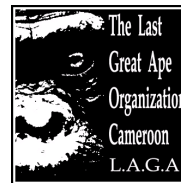


The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

January 2019 Report



Highlights

- **Total of 7 wildlife traffickers arrested during three operations in Douala in the Littoral Region and in Doume in the East Region**
- **4 traffickers arrested with 54 kg of pangolin scales and 5 hippo teeth in Douala**
- **A pangolin scales trafficker was arrested with 40 kg of scales in Doume**
- **A baby chimp rescued in an arrest operation, he is currently in the zoo that is not equipped to care for baby apes risking the life of the baby**
- **The LAGA team returned from annual vacation**
- **Deputy Director travelled to Ndjamena to attend the experts' session of the Ministerial Conference that discussed transhumant pastoralism and the threats posed by armed group and poachers.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **7 traffickers with pangolin scales, hippo teeth and a baby chimpanzee.**

During the first operation of the month, 2 traffickers arrested and baby chimp rescued in Douala. They had been trafficking live primates for a long time, shipping chimpanzees to Europe. The man claimed to have sold gorillas and chimps in the past. A son of theirs who is based in Europe had been facilitating their transactions.

4 traffickers arrested in Douala with 54kg of pangolin scales, 5 hippo teeth and 2 unidentified precious stones. The pangolins 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.

During the third operation of the month, a pangolin scales trafficker was arrested in Doume with 40kg of pangolin scales as 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 but one managed to escape. Investigations on his whereabouts are being mounted as the state counsel issued a search warrant.

Investigations

- **15 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon including: Littoral, Centre, South, East and Northwest Regions.
- Good investigations in Douala led to the rescue of a live baby chimpanzee and the arrest of two ape traffickers in Douala.
- Good investigations in Douala led to the arrest of 4 traffickers with 54kg pangolin scales and 5 hippo teeth in Douala.
- Good investigations in Ayos led to the arrest of a trafficker with 40kg of pangolin scales in Doume.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
15	5	3	7

Operation

Three operations carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 7 traffickers**.

- **23/1/2019 – 2 traffickers arrested in Douala, Littoral Region with a live baby chimpanzee.** The couple had been planning to export the chimpanzee as they have been doing in the past 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. Following a decision by the authorities, the chimpanzee was placed in the Yaounde zoo that has neither the technical expertise nor the appropriate facility to take care of him and 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.
- **24/1/2019 – 4 traffickers arrested in Douala, Littoral Region with 54kg of pangolins scales, 5 hippo teeth and 2 unidentified precious stones.** The pangolins 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, who seemed to be very professional in their dealings as testified by the precaution they took in moving the scales, 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.
- **31/1/2019 – A trafficker arrested in Doume, East Region with 40kg of pangolins 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. The ring is known to be heavily involved in trafficking pangolin scales in large quantities in an area that is fast becoming the centre for pangolin scales trafficking in the East

Region. Trucks use the town as a resting spot and traffickers seem to be taking advantage of the presence of transport facilities that can hold bulks which is a main condition for trafficking in pangolin scales.

Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
3	2	7	54kg pangolin scales 40kg pangolin scales A live baby chimpanzee

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **7 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral) and 2 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Doume (East).
- There are **16 traffickers behind bars this month**: 8 in East region, 5 in South region and 3 in Littoral region.
- **20 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **16 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No traffickers** were convicted.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court rulings.

Media

- **16 media pieces** were produced and push into the various media including the written press, radio and internet during the month. The department, as the rest of the team resumed work in the middle of the month and this accounted for the average media output.
- During the month, the following statistics were recorded: 9 written press material (7 in English and 2 in French), 6 radio news flashes (3 in French and 3 in English), and 1 internet publication in French. 10 media pieces were in English representing 62.5% and 6 in French representing 37.5%.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including the Abong Mbang arrest of 5 people with pangolin scales, the arrest of 4 in Douala with pangolin scales and on the couple arrested with a baby chimpanzee.

Media Table

<i>No of Media Pieces</i>	<i>TV</i>	<i>Radio</i>	<i>Newspapers</i>	<i>Internet</i>
16	0	6	9	1

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director travelled to Ndjamena where he participated at the CBFP organized ministerial conference to tackle threats 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, the Regional Coordinator for Central Africa for the Global Programme for Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime of the UNODC.
- The Head of Legal Department met with the Littoral Judicial Police Chief, the Littoral Regional Chief of Scientific Police and the Head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Douala airport. He equally met with the State Counsel of Douala Ndokoti and Abong Mbang to discuss arrest operations.
- The Head of the Investigations Department met with the Head of the Anti-trafficking Unit at the Nsimalen airport. The assistant head carried out a training for the benefit of eco-guards of the Kimbi-Fogum National Park, chiefs of posts and some wildlife officials on wildlife law enforcement procedures.

Management

- Two candidates started their volunteer and training period at the legal department.
- The entire team resumed work after an annual 3-week vacation.

Activism Front

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

Finance

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org.

Link of the month

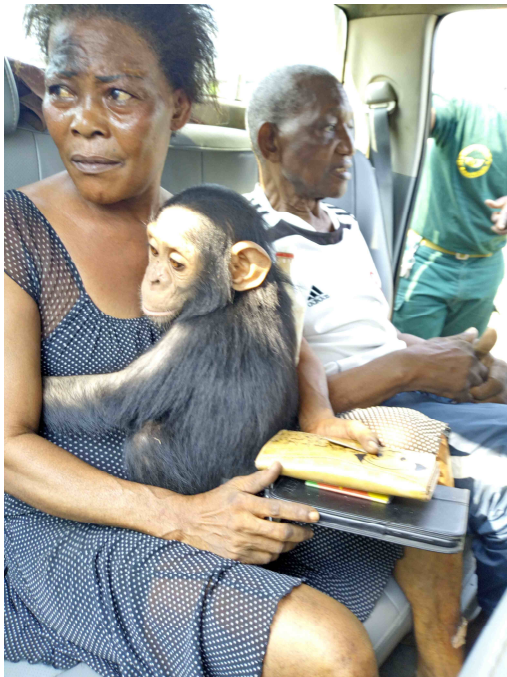
Camer.be, an online news site publishes the story of the arrest of four individuals in connection with the trafficking of pangolin scales in the Douala and tells the story also of the arrest of a couple with a baby chimpanzee.

<https://www.camer.be/72824/11:1/cameroon-alertela-faune-de-plus-en-plus-menacee-au-cameroun.html>

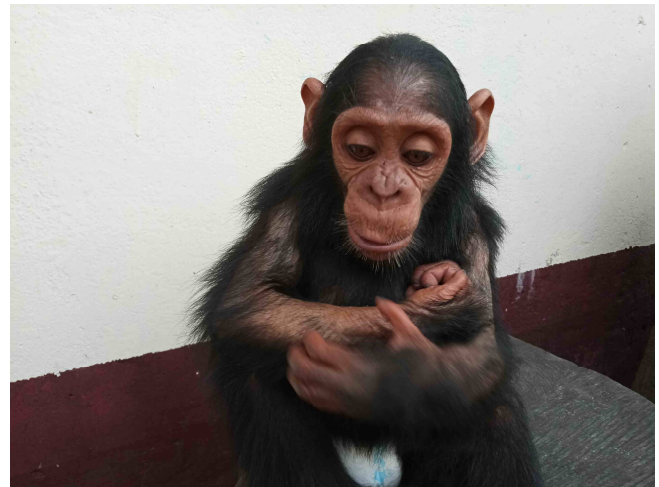
This Month in Pictures



Pangolin scales traffickers at the wildlife office shortly after their arrest. They were equally found in illegal possession of five hippo teeth and two precious stones



Couple arrested for illegal trafficking in chimp. They had shipped chimps to Europe in the past, using a son who is based there



Chimp was just about to be trafficked and was rescued. His ordeal is not yet over as he is still waiting at the Yaounde zoo for an appropriate facility that has the expertise to provide him with lifetime support and care.