

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

December 2016 Report



Highlights

- **Customs arrest 4 airport officials over the illegal export of 680 kg of pangolin scales. LAGA provided technical advice, legal and media assistance.**
- **The entire LAGA family went on annual vacation while the Head of the Legal Department welcomed a new born baby into his family and the Assistant Head of the Media Department lost her father. .**

General

Arrest by customs of 4 airport officials over 680 kg of pangolin scales about to be smuggled to Malaysia by a trafficking network based at the airport. LAGA provided technical advice, legal and media assistance to customs of the anti trafficking unit that carried out the operation. The first official was arrested immediately after the scales that were about to be loaded on board a commercial airline flight at the Nsimalen International Airport were found to be illegal and it was discovered that fake documents had been used by the traffickers. Investigations which are ongoing would later uncover the network with three others arrested.

Investigations

- **13 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **7 regions** of Cameroon - Littoral, East, Northwest, Adamawa, West, Centre, and South Regions.
- Technical assistance was provided by the department following the arrests of 4 traffickers at the Yaounde - Nsimalen airport for illegal export of 680 kg of pangolin scales.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
13	7	0	0

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **17 missions** out of Yaoundé- Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Nkongsamba (Littoral), 3 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 2 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Dschang (West), 1 in Batouri (East), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East) and 4 in Bertoua (East).
- There are **31 dealers behind bars this month**: 6 in East region, 3 in Centre region, 5 in Northwest region, 4 in Southwest region, 1 in North region, 3 in West region, 2 in Adamawa region, 4 in South region and 3 in Littoral region.
- **41 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **37 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **4 dealers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: 2 judgments were passed this month.
 - **02/12/2016**: The Tibati Court of First Instance – Adamawa, found the accused **NDJOHEU Jean Marie and NWANA DOH Felix** guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and bullets They were sentenced as follows: **3 months imprisonment term each; payment of 8.115.000 F CFA jointly as civil damages, 300.000 F CFA each as fine, 425.600 F CFA for as court fees and 18 months imprisonment in default of the payment of such fines.** They were arrested in Ngaoundal for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 128 kg of giant pangolin scales and bullets.
 - **06/12/2016**: The East Court of Appeal found the accused **YANDA Emmanuel and SAKOL Joseph Stéphane** guilty and sentenced them to 6 months suspended

sentence during 3 years and to pay **6.431.000 FCFA as civil damages and 129.000 F CFA as court fees**. They were arrested in Doume for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 1 gorilla skull, 1 warthog skull and 1 elephant tail.

- The Legal Department provided technical assistance and followed up the case against the arrest and possession of 4 people for illegal export of 680 kg of pangolin scales at the Nsimalen international airport.
- The Head of the Legal Department had a bouncing new baby delivered into his family.

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	2	2	3	2	0	31

Media

- **35 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio and internet including; 15 written press material (8 in English and 7 in French), 13 radio news flashes (7 in French and 6 in English) and 7 internet publications (5 in French and 2 in English).
- Interviewee: Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife Kadey.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Ebolowa arrest of 2 major ivory traffickers, Batouri arrest of three people smuggling a chimp, Tibati court ruling sentencing 2 pangolin scale traffickers, Nsimalen international airport arrest of illegal pangolin scale exporters and the sentencing by Bertoua court of a pangolin scale trafficker of Nigerian nationality .
- 19 media pieces in French and 16 in English making a percentage of 55% in French and 45% in English.
- Significant media support and exposure was provided by the department in the case of the arrest of four airport officials at the Nsimalen international airport for illegal export of pangolin scales.
- The Assistant Head of the Media Department lost her father. Condolences to her and her entire family.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
35	0	13	15	7

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director attended a meeting at the residence of the US Ambassador that focused on introducing the new Central African Institute that shall be based in Cameroon hosted by the University of California.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Mentor PoP fellows on preparations for the upcoming World Pangolin Day.
- Several meetings were held by with the following; the Attorney General in Bertoua and in Douala, Senior State Counsels of Ebolowa and Batouri on matters pending in their jurisdictions, the state counsel in Nkongsamba for the same purpose and the head of the anti-trafficking unit at the Nsimalen airport.
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Management

- The Director arrived the country for a three-day working visit and held several meetings with management and other team members.
- An investigator was swiftly removed following an internal investigation that found dishonesty. LAGA is built on values that are rigorously kept while equally exercising zero tolerance on disrespect for these values
- Recruitment process in the legal and investigations department continued with interviews conducted for prospective candidates.

Activism Front: Leadership

A belated subject as far as presentations in LAGA are concerned, as the organisation takes strongly to making leaders out of ordinary people, this presentation is nevertheless timely in a world that is facing leadership questions and the revival of the strong man and newly found protectionism by these strong men. The presentation tackles four components, description of leadership, approaches to leadership, source of leadership and traits of good leaders. It equally gives guidelines for effective leadership while exposing the advantages and disadvantages of leadership. Talking points revolved around practical nature of the presentation, the harrowing legitimacy of political leadership in Africa and ultimate role of a good leader and how society can benefit from one.

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.

This Month in Pictures



680 kg of pangolin scales seized as they were about to be loaded onboard a commercial airline to Malaysia, 4 arrested by customs.

Links of the month

[Cameroun /Batouri : un chimpanzé vivant secouru](#)

Al wihda info reports on the arrest of three in East Cameroon, smuggling a chimpanzee and tells the story of how it unfolded while describing the conditions in which the chimp was kept. The chimp is one among thousands forced to live with humans after the shooting and killing of their mother.