

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## June 2016 Report



### Highlights

- **2 operations carried out and 3 traffickers arrested with chimpanzee skulls, ivory and leopard skins**
- **2 traffickers arrested in first operation with 13 chimpanzee skulls in Abong Mbang**
- **A trafficker arrested in Bafoussam with ivory bangles and leopard skins.**
- **The Deputy Director held meeting with Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas.**
- **Head of Investigation Department returned from Senegal following an operation assistance mission in the country.**
- **The Finance Officer of the Central Coordination Unit of the EAGLE Network arrived for a two-week working visit, the Assistant coordinator of the AALF-B, Benin left after a month training.**

### General

This month was marked by arrests of **3 traffickers during two operations.**

The first operation was carried out in **Abong Mbang in the East Region** arresting **2 traffickers with 13 chimpanzee skulls**. The two who travelled from Somalomo that is close to the Dja Reserve are also implicated in the ferrying of chimpanzee meat from around the Dja Reserve to Abong Mbang and Yaounde for sale.

During the second operation, an influential and well connected **trafficker arrested in Bafoussam, West Region, with 39 ivory bangles and 3 leopard skins** but LAGA continues to push for the procedural prosecution of the case as wildlife officials mount obstacles for the legal procedure to continue. He is 72 years old.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas. The Head of Investigation returned from Senegal where he provided operational assistance to SALF.

The EAGLE Network Finance Officer from the Central Coordination Unit arrived the country to audit and assist the financial management of LAGA while the Assistant Coordinator of AALF Benin, completed a month-long training

## Investigations

- **20 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in 7 **Regions** of Cameroon - Littoral, East, West, Centre, Nord West, South West and South Regions.
- Good investigations in **Somalomo** led to arrest of **2 traffickers** in Abong Mbang with 13 skulls chimpanzee.
- Good Investigation in **Bafoussam** led to arrest of **one trafficker** in Bafoussam with 3 leopard skins and 39 ivory bangles.
- The Head of Department returned from Senegal where he provided operation assistance during operations in Ziguenchor where two traffickers were arrested with an impressive amount of ivory products and turtle shells.

## Operations

**Two operations** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 3 traffickers**.

- **8/06/16 – 2 traffickers 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.
- **30/06/16 – One trafficker arrested 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 continues to push for the procedural prosecution of the case as wildlife officials mount obstacles for the legal procedure to continue.. He is 72 years old.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **16 missions** out of Yaoundé- Centre Region: 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 2 in Bafoussam (West), 1 in Bafang (West), 3 in Abong Mbang (East), 1 in Lomie (East), 1 in Mamfe (South-West), 1 in Buea South-West), 2 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Eseka (Centre) and 1 in Kumbo (North-West).
- There are **36 dealers behind bars this month**: 10 in East region, 5 in Centre region, 5 in North West region, 4 in South West region, 2 in North region, 4 in West region and 6 in South region.
- **33 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **31 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: We had one judgment this month.
  - **21/06/2016**: The Djoum Court of First Instance, South found the accused **ASO'O Martin and NGAMBI Kongo Gerard** guilty of illegal possession of trophies of totally protected species (4 ivory tusks and 3 elephant tails) and for the illegal killing of 2 elephants. They were sentenced to **10 months closed imprisonment term each and to pay jointly 200.000 FCFA as fines and 1.000.000 FCFA as Civil damages**. They

were arrested in Mintom on the 20/03/2016 for the illegal killing of 2 elephants and illegal possession of 4 ivory tusks.

### **Media**

- **20 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio and internet including; 12 written press material (7 in English and 5 in French), 5 radio news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English) and 3 internet publications (2 in French and 1 in English).
- Interviewee: Bui Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Kumbo arrest of 2 primate traffickers in Kumbo and Abong Mbang arrest of two traffickers with 13 chimp skulls.
- 10 media pieces in French and 10 in English making a percentage of 50% in each language.

### **External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Area to examine the case of two illegal zoos in Yaounde and Douala and to discuss on freeing a chimpanzee that is reported to have been held in captivity for 12 years in Edea.
- He and The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Head of the Legal Unit to discuss matters concerning lawyers honorariums and collaboration with the Ministry on wildlife matters being handled by courts.
- The Deputy Director equally held a meeting with an official from the Prague zoo on wildlife law enforcement around the Dja Faunal Reserve
- Several meetings were held by some legal advisers with State Counsels in Abong Mbang, Bafang, Mamfe, Bertoua, and Akonolinga to discuss cases in their jurisdiction and one meeting with the Attorney General of the East Region in Bafoussam, on an appeal case in the town.

### **Management**

- The EAGLE Network Finance Officer arrived the country to audit and assist the finance management of LAGA.
- The recruitment process of a new internet investigator was started and a job advert put in a private newspaper. Two candidates were interviewed and the process is ongoing.

### **Activism Front: Presentation: 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.

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

### **Finance**

**In preparation and would be made available soon as possible.**

**This Month in Pictures**



*13 chimpanzee skulls seized from two traffickers who travelled from Dja faunal reserve to Abong Mbang where they were arrested. Traffickers at the wildlife office shortly before commencement of complaint reports (below)*



*Influential and well connected trafficker with ivory bangles and leopard skins at the Wildlife office and contraband (below)*



## **Link of the month**

Two arrested in Abong Mbang with ape skulls as Camerbe, Cameroon's popular online news site recounts the events around their arrest. The two who left a locality closed to the Dja faunal reserve transported ape parts from the area to as far off as Yaounde.

[Cameroun: Deux individus arrêtés à Abong Mbang avec une douzaine de crânes de Chimpanzé :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



### **Cameroun: Deux individus arrêtés à Abong Mbang avec un...**

Deux personnes ont été arrêtées à Abong Mbang au cours d'une opération menée par la Délégation Départementale des Forêts

View on [www.camer.be](http://www.camer.be)

Preview by Yahoo