

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## September 2016 Report



### Highlights

- **One operation carried out and one trafficker arrested; 109 pieces of carved ivory contraband seized**
- **The Financial Officer of EAGLE arrived the country to assist in recruiting an accountant and worked on auditing financial records.**
- **The Deputy Director met with the Vice Dean in charge of research at the University of Yaounde II - Soa and with some MINFOF regional delegates.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **a major ivory trafficker during an operation.**

A trafficker arrested in **Douala in the Littoral Region** with **109 pieces of carved ivory** objects during an operation at a very dangerous area which is considered to be the centre of illegal ivory in the country. The trafficker was subject to a long undercover investigation and proved to be smart and suspicious and managed to avoid getting caught in several occasions. This time the team finally managed to outsmart him. The trafficker was violent and resisted arrest while being assisted by friends and accomplices that agitated the violence, but the situation was put under control by the team.

EAGLE's Financial Officer arrived the country to assist in the recruitment of a new accountant and to work on financial reporting within the organisation while an investigator equally arrived for training and experience sharing

## Investigations

- 15 investigations of varying lengths were carried out in 7 Regions of Cameroon- Littoral, East, West, Centre, South West, Adamaoua and South Regions.
- Good investigations in Douala led to the arrest of one trafficker in possession of 109 carved ivory pieces.
- The department is hosting an investigator who arrived from Senegal

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
15	8	1	1

## Operation

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

- **30/9/16 – one trafficker arrested in Douala, Centre Region with 29 carved pieces**, He is a big time ivory trafficker who operates from the Marche de Fleurs, a market that is considered to be a hideout for ivory traffickers in Douala and a hub for international ivory trafficking in the sub region. He belongs to a ring of traffickers operating from this area and as he resisted arrest, several of his accomplices and friends violently sort to release him as he was arrested by the police.

*Operations Table*

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
1	1	1	109 carved ivory pieces

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **11 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Mfou (Centre), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bafang (West), 1 in Mbanga (Littoral), 1 in Mamfe (South-West), 1 in Eseka (Centre), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 2 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Garoua ( North).
- There are **36 dealers behind bars this month**: 10 in East region, 4 in Centre region, 5 in North West region, 4 in South West region, 2 in North region, 3 in West region, 6 in South region and 2 in Littoral region.

- **31 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **27 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- No dealers were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions:** There were no court rulings this month.

***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
11	0	0	0	0	0	27

**Media**

- **31 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 3 internet publications (2 in French and 1 in English).
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the Ngaoundal arrest of two giant pangolin scales trafficker, an arrest in Douala of an ivory trafficker, the imprisonment of 2 chimp skull traffickers in Abong Mbang, the arrest of 5 persons with 200 radiated turtle in Madagascar and the Njombe arrest of a turtle shell trafficker.
- 16 media pieces in French and 15 in English making a percentage of 51% in French and 49% in English.

***Media Table***

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
31	0	13	15	3

**External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Vice Dean in charge of research at the University of Yaounde II - Soa to discuss issues on the wildlife law and its enforcement in the field by LAGA and with the two Regional Delegates of North and Adamoua respectively to discuss collaborative efforts and wildlife law enforcement in their part of the country. He equally held a meeting with three officials from WWF Congo who called to discuss the EAGLE model and its proper application in the field.

- The Head of the Legal Department did a presentation on the writing of an effective offence statement and the calculation of civil damages in wildlife case during a workshop organized by TRAFFIC in Garoua, North Region for stakeholders involved in combating wildlife crime.
- Several meetings were held by some legal advisers with State Counsels in Mamfe, Douala, and Mbanga to discuss cases in their jurisdiction and with the Advocate General of the East Court of Appeal on legal strategies in matters pending in court.

## **Management**

- A new accountant started his test period under the supervision of the EAGLE Finance Officer who arrived the country for the purpose and to work on financial reporting and recording within the department.
- A Senegalese investigator arrived the country for a 3-week training period
- A programme to train LAGA members on first aid by the Cameroon Red Cross continued, with the third trainee completing her course in August. Members shall be trained in the upcoming months as they attend the course in different badges.

### **Activism Front: Presentation on the New Penal Code in Cameroon**

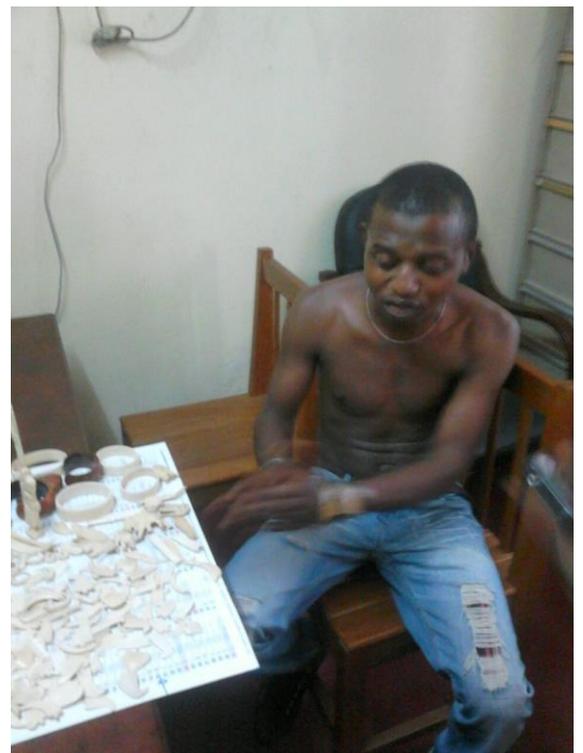
Two jurists from the legal department took time off to prepare and present the main changes that were introduced to the new penal code following its revision and adoption that was done this year amidst numerous debates among professionals and the public. Several changes and amendments were made that directly affect the lives of ordinary Cameroonians on issues such as the payment of rents, on adultery, on gender equality but the presentation looked at changes that affect the work of wildlife law enforcement and in this regard the probable replacement of an imprisonment term with that of a community service was of significant importance. Debates was concentrated on this topic and as well as on the various changes that are found in the new penal code.

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**



***A major trafficker arrested in Doula with ivory contraband as his accomplices violently sought to hamper arrest.***

## Links of the month

[CAMEROUN :: Cameroon: Over 100 kg of giant pangolins scales seized, two arrested - Camer.be](#)

Online news site Al Wihda Info outlines the operation that got two people arrested in the Admaoua region and highlights the collaboration among the various authorities that enabled a successful operation while focusing on the dangers of scales trafficking to the pangolin in a region that hosts the Mbam and Djerem National Park



### Cameroun /Ngaoundal : Plus de 100 kg d'écailles de pangolins saisis

By Abraham Ndjana Modo

Deux suspects ont été appréhendés lors d'une opération menée à Ngaoundal par des agents de la délégation dép...