

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA June 2014 Report



Highlights

- **Three operations carried out this month and four dealers arrested**
- **A marine marchande corporal and one other dealer were arrested and over 100 elephant bones seized.**
- **A professional live primate dealer was arrested in Yaounde.**
- **A dealer in varied wildlife products was arrested in Bertoua**
- **Legal Department Head took part in anti-poaching/trafficking workshop in Libreville, Gabon.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of four traffickers including a corporal with the marine marchande (Cameroon's Coast Guard).

A total of 4 wildlife dealers were arrested this month during 3 separate operations carried out. **A corporal working with the marine marchande and a notorious elephant parts dealer were arrested in Mundemba, South West Region and over 100 bones were seized.** They transported the elephant bones in the course of the night of June 16, 2014 from inside the Korup National Park to Mundemba. On three separate occasions, over the night, they ferried the elephant bones stuffed in bags. Arrested with the corporal, was a notorious elephant poacher who is deeply involved in the illegal elephant meat trade around the Korup National Park and is also well known to some residents. The corporal violently resisted arrest.

In an operation carried out in Yaounde, Centre, **a trafficker was arrested with a live mandrill.** The suspect is a seasoned professional who has been illegally trading in live primates. He wanted to sell the mandrill and move back to get more from his supply area that is Yoko, in the Centre Region. The man drove a red-coloured car from Nkolbisson to his place of transaction with the mandrill inside the back boot of the car.

Before these two operations, **a dealer was arrested in Bertoua and varied wildlife products including 2 gorilla skins and a small piece of ivory seized.** He is a professional dealer and he buys and dries the products before selling.

An appeal was filed in the Bertoua Court of Appeal against a ruling passed in the Abong Court of First Instance on illegal ivory possession and commercialisation against two dealers.

The Head of the Legal Department participated in a workshop in Libreville, Gabon, that focused on working together to tackling cross-border poaching and trafficking within the TRIDOM area.

Investigations

- **13 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon-Littoral, West, South, Centre, South West and East Regions.
- Good investigations in **Bertoua** led to the arrest of a dealer with **gorilla skins and ivory**.
- Excellent investigations in **Mundemba** led to the arrest of two dealers in **elephant bones**.
- An investigation was carried out in Yaounde that led to the arrest of a dealer in **live primates (Mandrill)** Dealer brought the animal to the point of arrest from the **Nkolbisong** neighbourhood.
- Good investigations in **Pouma** led to the identification of two elephant jaw bones. Operation will be planned in due course.
- Investigations carried out in **Ntui** in the Centre Region led to the identification of two elephant jaw bones. Operation will be planned in due course.

Operations

3 operations carried out this month with MINFOF arresting **4 suspects**

- **05/06/14 – 1 dealer arrested with 2 gorilla skins (a big and a small skin), 2 gorilla skulls, a truncated piece of ivory and an elephant jawbone** – Bertoua, East while illegally trying to trade in them; he is a professional dealer as prepares the products before selling them. He buys fresh products, then dries them before selling.
- **17/06/14 – two dealers arrested in Mundemba, Sout West with elephant bones including 58 molar teeth, 40 premolar teeth, 8 tibia bones and one jawbone.** A corporal working with the Marine Marchande and a notorious elephant parts trafficker were arrested. They transported the elephant bones in the course of the night of June 16, 2014 from inside the Korup National Park to Mundemba. On three separate occasions, over the night, they ferried the elephant bones stuffed in bags. Arrested with the corporal, was a notorious elephant poacher who is deeply involved in the illegal elephant meat trade around the Korup National Park and is also well known to some residents. The corporal violently resisted arrest
- **18/06/14 – 1 dealer arrested with a live mandrill** – Yaounde, Centre while illegally trying to trade in it; he is a professional dealer was about to conclude business by selling the mandrill and returning for more in his supply area that is Yoko, Centre Region.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **20 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 3 in Edea (Littoral), 2 in Dschang (West), 1 in Bangangté (West), 4 in Abong-Mbang (East), 3 in Bertoua (East), 2 in Mamfe (South West), and 1 in Mundemba (South West).
- There are **33 dealers behind bars during this month**: 17 in the East Region, 8 in Centre Region, 3 in South Region, 3 in West Region, 2 in South West Region.
- **30 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **29 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: 3 dealers were sentenced this month.
 - 10/06/2014: The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang - East passed judgment on OWONA MAX and OUM PAUL GUY, they were found not guilty and acquitted by the court. They were arrested in Lomie for illegal detention of 02 elephant tusks.
 - 19/06/2014: The Court of First Instance of Ekounou – Centre convicted MOHAMED SARY to **02 months imprisonment** and to pay **158.650 FCFA as fine**. He was also convicted to pay **3.000.000 FCFA as damages**. He shall be retained in jail for 9 months

more in case of default of payment of fine. He was arrested in Yaounde for the illegal detention of 36 elephant tusks.

- **Appeal:** An Appeal has been filed in the case of OWONA MAX and OUM PAUL GUY in Bertoua Court of Appeal.

Media front

- **53 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, written press, tv and including: 28 written press material (9 in English 18 in French), 4 radio talk show all in English, 17 news flashes (11 in English and 6 in French), 1 radio news feature in English and 3 tv productions (1 in English and 2 in French).
- **Guests include:** Central African Coordinator of CARPE, Regional Chief of Wildlife Bertoua and senior forestry engineer and controller at the Centre Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including:** Bertoua arrest of 2 dealers with 10 primate skulls, Yaounde arrest of primate skulls and elephant jawbones, court hearing of suspects arrested in Bertoua with 10 primates skulls and Court hearing of wildlife cases in Kribi, Mfou and Bangante concerning the arrest of suspects with wildlife product including, leopard, giant pangolin skins and tortoise.
- 27 media pieces in English, 26 in French making a percentage of 51% in English and 49% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy British High Commissioner held a meeting with the Deputy Director of LAGA as a follow-up of an earlier meeting that took place between the British High Commissioner and his deputy and on the other hand the Director of LAGA and his deputy. The meeting sought to assist the Embassy understand the problems connected with the wildlife law enforcement process in the country.

Management

- LAGA Director arrived Cameroon from Kenya, worked for a few days and returned to Kenya to continue work on building the new Kenyan wildlife law enforcement support project and on the restructuring of the EAGLE network.
- LAGA's oldest staff by the time she was leaving, Sirri Emeline, terminated her position as Assistant Manager, to create time to cater for her child who was falling sick regularly but unfortunately, the child died shortly after she left.
- Perrine Odier, a French volunteer who had been undergoing a training session with LAGA, completed her training and left for Benin, to head the new replication project there.
- New volunteers were tested and one selected to work with the Management department.

Activism Front

Documentary: Le monde en face: Un empire en Afrique

The documentary narrates the fight of a Cameroon based milk industry against Nestle. Puis Bissek, the boss of the milk company in Douala accuses the giant Swiss agro alimentation company for importing contraband milk made out of palm and coconut oil causing the collapse of his industry. His struggle for justice together with some of his former employees has been ongoing for ten years and at the moment is at the level of the Supreme Court of Cameroon.

All the education activities carried out by the LAGA family are online; this could be gotten at the LAGA website – <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Actiwithvism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

Replication

During this month, LAGA worked with other replication projects in planning and coordinating missions with PALF, AALF, TALFF and GALF on investigations, operations and financial procedures.

Perrine Odier, a French volunteer, completed her training and left for Benin to kick-start the newest replication project.

Contacts were re-established between Chadian wildlife officials, Africa Parks that is expected to host the Chad replication project and LAGA and discussions on the replication project and the signing of a convention are ongoing.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by line for June 2014

Total Expenditures CFA				Total Expenditures USD
1,566,140		Investigations	13 inv, 6 Regions	\$3,236
831,000		Operations	3 Operations against 4 subjects	\$1,717
5,211,233		Legal	follow up 30 cases 33 locked subjects	\$10,767
1,917,240		Media	53 Media pieces	\$3,961
1,566,821		Policy & External Relations	Kenya Mission/Gabon/Portugal	\$3,237
839,750		Management	Coordination	\$1,735
2,779,135		Office		\$5,742
387,850		LAGA family	Ebogo Trip	\$801
15,099,169	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JUNE			\$31,197

LAGA Expenditure by Donors for June 2014

Amount CFA	Donor	Amount USD
4,135,140	FWS	\$8,543.7
0	FWS-Replication	\$0.0
2,159,050	BornFree UK	\$4,460.8
2,033,020	Rufford	\$4,200.5
0	IFAW	\$0.0
4,900,819	NEU Foundation	\$10,125.7
1,871,140	WILD CAT	\$3,866.0
15,099,169	TOTAL	\$31,196.6

This Month in Pictures



Two arrested in Mundemba, close to Korup National Park. A marine marchande and a notorious elephant parts trafficker were found in possession of over 100 elephant bones



Hundreds of elephant bones from Korup National Park seized from the two dealers. The cover of darkness was used by traffickers to transport bones to Mundemba, South West Region



He is specialised in treating wildlife products before sales. He was arrested in Bertoua, East with gorilla skins and a piece of truncated ivory among many other wildlife products



Live mandrill dealer arrested, he transported the mandrill in his car to the point of transaction. He is based in Yaounde but gets his supplies of live primates from Yoko, Centre.

Link of this month

- Journal de faits divers a CRTV program broadcast the arrest of wildlife dealers with 10 gorilla skulls and 2 jawbones. The dealers were arrested in Mindourou in the East region of Cameroon trying to sell the protected wildlife products to a client.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIELrYM-fys>