THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021



Executive Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to pose challenges, although not as last year and the restrictive measures were a bit relaxed. Despite this challenge and several others, the LAGA team obtained tangible achievements in its collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) in the fight against wildlife crime. Achievements were obtained in the fields of investigations, arrest operations, prosecutions, media exposure and government relations with focus on the fight against the trafficking in live primates, pangolin scales and parrots. The EAGLE network's Central Coordination Unit (CCU) continued to provide vital technical and organisation support that facilitated several operations resulting in a significant number of arrests. Trafficking in primates and pangolin scales drew much of the attention. A major trafficker was arrested with 331kg of pangolin scales and a customs official was arrested with a mandrill.

27 major traffickers were arrested at a rate of one for every two weeks and approximately 55 % stayed before trial started. This is a usually very low rate of arrested traffickers kept behind bars. 27 new cases were brought to the courts. 21 traffickers were found guilty and the courts ordered the payment of damages totalling 227,685,000 FCFA (about \$455,370). to MINFOF by the convicted traffickers. Media exposure was at a rate almost one media piece per day.

The EAGLE network achieved substantial results as 160 trafficker were arrested across all 9 countries. An investigator from Cameroon travelled to Uganda and the collaboration produced two good operations.

Meetings were held with government and diplomatic officials and other stakeholders despite the challenges posed by the health crisis.

The organisation continued to observe strict internal measures and regulations to ensuring the Covid-19 infection was kept at bay. So far, no member of the team has tested positive for Covid 19.

The LAGA team participated in the mourning and remembrance of Vincent Gudmia Mfonfu who was one of the founding fathers of the organisation. The team took part in several funeral activities marking his departure to the world beyond.

The work of LAGA was supported by The Elephant Crisis Fund, Wildcat, Born free Foundation, DUTCH GORILLA Foundation, AVAAZ, Pro Wildlife

LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA) ANNUAL REPORT

January - December 2021

OVERVIEW

Investigations

- A total of 175 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 6 regions.
- The network of informants continued producing results leading to a couple of good operations.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 5 regions arresting 27 major traffickers resulting in 27 court cases at a rate one for every two weeks.
- Operations were on live primates including chimpanzees, mandrills, drills and a baboon; on pangolin scales, leopard skins and African grey parrots.
- The rate of imprisonment of arrested offenders was stood at 55%.
- 2 baby chimpanzees were rescued in May and September
- 4 baby mandrills were rescued in February, June and July with 5 traffickers arrested.
- A customs official was arrested with a live mandrill in February.
- A major trafficker with links to Nigeria was arrested with 331.5kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins

Legal

- 27 new cases were brought to court. Many of the cases began during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures are ongoing.
- 21 traffickers were found guilty and handed prison sentences, fines and damages. Damages amounted to some 227,685,000 FCFA (about \$455,370). to be paid to MINFOF.
- 17 court judgements were passed the year.
- Corruption and complicity were witnessed in three cases.

Media

• A total of 376 media pieces were produced in national media (radio, TV, written press and internet) achieved at a rate of almost one media piece per day.

Management

- The First Semester Report of 2021 was made available online.
- One candidate was trained and recruited for the position of investigator
- Focus was on maintaining high standards in every department despite the numerous health challenges and on improving recruitment for investigators.

External Relations and Policy

• The Covid-19 pandemic limited the possibility of holding several high level meetings. Nevertheless, some meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss issues on collaboration, governance, wildlife law enforcement among others.

Strategic Highlights

- The operational focus over this period was on live primates and pangolin scales
- The strategic focus was ensuring investigations and operations were smoothly carried out despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.
- External relations activities principally targeted high level discussions at the Ministry to tackle issues of collaboration and with diplomatic missions to improve communication and collaboration.
- A new round of recruitment targeting the investigation department were initiated
- The CCU evaluated and provided strategic assistance to management, operational and organisational functioning.
- An internal auditing was carried out to ensure high standards of financial reporting and probity.

EAGLE Activities

- A total of 160 traffickers were arrested across 9 countries of the network during this semester.
- An investigator travelled to Uganda to provide assistance and experience sharing with the young Ugandan team
- The planning, hosting and departure of an investigator from Gabon and another from Congo was carried out.

CONTENTS

-	Executive Summary			
-	Overview			
-	Contents4			
-	Narrative Report5			
1	Investigation5			
2	Operations6			
3	Legal10			
4	Media			
5	Management			
6	External Relations and Policy			
7	LAGA and the EAGLE Network			
8	Fostering Activism			
9	Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact18			
10	Corruption and Wildlife Crime			
Annexes Annex I – The Year in Pictures – Some Important Events				
Ai	nnex II –Media Links 202129			
	narts and Tables			
1 Figure 1: Number of investigation missions per month				
3 Figure 3: Case profile				
4 Figure 4: Rate of locking accused behind bars before prosecution				
	5 Figure 5: Number of media pieces published			
	6 Figure 6: Split of media pieces — 14			
0 1	15 to 0. Split of model procession in the second procession in the seco			

Also available:

- 1. Annual, Financial Statement and Semesters Reports 2021
- 2. Monthly Financial and Activity Reports January to December 2021
- 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

This report covers the period January to December 2021 and it focuses on progress in the activities of each department notably investigations, operations, legal, media and management, strategic overview of and the impact of operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian government, non-governmental bodies, collaboration with international partners and non-enforcement initiatives that LAGA undertook.

1. Investigations

LAGA's investigation unit carried out 175 investigation missions in 7 regions of the country during this period. Weekly meetings were held in the department to develop and implement investigative strategies and techniques, plan activities, promote team spirit so as to identify and cover key trafficking areas, in order to improve on results. Restrictions to fight off the Coved 19 pandemic were relaxed as time went on and this greatly contributed to progress in the implementation of strategies that were put in place There was full collaboration between the department and the CCU's Investigation Officer and this greatly improved investigation standards and results. New investigative techniques as well as old ones were implemented with some success.

The Head of the Investigations Department held meetings with the Conservator of the Dja Wildlife Reserve, the MINFOF Divisional Delegate for the Dja and Lobo Division and some security officials of the division to enhance and strengthen collaborative platforms in the fight against wildlife crime.

The Head of the Investigations Department held meetings with some customs and security officials at the Nsimalen International Airport and s officials at the Douala International Airport to enhance collaboration. He was accompanied by the Head of the Legal Department to some of the meetings

Following a rigorous selection and training exercise, a new investigator. was recruited and he wasted no time in proving to be potentially a capable field investigator. The head of the department and his deputy were all part of the operation team during all operations carried out during the year and this greatly boosted the operation capacity of the whole team.

The country continues to face a challenging security situation in some parts and investigations were not carried out in these regions. Plans have been put in place to fully cover these areas once the situation improves.

An investigator travelled to Uganda to provide assistance and share experiences with the young Ugandan team and this wasted no time in producing two good operations.

The department hosted an investigator who came in from Gabon and spent three weeks with the team, sharing experiences.

The department provided technical support to other EAGLE projects including Congo, Uganda and Cote d'Ivoire.

Number of Missions

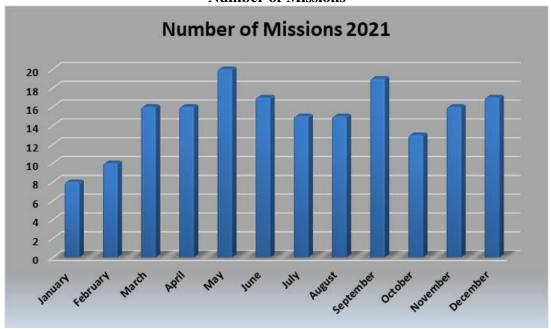


Figure 1: Number of Investigations Missions per Month

2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 5 regions against 27 individuals resulting in 27 court cases at a rate of one every two weeks. 2 cases were initiated following police arrest of two ivory traffickers in the South A combination of old and new strategies resulted in more complex and sophisticated operations to meet up with the changing tactics of traffickers. Ivory traffickers were not part of operations carried out for the first time during a whole year. Live primate operations represented 48% of those arrested, 30 % for pangolin scales and leopard skins traffickers represented 15% of operations and 7% for African grey parrot traffickers.

One of the major highlights was the arrest of an international trafficker with 331.5kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins in a dangerous neighbourhood in Yaounde. 32 bags of pangolin scales were found in a storeroom in the neighbourhood during the operation. He had links to several traffickers in Nigeria. Several live animals including 20 African grey parrots, 4 mandrills, 2 baby chimpanzees, a baby drill and a baby baboon were rescued during operations carried out in 3 regions. A customs official was arrested trafficking in one of the mandrills. Collaboration with an external partner produced one high quality arrest.

In February, a trafficker was arrested with a live mandrill in Ambam, South. The young and hungry animal was rescued form the hands of the trafficker, a customs official who had been keeping the animal for over one year at his residence. He was arrested as he tried to sell the animal in Ambam. He is specialized in animal trafficking as he had earlier sold a mandrill to another trafficker who travelled from Douala. He was planning to continue dealing in primates and planned to buy a baby gorilla for the same business. He bought the primates from Lele, a locality closed to Djoum, the ivory trafficking hub in the South. The mandrill was immediately provided first aid care and food. It was later transported to Yaoundé, Mvogbetsi zoo for further care.

In March, a trafficker was arrested in Bertoua, East Region with two bags full with pangolin scales weighing 109kg. He activated several smaller traffickers in a number of localities including

Mampang, Mendim, Moutcheboum and Nkolesseng in the East Region and regularly supplied the scales to bigger traffickers who came in from Yaoundé and Douala. He had loaded the pangolin scales in two rice sacks and was just about offloading the scales when he was arrested.

The month of May saw the arrest a trafficker in Nanga Eboko, Centre Region with a live baby chimpanzee. The baby chimp was rescued during a high risk, nerve-racking cross river operation. Courage and initiative saved our investigator and the chimp from the hands of a trafficker. He traveled dozens of kilometers to the banks of the Sanaga River (the longest in Cameroon) and camped there holding our investigator captive, refusing to cross over to the safer side of river. The trafficker got the chimp from an area called Ndondzoua, that is considered to be a hotspot for bushmeat. The arresting team stormed in to take the chimp and trafficker to the safer side of the river. As the team, wildlife officers and the authorities got to the station and prepared for interrogation, the criminal suddenly made a run into the bush attempting to escape. He was hotly chased and captured. The baby chimp, a survivor of the slaughter of his family, was smuggled in a tiny closed box, and was pulled out frightened and stressed. He was given special first aid attention and care by the team. The chimp is in the Sanaga Yong Sanctuary for his lifetime care.

During a second operation of the month of May, 2 traffickers were arrested in Mbalmayo in the Centre Region with 72kg of pangolin scales. The seizure alone represents up to 360 slaughtered pangolins (depending on the species). When the arresting team arrived the home of one of the traffickers, they found a grain bag full with pangolin scales in the corner of the living room. The traffickers operated at a strategically important road junction, a gateway to the towns in the south of the country where wildlife traffickers are very active. They are experienced pangolins scales traffickers. One of the traffickers tried every trick in the book to avoid arrest saying he has been arrested in the past.

Three operations were carried in June. During the first operation a trafficker was arrested in Dimako, East Region with 60kg of pangolin scales. He is an experienced pangolin scales trafficker who posed as a hawker in second hand dresses. He bought pangolin scales from smaller traffickers and poachers he activated in villages around Dimako where he is resident. He is connected to many pangolin scales trafficking networks in the East Region. He took every precaution to avoid arrest. He had collected the 60kg in just 6 days having profound knowledge of the area, where to get the scales and how to move them around.

4 traffickers were arrested in Balessing in the Menoua Division of the West Region with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin during the second operation of June. The traffickers belong to a network of experienced leopard skin traffickers. One of them was recently arrested but she bribed her way out of jail. They seem to have connections with a law enforcement official who supplies the skins. They arrived the place of transaction individually on bikes, with two grain bags containing the skins. They obtained the skins from other regions in the country. The region is notorious for skins trafficking and traffickers use traditional titles and functions to cover their illegal trade in leopard skin. One of the traffickers is a traditional ruler. A fifth trafficker of the gang is on the run

A trafficker was arrested in Mintom in the South Region with a live baby mandrill during the third and last operation of the first semester. She regularly traffics live primates in collaboration with her father who is a traditional ruler The operation team was gearing to rescuing two mandrills but one died the day before the operation, the trafficker admitted that a third mandrill she tried to sell died as well. She added that her father who is a traditional chief lends his gun to poachers that he activates and he is her supplier, while she has a regular buyer for live primates. He has been accused and stands prosecution.

In July, three operations were carried out and during the first, a trafficker was arrested in Kribi, South Region with a live mandrill. The female mandrill was found chained to a very inhospitable

cage and placed in open space at the residence of the trafficker. She was immediately released and moved to the zoo for further care. The trafficker bought the animal from a small town called Bipindi, situated some 78km from Kribi. He was advised to hand over the animal to wildlife officials but he refused, rather opting to sell the her.

During the second operation, a trafficker was arrested in Djoum in the South Region with another live mandrill. He was arrested at Melen, a village not far from Djoum and the animal sustained injuries inflicted by a cord that was tied around the waist of the little female. Immediately, the rescue team released the animal of the unbearable chain and instant first aid measures applied. A veterinarian was brought to apply treatment to the animal before she was moved to the Yaounde zoo for special care and comfort. He worked in collaboration with a poacher who is on the run, to get the mandrill which he intended to travel to Djoum to sell before his arrest.

During the last operation of the month, a trafficker was arrested in Yaounde in the Centre Region with 331.55kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins, following a wildlife crime investigation carried out in close collaboration with the CCU and other partners. He was found in possession of 32 bags of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins hidden in several storerooms at the Briqueterie neighbourhood in Yaounde. The neighbourhood is known to hide several wildlife law offenders and their illegal products. The arrest is part of an intricate investigations into this major criminal group that has tentacles in the Central African sub region and in Nigeria. It could provide a trove of valuable information into the ring that involves several traffickers including some closely related family members. The trafficking ring had regularly been sending huge quantities of pangolin scales to Nigeria. Some of its members are based near the Cameroon, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea borders raising possibility that some of the contraband is coming in from these countries.

In September, 2 traffickers were 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.

During a second operation in September, 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. 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. The chimp was rescued and taken to the Pongo Songo Chimpanzee Sanctuary where it is receiving lifetime care and support.

In October, 2 more chimp traffickers arrested in Douala, Littoral Region following the seizure of a baby chimp and arrest in September of 2 traffickers.

Still in October, a trafficker was arrested in Bertoua, East Region with 77kg of pangolin scales. He transported the scales in a pickup truck. He activated several poachers in the region, particularly around the Lom Pangar Dam and Deng area. He suppled pangolin scales and other wildlife products to several traffickers coming from some of the big towns. He is a commercial car driver plying the road between Bertoua and Lom Pangar and used this activity to illegal transport and sell pangolin scales. He understood when to move the scales from the smaller localities where he bought them, knowing exactly when checkpoints manned by wildlife officials were functioning and for how long.

During a third operation, a trafficker arrested with a freshly killed pangolin along the Yaounde – Bafoussam highway, close to Ndikinimiki. Blood could be seen on the head of the pangolin that was probably smashed. Protected wildlife species are generally dangled by hand or hung from a piece of a wooden pole or stick along major highways in country for sale, despite their protected status and the illegality of selling them. The operation comes as a reminder that protected species remain protected and it is illegal to trade in them.

.

In November, two operations were carried with 4 traffickers arrested. During the first operation, **3** traffickers arrested in Bafang, West Region with a baby drill. The animal was quickly transported to the Limbe Wildlife Centre where he shall be getting specialist care from veterinarians and join a family of drills. The traffickers bought the baby from a poacher and they attempted to sell when they were arrested.

During the second operation, a trafficker was arrested in Nkoteng, Centre Region with 86kg of giant pangolin scales and a baby baboon rescued. The animal was found leashed around the waist and tied to a tree at the premises of the trafficker. He bought the young baboon from a poacher who trapped and killed the mother around Yoko, where he got most of his supplies of illicit products. The scales are from giant pangolins which is more threatened with extinction than the two other species in the country. Seizures are almost always composed of scales from all three species. The trafficker belongs to a bigger group illegally trafficking several wildlife products including elephant ivory around Yoko and Nkoteng in the Centre Region

.

Operations Table

Number of	Number of	Contraband
Operations	Traffickers	
		A live mandrill, 109kg of pangolin scales, A live baby chimp, 72kg
14	27	of pangolin scales, 60kg of pangolin scales, 3 crocodile skins and a
		crocodile skin, a live mandrill, 331.55kg of pangolin scales, 3
		leopard skins. 2 live mandrills, 20 African grey parrots, baby
		chimp, 77kg of pangolin scales and one dead pangolin, a baby drill,
		a young baboon and 86kg of pangolin scales

Figure 2: Operation Table

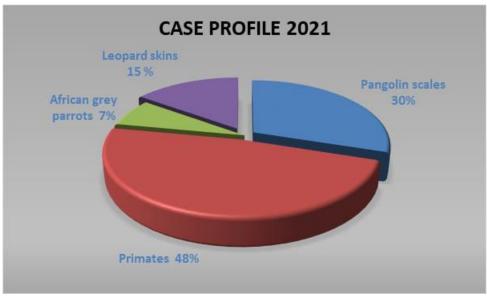


Figure 3: Operations profile

3. Legal

A total of 27 new cases reached the court and the cases joined old cases that were scheduled, followed-up and tried in various courts. Some jail visits were organized. The 25 of the cases resulted from operations assisted by LAGA The organisation provided legal assistance to 2 cases following arrest of 2 ivory traffickers by the police. A court gave a five-year imprisonment term to two who were arrested last year trafficking in human bones while another court gave a two-year sentence to a notorious ivory trafficker and repeat offender. 27 new cases were brought to court. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the judgement stage with 55% of the arrest stayed behind bars before trail started. 21 traffickers were found guilty and handed prison sentences, fines and damages. Damages amounted to some 227,685,000 FCFA (about \$455,370). to be paid to MINFOF.

A total of 122 missions were carried out of the Centre Region for follow-up of new cases and the creation and strengthening of relations with judicial authorities. More emphasis as a direct result of operations was on primates that produced close to half of all the operations while arrest of pangolin scales traffickers followed in second,

The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused ANGO'O ASSAKO Samson guilty and sentenced him to a 3-month suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 110,000 FCFA as fines. He was also ordered to pay 2,200,000 FCFA (about \$4400) as damages. He was arrested in Ebolowa on the 26/08/2020 for illegal possession of 23 kg of pangolin scales.

The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused POMELA ABELA Aimé, NGOUALONG Kuete, MOHAMADOU Nabi and TCHENE Maxime not guilty and MBOKI MPORI Clément and JOVAH Yahwé Christian guilty. MBOKI MPORI Clément was sentenced to serve 5 months in prison and to pay 400,000 FCFA (about \$800) as fines. JOVAH Yahwé Christian was sentenced to serve 2 years' prison term and to pay 1,000,000 FCFA (about \$2000) as fines. They were also ordered to pay 5,000,000 FCFA (about \$10,000) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Bertoua on the 02/12/2020 for illegal possession of 4 ivory tusks.

The Ambam Court of First Instance found the accused MOHAMADOU Ibrahim guilty and sentenced him to a 4 months in prison and to pay 1,000,000 FCFA (about \$2000) as fines. He was

also ordered to pay 60,000,000 FCFA (about \$120,000) as damages. He was arrested in Ambam on the 21/10/2020 for illegal possession of 626 kg of ivory tusks.

The Kribi Court of First Instance found the accused BEMEHIHE Clara Rosalie guilty and sentenced her to a one-month imprisonment term and to pay 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000) as damages. She was arrested in Kribi on the 10/12/2020 for illegal possession of 1 mandrill.

The Foumbot Court of First Instance found the accused LONTSI Saint-Claire guilty and FONDIKOU FAKOUO Aminou guilty and sentenced them to 5 years in prison and to pay 100,000 each FCFA (about \$200) as fines They are wildlife traffickers arrested on the 26/06/2020 for the illegal sale of two human skeletons.

The Court of Appeal maintained AKANZE AKONGLO Bertrand's the 6 months imprisonment sentence and acquitted TEGOUM Alphonse Raoul, BOUGNIA Kamta Francis and TCHAMTCHEU Francis Romuald. On the other hand, the Court overturned the lower court's decision with regards to the damages and ordered AKANZE AKONGLO Bertrand to pay the sum of 163.000.000 FCFA (about \$326,000) as damages. They were arrested in Douala on the 14/03/2019 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 156kg of ivory tusks and 1,500kg of pangolin scales.

The Mbalmayo Court of First Instance found the accused NSIA ONDOA Raphaël and EBOGO Hélène guilty and sentenced them to one month in prison and to pay 200,000 FCFA (about \$400) as damages. They were arrested in Mbalmayo on the 19/05/2021 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 72kg of pangolin scales.

The Abong-Mbang Court of First Instance found the accused NFENJOU YAYA guilty and sentenced him 2 months in prison and to pay 2,285,000 FCFA (about \$4570) as damages. He was arrested in Dimako on the 03/06/2021 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 58kg of pangolin scales.

In the case of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife against ANGO Jean and ENDELE NANGA Venant, the South Court of Appeal ruled against the judgment delivered by the Djoum Court of First Instance, and declared that the Djoum Court was competent to hear the matter. On the 26/11/2019, the Djoum Court of First Instance had declared itself incompetent to hear the matter in favour of the Military Tribunal. They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal possession and circulation with 216 elephant tusks and 81 elephant tails.

The Yaounde Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused NDZANA Célestin not guilty. On the other hand, the Court found NKWASSI Sylvester and BEKOMBO GUIWA Bruno guilty and sentenced them 5 months in prison and to pay 30,975 FCFA (about \$80) each as court fees. They were also ordered to pay 100,000 FCFA (about \$200) jointly as damages. Two of them were arrested in Yaounde on the 24/09/2020 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of two African grey parrot and three red-fronted parrots.

The South Court of Appeal maintained the 6-month jail term given to PEKASSA Adamou and MAH MVOMO's by an earlier court and to pay 66,500,000 FCFA (about \$133,000) as damages. They were arrested in Djoum on the 12/12/2017, for illegal possession and transport of 216 elephant tusks and 81 elephant tails.

The Nanga-Eboko Court of First Instance found the accused EKANGA Jean de Dieu guilty and sentenced him to pay 100,000 FCFA (about \$200) as fines and 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000) as

damages. He was arrested in Nanga-Eboko on the 10/05/2021 for illegal possession of a live chimpanzee.

The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused GAMBO Mouhamadou and TCHAPTCHET Christian guilty and sentenced them to one year suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 1,500,000 FCFA (about \$3000) as damages. They were arrested in Ebolowa on the 17/09/2021, for illegal possession of 20 grey parrots.

The Douala Bonanjo Court of First Instance found the accused KAMDEM Eric and KAMHOUA KAMDEM Serge guilty and sentenced them to 3 months suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 1,500,000 FCFA (about \$3000) as damages. They were arrested in Douala on the 08/10/2021 for illegal possession of a chimpanzee.

The Djourn Court of First Instance found the accused NKOLO Josiane and BIDJA Vincent guilty and sentenced them to 3 months suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 2,000,000 FCFA (about \$4000) as damages. They were arrested in Mintom on the 29/06/2021 for unlawful possession of a Mandrill.

The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused TAPA KOUOKAP Guy Rostand guilty and sentenced him to 8 months in prison and to pay 400,000 FCFA as fines and 222,345 FCFA as court fees. He was also ordered to pay 3,500,000 FCFA (about \$7000) as damages. He was arrested in Bertoua on the 14/10/2021 for the illegal possession of 77 kg of pangolin scales.

The Kribi Court of First Instance found the accused KOUMBA Rene guilty and sentenced him to pay 25,000 FCFA as fines and 200,000 FCFA (about \$400) as damages. He was arrested in Kribi on the 07/07/2021 for illegal possession of a mandrill.

An appeal was filed in the case of NDZANA Célestin, NKWASSI Sylvester and BEKOMBO GUIWA Bruno in the Centre Court of Appeal.

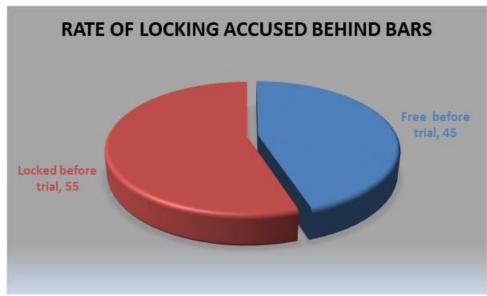


Figure 4: Rate of locking accused behind bars

4. Media

A total of 376 media pieces were produced and pushed into media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television, written press and the internet; achieved at a rate of one media piece per day. March and July months recorded the highest number of media pieces and April witnessed a significantly low number of media pieces because of the absence of operations during the month.

Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the court jjudgment of six traffickers arrested in Bertoua with four ivory tusks; the publication of the 9th edition of the "Wildlife Justice" journal; court hearings of a wildlife trafficker arrested with 40kg of pangolin scales in Doume, the World Pangolin Day; the Yaoundé court hearings of two people arrested with one leopard skin and one lion skin, the Ambam customs official arrest for unlawful possession of a live mandrill, the Bertoua arrested of a man arrested with more than 100kg of pangolin scales; the Nanga Eboko arrest of a trafficker with a baby chimp; the Mbalmayo arrest of two with over 70kg of pangolin scales; the Dimako arrest of a trafficker with 60kg of pangolin scales and the Balessing arrest of 4 traffickers in 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin; Dschang arrest of 4 traffickers with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin; the Mintom arrest of a mandrill trafficker; the Djoum arrest of a trafficker with a baby mandrill; the city council worker arrest in Kribi with a mandrill; the Yaounde arrest of a trafficker with 331 kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins; the arrest of two traffickers with 20 African grey parrots in Ebolowa; the Douala arrest of 2 chimp traffickers; the arrest of a trafficker with over 77kg of pangolin scales in Bertoua; the Bafia arrest of trafficker with a freshly killed pangolin; the arrest of three traffickers with a baby drill in Bafang; the Nkoteng rescue of a young baboon

Interviewees and quotes were from: The Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife; Pricelia Tumenta, a Cameroonian Lion specialist and Director of the Lion Recovery Fund; the Upper Sanaga Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, the Director and the Deputy Director of LAGA. The Centre Regional Control Chief of Brigade at the Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife, the Divisional Officer of Yaounde 1, the Commander of Nlongkak Gendarmerie Brigade.

The Deputy Director was a guest on prime-time news programme on the CRTV News channel. The national TV channel broadcast the arrest of a pangolin trafficker with 331kg of pangolin scales.

The Deputy Director gave an interview to an American based conservation news site Mongabay.com, on wildlife trafficking and conflicts in Cameroon.

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

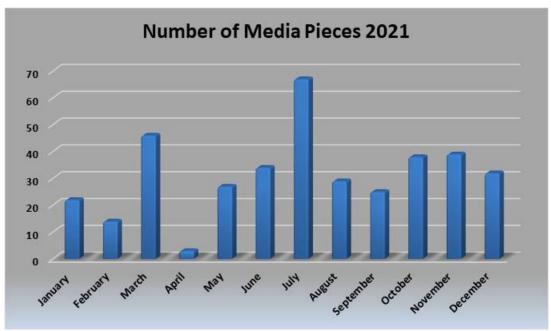


Figure 5: Number of Media Pieces Produced and Published

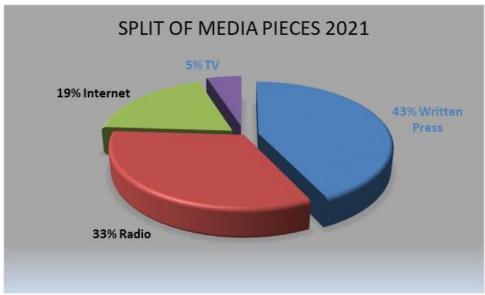


Figure 6: Split_in Media Pieces

5. Management

The fight against the Covid 19 pandemic continued relentlessly and LAGA took a critical step in the fight by setting up extra protective measures. Special efforts were made to providing face marks and hand sanitizers as well all other items needed to protect against the pandemic. Several guidelines that aligned to government's measures were enforced. Investigations and operation ipso facto became more challenging and new adaptive management techniques were applied to ensure the smooth functioning of all activities. Two other regions of the country that are seared by security problems continue to pose a challenge but plans have been put in place to quickly cover the regions once the situation on the ground improves.

Sustained efforts were made by management to ensuring efficient and effective use of resources and skills available to the organisation. A couple of team building activities were carried out during the period and included common office lunch and a visit to the seaside resort town of Kribi

An external team of auditors from Moore Stephens came to the end of an audit mission to the organisation where they worked with the finance department for a complete audit.

An investigator travelled to Uganda to provide assistance and share experiences with the young Ugandan team. This resulted in two significant operations carried out in Uganda.

The planning, hosting and departure of the investigator from Gabon was carried out. An investigator from Congo was hosted during a month long experience sharing mission under the coordination of management.

Recruitment for the investigations department continued with two volunteers tested and one retained for the positions of an investigator.

The first semester and second semester reports of 2021 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.

Two general meetings were held to first of all define targeted results and activities to be carried out within the period, secondly to evaluate what had been achieved and to ensure efforts were redoubled to achieving the expected results as the year drew to a close. During the second meeting, debates focused on team spirit and collaboration.

LAGA lost one of its founding members and the entire team fully participated at activities to mark the farewell of Vincent Gudmia Mfonfu.

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.

The entire LAGA team went on annual vacation and end of year activities were carried out. Office reopens in January 2022. Everyone gathered at the table and extended season's greetings during an end of year lunch. Christmas gifts were equally distributed to every member.

6. External Relations and Policy

The Deputy Director accompanied by the of the Legal Departments held a meeting with Secretary General to discuss prosecution procedures and wildlife cases.

The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy with the Deputy Chief of the Political Section and the Environment Specialist to discuss the organisation's yearly plan and activities while also focusing on problems affecting effective wildlife conservation in the country. Some solutions where discussed and how these could be implemented

The Deputy Director participated at a meeting held at the Mvogbetsi Zoo and chaired by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, that focused on areas of collaboration and intervention by CSOs in the forestry and wildlife subsector.

The Deputy Director trained ecoguards of the East Antenna of the Dja Bioshpere Reserve on information collection and management and on techniques in fighting corruption during a workshop organised by ZSL to strengthen the law enforcement capacity of the ecoguards.

The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held meetings with some regional wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration with the Centre Regional Wildlife Delegation.

He participated at a Zoom meeting organized by Save Pangolins to introduce to the pangolin conservation community in Cameroon, the new Senior Manager of Pangolin Crisis Fund. Discussions focused on the presentation of their areas of activities by the various participants and avenues for collaboration.

The Deputy Director participated at a meeting of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group that was focused on drawing avenues for collaboration and an action plan for pangolin protection by the group.

The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department trained some wildlife rangers and teachers of the Garoua Wildlife School during a training workshop in the North of the country that focused on the law enforcement procedure.

The Deputy Director participated at the signing ceremony of an MoU between the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and a pangolin rehabilitation project – the Tikki Hywood Foundation. He met with several MINFOF officials.

The Head of the Legal Department actively participated in a workshop in Douala which sought to train the trainers in wildlife law enforcement and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime in Cameroon. Within the course of the workshop, he did two presentations; the first on the basic wildlife law procedure and the second on the calculation of civil damages in wildlife cases.

The Deputy Director participated at the US States Department International Visitor Leadership Program which was done virtually because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The programme brought together participants from 12 African countries and focused on the theme Combatting Wildlife Trafficking.

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 held a zoom meeting with Lucie Bird of Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime to discuss wildlife trafficking hotspots and routes in the country.

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.

He 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 Deputy Director carried out a presentation on online wildlife crime and LAGA's law enforcement initiatives and experience during a training for some top ranking gendarmerie, police, customs, wildlife officials.

The Deputy Director participated at a workshop organized by the British High Commission to create synergy on communication strategies for the upcoming CoP26 to hold in Glasgow

He held a meeting with the new Project Manager of the Tikki Hywood Foundation who recently arrived the country and they discussed several issues relating to pangolin conservation and wildlife conservation in general.

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 participated at several workshops organised by TRAFFFIC where he did presentations on the basic wildlife law enforcement procedure and the calculation of damages. The workshop focused on strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities in fighting wildlife crime in the country.

The Head of the Legal Department participated at a workshop in Djohong – Mbere Valley National Park that was organized by CABAG and aimed at strengthening the capacity of frontline wildlife ecoguards in the fight against wildlife crimes. He did presentations on the wildlife offence statements, the management of court cases and techniques in auditioning.

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

The EAGLE network is now responsible for the replication activity of the LAGA model but LAGA continued to host training sessions in the country and in this regard, LAGA hosted a super volunteer who received training and participated in numerous field activities.

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 paperbook. The function of leadership is not producing more followers but to produce more leaders.

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

The month of March was marked by the celebration of International Women's Day which is holds on March 8 of each year. This day was an opportunity for Cameroonian woman to ask several questions related to their gender including female leadership roles. LAGA held a family dinner to celebrate women's right.

Activism was focused on documentaries and presentations listed below.

Presentation: The International Labour Day.

The presenter takes us through the origin of the labour day, why do we celebrate it, how is it celebrated around the world, what are the main problems faced by workers, what are the solutions and the employer-employee dialectics. A debate on the working conditions in the organization ensued and the general vision and procedure in solving the problems were explained by the Deputy Director who enjoined all to relax and celebrate as it was the day of the worker.

Movie: Omo Child: The River and the Bush

Lale Labuko documents his moves to save children who are killed by their very own people because tradition says so. They are the "Mingi", children born with some disabilities or perceived disabilities or simply out of wedlock among the Kara people in Ethiopia. They simply have to die because tradition says they are a curse and of course Lale disagrees. He fights on and wins the fight to preserve the lives of these children after saving and taking over dozens from the mouth of death. His initiatives fully capture all what activism is about that the dedication of one man can make a change. The debates concentrate on the tradition itself, activism and the will to fight on. against all the odds.

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 and its impact on the 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 Live Primates

. The illegal trade in live primates was in focus this year despite the dangers posed by zoonosis as the Covid 19 situation clearly indicates. The trade in live primates is carried out even by officials who are supposed to be the guardians of the law and in this particular instance a customs official was arrested with a young mandrill

2 baby chimpanzees, 4 live mandrills, a baby drill and a young baboon were seized from traffickers in 3 different regions of the country and all were found in terrible physical condition. Poorly treated it took the caring hands of the LAGA team on the ground with wildlife officials to bring back some confidence in human beings to the animals.

A customs official was arrested with a live mandrill in Ambam, South Region after driving his green Toyota carina car from Kye- Ossi where he is stationed to Ambam. He drove the car with the animal clinging on him and arrived Ambam where he tried to sell the mandrill. He had been keeping the animal in iron chains in a small and unsuitable cage for over one year. He had earlier traded a mandrill in the same town to a live animal trafficker who travelled from Douala for the deal. He had been searching for a baby gorilla to buy before his arrest. The hungry and frail looking mandrill was immediately taken care off following its rescue and moved to the zoo for further care

An ape trafficker was arrested with a baby chimp in Nanga Eboko. The baby chimp was rescued during a high risk, nerve-racking cross river operation. Courage and initiative saved our investigator and the chimp from the hands of a trafficker. He travelled dozens of kilometres to the banks of the Sanaga River and camped there holding our investigator captive, refusing to cross over to the safer side of the river. The arresting team stormed in to take the chimp and trafficker to the safer side of the river. As the team, wildlife officers and the authorities got to the station and prepared for interrogation, the criminal suddenly made a run into the bush attempting to escape. He was hotly chased and captured.

In July, a trafficker was arrested and a mandrill rescued in Kribi, South Region. The female mandrill was found chained to a very inhospitable cage and placed in open space at the residence of the trafficker. She was immediately released and moved to the Yaounde zoo for further care. During a second operation a trafficker was arrested and another mandrill rescued in Djoum in the South Region. The animal was weak, fragile and malnourished. A cord that was tied around the waist of the little female inflicted injuries on her and left a gaping wound. Immediately, the rescue team released the animal of the unbearable chain and instant first aid measures applied.

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. 2 more traffickers would be arrested in connection with this chimp. The animal is suspected to have been trafficked out of a sanctuary.

Operations to save live animals need to be done pretty fast as their time is counted due to the improper treatment and handling from the traffickers. For example, a trafficker arrested in Mintom in the South Region with a baby mandrill. The plan was to rescue two mandrills but one died the day before the operation, showing how crucial it is to rescue these baby primates fast as they live on borrowed time. The trafficker admitted that a third mandrill she tried to sell died as well. She added that her father who is a traditional chief lends his gun to poachers that he activates and he is her supplier, while she has a regular buyer for live primates. He has been accused and stands prosecution

9.2 Pangolin Scales

Seizures in pangolin scales continue as usual as the trade keeps expanding. Close to half a ton of pangolin scales were seized from traffickers. Despite a brief period of uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic business seems to be coming back to normalcy as the traffickers are picking up steam.

International connections were once more established in one of the cases involving a major trafficker who had ties with Nigeria. Further investigations into his trafficking indicated that it involved some countries of the Central African sub region. Just as some trafficking in wildlife is more locally oriented, the trafficking in pangolin scales is generally international with the contraband ending up far beyond the country's borders. The trafficker was found with 331kg of pangolin scales and three leopard skins in a dangerous neighbourhood in Yaounde where he was protected by his kin. It took the dexterity of the arresting team and very good planning to pull the trafficker out as a crowd of acolytes surged in menacingly. Another trafficker who used his pickup car to move pangolin scales around was arrested. This arrest illustrates the skills and means used by pangolin scales trafficker who can invest hugely to moving their illegal business around the country

A trafficker arrested with 109kg of pangolin scales in Bertoua in the East Region. He was arrested as he offloaded two bags of pangolin scales from his car. A search of his home found smaller quantities of pangolin scales concealed in a black plastic bag and hidden inside his kitchen. He activated several smaller traffickers in a number of localities in the area and regularly supplied the scales in the bigger cities.

2 traffickers arrested with 72kg of pangolin scales in Mbalmayo, Centre Region. The seizure, represents up to 360 slaughtered pangolins (depending on the species). They operated at a strategic road junction, gateway to the South Region. When the arresting team arrived the home of one of the traffickers, they found a grain bag with full pangolin scales in the corner of the living room. They had been in the illegal business for quite a long time.

A trafficker arrested in Dimako, East Region with 60kg of pangolin scales. He is an experienced pangolin scales trafficker who posed as a hawker in second hand dresses. He bought pangolin scales from smaller traffickers and poachers he activated in several villages. This seizure is a mere snapshot of the regular two-weeks activity of the trafficker. This one sack represents the killing of up to 300 pangolins (depending on the species).

9.3 Leopard skins

The illegal trade in leopard skins has taken hold in the west of the country because of traffickers taking advantage of culture to launder their illegal business. They use the cover of tradition and culture of the West Region to illegally trade in leopard skins with impunity. 4 traffickers arrested in Balessing in the West Region with 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin. The traffickers belong to a network of experienced leopard skin traffickers. The region is notorious for skins trafficking and traffickers use traditional titles and functions to cover their illegal trade in leopard skin. One of the traffickers is a traditional ruler. A fifth trafficker of the gang is on the run.

The trade is international as other traffickers mix up contraband with leopard skins. This was the case in September when a major trafficker with links to several countries was arrested with 331kg of pangolin scales and among the illegal products were 3 leopard skins. Investigations show the traffickers main market was Nigeria.

9.4 Parrots

The illegal trade of African grey parrots near protected areas where they are captured was put on the spotlight with the capture of 2 traffickers with 20 African grey parrots. They were fished out of their hideout in Ebolowa, South Region near the Campo Ma'an National Park. The traffickers were attempting to sell the parrots at a place where they had been hiding and keeping parrots in the region. They are part of an even bigger parrot trafficking network in the country that includes foreign nationals

10. Corruption and Wildlife Crime

LAGA has been an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. All bribing attempts are documented into our case tracking systems. 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 conferences, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA. LAGA is not a watchdog group and not created as an observer, it fights directly whenever corrupt practices or bribery attempts have been observed.

This ongoing fight is directed towards issues that touch on corruption and bad governance. In November last year, two suspected traffickers were arrested for parrot trafficking and one other arrested on the instruction of a judge. During the trial of the case in court, a judge would order that the court go to the zoo where the parrots were kept for physical observation and verification. This could not take place because the conservator claimed the parrots had escaped.

When a trafficker was arrested in Yaounde in July with over 330kg of pangolin scales, an entire network of people brought pressure to corrupt the brigade commander who heads the unit where he was detained. He received nocturnal visits from some members of a diplomatic mission in Yaounde who came around trying to get the trafficker released by proposing several millions of francs to the commander who simply refused the money. He has worked with us on several occasions and clearly understands our position on corruption.

When a mandrill trafficker was arrested in Kribi in September and while wildlife officials were drawing up the complaint reports, they were pressured by the family of the trafficker as well as a member of the Senate and a mayor. They suggested to the MINFOF delegate that they he should find a way to stop proceedings at his level and release the suspect, but the wildlife official stood his ground. Nevertheless, the trafficker was quickly released on bail when the case progressed.

Annex I The Year in Pictures



In February, customs official arrested with mandrill



Mandrill Rescued in February





Mandrill rescued in June (left) and woman was found attempting to sell the animal (above)



Arrested with 109kg of pangolin scales in March



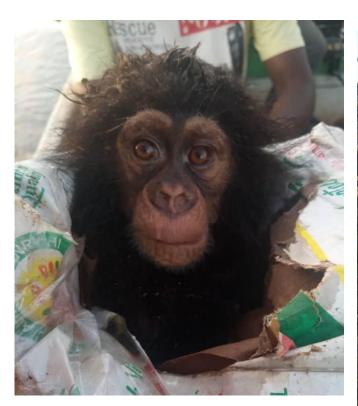


Pangolins are totally protected in the country and these scales represent up to 250 pangolins to have been massacred in the wild





Two arrested in in Mbalmayo in custody of 72 kg of pangolin scales in May.





Baby chimp rescued from a chimp trafficker in Nanga Eboko at the banks of the River Sanaga, the trafficker camped on the banks of River Sanaga with a baby chimp that was later rescued



Arrested for trafficking 60kg of pangolin scales in June



Four arrested leopard skin trafficking in June





Major trafficker arrested in Yaounde for cross border trafficking, over 330kg of pangolin scales seized



Arrested with freshly killed pangolin



He was found with 77kg of pangolin scales loaded in a pickup truck and was just about selling it when arrested



He was found with 77kg of pangolin scales loaded in a pickup truck and was just about selling it when arrested





City council worker tried to sell mandrill and was arrested despite good advice by neighbours to hand over the animal to wildlife officials





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





He was arrested with 86kg of giant pangolin scales and a young baboon rescued from his home.





A baby drill was rescued from 3 traffickers arrested at they attempted to sell the animal LAGA First Semester Report January – December 2021 Page 28

Annex II - Media Links

In January, the online news site Alwihda.info published a story on the publication of the 9th edition of the "Wildlife Justice" Journal entitled "Pangolin Trafficking".

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-Wildlife-Justice-Journal-se-penche-sur-le-trafic-depangolins a99909.html

In February, Camer.be, an online news site focused on the court hearing of two people arrested in Yaounde with one lion skin and a leopard skin. They shall be heard on March 25, 2021 at the Court of First Instance of Yaoundé. The news site underlines the fact that lions and leopards are totally protected species by the wildlife law of the country.

https://www.camer.be/mobile/84817/11:1/cameroun-deux-trafiquants-despeces-sauvages-au-tribunal-a-yaounde-le-25-mars-prochain-cameroon.html

In March, Alwihda info treated the arrest of a customs official with live mandrill in his possession. The site says trafficking in primates is becoming recurrent in the country and the suspect used his status of Customs official to carry out his illegal activities. The news site also laid emphasis on the importance of the species that needs absolute protection.

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-Un-commis-de-douane-arrete-avec-un-mandrill-vivant-a-Ambam a101256.html

In May, Camer.be, published the story of the arrest of a man who was ferrying a baby chimp to sell. He was arrested and the chimp rescued by the joint effort of wildlife officials and LAGA. https://www.camer.be/86348/11:1/cameroun-arrested-in-nanga-eboko-for-chimp-trafficking-cameroon.html

In June, Camer.be, published the story of the arrest of a second hand clothes trader in Dimako with 60kg of pangolin scales. He used his business as a cover to illegally trade in pangolin scales.

 $\underline{https://www.camer.be/86651/11:1/cameroun-man-arrested-with-60kg-of-pangolin-scales-cameroon.html}\\$

In July, the Voice of America, the renowned American broadcaster published on its website, the story of the arrest of a trafficker with 331kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins in Yaounde. The report highlighted the international dimension of the illegal activity with links to Nigeria and other sub regional countries. The trafficker was arrested in one of the most dangerous neighbourhoods in Yaounde and bags of pangolin scales and leopard skins were discovered and seized by wildlife and gendarmerie officials.

https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/cameroon-police-intercept-pangolin-scales-trafficked-3-central-african-states

In August, Camer.be, an online news site published the story of the court hearing of a trafficker who was arrested with a baby mandrill in Mintom. The case was heard for the fourth time.

https://www.camer.be/mobile/87709/11:1/cameroun-a-woman-to-appear-in-court-for-mandrill-trafficking-cameroon.html

In September, Camer be, 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 being adjourned for the suspect to fully prepare his defence.

 $\underline{https://www.camer.be/mobile/87925/11:1/cameroun-kribi-a-city-council-worker-to-appear-in-court-for-mandrill-trafficking-cameroon.html}$

In October, Camer be, published the story of four traffickers arrested with a baby chimp in Douala. They were arrested for illegal possession of the baby chimp found in a storeroom close to a Chinese tiles shop at the Nkouloloun neighbourhood.

https://www.camer.be/mobile/88367/11:1/cameroun-four-people-arrested-with-a-stolen-baby-chimp-cameroon.html

In November, Came.be published the story of a trafficker arrested with a baby baboon and 86kg of pangolin scales at Nkoteng. The animal is quarantine at the Mvogbetsi botanical park.

https://www.camer.be/mobile/88922/11:1/cameroun-a-trafficker-arrested-in-nkoteng-cameroon.html

In December, Camer be, published the story on the court hearing of 3 traffickers arrested with a baby drill in Bafang when they were to appear in court for the third time to answer to charges of drill trafficking.

https://www.camer.be/mobile/89131/11:1/cameroun-three-traffickers-to-appear-in-court-for-drill-trafficking-at-bafang-cameroon.html