafficker arrested with a baby chimpanzee in September. The two-year-old female was in a good condition despite being mistreated by the trafficker as he regularly gave her palm wine, so she got severely poisoned. She was handed to Tchimpounga sanctuary for a lifelong care.

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## Pangolins

**18 pangolin traffickers were arrested in 2 countries, over 1,800 kg of their scales seized. Pangolins are rapidly driven to extinction, as the booming illegal trade threatening them is on an exponential increase. They are currently the most trafficked animal in the world. Some examples are presented here:**

- 4 traffickers arrested with 54 kg of pangolin scales, 5 hippo teeth and 2 unidentified precious stones in Cameroon in January. The pangolin scales were packed inside 3 bags and transported in the taxi car that was watched and followed closely by one of the traffickers on a motorbike. The traffickers activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around Douala. The hippo teeth were brought in from Chad by two of the traffickers. Two of them have been in the pangolin scales business for long time. Another pangolin scales trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of pangolin scales. He was found pulling a bag of pangolin scales out from his home. He was one of two traffickers targeted for their involvement in a pangolin trafficking ring in the area and a sudden influx of gendarmerie officers passing through the town scared one of the traffickers who immediately escaped when he saw the trucks ferrying the gendarme officers stationed in the town.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 42 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon in February. They have been trafficking for years, specializing in pangolin scales. The contraband was found inside a taxi they were using at the time of arrest. One of them realized police was moving in on them and tried to escape but was chased and arrested by wildlife officials. The second trafficker, seeing the commotion escaped into a nearby hotel but was also arrested. The two are very popular with bushmeat sellers in a notorious neighborhood well known for illegal trafficking in bushmeat and other parts especially pangolin scales in Yaoundé. They activated a network of poachers and smaller traffickers in towns and villages around the city.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 1.5 tons of pangolin scales and 73 ivory tusks in Cameroon in March. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years. One of them owned a telephone shop and used it as a cover-up for the illegal trade in pangolin scales and ivory. The owner of the shop made regular trips to China. A second trafficker dealt in pepper and local spices called “djansang”. Ivory and pangolin scales were concealed inside the pepper and djansang bags when being transported from the South-East of the country where the traffickers activated groups of small traffickers and poachers. They were stocking the contraband in a house in Douala, which was in a construction with nobody living around. Then they were delivering it to Nigeria. The contraband then continued to Asia, which is the biggest source of demand for pangolin scales and ivory.

- In May 4 traffickers arrested with 100 kg of pangolin scales in Cameroon. The group consisting of two women and two men was well organized and ran a network specializing in selling pangolin scales to traffickers in big cities. They activated a supply chain of smaller traffickers and bushmeat sellers in the villages of their operational area.
- In June a trafficker arrested in Douala, Cameroon, with about 100 kg pangolin scales in a continued crack-down on the trafficking syndicate operating between Cameroon and the Central African Republic. He was arrested shortly after he arrived at the Village neighborhood in Douala with the bags of pangolin scales. He closely followed the car transporting the contraband on a motorcycle and when the car stopped, the operation team and swooped in. He is a member of an international network of pangolin scales traffickers dismantled in August 2018, when 6 traffickers were arrested with 700 kg pangolin scales. This trafficker was the main link in the network in Douala where he played a crucial role in generating the illegal wildlife trade from the Central African Republic. The exposed modus operandi for this international trafficking ring consisted of sourcing the scales through smaller traffickers in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and exporting them to Nigeria via Cameroon. From Nigeria the contraband has been then trafficked to Asia.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 148 kg pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire in August, one of them a corrupt official - a Departmental Director Assistant for the Ministry of Animals and Fishery Resources. They transported the contraband in six bags from their village where they collected the scales. The couple turned wildlife trafficking into a family business, hoping that his status would secure their impunity.

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## Big Cats

**Skins and heads of big cats were in the focus of The EAGLE investigations and arrests. 29 big cat traffickers were arrested in 6 countries. 19 leopard skins, 2 lion skins and a lion head were seized. Some examples are presented here:**

- A corrupt policeman arrested in Cameroon in May with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk. He has been central for wildlife trafficking in the north of the country where the last remaining lions are. Being on a duty at the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, instead of protecting endangered animals he organized a poaching ring around the National Park and was protecting poachers and traffickers. He used his police cover and credentials to transport the wildlife contraband for more than 1,000 km to the capital city where he intended to sell it.
- A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins in Côte d'Ivoire in January. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self-declared number one dealer in skins in Abidjan has his shop and his nearby house right next to the

Adjamé market and bus terminals, which made it difficult to plan his arrest there. But with great work and courage of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team and the UCT to do round the clock surveillance and an operation in this gang infested area, they eventually got to capture him. The trafficker who is also an imam was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team. During the night, the team and UCT continued with another search in his shop in Bassam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.

- 6 traffickers of leopard skins arrested in Gabon in two operations in February. 4 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins in the North of the country. Two of them were arrested in the act attempting to sell the leopard skins. They soon denounced the other two traffickers, who were arrested the same day in their village 50 km away of the town. A rifle of caliber 12 was also found in the house of one of them. 2 traffickers arrested with two leopard skins in the East of the country. The two brothers were surprised by the operation team during the attempt to sell the skins in a hotel. They are behind bars awaiting trial.
- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and 3 crocodile skins in Benin in February. One of them is a seller of animal skins, using his business as a cover for illegal trafficking in protected species. They were arrested in the act in a hotel room.
- 2 leopard skin traffickers arrested with two skins in Gabon in April. The first one was arrested in the capital city with the skins concealed in a backpack during the attempt to sell them. He denounced the other trafficker, who was arrested soon after in Oyem, a town 400 km away.
- 4 big cat skins traffickers arrested in Senegal in April. A trafficker arrested in Dakar with 3 lion heads skins and other contraband, including lion bones, vulture heads, oryx horns and other contraband, concealed in rice bags. 3 leopard skin traffickers arrested in a double-operation clamping down on two different trafficking groups. Two traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 skins of harnessed bushbuck, species fully protected in Senegal. They were arrested in their home in the attempt to sell the skins, concealed in a bag. The third one was arrested with one leopard skin, which he attempted to sell in a market. He carried the skin concealed in a millet bag.
- 3 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Congo in June. They travelled with the skin concealed in a backpack. One of them is a notorious trafficker, a member of a trafficking ring, he has links to the local authorities.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 4 leopard skins in Cameroon in July. They arrived at the place of transaction under heavy torrential rain and were arrested during an attempt to sell the skins. One of them attempted to escape when he realized that they were to be arrested but law officials moved swiftly and stopped him. They are regular suppliers of illicit leopard skins in an area that is notorious for leopard skins trafficking.
- A big cat skin trafficker arrested in Senegal in July during an attempt to sell a lion skin, a leopard skin and two crocodile skins. He transported them concealed in a millet bag and a backpack. More contraband was found during the house search in his house, including crocodile and python skins.

- 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and leopard teeth in Congo in October. They transported the contraband concealed in a sack by their own vehicle to the town where they intended to sell it. They are well connected to a ring operating near Congo-Gabon borders. They planned to use the money from the sale to slaughter more elephants. Now they are behind bars awaiting trial.
- A leopard skin trafficker arrested on Christmas Eve with one leopard skin in Senegal near Guinean border. The trafficker was swiftly arrested in the act in a restaurant with the skin concealed in a black backpack. He was connected to a network of Guinean poachers, supplying him with skins, which he had been selling in Senegal for at least two years. He is also involved in gold mining. He remains behind bars awaiting trial.

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## Reptiles

**Organized large scale trade in totally protected pythons, turtles, tortoises and other reptiles has been targeted in EAGLE investigations. 6 reptile traffickers were arrested in Senegal and Burkina Faso. 15 of threatened turtle shells, 56 of crocodile skins, a few python skins and other contraband were seized.**

- 2 traffickers arrested in Senegal in July with 22 crocodile skins, concealed in the rice bag. They were arrested during an attempt to sell the skins in a restaurant. These two operations have helped to crack a new cross-border trafficking network operating in the south of the country between Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and the Gambia.
- 4 traffickers arrested with 20 crocodile skins in Burkina Faso in July, two of them security guards. Three were arrested in the act after they arrived with the contraband, well concealed in bags, to a hotel. They denounced another trafficker, who was arrested the same day.
- 2 traffickers arrested with 13 sea turtle shells and other contraband in Senegal in October. They were arrested in a restaurant in the capital city in the act during an attempt to sell shells of three different species (loggerhead, green and olive turtles) well concealed in rice bags.

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## Other protected species

- A trafficker arrested with 12 skins of sitatunga, a fully protected species of antelope, and 45 skins of other protected species, in Benin near Togolese border in July. He was arrested in the act after he arrived at the place of transaction with the contraband carefully concealed in a bedding sheet. More skins were

then found during a house search, the total number of skins was 57. He is a long-term trafficker, regularly trafficking skins originating from Nigeria and Togo. Sitatunga is a rare antelope, living in swamps and wetlands of West and central Africa. Its numbers are rapidly decreasing due to poaching and loss of habitat.

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## Other arrests

- 2 human bone traffickers arrested in Congo in November. 2 others on the run, one of them a corrupt police officer, after pulling out guns during the arrest. PALF and all the EAGLE network projects, as activists, do our best to fight any injustice to our ability. Human sacrifice and illegal trade in human parts for black magic is one of such horrible problems.



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## 5. Legal Follow up

The legal departments in the 9 countries followed up the court cases of all the 171 arrested traffickers. The court cases were followed fighting corruption and ensuring imprisonment terms handed. 90% of the arrested traffickers remained behind bars at least for the first week after the arrest.

During the year 144 traffickers were prosecuted, 99 of them to imprisonment sentences of various time, while other remain behind bars, waiting for the trial. Very good deterring sentences were reached in Congo and Benin, where the average length of sentence is 1,8 year. The implementation of the new Gabonese legislation started bringing the initial results, as the first sentence of two years in jail was given.

**Some examples are given below:**

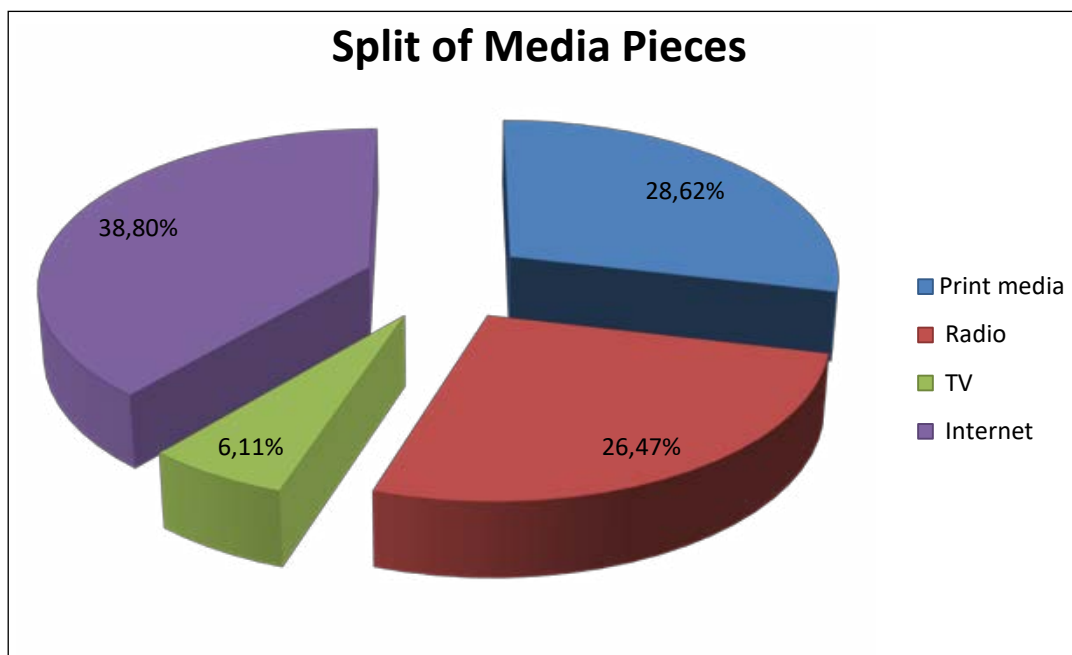
- An ivory trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in jail in Congo in January. He was arrested in November 2018 with two tusks.
- In March in Congo an Ivory trafficker was prosecuted and sentenced to 5 years in jail – a very good deterring sentence. He was arrested last month with 4 elephant tusks. He activated a ring of poachers and provided them with ammunition in the North part of Congo, and they massacred the elephants also in Odzala-Kokoua National Park. 6 ivory traffickers, arrested with 41 tusks last month, were prosecuted. Two of them were sentenced to one year in jail, three to 6 months in jail. One of them was released, but an appeal was made.
- 3 leopard skins traffickers were sentenced to jail for 4 months in Gabon in March. They were arrested in February with 2 leopard skins. The legal team followed a case of 2 Chinese traffickers, arrested by the Central Office of Anti-Drug Control, during a routine check with 2 ivory bracelets, 50 ivory pearls and four panther teeth. They were sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.
- A trafficker was sentenced to 1 year in jail in Benin in March. He was arrested in February with a leopard and 3 crocodile skins together with his accomplice, who was released.
- Three ivory traffickers, arrested in Senegal March with 391 ivory pieces in March, were prosecuted and sentenced to 3 months in jail in April.
- In Congo in May 2 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 2 years in jail and a penalty of 1,700 USD both. They were arrested in October 2018 with almost 400 pieces of ivory. They crossed the Congo river from DRC only to be caught in the act, when selling 7 big ivory statues, 2 raw ivory pieces, 260 chopsticks, 4 necklaces and more 111 other curved ivory items. On top of that they attempted to sell 3 leopard skins. They both are notorious traffickers with long connections between DRC and the Republic of Congo, but also with Angola, and China.

- In May in Côte d'Ivoire, the Vietnamese trafficker Tran Van Tu and other six members of his syndicate, crashed in January 2018, were finally prosecuted and all of them sentenced to the maximum penalty for wildlife trafficking, 1 year in prison. However, the sentence is only based on the wildlife crimes, the charge of money laundering as well as possession of drugs and weapons were dropped, even though they were arrested with them.
- 12 ivory traffickers were condemned and sentenced to jail in Gabon in June, however their sentences vary from one to three months only. The maximum penalty for wildlife trafficking in Gabon was 6 months, which is one of the weakest in Africa.
- 4 ivory traffickers were sentenced to 1.5 years in jail in Congo in July. They were arrested in February with 3 tusks and pangolin scales.
- Three ivory traffickers were prosecuted and sentenced to jail in Benin in July. One of them, an elected local politician, was sentenced to 3 years and two others to 2 years. They were arrested in June with 2 tusks.
- A skin trafficker was sentenced to 6 months in jail in Côte d'Ivoire in July. He was arrested in January with two leopard and one lion skins, 11 skins of other protected species and elephant and hippo body parts. The trafficker, who is also an imam, was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team.
- The Legal Team of PALF supported a case of an ivory trafficker, prosecuted and sentenced to five years to jail in August. He is a repeat offender, arrested by PALF and sentenced for ivory trafficking in 2017 to 2 years, but escaped from the jail shortly after with the complicity of a corrupt police officer. He continued his criminal activity and was arrested again in June 2019 with 2 tusks by wildlife officers with support of WCS. He will serve the previous sentence as well; therefore he will spend 7 years in jail. His accomplice was sentenced to 1.5 years in jail.
- The implementation of the new Gabonese legislation started bringing the initial results, as an ivory trafficker arrested in July with 11 tusks was sentenced to two years in jail in September.
- A trafficker arrested in Benin in July with a large number of skins of protected species was prosecuted and sentenced to two years in jail in September.
- A court clerk of the Appeal Court in Owando, Congo, was sentenced to one year in jail for stealing ivory from court storage room in October. 28 kg ivory were seized during an arrest in 2017.

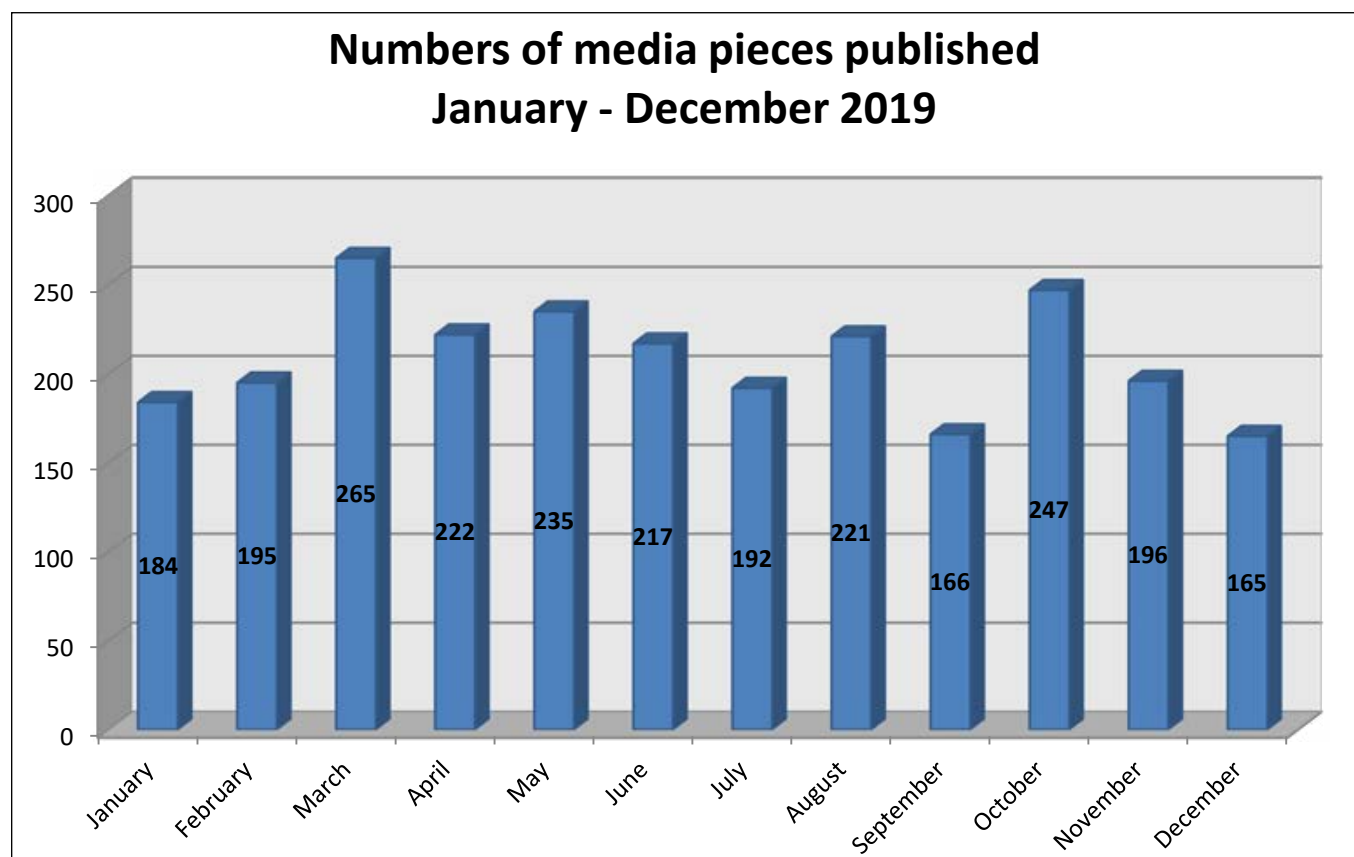
## 6. Media

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

2,505 media pieces on EAGLE arrests and prosecutions were published in national media in nine countries and 10 international media pieces were published. The distribution of the media pieces on national media were 29% in print media, 39% on internet, 26% in radio and 6% on TV.



*Fig. 4: Split of Media Pieces*



*Fig. 5: Number of Media pieces published nationally in January – December 2018*

## International media

**At least 10 media pieces were published in the international press. Mainly focused on the EAGLE Network, its members and their method of work. Examples are below.**

- Voice of America published the story of the four Cameroonian traffickers arrested in a crackdown operation in Douala in March, with 1.7 tons of pangolin scales and 300 kg of ivory. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years.

[Link to Voice of America](#)

- Many French media published the story of four Cameroonian traffickers arrested.

[Link to RFI](#)

[Link to GEO](#)

[Link to France Info](#)

[Link to 20 Minutes](#)

- A Mongabay article “What is magic without ape parts? Inside the illicit trade devastating Nigeria’s apes” quoted Ori Drori and used photos of LAGA to document the illegal trafficking of ape parts:

[Link to Mongabay](#)

- Ofir Drori was quoted in New Scientist article “African elephant poaching is falling at last - but it’s still too high.”

[Link to New Scientist](#)

- The same topic including the quote of Ofir was covered by RFI Afrique in French:

[Link to RFI Afrique](#)

- 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with four tusks, weighing 20 kg in Congo in June. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested for the same crime two years ago, but he evaded prison due to corruption before being prosecuted. They both are long term traffickers, operating in the area near the Gabonese border. They brought the contraband to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a bag. Photos from their phone revealed some of the slaughter of elephants they generated. Some international media picked up their story:

[Link to Daily Mail](#)

[Link to The Sun](#)

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## 7. External Relations

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

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### Cameroon

- In January the Deputy Director travelled to Ndjamená where he participated at the CBFP organized ministerial conference to tackle a problem posed by armed groups moving between the Sahel, Sudan and north of Equatorial Africa in protected areas and within local communities. During the meeting he met with several high authorities including the Secretary of State for Defence in charge of the Gendarmerie, a GIZ official, who is about to run a project on elephant and rhino poaching on the continent, the TRAFFIC director, South Sudan Undersecretary at the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, a the Regional Coordinator for Central Africa for the Global Programme for Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime of the UNODC and others.
- The Head of Legal Department met with a regional Judicial Police chief, a regional chief of Scientific Police, some state counsels, the head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Douala airport, the Head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Nsimalen airport and others.
- The Deputy Director attended a ceremony organized by the British High Commission on the occasion of the 7th International Trade Fair called Promote 2019 in February. The Deputy Director participated at a meeting that aimed at creating a pangolin working group for Cameroon.
- In March the Deputy Director held a meeting at the European Union Delegation to discuss issues related to collaboration in wildlife law enforcement.
- LAGA signed a Collaboration Convention with Customs in Fighting Transboundary Crime. A breakthrough in establishing formal relations with Customs for the EAGLE Network.



- In May The Customs Director and the Deputy Director of LAGA co-chaired the ceremony marking the installation of committee members of the Customs-LAGA joint committee put in place to oversee the implementation of the protocol agreement signed between the two parties.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official from the Sangha Trinational Foundation to discuss the state of wildlife law enforcement in the area that covers three national parks at the border of Cameroon, Gabon and the Central African Republic.
- A Legal Advisor attended the anti-poaching committee meeting of the Littoral region where he challenged the authorities to improve on collaboration with LAGA in order to enable effective law enforcement.
- The Deputy Director with the Director of ZSL and AWF accompanied four US Congress Members and the Ambassador to the Mefou Park where he briefed the distinguish guests on LAGA activities and some pressing conservation needs of the country in June.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of Investigations Department visited the three Northern regions, the Extreme Nord, North and Adamawa regions. During the visits, they held meetings with State Counsels, Customs Officers and Wildlife Officials of the regions. The Head of the Legal Department and the Assistant Head of Investigations held similar meetings with Customs officials in the East and Littoral Regions, with State Counsels and the Wildlife Officials in the regions.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with a team of USAID officials in July who were visiting the country and discussed with them the wildlife law enforcement process and governance issues. He was one of several invitees who joined the French to celebrate their National Day at the Residence of the French Ambassador.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Ghana-based US Regional Environment team for West and Central Africa in July and later held another meeting the next day with the same team with several other NGOs present. Discussions focused on challenges to effective wildlife conservation initiatives and their solutions.
- The Deputy Director made a presentation on the challenges to effective law enforcement during an international workshop in August that brought together members of the bushmeat working group CABAG. He met with several officials including a representative of the USFWS during the workshop. He partly facilitated a workshop organised by TRAFFIC on the creation of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group, where he also made a presentation.
- The Deputy Director accompanied by the Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments held a meeting with two INTERPOL Data analysts from Singapore and two criminal investigation officers from the regional office of INTERPOL in September in Yaoundé.
- The Head of the Legal Department participated at a national workshop to build the capacity of magistrates and other judiciary officials on effective wildlife law enforcement in September, and to encourage collaboration between the different stakeholders involved in the fight against wildlife crimes. During the workshop, he did a presentation on how to calculate the general and specific damages accruing from

court rulings. He also participated at an international seminar in Yaoundé on the collection of court decisions and analysis in wildlife crime within central Africa. During this seminar, he did a presentation on the lapses in the wildlife law, the strengths and weaknesses of the monitoring and enforcement mechanism.

- A Legal Advisor participated at a training workshop for wildlife law enforcement officials of the Northern part of the country in September. During the training, she did presentations on the drafting of a good wildlife offence statements, calculation of general and specific damages and corruption in the law enforcement process.
- The Media Officer participated in September at the 2019 Jackson Hole Festival as a pre-judge in the category Short Wildlife Impact Film and volunteered during the entire festival where she carried out many activities assisting the organizing team. A short film titled Blood Island, which she selected as the pre-judge, was graded the best among 20 short films presented in the category.
- Following extensive screening in the US, the documentary movie Silent Forests moves to African film festivals with screening already carried out in Rwanda and Nigeria. LAGA played a major role in the movie and an elephant parts' operations was shot in the west of the country.
- The Deputy Director participated at an international workshop on conservation conflicts organized by the Congo Basin Institute in October, which brought together conservation biologists from around Africa. He made a presentation on conservation conflicts as related to wildlife law enforcement and among other issues he cited a few conflicts including deterrent punishments and strict respect of the law vs. respect for human rights, soft vs. hard conservation measures, sensitization vs. enforcement.
- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop in October that validated the updated list of protected species.
- The Deputy Director participated at the opening ceremony of the Pangolin Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at the Mefou Park in November. This is the first ever facility dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of pangolins in the country. He gave interviews to a South African film crew producing a documentary on the illegal pangolins trade. The Head of the Investigations Department worked with an Italian crew shooting a movie that depicts the illegal trafficking in pangolins scales in the country.
- The Head of the Legal Department and his Assistant held meetings with customs and security officials at the Nsimalen international airport in November.
- The Head of Legal Department participated at a training for ecoguards from 4 national parks in the country in November. He did two presentations: one on information gathering and the other one on a practical case on the legal procedure in prosecuting wildlife crimes.
- Eric Tah, the Deputy Director, has been nominated for 2020 Indianapolis Prize. The Indianapolis Prize is a biennial prize awarded by the Indianapolis Zoo to individuals for "extraordinary contributions to conservation efforts" affecting one or more animal species. Eric was nominated for his work exposing criminals involved in illegal trafficking, which changed how wildlife laws are enforced in Cameroon and other African nations.

- In December the Deputy Director participated at an experts' meeting of the Ndjamen Declaration of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership launched earlier this year. The meeting focused on rendering the resolutions taken at the Ndjamen meeting operational.
- He also participated at a meeting organized by WWF, bringing together conservationists and other players who are interested in providing to stakeholders, particularly the government officials, an enabling environment for the wildlife law enforcement to effectively carry out their responsibilities.
- The Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments held meetings with security and customs officials at the Douala international airport to foster closer collaboration within the framework of the convention signed with the Customs Department in December.

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## Republic of the Congo

- The Coordinator held many meetings with high authorities including the Wildlife Advisor of the Ministry of Justice, Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Environment, the General Director of Water and Forests of the Ministry of Environment, the General Attorney of the Supreme Court, the Legal Advisor and the Wildlife Advisor of the MEF, the Advisors and Attachés of US Embassy, the Economic Counsel of the Belgium Embassy, the Inspector of the Ministry of Justice, several State Counsels and Department Directors of Water and Forest and others.
- The Legal Team conducted two missions of legal support and evaluation within the NGOs ALTO (Pointe-Noire, specializing in Human Rights, for the fight against child trafficking) and CONSERV CONGO (Kinshasa DRC, specializing in Law Enforcement, as follow up on prior training and collaboration in August).

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## Gabon

- In January the Coordinator met with the new Minister of Environment and the new Director of the Cabinet to introduce them to the AALF project and inform them about the results of Conservation Justice
- He also presented AALF and ALEFI results in a regional workshop organized by the Global Environment Fund where authorities of Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, CRA and Equatorial Guinea were represented.
- AALF legal team collaborated with the National Customs, the World Custom Organization and Judicial Police in Libreville and North Gabon in February. Controls on the road have been organized and bushmeat and 9 crocodiles have been seized. The main results of this joined operation was on illegal logging with thousands m3 of Kevazingo (a protected and expensive tree) seized. It is the biggest wood seizure ever in Gabon, worth several million of USD.

- In March the Director of Conservation Justice continued his mission in CAR in the Protected Areas of Dzanga-Sangha, where he held meetings with EU and US officers, with WWF, with WCS. Then he travelled to the Republic of Congo to support the PALF project and to hold a meeting with the EU Governance Officer. He also met the Director General of the National Police, the Chargé d’Affairs at the US Embassy in Gabon, the UNODC Manager in Gabon and the Director of the Anti-Poaching Campaign.
- In April the Coordinator made a presentation at the National Assembly in front of 40 Members of Parliament and Senators on a guide of the judicial collaboration in Central Africa. The event was organized by the National Assembly with support of UNODC and ICCF group. He presented results of Conservation Justice in Gabon and EAGLE results in Africa, explaining also the need to increase the penalties in Gabon, where an important effort in the field and in justice is done, but the law on wildlife trafficking is very weak compared to other countries.
- The Coordinator met with the General Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and with the General Secretary of the Minister to present activities of Conservation Justice.
- Two Legal Advisors trained police, gendarme and forestry/wildlife officers in collaboration with the Tribunal of Lambarene in methods of fighting wildlife crime.
- In July the Coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of the Water and Forests to discuss activities of AALF and collaboration, how to improve governance in the Ministry, the opportunity to improve the official agreements between AALF and the Ministry, and preparation of a new project on anti-poaching in an important logging concession. The Legal Team met with the Minister of the Water and Forests several times during their work at the port to control timber containers before they are exported. AALF supports the successful attempts of the Ministry to blocks illegal companies operating in the port and in the field as well.
- The Head of Legal Department held a presentation at a training of 27 officers of the National Police (police commissioners and chiefs of police) of the province of Moyen-Ogooué in Lambaréné organized by US Department of Justice in August. The training focused on the legal regulations and special procedures concerning water and forests and the presentation of some cases of corruption of agents involved in the trafficking of ivory.
- A new legislation has been adopted in Gabon for different crimes including ivory trafficking. The new Code Penal increases the maximum jail term from 6 months to 10 years, and all cases will be judged in a special court at the Gabon capital. This is of course a great achievement in improving the law, for which Conservation Justice has been pushing for years. The first cases supported by Conservation Justice will show how the law will be implemented.
- In September the CAF Coordinator held a meeting with the Minister of Water and Forests, the Activities Coordinator and the Legal Team held a series of meetings with high officials including the Prosecutor of the Republic, the Director of Economic and Financial Affairs of the PJ and Chief of Staff of the Judicial Police.
- The Activities Coordinator held a meeting with the Director in charge of anti-poaching and the Coordinator of the US Forest Service for Central Africa in October.

- Two Legal Advisors supported by the Coordinator of Activities trained Officers of the Police and Gendarmerie on the legislation and methods of combating wildlife trade in Port Gentil in November.
- A Legal Advisor participated in a working session on the mid-term review of the Elephant project of the National Agency of the National Parks and of General Direction of the Wildlife and Protected Areas in December.

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## Togo

- The Coordinator and the legal team held a series of meeting with authorities, including INTERPOL, the State Counsel, the officials of the Ministry of Environment and others in March.
- In April two Legal Advisors held a series of meetings with Deputies of State Counsels to handle them the Legal Kit and to discuss the ongoing cases.
- The Media Officer participated in two media conferences, one organized by the Ministry of Agriculture on the protection of the environment and the loss of species, the other organized by the Director of the Cabinet of Minister of Environment, Development and Protection of Nature on the risks for Togo if certain species become extinct.
- In May the EAGLE Togo Coordinator has signed a Partnership Agreement with The Observatory of Fauna, Flora and Protected Areas of Togo. The Agreement covers the support for EAGLE Togo during the temporary period before receiving the registration for EAGLE Togo.
- The Head of Legal department held a series of meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of the Environment of Sustainable Development and Nature to follow up the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister and EAGLE Togo. He also met with the SRI Commander, the Security Advisor at the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, and the Senior Legal Advisor of the Minister of Territorial Administration of Decentralization and Local Authorities.
- The Head of Legal Department also held a meeting with the Regional Directorate of Forestry Resources in Tsévié to strengthen the cooperation.
- Two Legal Advisors participated as experts invited to the national training workshop for INTERPOL's law enforcement officers on the fight against environmental crime in June. They presented the methods of EAGLE Togo work and supported the Ministry of Environment by preparation of interactive presentations on the provisions of the Togo Forest Code and the CITES convention. The workshop was organized by the INTERPOL Regional Office for West Africa with the collaboration of BCN-INTERPOL Lomé. The Legal Advisors took the opportunity to reinforce the collaboration with the Police, Gendarmerie, Waters and Forests and Customs.

- The Legal Team had a working session with the Chief of the Divisions of the Commissariat of Customs and Indirect Rights and three experts accredited to the World Customs Organization (WCO) in July. This working session was organized within the WCO INAMA project, aiming to establish a formal agreement of collaboration between the Togolese Customs and EAGLE-Togo to strengthen the collaboration in fighting the wildlife crime.
- The Head of the Legal Department met with the Chief of Staff of the Presidency in July to seek his help with obtaining an audience by the Minister of Territorial Administration.
- The Head of the Legal Department held several meetings with the Technical Advisor of the Minister of Territorial Administration to push the registration of EAGLE-Togo. The Minister's Technical Advisor reassured him about his support and attention he would give to the registration process.
- The Coordinator and the Head of the Legal Department met with the new Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection and his Secretary General in November. They introduced the EAGLE project to the Minister and informed him about the big cases of wildlife trafficking. The Minister welcomed the initiative of EAGLE Togo, sent warm congratulations to the network for its actions against wildlife crime and expressed the wish to meet again to discuss in detail the Memorandum of Understanding between EAGLE Togo and the Ministry.
- The Legal Department held a meeting with the Chief of the Legal Affairs Division in the MEDDPN Cabinet and a Commander of the Forest Resources Branch in November. The meeting, also happening in the Minister's office, was held to review some of the important technical aspects of the public hearing of the Alassani Razak case.

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## Senegal

- A Legal Advisor participated at a workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment on the revision of the Hunting and Wildlife Code and its implementing regulations in January, where he proposed several modifications of obsolete and disabling articles of law to improve the conditions for the daily fight against wildlife crime. The legal team was then invited to the National Assembly for further discussion about the new legislation.
- In March the Assistant Coordinator and a Legal Advisor trained the students of the Master in Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar) in the methods of fighting wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator participated in the presentation workshop of the five-year strategic plan of the Network of Parliamentarians for the Protection of the Environment in Senegal (REPES) at the National Assembly of Senegal in April.



- She also held a meeting with the Head of the Internal Security Service of the French Embassy in Senegal and an informal meeting with the Ambassadors of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to strengthen the collaboration.
- In May the Coordinator held a meeting with the representatives of the US Embassy to strengthen the collaboration between EAGLE Senegal and the Embassy.
- Two Legal Advisors participated in a workshop on the legal framework governing NGOs and associations in Senegal, organized by the Ministry of the Interior at the Ecole Normale de l'Administration.
- The Coordinator and her Assistant held a meeting with the State Counsel of High Court of Mbour and his substitutes on wildlife trafficking, the mission of EAGLE.
- The Coordinator met with the General Director of the National Police and his advisors in June. During this meeting, EAGLE Senegal initiated a partnership agreement with the General Directorate of Police (DGPN) of Senegal to fight against wildlife crime.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A) attached to the US Embassy in Dakar.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer of the US Embassy in Senegal in August in order to strengthen the collaboration and inform him on the development Of EAGLE Senegal and the challenges of the first half of 2019. The same month she also had a meeting with the new UK Ambassador to Senegal and made a presentation on the EAGLE project, its achievements in Senegal since 2014 and on the history of active collaboration with the UK Embassy.
- The Coordinator held a meeting in August with the General Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Director of National Parks in order to prepare the meeting with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife (DEFC) in September to discuss and evaluate the collaboration with the Directorate of Waters and Forests, Hunting and Soil Protection and support better governance of wildlife crime cases. She also met with the Deputy Director of Criminal Affairs to present the state of wildlife crime cases in Senegal.
- The Coordinator met with the Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illegal Traffic in Narcotics (OCRTIS) in September as a part of the formalization of the collaboration between the General Directorate of the National Police and EAGLE Senegal. She also held meetings with the Environmental Affairs Officer of the French Embassy in Senegal and the Head of the Internal Security Service (ISS) of the Italian Embassy in Senegal to discuss a collaboration on combating international wildlife trafficking concerning French and Italy.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Assistant Commissioner of Urban Security of Dakar in October as part of the collaboration on the operation on turtle shells and to increase awareness of trafficking in endangered animal species protected by national and international laws. She also met with the Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic at the High Court of Dakar to discuss the collaboration with the Dakar prosecutor's office and legal support of EAGLE on wildlife crime cases.

- The Coordinator held a meeting with Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee to present its members the EAGLE Senegal's investment program in November.
- The Coordinator held a meeting with the Director of the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Traffic in November to set up the steps aiming to the signing of a partnership agreement between EAGLE Senegal and the General Directorate of the National Police.
- The Legal Advisor trained 17 customs officers on techniques of concealment and identification of contraband in wildlife cases, on wildlife crime and criminal wildlife law in December.
- The Coordinator participated at a dinner in honor of the European Ambassador for Environmental Affairs, held at the French Embassy in December. She used the opportunity to discuss the fight against wildlife crime and wildlife trafficking in Senegal with the Ambassadors as well as with high Senegalese officials including CITES Convention Focal Point, the Director of Wildlife in Senegal, a representative of the Directorate of National Parks and the Director of Criminal Affairs within the Ministry of Justice.
- A Legal Advisor trained the Niokolo Koba National Park officers at a training organized in partnership with Panthera on surveillance and prevention of offenses in protected areas in December.

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## Benin

- During the year the Coordinator and the Director of Nature Tropicale held a series of meetings with government authorities, including the Head of the Directorate of the W National Park to discuss ongoing cases, the CENAGREF Technical Director to strengthen the collaboration between AALF-Benin and the National Center for Wildlife Reserves Management, several state counsels, departmental police officers and many others.
- In January the Coordinator trained 80 students of the Custom School at Porto Novo on the methods of combating wildlife crime, in February he trained 15 police officers from Come, in June he trained fifteen officers of the Republican Police at the Togo-Benin border, in July he trained fifteen officers of the Republican Police in Houeyogbe, in October he trained 8 officers of Republican Police in Mono, in November he trained 10 officers of Republican Police in Lobogo on methods of combating wildlife crime. The Head of Legal Department trained thirteen police officers in Adjaha on the fight against wildlife crime in August. He also trained the team of IFAW on identification of wildlife products. A Legal Advisor trained forty district and village leaders on fight against wildlife crime in December.
- The new German Ambassador visited the headquarters of Nature Tropicale in March and get familiar with AALF-B project and its activities in fighting wildlife crime in Benin. The Coordinator trained 12 officers of the Special Border Monitoring Unit based at Athiémé in Mono on the methods of combating wildlife crime.
- In May the Coordinator presented how AALF-B team works to achieve deterring sentences and fights corruption during legal follow up of wildlife crime cases at a workshop organized by NGO ECOBENIN

on Establishment of a system of monitoring and judicial follow-up. He also trained twelve officers of the Republican Police in DOUTOU on law enforcement and combating wildlife crime.

- The Director of Nature Tropicale held a meeting with the Minister of Living and Sustainable Development (MCVDD) and the Director of his cabinet in August. They discussed the situation of wildlife contraband seized since 2014 until today, and the responsibility of the lawyers defending the interests of the State in the wildlife crime cases.
- The Director trained about 40 Environmental Officers and the Focal Points of the Coastal Communities on the fight against wildlife crime on marine resources in November. He also trained Magistrates and Foresters in Bohicon on the evaluation of the indications of Forest Governance in Benin with a focus on the fight against wildlife crime. The same month he trained 10 officers from Ghana, selected by the US Embassy (magistrates, foresters, customs officers and officers of border police) on the fight against wildlife crime in Ghana
- The Director held a meeting with the Dutch Ambassador in November to discuss conservation of endangered species and the fight against wildlife crime in Benin.
- A Legal Advisor participated at a workshop held to update the strategy of elephant conservation in Benin in December.
- The Director of Nature Tropicale held a meeting with the Head of the Brigade of the African Parks Network and the Head of Litigation of Forest Administration to discuss the fight against wildlife crime in Pendjari Park and to strengthen collaboration in the legal monitoring of wildlife cases and combating wildlife crime in December. He also met with representatives of the International Voluntary Service Community based in Italy to inform them about the activities of AALF-Benin and the situation in wildlife crime in the country.

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## Côte d'Ivoire

- The Coordinator held many meetings with the UCT special unit and other institutions to support the investigation of the January 2018 case of Van Tran Tu and his accomplices.
- In February the Coordinator met with the Head of the Subdivision of General Surveillance at FHB International Airport Abidjan to discuss collaboration. He gave a training to a partner NGO in the interior of the country in order to improve their investigation capacity.
- The Head of the Legal Department presented the fight against wildlife crime at the seminar of OIE in March that focused on animal health issues and in which 26 francophone African countries participated.
- The Coordinator held meetings with the representatives of US Embassy of Abidjan and Accra in April to introduce them the activities of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire and strengthen the cooperation. He also met with

the representatives of NGO Akatia to discuss the plans for opening the chimpanzee sanctuary and with the UCT to intensify collaboration.

- The Legal Department participated at an environmentally oriented career event organized by the International School Community of America.
- In June the legal team met the commissaire of the CAAT (Cellule Aéroportuaire Anti Trafic), a special unit based at the Abidjan Airport, in order to start a collaboration with them to be involved in the legal procedure when they seize illegal wildlife products or live animals.
- A Legal Advisor participated to a workshop for the program for biodiversity and climate change in West Africa, to help Ivory Coast, represented by the Ministry of Waters and Forests, to identify the primary needs to fight wildlife crimes. Alongside EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire, the NGOs ACB CI and AMISTAD were present.
- A Legal Advisor participated at a meeting organized by the US Embassy about the reinforcement of the regional security in July.
- A Legal Advisor held a meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Inter-ministerial Committee of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, to talk about the money laundering aspect in the wildlife trafficking in July.
- The Legal Advisors participated at a national workshop on the project of new wildlife law, which should implement better the CITES convention in August. The workshop was attended the international community represented by the UNDP and the UNEP, WCF and other NGOs.
- The Legal Team held many meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and the MINEF lawyer in order to prepare the court hearings, to discuss the case of the ivory traffickers arrested and also to follow up the case of the couple arrested with the 148 kg of pangolin scales.
- A Legal Advisor participated at a workshop on the evaluation of risks of environmental crimes in Ivory Coast in October and December, organized by the World Bank. He then participated in two follow up work sessions to assess the risks of environmental crimes in Ivory Coast, discuss a method of fighting them and put an action plan in place.
- A Legal Advisor participated at a workshop validating the report on the national evaluation of wildlife crime, organized by the Ministry of Water and Forests.

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## Burkina Faso

- Luc Mathot, the Director of Conservation Justice, travelled to Burkina Faso to hold high level meetings with the Minister of Water and Forests, the Chief of Staff at the Presidency of the Republic, the US and European Union Embassies in July.

- The Coordinator together with the country representative of Conservation Justice held a meeting with the Head of the Directorate of Institutional Development and Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Environment, the Green Economy and Climate Change in October. They discussed the case of the traffickers arrested with 2 lion skins and 3 panther skins in December 2018, as well as the problem of the files blocked at the Directorate of Operations of the Ministry of Water and Forests. The files concern the traffickers arrested in two operations in July 2019 with 20 skins of crocodiles and 2 ivory tusks. The files have never been sent to the State Counsel's office. They also discussed the signature of the Collaboration Agreement between RALF and the Ministry of Water and Forests.
- The Coordinator and the country representative of Conservation Justice also held a meeting with the Director of Operations of the Ministry of Water and Forests. The goal of the meeting was to see how the Directorate of Operations could make a progress in the case of the traffickers arrested in July 2019.
- The same month the Coordinator held a meeting with the representative of the international NGO NITIDAE. The discussions focused on the role CJ should play in the PONASI complex, where NITIDAE supports anti-poaching activities.
- The Legal Advisor participated at the session of the National Commission on Combatting Fraud in December, focusing on the regulation and control of the exploitation and marketing of timber and hunting trophies.

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## 8. Headquarters and Development of the EAGLE Network

The transition of the SALF project of WARA to EAGLE – Senegal was finalized in January 2019.

Preparations of a new project in Uganda started and intense recruitment brought in several investigators for test period.

The Central Coordinating Unit of EAGLE Network continued the supervision of and support to the network members. The CCU and Steering Group members conducted 11 missions to the countries to support newly started replications, to ensure better quality control and adequate support to the countries. The EAGLE members significantly raised standards of reporting, Internal Control Systems and adherence to safety and security procedures.

15 coordinators and other team members carried support missions in other countries in order to train activists, to help develop the new replications and support the arrest operations.

The EAGLE Network exchange program raised the professional level of our projects brought 5 activists for training in other countries or to support the other projects.

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### January

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director and Director of Conservation Justice, arrived in Burkina Faso to hold meetings with authorities and to support the management of the newly established project.
- A new supervolunteer arrived to Nairobi for training with CCU.

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### February

- Nicolas Charon, the Monitoring & Evaluation officer arrived in Senegal to evaluate the work of the team, to train new investigators and to support investigations.
- The investigations and other activities in Burkina Faso were interrupted due to the security situation in the country and six-month long strike.



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## March

- Luc Mathot, a Founding Director, arrived in Congo to support the PALF project and to hold a meeting with the EU Governance Officer.
- The accountant from Benin travelled to Senegal to train the accountant on test.
- Jana Hajduchova, the Support Officer, conducted a mission to Uganda to train the Coordinator on finances, to evaluate recruitment process for the accountant and to support the management of the newly developed project.
- Adams Cassinga, an activist from DRC, arrived at Nairobi for a training. With his small NGO and no funding, he already succeeded in arresting wildlife traffickers and keeping them behind bars.

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## April

- A Legal Advisor of LAGA successfully completed her course at the Durrell Endangered Species Management Program at the Durrell Conservation Academy in New Jersey, UK.
- Gaspard Julien-laferrière, a supervolunteer, arrived in Côte d'Ivoire for mentoring and to support the management of the project.

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## May

- A Legal Advisor of LAGA successfully completed her course at the Durrell Endangered Species Management Program at the Durrell Conservation Academy in New Jersey, UK.

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## June

- The Assistant Head of the Media and External Relations Department of LAGA returned to the country after a visit to the US to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Programme that focused on the theme Combatting Corruption: Promoting Transparency and Accountability.
- The Interim Director of LAGA returned to Yaoundé after participating in a management course in Nairobi.
- An investigator from Gabon travelled to Burkina Faso and Benin to support the investigations.

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## July

- An investigator from Gabon arrived in Benin and Burkina Faso to support investigations.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, conducted a short mission to Uganda to support the newly establishing team and to train its members.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to London to participate at a meeting on illegal logging. He also travelled to Burkina Faso. He held high level meetings with the Minister of Water and Forests, the Chief of Staff at the Presidency of the Republic, the US and European Union Embassies.

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## August

- Nicolas Charon, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer conducted a mission to Côte d'Ivoire to monitor and evaluate following the procedure, to train the Investigation Team and to mentor the supervolunteer.
- Ofir Drori, the Founding Director, conducted a mission to Uganda to support the newly established team and to train its members.
- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Brussels where he held a meeting with a representative of EU on funding EAGLE activities. He also met with representatives of Greenpeace and the Ministry of Environment to discuss a large seizure of illegally imported wood from Gabon to Belgium.

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## September

- Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer conducted a mission to Cameroon to monitor the financial management of the LAGA project.
- Ofir Drori conducted a short mission to Uganda to train the new team, evaluate investigators on test, and conduct a training of URA officers on investigations.
- A Legal Advisor from EAGLE Senegal arrived in Cameroon for a month-long training and exchange visit.
- In Congo 2 investigators on test continued their test period; a Financial and Administrative Assistant joined the team.

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## October

- Luc Mathot, the Founding Director, travelled to Brussels where he held a meeting with a representative of EU on funding EAGLE activities.

## 9. Photos of the selected cases

### Big cat skin trafficker arrested in Côte d'Ivoire



A notorious trafficker arrested with a lion skin and two leopard skins and many more skins in Côte d'Ivoire in January. After being on the radar for 1.5 years, Abdoulaye Sanogo has finally been arrested. This self-declared number one dealer in skins in Abidjan has his shop and his nearby house right next to the Adjamé market and bus terminals, which made it difficult to plan his arrest there. But with great work and courage of the EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team and the UCT to do round the clock surveillance and an operation in this gang infested area, they eventually got to capture him. The trafficker who is also an imam was found in the middle of a transaction with a lion and leopard skin spread out in his shop. Due to the small size of the shop and the fact that he had cobra snakes crawling around in the back, the search was an exciting one for Rens and his team. During the night, the team and UCT continued with another search in his shop in Bassam followed by interrogations until the morning. Also seized serval and civet skins, a hyena skin, skin of python, of 3 honey badgers, 7 crocodile skins and hippo and elephant parts.





## 2 ape traffickers arrested

2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Douala, Cameroon, in January. The couple was arrested when they were just about to sell the baby with the support of one of their sons who is based in



Europe. They had been trafficking live animals for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past. Anna was taking care of this baby, which is strong and active. The chimpanzee was by decision of authorities placed to the Yaoundé zoo that has neither the technical expertise nor the appropriate facility to take care of him, he is kept there in dire conditions. This situation needs redressing as fast as possible otherwise the chimp that is exposed and comes in contact with people visiting the zoo may deteriorate in health.

## 14 ivory traffickers were arrested in Congo in 3 operations in February.

6 traffickers were arrested with 41 tusks weighing 90 kg. The members of the well-organized criminal ring, arrested in the act, had been trafficking the ivory for years, operating on Congo – Gabon border. They used corruption of border authorities to repeatedly escape justice and bring ivory from Gabon. Imagine the slaughter this ring has generated for years, when this seizure alone represents more than 21 killed elephants. They denounced another trafficker, who was later arrested by police in Gabon.



A trafficker was arrested with 4 elephant tusks. He carried the contraband concealed in a suitcase from the North of the country to the town of Oyo, where he was arrested. He activated a ring of poachers and provided them with ammunition in the North part of

Congo, and they massacred the elephants also in Odzala-Kokoua National Park. 7 traffickers were arrested with 3 large tusks, 4.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and a leopard skin in the North-east of the country. Two of the members of the well-organized trafficking ring are from DRC and three from Central African Republic. They collected the contraband in DRC and CAR and brought it to a town on the border to sell it. They are also connected to the high authorities of the locality. Four of them were arrested in the act attempting to trade the ivory. Soon they denounced other 3 traffickers, who were swiftly arrested two of them with more pangolin scales and the third one with the leopard skin.





## 4 traffickers arrested with 1.5 tons of pangolin scales and 73 ivory tusks

4 traffickers arrested with 1.5 tons of pangolin scales and 73 ivory tusks in Cameroon in March. They are members of a well-organized syndicate, operating across Africa for years. One of them owned a telephone shop and used it as a cover-up for the illegal trade in pangolin scales and ivory. The owner of the shop made regular trips to China. A second trafficker dealt in pepper and local spices called “djansang”. Ivory and pangolin scales were concealed inside the pepper and djansang bags when being

transported from the South-East of the country where the traffickers activated groups of small traffickers and poachers. They were stocking the contraband in a house in Douala, which was in a construction with nobody living around. Then they were delivering it to Nigeria. The contraband then continued to Asia, which is the biggest source of demand for pangolin scales and ivory.





## 4 big cat skins traffickers arrested

4 big cat skins traffickers arrested in Senegal in April. A trafficker arrested in Dakar with 3 lion heads skins and other contraband, including lion bones, vulture heads, oryx horns and other contraband, concealed in rice bags. 3 leopard skin traffickers arrested in a double-operation clamping down on two



different trafficking groups. Two traffickers were arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 skins of harnessed bushbuck, species fully protected in Senegal. They were arrested in their home in the attempt to sell the skins, concealed in a bag. The third one was arrested with one leopard skin, which he attempted to sell in a market. He carried the skin concealed in a millet bag.



## A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls

A corrupt policeman arrested with 5 lion skulls, a leopard skin and an ivory tusk in Cameroon in May. He has been central for wildlife trafficking in the north

of the country where the last remaining lions are. Being on a duty at the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, instead of protecting endangered animals he organized a poaching ring around the National Park and was protecting poachers and traffickers. He used his police cover and credentials to transport the wildlife contraband for more than 1,000 km to the capital city where he intended to sell it.





## A trafficker arrested in Douala, Cameroon, with about 100 kg pangolin scales

In June a trafficker arrested in Douala, Cameroon, with about 100 kg pangolin scales in a continued crackdown on the trafficking syndicate operating between Cameroon and the Central African Republic. He was arrested shortly after he arrived at the Village neighborhood in Douala with the bags of pangolin scales. He closely followed the car transporting the contraband on a motorcycle and when the car stopped, the operation team and swooped in. He is a member of an international network of pangolin scales traffickers dismantled in August 2018, when 6 traffickers were arrested with 700 kg pangolin scales. This trafficker was the main link in the network in Douala where he played a crucial role in generating the illegal wildlife trade from the Central African Republic. The exposed modus operandi for this international trafficking ring consisted of sourcing the scales through smaller traffickers in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and exporting them to Nigeria via Cameroon. From Nigeria the contraband has been then trafficked to Asia.



## 2 ivory traffickers arrested with four tusks

2 ivory traffickers arrested with four tusks, weighing 20 kg in Congo in June. One of them is a repeat offender, already arrested for the same crime two years ago, but he evaded prison due to corruption before being prosecuted. They both are long term traffickers, operating in the area near the Gabonese border. They brought the contraband to the place of transaction on a motorbike concealed in a bag. Photos from their phone revealed some of the slaughter of elephants they generated.



## 3 traffickers arrested in Senegal

A big cat skin trafficker arrested in Senegal in July during an attempt to sell a lion skin, a leopard skin and two crocodile skins. He transported them concealed in a millet bag and a backpack. More contraband was found during the house search in his house, including crocodile and python skins.

2 traffickers arrested in Senegal in the same day in the same place with 22 crocodile skins, concealed in the rice bag. They were arrested during an attempt to sell the skins in a restaurant. These two operations have helped to crack a new cross-border trafficking



network operating in the south of the country between Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and the Gambia.





## 2 traffickers arrested with 148 kg pangolin scales

2 traffickers arrested with 148 kg pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire in August, one of them a corrupt official - a Departmental Director Assistant for the Ministry of Animals and Fishery Resources. They transported the contraband in six bags from their village where they collected the scales. The couple turned wildlife trafficking into a family business, hoping that his status would secure their impunity.



## 5 ivory traffickers including a son of former Minister of Finance arrested

5 ivory traffickers including a son of former Minister of Finance arrested with two large tusks in Cameroon. The ex-minister's son was transporting the tusks, weighing 53 kg and measuring close to 2 m in length, in his car together with the other four traffickers. Right before they intended to offload the contraband, they were swiftly arrested in a police ambush. One of them attempted to escape but was quickly arrested too. The trafficking ring is connected to the syndicate of pangolin scales and ivory traffickers who were arrested in Douala in March 2019. Tusks of this size are rarely seen nowadays as poachers massacre younger and younger elephants for the tusks.





## 10 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in October

3 ivory traffickers arrested in the North-East of the country with two tusks. The first one, a worker at a Chinese logging company, was arrested in the act during an attempt to sell the tusks. During interrogation he denounced two other traffickers, who were swiftly arrested the same day. In accordance with the new provisions of the penal code in force all three have been transported to Libreville, where they remain in jail awaiting trial.



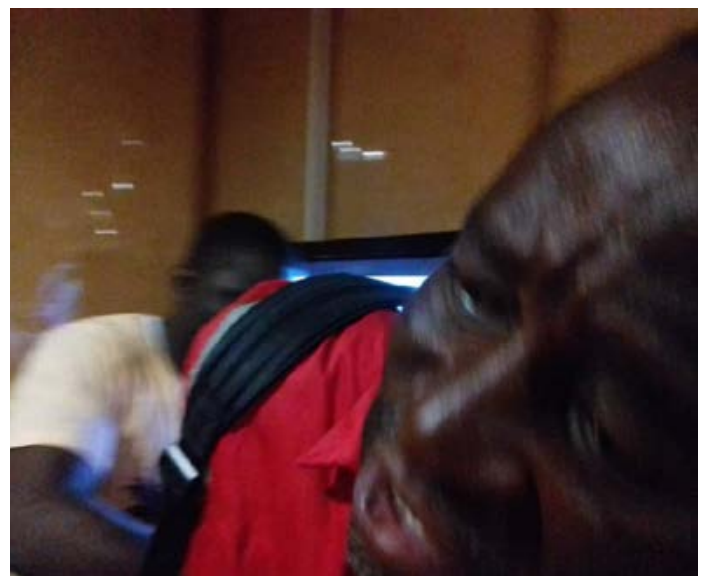
2 ivory traffickers, Burkina Faso nationals, arrested with 1 large tusk in the capital city. They transported the ivory from the East of the country, region near the Congolese border. One of them has connections to the trafficking rings based in Congo.



2 ivory traffickers arrested in the South-East of the country with 4 tusks in the act. A large 458 calibre hunting rifle was found during the house search.

2 ivory traffickers arrested with two tusks in the same town just few days later. One of them is a village chief. Later they admitted massacring the elephant. They remain in a jail in Libreville awaiting trial.

A Cameroonian Ivory trafficker arrested with 6 tusks in the capital city. He carried the ivory from Port-Gentil.



## 4 ivory traffickers arrested with 128 kg of ivory

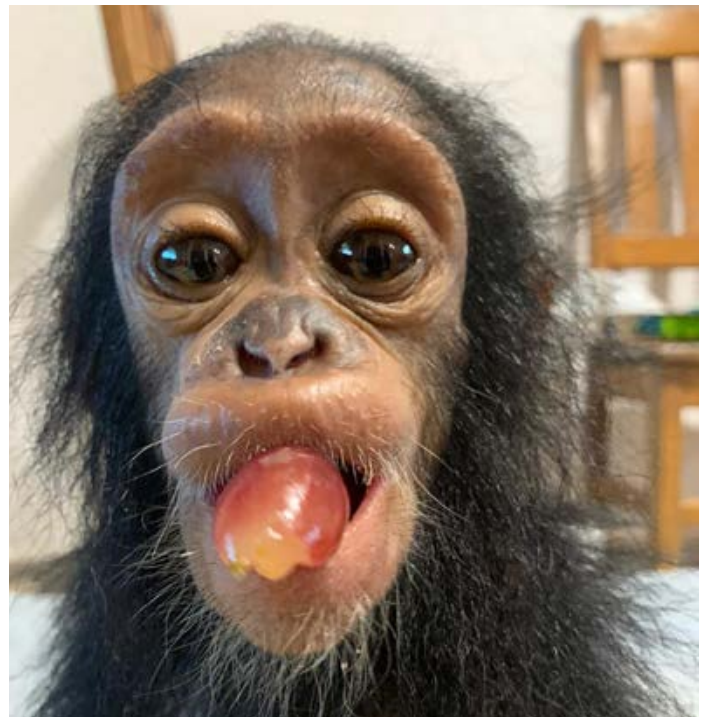
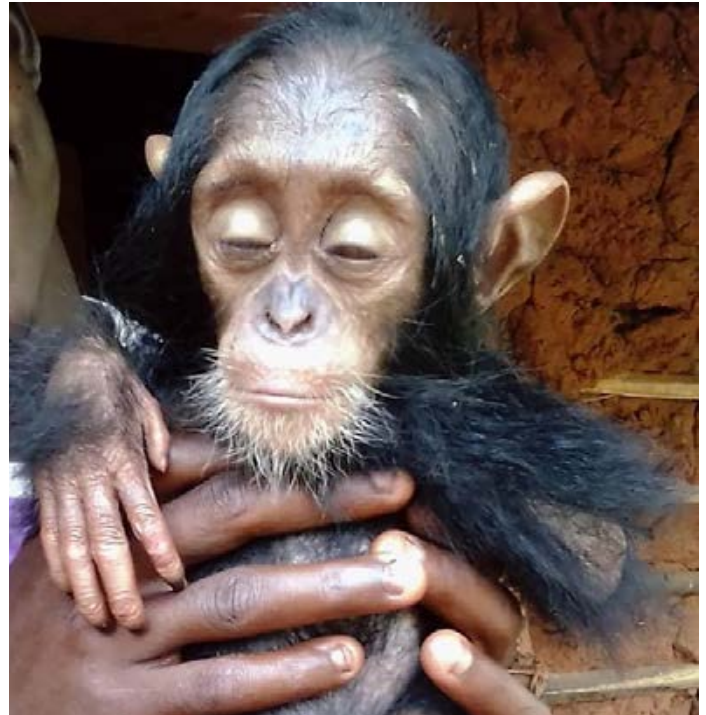
4 ivory traffickers arrested with 128 kg of ivory in Gabon in November. One of them is a Cameroonian, well connected to trafficking rings in Cameroon. He, together with another trafficker, was arrested after police stopped their car, and ivory was intercepted in the car concealed in rice bags. The third trafficker escaped in another car, after being chased and stopped by police he was arrested as well, and more ivory was found in his car concealed under the seats in rice bags. After arriving to the police station, they denounced a fourth trafficker who was arrested the same day.





## PALF team saved a baby chimp

PALF team was fighting hard and saved a baby chimp, which was held in North-East of the country illegally in December. The authorities were hesitating as they first thought that the baby was already dead but being pushed by the PALF Coordinator then finally seized the baby, who was in a critical condition, suffering from fever and dehydration. However, nobody was arrested and prosecuted as the owner voluntarily surrendered himself to authorities. The little female, named Perrine after PALF Coordinator, was then transported to Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre, run by Jane Goodall Institute. The dedicated sanctuary director Rebeca Atencia interrupted her holiday in Europe and returned to Congo to continue the fight for the life of the baby, who had to receive intense veterinary care including blood transfusion and artificial nutrition. After three weeks she finally started feeding by herself and hopefully won the fight for life. This is the second chimpanzee baby seized in this area in four months.



## 2 human bone traffickers arrested

2 human bone traffickers arrested in Congo in November. 2 others on the run, one of them a corrupt police officer, after pulling out guns during the arrest. PALF and all the EAGLE network projects, as activists, do our best to fight any injustice to our ability. Human sacrifice and illegal trade in human parts for black magic is one of such horrible problems.



## 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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# Annex - summary of the results

## Number of investigations per month per country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	15	11	7	16	17	17	16	17	17	19	17	14	<b>183</b>
Congo	13	6	6	7	6	10	9	5	8	8	12	9	<b>99</b>
Gabon	9	14	13	15	15	9	5	12	12	14	10	8	<b>136</b>
Togo	12	19	15	20	12	11	13	13	13	5	6	11	<b>150</b>
Senegal	11	12	8	8	12	15	10	9	11	5	22	7	<b>130</b>
Benin	4	8	27	17	19	7	22	13	12	26	19	9	<b>183</b>
Uganda			15						9	66	85	54	<b>229</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	11	14	23	13	32	20	33	39	37	45	44	12	<b>323</b>
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	0	54	64	34	37	0	0	0	<b>189</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1622</b>

## Number of arrests per month per country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	<i>total per country</i>
Cameroon	7	2	4	3	5	1	3	0	5	0	2	0	<b>32</b>
Congo	3	14	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	3	4	0	<b>30</b>
Gabon	2	9	2	6	9	11	0	4	3	10	4	0	<b>60</b>
Togo	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Senegal	0	0	4	4	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	<b>14</b>
Benin	0	2	0	3	0	5	1	0	3	3	0	0	<b>17</b>
Uganda									0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	<b>9</b>
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
<b>total per month</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>171</b>



## Number of media pieces by month by country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total by country
Cameroon	16	47	45	52	32	36	21	19	35	7	45	17	<b>372</b>
Congo	54	48	27	27	49	42	18	25	12	55	26	15	<b>398</b>
Gabon	0	4	20	22	35	42	0	29	0	30	12	0	<b>194</b>
Togo	51	0	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	35	43	<b>369</b>
Senegal	0	0	58	60	30	0	24	0	0	21	0	22	<b>215</b>
Benin	34	30	52	31	30	31	55	53	52	61	54	32	<b>515</b>
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	0	36	33	0	29	36	37	35	37	43	0	36	<b>322</b>
Burkina Faso	29	30	0	0	0	0	7	30	0	0	24	0	<b>120</b>
<b>total by month</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>2505</b>

## Number of prosecutions by month by country

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total
<b>Cameroon</b>	3	0	2	0	0	8	7	3	1	4	3	2	<b>33</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	1	0	2	0	0	5	4	1	0	1	0	2	<b>16</b>
<b>Congo</b>	0	2	7	2	0	0	7	0	0	0	9	0	<b>27</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	<b>11</b>
<b>Gabon</b>	0	13	11	2	2	14	4	0	3	0	0	0	<b>49</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	11	10	2	2	14	0	0	3	0	0	0	<b>42</b>
<b>Togo</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Senegal</b>	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	<b>12</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	<b>8</b>
<b>Benin</b>	0	0	2	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	4	0	<b>13</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	4	0	<b>12</b>
<b>Uganda</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	2			0	<b>8</b>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>144</b>
<i>sentenced to jail</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>99</b>