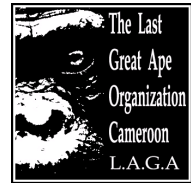


# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## July 2018 Report



### Highlights

- **2 ape traffickers arrested in Douala and a juvenile male chimp rescued.**
- **The Deputy Director travelled to the Democratic Republic of Congo where he granted two conferences.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **two traffickers**.

**Two ape traffickers were arrested in Douala in the Littoral with a live juvenile chimpanzee hidden inside a carton box.** One of the traffickers ferried the chimpanzee across Douala in the carton box, strapped behind a motorcycle.

The Deputy Director granted two conferences at two universities in the Democratic Republic of Congo where he equally held meetings on wildlife law enforcement with some deans of studies and professors.

## Investigations

- **26 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon and viz: Littoral, Center, West, South and East Regions.
- Good investigations in Douala led to the arrest of two 2 traffickers with one live baby male chimpanzee in Douala.
- The head of department travelled to the Douala airport to strengthen relations with the the head of the anti-trafficking unit.

*Investigations Table*

<b>Investigation Missions</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No. of Operations</b>	<b>No of traffickers arrested</b>
26	5	1	2

## Operation

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

**12/07/2018 – Two traffickers were arrested with a live juvenile chimp in Douala.** One of the traffickers had been keeping the chimp for some time and the animal that was placed inside a cage and hidden inside a carton box to avoid detection, was ferried across Douala to the point of transaction. He arrived at a bar and called an accomplice he had strategically placed to keep watch around the area for any activity that could threaten their illegal transaction. They both unloaded the box and stepped into the bar. His cautiousness and preparations before his arrest was testimony of his professionalism.

*Operations Table*

<b>No of Operations</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No of Traffickers Arrested</b>	<b>Contraband</b>
1	1	2	1 chimpanzee

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **12 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 1 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Ambam (South), 2 in Djoum (South), 1 in Kribi (South), 2 in Dschang (West), 1 in Bangangte (West), 2 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Abong-Mbang (East).
- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East region, 1 in South West region and 8 in South region.
- **35 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **25 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **2 dealers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was one court ruling this month.
  - **03/07/2018**: The Djoum Court of First Instance – Centre, found the accused **MAH MVOMO and PEKASSA ADAMOU** guilty of the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. They were sentenced **6 months imprisonment** and to pay **1.875.000 FCFA each as fines and 66.500.000 FCFA jointly as damages**. They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal possession and circulation of 216 elephants tusks and 81 elephants tails.
- **Appeal**: An appeal has been filed this month against the ruling in case of **MAH MVOMO and PEKASSA ADAMOU** in the South 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
12	1	2	6	0	1	35

## Media

- **26 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, TV and internet including; 16 written press material (11 in English and 5 in French), 6 radio news flashes (3 in French and English each), and 4 internet publication (2 in French and English each).
- Interviewee: Chief of Post at Doume
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: 3 men arrested in Doume over pangolin scales and 2 others arrested in possession of a live chimp.
- 16 media pieces in English and 10 in French making a percentage of 61.5% in English and 38.5% in French.

### *Media Table*

<b>No of Media Pieces</b>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
26	0	6	16	3

### **External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director travelled to DR Congo where he granted two conferences on the Cameroon wildlife law enforcement model and held meetings with some university officials and teachers to discuss some wildlife crime and enforcement concepts and its inclusion in university curriculum .
- The Deputy Director participated at a dinner on the International Wildlife Trade organized by the British High Commissioner at his residence and met there with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife and the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas. Several other diplomats including the Chinese Ambassador were present.
- The Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting at the US Embassy on illegal trade in ivory in the country. He equally had a meeting with the head of legal unit of MINFOF and the Director of Wildlife to discuss issues related to the case of TENG and the Djoum 216 ivory case.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the state counsel in Djoum to discuss legal strategies concerning the cases pending in court. A legal adviser of the department held a meeting with the state counsel of Ambam while another legal adviser held a meeting with state counsel of Douala – Ndokototi to discuss legal strategies on matters at their various courts and a volunteer at the department held a meeting with the state counsel in Bertoua for the same purpose.

### **Management**

- The search for new volunteers continued with the media and legal departments obtaining new CVs and motivation letters. Testing of these volunteers shall commence next month.
- A new volunteer started her trial period with the legal department.
- LAGA continued search for a new office. The search was started last year because of the dilapidated state of the present office and the increase in the number of members who are finding it difficult to have enough space within the present structure.

### **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: Regime Change**

The presenter takes us through the history of regime change recounting the problems associated with regime change and political renewal. He concludes that it is a far cry taking into consideration the present political context whereas as he puts it, it has become necessary for African countries. Heated discussions ensued as to why there is no political change and include weaknesses in opposition, political fraud and corruption, the mentality of Cameroonians and several other long establish setups which are difficult to break through.

### **Link of the month**

Camer.be, an internet news online, published the story on the arrest of two traffickers in Douala in possession of a live chimp. They were arrested by officials of the Littoral Regional Delegation of Forestry and wildlife as they tried to sell the chimp.

<http://www.camer.be/69197/11:1/cameroun-des-trafiquants-de-chimpanzas-arratas-a-douala-cameroon.html>

### **Youtube Statatics:**

2605 views within 2 weeks

### **Finance**

Please check LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) for monthly financial reports.

**This Month in Pictures**



*Chimpanzee rescued from two traffickers in Douala, had been living in a state distress*



*Arrested for unlawful possession of a live chimpanzee in Douala*



*Chimpanzee being given first aid primate care by our media officer.*



*Their case shall be heard in a Douala court.*