

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

November 2014 Report



Highlights

- **Three operations carried out this month resulted in 3 traffickers arrested**
- **A trafficker arrested for shooting and killing of Moon a chimpanzee described in Sheeri Speede's *Kindred Beings***
- **Two others arrested for trafficking in ape skulls in Yaounde and Ma'an, South Region**
- **LAGA family takes time off to relax at the seaside town of Limbe after a hectic year.**
- **Head of the Legal Department welcomes a new baby into his family while on mission to Senegal**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of three traffickers during three operations with ape skulls seized from two traffickers while a trafficker who had been on the run for close to two months arrested.

The first arrest took place in Yaounde, Centre where a **trafficker was arrested with 3 gorilla skulls** seized. He travelled from the South to Yaounde with the skulls.

In the second operation, in Ma'an, South, **1 trafficker was arrested, 1 gorilla and 8 chimpanzee skulls seized**. He is a well known trafficker around the Ma'an and Messama areas in the South Region..

During the third operation of the month, **in Belabo East, a major trafficker was arrested**. He had killed a Moon, a chimpanzee rescued some 10 years and nurtured at the Sanaga Yong Sanctuary by Sheeri Speede who told the story of Moon in her book *Kindred Beings*. Moon had strayed out of the centre and was shot dead by the man who sold her meat. He was released shortly after incarceration by the State prosecutor.

Two court rulings were passed this month and **1 trafficker was convicted and ordered to pay fines and damages of over 500 000 CFA F or serve 6 months in jail** and in another court a suspect was discharged and acquitted of charges of illegal possession and commercialization of 1 leopard skin. An appeal was lodged against the ruling..

A number of social activities took place within the month as the LAGA family took time off to rest and bond together at the seaside resort town of Limbe, South. Before going to Limbe they had visited the Head of the Investigation Department to welcome a baby girl who came into his family in October 2013. The Head of the Legal Department too welcomed a baby girl into his family this month while he was on mission to Senegal to assist SALF in an operation that saw the arrest of 5 traffickers and 1 753 wildlife products seized. .

Investigations

- **20 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon-Littoral, East, Centre, North West, South and West Regions.
- Good investigations in Ebolowa led to the arrest of a trafficker in possession of gorilla and chimp skulls. He brought the products from Mengong to Yaounde.
- Excellent investigations in **Ma'an** resulted to the arrest of a trafficker in several elephant and gorilla skulls.
- Investigations in **Meyene** led to an operation where a notorious trafficker was apprehended after escaping the drag nets of the forces of law and order and MINFOF for a while.
- Investigations were carried out in Yaounde but an operation did not take place because the trafficker did not show up.

Operations

Three operations carried out this month with MINFOF arresting **3 traffickers**

- **03/11/14 – 1 trafficker arrested with 3 gorilla skulls** – Yaounde, Centre for illegal possession and commercialisation. The trafficker belongs to a network of gorilla trophies and parts of other protected wildlife species trafficking and he travelled from the South to Yaounde where he was expecting to sell the skulls. He buys and sells the skulls for a profit.
- **27/11/14 – 1 trafficker arrested in Ma'an, South during an operation that saw the seizure of 1 gorilla and 8 chimpanzee skulls.** He is a well known trafficker in the area who had suspended activity following the Ebola scare but had resumed the illegal trade shortly before he was arrested. He rode a bike from Ma'an to Messama South to supply the products and was arrested along the way. The closeness of these activities to the Ma'an National Park is a cause for concern.
- **30/11/14 - a major trafficker was arrested in Belabo East for shooting, butchering and selling the remains of Moon, a chimpanzee belonging to the Sanaga Yong Sanctuary.** The killer of the orphaned baby chimp that arrived Sanaga Yong sanctuary of IDA together with Future and other baby survivors of the slaughter of their families twelve years ago was under the spell of an arrest warrant issued against him 3 months ago but he had used many tricks to escape arrest.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **19 missions** out of Yaounde- Centre Region: 1 in Mfou (Centre), 3 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Batouri (East), 2 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Kribi (Soth), 3 in Ambam (South), 1 in Tombel (South West), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 1 in Fouban (West), 1 in Bangangte (West), and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **44 traffickers behind bars during this month**: 13 in the East Region, 10 in Centre region, 2 in Littoral Region, 10 in South Region, 2 in West Region and 7 in South West Region.
- **31 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **30 cases** scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: We had 2 judgments this month.
 - 11/11/2014: The Bangangte Court of First Instance – West, found the accused **Djeudji Jean Bosco** not guilty of charges brought against him. He was also declared not liable to pay any civil damages. He was arrested in Bangangte for illegal possession and commercialization of 1 Leopard skin.

- 18/11/2014: The Bertoua Court of Court of Appeal – East, convicted **Mpoul John Stephan** to pay **500.000 CFA Frs as damages**. He was also convicted to pay cost fees of **50.000 FCA Frs and 36.573 FCFA frs as fines or serve 6 months imprisonment in default of payment of the said fines**. He was arrested in Mindourou for illegal possession and commercialization of 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jaw bones.
- **Appeal:** An appeal have been filed this month in the Bafoussam Court of Appeal against the ruling in the **Djeudji Jean Bosco** case.

Media front

- **25 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, TV and internet including: 13 written press material (8 in English 5 in French), 5 radio talk shows all in English, 4 news flashes 2 each in English and 2 in French, 1 TV news production in French and 2 internet publication all in English.
- **Guests include:** Central Africa project officer for TRAPS – TRAFFIC and the Divisional delegate of forestry and wildlife Noun.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including:** the arrest of traffickers with ape and elephant parts in Bertoua, arrest of pangolin scales trafficker in Batouri, Magba arrest of 2 men with a live chimp and chimp limbs, arrest of a trafficker with 3 gorilla skulls in Yaounde, arrest of traffickers including a Congolese army lieutenant with elephant meat and other species in Congo and the arrest of a chimp trafficker in Ma'an.
- 17 media pieces in English, 8 in French making a percentage of 68% in English and 32% in French.

Activism front

Projection of a documentary: *living with corruption*

Living with corruption is a documentary by Sorius Samura that depicts corruption practices in Kenya in the early 2000. The documentary exposes the governance and bribing issues in the East African country where just getting a shack to live needs corruption every official involved in the matter. It equally exposes corruption issues in Samura's home country Sierra Leone and how it affects education at very basic levels.

- Could we live with corruption?
- Should we just accept corruption in our society?

The bottom line is everyone has a part to play in stopping corruption, even it means just refusing to be part of it.

Replication

Head of the Legal Department continued work in Senegal on the legal process of prosecuting the 5 traffickers arrested last month for trafficking of 2 753 wildlife products. He returned to the Cameroon this month. The Head of the Media Department completed work on the EAGLE October report that was later published.

External Relations and Policy

The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the state prosecutor in Ambam, South, on some wildlife cases in the Region and other jurists of the legal department equally held similar meetings with state prosecutors in Mamfe, South West; Nanga Eboko and Yaounde, Centre.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by line for November 2014

Total Expenditures CFA			Total Expenditures USD
2,300,365		Investigations	20 inv, 6 Regions \$4,382
964,750		Operations	3 Operation against 3 subjects \$1,838
3,923,498		Legal	follow up 31 cases 44 locked subjects \$7,473
1,743,920		Media	25 Media pieces \$3,322
1,867,048		Policy & External Relations	Kenya Mission/Israel \$3,556
791,650		Management	Coordination \$1,508
1,827,552		Office	\$3,481
2,260,875		LAGA Family	Limbe Trip \$4,306
15,679,658	TOTAL EXPENDITURE November		\$29,866

LAGA Expenditure by Donors for November 2014

Amount CFA	Donor	Amount USD
1,656,425	Kuenzi	\$3,155.1
0	FWS-Replication	\$0.0
5,872,298	BornFree UK	\$11,185.3
0	IFAW	\$0.0
944,700	NEU Foundation	\$1,799.4
2,300,365	WILD CAT	\$4,381.6
4,905,870	BornFree USA	\$9,344.5
15,679,658	TOTAL	\$29,866.0

This Month in Pictures



Fugitif (above) arrested after killing Moon, pictured below.



Trafficker (above) arrested after attempts at selling skulls in Ma'an. Skills seized from wildlife trafficker in Yaounde (below)



This is Moon (above), an orphaned baby chimp that arrived Sanaga Yong sanctuary of IDA and other baby survivors of the slaughter of their families twelve years ago. She was shot dead in October. Three gorilla skulls seized from arrested trafficker in Yaounde (left)



Link of the month

Cameroon national television broadcast the story of the arrested traffickers in Magba in the West Region of Cameroon for trafficking of 7 chimp heads and over 30 limbs and a live baby chimp. The arrested traffickers are presently behind bars while the trial goes on. A network of cross-border trafficking in chimpanzee heads and limbs was uncovered during the operation.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFkCMkcETHM&feature=youtu.be>