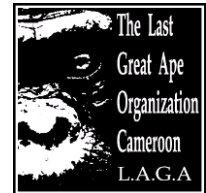


The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

March 2014 Report



Highlights

- **5 dealers arrested in 4 operations with ivory, leopard skins and elephant skulls.**
- **International ivory trafficker arrested with more than 170 kg of elephant tusks in Yaounde - Center.**
- **Repeated lack of collaboration and breach of procedure observed in MINFOF Regional Delegation – Douala.**
- **A dealer in live mandrill convicted in Yaounde – Center.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of 5 dealers in 4 different operations and the conviction of a dealer in live primate.

In an operation initiated by the Judicial Police, an international ivory dealer arrested with 36 elephant tusks weighing more than 170 kg about to send it to Douala and further to Nigeria. His father is a Nigerian and he has been in the trade for a long time. He claims to have sent ivory several times by train towards the Northern part of Cameroon and by transport cars towards Douala. He has a partner who takes the ivory to Nigeria and investigations are ongoing to arrest him. **While under detention at the police cell, bribing attempts of more than 3 million FCFA were made for his release.** LAGA assisted in legal and post-operation procedures.

In Douala - Littoral, **2 wildlife traffickers were arrested** with a live mangabey. They also own a wood processing plant thereby using the trade in timber and other wood products to also trade in wildlife. The mangabey was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.

Here again, **lack of collaboration and breach of procedure was observed in Douala with the Chief of wildlife initially trying to sabotage the operation by refusing to send his team in the field; and stopping the completion of the PV.** This repeated lack of collaboration has been denounced by LAGA several times before; the MINFOF Minister informed and asked to redress the situation without success so far. This situation is contributing to an increase in illegal wildlife trade in the Littoral Region and measures have to be taken to tackle it.

In other operations, a notorious poacher and dealer in elephant products including ivory was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jaw bones in Mindourou – East Region. He claims to have already traded ivory from the killed elephants; has suppliers in the East Region and has buyers from the city of Yaounde - Center. He initially resisted arrest but finally accepted to accompany the arresting team.

A major trafficker arrested while trying to illegally trade in leopard skin. He at first claimed to be from a royal family as a means of trafficking influence but he was still arrested and conveyed to the police station to be locked up. He also has a ready market in the major cities of Bafoussam in the Western Region and Douala in the Littoral Region.

Investigations

- **24 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon - South West, South, East, West, Littoral and Center.
- Good investigations led to arrest operations in the West, Littoral and East Regions against dealers in elephant parts, leopard skins and live primate.

- One Investigator on test joined the LAGA family as a full member promising she will stick to all the rules and regulations, and to get more operations. She had been an Investigator before and was sanctioned for failing to adhere to regulations and procedures.
- 3 volunteers are being trained on investigation and operation procedures with the goal of identifying and arresting major dealers in and out of Cameroon; and on data analysis especially phone data.
- The distribution of hotline flyers in both English and French continued.
- LAGA Investigations Department worked with TALFF – Togo on post-arrest investigations following the arrest of 3 international ivory traffickers and 7 dealers in other protected wildlife products.

Operations

4 operations carried out this month with MINFOF and Judicial Police (P.J) arresting **5 suspects**

- **06/03/14 – An international ivory dealer arrested with 36 tusks weighing more than 170 kg about to send it to Douala and further to Nigeria.** His father is a Nigerian and he has been in the trade for a long time. He claims to have sent ivory several times by train towards the Northern part of Cameroon and by transport cars towards Douala. He has a partner who takes the ivory to Nigeria and investigations are ongoing to arrest him. **While under detention at the police cell, bribing attempts of more than 3 million FCFA were made for his release.** The operation was carried out by elements of the Judicial Police in Yaounde and LAGA assisted in legal and post-operation procedures.
- **06/03/14 – 2 wildlife traffickers were arrested** with a live mangabey in Douala. They also own a wood processing plant thereby using the trade in timber and other wood products to also trade in wildlife. Here again, **breach of procedure was observed in Douala with the Chief of wildlife initially trying to sabotage the operation by refusing to send his team in the field; and stopping the completion of the PV.** The mangabey was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.
- **17/03/14 - A notorious poacher and dealer in elephant products including ivory was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jaw bones in Mindourou – East Region.** He claims to have already traded ivory from the killed elephants; has suppliers in the East Region and has buyers from the city of Yaounde - Center. He initially resisted arrest but finally accepted to accompany the arresting team.
- **19/03/14 - A major trafficker arrested while trying to illegally trade in leopard skin.** He at first claimed to be from a royal family as a means of trafficking influence but he was still arrested and conveyed to the police station to be locked up. He also has a ready market in the major cities of Bafoussam in the Western Region and Douala in the Littoral Region.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **14 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Mfou (Centre), 1 In Nanga Eboko (Centre), 2 in Kribi (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 2 in Bangangté (West), 1 in Dschang (West), 1 in Bamenda (North West) and 1 in Mamfe (South West).
- There are **30 dealers behind bars during this month:** 14 in the East Region, 8 in Centre region, 2 in North Region and 3 in South Region, 3 in West Region.
- **39 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **36 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions:** 1 dealer was sentenced this month.
 - 14/03/2014: The Court of First Instance of Yaounde – Administrative Centre convicted NGONGO Fabien to pay **50.000 FCFA as fine, 800.000 FCFA as damages and 44.600 FCFA as court fees.** He will be retained in jail for 6 months in case of default

of payment of court fees. He was arrested in Yaounde for illegal detention of a live Mandrill.

Media front

- **49 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, written press and TV including: 35 written press material (16 in English 19 in French), 5 radio talk show all in English, 6 news flashes (5 in English and 1 in French) and 3 TV productions (2 in English and 1 in French).
- **Guests include:** Baham Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, West and North Programme Officer of the Zoology Society in London and wildlife technician at the Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife Baham.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including;** Yaounde arrest of dealer in elephant teeth, 4 ivory traffickers slammed to prison in Yaounde, 2 leopard skin dealers arrested in Baham, 2 live mangabey dealers arrested in Douala and a trafficker in elephant skulls and jaw – bones arrested in Mindourou.
- 28 media pieces in English, 21 in French making a percentage of 57.1% in English and 42.9% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- A LAGA Legal Adviser trained students of the University of Bandjoun on conservation education. His presentation was based on Wildlife Law and its effective enforcement and the fight against corruption taking the case of Cameroon whose effective application began in 2003 with the advent of LAGA and its wildlife law enforcement procedures.

Management

- LAGA Director still receiving treatment in Israel following a crocodile attack in Ethiopia in December 2013 while on holidays. In spite of his absence the LAGA team in Cameroon is still continuing with work and producing good operations.
- One Investigator on test joined the LAGA family as a full member promising she will stick to all the rules and regulations, and to get more operations. She had been an Investigator before and was sanctioned for failing to adhere to regulations and procedures.

Activism Front

All the education 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>.

Replication

During this month, LAGA worked with other replication projects in planning and coordinating missions with PALF, AALF, TALFF and GALF on investigations, operations and financial procedures.

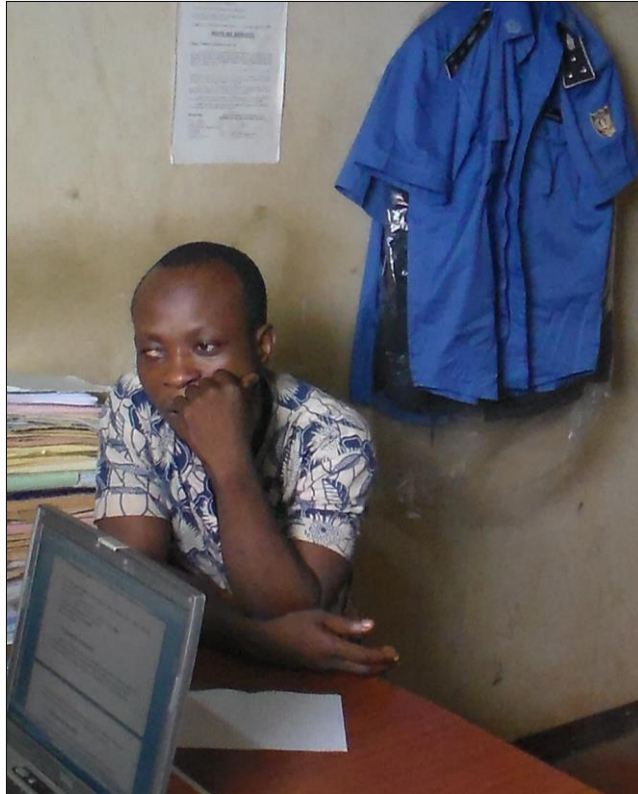
LAGA worked with TALFF on post-arrest investigations and legal procedure following arrest of 3 international dealers including a Vietnamese with about 4 tons of ivory; and also pertaining to 7 other major traffickers arrested with different wildlife products including more than 20 felid skins, more than 15 felid heads, elephant and gorilla parts.

LAGA also worked with a PALF Investigator on building trust with a target ivory dealer with calls from Cameroon.

Finance

In preparation, will be made available as soon as possible

This Month in Pictures



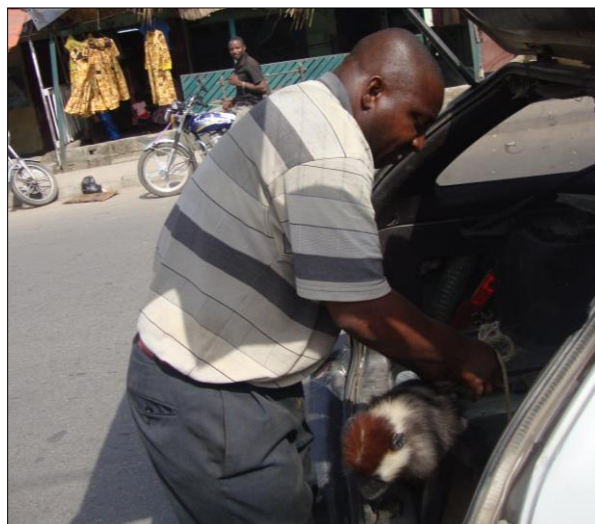
An international ivory dealer (*left*) being auditioned at the police station following his arrest with 36 elephant tusks (*top*) weighing more than 170 kg when he was about to send it to Douala and further to Nigeria. He has a partner who takes the ivory to Nigeria and investigations are ongoing to arrest him. While under detention, bribing attempts of more than 3 million FCFA were made for his release. The operation was carried out by elements of the Judicial Police and LAGA assisted in legal and post-arrest procedures.



A notorious poacher and dealer in elephant products including ivory was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jaw bones in Mindourou – East Region. He claims to have already traded ivory from the killed elephants.



A major trafficker arrested while trying to illegally trade in leopard skin. He at first claimed to be from a royal family as a means of trafficking influence but he was still arrested and conveyed to the police station to be locked up.



One of the traffickers arrested with a live mangabey in Douala. Here again, breach of procedure and lack of collaboration was observed in the Littoral Regional Delegation where they tried to sabotage the operation.

Link of this month

- A trafficker in elephant parts arrested in Mindourou East Region – Hello Program – Cameroon National Television Broadcast. The trafficker was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jaw bones in Mindourou by officials of the Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife of the upper Nyong Division, East region of Cameroon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO6FncgHIHA>