

LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Executive Summary

Tangible achievements were made in LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, despite the several old as well as new challenges and obstacles encountered during this period. Achievements were obtained in the fields of investigation, arrest, prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities with focus on the fight against corruption, illegal wildlife trade, principally trafficking in pangolin scales and ivory. The team focused on maximizing resources towards greater financial and technical efficiency with the implementation of new guidelines on carrying out activities in the various departments. Efforts to improve on professionalism following these guidelines, recommendations and proposals made during in house meetings and from working with the EAGLE's Central Coordination Unit (CCU) were carried out. The results improved in many areas although some departments did not fully attain their set targets. Trafficking in pangolin scales, ivory and other wildlife contraband was targeted.

36 major traffickers were arrested, at a rate of one per 10 days; approximately 73 % stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Corruption was observed and combated in a number of the cases. 36 new cases were brought to the courts and 45 traffickers were found guilty. The court ordered the payment of damages totaling 321,095,000 F CFA (about \$642,190) to MINFOF by the convicted traffickers. Media exposure was at a rate of one media piece per day.

The EAGLE network obtained good results as 182 traffickers were arrested across the 9 countries within the network. Exchange visits continued among the countries specifically with the Head of the Investigation Department visiting EAGLE Togo while two legal advisers from EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal arriving the country. Technical support was given during investigations, operations and media outreach to some of the projects across the network and the coordinator of the new project in Burkina Faso was retrained in LAGA.

Several meetings were held by the Director and Deputy Director with government and diplomatic officials in Yaounde and with many other stakeholders within the wildlife law enforcement domain.

The work of LAGA was supported by: US Fish and Wildlife Service, AVAAZ, Neu Foundation, NABU International Foundation for Nature, Joe Franklin Charitable Trust, The Wild Cat Foundation, Pro Wildlife, The Born Free Foundation and The Rufford Foundation.

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January – December 2018

OVERVIEW

Investigations

- A total of 309 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 7 regions.
- The network of informants continued producing results leading to good operations.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 5 regions arresting 36 major traffickers at a rate of 1 per 10 days; resulting in 36 court cases. LAGA provided legal assistance to some law enforcement units in 9 other cases and was not part of the initial arrests operations.
- Operations on pangolin scales, and ivory accounted for over 75% of the total number of operations
- The rate of imprisonment of arrested traffickers was 73%.
- 2 baby chimpanzees and 2 mandrills were rescued from primate traffickers during three operations.
- An international network of pangolin scale traffickers involving 4 countries (DRC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria) was busted with the arrest 6 and the seizure of 718kg of pangolin scales.

Legal

- 36 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases began during the period have not yet reached the judgement stage but procedures are ongoing).
- 45 traffickers were found guilty and handed prison sentences, fines, damages and penalties. Damages amounted to some 321,095,000 F CFA (about \$642,190) to be paid to MINFOF.
- 19 court judgements were passed during the year and one of the court rulings gave the full prison sentence of 3 years, although very week sentences necessitated the lodging of 8 appeals which is a very high number.

Media

- A total of 371 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio, press and internet) achieved at a rate of one media piece per day.

Management

- The annual report for 2017 was made available online.
- Focus was on stepping up efficient management of organizational resources and improving skills, stepping up professionalism and departmental collaboration.
- Several team building activities were planned and carried out.

External Relations and Policy

- Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss corruption issues, wildlife law enforcement etc.
- LAGA participated at the 18th Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in Brussels, Belgium.

Strategic Highlights

- The strategic focus over this period was on trafficking in pangolin scales representing 51%, 26% for ivory trafficking, 18% for primate trafficking while the remaining 5% was on python and hippo teeth trafficking
- The focus was on stepping up improvements through maximisation of resource use and skills
- New productive recruitment strategies were used to get the recruitment process functioning and several files from candidates were received and interviews conducted.

EAGLE Activities

- A total of 182 traffickers were arrested across 9 countries of the network during the year.
- Exchange visits continued among the countries specifically with the Head of the Investigation Department visiting EAGLE Togo while two legal advisers from EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal arriving the country for training and experience sharing. LAGA provided technical support during investigations, operations and media outreach to some of the projects across the network and assisted in the retraining of the coordinator of the new Burkina Faso project.

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Also available:

1. Annual Financial Statement and Semester I & II reports 2018
2. Monthly Financial and Activity Reports January to December 2018
3. Media archive – Excel database linked to recorded media pieces
4. Photo archive for media use

For copies contact email; eric@laga-enforcement.org

NARRATIVE REPORT

Investigations

LAGA's investigation unit carried out 304 investigation missions in 7 regions of the country during 2018. Discussions with the CCU and the steering committee on addressing gaps and errors in the respect of investigation and operation procedures took place and the problems were corrected along the way. The collaboration with the CCU in planning and carrying out operations attained a satisfactory level with clear understanding of operation procedures.

In response to new guidelines on improving investigation standards and taking the department to a new level of professionalism as prescribed by the CCU, investigative methods and strategies kept evolving to target the biggest traffickers in the country and meet up with the sophistication now demonstrated by the traffickers. One of the strategies experimented during the year involved placing an investigator in a strategic hotspot to get as much leads on trafficking in the area as possible.

The Head of the Investigation Department held several meetings with some wildlife and customs officials to build collaborative platforms; enabling effective investigations and information exchange. He held meetings with some wildlife, customs and port officials in Douala (Littoral Region), Ebolowa (South Region), Yaounde (Centre), Kribi (South). The Assistant Head continued with the same mission by holding meetings with officials in Ebolowa, Kye-ossi and Abang-minko'o (South Region) and had another set of meetings at the Tiko, Limbe and Idenau ports (Southwest Region) with newly appointed wildlife chiefs of posts. The head of department equally travelled Togo to train investigators at EAGLE Togo.

The recruitment process for a new generation of high caliber and specialized investigators and informants was initiated. Focus was on recruiting informants in key strategic exit points of the country and this resulted in the retaining of two who undertook training and one was later removed. A new internet investigator, Effayong Fabrice, was recruited to restart work on internet investigations that had been a big challenge for some years now following difficulties in recruiting a qualified and motivated candidate for the post. The department head and his deputy carried out several training sessions for the benefit of investigators.

Weekly meetings were held in the department to plan activities, develop strategies, techniques and team spirit to improve results, identify and cover key trafficking areas

Investigations were not carried out in some regions of the country because of the challenging security situation in these areas and these shall be covered immediately the situation gets better.

One of the two volunteers who had been undergoing training was removed because of his inability to meet up with the required standards of the department.

Number of Missions

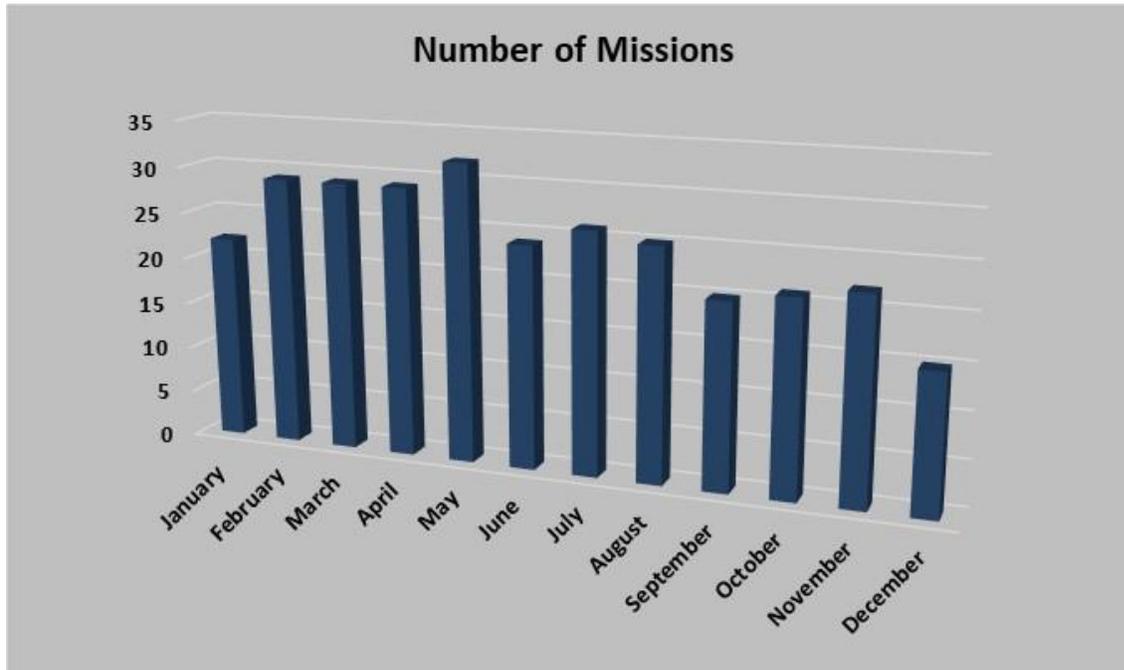


Figure 1: Number of Investigations Missions per Month

2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 5 regions against 36 individuals at a rate of one per 10 days and 36 new cases were brought to the courts this year. A further 9 cases were taken on by LAGA from operations carried out by the police or wildlife officials who solicited support. The drop in results could partly be accounted for by complications in recruiting talented investigators who could meet up with the requirements needed for the job, the security situation of the country where some regions are facing socio-political crisis and insurgencies and the assimilation of improved working criteria and exigencies. The rate of imprisonment stood at 73% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial.

51% of the operations were on the busting of networks dealing in pangolin scales and while ivory trafficking attracted a significant number of operations and represented 26%. The chimpanzee and mandrill represented the primates which accounted for 18% of the arrests while the remaining 5% was on traffickers dealing in python skins and hippo teeth. An international network of pangolin scales traffickers was busted with the arrest of six traffickers with 718kg pangolin scales in Douala. The year saw the rescue of two chimpanzees, a baby and a juvenile, from traffickers in Ambam and Douala, respectively while two mandrills were equally saved from the hands of traffickers in Ambam. Ivory traffickers were arrested in the towns of Santchou, Bertoua and Yaounde where over 100 ivory artefacts and pieces were seized from a hotel shop in the heart of Yaounde and the traffickers arrested. The shop had been selling ivory for a long time in full view of customers of the hotel.

In January, 3 traffickers were arrested with a live baby chimp and 80kg of pangolin scales in Ambam, South Region. The three operated a wildlife crime ring that ran pangolin scales and primate trafficking from the area. The operation involved a house search and the live chimp was found hidden inside a toilet. Administrative officials of the region followed with keen interest as the operation occurred. In an unprecedented and surprise move, the baby chimp was taken to the Mvogbetsi zoo despite informed advice and explanations from professionals against this destination and preferred the animal taken to the Mefou sanctuary where appropriate care and facility were available. Despite repeated efforts to get the chimp to Mefou, the decision which was primarily not for the interest of the animal but for people who want to put the animal on display, was maintained. This decision continued to receive pressure until the animal was finally taken to the Mefou chimp sanctuary following a decision by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.

In February, a trafficker was arrested with 37kg of pangolin scales in Betare Oya, East Region. The trafficker operated a bar which was used as a perfect cover to carry out trafficking in several wildlife species and other contraband including gold. A relative of his (a junior brother) narrowly missed being arrested in 2017 following a failed operation caused by some technical problems at the Centre Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife. They worked as a two-man team trafficking principally in pangolin scales and the team was partially dismantled following the arrest. He was suspected to have sold two leopard skins shortly before his arrest and was immediately recognised by gendarme offices who arrived the scene of his arrest.

The month of March saw the arrest of 5 suspects. 2 traffickers were arrested with 4 ivory tusks in Ebolowa. They were arrested along a highway that is notoriously used by traffickers to transport ivory from the source area in the South of the country to major towns. Four ivory tusks, a rifle and a military uniform were seized. The gun was given to one of the arrested traffickers by a lady whose husband had been a senior police commissioner and had died some years back, leaving the weapons with her. She was later arrested. The military uniform was given to one of the traffickers by an army colonel, who is a relative to the trafficker.

During the second operation, 2 other traffickers were arrested for ivory trafficking. 121 carved ivory objects were seized from a shopkeeper who was arrested on the spot while the owner of the shop was later arrested. The ivory was found displayed among hundreds of wooden arts objects for sale in a shop on the ground floor of a popular Yaounde hotel. The owner of the shop had been in the business for 40 years, getting cover from the husband who is a colonel in the army and who used his influence to get her out of jail following the operation. She has been dealing mostly with Chinese buyers.

In April, a trafficker was arrested with 2 live mandrills in Ambam. He was arrested at his residence where the two live mandrills were kept to be sold. He had had the female mandrill for a couple of years now and had recently bought the male chimp from a village located some 30km from Ambam. Initially, he had planned to get the two mandrills copulate and reproduce so that he could start a mandrill business but then decided to sell the two mandrills. He is a businessman and also the manager of a local hotel. He was supposed to be crowned quarter head but the arrest interrupted the process. He is well known in the area.

May month saw the arrest of 8 major traffickers. During the first operation, 4 traffickers were arrested with an ivory tusk, pangolin scales, elephant bones in Santchou, West Region. They transported the contraband using motorbikes as is generally the case with traffickers, who use this means of transport that is very flexible and easy to use for escape when threatened. They were arrested shortly after they began negotiations to sell the products some of which originated from the nearby Santchou wildlife reserve. The reserve is being depleted of its wildlife resources and is in a very bad state. One of the traffickers was already known to the conservator of the reserve as a major target for arrest. He was very alert and attempted to escape when he realized the team was moving in for the operation.

A trafficker was arrested in Bertoua, East Region with 4 ivory tusks and 3 hippo teeth during the second operation of May. He attempted to move the ivory and hippo teeth from its hideout when he was arrested. He transported the contraband hidden inside a truck transporting cattle from the North where he bought the ivory to East of the country and was just about to move the products for trafficking. The operation uncovered a trafficking route that moves in the opposite direction to that generally used by ivory traffickers. Normally, they would move ivory from the South and East regions to the North where it is smuggled across to Nigeria that has not yet put in place strong wildlife law enforcement measures. The ivory this time around was moved in the opposite direction, from the North to the East. The trafficker also dealt in leopard and lion skins as well.

During the third operation, 3 traffickers were arrested in Doume, East Region with 35kg of pangolin scales. The arrest was done in two phases. During the first phase, 2 of the 3 suspects were arrested with a bag containing the pangolin scales and were taken to the gendarmerie brigade alongside 2 bikes the traffickers had used for transporting the contraband. During the operation, as the 2 were being arrested, the third trafficker escaped leaving behind his bike. When he realized that the bike had been impounded and taken to the gendarmerie brigade, he came back to the brigade to bribe for the release of the bike and was gratefully arrested. The traffickers buy the scales from smaller traffickers in villages around Doume and sell to bigger traffickers in some commercial centres including Yaounde and Douala.

In July, 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 where he was arrested. His cautiousness and preparations before his arrest was testimony of his professionalism.

In August, six traffickers were arrested with 718kg of pangolin scales in Douala. One of the traffickers flew in from Bangui after smuggling 571kg of giant pangolin scales to Douala where he was arrested alongside five others including another Central African national. The network that operated in DRC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria equally dealt in rhino horns and lion parts and had connections to Vietnam. The scales were collected as far as RDC, assembled and exported from the CAR to Cameroon. The traffickers were very cautious, professional and smart in their transactions and extra efforts were needed during their arrest as some of them attempted to escape. The scales were transported using a van and a saloon car accompanied by some of the traffickers while others used a bike and motor scooter.

September month saw the arrest of four traffickers with 207kg of pangolin scales in Yaounde. One of the traffickers is a policeman who guarded and protected the traffickers as they proceeded to sell the pangolin scales in Yaounde. They bribed 400 000 FCFA at the Meyomessi control post where they were stopped and the pangolin scales that was hidden in several corners of the car, even under the car carpet, in knack sacks and suitcases were discovered by law enforcement officials from the gendarmerie, the police and the wildlife office. The traffickers were allowed to continue with the illegal cargo to Yaounde after the bribing. They ran a network of low level traffickers and poachers in the South Region precisely in Meyomessi, Mintom and Lele.

In December, 5 traffickers were arrested in Abong Mbang, East Region with 31kg of pangolin scales. The pangolin scales were stuffed into rice bags and knacksacks when wildlife officials found them as the traffickers were carrying out the transaction. They are specialized pangolin scale traffickers who connect the big time city dwelling traffickers and the local poachers who collect the scales. They supply the big cities of Yaounde and Douala. Following their arrest family members would arrive the wildlife office creating chaos and violence. One of the traffickers, aided by one of those who arrived, escaped and the facilitator was immediately arrested and all five taken to the police station. The confidence demonstrated by the family members during their attempts at releasing the traffickers is an indication of the weakened authority of the wildlife office in that particular area that is notorious for corruption and weak law enforcement.

Operations Table

<i>Number of Operations</i>	<i>Number of Traffickers</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
13	36	One live baby chimp, 80kg of pangolin scales, 37kg pangolin scales, hippo teeth, 2 boa skins, 4 ivory tusks, 121 ivory pieces, An elephant molar, 2 live mandrills, 5 ivory tusks, 38kg of pangolin scales, 3 hippo teeth, An elephant jawbone, 1 juvenile chimpanzee, 718kg of pangolin scales, 207 kg of pangolin scales, 31kg of pangolin scales

Figure 2: Operation Table

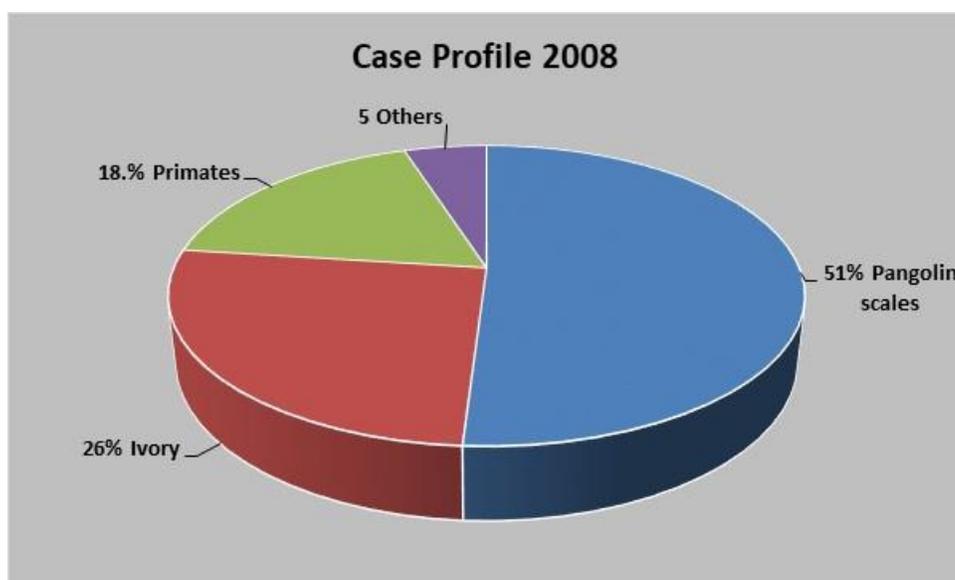


Figure 3: Operations profile

3 Legal

36 court cases were initiated, followed up and represented. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the judgement stage, and most subjects are imprisoned throughout the process instead of being allowed to move freely and conduct further criminal acts. 73% of those arrested were locked while on trial. 9 other cases resulting from the work of police and or wildlife officials was followed up by the organization.

141 missions were done out of the Center Region for follow-up, new cases and the creation and strengthening of relations with judiciary authorities. More emphasis as a direct result of operations was on ivory and pangolin scales.

During the year, 19 court judgements were passed with 45 traffickers found guilty and 14 of them given prison sentences while 27 others were either given only fines and or damages to pay and a further 4 were given suspended prison sentences and one was found not guilty. The high numbers of weak sentences and a no prison sentence account for the high number of appeals (8) lodged. The department assisted the Ministry in the follow up of 9 cases that were not initiated by the organisation.

The Douala-Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused TCHINDLJI Francois & AYATAGA Djalla Martial guilty as charged and sentenced them to pay 200,000 FCFA (about \$400) each as fine, 136,025 FCFA (about \$272) each as cost fees and 5,275,000 FCFA (about \$10,550) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Douala for the illegal capture, possession, circulation and commercialization of two chimpanzees.

The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused MOUATCHO KAMENI Pierre Armel guilty as charged and sentenced him to a one-month imprisonment term. He was arrested in Betare-Oya and charged with illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species including 36,5kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippopotamus teeth and 2 python skins.

The Ambam Court of First Instance found the accused KOUALIAGNIGNI Soulé, NTIECHE Issah and ABOUBAKAR Moussa guilty as charged and sentenced them to 2 years suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 145,000 FCFA (about \$290) as court fees, 100,000 FCFA (about \$200) each as fine and awarded to MINFOF the amount of 1,800,000 FCFA (about \$3,600) as civil damages. They were arrested in Ambam on for illegal possession of trophies of totally protected species including 80kg of pangolin scales and a baby chimp.

The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused AFOUMOU Emile and MOUKO Clément guilty as charged and sentenced them to 2 years suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 202,760 FCFA (about \$404) as fines and 3,000,000 FCFA (about \$6000) as civil damages. They were arrested in Ebolowa for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species including two sculptured ivory tusks, carved ivory pieces and chips.

The Dschang Court of First Instance – Centre, found the accused MFONGOCK Didier, MELAT Blaise, ATOKI Suzanne and NYAMPE Charles guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. They were ordered to pay 100,000 FCFA as fines and 38,000 FCFA as court cost. They were arrested in Santchou for illegal possession, and commercialization of an elephant tusk, an elephant jaw bone and pangolins scales.

The East Region Appeal Court, found the accused FEUSSI André guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. He was ordered to pay 50,000 FCFA (about \$100) as fines and 35,587,000 FCFA (about \$71,174) as civil damages. He was arrested in Betare Oya for illegal possession, and commercialization of 36.5 Kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippopotamus teeth and 2 boa skins.

The East Region Appeal Court, found the accused NJEUDJI Jules, TIKAYA Franc and TOUE Moussa Liboire guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a live chimpanzee. They were ordered to pay 2,000,000 FCFA (about \$4000) as civil damages and 38,000 FCFA (about \$78) as court cost. They were arrested in Batouri for illegal possession and commercialization of a live chimpanzee.

The Dschang Court of First Instance – Centre, found the accused MFONGOCK Didier, MELAT Blaise, ATOKI Suzanne and NYAMPE Charles guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. They were ordered to pay 100,000 FCFA (about \$200) as fines and 38,000 FCFA (about \$76) as court cost. They were arrested in Santchou for illegal possession, and commercialization of an elephant tusk, an elephant jaw bone and pangolins scales.

The East Region Appeal Court, found the accused FEUSSI André guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. He was ordered to pay 50,000 FCFA (about \$100) as fines and 35,587,000 FCFA (\$71,174) as civil damages. He was arrested in Betare Oya for illegal possession, and commercialization of 36.5 Kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippopotamus teeth and 2 boa skins.

The East Region Appeal Court, found the accused NJEUDJI Jules, TIKAYA Franc and TOUE Moussa Liboire guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a

live chimpanzee. They were ordered to pay 2,000,000 FCFA (about \$4000) as civil damages and 38,000 FCFA (about \$76) as court cost. They were arrested in Batouri for illegal possession and commercialization of a live chimpanzee.

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 (about \$ 3750) each as fines and 66,500,000 FCFA (about \$123,000) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal possession and circulation of 216 elephant tusks and 81 elephant tails.

The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused MOUSSA ADAMOU guilty as charged and sentenced him to 3 years' imprisonment and to pay 3,000,000 FCFA (about \$6000) as fines, 858,840 FCFA (about \$1717) as court fees and 17,000,000 FCFA (about \$34,000) as damages. He was arrested in Bertoua for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 4 ivory tusks and 3 hippopotamus teeth.

The Abong-Mbang Court of First Instance found the accused NDJANGA METSINDA Stéphane, MESSI MBANE Stéphane and DANWE DJANGA Serge guilty as charged and sentenced them as follows: DANWE DJANGA Serge 10 months' imprisonment and to pay 200,000 FCFA (about \$400) as fines; MESSI MBANE Stéphane 3 months' imprisonment and to pay 50,000 FCFA (about \$100) as fines and NDJANGA METSINDA Stéphane 2 years suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 50,000 FCFA (about \$100) as fines. They were also ordered to pay 1,166,000 FCFA (about \$2322) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Doume for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 35 Kg of pangolin scales.

The Yaounde – Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused MENDO'O KOTTO Christian not guilty but found accused NTOSSO JESMAIN Patrick, NJAYOU Maurice Florantin and TABOULLA TALLA Yves guilty as charged and sentenced them to one month in prison each and to pay 100,000 FCFA (about \$200) each as fines and 3,000,000 FCFA (about \$6000) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Yaounde for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 207 Kg of pangolin scales.

The Djoum Court of First Instance found the accused NANGA Venant, DONGO DOUM Gervais and ALIOUM Souley guilty as charged and sentenced them to 5 months in prison and to jointly pay 3,000,000 FCFA as fines (about \$6000) and 53,000,000 FCFA (about \$106,000) as damages. They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 106 ivory tusks.

The Douala – Ndokoti Court of First Instance found the accused KANA DOUANYA HERVE and DIGSIA Timothée guilty as charge and sentenced them to 8 months suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 100,000 FCFA (about 200) each as fine and 3,350,000 FCFA (about \$6700) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Douala for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a live chimpanzee.

The Ambam Court of First Instance found the accused NKOMO Joseph, AWOUKA Basile and MBO Epse ASSAM Bernadette guilty as charged and sentenced them as follows:

NKOMO Joseph and AWOUKA Basile one (1) year closed imprisonment each, MBO Epse ASSAM Bernadette 6 months suspended sentence during 2 years. They were also sentenced to pay 10,500,000 FCFA (about \$21000) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Meyo-Centre on the 02/03/2018 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of two ivory tusks and killing of an elephant.

The Douala – Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused MAHAMA Rabiou guilty as charge and sentenced him to pay 30,475,000 FCFA (about \$60950) as damages and 200,000 FCFA (about \$400) as fines. He was arrested in Douala for illegal possession of 80 Kg of pangolin scales.

The Douala – Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused Garba Hamadou, Abdoul Karim, Laminou Abbo et Mohamadou Habibou guilty as charged and sentenced them to pay 50,855,000 FCFA (about \$101710) jointly as damages and 200,000 FCFA (about \$400) each as fines. They were arrested in Douala for illegal possession of 630 Kg of pangolin scales.

11 appeals were lodged during this period against court rulings; a very high number because of the very week court rulings given by some judges.

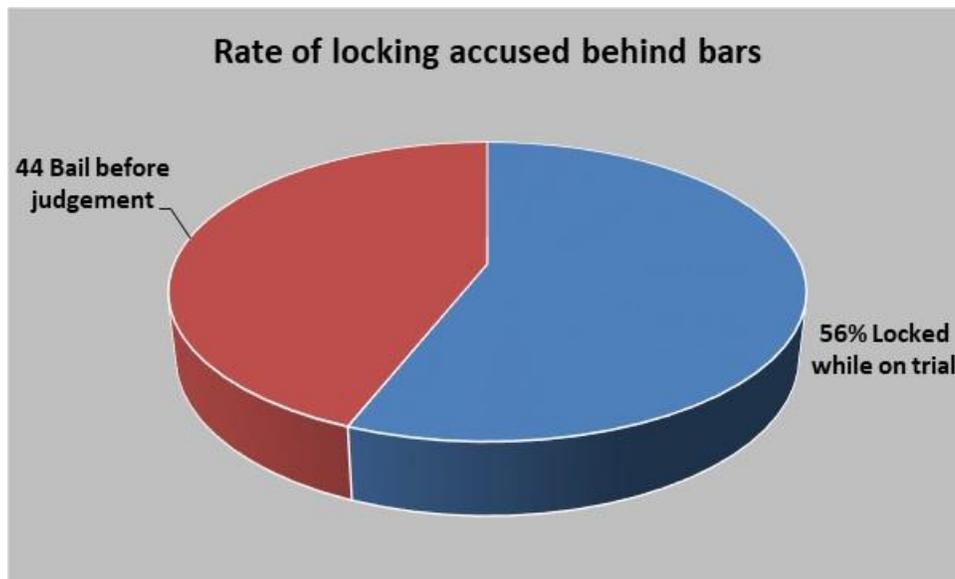


Figure 4: Rate of locking accused behind bars

4. Media

A total of 371 media pieces was produced and pushed into national media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press, the internet a rate of more than one media piece per day. February and May months saw the highest number of media pieces while January recorded the lowest numbers The low media results could be partly explained by the fact that some weeks of the month were set aside for annual vacation.

Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement and conservation activities and events including: the arrest of a Vietnamese ivory trafficker in Ivory Coast; the court hearing of 3 men who were arrested in Douala over the illegal possession of pangolin scales; the Ambam arrest of three with a live baby chimp and pangolin scales; the 7th edition of World Pangolin

Day; the arrest of two in Djoum with 216 ivory tusks and the court case that ensued; the apprehension of a trafficker in Betare-Oya with pangolin scales, hippo teeth and python skins; the arrest of three suspects in Meyo centre with ivory tusks and a rifle; the Yaounde arrest of two for trafficking in ivory artefacts; the Bertoua arrest of an ivory trafficker; the Doume arrest of three with pangolin scales; the rescue of two mandrills and the arrest of a man in Ambam; a wildlife crime workshop; the arrest of two with a live chimp in Douala; the dismantling a pangolin scale trafficking network with 718kg of pangolin scales seized; a poor court ruling on a wildlife matter in Congo Brazzaville; the arrest of a policeman and three others for pangolin scales trafficking; the Douala arrest of three people with 125 ivory tusks and the court hearing on three people arrested last year for trafficking a huge variety of wildlife products including ivory pieces, parrot heads and feathers.

Interviews and quotes used in the various media pieces were from; the Ambam Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, the Coordinator MENTOR PoP programme, the Chief of the South Regional Judicial Police, and wildlife controllers at the South Regional MINFOF Delegation, the Head of the Investigations Bureau at the Gendarmerie Legion in Bertoua, the Head of the Doume Forestry and Wildlife Control Post, the Deputy Director of LAGA, the Wouri Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife,

The Assistant Head of the Media Department travelled to the Netherlands where she participated at a training course on media campaign for development and social change. She attended lectures and practical sessions on creating stories, engaging audiences in order to bring positive change in the society.

The distribution of Wildlife Justice Magazine continued. Wildlife Justice is a thematic journal that focuses on wildlife law enforcement and conservation issues.

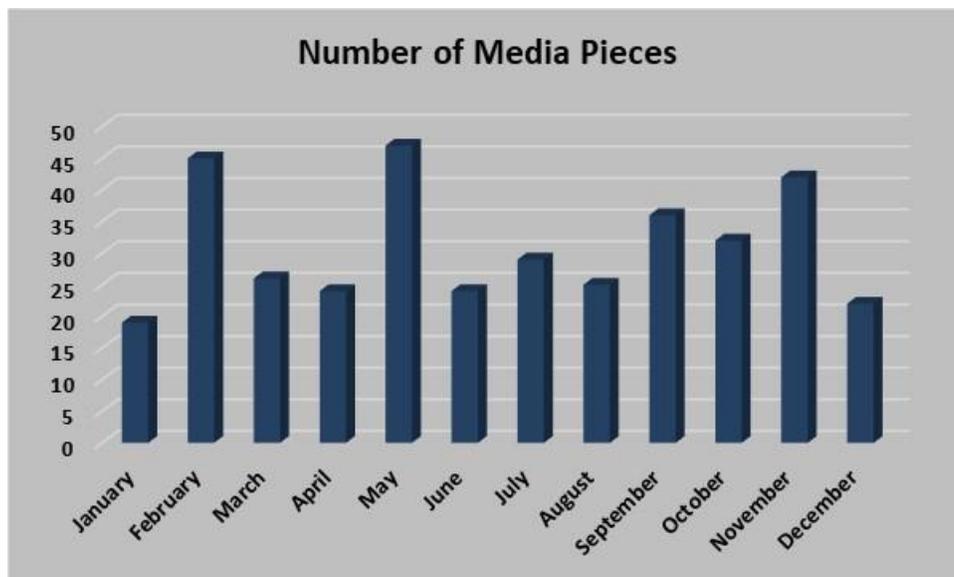


Figure 5: Number of Media Pieces Produced and Published

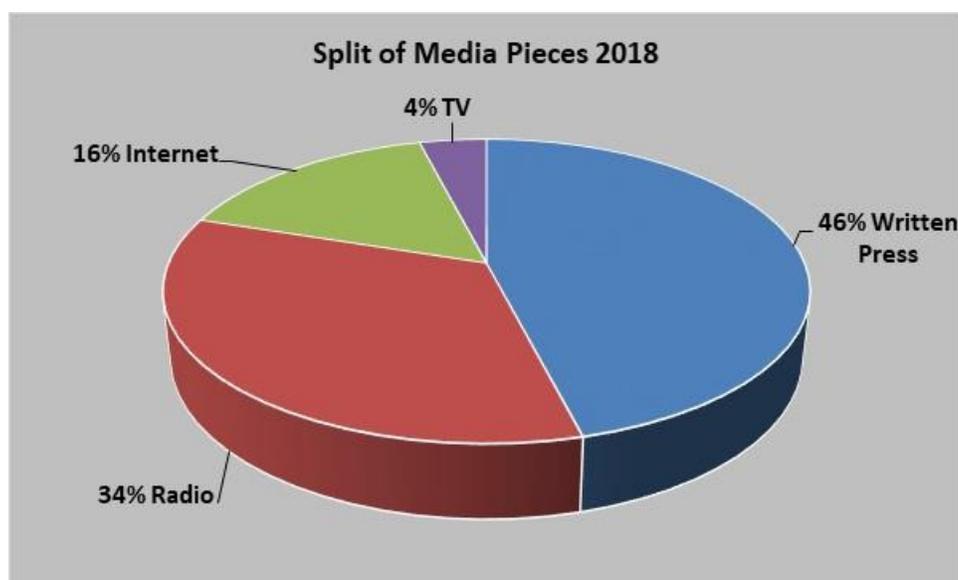


Figure 6: Split of Media Pieces

5. Management

Working in close collaboration with the CCU, efforts were made to improve on management effectiveness, its professionalism through new management techniques that were provided. Management emphasised efficiency in the use of all resources available to the organisation and the improvement of skills. The work of improving and upholding the finest moral and ethical values among staff was continued and during meetings held in the office, this was further explained and encouraged.

The Deputy Director participated in a workshop on management and leadership in Ghana that was organised to improve leadership and management skills of coordinators of the entire EAGLE network. Efforts carried out in the past years on improving and upholding the finest moral and ethical values among staff started bearing fruits as there was a visible sign of awareness of what is at stake and good level of commitment to improving on those standards. Management arranged for the visit of two legal advisers from EAGLE Senegal and Ivory Coast to the country and equally took care of them during their entire stay.

Management organised a special English classes for some LAGA members with the objective being to improve on their English while one person took Spanish classes. Also on training, some members undertook primate first aid and general first aid training. One investigator took a computer training course.

Recruitment for various positions within the organisation continued and management oversaw the recruitment process with hundreds of CVs and motivation letters received and screened. In this regard, two volunteers did a test period at the legal department and were later removed after having been trained. They could not meet up with the high standards required by the organisation. An accountant also completed his volunteer period and was retained. A volunteer was retained for trial at the media department and one other from the investigation department was removed. Two volunteers were trained in the investigation department and one removed. An internet investigator was tested and recruited. his situation

is expected to be concluded early next year. Management ensured that those who often come in close contact with live animals were vaccinated against communicable diseases.

A legal adviser from the project in Senegal travelled to the country (Cameroon) for a three-week training and he was hosted by the legal department while The Head of the Legal Department at EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire arrived for a short training and experience sharing visit.

LAGA continued search for a new office. The search was started in 2017 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. The search encountered many difficulties with rising rents and limited offers. Nevertheless, several property agents were contacted and the search enlarged to other neighbourhoods of Yaounde.

The annual report of 2017 and the first Semester Report of 2018 were uploaded online. The electronic versions are available on line on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org. This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

Team building activities were carried out during the period and these were common lunch, sporting sessions at the gym and an excursion to the seaside resort town of Kribi.

Preparations and management of the trips of the Assistant Head of the Media Department to the Netherlands where she spent three weeks participating at a training course on media campaigns for social change and the Deputy Director to Brussels where he participated at the 18th Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, were carried out.

All financial reports were duly drawn and made available while an independent auditing of the organisation finances was carried out by an international auditing consortium.

The first semester of 2018 uploaded online. The electronic versions are available on line on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org. This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

A series of thought-provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA team were organised to foster activism and leadership skills. A wide range of topics including activism were presented and debated. This initiative also aims at strengthening the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

6. External Relations and Policy

The LAGA Director arrived Cameroon for a week-long visit during which he held meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. During one of the meetings with the Minister, he was accompanied by the Deputy Director and discussions focused on issues of collaboration and wildlife law enforcement. They equally held meetings with the British High Commissioner, the French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador and the European Union Head of Mission to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process in the country and its

associated governance issues. They equally held a meeting with ZSL officials to examine the state of collaboration and proposals for better partnership were made.

The Deputy Director travelled to Brussels to participate at the 18th MoP of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and before going to Belgium, he was in Douala where he coordinated an open discussion session for NGOs, law enforcement officers and prosecutors during a US Justice Department sub regional workshop on fighting illegal logging. He was equally guest at a lunch offered to some NGO officials by the Head of the European Union Delegation at his residence in Yaounde.

The Deputy Director participated at a dinner on the International Wildlife Trade organized by the British High Commissioner at his residence and there, he met 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 Deputy Director held several meetings with some government and diplomatic officials including US embassy and state department officials, British High Commission officials, European Union officials, the Secretary General and Director of wildlife at MINFOF, the Secretary General at MINJUSTICE, several wildlife officials, to discuss strategies for effective wildlife law enforcement.

The Deputy Director granted two conferences at two universities in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the Cameroon wildlife law enforcement model and held meetings with some university officials and teachers to discuss a couple of wildlife crime and enforcement concepts and its inclusion in the university curriculum.

The Deputy Director equally attended several events including events marking World Pangolin Day, a workshop on combatting corruption in wildlife law enforcement where he did a presentation, a workshop in Addis Ababa on the use of GIS to combat wildlife trafficking where he did a short talk and a conservation event at the French Cultural Centre where he did a presentation on wildlife law enforcement.

The Deputy Director carried out an anti-corruption training for students of the Garoua Wildlife School. The training was done for students of both cycles (B and C) of the school. He equally distributed wildlife justice magazine on corruption to all of the students.

The Deputy Director attended the official ceremony of the installation of the management team of OCFSA that had been revamped and a couple of months after the installation, the OCFSA team held a meeting with the deputy director and heads of the various departments at the LAGA office.

The Head of the Legal Department attended a meeting aimed at reinvigorating the CITES committee of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife that had for a long time gone into lethargy. The assistant head of the media department held a meeting with the head of communications unit to smoothen relationship and ensure effective collaboration between the two units.

The Deputy Director accompanied by the Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments held a working meeting with customs officials to complete work on the terms of the MoU to be signed by the both parties.

The Deputy Director participated in two meetings at the US Embassy to discuss steps and actions needed to enabling a successful prosecution of wildlife crime defaulters. Two other diplomatic missions and three international NGOs besides LAGA were present.

The Deputy Director attended a meeting called by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife that focused on streamlining the activities of conservation partners to fall in line with the ministry's objectives and procedures. He equally held a meeting with a UN researcher to discuss issues related to the illegal pangolin scales trade in the country and the sub region.

Deputy Director participated at a preparatory meeting for the ministerial conference on fighting poaching and other transboundary criminal activities in the Central African sub region. Ministers of defense, security and protected areas will meet in N'Djamena early next year to seek solutions to these challenges.

The Head of the Legal Department and the Assistant Head of Media participated at a two-day training workshop organized by Forest Law Enforcement Governance (FLEGT) in partnership with FLAG and FODER. The aim of the workshop was to equip participants with the skills that are required to be able them use the new FLEGT watch tool and determine possible areas of application in participants' core activity. 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 at MINFOF and the Director of Wildlife to discuss issues related to the Teng case and the Djoum 216 ivory tusks case.

The Assistant Head of Media assisted at the handover service of the newly appointed East Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife and one of the legal officers participated at a WWF organized regional workshop in Sangmelima where she did a presentation on the experience of LAGA in fighting corruption. She equally had a meeting with the Legal Unit Head at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss matters pending in courts.

7. LAGA and the EAGLE Network

LAGA's new model for NGO – Government collaboration establishing wildlife law enforcement, bringing about results with an innovative approach geared at changing the existing system and triggering a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime is being realised within the EAGLE network. The model is focusing on the prosecution of major traffickers, not the small-time poacher who is motivated by the city dwelling traffickers. This involves fighting head on the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – Corruption. LAGA's experience and model is currently operating within the EAGLE network that group 9 countries.

The replication of the LAGA model is also geared at taking cross section lessons outside of wildlife conservation; these include the fight against corruption, fostering activism, fight against child trafficking etc.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/tabid/166/Default.aspx>

Exchange visits continued among the countries specifically with the head of investigations department visiting EAGLE Togo while two legal advisers from EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal arriving the country for training and experience sharing. LAGA provided technical advice on investigations, operations and media outreach to some other projects. The coordinator of the new project in Burkina Faso was retrained in Yaounde.

8. Fostering Activism

During this period, LAGA continued to foster activism internally and externally. Creating independent activists is one aspect that LAGA uses to foster activism. The NGO members are encouraged to develop their own projects on the various development issues of their country and are given NGO time and management time to develop the project in the vision of turning it in to an independent NGO. The function of leadership is not producing more followers but to produce more leaders.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>

Activism was focused on documentaries and presentations listed below.

The Ghost of King Leopold: The colonial past in Africa keeps revealing its nastiness every day, indicating the enormity of the cruelty and evil inflicted on the African people and there is no other movie that captures this bitter reality better than The Ghost of King Leopold. Cutting someone's arm to justify you actually did not waste a bullet may look bizarre but understanding that the bullet was supposed to shoot and kill the person and the hand brought back to the colonial master to indicate that the person had been killed, is mindboggling and that is what happened when Congo was the property of King Leopold of Belgium who unleashed untold cruelty and harshness on a people in their own land. The movie depicts the essential cruelty of the king, his spin to deflect public attention, his illicit and grotesque enrichment, the mechanisms of power domination in the area and the braveness of some to report on the activities. The debate focused on the colonial past, Africa's inability to emancipate, neo-colonialism, geopolitics and international and bilateral relations.

In Malawi, violent sexual initiation of young girls by "hyenas". It may look and sound surreal but it is true, a young girl is offered by her family to a man to have sex for a full night after she gets her first period. This happens in Malawi and the ancient rite for "sexual cleaning" happens in the remote southern regions of the country. A violent traditional practiced on young women who are forced to have sex for the first time with these men who are called "hyenas". They say the outrageous rite is a mark of passage to womanhood, sexually cleaning the young innocent girls who are basically raped without any protection in a country that has some of the highest rates of HIV prevalence. The events are shrouded in secrecy despite being outlawed but enforcing the law is difficult. NGOs and some female locals are now taking this on but it is a long hard battle. Discussions focused on African rites, women's rights, education, enforcement and criticism of government's role.

History of Apartheid: The head of the investigation department takes us through the history of apartheid recounting how the Dutch and the English occupied the territories which were

owned by the Zulus and other African tribes that were forced to leave. He analysed the situation, the discrimination and maltreatment Africans went through and highlighted the process that led to the final liberation. Discussions focused on some of the treatment blacks suffered, the role played by the Mandelas and the fight engaged by black South Africans.

The skill of self-confidence: While many think talent is the most important thing to have in athleticism, Dr. Ivan Joseph, a professional coach thinks self-confidence is and primordial in not only athleticism but our lives. This short video on Ted Talk takes us through how important self-confidence is in achieving great successes and how it dictates whether we become successful in our goals and lives. The presentation that was done in the English language was briefly summarized in French by the deputy director who explained in greater details some of the things presented by the Ted Talk guest of the day. The talk was very explanatory and was seen very much as an advice that didn't necessitate much ado and analysis.

The Franc CFA, a tool to control African states within the franc zone: The presentation that was done by the head of the legal department goes down memory lane, explaining how the colonial history of a currency that was forced upon African French colonies and designed singularly for the benefit of the metropole – France. It describes the changes that took place after independence and the split into the West and Central Africa franc zones. The presenter argues that it is a system that blocks economic growth for these countries and hampers their economic independence with France holding exchange reserves worth 12 billion euros for these countries. The fixed exchange rate to the euro has disadvantaged the competitiveness of these economies and France's participation in the management of the two central banks is an absurdity considering these banks are for independent states. Criticisms of CFA F was unanimous and bitter because of the inability or the unwillingness of African leaders to strip off this currency for independent national currencies. The currency is a reminder of the hated colonial past and the master perpetuating the legacy. This is just one of the reasons France is not roundly loved by the people of Francophone Africa.

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.

La traite negriere (Human Trafficking): The presenter, a legal adviser, tackles one of the most baffling anachronism of our times, human trafficking. The mere existence of this form of trade or its brutality beats the mind but her presentation shows it is there and moving on strongly. She starts by introducing human trafficking while linking it up to slavery trade that existed in the past. She talks about its history, its different forms, the methods and evaluated the situation with its consequences and challenges. While discussions invariably led to talking about slavery and other crimes such as pedophilia, law enforcement as part of the solution was discussed. The LAGA model had in the past been replicated in the domain and this was highlighted.

Fear: The presenter takes on an unusual term, rarely discussed and addressed, whereas it is part of what everyone grapples with. Fear has its negative and positive consequences. He starts by giving us a definition, description and a list of types of fear including among others the fear of unemployment, of the unknown, of the future, of diseases etc. He proceeds to tell us why we fear and among some of the reasons he gives are inadequate preparation, insecurity, unemployment, lack of self-confidence – something that had been screened through a Ted Talk in the past, nightmares and of course our very own African thing – witchcraft - that terrifies so many of us. The presentation tells us how fear is manifested, the consequences and ends by showing us how to combat it. He says to combat it you need to face it squarely on, socializing, building self-confidence and optimism, searching for the cause and dealing with it etc. Discussions highlighted the fact that fear is both a necessity for our own survival and a challenge when it stops or hampers our self-assertion and progress. The various contributions during discussions tried to grapple as well with this enigma, fear, as it was further described and avenues for mitigating it in various contexts explained.

Domestic Pollution and its Impact on Health: The presentation takes us through the various types of pollution and among those cited, the presenter tells us about air, water, soil, noise and domestic pollutions. On domestic pollution, he elaborates on what is meant by domestic pollution, that is referring to all harmful substances that are exposed at home or, more broadly in enclosed spaces, work and leisure area, public spaces etc. He equally defined more terms such as, pollution, household waste and pollutants. He described the consequences of domestic pollution on our health and ways of avoiding it. Debates focused on the role of individuals in ensuring pollution free environment, government’s role in ensuring regulations governing the sector is respected and the bigger impact of this pollution on our health.

The Anglophone crisis deep rooted in the All Anglophone Conferences (AACs): The presenter gets into the present crisis rocking the country as a separatist movement is trying to gain independence for the Anglophone regions. He briefly recounts the history of the country as from the 1950s and the problems that erupted as time went on. This culminated in the 1993 All Anglophone Conference and a subsequent AAC with all recommending greater autonomy and a return to federalism. His analyses highlighted the exploitation and abuse suffered by the minority Anglophones and he says this has caused the precarious situation and the violence witnessed in the Anglophone regions. He examines the present solutions to the problems and questions whether the next AAC that is planned could really solve the Anglophone problem. Discussions focused on areas of possible solutions, on the terminological divide – Francophone/Anglophone and the fragile grasp of the ideology sustaining the raging civil war in the Anglophone regions.

9. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations’ Impact

Beyond the number of operations and their effectiveness, there is an even more important factor in evaluating LAGA’s work – the strategic value of the operations in reducing the level of illegal wildlife trade. In this regard, LAGA is choosing diversified operations, which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon. Consequently, the LAGA-MINFOF work sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on pangolin scales, primates (chimps and a mandrill), ivory and leopard skins.

9.1 Pangolin Scales

Law enforcement improved as the pangolin scales traffickers became more organized. This seemed to have attracted the attention from wildlife law enforcers. It this is a welcome improvement considering that trafficking was absolutely left to continue without any interest from enforcement officials a couple of years back. This represents a significant shift but a lot of work still has to be done. Nevertheless, it also indicates the sustained levels at which the pangolin scales are trafficked as the operations carried out witnessed the seizure of about ton of pangolin scales. One of the biggest network of pangolin scales traffickers in the region was busted with the arrest of six people in Douala.

The operations accounted for 51% indicating the illegal trade may have attained peak levels and are being sustained over time. The first was done in January when three traffickers were arrested in Ambam, South Region with a baby chimpanzee and 80kg of pangolin scales. This may indicate a link between the apes and pangolin scales trafficking. Another pangolin scales trafficker was arrested in Betare Oya in the East Region where he owns a bar, which seems to be his base, where he stores the scales that require good enough logistics. He deals in several contraband including gold. This is a normal pattern for pangolin scales traffickers to use a perfect cover for the illegality. The bar is not only a suitable location to discuss business but also a perfect outlet to check out potential business partners.

Two other operations concerning pangolin scales were carried out in May with a small quantity of pangolin scales seized from four ivory traffickers in Santchou, West Region and another in Doume where three were arrested for trafficking in 35kg of pangolin scales. These are the first line of traffickers who are in direct contact with the poachers at the source. They go around villages collecting pangolin scales from villagers and when they put together some sizeable quantities, they embark on trading with the next trafficker who is generally urban-based or Chinese.

An international network consisting of six pangolin scales traffickers was dismantled. The network that runs from the DRC passing through the Central African Republic and Cameroon to Nigeria was dismantled following the arrest of six of the traffickers who were in Cameroon for a big transaction. Two of them came from the Central African Republic with one flying in after dispatching a huge quantity of giant pangolin scales to Cameroon. The international dimension of the illegal trade has been strengthened. This has been made possible through weak law enforcement and the fact that the pangolin still suffers from a perception problem. Many still view the animal as not important enough to warrant huge attention like the elephants. This is working negatively against the animal that is considered to be the most trafficked in the world.

Pangolin scale traffickers have been the first to benefit from such a situation. They easily bribe law enforcement officers and the judiciary. Recent cases against pangolin scales traffickers have amply demonstrated the lack of commitment to pursue these traffickers as they were either given very lenient and ridiculous sentences or are simply released on bail.

9.2 Ivory

It is well known that that organized ivory trade relies heavily on complicity and corruption. This was once again exemplified when two were arrested for operating an ivory shop in the heart of the capital, at the basement of a popular hotel. The seller was arrested in the shop that displayed the ivory among wooden art objects. The owner who was later arrested is a notorious trafficker, dealing in ivory for over 40 years and working with a large supplying network. She had operated from the capital city without any arrests for dozens of years. Only a sense of impunity can explain why this trafficker was never arrested and coupled with the fact that her husband is a colonel, the picture starts to get clearer. It seems that being powerful and well connected may determine if one is considered an offender or The trafficker who was arrested in the East with 4 ivory tusks, couldn't speak French nor English the two official languages but travelled all the way from the North with the products that was concealed in a truck ferrying cattle to the East region to sell the contraband. He didn't need any official language, he needed to have a bag of tricks and experience to run his ivory business. He bought the ivory in Ngong where a thriving black market for ivory exists, located some 45km from Garoua. He took the opposite direction, moving the ivory from the north to south whereas ivory is generally moved to the north and across to Nigeria.

In another ivory trafficking case that took place in March, two traffickers were arrested in Ebolowa in the South Region. During the first operation, two traffickers were arrested in Ebolowa with four ivory tusks and a gun. A military uniform was also recovered from the traffickers and while the uniform is reported to have been obtained by one of the traffickers from a relative who is a colonel in the army, the gun was provided by the widow of a senior police officer. The lady who is a widow, was also arrested following the arrest and interrogation of the first two. Again the link with the military comes in as was the first ivory case mentioned above. This is a worrying trend that buttresses arguments raised by some who point a finger at the military's role in ivory trafficking.

Four traffickers were arrested in Santchou, West Region with an ivory tusk, elephant bones and pangolin scales. The four who arrived on bikes with bags of contraband where arrested as they were just about to illegally sell the products. One of the traffickers had been on the run and was a major target for arrest by the Santchou wildlife reserve conservator. Motorbikes have become the preferred mode of transport for wildlife criminals in the country

9.3 Primates

A baby chimp and two mandrills were rescued during the beginning of 2018 in Ambam when three traffickers were arrested with a live chimp and 80kg of pangolin scales. The chimp was seized from the home of one of the traffickers who had hidden it inside a toilet. The animal was found in very poor state; dehydrated, weak and traumatised. This is the usual situation when baby chimps are rescued as the traffickers generally do not have neither the required skills nor the willingness to take proper care of the babies. His sole interest is minimising cost of keeping the chimp and selling it off as soon as possible to a well-paying buyer. Over the years mandrills have been the object of trafficking and in April, a primate trafficker was arrested with two live mandrills, a male and female. He was just about to start breeding them for the illegal black market before his arrest. The operation revealed the possibility of breeding attempts within the country as generally primates are plucked from the wild and

sold immediately. This is the first time we are seeing attempts at captive breeding of primates in the country.

In August, one juvenile chimp was rescued. The chimp was concealed in a cardboard box and moved across Douala. As observed in the past in the same town, chimp traffickers are bold enough to move the animal across a very populous town, albeit hidden, to carry out their sales. This is particularly worrying and means there is a market in the town and the traffickers have developed transportation techniques to be able to move noisy animals in a town that counts millions of dwellers.

10. Corruption and Wildlife Crime

Bribing attempts are documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and more than 80% of all court cases within the legal system. But LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. Corruption is also observed and combated in the regional enforcement activities.

This ongoing fight is directed towards issues that touch on corruption and bad governance. The year was considerably plagued by corruption attempts, negatively impacting the handling of several of legal processes against wildlife traffickers.. Many corruption attempts arrived new levels with a big negative influence in some of the procedures despite the brave and continuous fight we carried out to stop these challenges. Corruption attempts were made at stopping the prosecutorial process at early stages by offering bribes, peddling of influence and bringing pressure to bear on judicial officers. Several of the pangolin scales trafficking cases suffered from these attempts. Wildlife and police officers simply took a bribe of 400 000 FCFA (about \$800) along a highway to allow traffickers to continue their journey with pangolin scales. They traffickers were later arrested in Yaounde. Some of the corruption attempts were instantaneous targeting wildlife officials taking statements and writing complaint reports.

Earlier in the year, the Mfoundi Divisional Delegate obstructed a wildlife law enforcement operation by refusing to receive our legal adviser who was sent away from his office after he came seeking to collaborate with the delegation to rescue some live primate species which were openly being sold at the train station in Yaounde. Although this was not directly connected to corruption, this action is obstructive and linked to governance issues. A letter was written to the minister on this deplorable situation

In February, after the arrest of a pangolin scales trafficker, and as wildlife law enforcement officials were establishing the offence statement, they received pressure from the trafficker's family members. They offered a bribe to the wildlife and police officers, but with LAGA's help resisted the corruption attempt. After the first corruption attempt was combated, they attempted to corrupt one of the substitutes of the prosecutor. The conviction was disappointing pointing to the possibility that the last corruption attempt succeeded as the

trafficker was given a one-month imprisonment term contrary to the law that stipulates the punishment to be 1 to 3 years imprisonment.

In March, while the wildlife law enforcement officials were establishing the offence statement during one of the arrests, they received undue pressure from one of the traffickers' daughter working at the regional delegation of MINFOF. She attempted to pressure her colleagues to illegally release the trafficker at their level but the wildlife officials and police handling the matter with LAGA's help resisted the pressure. Seeing that her corruption attempt was combated, she approached the LAGA team, to advance her agenda, to no avail.

During the second case in March, those establishing the offence statement at the police station equally received high pressure from one of the suspect's husband who is a colonel in the army. The enforcement officials, again, with help of LAGA resisted the traffic of influence.

The situation after the arrest of four in Santchou in the West Region for ivory trafficking was characterised by high profile traffic of influence from an administrative official and a parliamentarian and from family members who piled pressure to illegally release the trafficker and this was combated by LAGA at the various levels. At first, this was concentrated on the divisional delegate to illegally release the trafficker but when this failed, the state counsel was next on the line to receive traffic of influence but this too was combated. Unfortunately, it seems LAGA did not control all corruption attempts during the trial and at the end, the case got one of the weakest ever rulings that the country has witnessed since LAGA started assisting government in 2003.

Following the arrest of three in Doume in May, one of the three traffickers who escaped during the arrest and whose bike was impounded and taken to the gendarmerie brigade, would return to the brigade to bribe and collect his bike. He was rightly arrested. Another trafficker attempted to bribe the wildlife chief of post and this attempt was successfully combated as well.

The case in Ambam following the arrest of three for chimp trafficking in January witnessed one of the most extraordinary circumstances as family members made to and fro movements from the judge's office. When the judge took a break for a couple of hours during one of the trials, family members of the trafficker, decided to visit him at his office, moving in and out of his office several times. The judge gave the three traffickers a 2-year suspended sentence for 3 years and this very poor conviction hints that the corruption attempts may have played a role.

On August 18 when two were arrested for trafficking in 718kg pangolin scales in Douala attempts at getting their release was immediately put in place by the traffickers' entourage and this culminated in their release on bail. Three of them would refuse to attend any of the court sessions during their trial. Despite the contempt of court and strangely too, no prison sentence was given to the traffickers and very low fines were awarded prompting disappointment in many quarters, especially among those who worked so hard to arrest the traffickers who were very elusive, sophisticated and apt with international experience.

In September, in one of the cases during which the organisation provided technical support to MINFOF and was not at the arrest operation, corruption attempts were made. At the level

of the Ngangue-Douala gendarmerie, the accused gave 500,000FCFA as bribe. When they were in cell at the Akwa Sud Brigade they gave again 600,000 FCFA to the judicial officer to find a way to stop the matter at that level but as the state counsel was already informed of the corruption in that case, the matter was forwarded to him. Again their attempts at corruption would continue at the prosecutorial level. They were released on bail.

In November, ports gendarmerie arrested a man with 125kg as he attempted to smuggle the illicit cargo to Nigeria. Two accomplices arrived to bribe the gendarme officers and when the state counsel was informed of that, he ordered their arrest

During the last operation of the year that was carried out in December, 5 people were arrested for trafficking in pangolin scales and as wildlife law enforcement officials were establishing the offence report at the delegation, a member of their entourage came in and facilitated the escape of one of the traffickers. The state counsel was informed and he ordered his arrest. Wildlife officials were put under intense pressure amidst chaos and violence launched by family members of the accused. This came after they had sought the wildlife chief and the police to stop the proceedings and were received with a rebuttal.

Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites 2018



ANNEX I- LIST OF CASES INITIATED IN 2018

Case num.	Date of Operation	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	INT connection	Status
564	31/1/2018	Ambam South Region	KOUALIAGNI GNI Soule	80 Kg of pangolin scales and 1 baby chimp	Seller	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales and live ape including chimpanze. He is in charge to collect pangolin scales in South region and East region	Cameroon Niger	Locked while on trial
565	31/1/2018	Ambam South Region	NTIECHE Issaah	80 Kg of pangolin scales and 1 baby chimp	Seller	Accomplice of KOUALIAGNIGNI leaving in Ambam; he assisted him during the trade of pangolin scales and Chimp	Cameroon Niger	Locked while on trial
566	31/1/2018	Ambam South Region	ABOUBAKA R moussa	80 Kg of pangolin scales and 1 baby chimp	Seller	A Nigerien involved in pangolin scales and chimp trafic in Cameroun	Nigerien	Locked while on trial
567	09/02/2018	Betare-Oya East Region	Mouatcho Kameni Pierre	36,5 Kg of pangolin scales, 6 hipopotamus teeth and 2 boa skins	Seller	He is a business man well know in Betare-Oya and in Bertoua. Use a cover as a barman to trafiking wildlfe products	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
568	02/03/2018	Meyo-Centre South Region	NKOMO Joseph	2 elephant tusks, 1 fire arm, 1 electronic weight, 1 torch, 1 machete and 1 calculator	Poacher and seller	A member of a big network. He is in charge for the recruitment of poachers.	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
569	02/03/2018	Meyo-Centre South Region	AWOUKA Basile	2 elephant tusks, 1 fire arm, 1 electronic weight, 1 torch, 1 machete and 1 calculator	Poacher and seller	hunter recruits by Nkomo Joseph	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
570	02/03/2018	Meyo-Centre South Region	MBO Epouse ASSAM Bernadette	2 elephant tusks, 1 fire arm, 1 electronic weight, 1 torch, 1 machete and 1 calculator	Poacher and seller	Involved at the high level in the killing of protected species particularly elephants. She gave the weapon to the hunters in oder to hunt elephant and extract ivories.	Cameroon	Locked while on trial

Date of Operation	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	INT connection	Status
28/03/2018	Yaoundé Centre Region	NJOFANG TATCHOU NYAMSSI Marie Rose	Illegal possession of 121 Sculptured Ivory objects including 2 elephant tusks sculptuted .	Seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker in Ivory and Ivory related products since 1975. She works in collaboration with some persons all of the same network who supplies him with these Sculpted ivory to sell to potential buyers upon demand. She uses the sale of artistic objects to conceal his trafficking in Ivory objects.	Cameroon	Free while on trial
43187	Yaoundé Centre Region	KUITCHE Michel	Illegal possession of 121 Sculptured Ivory objects including 2 elephant tusks sculptuted .	Seller	Accomplice of NJOFANG TATCHOU	Cameroon	Free while on trial
43217	Ambam South Region	DJUMPBON G Jean Noe	Illegal possession of 2 live mandrill	Seller	He is director of an hotel , and he hides behind his profession and his title of chief to carried out the traffic of wildlife species	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
43224	Santchou West Region	MELAT Blaise	Illegal possession of 1 elephant tusks, 1 elephant jowbone and pangolins scales	Seller	A member of a big network dealing between littoral region and West region involved in elephant tusks and pangolins scales	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
43224	Santchou West Region	NFONGOCK Didier	Illegal possession of 1 elephant tusks, 1 elephant jowbone and pangolins scales	Seller	A member of a big network dealing between littoral region and West region involved in elephant tusks and pangolins scales	Cameroon	Locked while on trial

<u>Case num.</u>	<u>Date of Operation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>INT connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
576	04/05/2018	Santchou West Region	NYAMPE Charles II	Illegal possession of 1 elephant tusks, 1 elephant jowbone and pangolins scales	Seller	A member of a big network dealing between littoral region and West region involved in elephant tusks and pangolins scales	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
577	04/05/2018	Santchou West Region	ATOKI Suzanne	Illegal possession of 1 elephant tusks, 1 elephant jowbone and pangolins scales	Seller	A member of a big network dealing between littoral region and West region involved in elephant tusks and pangolins scales	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
578	23/05/2018	Bertoua East Region	MOUSSA Adamou	Illegal possession of 4 elephant tusks, 3 hippopotamus teeth	Seller	A big network dealing between North region and East region involved in elephant tusks and hippopotamus products	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
579	43250	Doume East Region	DJANGA Metsinda Stéphane	Illegal possession of 35 Kg of pangolins scales	Seller	A Member of a big network dealing between Littoral region and East region involved in pangolins scales	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
580	30/05/2018	Doume East Region	MESSI Mbane Stéphane	Illegal possession of 35 Kg of pangolins scales	Seller	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales and live ape including chimpanze. He is in charge to collect pangolin scales in South region and East	Cameroon	Locked while on trial
581	43250	Doume East Region	DANWE Djanga Serge	Illegal possession of 35 Kg of pangolins scales	Seller	The head of a big network dealing between East, Littoral and South region. He is involved in the trafiking of elephant tusks and pangolins scales	Cameroon	Locked while on trial

<u>Case num.</u>	<u>Date of Operation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>INT connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
582	12/07/2018	Douala Littoral Division	KANA Douanya Hervé Carlos	illegal possession and commercialization of 1 live chimpanzee	Seller	KANA is a high profiled trafficker who is a member of a network trafficking in live animals. He captures them in the wild and sell to potential buyers in various places.	Cameroon	free while on trial
583	43293	Douala Littoral Division	DIGSIA Timothée	illegal possession and commercialization of 1 live chimpanzee	Seller	He belongs to the same network with KANA, he accompanied KANA to wellnegociate the final price of the business.	Cameroon	free while on trial
584	18/08/2018	Douala Littoral Division	GARBA Hamadou Tizani	illegal possession of 630 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	A member of a big network that exports ivory pangolin scales coming from DRC through CRA, Nigeria to the international black market He was involved in illegal export of 718 Kg of pangolins scales	Centrafrican Republic	Free while on trial
585	43330	Douala Littoral Division	AMADOU Tidjani	illegal possession of 630 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	Used cover as a refugee to carry out illegal trade in wildlife.	Centrafrican Republic	Free while on trial
586	18/08/2018	Douala Littoral Division	MOHAMADO U Habibou	illegal possession of 630 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	Another member of a big network that exports ivory and pangolin scales coming from DRC through CRA, Nigeria to the international black market. He is the point focal of Garba Hamadou. He is based in Douala and his role is to receive the products in Douala and facilitate their shipping. He was involved in illegal export of 718 Kg of pangolins scales	Cameroon	Free while on trial

<u>Case num.</u>	<u>Date of Operation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>INT connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
587	18/08/2018	Douala Littoral Division	ABDOUL KARIM	illegal possession of 630 Kg of pangolin scales		Another member of the international illegal pangolin scales. He was a middleman who help to transportation of scales	Cameroon	Free while on trial
588	18/08/2018	Douala Littoral Division	LAMINOUE Abbo	illegal possession of 630 Kg of pangolin scales	Driver/Seller	Another member of the international illegal pangolin scales. He was the driver of the truck used for the transportation of the scales	Cameroon	Free while on trial
589	18/08/2018	Douala Littoral Division	MAHAMA Rabiou	illegal possession of 80 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	Another member of a big network that exports ivory and pangolin scales. He was involved in illegal export of 718 Kg of pangolins scales. He confessed he also dealing in leopard seking and teeth	Cameroon	Free while on trial
590	43363	Yaoundé Centre Region	TABOULA TALLA Yves	illegal possession of 207 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales. He is in charge to collect pangolin scales in South region especially in Lele, Mintom.	Cameroon	locked while on trial
591	20/09/2018	Yaoundé Centre Region	NJAYOU Maurice	illegal possession of 207 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	A member of Taboula network. he collectes pangolin scales arounds Dja reserve and sell it in Douala and Yaounde	Cameroon	locked while on trial
592	43363	Yaoundé Centre Region	NTOSSO Jesmain	illegal possession of 207 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	Accomplice of njayou AND taboulla leaving in MEYOMESSALA; he was the driver of the car used to transportation of pangolin scales, he has his one quantity of scales.	Cameroon	locked while on trial

<u>Case no.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Int Connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
25	18/09/2017	Manjo	NGOLLE ENONGUENE Cédric	1 baby chimp	Seller	Another member of a well established network of poacher between Nkongsamba, Manjo and Douala who are known for illegal killing for illegal of protected species principally chimpanzees and elephants. He was arrested with Djessong Daniel, Ewane Robert and Djonkou Gerard	None	Locked while on trial
26	09/10/2017	Yaoundé	Tallah Wukaku Francis	2 ivory tusks	Seller	A member of a big network involved in ivory trafficking in the sub-region. He is responsible for searching clients in big cities in Cameroon especially Yaounde and Douala. Arrested in Yaounde while trying to illegally trade in 2 elephant tusks with.	None	free while on trial
27	09/10/2017	Yaoundé	Dikoum Dikoum Jean Ernest	2 ivory tusks	Seller	Accomplice of Tallah Wukaku; he assisted him during the trade of ivory tusks	None	free while on trial
28	10/10/2017	Ebolowa	ANVELA Ernest	Pangolin scales	Seller	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales trafficking in the south region. He is responsible for searching clients in big cities in Cameroon especially Yaounde and Douala. Arrested in Ebolowa while trying to illegally trade in 71 Kg of pangolin scales	None	Locked while on trial
29	10/10/2017	Ebolowa	Zo'Obo E vina Samuel	Pangolin scales	Seller	Accomplice of Mvele Ernest; he assisted him during the trade of pangolin scales	None	Locked while on trial
30	18/10/2017	Bangangté	Ngatcha Simplicie	1 Leopard skin	Seller	Used cover as a a paramount chief of Bakong village in Bangangte to carry out illegal trade in wildlife. He has been doing this business for years with his accomplice	None	Locked while on trial
31	18/10/2017	Bangangté	Fokeu Nkouendou Yannick Landry	1 leopard skin and 10 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	Accomplice of Ngatcha te paramount Chief. He is the one responsible for searching clients in big cities in Cameroon especially Yaounde and Douala.	None	Locked while on trial

Case num.	Date of Operation	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	INT connection	Status
593	20/09/2018	Yaoundé Centre Region	MENDOO NKOTTO Christian	illegal possession of 207 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	He is a policeman and belongs to the same network with Taboula; Ntosso and Njyou, he accompanied them to well negotiate the final price of the business. His role was to protect others	Cameroon	Free while on trial
594	09/11/2018	Douala Littoral Division	HAPPY Mathias	Illegal possession of 153 ivory tusks heaving 471 Kg	possessi on	A member of a big network that exports ivory tusks to Nigeria through Cameroon to the international black market	Nigerian	locked while on trial
595	09/11/2018	Douala Littoral Division	TUMUYA Seidou Mudeka	Illegal possession of 153 ivory tusks heaving 471 Kg	possessi on	Accomplice of Happy, He was arrested because he came to bribe the commendant of Brigade to release Happy	Cameroon	Free while on trial
596	43413	Douala Littoral Division	NGHOURUP OOU Shouaibou	Illegal possession of 153 ivory tusks heaving 471 Kg	possessi on	Accomplice of Happy, He was arrested because he came to bribe the commendant of Brigade to release Happy	Cameroon	Free while on trial
597	06/12/2018	Abong-Mbang East Region	ATEK Elody	illegal possession of 31 Kg of pangolin scales	possessi on	Head of a big network dealing between Littoral region and East region involved in pangolins scales and specialised in selling of bush meat	Cameroon	locked while on trial
598	43440	Abong-Mbang East Region	NGONO NGUOE Julienne	illegal possession of 31 Kg of pangolin scales	possessi on	A civil servant involved in pangolin scales trafic	Cameroon	locked while on trial
599	06/12/2018	Abong-Mbang East Region	MPOUMEDA MPANDA Thierry Herman	illegal possession of 31 Kg of pangolin scales	possessi on	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales. He is in charge to collect pangolin scales especialy in Mindourou and Lomie	Cameroon	locked while on trial

Case num.	Date of Operation	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	INT connection	Status
600	06/12/2018	Abong-Mbang East Region	MIKANG ABONDO	illegal possession of 31 Kg of pangolin scales	possession	Husband of Ateck Elody also involved in pangolin scales trafic	Cameroon	locked while on trial
601	43440	Abong-Mbang East Region	Nguele Jean	illegal possession of 31 Kg of pangolin scales	possession	Accomplice who has facilitated the escape of suspect NOUAZOL Garcien	Cameroon	locked while on trial
602	06/12/2018	Abong-Mbang East Region	MOUAZOL Garcien	illegal possession of 31 Kg of pangolin scales	possession	Accomplice who escaped after his arrest	Cameroon	fugitive under chase

Annex II – The Year in Pictures



Four in front of Gendarmerie brigade following arrest for ivory and pangolin scale trafficking operation done in May (above)



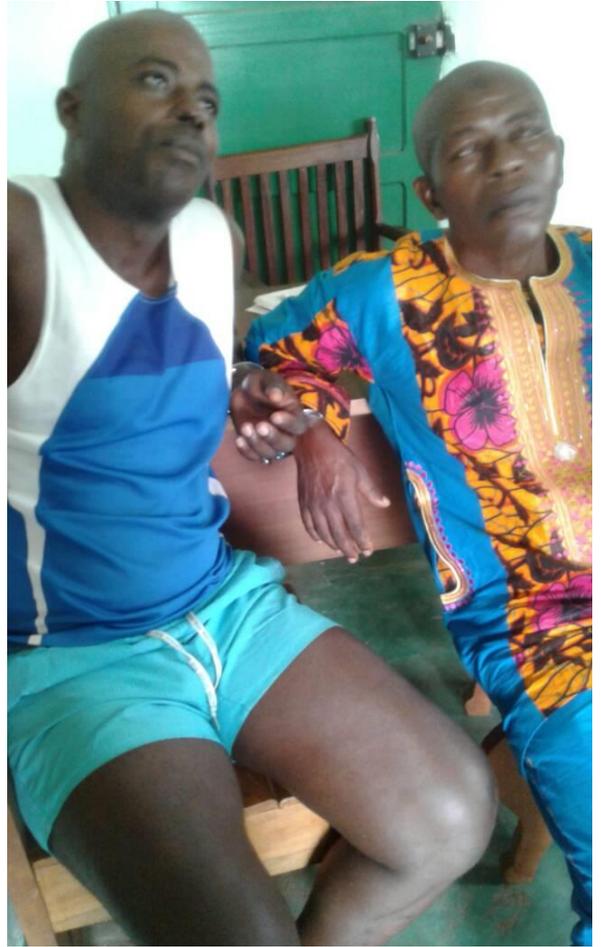
Two pangolin scale traffickers at the wildlife office shortly after they were found with 35kg of pangolin scales they were looking forward to selling, a third trafficker who escaped was later arrested in May (above)



Trafficker at gendarmerie legion following his arrest with ivory and hippo teeth which he transported from the north hidden inside a cattle truck. Arrested in May



Baby chimp rescued from wildlife traffickers in Ambam, is now living at the Mvogbetsi zoo in March



In March, arrested traffickers waiting for complaint reports at wildlife office



Wildlife officials with pangolin scales and traffickers being matched off after arrest (right)





He uses the cover of a drinking spot he owns to traffic in pangolin scales and other contraband including hippo teeth, python skins. He awaits prosecution, arrested in February



He was arrested in April for unlawful possession of two live mandrills which he has been keeping at his residence



Chimpanzee rescued from two traffickers in Douala, had been living in a state distress. Chimp was hidden in a carton box, strapped on a motorbike and move across Douala to the point of transaction by the traffickers before their arrest.



Assistant Media Officer provides first aid treatment to chimp shortly after his rescue



718kg of seized pangolin scales in front of the wildlife office in Douala

Van ferrying some of the pangolins scales impounded during arrest operations



Three members of a syndicate of pangolin scales trafficking shortly after their arrest. At the premises of police station waiting for commencement of interrogation. A policeman was also arrested alongside these three.



207kg of seized pangolin scales in Yaounde



Advisor at CRTV radio station talk show programme tackling crime and law enforcement



The Deputy Director in grey jacket and navy blue shirt accompanied by the heads of investigations and legal departments in talks with customs officials during Moue discussions



Police officers move pangolin scales traffickers shortly after their arrest in the East of the country



Arrested pangolin scales traffickers at the police station waiting for the commencement of interrogations



The illegal trade in pangolin scales is driving the scaly anteater to extinction and the scales are hotly demanded in Asian markets; scales seized from the traffickers



One of them arrested for facilitating the escape of one of the traffickers.

2018 Media Links

In January, Camer.be, a renowned website published the arrest of a Vietnamese kingpin in Ivory Coast, detailing the arrest and the extent of the crime ring that operated in several countries. It also indicated the link between EAGLE Ivory Coast that assisted authorities during the arrest and LAGA.

<http://www.camer.be/65984/11:1/cate-divoire-rapression-contre-la-criminalita-faunique-un-vietnamien-arratae-en-cate-daivoire-cote-divoire.html>

In February, Canal 2, the most popular TV channel in the country, followed up on the rescue of a baby chimp at Ambam, South of Cameroon and the arrest of three persons. The baby orphan chimp was given a first aid care and transported to the Mvogbetsi zoo in Yaounde for better treatment and the guarantee of its safety.

<https://youtu.be/wRV2OmOWApU>

In March, the arrest of two persons in Meyo Centre (Ebolowa) with ivory tusks and a rifle given to them by a widow of a superintendent of police, was published. Among other things found in their possession was a military uniform. This was broadcast over one of Cameroon national television programs, Hello Cameroon.

<https://youtu.be/7bakCb58fDw>

In April, the seizure of hundreds of ivory and the involvement of two persons arrested in Yaounde, was published on Camer.be site.

<http://www.camer.be/67409/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-over-one-hundredof-carved-ivory-pieces-seized-in-hotel-shop-in-yaounde.html>

In May, the link of the month was on the arrest of a trafficker for unlawful possession of ivory in Bertoua. He was apprehended by officials of the Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife of the East Region with the collaboration of the gendarmerie legion. The story was published by Camer.be site.

<http://www.camer.be/68243/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-ivory-trafficker-arrested-in-bertoua.html>

In June, the news website, Alwihda info, published the arrest of three traffickers in Doume in East region of Cameroon with 35kg of pangolin scales. One of the traffickers who escaped the initial arrest could not stand losing his bike and decided to come back and corrupt the gendarmes who could not have dreamt better, he was immediately arrested.

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-des-trafiquants-fauniques-arretes-a-Doume_a64294.html

In July, 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>

In August, Alwihda info, an online news site published the arrest of six traffickers in Douala in the Littoral Region of Cameroon with 718kg. The syndicate that runs a pangolin scale trafficking network in the RDC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria was dismantled as they attempted to traffic the scales. Close to 600kg coming in from Bangui.

<https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun>

In September, TV took the story of 6 persons were arrested in Douala on a crackdown operation as they tried to smuggle 718 kg of pangolin scales. A private TV in Yaounde 7 News, carried the story.

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

In October, Camer.be, published an article on the court hearing of six traffickers arrested in Douala with over 700 pangolin scales. Three have failed to appear in court so far and the article questions the logic behind granting bails to traffickers who never show up in court.

<https://www.camer.be/70851/6:1/cameroon-cameroun-des-trafiquants-en-proces-comparaitront-ils-devant-le-tribunal-de-bonanjjo.html>

In November, Camer.be, published the story of the arrest of three who were about heading to Nigeria with bales of clothing and ivory hidden inside the illicit cargo. Ports gendarmerie arrested the traffickers and over 125 ivory tusks were seized.

<https://www.camer.be/71740/11:1/cameroon-cameroun-traffic-divoire-vers-le-nigeria-trois-personnes-arretees.html>

In December, Al wihda info, published the story of the arrest of five people in connection with the trafficking of pangolin scales in the Abong Mbang and recounts how the one of them escaped and his facilitator was arrested.

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-Abong-Mbang-Cinq-personnes-arretees-pour-traffic-d-ecailles-de-pangolin_a69072.html