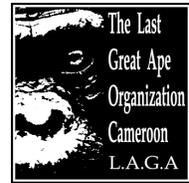


The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

August 2016 Report



Highlights

- **2 operations carried out and 3 traffickers arrested; ivory and giant pangolin scales.**
- **A major ivory trafficker arrested in Yaounde with 64 pieces of carved ivory objects.**
- **128 kg of giant pangolin scales seized in Admaoua and 2 traffickers arrested.**
- **Head of Investigation Department at EAGLE Uganda completed a three-week long experiences sharing mission to the country.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **3 traffickers during 2 operations.**

The first operation was carried out in **Yaounde in the Centre Region** arresting **one trafficker with 64 pieces of carved ivory.** The carved ivory objects are among several arts objects the trafficker deals with as he runs a shop for artifacts which is a cover business for illicit ivory trafficking. He is suspected to belong to a network of ivory traffickers who deal in sculpted arts objects.

During the second operation **2 giant pangolin scales traffickers were arrested in Ngaoundal, in the Adamaoua Region with 128 kg of scales .** The two are experienced traffickers in wildlife contraband and supply big cities such as Yaounde and Bertoua. One of them is a repeat offender.

The Head of the Investigations Department at EAGLE Uganda arrived the country to assist and share experiences with the LAGA team, he stayed for three weeks covering several investigations.

Investigations

- **20 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in 7 **Regions** of Cameroon: Littoral, East, South West, Centre, Adamoua, West, and South Regions.
- Good investigations **in Yaounde** let to the arrest one trafficker with carved ivory contraband
- Good investigation **in Ngaoundal** let to the arrest of two traffickers with 128 kg giant pangolin scales.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
20	7	2	3

Operation

Two operations carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 3 traffickers**.

- **23/9/16 – one trafficker arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region with 29 carved pieces**, He is an experienced ivory trafficker who runs an arts shop in which he sells bronze and wood artifacts also. He is part of a notorious network in Yaounde that deals in artifacts including ivory objects. This network is based around the Tsinga neighbourhood which is considered to be one of the leading ivory trafficking neighbourhoods in Yaounde. The network has put in place several codes and mechanism to protect their illegal ivory trade and these include the use of coded language understood only by those belonging to the network, support mechanism for those arrested and jailed to enable their business to thrive even when in prison. They get ivory supplies principally from the East Region, although when supplies are not flowing adequately, members of the network travel to the region to get raw ivory for carving. The trafficker doubles as a sculptor. Chinese clients are his main buyers and he has a very strong tie with some of them.
- **30/9/16 – 2 traffickers arrested in Ngaoundal, Admaoua Region with 128 kg of giant pangolin scales**, One of the traffickers travelled from Tibati to Ngaoundal with the scales and he is known to have been supplying even larger quantities of giant pangolin scales. The trafficking in pangolin scales is intense in the region that is close to Mbam and Djerem National Park that was created in 2000. The traffickers operate in a close network that supplies wildlife products to far off commercial centres such as Yaounde and Bertoua and receive ammonisation (bullets) from some urban-based traffickers. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender – a documents found on him is a receipt for a payment of a fine after a ruling by the Tibati court of first instance that found him guilty of wildlife trafficking. Several parts of other wildlife species including totally protected species were found at the home of one of his concubines.
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Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
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2	2	3	64 carved ivory pieces 128 kg giant pangolin scales
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Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **16 missions** out of Yaoundé - Centre Region: 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bafang (West), 2 in Mbanga (Littoral), 1 in Lomie (East), 2 in Mamfe (South-West), 3 in Abong-Mbang (East), 2 in Eseka (Centre), 1 in Bafoussam (West), and 1 in Ngaoundal (Adamawa).
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- There are **37 dealers behind bars this month**: 10 in East Region, 4 in Centre Region, 5 in North West Region, 4 in South West Region, 2 in North Region, 3 in West Region, 6 in South Region, 2 in Adamawa Region and 1 in Littoral Region.
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- 24 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
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- 21 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
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- Two traffickers** were convicted this month.
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- Prosecutions**: we had one judgment this month.
- **9/08/2016**: The Abong Mbang Court of First Instance East found the accused **BIKOM ADJAP Bertrand and MEDIBE Dieudonne Simplicie** guilty of illegal possession of trophies of totally protected species (13 Chimpanzee skulls). They were sentenced to **4 months imprisonment each and to jointly pay 100,000 F CFA as fines, 29. 800 for costs and 4,257,000 F CFA as civil damages**. They were arrested in Abong Mbang on the the 8th of June 2016, for the illegal possession of 13 Chimpanzee skulls.

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
16	1	2	4	0	0	21

Media

- 18 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio and internet including; 9 written press material (5 in English and 4 in French), 5 radio news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English) and 4 internet publications (3 in French and 1 in English).
- Interviewee:

- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the sentence of 2 chimp skull traffickers in Abong Mbang and Njombe arrest of sea turtle shell traffickers.
- 10 media pieces in French and 8 in English making a percentage of 56% in French and 44% in English.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
18	0	5	9	4

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Tarla Francis of the Pangolin Mentor Programme and with some fellows of the programme. He equally held a meeting in Limbe, South West, with an NGO official from AADA, an organisation that works on illegal logging that is going on in South West Region. Timber is illegally exploited and transported to Nigeria from the South West Region. Discussions focused on possibilities of engaging authorities to fight the illegal cross boundary logging.
- As part of activities marking the day set aside for the remembrance of slave trade and its abolition, the Deputy Director visited the Bimbia Slave Trade Market under the framework of an event organized by Cameroonian journalists promoting tourism in the country. He equally wrote articles that were published as part of an effort to cut out a collective amnesia on slave trade and the historic slave trade market in Bimbia.
- Several meetings were held by the Head of the Legal Department and some legal advisers with State Counsels in Douala, Abong Mbang, Tibati, Akonolinga, Yaounde Centre Administratif and Eseka to discuss cases in their jurisdiction.

Management

- The recruitment and selection process for a new accountant continued and dozens of application files were recorded.
- Hosted the Head of Investigations of EAGLE Uganda in Yaounde
- A programme to train LAGA members on first aid by the Cameroon Red Cross continued the second trainee completing his course in August. Members shall be trained in the upcoming months as they attend the course in different badges.
- Salary accounts for staff members were opened at the Afriland First Bank.
- The maternity leave period for administrative assistant, Chene Eunice, officially ended although she decided to restart work earlier, on July 20, 2016 following her safe delivery of a bouncing baby girl on May 19, 2016.

Activism Front: Documentary Report: Welcome to Cameroon

Welcome to Cameroon takes a look at the historic Bimbia Slave Trade Market where slaves brought from the hinterland were sold and “loaded” onto to ships for collections centres such as Fernando Po and onwards to the Americas. The report takes us back to explain what happened. The shooting is done during the visits of “Camericans” to the market site and Dr. Lisa Aubrey, who has carried out extensive research on the site, is among the Camericans. Camericans are US citizens who have through DNA research discovered their roots – which is in Cameroon.. The emotional documentary showed how our grand fathers suffered. Discussions focused on modern day slavery, the same is the situation happening today thanks to our dictators who are very much like the slave merchants of that period, collective amnesia on slave trade and the state of ruins for this historic site.

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>.

Finance

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible.

This Month in Pictures



A major ivory trafficker arrested in Yaounde with carved ivory objects, has strong links with Chinese traffickers. Carved ivory objects seized from trafficker (above and right)



Two arrested for trafficking in giant pangolin scales, at the gendarmerie territorial brigade in Ngaoundal (left) and 128 kg of giant pangolin scales seized (above)

Links of the month

Two sentenced by the Abong Mbang court of first instance for trafficking in 13 chimpanzee skulls and Cameroon's online news site Camer.be narrates the story, highlighting the role of law enforcement in protecting chimp and the impact of illicit trafficking in its parts.

	<p><u>CAMEROUN :: Cameroon: Two slammed prison sentences...</u></p> <p>Two people have been sentenced by the Abong Mbang Court of First Instance for trafficking in skulls following their arrest and trial that lasted two months. The cas...</p> <p>View on www.camer.be Preview by Yahoo</p>
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<http://www.camer.be/53917/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-two-slammed-prison-sentences-for-chimp-skulls-trafficking.html>