

# THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2016



## Executive Summary

Despite many obstacles, tangible achievements were made over this period in LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF in the fields of investigation, arrest, prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities with focus on the fight against corruption, illegal wildlife trade, principally traffickers in ivory and ape skulls. Ivory networks were given special attention and with success, arresting ivory traffickers with old techniques and tactics that were revamped, polished and used. Ape traffickers were targeted within this period as a growing trend was uncovered with ape traffickers getting more and more organised. Trafficking in several other wildlife species equally drew the attention of the investigation and operations teams with several other arrests made.

20 major traffickers were arrested, at a rate of one for each 9 days. 71 % stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Corruption was observed and combated in a number of the cases. 20 new cases were brought to the courts and 27 traffickers were found guilty and given prison sentences, fines, damages and penalties and 58, 080, 000 F CFA (about \$116,000) were awarded to be paid to MINFOF. Media exposure was at a rate of one media piece per day.

The EAGLE network of LAGA replications became very effective in carrying out operations and 146 traffickers were arrested across 7 countries within the network during this semester. The LAGA team hosted activists from other countries for an intense training program including legal advisers from Senegal and Guinea and the Assistant Coordinator from Benin. LAGA Head of Investigations provided operation assistance in Senegal.

Governance issues and breach of procedure by some MINFOF delegations were prominent during this period – refusal to prosecute arrested wildlife traffickers and subsequently releasing them, influence peddling and threats were observed, while sidelining the organisation during some important events was equally observed and this was protested against to officials through phone calls.

**The work of The Last Great Ape Organization was supported by: Wildcat, US Fish and Wildlife Service, MRS France, Axel, Pro Wildlife, Neu Foundation and Programme de Petites Initiatives (PPI).**

**LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)**  
**SEMESTER REPORT**  
January - June 2016

**Overview**

**Investigations**

- A total of 129 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 7 regions.
- Network of informants continued producing results leading to good operations.

**Operations**

- Operations were carried out in 7 regions arresting 20 major traffickers resulting in 20 court cases at a rate of 1 per 9 days.
- Operations on apes and ivory accounted for over 55% of the total number of operations
- The rate of imprisonment of arrested offenders was 71%.
- A total of 63 ape skulls were seized during this period; 45 were from the chimpanzee while 18 were gorilla skulls.
- Every month, except in January, at least one ape trafficker were arrested, indicating the size of the illicit trade and a symptom of the problems connected with fighting the illicit trade in ape meat.

**Legal**

- 20 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases begun during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures still on-going).
- 27 traffickers were found guilty and handed prison sentences, fines, damages and penalties. Damages amounted to some 58, 080, 000 F CFA (about \$116,000.) to be paid to MINFOF.
- 14 court judgements were passed during the 6-month period and at least one sentence against a wildlife trafficker was given by the courts every month.
- Very good prosecutions were obtained, notably a two-year sentence given to a wildlife trafficker.

**Media**

- A total of 185 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio, press and internet) achieved at a rate of one media piece per day.

**Management**

- The annual report for 2015 was printed and distributed to all stakeholders.
- A new accountant was recruited.
- An investigator was sacked.
- Focus was on introducing renewed vigour and the strict respect of rules and procedures.

**External Relations and Policy**

- Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss corruption issues and wildlife law enforcement etc.
- The Deputy Director and LAGA's team of legal advisers trained fellows of the US sponsored Mentor PoP Fellowship Programme
- LAGA participated in events leading to the celebration of World Environment Day, did a presentation and took part in a panel discussion

**Strategic Highlights**

- The strategic focus over this period was on ape skull and ivory trafficking representing 35% and 21% respectively
- Getting back to the basics – the use of old tactics and techniques was intensified.
- Giant pangolin scales trafficking received further attention within this period and over 200 kg of scales were seized. .
- Investigations were once more focused on wildlife trafficking through the internet and this resulted in one operation.

**EAGLE Activities**

- A total of 146 traffickers were arrested across 7 countries of the network during this semester.
- Exchange visits continued among the countries and legal advisers from Senegal, Guinea and an Assistant Coordinator visited the country while the Head of Investigation travelled to Senegal.
- The EAGLE Financial Officer visited the country for a two-week long auditing and finance management assistance to LAGA.
- The EAGLE Charter was produced and distributed to all members.

## CONTENTS

- Executive Summary.....	1
- Overview of Achievements.....	2
- Contents & List of Figures.....	3
- Narrative Report .....	4
1 Investigation .....	4
2 Operations .....	5
3 Legal .....	7
4 Media .....	10
5 Management.....	14
6 External Relations and Policy.....	12
7 LAGA and the EAGLE Network.....	13
8 Fostering Activism .....	13
9 Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations’ Impact .....	15
10 Corruption and Wildlife Crime.....	22

### Annexes

Annex I - List of Cases initiated in Semester I, 2016.....	19
Annex II – The Year in Pictures – Some Important Events.....	23
Annex III – Semester Media Links 2016.....	26

### Charts

1 Figure 1: Number of investigation missions per month .....	4
2 Figure 2: Operations profile.....	7
3 Figure 3: Rate of locking accused behind bars before prosecution ... ..	9
4 Figure 4: Number of media pieces published.....	10
5 Figure 5: Split of media pieces.....	10
Overview of international trade in Cameroon and operation sites .....	18

### Also available:

1. Annual Financial Statement and Semester I 2016
2. Monthly Financial and Activity Reports January to June 2016
3. Media archive – Excel database linked to recorded media pieces
4. Photo archive for media use

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## **NARRATIVE REPORT**

This report concerns the activities from January to June 2016. The report includes: the progress in each department of activities (Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and Management), strategic overview of and the impact of our operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, non-governmental bodies, in the international arena, and in non-enforcement initiatives LAGA has undertaken.

### **1. Investigations**

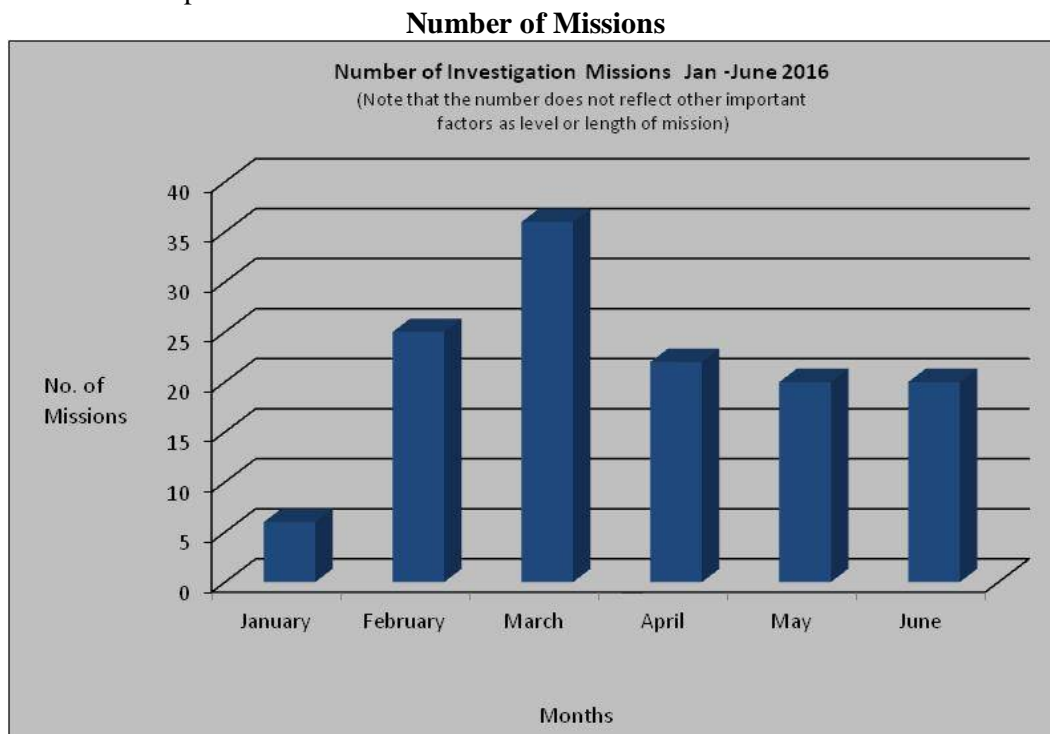
LAGA's investigation unit carried out 129 investigation missions in 7 regions of the country during this period. The department stepped up its activities with emphasis on investigating high level targets while refocusing attention on investigation procedures and tactics to fight complacency. Several meetings were held within the department to work on respecting these procedures and sharpening old skills for effective investigations.

The strategy to get credible information and to make investigation missions more effective, using a hotline that was established was continued and flyers produced in both English and French continued to be distributed This is being distributed to a specific set of informants like those working in the airports, call box operators, security guards etc.

The Head of the Investigations Department held several meetings with some wildlife officials to build collaborative platforms; enabling effective investigations and information exchange.

The Head of Department travelled to Senegal where he provided operation assistance in Ziguenchor where two traffickers were arrested with an impressive amount of ivory products and turtle shells.

An old investigator was swiftly removed following an internal investigation that found dishonesty. LAGA is built on values that are rigorously kept, and this is an example of zero tolerance to violating these values and his behavior is against the EAGLE Charter that was introduced to members within this period.



**Figure 1: Number of Investigations Missions per Month**

## **2. Operations**

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 7 regions against 20 individuals resulting in 20 court cases at a rate of one per 9 days and this result would be improved upon during the second semester to attain a rate of one per 7 days, to close the year. Old and tested techniques were used during operations. This shift quickly resulted in the arrest of three cyber traffickers as early as January. Other bigger and important targets were equally investigated during this period and operations on these targets would soon be conducted. Operations against ape trafficking were intensified and this produced 35% of the total number of operations while 21% was focused on ivory trade and trafficking in other wildlife species including pangolin scales, leopard skins and, sea turtle shells was addressed with operations carried out against the traffickers. A total of 63 ape skulls were seized during this period; 45 were from the chimpanzee while 18 were gorilla skulls. Every month except ape in January, at least one ape trafficker were arrested indicating the size of the illicit trade and a symptom of the problems connected with fighting the illicit trade in ape meat.

In January, three wildlife trafficking cybercriminals were arrested in Douala, in the Littoral Region for cyber trafficking and scamming after attempting to sell 2 lion and 2 cheetah cubs through an internet transaction. The three cybercriminals advertised through the internet. After months of collaborative efforts and days of patience in Douala waiting for the cybercriminals to make a move, the team of wildlife officials and the police carried out the operation that got them arrested. The first two criminals were arrested as they attempted to finalise transactions while the third, the suspected boss of the whole group, was arrested soon afterwards. This was not the first attempt by the three who are all family members: two brothers who are law students at the University and a cousin of theirs who is an accountant. They had used forged CITES permits with a fake signature of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife among other forged documents.

In February, a major international trafficker of Nigerian nationality was arrested in Bertoua, in the East Region with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of giant pangolin scales. His client base included Chinese buyers and he had a long list of Chinese contacts and names. The extent of his business and professionalism was impressive as he bought the wildlife products from poachers in the East, in Congo and Gabon and then sold to Chinese and Nigerian buyers. He ferried wildlife products to Nigeria while a fraction of his main clients was based in Yaounde and Douala. He owned a storeroom close to Garoua Boulai which was used to store wildlife products. He mastered the region very well and was born in Bertoua. He used the front business of car spare parts dealer as a cover for his illegal activities but the shop barely had any car parts. The trafficker was known to wildlife law enforcement officials in the region and was suspected to have been trafficking wildlife species since 2013.

A second operation was carried out in February and an ape skull trafficker arrested in Dimako, in the East Region with 5 chimpanzee skulls, and 4 gorilla skulls. He was known to regularly traffic in primate parts as a middleman, getting supplies from poachers and selling to other traffickers. He got the ape skulls from poachers near a logging company that is close to Dimako.

In March, a major trafficker was arrested in Ebolowa, in the South Region with 3 elephant tails and 3 hoofs. He had been doing ivory deals with a client who travelled from Yaounde to Ebolowa where the sales are conducted. The trafficker is equally a poacher and he was found to sell ivory every two weeks. He was aware that the activity was illegal and used a local gendarme official as cover and provider of insight information on the movements of wildlife officials. He in turn corrupted the law enforcement officer with money and meat. He hired a gun from a relative at 25 000 F CFA per poaching mission which was done inside the Campo Ma'an National Park and as far as the Equatorial Guinea after crossing the Ntem River in search for elephants.

A second operation in March saw the arrest of 3 ape skull traffickers in Ebolowa, in the South Region with 8 chimpanzee skulls, 4 gorilla skulls, 2 warthog skulls and a mandrill skull. As with the first operation of the month, a client from Yaounde, this time with more precision, from the Briqueterie neighbourhood was mentioned as one of the clients of one of the arrested traffickers who mainly dealt in ivory. Although mainly an ivory trafficker he killed chimpanzees also.

The third operation in March witnessed the arrest of a trafficker in Bafang, in the South Region with 3 fresh chimpanzee heads and 7 skulls, an elephant tail, a mandrill skull and a skin from a young python. This is a professional trafficker who dealt in various types of wildlife species he obtained from a big base of poachers who killed all kinds of wildlife species. He sold every species he got. Once more fresh chimpanzee heads were recovered and again this points to the parallel illicit trade alongside the bushmeat trade of chimpanzee.

In April, two traffickers were arrested in Kumbo, Bui Division and in Nkambe Donga Mantung Division, in the North West Region with 15 mandrill skulls, 6 gorilla skulls, a pair of buffalo horns and 4 chimpanzee hands. The first trafficker was arrested after travelling from Nkambe to Kumbo for the transaction. Then the second trafficker was arrested in Nkambe following the interrogation of the first who confirmed earlier investigation reports that indicated that the two functioned together as a small team and one of them had to travel with the products to Kumbo to conduct the transaction while the second waited to collect his share of the money. After the findings, the state counsel immediately issued an arrest warrant and the arresting team travelled over 80 km to get the second trafficker in Nkambe which is not very far from the Nigeria border providing further proof that the border division is a transit zone for wildlife products.

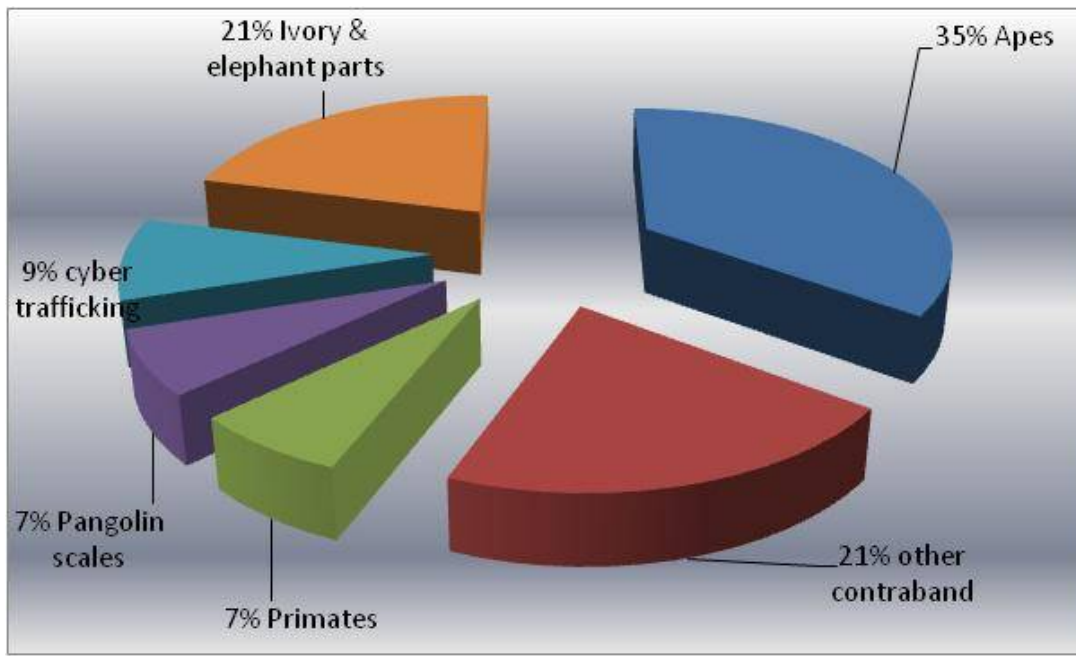
A second operation was carried out in April and a sea turtle shell trafficker arrested in Eseka with 8 sea turtle shells, 3 chimpanzee skulls and 2 kg of pangolin scales. He is a known supplier of sea turtle shells in the area and had a number of regular buyers.

In May, two traffickers were arrested in Garoua, North Region with 20 ivory chopsticks and 5 bangles. Two raw ivory tusks were later recovered from them, as, one of them admitted that he had more ivory concealed at his residence. The two tusks were hidden deep inside the ground and after the arrest, family members tried to facilitate their release, dug up the tusks and handed them over to wildlife officials. The traffickers are specialised in processed ivory business and they worked as a team with one of them buying raw ivory and the second carving out ivory objects for sale. They had been carrying their illegal activity for the past 10 years.

The second operation of May witnessed the arrest of two ape skulls traffickers in Ayos, Centre Region with 6 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls. They are experienced ape skull traffickers and were arrested despite being suspicious and alert, making efforts to conceal their activities.

In June, two traffickers were arrested in Abong Mbang, East Region with 13 chimpanzee skulls. The two travelled from Somalomo, close to the Dja Faunal Reserve. The traffickers ferried chimpanzee meat regularly from the Somalomo to Abong Mbang and as far as Yaounde for sale. They seemed not to be very interested in trafficking ivory despite the huge differences in profitability because ivory attracts a lot of attention from wildlife officials.

A second operation carried out in June saw the arrest of a trafficker in Bafoussam, West Region with 39 ivory bangles and 3 leopard skins. He is the owner of a big arts shop and sells a huge variety of arts objects. He is an influential and well connected man and LAGA continued to push for the procedural prosecution of the case as wildlife officials mounted obstacles for the legal procedure to continue.



**Figure 2: Operations profile**

### **3. Legal**

During this period, 20 new cases reached the court and the cases joined old cases that were scheduled, followed-up, tried in various courts and jail visits were organized. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage with 71% imprisoned throughout the process.

95 missions were carried out of the Centre Region for follow-up of new cases and the creation and strengthening of relations with judiciary authorities. More emphasis as a direct result of operations was on ape skulls, ivory and elephant parts, primates' parts, leopard skins and pangolin scales. Cyber trafficking was also addressed.

During this period, 14 court judgements were passed and at least one sentence against a wildlife trafficker was given by the courts every month. 27 traffickers were found guilty with 17 of them given prison sentences while 10 offenders were either given suspended prison sentences or were heavily fined and three appeals were lodged against some weak court rulings. Three judgements were passed in January, March and April while two court rulings were handed down in the months of February and May. June witnessed the lowest number of judgements with just one passed. Two significant court judgements were passed in the Courts of First Instance in Dschang where three were found guilty and given one year imprisonment terms for ivory trafficking with payment of fines amounting to 5,650,000 F CFA (about \$ 11,600) and in Kumbo where two were given the following prison sentence: 2 years imprisonment term for the first accused and 1 year 6 months imprisonment to the second offender. For every month a court passed at least one judgement against a wildlife offender.

In January three judgements were passed and in the first judgement, two persons were found guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and were sentenced to 2 months imprisonment term each and ordered to pay 1,450,000 F CFA (about \$2900) for civil damages, fines of 500,000 F CFA (about \$1000) and cost fees of 38,500 F CFA (about \$80). They were arrested in Batouri for illegal possession and circulation of 2.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and 2 chimpanzee skulls.

The second judgement was passed by the Bertoua Court of First Instance- East that found a trafficker guilty and sentenced him to 55 days imprisonment and payment of cost fees of 30, 340 F CFA (about \$60) and civil damages of 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000). He was arrested in Belabo for illegal possession of 15 kg of giant pangolin scales. The same court, found two accused people guilty and handed them a 6-month suspended imprisonment term for 3 years and ordered to pay civil damages of 1, 210, 000 F CFA (about \$ 2400) and cost fees of 94, 840 F CFA (about \$ 190). They were arrested in Bertoua for the illegal possession of one ivory tusk.

In February, the Dschang Court of First Instance – West, sentenced two traffickers to one year imprisonment term each, payment of 5, 650, 000 F CFA (about \$11,200) as civil damages and fines of 1.000.000 F CFA (about \$ 2000). They were arrested in Santchou for illegal possession and circulation of two ivory tusks.

The Kribi Court of First Instance- South, found the two accused guilty and they were sentenced as follows: payment of cost fees of 110, 000 F CFA (about \$220), civil damage of 1, 000, 000 FCFA (about \$2000) and 500, 000 F CFA (about \$1000) each as fines. They were arrested in Kribi for illegal possession of 31 sea turtle shells and the judgement was passed in February.

In March, the Yaoundé Court of First Instance- Centre Administratif, sentenced a trafficker who was arrested in Yaounde for the illegal possession of 17 Chimpanzee skulls and 2 mandrill skulls to 2 months imprisonment term with civil damages of 3.000.000 F CFA (about \$ 6000) to be paid including fines amounting to 100,000 FCFA (about \$200) and 9 months imprisonment in default of payment of the fines.

The second ruling of the month of March was passed by the Bertoua Court of First Instance, East that found an accused guilty and sentenced him to 75 days in prison, ordered him to pay 27,480,000 F CFA (about \$54900) for civil damages and fines amounting to 100.000 F CFA (about \$200), 89,000 F CFA (about \$180) for costs fees and 9 months imprisonment in default of payment of the fines. He was arrested in Bertoua for illegal possession and circulation of 12 ivory tusks, 5 bags of giant pangolin scales and 2 elephant jawbones.

The third ruling in March was passed by the Ebolowa Court of First Instance- South that sentenced two people to 4 months imprisonment term each and to pay cost fees of 68, 000 F CFA (about \$130), civil damages of 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000) and fined 100,000 F CFA (about \$200) They were arrested in Ebolowa for illegal possession of 4 gorilla skulls, 8 chimpanzee skulls, 2 wart hog skulls and a mandrill skull.

In April the Ebolowa Court of First Instance-, South sentenced a trafficker who was arrested in Ebolowa with 3 elephant tails, 3 hoofs and teeth to 2 months imprisonment term, payment of civil damages of 2,000, 000 F CFA (about \$4000), fines of 300, 000 F CFA (about \$600) or face 18 months imprisonment in default of payment of fines.

The second judgement in April was against two traffickers who were found guilty and sentenced to 6 months suspended imprisonment sentence within 3 years, and payment of 2,000,000 F CFA (about \$4000) for civil damages. They were arrested in Doume for illegal possession and circulation of 2 gorilla skulls, one chimpanzee skull and one elephant tail. The ruling was passed by the Abong Mbang Court of First Instance.

The same court passed another ruling in April that saw three traffickers sentenced to 6 months suspended imprisonment term within 3 years, and payment of civil damages of 3, 170, 000 F CFA



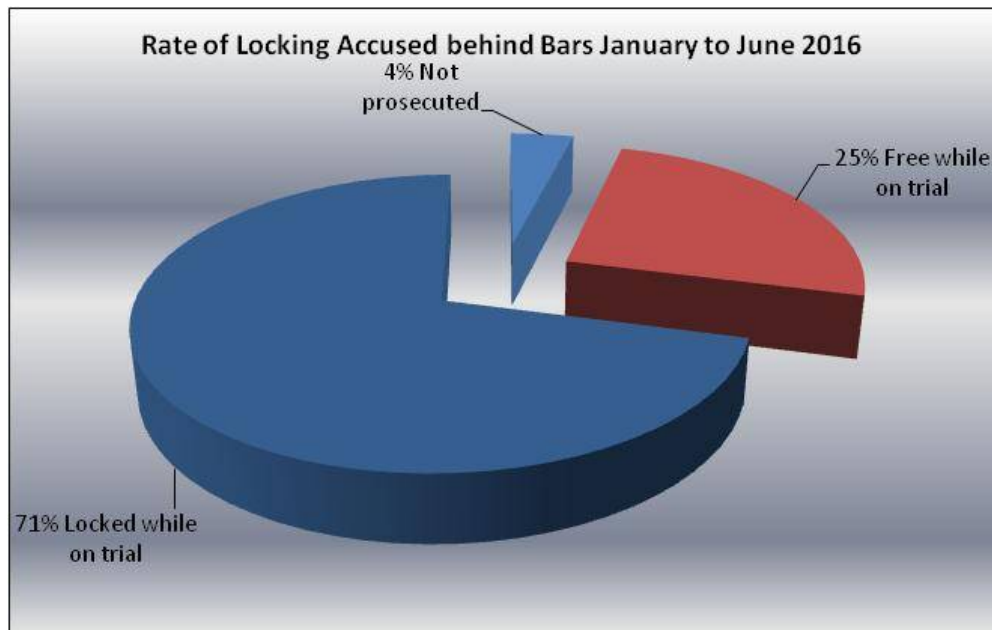
(about \$6340) and 105,000 F CFA (about \$210). They were arrested in Dimako for illegal possession of 4 gorilla skulls, 5 chimpanzee skulls, and 1 live crocodile.

In May, the Kumbo Court of First Instance-, North West found two accused guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and were given varying sentences as follows: the first was sentenced to either pay a fine of 2,500,000 F CFA (about \$5000) or serve 2 years imprisonment term and the second was sentenced to pay a fine of 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000) or serve 18 Months imprisonment term. Civil damages to be paid amounted to 5,090,000 F CFA, (about \$10,180) and fines to 34, 500 F CFA (about \$70) each or they serve a further 3 months imprisonment term. They were arrested in Kumbo for the illegal possession of 15 mandrill skulls, 6 gorilla skulls, 4 chimpanzee parts, 2 monkey skulls, and a pair of buffalo horns.

The second ruling of May was passed by the Ndop Court of First Instance – North West that found the accused guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and was sentenced to 3 months suspended imprisonment term within 1 year, payment of 3,000,000 F CFA (about \$6000) for civil damages, 40, 000 F CFA (about \$80) for costs fees and 40 days imprisonment in default of payment of the costs fees. He was arrested in Ndop for illegal possession and circulation of 13 chimpanzee skulls, 3 monkey skulls 1gorilla skull and 1 drill skull.

In June, the Djoum Court of First Instance, South found the two accused traffickers guilty of illegal possession and circulation of 4 ivory tusks and 3 elephant tails and for the illegal killing of two elephants. They were sentenced to 10 months imprisonment term each and to jointly pay 200,000 F CFA (about \$400) as fines and 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000) as civil damages. They were arrested in Mintom on for the illegal killing of 2 elephants and illegal possession of 4 ivory tusks.

Three appeals were lodged during this period against court rulings; one in March and two in April.



**Figure 3: Rate of locking accused behind bars**

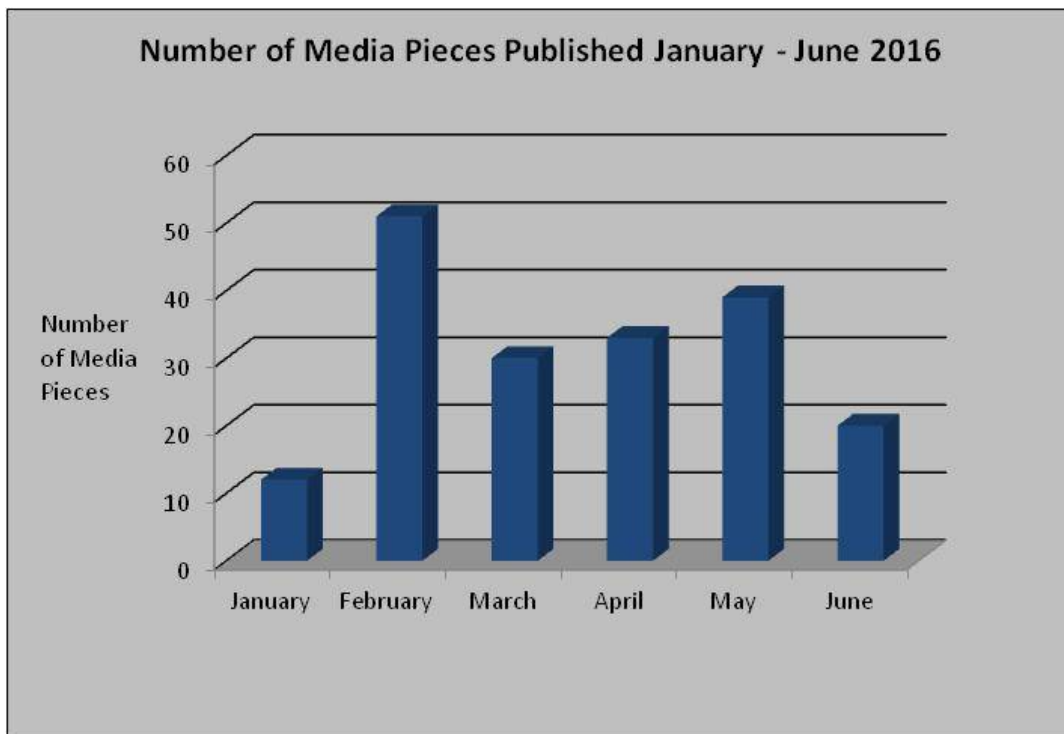
#### 4. Media

A total of 185 media pieces were produced and pushed into media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television, written press and the internet achieved at a rate of one media piece per day. January month saw the lowest number of media pieces because of the low level of operations within the month as staff just resumed work after the Christmas break. This discrepancy was immediately corrected the following month as the highest number of media pieces was obtained in February

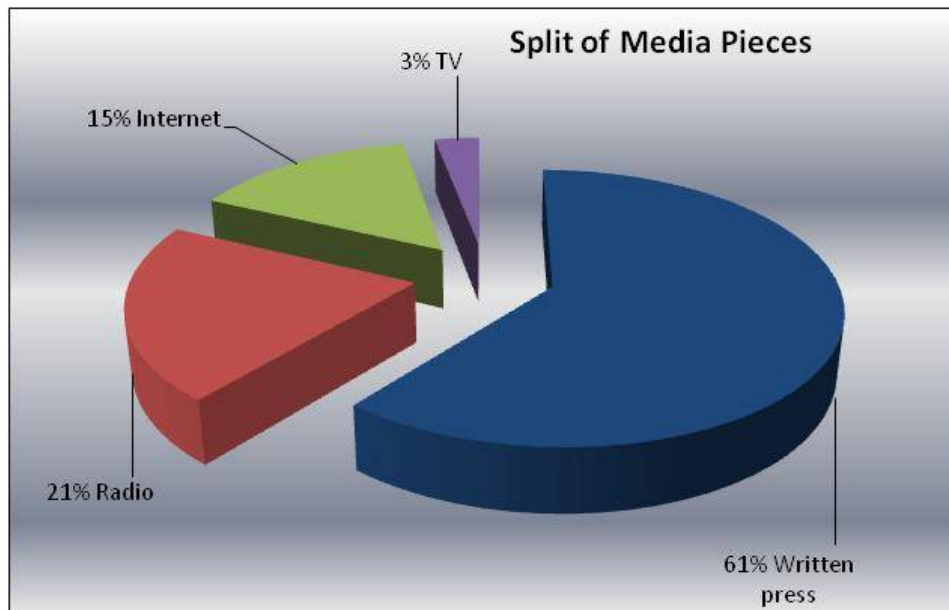
Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption. These included; the Ndop arrest of a trafficker with 18 ape skulls in Ndop, pastor caught with 19 chimp skulls, Douala arrest of three cyber trafficking wildlife criminals, Dimako ape trafficker arrest, Bertoua arrest of Nigerian with 12 tusks and 200 kg pangolin scales, Ebolowa trafficker arrest with 3 elephant tails and 3 hoofs, Ebolowa arrest of three traffickers with 12 ape skulls, Bafang arrest of trafficker with 10 ape skulls and elephant tail, arrests of two primate traffickers in Kumbo and Nkambe, Eseka sea turtle shell trafficker arrest, Garoua arrest of two traffickers with ivory bangles and chopsticks, Ayos arrest of two ape skull traffickers, Abong Mbang arrest of two traffickers with 13 chimp skulls and the destruction of ivory by the Cameroon government.

Interviewees included: the Head of Conservation at conservation group, In Defence of Animal, East Regional Chief of Wildlife, Upper Nkam Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, Bui Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, the Deputy Director of LAGA, a French conservationist volunteering at the Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Center

The distribution of Wildlife Justice Magazine continued. Wildlife Justice is a thematic journal that focuses on wildlife law enforcement and conservation issues.



**Figure 4: Number of Media Pieces Produced and Published**



**Figure 5: Split of Media Pieces**

## **5. Management**

LAGA started another phase of reconstruction that focused on work and moral ethics and this was centred on revamping old procedures and bringing in new ones that would lead to greater efficiency in activities and more effective results. In this respect, the tax situation was examined and resolved, the EAGLE Charter was distributed and explained to all, respect of rules and procedures were strictly enforced. The EAGLE Exchange programme witnessed several exchange visits between LAGA and the other projects while the recruitment process continued with a new accountant recruited.

The Annual report of 2015 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. The electronic versions are available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org). This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

Under the EAGLE Exchange Programme, training sessions continued to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon, two legal adviser arrived from Senegal and Guinea and they completed a three-week-long training session. In May, the Assistant Coordinator from Benin was also trained in the country. The Head of the Investigation Department travelled to Senegal for an operation support mission.

Amaya Shella was recruited as the new accountant to replace Tchakounte Guy who left the organization last year. Reorganisation of the financial reporting system for efficiency in reporting was carried out with the new accountant who was later on assisted by the EAGLE Financial Officer who spent two weeks in the country auditing and assisting the finance management of LAGA

A Dutch conservationist carried out volunteer work and received training with the team for a period of one month. He received training from all the departments including management.

To foster activism and leadership skills, a series of thought-provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA team on a wide range of topics including activism was organised. This initiative also aims at strengthening the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

The EAGLE Charter was distributed to all and a talk by the Deputy Director was carried out to enable a clear understanding of our values and principles with a strong call to upholding these cherish values. Emphasises were put on the respect of procedures and new determination was engaged in moral rectitude while an investigator was sacked following an internal investigation that found dishonesty.

The recruitment process of a new internet investigator was started with the screening of candidates and interviews carried out but no one recruited. The process is still ongoing and job adverts are published to be able to get the best candidates.

## **6. External Relations and Policy**

The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy and the meeting included a US Foreign Service Officer from the US State Department and a Senior Counsel with the Justice Department with discussions focused on illegal logging and initiatives to address the situation in the country. He equally held other meetings with US Embassy's officials including the Executive Assistant Media, to review efforts at fighting wildlife crime in 2015 and brainstorm on ideas that could assist in mapping a way forward for bigger results and impact. .

The Deputy Director met with two regional experts, Paul-Simon Handy and Ruben de Koning of the UN Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic to discuss wildlife trafficking in the region and a couple of other meetings with officials including the Director of the Prague zoo from the Czech Republic on wildlife law enforcement around the Dja Faunal Reserve and discussion topics included the conception and implementation of conservation projects with the communities living close to the Reserve

The Deputy Director held several meetings with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to discuss wildlife law enforcement, collaboration and information sharing as part of an improved partnership with the Ministry. He attended several meetings under the chair of the Director of Environmental Policy in the Ministry of Environment to prepare for the World Environment Day. The meetings brought together stakeholders in wildlife conservation including officials from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Interpol, Customs, WWF, IUCN and LAGA. As part of the activities for celebrating this day, he did a presentation on the LAGA model and was a panellist on the round table to discuss the theme of the year - Zero Tolerance to Illegal Wildlife Trade.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with Nancy Gelman from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss developments on the Mentor Progress on Pangolin Fellowship Programme (Mentor PoP Programme) and held several other meetings with the Coordinator of the programme. LAGA briefly received the fellows at the office for an introductory phase of the programme. The fellows were on a round of visits to the various organisations to host the Mentor PoP fellows during their internship programme. The Deputy Director and legal advisers including the Head of the Legal Department trained fellows of the Mentor PoP Programme on the wildlife law enforcement model and LAGA hosted two fellows from the legal systems action group for a month-long intensive training. The Deputy Director equally did a presentation to Mentor Manatee Fellows which is also a US Fish and Wildlife sponsored fellowship programme.

The Deputy Director gave a live interview on Midday News on State TV on the occasion of the burning of 3.5 tons of ivory by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.

## **7. LAGA and the EAGLE Network**

LAGA's new model for NGO – Government collaboration establishing wildlife law enforcement, bringing about results with an innovative approach geared at changing the existing system and triggering a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime is being realised within the EAGLE network. The model is essentially shifting away from targeting small-time poachers in the forest and focusing on the prosecution of major traffickers, fighting head on the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – Corruption. LAGA's experience and model is currently operating within the EAGLE network that group 9 countries.

The replication of the LAGA model is also geared at taking cross section lessons outside of wildlife conservation; these include the fight against corruption, fostering activism, fight against child trafficking etc.

**<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/tabid/166/Default.aspx>**

LAGA model replication activity was taken over by the EAGLE network after the its creation with its administrative structure, the Central Coordination Unit becoming fully functional. Nevertheless, the main activities among the various projects in the network continued and included exchange visits, training, information and skills sharing. In this regard, LAGA hosted two legal advisers from Senegal and Guinea who received training and participated in numerous field activities while the Assistant Coordinator from the Benin project travelled to Cameroon for a month-long intensive training. A Dutch conservationist was also trained in LAGA

The EAGLE Financial Officer visited the country to audit and assist the management of finance in LAGA.

## **8. Fostering Activism**

During this period, LAGA continued to foster activism internally and externally. Creating independent activists is one aspect that LAGA uses to foster activism. The NGO members are encouraged to develop their own projects on the various development issues of their country and are given NGO time and management time to develop the project in the vision of turning it in to an independent NGO/paper/book. The function of leadership is not producing more followers but to produce more leaders.

**<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>**

Activism was focused on documentaries and presentations including:

- ***Ted Talk:*** Ghanaian investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas becomes an undercover agent to investigate stories since his early journalism career and provides startling video evidence of police taking bribes, of rags, the inhuman and dire living conditions of inmates in an African prison, the killing of children with deformities in some of communities and the albino spell problem in Tanzania. His journalism which he says is progressive and aimed at effecting positive changes brings tremendous impact and all, including the bad guys, become aware of his existence, that is why he cannot allow his face to be known publicly but naming, shaming and jailing is his leitmotiv as he seeks to provide answers to questions corrupt African regimes have often cynically asked when corruption accusation erupt: where

is the evidence? His is a telling and brave journalism, he deliberately becomes a prisoner to do undercover work in the prison. Discussions focused on corruption and his bravery and most especially on his investigations with most of LAGA seeing the resemblance with our investigations and those present enjoyed this very much.

- ***Wag the Dog:*** This movie is all about strategy and spin, very useful for public action. If you get the best strategy and the right spin, you invariably come on top even though in substance, you may be found out. An American president seeking re-election is faced with a dramatic twist of events when two weeks to go for voting taking place, his sexual adventures are made public and this virtually spells the end of his career. Hold on a minute, he hires a spin doctor who hires a Hollywood producer and together they produce an exhilarating strategy and spin, to keep him in power and among the diversionary tactics that make up the strategy is a fake war the US is fighting against little known Armenia. This is a big lie but it works, attention is distracted from the scandal and the president is re-elected. The war has the advantage of drawing attention away from the president's sexual mishaps and allowing his spin doctors to do their thing. The projection comes at an opportune moment when a certain Donald Trump has come from nowhere to front run the GOP race in American 2016 primaries. It equally tells us much about our politicians, their lies and deceptions. Discussions focused on the role of spin in politics and the importance of strategy in action.
- ***Activism Create Distinction:*** With less than 48 hours to the celebration of the International Labour Day, Anna Egbe takes a look at activism and the processes that defines it, its importance and ramifications with a comparative look at our own brand of activism. In a very interesting presentation, people were very attentive and enjoyed it because that makes part of our daily life, she explores the value of activism, the passion activist have and their determination to succeed. Discussions were focused on some of the shortcuts activist use to promote their positions and the differences between influence peddling, lobbying and advocacy and a question was asked:: is one born with an activist or can you become an activist?
- ***Virunga:*** Virunga is a complex mix of activism, conservation work, oil exploration and wars as they come to meet at the Virunga National park and there is someone to explore and document the issues. It raises the huge challenges rangers at the park have and the dangers to their lives as they seek to protect gorillas that largely have nowhere to go but face the barrel of the gun and oil companies that destroy their habitats for selfish profits. The movie is dense and provides many images of bravery and self abnegation, with rangers battling to keep their positions as war draws close. It also highlights the damaging consequences of war in the DRC and the role of mining in undermining conservation initiatives. Talking points included corruption as the big oil company try to corrupt their way through, politics, commitment, activism, humanitarian assistance and people power.
- ***Immigration - Trends and Issues:*** The Deputy Director examines immigration against the backdrop of recent immigration in Europe that played a big role in Brexit. While looking at the historical context of immigration and recent immigrations and trends, he picks out advantages and disadvantages and this enables a clearer understanding of the phenomenon which is essentially human and not a problem as some politicians would like it to be. Discussions focused on the status of immigration, immigration and refugee problems, the examination of the advantages and disadvantages.

## **9. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact**

Beyond the number of operations and their effectiveness, there is an even more important factor in evaluating LAGA's work – the strategic value of the operations in reducing the level of illegal wildlife trade. In this regard LAGA is choosing diversified operations, which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon. Consequently, the LAGA-MINFOF work sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on, apes, ivory and other elephant parts while sea turtles, pangolins and other wildlife received some attention too.

### ***9.1 Apes skulls***

The illicit trade in ape parts is demonstrated everyday by the big number of traffickers arrested trafficking skulls which is very much an item of trade in its own right, as well as a by-product of the illicit trade in ape meat. 35% of the total number of operations were on the trafficking in ape skulls. A total of 63 ape skulls were seized during this period with 45 chimpanzee skulls seized while the remaining 18 were gorilla skulls. The regularity of the seizures – ape skull operations were carried out during all the months except in January – is an indication of the size of the illicit trade and is a symptom of the bigger problems connected with fighting the illicit trade in ape meat.

In February, an operation carried out in Dimako, in the East Region saw the arrest of an ape skulls trafficker with 5 chimpanzee and 4 gorilla skulls. Investigations revealed that they bought the skulls from some poachers near a logging company close to Dimako. The trafficker regularly trafficked ape and primate parts in the area. The negative impact of logging companies in areas with populations of protected species can never be overemphasised.

In March, two arrest operations found 18 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls with the arrest of four traffickers. During the first operation, 8 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls were recovered from three traffickers who were part of a network of ape parts traffickers. One of the traffickers is also a major ivory trafficker. The second operation saw the arrest of a trafficker with 7 chimpanzee skulls and 3 heads which still had some flesh, among other wildlife contraband. The trafficker had a number of suppliers providing the contraband, an indication of the nature of the demand and supply chain involved in the trade in ape parts and the newly found organisational skills of ape traffickers.

In April, two operations were carried out involving chimpanzee and gorilla skulls. The first was carried out in Kumbo and in Nkambe in the North West Region with the arrest of two with several primate skulls including 6 gorilla skulls and the second operation of the month found a trafficker in Eseka, Littoral region with 3 chimp skulls among other contraband. The operation in Nkambe, a locality not very far from the Nigeria border demonstrates the importance of cross border trafficking and a confirmation that the North West Region is a transit zone for wildlife traffickers moving to and from Nigeria.

In May, 2 ape skull traffickers were arrested in Ayos, Centre Region with 6 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls. The two are experienced ape skull traffickers and before their arrest, were extremely alert and cautious showing fear to be intercepted, demonstrating the growing professionalism of ape traffickers who are not just ordinary bushmeat sellers but organised and experienced traffickers, always cautious to avoid exposure and arrest.

In June, an operation was carried out in Abong Mbang in the East Region arresting two traffickers with 13 chimpanzee skulls. The two who travelled from Somalimo that is close to the Dja Faunal Reserve were also implicated in the ferrying of chimpanzee meat from around the reserve to Abong Mbang and Yaounde for sale. They were both found to belong to a network of ape parts traffickers.

The trafficking of ape parts is becoming increasingly organised with networks springing up with traffickers working and understanding each other in a chain process, akin to the ivory business. With increasing threats from wildlife law enforcement officials, these traffickers are getting more and more sophisticated. The number of skulls seized may also point to the ratio between the populations of chimpanzees and gorillas in the Cameroon's forest as 45 chimpanzee skulls against 18 gorilla skulls were seized during this period. A total of 63 ape skulls were involved.

### ***9.2 Ivory and Elephant parts***

Last year a tactical move to get ivory traffickers was initiated and it involved targeting them through the illegal trade in elephant parts and it was continued to be used this term although it proved very successful it nevertheless needed a change because ivory traffickers are very good at understanding tactics. So focus was redirected to ivory as the product of trafficking itself and the use of old and tested techniques were re-introduced.

The first operation was carried out in Bertoua, East Region in February with the arrest of a major trafficker of Nigerian nationality with 12 elephant tusks and 200 kg of giant pangolin scales. The trafficker who used the cover of a businessman dealing in car spare parts had a storeroom where huge quantities of wildlife products could be stored. He ran his illegal activity across the Central African sub region from Gabon, Congo, Cameroon right to Nigeria and he equally had as clients Chinese traffickers. Ivory traffickers are known for their organisation, their trafficking across borders and professionalism.

In March, an operation was carried out in Ebolowa, South Region with the arrest of a major trafficker with wildlife contraband - 3 elephant tails and 3 hoofs. He is known to have sold ivory every two weeks and had a regular client coming in from Yaounde to Ebolowa to buy ivory. He equally doubled as a poacher and used a local gendarme officer to cover his illegal activity and provide inside information on the movements of wildlife officials.

In May, in Garoua in the North Region, two traffickers were arrested with 20 ivory chopsticks and 5 bangles with 2 ivory tusks later recovered. The two ivory tusks were hidden deep inside the ground and the two who are specialised in ivory carving business, worked as a team with one of them buying raw ivory and the second carving out ivory objects for sale. They had been carrying their illegal activities for the past 10 years.

In June, an influential and well connected trafficker was arrested in Bafoussam, West Region, with 39 ivory bangles and 3 leopard skins but was never prosecuted and LAGA continues to push for the procedural prosecution of the case as wildlife officials mount obstacles hindering prosecution. This is testimony of the power of ivory traffickers as they are rich and influential with the ability to resist arrest and or circumvent the prosecution process.

### ***9.3 Pangolin Scales***

The illegal trade in pangolin scales is booming and appear to be taking advantage of the circuits of ivory trafficking because ivory traffickers seem to be showing interest in scales trafficking. This is facilitated by the nature of the pangolin trafficking chain which is sustained by the Chinese who are equally the main buyers of illegal ivory. In this regard, the ivory trafficker arrested in February with 12 ivory tusks was equally found with a huge consignment of giant pangolin scales. 5 bags of pangolins scales weighing some 200 kg were seized from the trafficker who had a storeroom in Gaoura Boulai close to the Central African border. Pangolin scales are similar to ivory because they need huge logistical organisation and ivory traffickers are suited for this organisation. Another operation was carried out in Eseka with a small quantity of pangolin scales seized alongside the



main contraband that the trafficker attempted to sell, that is sea turtle shells. Pangolin scales have been the object of many seizures in Asia recently and Cameroon is one of the supplying nations.

#### ***9.4 Cyber trafficking***

The first operation this year was the arrest of three cyber traffickers in Douala who attempted to sell lion and cheetah cubs using the internet as their means of communication. The three cybercriminals had advertised 2 lion and 2 cheetah cubs through the internet. They had forged documents including CITES permits that enabled them to convince clients abroad that they had the legal authorisation to export wildlife from the country. The first two criminals were arrested as they attempted to finalise transactions while the third, the suspected boss of the whole group, was arrested soon afterwards. Their transactions were mainly done through the internet including the use of websites and email. A new brand of wildlife traffickers are eager to take advantage of avenues provided by the internet, to traffic in wildlife products with minimum exposure. A cyber trafficker had been arrested in 2009 in Muyuka, South West Region and he was found to have earlier shipped dozens of primate skulls to the United States.

#### ***9.5 Leopard Skin and Others***

Several other contraband were seized during this period and include three leopard skin seized in June from the trafficker arrested with ivory bangles. He has a big shop that sells diverse art objects, he is influential and well connected. Other wildlife contraband seized included warthog skulls, a python skin in March, a pair of buffalo horns seized in April and a live crocodile seized in February. The illicit wildlife trade concerns a huge and varied base of wildlife species.

### **10. Corruption and Wildlife Crime**

LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. All bribing attempts are documented into our case tracking systems. LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA. LAGA is not a watchdog group and not created as an observer, it fight directly whenever corrupt practices or bribery attempts have been observed.

This on-going fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. After the arrest of an elephant parts trafficker in Ebolowa, in March, the brother of the offender immediately contacted the judicial police officer who was part of the arrest operation to offer bribe and secure his release but this was swiftly rejected by the police officer.

A breach of procedure was observed in the West Region following the arrest in June of a leopard skin and ivory bangles trafficker who was found in the act and the case, despite being a straight forward case of flagrante delicto, witnessed many setbacks posed by wildlife officials who instead of forwarding the case to the state counsel, said investigations to ascertain trafficking on the part of the suspect would continue, whereas the law is clear and possession alone is sufficient to establish offence. All attempts at getting the procedure back to the proper channels are ongoing.

**Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites January-June 2016**



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## Annex I – Case Tracking System – January – June 2016

Case No.	Operation Date	Location (Town Region)	Case Name	Offence	Trafficker	Remarks	International Connections (Countries Involved)	Status
1	1/30/2016	Douala - Littoral	<a href="#">BAIYE OROCK JOSEPH</a>	Illegal Exportation of Lion cubs, Cheetah and Tiger and forgery of CITES Permit and Certificate of Origin .	seller	The accused is a notorious Cyber criminal "scammers" w ho indulge in the illegal exportation of Protected animal species to various precised destinations in countries where the potential buyer is situated in this case Azerbaijan. The accused person used a fraudulent CITES Permit and a fraudulent Certificate of Origin in w hich the Signatiure of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Phillip Ngole Ngw ese.	International Connections (Azerbaijan and Canada)	locked w hile on trial
2	1/30/2016	Douala - Littoral	<a href="#">BETECK OROCK Martin</a>	Illegal Exportation of Lion cubs, Cheetah and Tiger and forgery of CITES Permit and Certificate of Origin .	seller	The accused is a notorious Cyber criminal "scammers" w ho indulge in the illegal exportation of Protected animal species to various precised destinations in countries where the potential buyer is situated in this case Azerbaijan. The accused person used a fraudulent CITES Permit and a fraudulent Certificate of Origin in w hich the Signatiure of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Phillip Ngole Ngw ese.	International Connections (Azerbaijan and Canada)	locked w hile on trial
3	1/30/2016	Douala - Littoral	<a href="#">TABE Peter TAKEM</a>	Illegal Exportation of Lion cubs, Cheetah and Tiger and forgery of CITES Permit and Certificate of Origin .	seller	The accused is a notorious Cyber criminal "scammers" w ho indulge in the illegal exportation of Protected animal species to various precised destinations in countries where the potential buyer is situated in this case Azerbaijan. The accused person used a fraudulent CITES Permit and a fraudulent Certificate of Origin in w hich the Signatiure of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Phillip Ngole Ngw ese.		locked w hile on trial
4	2/9/2016	Bertoua - East	<a href="#">Anthony NWABU NWANNE NWOYE</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 12 Ivory tusks, 2 Elephant molars and 5 bags of giant pangolin scales.	Trader/seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker and dealer in protected animal species particularly giant pangolin. He works in a network with his partners in Abong Mbang and Iomie, and batouri w ho supplies him the ivory and giant pangolin scales w hich he sells to his buyers on demand. He was to sell the pangolin scales for 10,000 FCFA a kg, 50,000 FCFA for the Elephant molars and 3 Million for the Ivory Tusks. The accused also has contacts in China.	International Connections (China, Nigeria and UAE)	locked w hile on trial
5	2/9/2016	Dimako - East	<a href="#">OLINGA BAKBOKE Jean</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 1 live crocodile, 5 Chimpanzee skulls, and 4 Gorilla skulls.	Forest technician/seller	The dealer belongs to a notorious network involved in the trafficking of primates and reptiles particularly Chimpanzee and Gorilla Skulls. He gets these trophies from the neighbouring villages of Ta'a, Loumboum and Nlongtimbi. He sells them to potential buyers at 250,000 FCFA based upon the arrangement with the buyers.		locked w hile on trial
6	2/9/2016	Dimako - East	<a href="#">YUODOM NGOMSI Sidoine</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 1 live crocodile, 5 Chimpanzee skulls, and 4 Gorilla skulls.	Trader/seller	The dealer is a middleman between Olinga and Tchabo and potential buyers. He gets potential buyers for Olinga and Tchabo		locked w hile on trial
7	2/9/2016	Dimako - East	<a href="#">TCHABO MBAKOP Norbert</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 1 live crocodile, 5 Chimpanzee skulls, and 4	seller	The dealer is a typical crocodile and protected reptiles trafficker. He bought the crocodile at 10,000 FCFA and sells them at 25,000 FCFA to potential buyers.		locked w hile on trial

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location (Town Region)</u>	<u>Case Name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Trafficker</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>International Connections (Countries Involved)</u>	<u>Status</u>
8	3/3/2016	Ebolowa - South	<a href="#">Mbala Amougou Benoit</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 3 Elephant tails, 3 Elephant hoofs, and 2 elephant teeth.	Poacher and seller	The dealer is a notorious dealer and poacher in elephants and other protected species. He confessed hunting in the forest of Ngon in Equatorial Guinea. He carries out his hunting activities with a certain Bengono and Ndongo who are members of the network. The dealer admitted that he killed the 3 elephants which trophies were found in his possession together with his accomplice at Mgan. He confessed further killing another	International Connections (Equatorial Guinea)	locked while on trial
9	3/16/2016	Ebolowa - South	<a href="#">ABA Jean Didier</a>	Illegal detention of 4 Gorilla skulls, 8 Chimpanzee skulls, 2 Wart hog skulls and 1 Mandrill skull	Student and Poacher	The dealer is notorious trafficker and hunter specializing in primates as well as Ivories. He admitted that he is a hunter and carries out his hunting activities in the localities of Assok II. He sells these animal trophies at 25.000 FCFA each to potential buyers. He admitted possessing a fire arm used in carrying out his hunting activities. He belongs in the same network with a certain Batchoco a notorious dealer in Ivory		locked while on trial
10	3/16/2016	Ebolowa - South	<a href="#">EVANE George</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 4 Gorilla skulls, 8 Chimpanzee skulls, 2 Wart hog skulls and 1 Mandrill skull	seller	He belongs to the same network as ABA Jean and is an accomplice. He aids in transporting these trophies to potential buyers.		locked while on trial
11	3/20/2016	Ebolowa - South	<a href="#">NYANGON O ELOM Arsene</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 4 Gorilla skulls, 8 Chimpanzee skulls, 2 Warthog skulls and 1 Mandrill skull	seller	He is an accomplice to ABA Jean didier and they belong in the same network. He aids in getting potential buyers as well as ensuring smooth transactions between his brother a poacher Ekoumou and Didier.		locked while on trial
12	3/20/2016	Mintom - South	<a href="#">ASOO Martin</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 4 Ivory tusks weighing 5.5.kg, 23 Hunting firearms, 01 War fire arm, 3 Elephant tails and Elephant meat. - Illegal killing of 2 Elephants	Farmer, Poacher and seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker and poacher in Elephants. He carries out this illegal activity with his partners ZOO, Mbida and Ngambi who all belong to the same network. They carry out this hunting activity with the use of Firearms as well as war fire arms. They proceed of the sale of the elephant trophies are divided amongst them and in this case he claims he was entitled to 30,000 FCFA after the sale of the Ivory tusks.		locked while on trial
13	3/20/2016	Mintom - South	<a href="#">NGAMBI KONGO GERARD</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 4 Ivory tusks weighing 5.5.kg, 23 Hunting firearms, 01 War fire arm, 3 Elephant tails and Elephant meat. - Illegal killing of 2 Elephants	Farmer, Poacher and seller	The dealer is a co-offender to Aso'o and Zo'o and involves in the illegal hunting of Elephants particularly. They spent over a week around the reserve and killed 2 elephants. He claims he was to sell the Elephant meat for 8,000 FCFA and was to receive 30,000 FCFA for sale of the Ivory tusks. He also uses firearms and ammunitions for hunting.		locked while on trial
14	3/29/2016	Bafang - West	<a href="#">SAMBA Venant</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 10 Chimpanzee skulls, 1 Mandrill skull, 1 Elephant tail and 1 Python	Farmer/Seller	The dealer is a notorious hunter who carries out his hunting activities in the localities of Nkondjock. He sells these trophies to potential buyers in Bafang and other neighbouring localities who have links with Chinese buyers.		locked while on trial

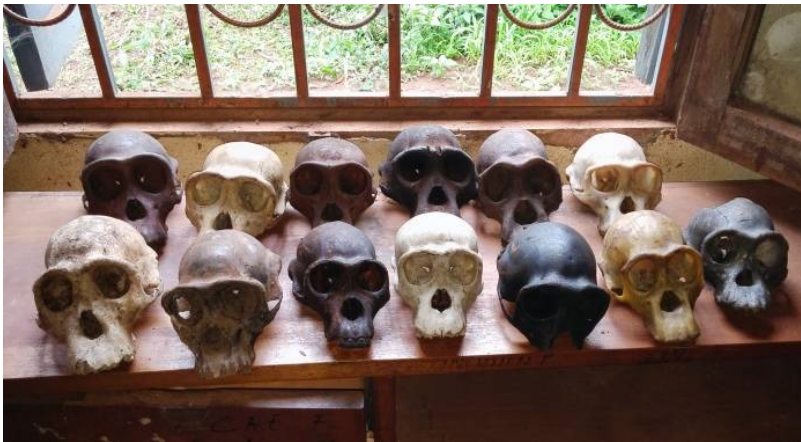
<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location (Town Region)</u>	<u>Case Name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Trafficker</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>International Connections (Countries Involved)</u>	<u>Status</u>
15	4/15/2016	Kumbo - North West	<a href="#">NDAGE Demian ABE</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 15 Mandrill skulls, 6 Gorilla skulls, 2 Monkey skulls, 4 Chimpanzee parts and 1 Buffalo horn.	Driver/seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker in primates particularly chimpanzees, Gorillas and chimpanzee skulls. He also deals in buffalo horns. He was to sell the buffalo horns for 100,000 FCFA, 15,000 FCFA per Mandrill skull and 25,000 FCFA for the Gorilla skulls. He works in collaboration with a certain Nfor Genesis who supplies this primate trophies. He is in the same network as Angoh Sebastien.		locked while on trial
16	4/15/2016	Kumbo - North West	<a href="#">ANGOH Sebastine TATO</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 15 Mandrill skulls, 6 Gorilla skulls, 2 Monkey skulls, 4 Chimpanzee parts and 1 Buffalo horn	Farmer/seller	The dealer is specialized in trafficking primates and their trophies particularly Gorillas, Chimpanzees and Mandrill skulls. He collects these primate trophies from hunters and other sellers and sells them to potential buyers at fixed prices. He intended to sell them at 30,000 FCFA. He belongs to the same network as Ndage		locked while on trial
17	4/26/2016	Eseka - Centre	<a href="#">BIKOL NSOUNGA Jean Joli</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 8 Sea Turtle shells, 3 Chimpanzee skulls and 2 Kg of Pangolin scales.	Farmer/seller	The accused is a poacher and notorious trafficker who works in collaboration with a certain MADE and BATAMAG who belongs in the same network. They sell these trophies to potential buyers on fixed prices. They take these trophies from surrounding village localities.		locked while on trial
18	5/6/2016	Garoua - North	<a href="#">ABDOU Bratal</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 2 Pieces of Ivory, 20 Ivory Chopsticks and 5 Ivory Bangles.	Craftman/seller	The accused is a notorious trafficker and dealer in Ivory and ivory related products. He belongs in the same network as Bakary and gets these Ivory from another dealer in the network from Bouba Njidah. He sells these Ivories to potential buyers on fixed prices.		locked while on trial
19	5/6/2016	Garoua - North	<a href="#">ADIMKO BAKARY</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 2 Pieces of Ivory, 20 Ivory Chopsticks and 5 Ivory Bangles.	Craftman/seller	The accused is a co-offender to Abdou and belongs to the same notorious network. He is an Ivory Sculpter and sculpts ivory gotten from the supplier from Bouba Njidah himself. He sells these transformed ivory to potential buyers at fixed prices.		locked while on trial
20	5/9/2016	Akonolinga - Centre	<a href="#">NDONGO Desire</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 4 Gorilla skulls, and 6 Chimpanzee skulls.	Planter	The dealer is a trafficker involved in primates and other protected animal species. He works in the same network as Biwole George. He sells these to potential buyers at fixed prices. He gets them from the localities at ngelemendouka and helps in transporting them to potential buyers.		locked while on trial
21	5/9/2016	Akonolinga - Centre	<a href="#">BIWOLE Georges Brice</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 4 Gorilla skulls, and 6 Chimpanzee skulls.	Bus Driver	The dealer is a co-offender to Ndongo Desire and they belong to the same network. He assists Ndongo in transporting these primate trophies to potential buyers destinations. He confirmed that he benefits 5,000 FCFA for transportation. They sell these trophies to potential buyers at fixed prices.		locked while on trial
22	6/8/2016	Abong Mbang - East	<a href="#">BIKOM ADJAP Bertrand</a>	Illegal detention and Circulation of 13 Chimpanzee skulls.	Farmer/seller	The accused person is a notorious trafficker in Primates and their trophies. He collected the chimpanzee skulls from somalomo and from nearby villages to the Dja Reserve. He intended to sell the chimpanzee skulls at 10,000 FCFA for the big ones and 5,000 FCFA for the small ones. He works in the same network with MEDIBE who are all co-offenders.		locked while on trial

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location (Town Region)</u>	<u>Case Name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Trafficker</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>International Connections (Countries Involved)</u>	<u>Status</u>
23	6/8/2016	Abong Mbang - East	<a href="#">MEDIBE Dieudonne Simplic</a>	Illegal detention and Circulation of 13 Chimpanzee skulls.	seller	He is a co-offender to BIKOM all of the same network and a notorious dealer in Primates and their trophies. He collected these trophies from villagers at Somalomo and got some around the Dja Reserve. He was to get 115,000 FCFA from the total sale of these chimpanzee skulls.		locked while on trial
24	30/6/2016	Bafoussam - West	<a href="#">Mbougang Joseph</a>	Illegal detention and circulation of 3 leopard skins and 31 ivory bangles	Traditional Ruler/seller	The dealer is a Notable of the Royal Palace of Batie and a traditional ruler of a small village in Batie. He owns a Museum in Bafoussam and Batie. He uses this as a means to carry out illegal trafficking in trophies of Protected animal species particularly Leopard skins and Ivory already transformed into bangles. He intended to sell the leopard skins for 650,000 FCFA for the Ivory no price was		Free while on trial

**Annex II - Semester in Pictures**



*One of two traffickers arrested in the North West Region for trafficking in several primate skulls and other wildlife parts; surrounded by law enforcement officials and dozens of wildlife parts seized from the traffickers at the wildlife office*



*13 chimpanzee skulls seized from two traffickers who travelled from the Dja faunal reserve to Abong Mbang where they were arrested; operations around the Dja faunal reserve are proofs of the devastation ongoing at the World Heritage Site that was once considered to be one of the best protected wildlife areas in the region*



*Nine ape skulls seized in the East Region from a trafficker who bought the skulls from poachers near a logging company (below)*

*Ape skulls - 8 chimpanzee and 4 gorilla seized from three traffickers in Ebolowa (above)*







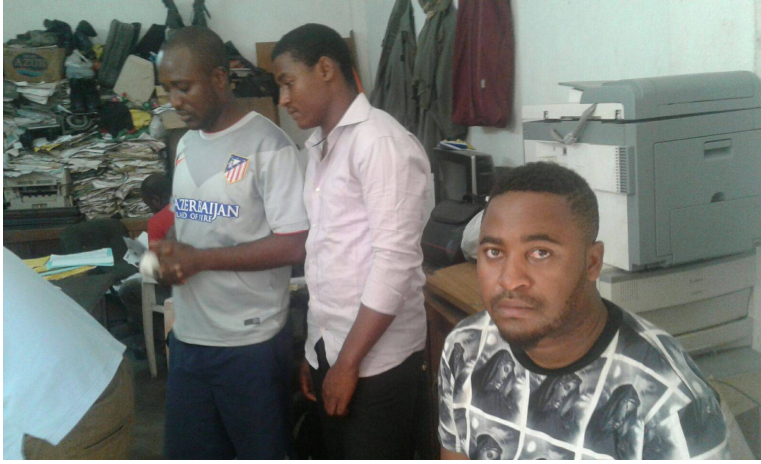
*Two highly alert ape skull traffickers arrested in the Centre region are shortly to be interrogated at the wildlife office following their arrest as they took several precautionary steps to avoid being detected during moments leading to their arrest chimpanzee and gorilla skulls recovered from the two with some still fresh looking (above)*



*An international ivory trafficker arrested in East Region. He has links throughout the sub region and right to Nigeria. At the wildlife office answering to questions (above) and contraband including 12 ivory tusks, over 200 kg of giant pangolin scales seized from trafficker who used the cover posing as spare parts dealer and owns a storeroom for wildlife products (below)*







*Three cybercriminals arrested after attempting to sell two lion cubs and two cheetah cub; they placed advertisements on the internet, the transaction was carried out mainly through the internet. Two of the three arrested cybercriminals at the police station*



*Contraband of ivory bangles and leopard skins seized from an influential and well connected trafficker*

### **Annex III - Semester Media Links**

[CAMEROUN :: Un Pasteur arrêté avec 19 crânes de chimpanzés à Yaoundé. :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



#### [CAMEROUN :: Un Pasteur arrêté avec 19 crânes de chim...](#)

Un homme présenté par l'un de ses proches comme un pasteur, a été arrêté le 16 Décembre 2015, alors qu'il essayait de vendre 19 crâ

[View on camer.be](#)

Preview by Yahoo

[Cameroun: Un Nigérian arrêté à Bertoua pour trafic d'ivoire. :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



#### [Cameroun: Un Nigérian arrêté à Bertoua pour trafic d'ivo...](#)

Un ressortissant nigérian a été arrêté à Bertoua dans la région de l'Est pour détention et commercialisation illégales des pointes d'

[CAMEROUN :: Three wildlife traffickers arrested in Ebolowa with 14 ape skulls :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



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