

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

November 2021 Report



Highlights

- **3 traffickers arrested in Bafang; a baby drill rescued and taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre.**
- **A trafficker arrested in Nkoteng with 86kg of pangolin scales and a young baboon rescued.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **4 traffickers during two operations and the seizure of a baby drill, 86kg of pangolin scales and a young baboon**

3 traffickers were arrested and a baby drill rescued in Bafang in the West Region. The fragile baby drill was in a deplorable condition when it was rescued and quickly transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre where he shall be getting specialist care from veterinarians and join a family of drills. The traffickers were arrested during an attempt to sell the animal they recently bought from poachers.

A trafficker arrested with 86kg of pangolin scales and a young baboon rescued in Nkoteng, Centre Region. The animal was found leashed around the waist and tied to a tree at the premises of the trafficker. He bought the young baboon from a poacher who trapped and killed the mother. The trafficker belongs to a bigger group illegally trafficking several wildlife products including elephant ivory around the area where he was arrested.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with the new manager of the Tikki Hywood Foundation to explore areas of interests and strengthen collaboration fighting illegal pangolin trade.

Investigations

- **16 investigation missions in 5 out of 10 Regions** of Cameroon including: Littoral, West, South, Centre and East Regions.
- Good investigation in **Bafang** led to the arrest of 3 primate traffickers with a young drill rescued in **Bafang**.
- Good investigation in **Nkoteng** led to the arrest of a pangolin scales trafficker with 86kg of giant pangolin scales and a baboon seized in **Nkoteng**.

Investigations Table

| Investigation Missions | Regions | No. of Operations | No of traffickers arrested |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16 | 5 | 2 | 4 |

Operation

Two operations carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 4 traffickers**.

4/11/2021 –Three traffickers arrested in Bafang, West Region with a baby drill. The animal was quickly transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre where he shall be getting specialist care from veterinarians and join a family of drills. The traffickers bought the baby from a poacher and they attempted to sell when they were arrested.

17/11/2021 –A traffickers arrested in Nkoteng, Centre Region with 86kg of giant pangolin scales and a baby baboon rescued. The animal was found leashed around the waist and tied to a tree at the premises of the trafficker. He bought the young baboon from a poacher who trapped and killed the mother around Yoko, where he got most of his supplies of illicit products. The scales are from giant pangolins which is more threatened with extinction than the two other species in the country. Seizures are almost always composed of scales from all three species. The trafficker belongs to a bigger group illegally trafficking several wildlife products including elephant ivory around Yoko and Nkoteng in the Centre Region.

Operations Table

| No of Operations | Regions | No of Traffickers Arrested | Contraband |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2 | 2 | 4 | A baby drill, a young baboon and 85kg of pangolin scales |

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **17 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Ebolowa (South), 2 in Djoum (South), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Ambam (South), 3 in Douala (Littoral), 3 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 1 in Nkoteng (Centre), 1 in Bertoua (East) 2 in Bafang (West) and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **18 traffickers behind bars this month**: 6 in the East Region, 4 in South Region, one in Littoral Region, one in Centre and 6 in West region.
- **36 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **32 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **6 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were 3 court rulings this month.
 - **16/11/2021**: The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused **GAMBO Mouhamadou and TCHAPTCHET Christian guilty and sentenced them to one year suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 1,500,000 FCFA as damages.** They were arrested in Ebolowa on the 17/09/2021, for illegal possession of 20 grey parrots.
 - **22/11/2021**: The Douala Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused **KAMDEM Eric and KAMHOUA KAMDEM Serge guilty and sentenced them to 3 months suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 1,500,000 FCFA as damages.** They were arrested in Douala on the 08/10/2021 for illegal possession of a chimpanzee.
 - **30/11/2021**: The Djoum Court of First Instance found the accused **NKOLO Josiane and BIDJA Vincent guilty and sentenced them to 3 months suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 2,000,000 FCFA as damages.** They were arrested in Mintom on the 29/06/2021 for unlawful possession of a Mandrill.

Legal Table

| No of Missions (Out of Centre Region) | No of Court Judgements | No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence | Prison term (in months) | No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence) | No of Appeals lodged | No of Cases Tried in Courts |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 32 |

Media

- **39** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio, and internet, according to the following statistics; 16 written press (10 in English and 6 in French), 17 radio news flashes (9 in English and 8 in French) and, 6 internet publications (4 in French and 2 in English).
- A total of 21 media pieces produced in the English language, and 18 in the French language making 53.8% in English, and 46.2% in French.
- Interviewee: Nanga Eboko Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife and Chief of Wildlife and Protected Areas of the Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife Nanga Eboko
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The Bertoua, arrest of a trafficker with over 77kg of pangolin scales, the Bafia arrest of trafficker with a freshly killed pangolin the arrest of three traffickers arrested with a baby drill in Bafang, and the Nkoteng rescue of a young baboon and the arrest of a trafficker with pangolin scales.

Media table

| <i>No of media pieces</i> | TV | Radio | Newspapers | Internet |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 39 | 0 | 17 | 16 | 6 |

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the new manager of the Tikki Hywood Foundation to explore areas of interests and strengthen collaboration
- He held a meeting with the new Project Manager of the Tikki Hywood Foundation who recently arrived the country and they discussed several issues relating to pangolin conservation and wildlife conservation in general.
- The Head of the Legal Department, accompanied by a legal adviser held a meeting with State Counsel in Nanga Eboko to discuss legal strategies. shortly before an operation while
- He held another meeting with the State Counsel in Bafang and another legal adviser on strategies before an operation.
- He held a meeting with the State Counsels of Douala Bonanjo, Nanga Eboko and Djoum to discuss legal strategies concerning matters pending before their respective courts.
- He legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsels of Douala Bonanjo and Yaounde Centre Administratif to discuss legal strategies on upcoming cases at their courts.
- Another legal adviser held a meeting with the state counsel of Bafang, Dschang and Bertoua to discuss legal strategies with the same objectives above.

Management

- Preparations for end of year activities were continued and there was a push to move to attaining yearly objectives with just one month left to the end of the year.

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/Actiwithvism/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 this month published the story of a trafficker arrested with a baby baboon and 86kg of pangolin scales at Nkoteng. He is presently behind bars at the Gendarmerie brigade while the animal is quarantine at the Mvogbetsi botanical park.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/88922/11:1/cameroun-a-trafficker-arrested-in-nkoteng-cameroon.html>

This Month in Pictures



He was arrested with 86kg of giant pangolin scales and a young baboon rescued from his home.



A baby drill was rescued from 3 traffickers arrested at they attempted to sell the animal