

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

April 2013 Report



Highlights

- **Chinese dealer and his Cameroonian accomplices arrested with 7 big sacs of giant pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria.**
- **Another international ivory trafficker with connections to the Republic of Congo, South Africa and Guinea Bissau arrested in Djoum - South.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of more international wildlife traffickers including a Chinese dealer in pangolin scales and an international ivory trafficker in Cameroon.

A total of 5 dealers arrested this month following 3 operations. **A high level wildlife trafficker and repeated offender of Chinese nationality arrested with his 2 Cameroonian accomplices with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales** while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West. He has connections to and denounced other members of a big wildlife trafficking network. The Chinese with no legal stay in Cameroon **was already apprehended at the Douala International airport while trying to traffick 160 kg of giant pangolin scales** by the Custom Authorities. After his arrest, he attempted to bribe the LAGA Legal Adviser in the field with 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000), an act that was promptly combated. The operation was carried out with the Limbe custom officials and MINFOF Fako Delegation. This arrest follows a string of seizures and arrests clamping down on the booming trade in Giant Pangolin's scales.

In another operation, a long time and experienced international ivory trafficker who frequents **the Republic of Congo** from where he has a network of suppliers especially in Ouesso was **arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South**. He has connections to South Africa and Guinea Bissau. Also, a female dealer carrying out pet trade in wildlife was arrested with a live primate in Douala - Littoral. She owns a restaurant that she uses as a cover for the trade. The live primate was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.

Investigations

- **27 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **8 Regions** of Cameroon- North West, South West, South, East, West, Adamawa, Littoral and Center.
- LAGA Director carried out special training sessions with Investigators so as to enable a more effective performance in terms of intelligence, evidence gathering with use of equipment and reports on high level target dealers.
- Good investigations led to the arrest of a major ivory trafficker with connections to the Republic of Congo, South Africa and Guinea Bissau.
- Good information from an Informant in Limbe led to the arrest of an international dealer in protected wildlife products of Chinese nationality and his Cameroonian accomplices.
- Field test was done this month with 1 candidate.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo Investigations Department on Investigations and Operation Procedures.

Operations

3 operations carried out this month led to the arrest of **5 major dealers**

- **08/04/13** – A long time and experienced international ivory trafficker who frequents **the Republic of Congo** from where he has a network of suppliers especially in Ouesso was

arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South. He also has connections to South Africa and Guinea Bissau.

- **12/04/13 - A female dealer carrying out pet trade in wildlife arrested with a live primate in Douala - Littoral.** She owns a restaurant that she uses as a cover for the trade. The live primate was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.
- **28/04/13 - A high level wildlife trafficker and repeated offender of Chinese nationality arrested with his 2 Cameroonian accomplices with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales** while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West. He has connections to and denounced other members of a big wildlife trafficking network. The Chinese with no legal stay in Cameroon was already apprehended at the Douala International airport while trying to traffick 160 kg of giant pangolin scales by the Custom Authorities. After his arrest, he attempted to bribe the LAGA Legal Adviser in the field with 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000), an act that was promptly combated. The operation was carried out with the Limbe custom officials and MINFOF Fako Delegation. This arrest follows a string of seizures and arrests clamping down on the booming trade in Giant Pangolin's scales.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **17 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Melong (Littoral), 1 in Limbe (South West), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 2 in Djoum (South), 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 3 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Yokadouma (East) and 1 in Bamenda (North West).
- There are **42 dealers behind bars during this month:** 16 in the East Region, 4 in the South West Region, 5 in Centre region, 1 in North West region, 15 in South Region, and 1 in Littoral region.
- **33 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **30 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions:** No case was sentenced this month.

Media front

- **33 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, and written press including: 17 written press material (11 in English, 6 in French), 4 radio talk shows in English, 1 radio news feature in English and 11 news flashes (6 in English and 5 in French).
- **Guests included:** Fako Divisional Delegate MINFOF.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including:** 20 ivory tusk dealer arrest in Djoum, Congo ivory dealer arrest - court hearing, sea turtle shell traffickers arrest in two different operations in the Ocean Division and court hearing, and Limbe arrest of a Chinese pangolin scales dealer, Yaounde 24 tusks ivory dealer arrest.
- 22 media pieces in English, 11 in French making a percentage of 66.7% in English and 33.3% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA Director met with CED Director on land grabbing, corruption and forest transparency.
- LAGA Director met with two potential volunteers to the LAGA Replications network.
- LAGA Director met with WCS on investigations issues.
- LAGA Director met with EU ambassador on criticism against funding strategy in the aftermath of the Bouba Ndjida massacre and applying the Donors Governance Investment Manual for more effective funding to the wildlife sector.

- Meeting with Global Witness on Luc Mathot's ALEFI initiative - LAGA's replication for illegal logging in Gabon.
- LAGA Director met with Customs' Department of Cooperation on better collaboration on wildlife arrest operations and a MoU.
- Meeting with Birdlife international on the illegal trade in African grey parrots in the region.
- LAGA Director met with GIZ and WCS on the need to get better control in MINFOF to prevent traffickers from installing their vested interest in the heart of the ministry using legal trade schemes to launder their activities.

Management

- The former Head of Legal Department and Deputy LAGA Director - Alain Ononino went to WWF – CARPO as National Law Enforcement for Cameroon, a post he helped to create in a process of LAGA guiding WWF in stronger enforcement. It is hoped that he will take along LAGA's law enforcement engagement, the fight against corruption and accountability in the NGO world. Collaboration with Alain will continue on law enforcement issues to better protect wildlife in Cameroon and in LAGA's replication projects in Africa.
- One Management Assistant was engaged this month to aid in management activities in the absence of the LAGA Assistant Manager who is on maternity leave.

Activism Front

All the education 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>.

Education activity this month was on:

Film projection: *'La France contre la Chine: main mise sur l'Afrique'*

The film depicts the Chinese and French presence in Cameroon. It equally shows how both countries carry out activities in Cameroon with respect to their particular interests and the effects on Cameroon and Cameroonians. Though the judgment of who relates well in the documentary between Chinese and French is unequal, the film exposes the care free nature of Chinese communism. The Chinese attitude of grabbing everything for themselves is highly criticized.

Replication

During this month, LAGA worked with other replication projects in planning and coordinating missions with PALF, AALF and GALF on investigations and operations.

LAGA also assisted GALF and TALF on their financial reports

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by Budget Line for April 2013

Amount FCFA			Amount USD
2,456,108	Investigations	27 inv, 7 Regions	\$4,873
985,300	Operations	3 Operations against 5 subjects	\$1,955
2,914,223	Legal	follow up 33 cases 42 locked subjects	\$5,782
1,445,350	Media	33 Media pieces	\$2,868
1,469,263	Policy & External Relations	Togo/Chad/Guinea/Israel	\$2,915
997,150	Management	Coordination	\$1,978
1,519,811	Office		\$3,015
498,600	LAGA Family	Labour Day Celebration	\$989
12,285,804	TOTAL EXPENDITURE APRIL		\$24,377

LAGA Expenditure by Donor for April 2013

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
3,459,013	FWS	\$6,863.1
3,010,913	FWS-Replication	\$5,974.0
1,482,096	BornFree UK	\$2,940.7
46,700	Rufford	\$92.7
0	IFAW	\$0.0
332,800	EIA	\$660.3
80,000	ProWildlife	\$158.7
3,874,283	ARCUS Foundation	\$7,687.1
0	Conde Nast Award	\$0.0
12,285,804	TOTAL	\$24,376.6

This Month in Pictures



A high level wildlife trafficker and repeated offender of Chinese nationality (left) arrested with his 2 Cameroonians with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales (right) while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West. After his arrest, he attempted to bribe the LAGA Legal Adviser in the field with 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000), an act that was promptly combated. The operation was carried out with the Limbe custom officials and MINFOF Fako Delegation.



160 kg of giant pangolin scales seized by the customs at the Douala international airport about to be exported by the same Chinese arrested in Limbe. He has connections to and denounced other members of a big wildlife trafficking network. The arrest follows a string of seizures and arrests clamping down on the booming trade in Giant Pangolin's scales.



A long time international ivory trafficker who frequents the Republic of Congo from where he has a network of suppliers especially in Ouessou arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South. He has connections to South Africa and Guinea Bissau.

Links of this month

- A Chinese wildlife trafficker and his 2 Cameroonian accomplices arrested – Canal 2 International, a Television Channel with international coverage based in Cameroon. They were arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West by the Limbe custom officials and MINFOF Fako Delegation.

http://www.youtube.com/edit?video_id=IXu-Y0-pPIY