

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

February 2019 Report



Highlights

- **2 specialized pangolin scales traffickers arrested in Yaounde with 42kg of pangolin scales**
- **Legal adviser travelled to Britain for a three-month conservation training programme**
- **LAGA relocated to a new office**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **2 traffickers with pangolin scales**.

The two who are specialized in pangolin scales trafficking have been running the illegal trade for several years before they were arrested in Yaounde with 42kg of pangolin scales. The pangolin scales were found inside the taxi they used for transportation and they both attempted to escape by running away when they realized police and wildlife officials were moving in on them but were quickly chased and arrested.

A legal adviser travelled to the UK to participate at a Durrell Endangered Species Management 2019 programme offered by the Durrell Conservation Academy.

The Deputy Director participated at a meeting that saw the birth of a pangolin working group in the country.

After a long search LAGA finally relocated to a new office

Investigations

- **11 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **4 Regions** of Cameroon including Littoral, Center, South and East Regions.
- Good investigation in **Nanga Eboko** led to the arrest **2 traffickers** with **42kg of pangolin scales in Yaounde**.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
11	4	1	2

Operation

An operation carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 2 traffickers**.

- **19/2/2019 – 2 traffickers arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region with 42kg of pangolin scales.**
The two are very popular with bushmeat sellers in a notorious neighbourhood that is well known for illegal trafficking in bushmeat and other parts especially pangolin scales in Yaounde. The neighbourhood has proven over the years to be very tough to tackle, with several law enforcement attempts aborted in the area. They activated a whole network of smaller poachers and traffickers in towns especially Nanga Eboko and villages around the town.

Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
1	1	2	42kg pangolin scales

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **7 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral) and 2 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Doume (East).
- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 8 in East region, 5 in South region and 3 in Littoral region.
- **28 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **22 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **3 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions:** There were one court ruling this month.
 - **01/02/2019:** The Douala – Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused **HAPPY Mathias, NGHOUROUPOUO Shouiboua and TUMUYA Seidou** guilty as charged and sentenced them as follows
HAPPY Mathias 2 months imprisonment term;
NGHOUROUPOUO Shouiboua and TUMUYA Seidou to pay 50.000 as fine each;
They were also sentenced to pay **100.000.000 FCFA jointly as damages.**
They were arrested in Douala on the 09/11/2018 for illegal possession of 472 kg of ivory tusks.

Media

- **48 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, and internet including; 23 written press materials (13 in English and 10 in French), 14 radio news flashes (9 in French and 5 in English) and 10 internet publications, 8 in French and 2 in English.
- Interviewee: Tarla Francis a wildlife specialist and consultant with ZSL
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The Douala arrest of 4 with pangolin scales, and hippo teeth, the Doume arrest of a trafficker in pangolin scales, spotlight on world pangolin day sensitization and the Yaounde arrest of 2 over 40kg of pangolin scales.
- 27 media pieces in French and 21 in English making a percentage of 56.25% in French and 43.75% in English.

Media Table

<i>No of Media Pieces</i>	<i>TV</i>	<i>Radio</i>	<i>Newspapers</i>	<i>Internet</i>
48	0	14	23	10

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director attended a ceremony organized by the British High Commission on the occasion of the 7th International Trade Fair dubbed Promote 2019.
- The Deputy Director participated at a meeting that created the first Cameroon Pangolin Working Group..
- The Head of Legal Department met with the State Counsel of Yaounde – Centre Administratif while one legal adviser met with the State Counsel of Douala Ndokoti and another met with the State Counsel of Abong Mbang to discuss arrest operations.
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Management

- Preparation and reception of a new super volunteer was carried out
- The training activities of the super volunteer began with investigations department under the supervision of management.
- Preparations and moving of office equipment and material to new office was carried out and the contract for old office terminated.

Activism Front

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>.

Presentation: Retrospections of the International Women’s Day in Cameroon

As a prelude to the celebration of the 2019 International Women’s (something that is always celebrated in LAGA with a time for reflection every year) one of the ladies picks up the challenge and takes us through this very popular event. She describes the day as a day set aside to bring women issues to the public and it aims at empowering women through advocating for equal opportunities. This, she continued, may be translated as access to quality childhood development for young girls, elimination of harmful practices such as forced and or early marriages, discrimination against women and elimination of all forms of violence. She normatively condemns some wayward practices and celebrations done on that day by the Cameroonian woman and highlights the huge importance of the day in emphasizing the problems faced by women. The discussions were interestingly hot with some accusing women to part of the problem and the necessity for equal opportunities and need to stop discrimination.

Finance

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org .

Link of the month

Journal du Cameroun, an online news site publishes the story of the arrest of two traffickers with pangolin scales and narrating the story of the attempted escape staged by the two traffickers. <https://www.journalducameroun.com/cameroun-yaounde-des-especes-protgees-a-ciel-ouvert-au-quartier-nkolndongo/>

This Month in Pictures



officers at police station shortly after arrest



uring his attempt to escape, he ran and hid in a nearby hotel but was arrested a



42kg of pangolin scales inside bags after seizure