

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

December 2022 Report



Highlights

- **4 traffickers arrested in Akonolinga, Centre Region and 28 African grey parrots rescued.**
- **3 traffickers arrested in Nanga Eboko, Centre Region with 120 kg of pangolin scales.**
- **The LAGA team went on annual vacation and end of year activities were carried out. Office reopens in January 2022**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **7 traffickers during two operations with the rescue of 28 African grey parrots and 120 kg of pangolin scales seized.**

4 traffickers arrested with 28 African Grey parrots in Akonolinga in the Centre Region. The crackdown dismantled a ring of parrot traffickers operating in the area. The parrots were transported crammed tight in a small wooden cage and kept in very poor condition.

3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg pangolin scales in Cameroon. Two of them were activating several poachers generating regular killings of pangolins. One of the traffickers used his motorcycle to transport the scales. They are experienced in trafficking pangolin scales and complained that the Covid 19 pandemic hampered their activity.

The LAGA team went on annual vacation and end of year activities were carried out.

Investigations

- **11 Investigation missions** out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including East, Littoral, Centre, and South Regions.
- Good information from the Forestry and Wildlife Control Post in Ayos led to a series of investigations in Kobdomo and the arrest of 4 traffickers with 28 African grey parrots.
- Good investigation in Nanga Eboko led to the arrest of 3 traffickers with 120 kg of giant pangolin scales.
- The contractual relationship with one of the members of the investigation team came to an end. He was thanked and wished good luck to his new endeavours as he leaves the team after several years of service to wildlife law enforcement in the country.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
11	4	2	7

Operation

Two operations carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 7 traffickers**.

7/12/2022 –Four traffickers arrested in Akonolinga, Centre Region with 28 African grey parrots. The crackdown dismantled a ring of parrot traffickers operating in the area. The parrots were transported crammed tight in a small wooden cage and kept in very poor condition. They were leading a ring of local poachers who captured live African grey parrots. They also sold parrots to some notorious parrot trafficking networks in Yaounde and farther afield. Several parrots were sold by the traffickers during the period of the investigations that took a couple of months.

15/12/2022 –Three traffickers arrested in Nanga Eboko, Centre Region with 120 kg of pangolin scales. Two of them were activating several poachers generating regular killings of pangolins. One of the traffickers used his motorcycle to transport the scales. They are experienced in trafficking pangolin scales and complained that the Covid 19 pandemic hampered their activity, but they were quickly picking up where they left off before the pandemic started. The area is widely known for the illicit bushmeat trade.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **12 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 3 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Ngoumou (Centre), 2 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 2 Douala (Littoral), 1 in Dschang (West) and 1 in Bertoua (East).
- There are **20 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in East region, 2 in South region, 4 in Centre, 6 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **38 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.

- **32 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **3 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions:** There was 1 court ruling this month.
 - **29/12/2022:** The Douala – Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused **NGOUNGOURE Amsetou, ABDOUL Nassirou and SEGUN Shoyombo guilty and sentenced them 12 months suspended prison sentence during 3 years and to pay 2,547,000 FCFA as damages.**

They were arrested in Douala on the 20/12/2022 for the illegal possession of 98 kg of ivory tusks.

Appeal: An appeal has been filed this month in the case of **NGOUNGOURE Amsetou, ABDOUL Nassirou and SEGUN Shoyombo** at the Littoral Court of Appeal.

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
20	2	0	0	3	1	32

Media

- **36** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio and internet. That is 3 written press (2 in French and 1 in English), 31 radio broadcast (20 in French, and 11 in English) and 2 internet publication all in French.
- Giving a total of 24 media pieces produced in the French language, and 12 in English making 66.7% in French and 33.3% in English.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the Yaounde arrests of two traffickers with 180kg of pangolin scales, the court hearing of three traffickers arrested in Douala with 100kg of ivory tusks, the Akonolinga arrests of four traffickers with 28 African grey parrots and the arrest of three traffickers with 120kg of pangolin scales in Nanga Eboko.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
36	0	31	3	2

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the manager of the Limbe Wildlife Centre to discuss issues related to rescued primates and collaboration in fighting wildlife crime.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the Attorney General of Ebolowa and Bertoua and the State Counsel in Nanga Eboko respectively to discuss ongoing cases and strengthen collaboration.
- Several meetings were held by legal advisers with State Counsels in Yaounde Centre Administratif, Akonolinga and Nanga Eboko to discuss legal strategies and strengthen collaboration.
- They also held meetings with Attorneys General in Ebolowa and Douala to discuss legal strategies and strengthen collaboration.

Management

- Several end of year activities were planned and successfully carried out, including the sharing of Christmas gifts to every member of the team and a traditional end of year lunch in a restaurant. The entire team was congratulated for the improved performances, compared to last year. They were encouraged to keep on the fighting spirit and hard work. Several weaknesses observed during the year were discussed and corrected.
- The working relationship with a member of the Investigation Department came to an end with the non-renewal of the contract. He was bid farewell and wished good luck in his new endeavours.

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>.

Link of the month

Stopblablacam. com, an online news site this month published the story of the arrest of 2 traffickers with 180 kg of pangolin scales in Yaounde. Read more by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.stopblablacam.com/societe/0212-9767-traffic-d-especes-protegees-pres-de-700-kg-d-ecailles-de-pangolin-saisies-depuis-le-debut-de-l-annee-2022-au-cameroun-ong>

Finance

Please check LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org for monthly financial reports.

This Month in Pictures



4 Africa grey parrot traffickers shortly after their arrest and the parrots were crammed into a tight wooden cage



3 traffickers arrested with 120 kg of pangolin scales stored in 4 bags