

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## October 2021 Report



### Highlights

- **A trafficker arrested in Bertoua, East Region with 77kg of pangolin scales**
- **2 more traffickers arrested following the rescue of a chimpanzee and the arrest of 2 chimp traffickers in Douala last month.**
- **A trafficker arrested with a freshly killed pangolin along the Yaounde – Bafoussam highway.**

### General

The month was marked by the **arrest of 4 traffickers with 77kg of pangolin scales and a freshly killed pangolin.**

**2 chimp traffickers arrested in Douala, Littoral Region** following the seizure of a baby chimp and arrest last month of 2 traffickers. 2 traffickers were first arrested at a tiles shop where the animal was kept in Douala and a third, who was considered to be the brain behind the trafficking, was not present during the operation, and efforts continued to apprehend him. He was finally arrested alongside a fourth trafficker. The chimp was rescued and taken to the Pongo Songo Chimpanzee Sanctuary where it is receiving lifetime care and support since his arrival.

**A trafficker arrested with 77kg of pangolin scales in Bertoua, East Region.** He transported the scales in a pickup truck. He activated several poachers in the region, particularly around the Lom Pangar Dam and the Deng Deng area. He supplied pangolin scales and other wildlife products to several traffickers coming from some of the big towns.

**A trafficker arrested with a freshly killed pangolin** attempting to sell it along the **Yaounde – Bafoussam highway** and close to Ndikinimiki.

## Investigations

- **13 investigation missions in 5 out of 10 Regions** of Cameroon including: Littoral, West, Adamawa, Centre and East Regions.
- Good investigation and collaboration with the **Douala Bonanjo legal department** led to the arrest of 2 traffickers involved in an operation that saw the seizure of a **live chimpanzee in Douala**.
- Good investigation in **Bertoua** led to the arrest of a pangolin scales trafficker with **77.35kg of pangolin scales** seized in **Bertoua**.
- The Head of Department held meetings with some customs and wildlife officials at the freight section of the Douala airport and an official of the Ebo Forest Research Project to build collaborative platforms.

*Investigations Table*

<b>Investigation Missions</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No. of Operations</b>	<b>No of traffickers arrested</b>
13	5	2	3

## Operation

**3 operations** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 4 traffickers**.

**8/11/2021 – 2 chimp traffickers arrested in Douala, Littoral Region** following the seizure of a baby chimp and arrest last month of 2 traffickers. 2 traffickers were first arrested at a tiles shop where the animal was kept in Douala and a third, who was considered to be the brain behind the trafficking, was not present during the operation, and efforts continued to apprehend him. He was arrested alongside a fourth trafficker. The chimp was rescued and taken to the Pongo Songo Chimpanzee Sanctuary where it is receiving lifetime care and support.

**14/11/2021 – A trafficker was arrested in Bertoua, East Region with 77kg of pangolin scales.** He transported the scales in a pickup truck. He activated several poachers in the region, particularly around the Lom Pangar Dam and Deng Deng area. He supplied pangolin scales and other wildlife products to several traffickers coming from some of the big towns. He is a commercial car driver plying the road between Bertoua and Lom Pangar and used this activity to illegal transport and sell pangolin scales. He understood when to move the scales from the smaller localities where he bought them, knowing exactly when checkpoints manned by wildlife officials were functioning and for how long.

**27/11/2021 – A trafficker arrested with a freshly killed pangolin along the Yaounde – Bafoussam highway, close to Ndikinimiki.** Blood could be seen on the head of the pangolin

that was probably smashed. Protected wildlife species are generally dangled by hand or hung from a piece of a wooden pole or stick along major highways in country for sale, despite their protected status and the illegality of selling them. The operation comes as a reminder that protected species remain protected and it is illegal to trade in them.

*Operations Table*

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
3	3	7	77kg of pangolin scales and one pangolin

**Legal**

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 3 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 1 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Bafia (Centre), 2 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **15 traffickers behind bars this month**: 6 in East region, 2 in South region, 1 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **34 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **31 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **1 trafficker was** convicted and the conviction and prison sentence given to 2 others was maintained by an appeal court, this month.
- **Prosecutions:** There were 2 court rulings this month.
  - **18/10/2021:** The South Court of Appeal maintained the 6-month jail term given to **PEKASSA Adamou and MAH MVOMO's** by an earlier court and to pay **66,500,000 FCFA as damages**.  
  
They were arrested in Djoum on the 12/12/2017, for illegal possession and transport of 216 elephant tusks and 81 elephant tails.
  - **27/10/2021:** The Nanga-Eboko Court of First Instance found the accused **EKANGA Jean de Dieu guilty and sentenced him to pay 100,000 FCFA as fines and 500,000 FCFA as damages**.

He was arrested in Nanga-Eboko on the 10/05/2021 for illegal possession of a live chimpanzee.

***Legal Table***

<b><i>No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)</i></b>	<b><i>No of Court Judgements</i></b>	<b><i>No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence</i></b>	<b><i>Prison term (in months)</i></b>	<b><i>No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)</i></b>	<b><i>No of Appeals lodged</i></b>	<b><i>No of Cases Tried in Courts</i></b>
10	2	2	6 month (appeal court decision)	1	0	31

**Media**

- **38** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio, and internet. That is, 19 written press (12 in English and 7 in French), 9 radio news flashes (5 in French and 4 in English) and, 10 internet publications (8 in French and 2 in English).
- Giving a total of 20 media pieces produced in the French language, and 18 in the English language making 52.6% in French, and 47.4% in English.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the arrest of two traffickers with 20 African grey parrots in Ebolowa, Douala arrest of 2 chimp traffickers and the arrest of a trafficker with over 77kg of pangolin scales in Bertoua.

***Media table***

<b><i>No of media pieces</i></b>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>

**External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director carried out a presentation on online wildlife crime and LAGA’s law enforcement initiatives and experience during a training for some top ranking gendarmerie, police, customs, wildlife officials.
- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop organized by the British High Commission to create synergy on communication strategies for the upcoming CoP26 to hold in Glasgow.
- The Head of the Legal Department, accompanied by a legal adviser held a meeting with State Counsel in Bertoua to discuss legal strategies shortly before an operation while he held another meeting with the State Counsel in Dschang on strategies on a pending court case.

- A legal adviser held two meetings with the State Council in Bafia to discuss legal strategies before an operation. He equally held another meeting with the State Council in Ebolowa to discuss legal strategies for an ongoing case.

### **Management**

- Activity reports of September were drafted and made available online.

### **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/Actiwithvism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

### **Finance**

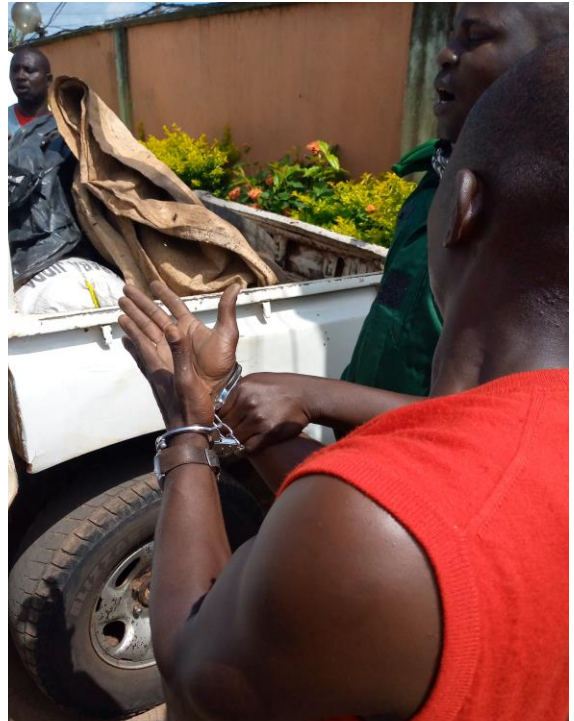
In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) .

### **Link of the month**

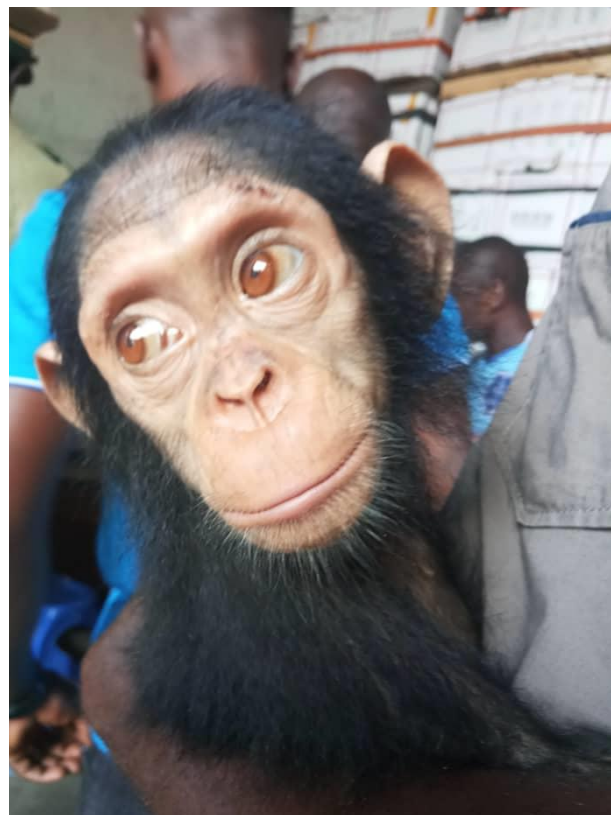
Camer be, an online news site this month published the story of four traffickers arrested with a baby chimp in Douala. They were arrested for the illegal possession of the baby chimp found in a storeroom close to a Chinese tiles shop at the Nkouloloun neighborhood.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/88367/11:1/cameroun-four-people-arrested-with-a-stolen-baby-chimp-cameroon.html>

**This Month in Pictures**



*He was found with 77kg of pangolin scales loaded in a pickup truck and was just about selling it when arrested*



*Arrested with freshly killed pangolin (left) Rescued in September from traffickers and doing well in a sanctuary (above)*