

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

April 2018 Report



Highlights

- **Two mandrills rescued in Ambam, one trafficker arrested**
- **The deputy director carried out an anti-corruption training at the Garoua Wildlife School**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **a trafficker**.

A primate trafficker was arrested in Ambam in the South Region with two live mandrills – a male and a female. During the operation, the trafficker was arrested at his residence and the mandrills found in an uncomfortable cage. He had been keeping the female mandrill for a couple of years and recently bought the male. He used to go around his neighbourhood with the female mandrill tied to a rope without anyone attending to the unlawfulness of this activity.

The Deputy Director did a training on fighting corruption in wildlife law enforcement for students at the Garoua Wildlife School.

Investigations

- **29 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon namely Littoral, Centre, South, East, South West and West Regions.
- Good investigations in Ambam led to the arrest of one trafficker with 2 live mandrills in Ambam.
- The head of investigation travelled to Douala to reinforce and create working relations with the chief of the customs bureau at the airport, the chief of the cargo section of the airport, the chief of post at the seaport and some MINFOF authorities. He equally travelled to Kribi for the same purpose with the chief of customs bureau and workers of the port.
- The assistant head of department went to Tiko port to reinforce working relations with the chief of custom bureau, the chief of Tiko port, chief of wildlife control post.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
29	6	1	1

Operation

An operation carried out with MINFOF this month **arresting one trafficker.**

27/04/2018 – A trafficker was arrested with 2 live mandrills in Ambam. He was arrested at his residence where the two live mandrills were kept to be sold. He had had the female mandrill for a couple of years now and had recently bought the male chimp from a village located some 30km from Ambam. Initially, he had planned to get the two mandrills copulate and reproduce so that he could start a mandrill business but then decided to sell the two mandrills. He is a businessman and also the manager of a local hotel. He was supposed to be crowned quarter head but the arrest interrupted the process. He is well known in the area.

Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
1	1	1	2 live mandrills

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **13 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 1 in Mfou (Centre Region), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 2 in Ambam (South), 1 in Ebolowa (South), 3 in Djoum (South), 2 in Bangangte (West) and 2 in Bertoua (East).
- There are **15 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in East region, 2 in Adamaoua region, 1 in South West region, 1 in West region, 6 in South region, and 2 in Littoral region.
- **32 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **25 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **2 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was one court ruling this month.
- **17/04/2018**: The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused **AFOUMOU Emile and MOUKO Clément** guilty as charged and sentenced them to **2 years suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 202,760 FCFA as fine and 3.000.000 FCFA as civil damages**. They were arrested in Ebolowa on the 11/10/2016 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species including two sculptured ivory tusks, carved ivory pieces and chips.

There was an appeal this month in the case of **AFOUMOU Emile and MOUKO Clément**.

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
13	1	0	0	2	1	25

Media

- **24 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio and internet including; 11 written press material (8 in English and 3 in French), 10 radio news flashes (6 in French and 4 in English) and 3 internet publications (2 in French and 1 in English).
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Djoum ivory court case and the Yaounde arrest of two for trafficking in ivory artefacts.
- 13 media pieces in English and 11 in French making a percentage of 54% in English and 46% in French.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
24	0	10	11	3

External Relations and Policy

- The deputy director carried out an anti-corruption training for students of the Garoua Wildlife School. The training was done for students of both cycles (B and C) of the school. He equally distributed wildlife justice magazine on corruption to all of the students.
- The deputy director attended the official ceremony of the installation of the management team of OCFSA that has been revamped and is expected to start functioning fully. He equally held a meeting with the environment specialist of the US Embassy to discuss strategies to fight wildlife crime.
- The head of the legal department attended a meeting aimed at reinvigorating the CITES committee of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife that had for a long time gone into lethargy.
- The head of the legal department held a meeting with the general attorney of Appeal Court of East to discuss legal strategies concerning the cases pending in court and he equally held another meeting with the state counsel of Djoum for the same purpose. A legal adviser of the department held a meeting with the state counsel of Douala Bonanjo while another legal adviser held a meeting with state counsel of Ambam, both to discuss wildlife cases pending in the various courts.

Management

- A jurist from the project in Senegal travelled to the country(Cameroon) for a three-week training and he is expected to be hosted by the legal department
- More LAGA members continued vaccination against communicable diseases and zoonosis that has been organised for those exposed to handling baby primates during operations. The process started in February.
- LAGA continued search for a new office. The search was started last year because of the dilapidated state of the present office and the increase in the number of members who are finding it difficult to have enough space within the present structure.

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>.

Presentation: History of Apartheid

The head of the investigation took us through the history of apartheid recounting how the Dutch and the English occupied the territories which were owned by the Zulus and other African tribes that were forced to leave. He analysed the situation, the discrimination and maltreatment Africans went through and highlighted the process that led to the final liberation. Discussions focused on some of the treatment blacks suffered, the role played by the Mandelas and the fight engaged by black South Africans.

Documentary: The Ivory Game

The documentary uncovers what goes on with China's legal ivory trade that is used as the spring board to an even bigger ivory trade this time illegal as undercover work demonstrates the real situation with the ivory trade in China. It also depicts the slaughter of the African elephant and the sinister poaching and profit making that goes around. It equally highlights the work law enforcement that is carried out by some brave people and the important role a Chinese journalist played in ensuring operations against ivory traffickers. Conversation focused on investigation tactics as our investigators were delighted to see some of the things they do on the screen and the various operations screened were roundly observed and commented. The movie received a glorious reception by all and the bigger picture of ivory trafficking, how it soars far beyond the local poacher, Chinese politics and the lack of will to stamp out illegal ivory trade and the complex chain of ivory trafficking were debated among many others.

Link of the month

The seizure of hundreds of ivory and the involvement of two persons arrested in Yaounde, was published on Camer.be site.

<http://www.camer.be/67409/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-over-one-hundredof-carved-ivory-pieces-seized-in-hotel-shop-in-yaounde.html>

YouTube Statistic:

2605 views within 2 weeks

Finance

Please check LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org for monthly financial reports.

This Month in Pictures



Mandrill rescued from a trafficker in Ambam, had been leaving in pitiful conditions



Arrested for unlawful possession of two live mandrills which he has been keeping at his residence



Mandrills were transferred to the Mefou primate sanctuary following their rescue for lifetime support and care that shall be provided by Ape Action Africa



Mandrills in their newly constructed cage looking forward to the journey to Mefou where they shall be treated as real mandrills