

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

September 2013 Report



Highlights

- **13 dealers were sentenced this month** in Limbe, Bamenda, Djoum and Yokadouma.
- **The President of the national syndicate of live wildlife exploiters in Cameroon and his Chinese partner slammed prison terms** by the Court of First Instance – Limbe.
- **3 years imprisonment term meted on a major dealer** in Yokadouma – East.
- **Chinese trafficker arrested at Nsimalen Airport** with giant pangolin scales; another dealer arrested in Edea – Littoral with elephant parts.
- **54 media pieces** were produced and pushed through this month

General

This month was marked by the sentencing of 13 major wildlife dealers and the arrest of 2 suspects including another Chinese trafficker.

The Court of First Instance of Limbe – South West **convicts the President of the national syndicate of live wildlife exploiters to 3 months imprisonment and his Chinese partner was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. He was sentenced** for facilitating the illegal exportation of giant pangolin scales and transfer of a government-issued capture permit to the Chinese trafficker who was arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria.

The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma – East slammed a 3 year sentence on a major ivory trafficker operating between the Central African Republic and Cameroon. He is also to pay the sum of **21.422.490 FCFA** (about \$43,000) **as damages** and 1.084.000 FCFA (\$2,100) fines. He was arrested for **killing of elephants, trafficking elephant tusks and grievous harm to an ecoguard.**

In other cases, **2 dealers were sentenced to 1 year imprisonment each and 1 dealer to 8 months imprisonment** in Djoum – South. Still in Djoum, **3 more dealers were sentenced to 1 year imprisonment each, and 1 other to 2 months imprisonment;** they were all arrested in Djoum for illegal killing of elephants and trading in their parts.

The Court of First Instance of Bamenda sentenced 2 dealers to pay **3.000.000 FCFA (\$6,000) as damages and 1.000.000 (\$2,000) FCFA as fines or 2 years imprisonment each in case of non-payment;** they were arrested in Bafut for illegal detention of a baby chimpanzee.

Another Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde **with giant pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is also based in Equatorial Guinea** and was arrested by the Gendarmes and Customs authorities of the Nsimalen airport. LAGA collaborated in the arrest operation and is responsible for a proper legal follow-up.

A major trafficker in wildlife products especially elephant parts including ivory **arrested in Edea with 2 elephant jawbones.** He is also a lorry driver and claims to have connections to officers of law and order that help in facilitating his illegal trade in wildlife products. He has also been carrying out poaching activities for a very long time especially in reserves near Edea.

54 media pieces were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press in English and French. This high rate is due to good produced operations resulting in the arrest of 10 suspects including a high level MINFOF official, a well-known and influential wildlife trafficker, another Chinese trafficker, and a network of traffickers using a military vehicle.

Investigations

- **31 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon- South West, South, East, West, Littoral and Center.
- An Investigator on trial gave an encouraging result this month – an operation arresting a major dealer in elephant parts.
- The institution of collaboration at the airport also yielded good results this month – a Chinese national arrested at Nsimalen International Airport following good work between LAGA and the airport authorities.
- The distribution of flyers in both English and French was re-launched last month continued.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo and GALF-Guinea Investigations Department on Investigations and Operations procedures.

Operations

2 operations carried out this month led to the **arrest of 2 major dealers** including an international wildlife trafficker.

- **16/09/13 – Another Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested** at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde **with giant pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is also based in Equatorial Guinea** and was arrested by the Gendarmes and Customs authorities of the Nsimalen airport. LAGA collaborated in the arrest operation and is responsible for a proper legal follow-up.
- **19/09/13 – A major trafficker** in wildlife products especially elephant parts including ivory **arrested in Edea with 2 elephant jawbones**. He is also a lorry driver and claims to have connections to officers of law and order that help in facilitating his illegal trade in wildlife products. He has also been carrying out poaching activities for a very long time especially in reserves near Edea.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **15 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region:, 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 2 in Limbe (South West), 3 in Djoum (South), 1 in Kribi (South), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Edea (Littoral), 2 in Yokadouma (East), 1 in Bertoua (East), and 2 in Bamenda (North West).
- There are **48 dealers behind bars during this month**: 14 in the East Region, 5 in the South West Region, 13 in Centre region, 2 in North West region, 13 in South Region and 1 in Littoral Region.
- **49 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **47 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: 13 dealers were sentenced this month.
 - **03/09/2013**: The Court of First Instance of Djoum sentenced NDOUM Zoo to **12 months imprisonment**, EYENG Eyeng Maxime to **12 months imprisonment** and BALLA Amougou Yves to **8 months imprisonment**. They were also convicted to **pay 1.000.000 FCFA as damages and 35.300 as FCFA as court fees**. They were arrested in Djoum for illegal detention and trade of elephant meat.
 - **03/09/2013**: The Court of First Instance of Djoum sentenced NUTEL Nelson Bokel to **2 months imprisonment**, AGBWAME Ngo'o Ruth to **2 months imprisonment**, Mvondo Balthazar to **1 year imprisonment**, BIBE Jean born in 1958 **1 year imprisonment**, BIBE Jean born in 1985 **1 year imprisonment**. They were also convicted to **pay 50.000 FCFA each as fine, and 600.000 FCFA as damages jointly and 75.700 as FCFA as court fees**. They were arrested in Djoum for illegal killing of elephants.

- **10/09/2013:** The Court of First Instance of Bamenda sentenced Nebandonoh Denis and Ayengue Joseph Shu to pay jointly **1.000.000 FCFA as fine or 2 years imprisonment each in case of non-payment**; they were also convicted to pay **3.000.000 FCFA as damages**. They were arrested in Bafut for illegal detention of a baby chimpanzee.
- **23/09/2013:** The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma convicted SANGHA Symphorien to **3 years imprisonment and to pay 21.422.490 FCFA as damages and 1.084.000 FCFA as court fees**. They were arrested in Yokadouma for illegal killing of an elephant and for grievous harm on an ecoguard.
- **25/09/2013:** The Court of First Instance of Limbe convicted SAMA Jonathan Aneng to **3 months imprisonment** and WEI Tao to **6 months imprisonment** and to pay **80.000 FCFA each as court fees** in a case of illegal exportation of giant pangolin scales without a certificate of origin and export permit.

Media front

- **54 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press including: 33 written press material (22 in English 11 in French), 2 TV news feature all in French and 19 news flashes (7 in English and 12 in French).
- **Guests include:** the Director of LAGA.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including;** a man arrested with an elephant teeth in Edea, A big parrot export with a Chinese national sentence to jail, a Chinese arrested with pangolin scales in the Nsimalen international airport, the Yokadouma ivory trafficker and ecoguard murderer case sentence to jail and the seizure of parrot at the Nsimalen-Yaounde.
- 29 media pieces in English, 25 in French making a percentage of 53.7% in English and 46.3% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA participates at the Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance (PAAWA) meeting in Nairobi, and presents on using the LAGA model to bring animal welfare laws to application. LAGA is a member of the international council of PAAWA.
- LAGA Director held meetings with various NGOs, Government officials, international community and private sector on establishing a LAGA replication in Kenya.
- LAGA Director met with the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary in charge of the Environment on establishing a LAGA replication in Kenya.
- LAGA held a series of meetings with Paula Kahumbu in charge of the “Hands off our elephants” campaign on leading a LAGA replication in Kenya, and on revision of the Kenyan wildlife law.
- LAGA Director visited Togo to continue ivory investigations, assist TALFF and meet with officials.
- LAGA Director visited Guinea to assist in live animals trade investigations and the building of the GALF team.

Management

- RALF Coordinator who arrived Yaounde from CAR was trained under the regional exchange program for further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement.
- 3 volunteers are being trained in the Legal Department on LAGA wildlife law enforcement procedures and the fight against corruption.

Activism Front

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

Activism this month was on a documentary titled “Crisis in the Congo uncovering the truth”. It is a documentary that uncovers the reality of the crisis in the Congo that varies on political and economic interest of some stakeholders. The idea behind the showing of this film is to procrastinate that if Cameroon is not careful the conflicts happening in its neighbouring countries might also spark out a state of unrest in Cameroon. As such a plan or solution should be worked out to be guided against conflicts in neighbouring countries.

Replication

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

RALF Coordinator from CAR arrived Yaounde - Cameroon and was trained under the regional exchange program for further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement

LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo Investigations Department on Investigations and assisted in operations; collaborated with AALF-Gabon Investigators and Jurists on setting up a network of informants and joint investigations in North Gabon and South Cameroon.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by Budget Line for September 2013

Amount FCFA			Amount USD
2,372,495	Investigations	31 inv, 8 Regions	\$4,842
588,500	Operations	2 Operations against 13 subjects	\$1,201
3,627,163	Legal	follow up 49 cases 48 locked subjects	\$7,402
1,570,810	Media	54 Media pieces	\$3,206
2,496,754	Policy & External Relations	RCA Training RALF coordinator/Togo Mission/Guinea/Gabon/Botswana/Kenya	\$5,095
869,300	Management	Coordination	\$1,774
2,195,559	Office		\$4,481
13,720,581	TOTAL EXPENDITURE SEPTEMBER		\$28,001

LAGA Expenditure by Donor for September 2013

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
3,058,830	FWS	\$6,242.5
2,496,754	FWS-Replication	\$5,095.4
	BornFree UK	\$0.0
	Rufford	\$0.0
	IFAW	\$0.0
588,500	IPPL	\$1,201.0
	ProWildlife	\$0.0
5,170,645	ARCUS Foundation	\$10,552.3
	Conde Nast Award	\$0.0
2,405,852	NEU Foundation	\$4,909.9
13,720,581	TOTAL	\$28,001.2

This Month in Pictures



A major trafficker arrested in Edea - Littoral with 2 elephant jawbones. He is also a lorry driver and claims to have connections to officers of law and order that help in facilitating his illegal trade in wildlife products. He has also been carrying out poaching activities for a very long time especially in reserves near Edea.



Chinese trafficker sentenced to 6 month imprisonment for illegal trafficking of giant pangolin scales. His partner, the President of the national syndicate of live wildlife exploiters in Cameroon was also sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for facilitating the illegal trade and transfer of a government-issued capture permit.

Links of this month

- A Chinese arrested with Giant Pangolin scales and 5 traffickers arrested transporting more than 70 parrots in a military matriculated vehicle – Cameroon National Television Broadcast – CRTV “Les Journal des Faits Divers” - French. The 5 traffickers were arrested transporting the more than 70 parrots in a car bearing a military matriculation plate on the Mbalmayo – Yaounde highway.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7t8YGsj6kE>