

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

October 2019 Report



Highlights

- **The Deputy Director among nominees for the prestigious Indianapolis prize following the publication of the list of 32 nominees for the world’s leading conservation prize.**
- **The screening of documentary movie Silent Forest began in some African countries; LAGA played a major role in the shooting of the movie in Cameroon.**
- **A legal adviser from EAGLE Senegal arrived the country for a month-long training and exchange visit.**

General

No arrests were carried out this month and the investigation departments held several brainstorming meetings on new strategies that shall target more traffickers next month to cover the gap left this month.

The list of nominees for the 2020 Indianapolis prize was announced and the deputy director is one of 32 candidates vying for the top notch conservation medal. The winner and finalists will be honored at the Indianapolis Prize Gala in the US, on September 12, 2020. The prize is awarded by the Indianapolis zoo in recognition of the extraordinary contributions to conservation efforts by individuals in their conservation work that affects one or more animal species.

Following extensive screening in the US, the documentary movie Silent Forest moves to African film festivals with screening already carried out in Rwanda and Nigeria. LAGA played a major role in the movie and an elephant parts’ operations was shot in the west of the country.

Investigations

- **Investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **4 Regions** of Cameroon viz: Littoral, East, South and Centre Regions
-

Investigation Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
19	4	0	0

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 1 in Mfou (Centre), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Mbanga (Littoral), 1 in Kribi (South), 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Bangangte (West) and 1 in Bertoua (East).
- There are **9 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in East region, 3 in South region, 1 in Centre region and 2 in Littoral region.
- **40 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **36 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **4 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was 2 court ruling this month.
 - **22/10/2019**: The Yaounde-Ekounou Court of First Instance found the accused **ENGUELE Jean Bernard guilty and sentenced him to 4 months' imprisonment term and to pay 5,000,000 FCFA as damages and 274.650 FCFA as court cost.**

He was arrested in Yaounde on the 18/05/2019 for the illegal possession, circulation and sale of 5 lion skulls, 122 elephant teeth, 1 leopard skin and 1 ivory tusk.

- **25/10/2019**: The Douala-Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused **ADAMU Ibrahim, UPAH Macmillan and AKENJI Ebenezer Ajeko** guilty and sentenced **them 6 months suspended sentences for 3 years and to pay 1,000,000 FCFA each as fines and 10,000,000 FCFA jointly as damages.**

They were arrested in Douala on the 10/11/2017 for illegal possession and circulation of 158 elephant tusks, 124 grey parrot heads and 1394 grey parrot feathers.

- **Appeal:** The two rulings were appealed against, both in the case of **ENGUELE Jean Bernard** at the Centre Court of Appeal and the case of **ADAMU Ibrahim, UPAH Macmillan and AKENJI Ebenezer Ajeko** at the Littoral Court of Appeal.

Legal Table

No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	Prison term (in months)	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
10	2	1	4	3	2	36

Media

- **7 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, and the radio, including; 2 written press materials in English and 5 radio news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English).
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the court hearing of 5 arrested ivory traffickers in Yaounde.
- 4 media pieces in English and 3 in French making a percentage of 57.1% in English and 42.9% in French.

Media Table

<i>No of Media Pieces</i>	<i>TV</i>	<i>Radio</i>	<i>Newspapers</i>	<i>Internet</i>
7	0	5	2	0

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director participated at an international workshop on conservation conflicts organized by the Congo Basin Institute that brought together conservation biologists from around Africa. He did a presentation on conservation conflicts as related to wildlife law enforcement and among other issues he cited a few conflicts including deterrent punishments and strict respect of the law vs respect for human rights, soft vs hard conservation measures, sensitization vs enforcement.
- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop that validated the updated list of protected species, organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife with technical assistance from TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring group.

- The Head of Department had a meeting with the Attorney General of East Region to discuss on a matter pending before the appeal court.
- One of the legal advisers held a meeting firstly with the state counsel in Kribi and then in Mbanga to discuss matters pending at their various courts and a second legal adviser held a meeting with state counsel in Djoum for the same purpose while a third legal adviser held another meeting with the state counsel in Bangangte with the same objective.
- A legal adviser from EAGLE SENEGAL spent one month in the department for an exchange visit involving the sharing of working experiences in the legal follow up of procedures.

Management

- Preparations and arrangements for the hosting of a legal adviser from the Senegalese project EAGLE Senegal was done.

Activism Front

All the activism fostering activities carried out by the LAGA family are online; this could be gotten at the LAGA website – <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Actiwithvism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

Presentation: Rural Exodus

The presenter walks us through the phenomenon of rural exodus and defines some related concepts such as migration, immigration, emigration to clarify rural exodus. The presentation deals in the causes and consequences of rural exodus, splitting the causes into endogenous and exogenous causes but say there invariably socio-economic in nature. These include poverty, conflicts, climate changes etc. The consequences are dire on both the rural milieu where youths who are abled body to sustain these communities leave for urban areas to congest the cities and add to the woes of managing big cities with its problems of population explosions, unemployment and housing among the many. It also takes on the Anglophone crisis to exemplify how conflicts can force movement of people. The discussions centered around the question whether the movement due from the Anglophone crisis could be considered rural exodus and what are the developmental policies to address rural poverty, how far and how successful, among other issues, where raised.

Presentation: Administrative Tolerance; A Door to Anarchy

A presentation Administrative Tolerance exposes some of the underlying facets of this notorious conundrum in public life. It is fairly normal to see schools, radio stations, road pharmacies which are all illegal running in the country and the presentation tells us the consequences are worrying; the health of the citizen is at stake, children get poor education and

fake news from the illegal structures and all these undermine efforts to build a vibrant, educated and healthy citizenry. The reasons for this state of affairs is administrative tolerance which is caused by failure in the implementation of public policies, incompetence, corruption and lack of political will. This results in more corruption and precariousness. The discussions focused on distinguishing administrative tolerance which is a voluntary decision from an incapacity to make a decision. Administrative tolerance it was discussed, is used as a political weapon in the country to keep some institutions, especially the private media, on their toes and toe official line.

Finance

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org .

This Month in Pictures

ADIEU AGIE NYANGO MOKOKO (p.3)

Le ministère des Finances organise depuis jeudi 24 Octobre à l'hôtel la Falaise de Bonanjo Douala, un séminaire sur la gestion de la solde et des pensions des agents de l'Etat

"We need leaders not in love with money but in love with justice. Not in love with publicity but in love with Business..."

Breaking News Bilingue
The Truth at Last

№ 104
October 28, 2019
E-mail: breakingnews50@gmail.com / NO Biyem Assi Lac, Opposite Pharmacie Sclurutas Del / Price, CFA 400

Le ministre des Finances organise depuis jeudi 24 Octobre à l'hôtel la Falaise de Bonanjo Douala, un séminaire sur la gestion de la solde et des pensions des agents de l'Etat

Mayor Ekema Patrick, Free At last

Opinion: The MND ended without anyone revealing what is the meaning or political or constitutional content of "Special Status". The main problem facing federalists is that they notoriously lack the capacity for creative political thinking. They have been stripped of the capacity for free thinking by Paul Biya who has placed redlines. Red circles and red squares and red triangles around them and anyone who crosses them can end up in Koundungu. They have come up with ideas like "return to a two state federation", creation of a ten-state federation", implementation of decentralisation etc; but I have not seen anything in writing which indicates that anyone knows how any of these constitutional arrangements will function...

Dr Nfor Susungi (p.5)

Bafut Manjong Charts a New Road Map (p.5)
After dialogue, the killings seem to have multiplied (p.3)
CME Zonal Sports Final (p.6-7)

Tah Eric Kaba, Cameroon Nominee poised to grab World's Leading Animal Conservation Award... (p.2)

President Paul Biya renews Confidence in Prof. George Elambo Nkeng at the head of ENSTP (p.10)

Are you aware that some pastors operate like businessmen and women who see the ministry as avenue to make money? They function as the Chief Executive Officers of their Churches. The Church is run with business principles. Their major emphasis is money, finance, prosperity and how to make it. They are in absolute control of everything. They are very manipulative and can use any scripture to fund raising? (p.8)



Updating the various classes of protection for wildlife species, workshop on validating the proposals at Nkoladom, Ebolowa

Deputy Director nominated for the prestigious Indianapolis prize



Conservation biologists meet at the Congo Basin Institute to discuss conservation conflicts, Deputy Director in the middle with fellow participants