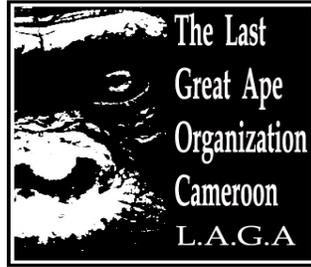


THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2014



Executive Summary

Despite many obstacles, tangible achievements were made over this period in LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF in the fields of investigation, arrest, prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities with focus on the fight against corruption, illegal wildlife trade, principally traffickers in elephant bones, ivory and primates. The international networks of ivory traffickers were given special attention through an innovative tactic in targeting them through other elephant parts while operations also focused on chimpanzee and gorilla bones trafficking, dealers in live primates, dealers in leopard skins and giant pangolin scales etc. 20 dealers were arrested during this period.

For every 9 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 90 % stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Corruption was observed and combated in more than 80% of the cases. Regional wildlife law enforcement became more effective with good operations and prosecutions. Replication started in Senegal and SALF became the newest member of our Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Network. Training sessions continued in Yaounde with a jurist from Kenya undergoing training with LAGA. LAGA Director travelled to Kenya shortly after he regained his health following the crocodile attack in December in Ethiopia to lay the ground work for a new replication project and the EAGLE network.

Governance issues, lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by some MINFOF Delegations were prominent during this period – sabotaging operations by refusal to carry them, stopping the writing of PV, refusal to sign PV by sworn official, etc. Because of these and other prior governance issues, correspondences were addressed to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife for the situation to be redressed.

The work of the Last Great Ape Organization was supported by:



LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA) SEMESTER REPORT

January - June 2014

Overview

Investigations

- A total of 118 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in all the 7 Regions.
- Network of informants continued producing results leading to good operations.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 7 Regions against 22 individuals resulting in 20 court cases at a rate of 1 per 9 days.
- Operations on elephant parts and ivory made up close to half of total operations
- The rate of imprisonment for these was 90%.

Legal

- 22 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases begun during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures still on-going).
- Corruption was observed and combated in more than 80% of the cases.

Media

- A total of 240 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio, press and internet) achieved in a rate of more than 1 media piece per day.
- Online sensitization resulted in over 1500 visits to the LAGA website per month.

Management

- The annual report for 2013 was printed and distributed to all stakeholders.
- Former Head of Investigations Department moved to TRAPS, a new wildlife trade assessment project under TRAFFIC to occupy the new position as its first project officer
- A jurist on trial was let go because of lack of engagement and results.
- One former investigator from the was taken and another who had been on suspension was brought back.

External Relations and Policy

- Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the customs department, Interpol officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss corruption issues and wildlife law enforcement etc.
- LAGA's legal adviser trained students of the University of Bandjoun on conservation education focusing on the wildlife law.

Replication of LAGA Activities

- Replication started in Senegal and SALF became the newest member of our Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Network.
- Good operations carried in regional enforcement projects and good prosecutions obtained – LAGA, PALF, GALF, RALF, AALF, TALF and SALF.
- LAGA Director recovered from injuries sustained from the crocodile attack in December, travelled to Kenya for EAGLE network and Kenyan replication projects
- Kenyan jurist trained in LAGA for the new Kenyan replication project that is expected to run in a short while

Strategic Highlights

- This period was marked by a special focus on dismantling ivory and elephant bones trafficking networks.
- Collaboration with the judicial police and yielded an operation against an international network of ivory traffickers.
- Collaboration with the gendarmerie resulted in the prosecution of a member of an international network of ivory trafficking.
- Governance issues, lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by some MINFOF delegations were prominent during this period.
- Correspondences highlighting governance issues, lack of collaboration, breach of procedure amongst others were sent to the Minister for the situation to be redressed. .

Narrative Report

Introduction

This report is on activities from January to June 2014.

This report includes: the progress in each department of activities (Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and Management), strategic overview of and the impact of our operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, non-governmental bodies, in the international arena, and in non-enforcement initiatives LAGA has undertaken.

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1. Investigations

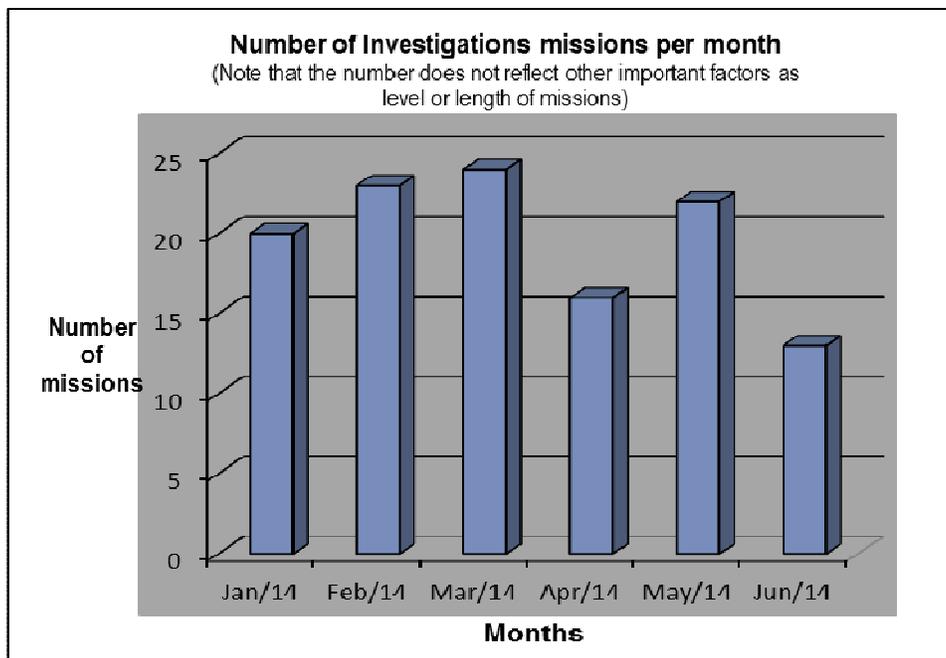
LAGA’s investigation unit carried out 118 investigation missions in 7 Regions of the country during this period. The department continued with the structural reorganization started since last year and this resulted in improvements in its professional output. Field testing and screening of new investigators continued.

The network of informants put in place continued working well and provided information leading to two good operations in Yaounde. This strategy involves the recruitment of informants in the main wildlife trade hotspots in Cameroon.

The strategy to get credible information and to make investigation missions more effective, using a hotline that was established was continued and flyers produced in both English and French continued to be distributed This is being distributed to a specific set of informants like those working in the airports, call box operators, security guards etc.

The Head of the Investigations Department carried out special training sessions in February and in May on investigations procedures to refresh skills of the department’s investigators for more effective performance in terms of gathering useful information.

An interim Head of Investigations Department was appointed to replace the departing one who took up a new position in another organization. An experienced investigator completed her test and was retained. An old investigator successfully completed her test and pledged to stick to all the rules and regulations and to get more operations. She had been an investigator before and was sanctioned for failing to adhere to regulations and procedures. Another investigator was suspended for failing to produce results leading to operations for 7 seven months. Three volunteers were trained on investigation and operation procedures with the goal of identifying and arresting major dealers, tested and released



2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 7 Regions against 22 individuals resulting in 20 court cases. Operations became more difficult and sophisticated over this period and the rate of imprisonment reached 90% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial. Elephant parts made up the majority of the operations with 27% connected to the bones trafficking followed by the trafficking in leopard skins and primate bones that stood at 18% each while ivory and the illegal trade in live primates accounted for 14% each. Collaboration with the judicial police yielded a good operation against international traffickers of ivory and the same was true for the collaboration with the gendarmerie as it resulted in another operation against an international ivory trafficker.

In January, 2 arrest operations were carried out rescuing a live chimpanzee while arresting a Chinese national and bursting of an ivory network. A Chinese national and manager of Shangri – LA Restaurant in Douala was arrested with a live chimpanzee. Traffic of influence, lack of collaboration and breach of procedure was observed in MINFOF Littoral and the Chief of Wildlife refused to sign the PV which the suspect had signed to be forwarded to the State counsel as procedures demands. The chimp was rescued and taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre.

A network of elephant poachers and ivory traffickers was dismantled in Lomie, East following the arrest of 4 of its members with elephant tusks and meat. One of its members confessed to have killed 12 elephants and he is a recidivist.

In February, 2 major leopard skins dealers were arrested. They have been in the business for a long time and sell their products in Douala and other big cities in the country. One of them tried to pass off as a herbalist. A well-known poacher and dealer in elephant products was arrested in Yaounde with 19 full elephant jaws, shortly after he arrived from Abong Mbang. He is known to traffic elephant tusks and owns a bike which he uses for his trafficking. He equally has a network of suppliers among whom some poach for him and are supplied with arms and ammunition. Another leopard skin dealer was arrested with one big leopard skin and he lied that he was a traditional ruler and it was understood that he uses this as cover for leopard skins trafficking.

March saw a total of 5 dealers arrested. An international ivory trafficker was arrested with 36 ivory tusks which was about to be sent to Nigeria via Douala. He claimed to have sent ivory, on several occasions, through the train to the Northern part of Cameroon and by transport cars to Douala. The operation was carried out by the judicial police and LAGA assisted in legal and post-operation procedures. 2 traffickers were arrested in Douala – Littoral with a live mangabey. They also own a wood processing plant thereby using the trade in timber and other wood products to trade in wildlife. A notorious poacher was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jawbones in Mindourou – East. He confessed to have traded elephant ivory and has suppliers in the East Region and buyers from the capital city Yaounde. A major trafficker was arrested while trying to illegally trade in leopard skin. He claimed to be a traditional royalty but was arrested. He has a ready market in major cities in the West and in Douala.

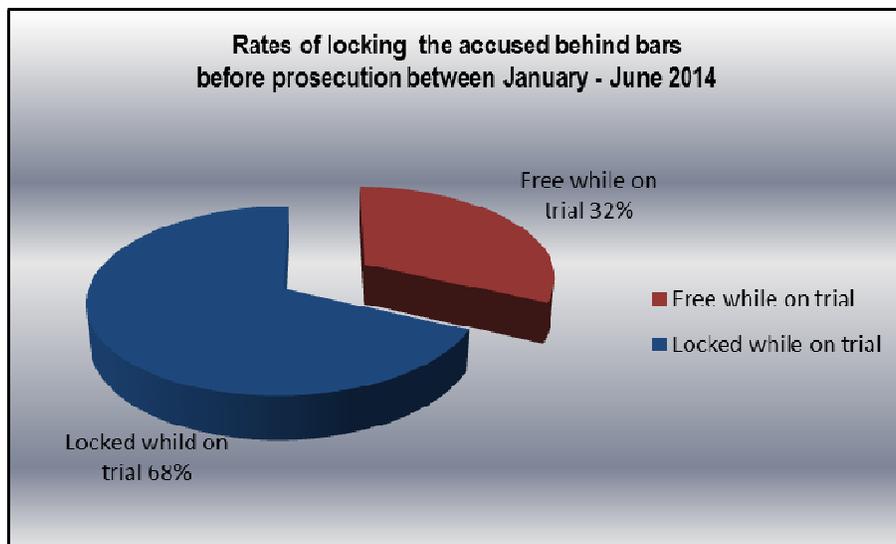
In April, a total of 3 dealers arrested following 2 operations. 2 major dealers were arrested in Dschang – West Region while illegally trying to trade in them; they are known to have been in the business for a long time and also sell the skins in Douala and other big cities in the country. A long time female recidivist trafficker was arrested with 4 big bags of giant pangolin scales and other related scales in Yaounde. She is also involved in bush meat trading and has a ready market with the Chinese.

In May, 2 operations were carried out and 3 dealers arrested. 2 major dealers were arrested with 10 gorilla skulls and 2 gorilla jawbones in Bertoua – East, while illegally trying to trade in them. They are known to be seasoned professionals in killing and trafficking gorilla parts. A Chinese national was connected to the trafficking of the skulls. 6 of the skulls were bought in the villages of Kotogo, Djangalakos and Ndema in the East Region. A dealer, who belongs to a network of trafficking parts of protected species, was arrested in Yaounde with 10 chimpanzee skulls, 7 gorilla skulls and 1 elephant tooth. The man travelled from Ebolowa – South to Yaounde. He bought the skulls from the villages of Meka’a I, Alam, Bibounouman and Ebemvouk in the South. Another notorious dealer and member of an international network involved in trafficking ivory tusk was arrested by gendarmerie on his way to Douala. He works in partnership with a another big dealer who buys the products and gives it to him to sell to partners and LAGA assisted in legal and post-operation procedures.

June was marked by 3 operations being carried out and 4 dealers arrested. 1 dealer was arrested with 2 gorilla skins, 2 gorilla skulls, a truncated piece of ivory and an elephant jawbone – Bertoua, East while illegally trying to trade in them; he is a professional dealer as he prepares the products before selling them. He buys fresh products, then dries them before selling.

Two dealers were arrested in Mundemba – South West Region with elephant bones which included 2 elephant skulls, 55 molar teeth, 40 premolar teeth, 8 tibia bones and one jawbone. The two, a corporal working with the marine marchande and a notorious poacher around the Korup National Park had transported the bones overnight. The corporal confessed to carry out traditional hunting activities in Elat, in the Korup National Park, against protected animals particularly the elephant for commercial purposes such as selling of its trophies. The notorious poacher confessed to undertaking poaching activities particularly against elephants for trophies which he sells. He equally confirmed information given by the corporal that the two poached together.

A dealer arrested with a live mandrill in Yaounde – Centre while illegally trying to sell the mandrill. He is a professional live primates dealer and was about to sell the mandrill and return to his supply area which is Yoko in the Centre Region.



3. Legal

20 new cases reached the court during this period, these cases joined old cases that were scheduled, followed-up, tried in various courts and jail visits organized. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage with 90% imprisoned throughout the process.

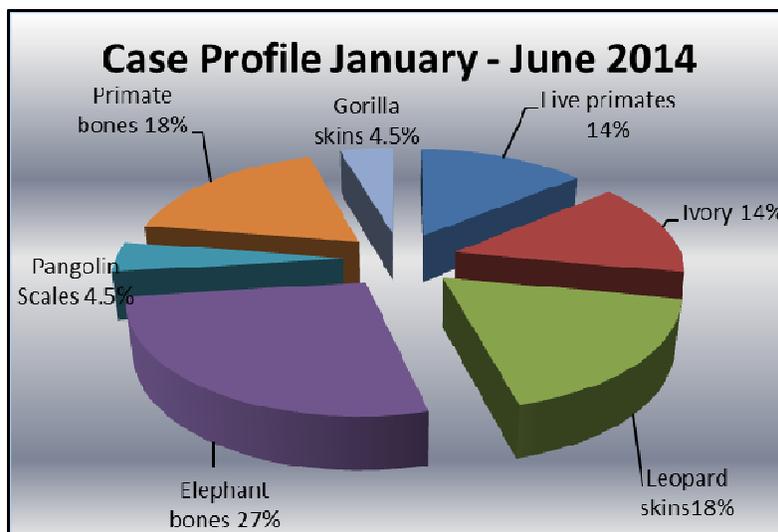
85 missions were done out of the Center Region for follow-up, new cases and the creation of relations with judiciary authorities. More emphasis as a direct result of operations was on ivory, bones of elephants, live primates, primate parts, leopard skins and pangolin scales .

During this period, 5 dealers were convicted. Imprisonment sentences were obtained in February when a dealer in elephant products was sentenced and two other dealers in ivory were handed prison sentences of 1 year and 6 months. A fourth dealer was convicted in March by the Centre Administrative Court of First Instance in Yaounde for illegal possession of a live mandrill. A fifth dealer was sentenced to prison by the Ekonou Court of First Instance in Yaounde in June while two suspects were tried and acquitted by the Abong Mbang Court of First Instance but an appeal has been made.

In February, the Abong Mbang Court of First Instance in the East sentenced a dealer to 4 months imprisonment and to pay a sum of 2 560 000 CFA F (about \$5000) as fines and 25 000 CFA F (about \$50) as court fees. He was arrested in Lomie for illegal possession of 22 elephant products. The Yaounde Centre Administrative Court of First Instance convicted two dealers and the first was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and to pay 1 000 000 CFA F (about \$ 2000) as fine and the second to 6 months imprisonment and to pay 300 000 CFA F (about \$ 600) as fine and the two were ordered to collectively pay 25 000 000 CFA F (about \$ 50000) as damages. They were arrested in Yaounde for illegal detention of 24 ivory tusks.

In March, the Court of First Instance of Bonanjo – Douala, convicted a dealer to pay 50 000 CFA F as fine, 800 000 CFA F as damages and 44 600 CFA F as court fees and to be retained in jail for 6 months in case of default payment. He was arrested in Yaounde for illegal detention of a live mandrill.

3 dealers were handed court rulings in June, the first two were tried and acquitted by the Court of First Instance in Abong Mbang. They were arrested in Lomie for illegal detention of 2 elephant tusks. An appeal has been made against the ruling. The Court of First Instance of Ekonou in Yaounde convicted a dealer to 2 months imprisonment and to pay 158 5650 CFA F as fine and 3 000 000 CFA F as damages. He was arrested for illegal detention of 36 elephant tusks.



4. Media

A total of 240 media pieces were produced and pushed into media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television, written press and the internet achieving a rate of more than one media piece per day. January month saw the lowest number of media pieces because of the low level of operations within the month as staff just resumed work after the Christmas break.

Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption. These were on – primate rescued in Douala and and in Yaounde with the dealers arrested , ivory traffickers arrest in Gabon, Congo and Togo, the arrest of leopard skin traffickers in Baham, Dschang and Bangante, the arrest of elephant bones traffickers in Mundemba, Mindourou, ivory trafficking in Yaounde, arrest of a lady with giant pangolin scales, the arrest in Bertoua of 2 dealers in primate skulls, the arrest in Yaounde of elephant and primate skulls dealers, the trial of dealers in Bertoua, Kribi, Mfou and Bangante, the arrest of gorilla skin dealers in Bertoua, the Hong Kong seizure of over 2 tons of pangolin scales from Cameroon, the arrest of a notorious poacher and a marine marchande corporal in Mundemba with elephant and chimpanzee bones etc.

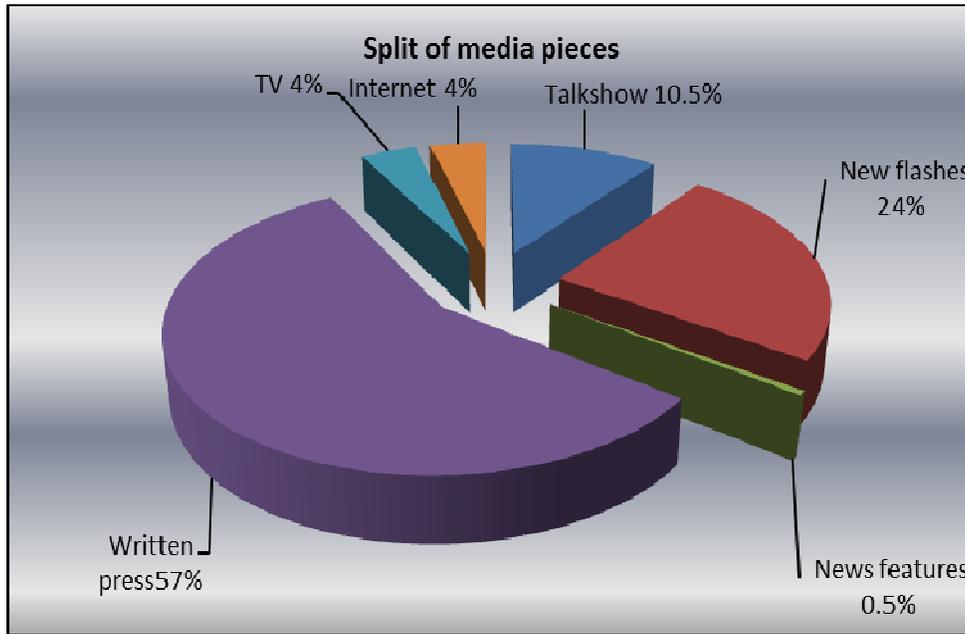
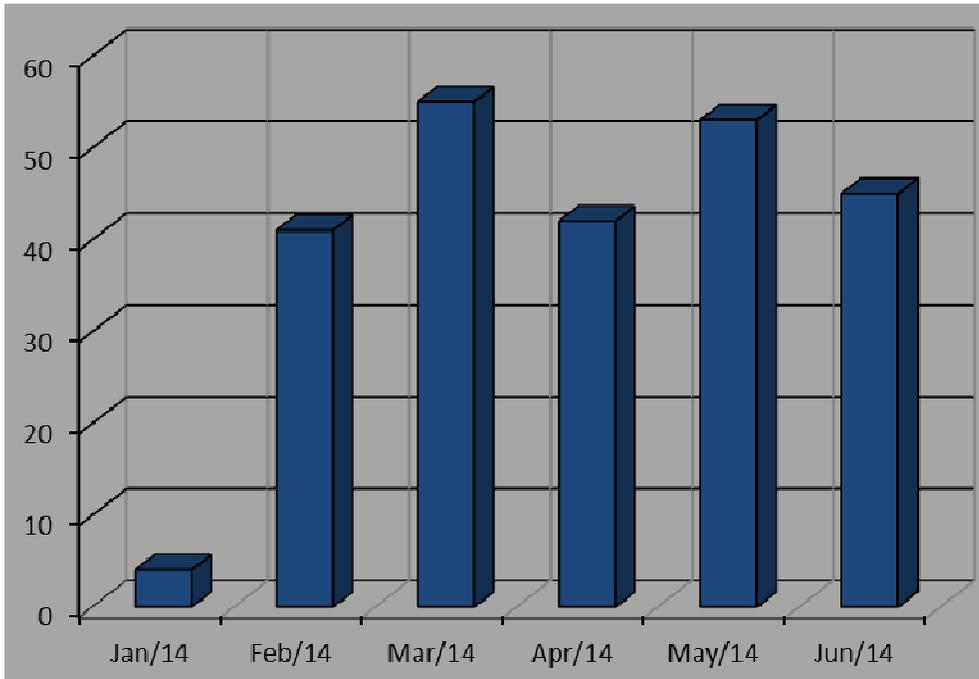
Guests included: Programme Officer US Fish and Wildlife Service, a Ugandan wildlife law enforcement officer, The Chief of Wildlife, Baham, Upper Plateau Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, West and North African Programme Officer Zoological Society of London, a wildlife technician at the Upper Plateau Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife, a lecturer at the Garoua Wildlife School, the Coordinator of the Central African Regional for the Environment - CARPE, the Regional Chief of Wildlife Bertoua, a senior forestry technician and controller at the Centre Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, the French Ambassador to Cameroon, the Conservator of the Korup National Park, the Conservator of the Kwagame Gorilla Sanctuary, the Conservator of the Mbi Crater and the Deputy Director, Head of the Media Department LAGA.

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

LAGA Website Analysis January - June 2014:

Visits	1,105
Page Views	2,200
You Tube Views	10,630

Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed



5. Management

The year started with the absence of the Director suffering from injuries sustained from a crocodile attack in Ethiopia in December 2013.

Work on the reconstruction of LAGA continued as well as work on action plans for departments while stretching recruitment processes in two LAGA departments (Investigations and Legal).

In January, an old investigator returned to LAGA promising to stick to rules and regulations. She had been an investigator before but was sanctioned for failing to adhere to regulations and procedures. A former investor was given another chance with LAGA in February.

In April, the Director of LAGA appointed 3 staffs to positions of responsibility. Among the positions were two newly created posts; interim director and deputy director, Arrey Emmanuel Enow was appointed to the post of Interim Director to act in lieu and during the absence of the Director while the Head of the Media and External Relations Department was appointed as Deputy Director. The vacant post of Head of the Legal Department received a new appointee in the person of Nya Aime Frisco who is a jurist with the department.

In May, a long time LAGA staff, Sone Christopher Nkoke, head of investigations and operations who worked in these departments for over 7 years resigned his positions and took up post at TRAPS, a new wildlife project under IUCN, as the project officer. He was duly replaced by an interim head of department in the person Serge Boris Ania who is also a jurist with the legal department.

In June, a new volunteer was put on trial and he started his test period with work on a new accounting programme that is expected to add even greater transparency and efficiency to the LAGA's financial management. Financial regulations and hotel management lists were drawn or updated with new ones.

The annual activity report for 2013 were printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. 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.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training sessions continued to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon, 1 jurist arrived from Kenya to be trained under the regional exchange program in May. Training and exchange of project personnel in regional enforcement will continue with the other projects in the forthcoming months. Others that had been trained before include the Coordinator of RALF – CAR, Jurists – PALF Congo, Investigator – PALF Congo, Jurists - AALF Gabon and Investigator AALF - Gabon. Perrine Odier, a French volunteer undertook a training session with LAGA, completed her training and left for Benin, to head the new replication project there.

The series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development introduced by the LAGA Director continued during this period. This is a part of a new project aimed to strengthen the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

In May, LAGA Director arrived Cameroon from Kenya, worked for a few days and returned to Kenya to continue work on building the new Kenyan wildlife law enforcement support project and on the restructuring of the EAGLE network.

LAGA's oldest staff by the time she was leaving, Sirri Emeline, terminated her position as Assistant Manager, to create time to cater for her child who was falling sick regularly but unfortunately, the child died shortly after she left.

6. External Relations and Policy

During this period, LAGA had many meeting sessions with highly placed government and diplomatic authorities in Cameroon and out of Cameroon, local and international NGOs.

LAGA Director and members of the legal department met with Customs' Department on several occasions to iron out issues of cooperation for better collaboration on wildlife arrest operations and on them signing of a memorandum of understanding - MoU. The meetings also included one with the judicial unit of the customs department to work on the MoU.

A LAGA legal adviser trained students of the University of Bandjoun on conservation education. His presentation was based on the wildlife law and its effective implementation and the fight against corruption, using the case of Cameroon.

The Deputy Director held meetings with a team of ZSL officials to share experience on wildlife law enforcement. He also held a series of preparatory meeting for the national symposium on freedom to protest and was one of two rapporteurs during the symposium that held in Yaounde

LAGA Director and Deputy Director held a meeting with the newly appointed British High Commissioner and his Deputy at the British High Commission. It was an introductory meeting aimed at explaining the wildlife law enforcement process in Cameroon while presenting some challenges involved and to examine possible areas of collaboration. The Deputy Director held a follow-up meeting with the Deputy British High Commissioner and the meeting sought to pose problems connected with the wildlife law enforcement process in the country.

7. Replication of LAGA Activities

7.1. – General

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 trigger a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime continued in other countries. The model is essentially shifting away from targeting small-time poachers in the forest and focusing in prosecution of major dealers, fighting head on the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – Corruption. LAGA's experience and model transferred throughout the sub-region continued to function effectively. The LAGA model is currently operating in the Republic of Congo (PALF), the Central African Republic (RALF), Gabon (AALF), Guinea – Conakry (GALF), Togo (TALFF), Senegal (SALF) and contacts are in an advanced state in Chad; inroads had been made in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria. Kenya and Benin are presently working on groundwork for the establishing of their own replication projects.

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>

LAGA assisted other replication projects in the investigations procedure, planification of operations, legal follow-up, publication of media pieces over various media outlets, and management issues especially finance.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training session continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon. Also, the regional law library that was created continues to put into value what has been done before based on the LAGA model and how to proceed from there. This library with the documents therein could help in the creation of other structures in other parts of Africa and the world at large by motivated individuals.

LAGA's annual report including activities of all the projects (LAGA, PALF, AALF and RALF) was completed, sent to the various donors and posted on the LAGA website.

The replication of the LAGA model and the transfer of LAGA experience in other countries throughout the sub-region is a continuous process whereby LAGA works with other NGOs.

7.2. Gabon

LAGA and AALF continued to exchange information and collaborate in the area of the media, there was some exchange of ideas and some news outlets in Gabon carried news items on wildlife law enforcement from Cameroon.

For more information on AALF, go to <http://www.conservation-justice.org>

7.3. The Republic of Congo

LAGA worked with a PALF investigator on building trust with a target ivory dealer with calls from Cameroon. LAGA assisted PALF in planning and coordinating missions.

For more information on PALF, go to the new website <http://www.palf-enforcement.org/congo-brazzaville/>

7.4. Guinea Conakry

LAGA assisted GALF through constant communication on investigations, planning and carrying out of operations within this period and these led to the re-arrest of a notorious chimpanzee dealer.

7.5. Togo

LAGA worked with TALFF on post-arrest investigations and legal procedures following the arrest of 3 international dealers including a Vietnamese with about 4 tons of ivory and major traffickers arrested with different wildlife products including more than 20 felid skins, more than 15 felid heads, elephant and gorilla parts.

7.6. Central African Republic – CAR

Wildlife law enforcement activities in the country witnessed a standstill due to the security concerns in the country.

7.7. Nigeria

The process of contacting government and NGO officials for the setting up of a replication project in Nigeria witnessed a standstill due to the security problems the country is facing. This will be looked at during the second semester and when the security problems may have been addressed.

7.8. Chad

Contacts were re-established between LAGA, Chadian wildlife officials and Africa Parks that is expected to host the Chad replication project and discussions on the replication project and the signing of a convention are on-going. Discussions are on-going with Africa Parks as well as to the hosting of the replication project in the country.

7.9 Benin

A French volunteer was trained in LAGA and sent to Benin to continue contacts with officials in the country and lay groundwork for the new replication project which is expected to be fully operational in the second semester.

7.10 Kenya

The LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to kick-start the newest replication project in the country and to build contacts with authorities.

A Kenyan jurist undertook a training session hosted by the Legal Department and he was drilled on the wildlife law enforcement process in Cameroon. He participated in several field missions and equally witnessed an operation that led to the arrest of a dealer in Yaounde.

7.11 Other Countries in Africa

Plans have developed for future replications in Zambia and DRC – Kinshasa. Advice on wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption continued in several other countries.

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 do develop the project in the vision of turning it in to an independent NGO/paper/book. The function of leadership is not producing more followers but to produce more leaders.

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

Activism was focused on documentaries and presentations including:

- *Africa: War is Business* is a documentary that reveals how conflict and war come into being in Africa due to the role the continent's natural resources play. The film investigates the causes and effects of economies, and where the Western consumers fit into the equation. The main character in the documentary wonders how countries (Africa) so rich in these resources could be so overwhelmed by poverty. Of course yes! The Africa continent has a problem which has to do with mentality, individualism, mismanagement just to list these few. The way forward is for us Africans to change our mentality, shun negative individualism above all embrace good governance at all levels.
- *Le monde en face: Un empire en Afrique* a documentary that narrates the fight of a Cameroon based milk industry against Nestle. Puis Bissek, the boss of a local milk company in Douala accuses the Swiss giant for importing contraband milk made out of palm and coconut oil causing the collapse of his industry. His struggle for justice together with some

of his former employees has been ongoing for ten years and at the moment is at the level of the Supreme Court of Cameroon.

- *Earthlings* is a documentary film on the advocacy of animal rights. As part of living creatures on earth, animals mostly suffer mistreatment especially from their fellow cohabitant known as humans. The documentary depicts the level of cruelty to animals by man; killing for food, entertainment and medical testing. Of course, animals and fishes are there for man's consumption but the manner in which these animals are slaughtered for food is abusive, likewise the use of animals for entertainment. These animals are tortured and inflicted with pains to make a show interesting to spectators. Even though the author of the documentary criticized the method used by man to slaughter animals for food and vivisection without any administration of anaesthesia, the author did not prescribe any appropriate killing methods for these animals without undermining them as animals per se. However, the message is that animals and fishes feel pains, need comfort and therefore have rights to be protected too.

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 in reducing the level of 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, ivory, live primates, bones of protected species, leopard skins, chimpanzee and gorilla parts.

8.1 Primates

During this period, 3 live primates were rescued and 4 dealers arrested. In January, 1 arrest operation was carried out rescuing a live chimpanzee. A Chinese national who runs a restaurant in Douala was arrested and he claimed the chimp was given to him and his sister by a general in the Cameroon army. The traffic of influence, lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by MINFOF was observed as the Chief of Wildlife in the Littoral Delegation refused to sign the PV which the suspect had signed for onward transmission to the State Counsel as procedure demands.

In March, two dealers were arrested with a live mangabey in Douala - Littoral. They own a wood processing plant thereby using timber and other wood businesses to traffic in wildlife as well. . The live mangabey was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center. The Chief of Wildlife at the Littoral Delegation tried to sabotage the operation by refusing to send his team to the field and stopping the completion of the PV which constituted a breach of procedure.

A professional primate dealer was arrested in Yaounde in June with a live mandrill which he attempted to sell. He wanted to sell the mandrill before proceeding to Yoko – Centre to get more supplies of primates. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvogbetsi zoo in Yaounde.

8.2 Elephant bones

During this period, a tactical move to get ivory dealers was initiated and it involved targeting them through the illegal trade in elephant bones. 27% of the arrest operations done within this period involved dealers in elephant bones who are connected to the ivory trafficking chain. In February, a well-known notorious poacher who travelled from Abong Mbang was arrested in Yaounde and 18 full elephant jawbones found in his possession. He is known to be the leader of an ivory trafficking

network and owns a bike which he uses as transportation means to supply his buyers. He equally owns a network of poachers to whom he provides arms and ammunition.

In March, a notorious trafficker was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 jawbones in Mindourou East after having illegally traded the ivory from the killed elephants. He has suppliers in the East and buyers in Yaounde. He initially resisted arrest, and then accepted to accompany the arresting team. He is a member of a big ivory network.

In May, 1 seasoned dealer were arrested with an elephant molar and bones of the chimpanzee and the gorilla. He travelled all the way from the South to sell the parts in Yaounde. He is known to traffic parts of several wildlife species.

In June, a corporal with the Marine Marchande and a notorious elephant poacher were arrested with 106 elephant bones in Mundemba – South West. They ferried the bones out of the Korup National Park in the night and both are known to poach elephants for their ivory within the park. The trafficker who joined Cameroon's marine marchande corps started his poaching activity before joining the corps.

8.3 Ivory

During this period, operations leading to the arrests and the bursting of ivory network continued. Although elephant bones operations linking the traffickers to ivory were carried out, 3 purely ivory related operations carried out involved ivory traffickers. The collaboration with the judicial police led to the arrest of an international ivory trafficker. In the same light, the collaboration with the gendarmerie resulted in the arrest of another dealer in ivory.

In January, a network of elephant poachers was busted with the arrest of 4 members with elephant tusks and meat. One of the members who is nicknamed "Samedi" is a recidivist who had earlier been arrested in Bengbis for the same offence and sentenced to six months in prison. He confessed on record to have killed 12 elephants mostly in the Nki National Park. Another member of the network tried to bribe the arresting team but the attempt was quickly foiled.

In March, the judicial police arrested an international ivory dealer with 36 tusks weighing over 170 kg. The ivory was about to be sent to Douala en route to Nigeria where the dealer's father is from and he claims to have been using this route and other channels through the Northern regions to through to Nigeria. LAGA assisted in the legal follow-up and post operation procedure. He has a partner who takes the ivory to Nigeria. While in detention, he attempted to bribe his way to release with more than 3 million francs.

In May, a notorious dealer and member of an international network involved in trafficking ivory tusk was arrested by the gendarmerie. He works in partnership with another big dealer who buys the products and gives it to him to sell to partners. The dealer was caught in Edea trying to transport huge quantities of ivory to Douala.

In June, a dealer was arrested with 2 gorilla skins and 2 gorilla skulls and a piece of ivory while trying to illegally trade in them. His method of operation is that of a professional as he treats his products before selling.

8.4 Gorilla and Chimpanzee bones

This period saw the illegal trade in chimpanzee and gorilla bones rise. A number of operations carried out resulted in the arrest of 3 dealers in chimpanzee and gorilla bones. In Bertoua – East, 2 major traffickers were arrested with 10 gorilla skulls and 2 gorilla jawbones while trying to illegally trade in them. They used expert tactics to elude wildlife law enforcement officials as they ferried

the bones from Dimako – East to Bertoua where they had to sell them. An international connection linked the trafficking to a Chinese national. The first dealer is specialised in the poaching and trafficking of gorillas and other protected animal species. He collects gorilla products and other protected animal products from the forests of Kologo, Djangalakos, and Ndema and sells them to potential buyers for heavy sums of money. The second dealer is member of a network specialised in the hunting and selling of various protected animal species particularly gorillas. The dealer admitted that he poaches other protected animals species together with other hunters. He also collects animal products from the forests and sells them to potential buyers. He has carried out this illegal activity for two years.

The second operation took place in Yaounde and a dealer was arrested with 10 chimpanzee skulls, 7 gorilla skulls and an elephant tooth. He travelled from Ebolowa – South to Yaounde. He is a member of a network specialised in trafficking protected animal trophies. He buys these trophies from poachers based in every corner of the region particularly around Kribi and Meka'a 1, Alam, Bibounouman, and Evemvok who are also members of the network, and sells them to potential buyers. These two operations represent a very significant catch within the framework of ape trafficking in Africa.

8.5 Pangolin Scales

The booming illegal trade in giant pangolin scales continued with the arrest of a woman found in possession of 4 bags of the scales. She is a repeat offender who had earlier been arrested twice, the last time she was found with gorilla parts and is known to be trafficking in meat of protected wildlife and to have a ready market with the Chinese. She is known for buying and selling quantities of animal trophies especially giant pangolin scales and crocodiles and has been involved in this trade for years. Pangolin scales have been the object of many seizures in Asia recently and Cameroon is one of the supplying nations.

8.6 Leopard Skin

Operations continued to be carried out against dealers clamping down on the leopard skins trade and traffickers who demonstrated professional acuity in going about their illegal business. In February, two operations carried out within one week saw the arrest of 3 dealers with 3 leopard skins. In the first operation 2 dealers were arrested with 2 skins in Baham - West and the two have been in the business for a long time and sell leopard skins in Douala and other big cities in the country. One of them uses the cover of a herbalist to carry out the illegal trade. In the second operation, another dealer was arrested in Bandja – West, with a big and fresh leopard skin. He equally uses a cover of being a traditional chief to trade in the skins. In March, a third leopard skin dealer was arrested in Bangangte – West and he tried to use some influence trafficking by claiming that he was from a royal family and that notwithstanding, he was arrested. He is a professional leopard skin dealer as he rents out and sells skins regularly. Two more dealers were arrested in April for illegally trying to sell leopard skins in Dschang in the West Region and they used varying techniques to elope law enforcement officials on the day of their arrest. They started off by consulting a witch doctor to predict the success of their business on the day and they were told to go ahead with the selling of the skins and later demonstrated strong professional skills as they moved law enforcement officers around for several hours to evade possible arrest. They are established dealers and members of a network of leopard skin trafficking across the West Region.

8.7 Gorilla skin

In an operation carried out in June, a dealer was arrested trafficking many products obtained from protected wildlife species that included 2 gorilla skins, 2 gorilla skulls, a truncated piece of ivory and an elephant jawbone. He understands the illegal trade very well as he prepares his products before selling them by drying them. He belongs to a network of trafficking gorilla and chimpanzee trophies involving pygmies who are his suppliers.

9. Corruption and Wildlife Crime

LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. Bribing attempts are documented in more than 85% of our field arrest operations, and 80% of all court cases within the legal system. But 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 conference, 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 fight directly whenever corrupt practices or bribery attempts have been observed.

This on-going fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. After the arrest of leopard skin dealer in Baham, he attempted bribing the State Counsel handling the matter to prevent it going to the court but he rejected the bribe, put the dealer behind bars and enrolled the case. On the matter involving the arrest of an international ivory dealer with 30 ivory tusks in Edea, the dealer attempted to bribe the State Counsel with 1 000 000 CFA francs for him to dismiss the case and stop the procedure but the State Counsel rejected the offer and continued enforcing the procedure. But the case witnessed a new turn of events as the dealer was released by the Senior Divisional Officer in collaboration with the examining magistrate who claimed that the file had no importance and the dealer should be set free. These later actions were addressed to the Secretary General's office, MINFOF, MINATD and MINJUSTICE.

Other bribery attempts were observed but what was more prominent during this period was lack of collaboration, breach of procedure and traffic of influence. All three were observed in the Littoral MINFOF Delegation in the case against the Chinese who was found in illegal possession of a live chimpanzee at a restaurant premises in Douala, a PV was drawn against him which he signed but the Littoral Chief of Wildlife refused to sign the document as procedures demands for its onward transmission to the State Counsel. The Chinese had claimed the animal was given to him by a general and the said general supposedly called MINFOF and the MINFOF delegate.

In March, 2 dealers were arrested in Douala with a live mangabey and here again, lack of collaboration and breach of procedure were observed in Douala with the Chief of Wildlife initially trying to sabotage the operation by refusing to send his team to the field and stopping the completion of the PV.

Diligent investigations carried out in Ntem Division, South Region uncovered the illegal possession of a live chimpanzee and the lack of collaboration and breach of procedure was observed at the moment an arrest operation was supposed to be carried out. Regional MINFOF officials and those of the Ntem Valley Divisional Delegation failed to arrest the man illegally keeping the live chimpanzee by refusing to send a team to the field. The act stopped the prosecution process that was supposed to be carried out and the law enforced.

Correspondences were addressed, because of these, to the Minister for the situation to be redressed.

Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites January-June 2014



Base 802575 (R02413) 7-98

Annex I – Case Tracking System – January – June 2014

Case num.	date of operation	Region	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	countries involved	Status
1	1/29/2014	EST	Lomié	ATANGANA JEAN	illegal detention of 1 ivory tusks and two pieces of elephant meet	Poachers	Dealer have been arrested many time before for hunting. He is recidivist. He was arrested in Bengbis for the same offence and sentence 6 months. He is known for illegal killing for illegal of protected species principally elephants		locked while on trial
2	1/29/2014	EST	Lomié	GARBA Norbert	illegal detention of 1 ivory tusks and two pieces of elephant meet	Poachers	Another member of a well established network of poacher between Messok, Lomie and goila around Dja Biosphere reserve and national Park of Boumba Bek who are known for illegal killing for illegal of protected species principally elephants. He was arrested with Atangana Jean		locked while on trial
3	1/29/2014	EST	Lomié	FOUMBO Dagobert	illegal detention of 1 ivory tusks and two pieces of elephant meet	Poachers	Accomplice of Atangana Jean		free
4	1/29/2014	EST	Lomié	NTEMZO LEEDJUE Roger	illegal detention of 1 ivory tusks and two pieces of elephant meet	Poachers	Accomplice of Atangana Jean		free
5	2/20/2014	WEST	Baham	Mabou Benjamin	illegal detention of 2 skins of leopard	seller	A well-known dealer arrested for trading in the leopard skin. Used cover as a herbatist and notable to carry out illegal trade in wildlife. He has been doing this business for years with his accomplice		free
6	2/20/2014	WEST	Baham	Kamto Jean Claude	illegal detention of 2 skins of leopard	seller	Accomplice of Mabou Benjamin		free
7	2/23/2014	Center	Yaounde	Moankah Cyrille	illegal detention of 18 elephant jawbones	ivory dealer	A Cameroonian based in Oboul I by Abong-Mbang and the leader of a network of ivory traffickers with connections to many hunters in Echou at Messamena . He was arrested in Yaounde with 18 elephant jawbones.		locked while on trial
8	2/26/2014	WEST	Bandja	TENKAM TAYOMNOU Guimolet	illegal Detention of One Leopard Skin	Seller	The dealer is a village head of Bakoua. He uses his position as a shield to traffic illegally in Leopard skins. He sells leopard skins belonging to different Village heads such as that of the Chief of Bakotche.		free

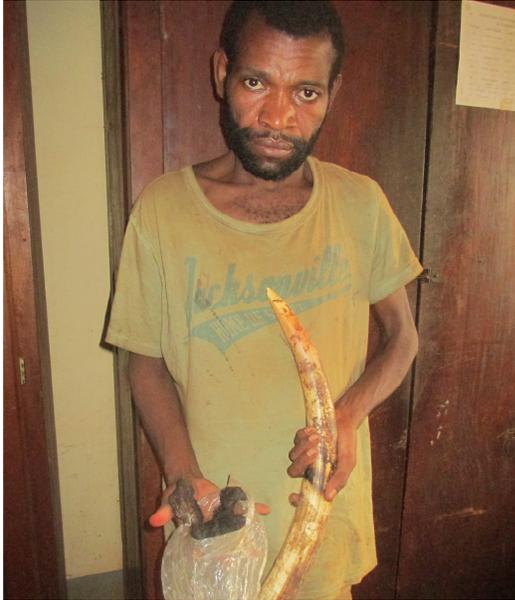
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9	3/6/2014	Center	Yaounde	MOHAMED Sary	illegal detention of 36 elephant tusks	ivory dealer	An international ivory trafficker working with somebody called MOHAMED Aboa based in Sangmelima working with Republic of Congo from where he drives the illegal trade in ivory to Cameroon and other countries. He was caught on Mvan trying to transfert a huge quantity of ivory. He has connections in Nigeria	Nigeria,	closed
10	3/17/2014	EST	Mindourou	MPOUL John Stephane	illegal detention of 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jawbones	poacher	A member of the big network . He confessed to the investigator that he is the one who killed those elephants in December 2013		closed
11	3/19/2014	WEST	Bangangte	DJEUDJI Jean Bosco	illegal detention of 1 leopard skin	skin trader	A established dealer specialised in the trafficking of leopard skins. He rents them for 5,000 FCFA and sells them out to potential buyers for 200,000 FCFA.		locked while on trial
12	4/14/2014	Center	Yaounde	NGASSA Lucile	Illegal detention	seller	A well known established international dealer. She has been arrested two times before for the illegal detention of Gorrila parts. she is a recidivist. She is known for buying and selling quantities of animal trophies especially giant pangolin scales and crocodiles and has been involved in this trade for years.	Cameroon, Gabon, Canada	locked while on trial
13	4/7/2014	WEST	Dschang	SOUFOUO Ferdinand	illegal detention of 2 leopard skins	skin trader	An established dealer and member of the network in Leopard skin trafficking between Dschang, ballesing, balevang and batcham.		free
14	4/7/2014	WEST	Dschang	NGUEUDA Moise	Illegal Detention of 2 leopard skins	skin trader	A Co-offender and member of the network in Leopard skins trafficking between Dschang, Ballesing, Balevang, and Batcham.		free
15	5/8/2014		Bertoua	KAPITA MICHAEL	Illegal detention of 10 Gorilla skulls and 2 Gorilla Jawbones	Poacher and seller	A co-offender and member of a renowned network specialised in the hunting and trafficking of Gorillas and other protected animal species. He collects Gorilla products and other protected animal products from the forests of Kologo, Djangalakos, and Ndema and sells them to potential buyers for heavy sums of money.		locked while on trial
16	5/8/2014	EST	Bertoua	SAMBA Richard	Illegal detention of 10 Gorilla skulls and 2 Gorilla Jawbones	seller	The dealer is a co-offender, renowned hunter, and member of a network specialised in the hunting and selling of various protected animal species particularly Gorillas. The dealer admitted that he hunts other protected animals species together with other hunters. He also collects animal products from the forests and sells them to potential buyers at 150,000 Fcfa. He has carried out this illegal activity for two years.		locked while on trial
17	5/18/2014		Edea	NOUROU ABDOURAMAN	Illegal Detention of 30 Ivory Tusks	seller	A notorious dealer and member of an international network involved in trafficking Ivory tusks. He works in partnership with a certain Abdel and Aziz who buys the products and gives it to him to sell to partners. He was caught in Edea trying to transport huge quantities of Ivories to his partner Aziz.		locked while on trial
18	5/21/2014	Center	Yaounde	OBAM ADOLPH WILLY	Illegal Detention of 10 Chimpanzee skulls, 7 Gorilla skulls and 1 elephant teeth.	seller	A member of a renowned network specialised in trafficking protected animal trophies. He buys these trophies from hunters based in every region particularly around Kribi and Meka'a 1, Alam, Bibounouman, and Evemvok who are also members of the network, and sells these trophies to potential buyers at 10,000 FCFA each.		locked while on trial

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19	6/5/2014		Bertoua	AKONO NANG	Illegal Detention of 2 Gorilla skulls, 2 Gorilla skins, 1 elephant jawbone and 1 Ivory tusk	seller	A member of a network specialised in trafficking Gorilla and Chimpanzee trophies. He buys them from pygmies, who are part of the network and sells them to buyers in Bertoua at 5000 FCFA each.		closed
20	6/18/2014	EST Center	Yaounde	TCHAKOUNTE Yves Bertin	Illegal Capture of a female live Mandrill	seller	A member of a network trafficking in live mandrills. He buys them from hunters in Yoko and sells them to buyers in Yaounde.		locked while on trial
21	6/17/2014	South West	Mundemba	EFFIAM Peter EFFIONG	Illegal Detention of 2 Elephant Skulls, 55 Elephant Teeths, 1 Elephant Jawbone 40 Premolars, and 8 Tibias bones.	Poacher and seller	Notorious Dealer , poacher and co-offender popularly known as Madolo.He carries out his hunting activities in the protected area of Elat, the Korup National Park. He confessed during interrogations that he carries out traditional hunting of protected animals particularly Elephants for commercial purposes and sells their trophies at 150.000FCFA. He admitted that he carried hunting activities with the co-offender Nwese solomon before he became a Marine Merchant officer.		locked while on trial
22	6/17/2014	South West	Mundemba	NWESE Solomon	Illegal Detention of 2 Elephant Skulls, 55 Elephant Teeths, 1 Elephant Jawbone 40 Premolars, and 8 Tibias bones.	Poacher and seller	Nwese Solomon is a Marine Merchant Officer ,trafficker and co-offender to Effiam Peter Effiong (Madolo) specialised in selling protected animal species particularly Elephants for commercial purposes. He sells the animal products to potential buyers at 50,000 FCFA. He admitted that he used to partake in hunting activities and this was confirmed by Effiam Peter who acknowledged the fact that they carried out hunting activities together before he Joined the Marine.		locked while on trial

Annex II - Semester in Pictures



A well-known poacher and trafficker, a recidivist popularly known as “Samedi” arrested with his accomplices while trying to traffic elephant tusks and meat. He generally hunts in the national parks especially the Nki National Park and confessed to have killed 12 elephants (*Above left*). 2 dealers arrested in Baham and they are known to run a trafficker ring involving leopard skins in the West (*Above right*). Arrested trafficker answering questions at the police station after his arrest in Yaounde – Center. He is a well-known poacher and arrested with 19 full elephant jaws while arriving from Abong Mbang. He is known to traffic in elephant tusks and owns a bike he uses to facilitate trade. He runs for him a network of suppliers, some of whom him after being supplied with arms and ammunition. (*left*)



An international ivory dealer (*left*) being auditioned at the police station following his arrest with 36 elephant tusks (*top*) weighing more than 170 kg when he was about to send it to Douala and further to Nigeria. He has a partner who takes the ivory to Nigeria and investigations are ongoing to arrest him. While under detention, bribing attempts of more than 3 million FCFA were made for his release.



A notorious poacher and dealer in elephant products including ivory was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jaw bones in Mindourou – East Region. He claims to have already traded ivory from the killed elephants.



A major trafficker arrested while trying to illegally trade in leopard skin. He at first claimed to be from a royal family as a means of trafficking influence but he was still arrested and conveyed to the police station to be locked up.



One of the traffickers arrested with a live mangabey in Douala. Here again, breach of procedure and lack of collaboration was observed in the Littoral Regional Delegation where they tried to sabotage the operation.



Above woman arrested with 4 bags of giant pangolin scales mixed with other pangolin scales. This is not her first act as she had been arrested in December 2012 with gorilla limbs



Bags of giant pangolin scales mixed with other pangolin scales seized from notorious female trafficker in Yaounde. Giant pangolins are totally protected species



Left, two major traffickers arrested while trying to illegally trade in leopard skin. They are suspected to having connections to the illegal trade in leopard skin in a the West Region that has witnessed the arrest of numerous traffickers in leopard skin within the last 3 months. Right, Leopard skins seized from traffickers.





Two poachers/traffickers arrested in Bertoua in the East Region with 10 gorilla skulls and 2 elephant jawbones seized. They used tricks to escape detection as they moved from Dimako to Bertoua the regional headquarters with their booty.



A carton full of gorilla skulls seized from the two dealers. They said they could provide up to 50 skulls at a single delivery. A gendarme officer checks out the stock of gorilla skulls



Dealer arrested in Yaounde, he travelled all the way from Ebolowa, South Region. He is a seasoned professional, he used a private car to escape recognition by the Forces of Law and Order.



10 chimpanzee and 7 gorilla skulls were found stuffed inside a bag by the dealer. He bought the skulls in four villages in the South Region



Two arrested in Mundemba, close to Korup National Park. A marine marchandé and a notorious elephant parts trafficker were found in possession of over 100 elephant bones



Hundreds of elephant bones from Korup National Park seized from the two dealers. The cover of darkness was used by traffickers to transport bones to Mundemba, South West Region



He is specialised in treating wildlife products before sales. He was arrested in Bertoua, East with gorilla skins and a piece of truncated ivory among many other wildlife products



Live mandrill dealer arrested, he transported the mandrill in his car to the point of transaction. He is based in Yaounde but gets his supplies of live primates from Yoko, Centre.