

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA



September 2021 Report

Highlights

- **4 traffickers arrested during two operations, cracking down on parrot trafficking in the South Region and chimp trafficking in the Littoral Region.**
- **2 traffickers arrested in Douala with a baby chimp that was cruelly treated and malnourished at a storeroom.**
- **2 traffickers arrested with 20 parrots at a hideout in Ebolowa. The parrots were captured from the Ma'an National Park.**
- **The Deputy Director did a presentation on effective wildlife law enforcement during a training for customs, police, gendarmes, wildlife and other security officials of the Douala International Airport.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **4 traffickers with African grey parrots and a chimpanzee during two operations.**

2 traffickers were arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Douala in the Littoral, Region. The chimp was found in a large storeroom close to a Chinese tiles shop in the country's economic capital Douala. The 2 traffickers were arrested on the spot and a third, who is considered to be the brain behind the trafficking and was not present during the operation, and efforts continue to apprehend him.

2 traffickers were arrested with 20 African grey parrots at their hideout in Ebolowa, South Region. The traffickers were attempting to sell the parrots at a place where they had been hiding and keeping parrots in the South Region, when they were arrested. They are part of an even bigger parrot trafficking network in the country that includes foreign nationals

The Deputy Director did a presentation on effective wildlife law enforcement during a training organised by TRAFFIC for customs, police, gendarmes, wildlife and other security officials of the Douala International Airport

Investigations

- **19 investigation missions in 5 out of 10 Regions** of Cameroon including: Littoral, West, South, Centre and East Regions.
- Good investigation in **Ebolowa** led to the arrest of **2 parrot traffickers** and **20 African grey parrots** seized in Ebolowa.
- Good information about a stolen baby chimpanzee from **Pongo Songo** led to the discovery and arrest of **2 traffickers and a chimp rescued** in warehouse in Douala.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
19	5	2	4

Operation

Two operations carried out with MINFOF this month **arresting four traffickers**.

17/09/2021 - Two traffickers arrested with 20 African grey parrots in their hideout in Ebolowa, South Region. The traffickers were attempting to sell the parrots at a place where they had been hiding and keeping parrots in the South Region. when they were arrested. They are part of an even bigger parrot trafficking network in the country that includes foreign nationals. The 20 parrots were crammed into a box which was clearly not large enough. The parrots were captured at the Campo Ma'an National Park.

28/09/2021 - Two arrested and a baby chimp rescued in Douala in the Littoral, Region. The chimp was found in a large storeroom close to a Chinese tiles shop in the country's economic capital Douala. The 2 traffickers were arrested on the spot and a third, who is considered to be the brain behind the trafficking and was not present during the operation, and efforts continue to apprehend him. The chimp was found with wounds inflicted by the traffickers all over his body as he was cruelly kicked and tossed. He was not given food regularly.

Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
2	2	4	20 African grey parrots A baby chimp

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Kribi (South), 3 in Ebolowa (South), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre) 1 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **17 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East region, 3 in South region, 2 in Centre region, 1 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **33 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **30 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No trafficker** was convicted this month.

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	0	0	0	0	0	33

Media

- **25** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio, and internet. That is, 10 written press (7 in English and 3 in French), 10 radio news flashes (6 in French and 4 in English) and, 5 internet publications (3 in French and 2 in English).
- Giving a total of 13 media pieces produced in the English language, and 12 in the French language making 52% in English, and 48% in French.
- Interviewee: None
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the court case of the city council worker arrested with a live mandrill in Kribi, and the arrest of two traffickers with 20 African grey parrot in Ebolowa.

Media table

No of media pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
25	0	10	10	5

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Head of the Legal Unit of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife on issues related to lawyers' representation in court and to strengthen collaboration.
- The Deputy Director participated at a meeting organized by the US Embassy to lay the groundwork for the creation of a taskforce for conservation NGOs.
- The Deputy Director did a presentation on effective wildlife law enforcement during a training for customs, police, gendarmes, wildlife and other security officials of the Douala International Airport.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with a customs official in charge of studies at the Customs Department to discuss an ongoing wildlife case and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments, participated in a meeting that focused on engaging law enforcement officers in online monitoring of illegal wildlife trade in Cameroon. The Head of the Investigations Department did a presentation on the work of the organisation in that domain.
- The Head of the Legal Department, accompanied by a legal adviser held a meeting with State Counsel in Ebolowa to discuss pre-operation strategies while, he and another legal adviser held a meeting with the same State Counsel on strategies on a pending court case.
- A legal adviser held two meetings with the State Counsel in Djoum to discuss legal strategies on an ongoing case and he held another meeting with the State Counsel in Dschang for an ongoing case. He equally held a meeting with the Attorney General in Bertoua to discuss legal strategies for an ongoing case at the Appeals Court.
- Another legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel in Nanga Eboko to discuss legal strategies for a pending matter.

Management

- An investigator from Congo came to the end of a month long experience sharing mission under the coordination of management and returned to Brazzaville.

Activism Front

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

Link of the month

Camer be, an online news site this month published the story of the court hearing of a trafficker who was arrested with a baby mandrill in Ebolowa. The case was heard for the second time after the first was adjourned for the suspect to fully prepare his defence.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/87925/11:1/cameroun-kribi-a-city-council-worker-to-appear-in-court-for-mandrill-trafficking-cameroon.html>

Finance

Please check LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org for monthly financial reports.

This Month in Pictures



Chimp rescued from the hands of traffickers who gave him cruel treatment. At the Littoral Regional Delegation where the process to rehabilitate him is just beginning.



Two parrot traffickers fished out from their hideout and arrested



The parrots were crammed into little space