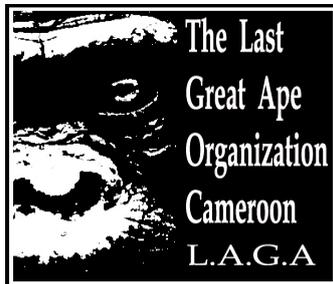


THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2022



Executive Summary

Many achievements were recorded in LAGA's collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) despite several challenges posed over this period. These achievements were obtained in the fields of investigation, arrest, prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities. Focus was on the fight against the illegal wildlife trade; principally trafficking in pangolin scales, elephant tusks, primates and leopard skins. 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. 21 traffickers were arrested during the period.

21 major traffickers were arrested at a rate of one for every 9 days and 67% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Accordingly, 21 new cases were brought to the courts. 13 traffickers were found guilty and 8 traffickers given prison sentences and ordered to pay fines and damages. 5 others were ordered to pay fines and damages... In total, the courts ordered the payment of damages totalling 111,971,627 F CFA (about \$223,743) 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 73 traffickers were arrested across 7 countries. An investigator from Cameroon travelled to Côte d'Ivoire and the collaboration produced very good results and an investigator from Côte d'Ivoire arrived in the country for an experience sharing mission.

The work of LAGA was supported by Wildcat, Prowildlife, Olsen Animal Trust (OAT), AXE, Dutch Gorilla Foundation, Pangolin Crisis Fund, - Born Free Foundation

LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)
SEMESTER REPORT
January - June 2022

OVERVIEW

Investigations

- A total of 82 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 6 regions.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 4 regions arresting 21 major traffickers resulting in 21 court cases at a rate one and a half week.
- Operations were on pangolin scales, ivory, live primates including chimpanzees and mandrill, and leopard skins.
- The rate of imprisonment of arrested offender stood at 67%.
- 2 baby chimpanzees were rescued from iron cages in March.
- Over 700 kg of pangolin scales were seized with 9 traffickers arrested:

Legal

- 21 new cases were brought to court. Many of the 21 cases began during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures are ongoing.
- 13 traffickers were found guilty and handed prison sentences, fines and damages. Damages amounted to some 111,971,627 F CFA (about \$223,743) to be paid to MINFOF.
- 9 court judgements were passed during the 6-month period and two appeals lodged.

Media

- A total of 157 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 annual report of 2021 was made available online.
- One candidate started a training and testing period with the investigation department
- Focus was on maintaining high standards in every department and on improving recruitment for investigators.

External Relations and Policy

- Several 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 pangolin scales, ivory, primates and leopard skins
- The strategic focus was ensuring investigations and operations were smoothly carried out despite challenges of diverse nature that were posed.
- A new round of recruitment targeting online investigators was initiated and interviews carried out.

- The CCU evaluated and provided strategic assistance to management, operational and organisational functioning.

EAGLE Activities

- A total of 73 traffickers were arrested across 7 countries of the network during this semester.
- An investigator travelled to Côte d'Ivoire to provide assistance and experience sharing with the team. An investigator from Côte d'Ivoire arrived the country for the same purpose:

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Also available:

1. Annual Financial Statement 2021
2. Annual Activity Report 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 June 2022 and 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, 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 82 investigation missions in 6 regions of the country during this period. There was close Collaboration with the Central Coordination Unit that provided vital investigation support and guidance. New investigative strategies were put in place to improve on results and this improved on results. Some old strategies were revisited and adapted to suit present circumstances. Some old investigations were also revisited. Focus was on reviving good old habits and strengths in carrying out complex and difficult investigations.

The recruitment was intensified with some candidates interviewed. One was put on a test and a drive to recruit online investigators went well underway.

The head of the department and his deputy were all part of the operation team during all operations carried out during the first period of 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 from another EAGLE country arrived the country for a month-long investigation support and experience sharing mission. An investigator travelled to Côte d'Ivoire for the same purpose.

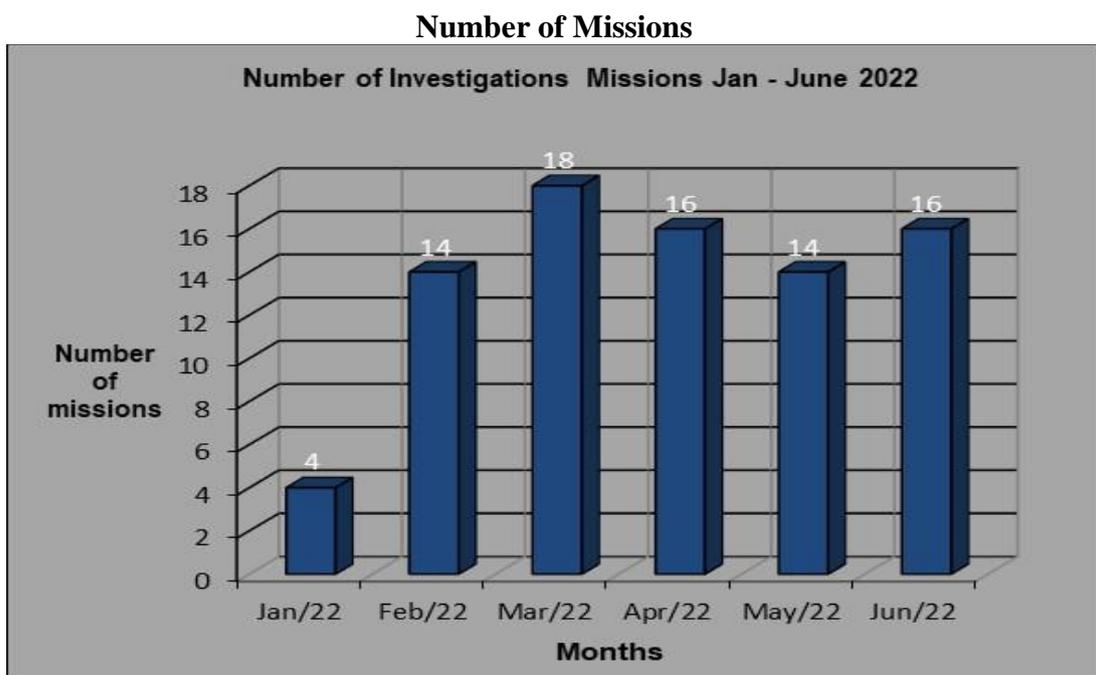


Figure 1: Number of Investigations Missions per Month

2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 4 regions against 21 individuals resulting in 21 court cases at a rate of one every 9 days. A combination of old and new strategies resulted in more complex and sophisticated operations to meet up to the changing tactics of traffickers. Pangolin scales trafficking was the prime focus during this period and accounted for 43% of the traffickers arrested. Ivory traffickers represented 29% of those arrested, 19% for primate traffickers and the remaining 9% represented operations related to the seizure of leopard skins and a crocodile skin.

In February, a trafficker was arrested in Bonis, near Bertoua, East Region with 242kg of pangolin scales, more pangolins and monkey carcasses were found in a refrigerator at his residence. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He also bought small quantities of scales locally from bushmeat traffickers. He used his entire family including his wife and children in running the illegal pangolin scales trade. The children would go around the town, collecting the scales. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected. The seizure represents a massacre of more than a thousand pangolins.

A second operation in February saw 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Melong, Littoral Region. One of the traffickers transported the skins hidden in bags containing locally made kitchen utensils from Mbouda to Melong where he was arrested. He ran a small shop, selling hardware and used the business as a cover business for wildlife trafficking. This explained why he concealed the skins among kitchen utensils as he moved the contraband from Mbouda to Melong. He belongs to a network of traffickers dealing in cat skins in an area notorious for the illegal activity. They arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skins.

In March, 6 traffickers were arrested in Sangmelima, South Region, with 5 tusks, chimpanzee meat and parts of several other wildlife. They belong to an ivory trafficking ring that covers most of the South Region including Djoum considered to be a trafficking hotspot. The first trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested in a series of arrests during the following two days. One of them concealed parts of protected wildlife species including the limbs and other parts of a chimp in his car. A dead pangolin was also recovered from the vehicle.

Still in March a trafficker was arrested with 2 baby chimpanzees in Yaounde, Centre Region. The traditional chief was arrested at his residence. He had iron cages to detain and imprison wild animals including the baby chimps that kept holding the bars desperately longing to be outside. At one point during his arrest, the traditional chief shouted - "bring me my gun! I will kill these animals; they will not be taken alive from here". He resisted arrest and tried to bully the arresting team to letting him free. He bought the animals in Djoum and attempted to sell them in Yaounde.

During the first operation in April, a trafficker was arrested in Douala, Littoral Region with 2 gorilla skulls, a chimpanzee skull and 4 other primate skulls. He was a regular trafficker in skulls and reptiles with international connections in Europe. He extensively used Facebook for his business. He sealed the skulls with plastic tapes and concealed them inside dresses in a plastic bag that is widely used in travelling across the region. He travelled from the crisis hit South West Region to the commercial capital Douala where he attempted to sell the skulls. The operation was carried in collaboration with the Czech-based NGO Save Elephants.

During the second operation in April, a trafficker was arrested in Douala in the Littoral Region with a live mandrill. A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued. The mandrill was tied at the waist with

a heavy metal chain to a tree in his dirty yard. The trafficker was supplied with the mandrill a few months before and was trying to get a high profit for it. The animal was malnourished and weak.

During the third operation in April, 5 traffickers were arrested in Akonolinga in the Centre Region with 90kg of pangolin scales. The traffickers were found in several different locations. They attempted to thwart arrest efforts by taking up different locations they were chased down by the arresting team and each trafficker arrested with booty in hand. They also comprised a complete gang with a driver, middlemen and suppliers. They activated several smaller traffickers and poachers in villages around the town.

During the last operation in April, 3 traffickers were arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region with 386kg of pangolin scales. The traffickers, a Malian national and two Cameroonians, ran a lucrative illicit business in pangolin scales. They operated around the Yoko and Ntui areas that are notorious for wildlife trafficking and weak law enforcement. They also had connections close to the Cameroon border with the Central African Republic where the Malian had hidden huge quantities of pangolins scales. He transported the contraband from a Garoua Boulai concealed in a truck that transported maize to the capital city Yaounde. When he arrived, they hid the contraband at the home of one of the traffickers. They also trafficked African grey parrots but were switching to other products. They claimed it was increasingly difficult to find parrots.

An operation was carried in May and a trafficker was arrested in Douala, Littoral Region during a follow up operation after a mandrill was seized and a trafficker arrested in April. The trafficker was arrested in a follow up to a live mandrill rescue and arrest operation that took place in Douala last April. A trafficker who kept a mandrill at his residence was arrested as he attempted to sell it. During his interrogation he exposed another trafficker who was the brains and money behind the trafficking, but the second trafficker could not be immediately arrested because he had disappeared and stayed away from his Douala residence to avoid arrest. A different strategy was put in place and one of his “girlfriends” lured him to a bar where he was arrested. The arrest put an end to the primate trafficking network that had links to the south of the country.

Operations Table

<i>Number of Operations</i>	<i>Number of Traffickers</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
7	12	246kg of pangolin scales and several pangolin and monkey carcasses a leopard skin, a civet skin, 5 elephant tusks, chimpanzee meat, 2 young chimpanzees, 2 gorilla skulls, a chimpanzee skulls and 4 other primate skulls, a live mandrill, 90kg of pangolin scales, 386kg of pangolin scales,

Figure 2: Operation Table

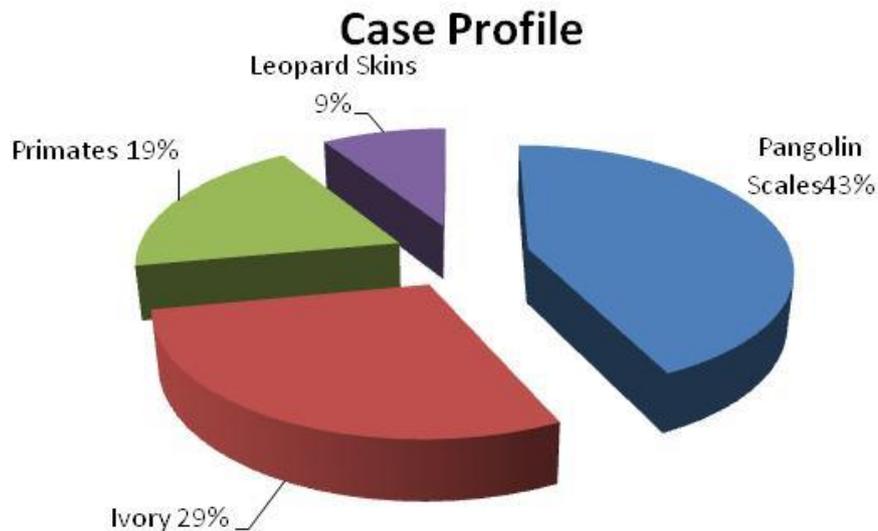


Figure 3: Case profile

3. Legal

A total of 21 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. A court gave sentenced a trafficker to 19 months in prison. He was arrested in February with 246 kg of pangolin scales and 48, 5 kg of bushmeat. Damages awarded to MINFOF amounted to some 111,971, 627 FCFA (about \$223 743). Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the judgement stage and the rate of keeping the accused behind bars at the onset of the procedure stood at with 67%

A total of 82 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 pangolin scales that produced close to half of all the cases while ivory cases followed in second.

During the period 9 court judgements were passed with 13 traffickers found guilty and 8 of them given a prison sentence while 5 others were sanctioned to pay fines and damages. Two appeals were made; one in January and the other in March.

In January, The Court of First Instance found the accused PENE YOKO Armel guilty and sentenced him to 2 months in prison and to pay 920,250 FCFA (about \$1841) as fines and 79.750 FCFA (about \$160) as court fees. He was also ordered to pay 1,000,000 FCFA (about \$2000) as damages. He was arrested in Nanga-Eboko on the 17/11/2021 for illegal possession of 86kg of pangolin scales and a baby baboon.

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

In the third ruling of January, 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 a mandrill.

In March, the Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused NGUEKENG KITIO Chamberlain guilty and sentenced him to 19 months in jail and to pay 180,000 FCFA (about \$320) as court fees. He was also ordered to pay 3,000,000 FCFA (about \$6000) as damages. He was arrested in Bonis on the 08/02/2022 for illegal possession of 246 kg of pangolin scales and 48,5 kg of bushmeat.

In May, the Douala – Bonaberi Court of First Instance found the accused LANGMIA Barry DINGA guilty and sentenced him 2 months in prison and to pay 200,000 FCFA (about 400) as fines and 389,000 (about \$780) as court fees. He was also sentenced to pay 7,570,000 FCFA (about \$15140) as damages. He was arrested in Douala on the 05/04/2022 for the illegal possession of a chimpanzee skull, 2 gorilla skulls and 5 monkey skulls.

Still in May, the Bafang Court of First Instance found the accused TANTOH Divine, Samuel SUH and NGONG Elvis NDANG guilty and ordered them to pay 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000) each as fines and 11,900 FCFA (about \$24) each as court fees and 400,000 FCFA (about \$800) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Bafang on the 04/11/2021 for the illegal possession of a mandrill.

In May and a third court ruling by the Djoum Court of First Instance found the accused NDONGO NDONGO Léonard guilty and sentenced him to 15 days suspended sentence during 2 years, and to pay 25,000 FCFA (about \$50) as fines and 35,800 FCFA (about \$70) as court fees. He was arrested in Djoum on the 14/07/2021 for the illegal possession of a mandrill.

The last court decision in May by the Ambam Court of First Instance found the accused ABAGHA ABAGHA MESSA Albert and AMINOUE Mamadou guilty and sentenced them to 8 months in jail and to pay 1,000,000 FCFA (about 2000) each as fines, 1,910,030 FCFA (about \$3820) jointly as court fees and 37,000,627 FCFA (about \$74,000) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Ambam on the 06/11/2021 for the illegal possession of 9 ivory tusks.

In June, the Yaounde – Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused ADAMA Mana and TCHAMGNE NDJENDE Mario guilty, and ordered them to pay 200,000 FCFA (about \$400) each as fines, 195,000 FCFA (about \$ 400) each as court fees and 3,000,000 FCFA (about \$6000) jointly as damages. They were arrested in Yaounde on the 09/06/2022 for the illegal possession of 1 lion skin and 1 leopard skin.

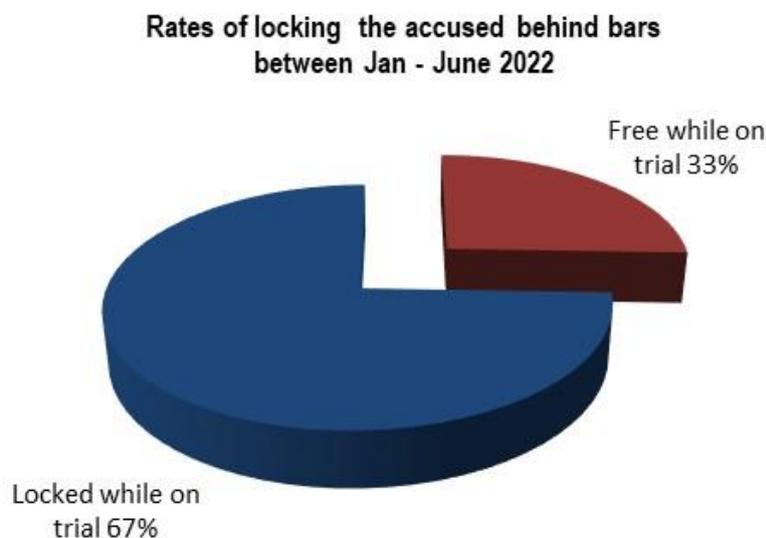


Figure 4: Rate of locking accused behind bars

4. Media

A total of 157 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. May and April months recorded the highest number of media pieces and January recorded no media pieces as the team returned from vacation and no operations were carried out.

The Bertoua arrest of a trafficker with 246kg of pangolin scales; the Nkongsamba arrest of two more traffickers in possession of a leopard and civet skins; the sentencing of a trafficker arrested with 246kg; the Yaounde arrest of a traditional ruler with 2 baby chimps the court hearings of the traditional ruler affaire; the Sangmelima arrest of 4 traffickers with 5 ivory tusks; the Douala arrests of a trafficker with a mandrill and another with primate skulls; the Akonolinga arrest of 4 traffickers with 90kg of pangolin scales and Yaounde the arrest of 3 traffickers with 386kg of pangolin scales

The following were interviewed; The Lom & Djerem Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife and the LAGA Head of Media Department.

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

The Deputy Director participated in the filming of the series dubbed *Unsung Heroes* by Wildaid. The series seek to shade light on conservationists for their contribution in protecting wildlife.

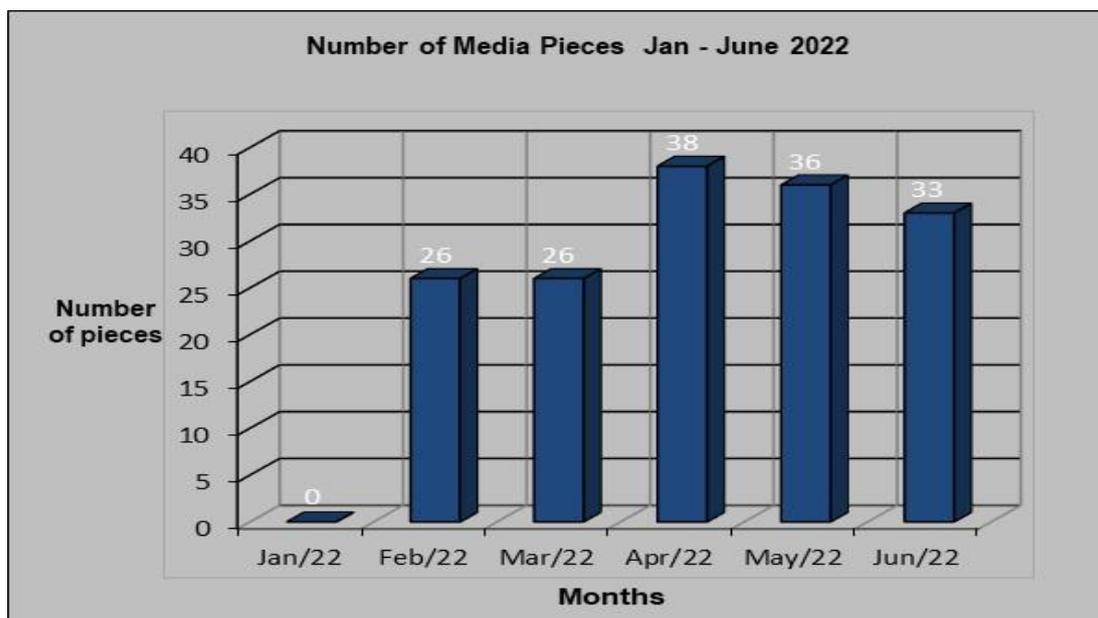


Figure 5: Number of Media Pieces Produced and Published

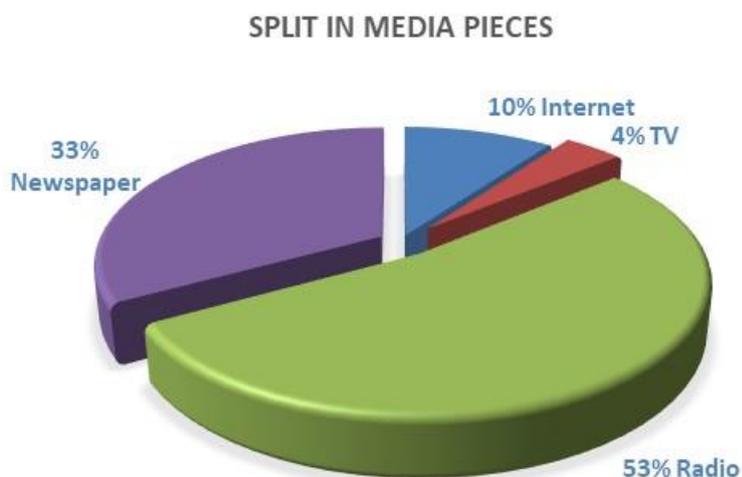


Figure 6: Split in Media Pieces

5. Management

Despite difficulties in ensuring adequate resources for the organisation all the departments worked hard to improving on the results of the semester. The annual report of 2021 was uploaded online. The electronic versions are available online 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 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.

An investigator travelled to Côte d'Ivoire to provide assistance and share experiences with the young Ugandan team. The planning, hosting and departure of the investigator from Côte d'Ivoire was carried out.

Recruitment for the investigations department continued with one volunteer tested. Several recruitment tests were done and the search for an online investigator was started.

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.

6. External Relations and Policy

The Deputy Director held a meeting with a consultant from Tetra Tech, a US –based group, to introduce the EAGLE Network and discuss the fight against wildlife crime.

The Deputy Director held a zoom meeting with Community Manager of Timby on the use of a data collection software and its application in the fight against wildlife crime.

He held a meeting with a consultant from Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to present the activities of the organisation and discuss data collection in the bushmeat sector in the country.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the South African based Institute for Security Studies to discuss wildlife crime in the sub region.

He participated at a meeting that included wildlife and NGO officials to discuss sections of the new wildlife bill that tackles wildlife crime.

The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department, participated at a zoom meeting of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group to plan activities for the World Pangolin Day.

The Deputy Director participated at a workshop in Douala that focused on enabling participants from Gabon, Congo, CAR and Cameroon understand the functioning of the data collection app, Timby.

The Deputy Director did a presentation on wildlife law enforcement procedures during a training for police, customs and wildlife officials of the three northern regions of the country.

The Deputy Director travelled to Abidjan where he participated at workshop that focused on illicit economies and conflict in West Africa. Organized by Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime (GI TOC), participants were drawn mainly from areas linked to the fight against organized crime in the sub region.

He held a meeting with the Dan Chandler and Matt Shirley from the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group to discuss the fight against pangolin scales trafficking and the management of seized scales in Cameroon.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with two officials of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and three High Commission Officials in Yaoundé to discuss wildlife law enforcement in the country.

He held a meeting with the State Counsel in Garoua to pave the way for close collaboration with the team during operations. He held another meeting with the Chief of Customs in the North Region to strengthen collaboration.

The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy in Yaounde with officials of the Regional Environment Office of the US Embassy in Accra, Ghana. Discussions focused on several conservation initiatives including wildlife law enforcement.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with officials of the US Department of Justice who were trainers at workshop on fighting illegal logging. He held another meeting with Elinor Corlburn a senior counsel of the Justice Department.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues related to the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding. He was accompanied to the meeting by the assistant head of the investigations department.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Territorial Administration to discuss issues related to the Minister's decision requesting international non-governmental

organizations to submit documents to the ministry. He was accompanied by the assistant head of the investigations department to the meeting.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with officials of the Tikki Hywood Foundation to discuss pangolin rescue and rehabilitation. They also discussed law enforcement activities and the strengthening of collaboration.

The Head of the Legal Department and legal advisers held several meetings with administrative, wildlife and judicial officials to strengthen collaboration and in some cases to discuss matters pending at courts handling wildlife cases.

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

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

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 Pangolin Scales

Over 700kg of pangolin scales were seized from some 9 traffickers during the period: The illegal trade has returned in full force after the Covid 19 pandemic disruptions in several activities including trafficking: They represented the biggest group of traffickers arrested and demonstrates the importance of not relenting efforts targeting pangolin scales traffickers as this is an illegal trade that can involve several kinds of traffickers. Unlike ivory trafficking where you find highly

specialised and top level traffickers dominating and controlling the trafficking, pangolin scales can bring every kind of trafficker together. The poor trafficker with just a few kilograms being activated by the major traffickers handling hundreds of kilograms as witnessed during the semester.

In February, a trafficker was arrested in Bonis, near Bertoua, East Region with 242kg of pangolin scales. More pangolins and monkey carcasses were found in a refrigerator at his residence. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He also bought small quantities of scales locally from bushmeat traffickers. He used his entire family including his wife and children in running the illegal pangolin scales trade.

In April, 5 traffickers were arrested in Akonolinga in the Centre Region with 90kg of pangolin scales. The traffickers were found in several different locations. They attempted to thwart arrest efforts by taking up different locations they were chased down by the arresting team and each trafficker arrested with booty in hand. They also comprised a complete gang with a driver, middlemen and suppliers. They activated several smaller traffickers and poachers in villages around the town.

During the last operation in April, 3 traffickers were arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region with 386kg of pangolin scales. The traffickers, a Malian national and two Cameroonians, ran a lucrative illicit business in pangolin scales. They operated around the Yoko and Ntui areas that are notorious for wildlife trafficking and weak law enforcement. They also had connections close to the Cameroon border with the Central African Republic where the Malian had hidden huge quantities of pangolin scales. He transported the contraband from a Garoua Boulai concealed in a truck that transported maize to the capital city Yaounde. When he arrived, they hid the contraband at the home of one of the traffickers. They also trafficked African grey parrots but were switching to other products. They claimed it was increasingly difficult to find parrots.

9.2 Ivory

Ivory traffickers have developed their artwork into amazing sophistication and have the most intricate of operational tactics when proceeding to selling elephant tusks. This was observed in the south of the country where - traffickers belonging to a network were arrested following careful planning and tracking of their moves to sell ivory. The 6 traffickers were arrested in Sangmelima, South Region, with 5 tusks, chimpanzee meat and parts of several other wildlife species. They belong to an ivory trafficking ring that covers most of the South Region including Djoum considered to be a trafficking hotspot. The first trafficker was arrested with the elephant tusks. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested in a series of arrests during the following two days. One of them concealed parts of protected wildlife species including the limbs and other parts of a chimp in his car. A dead pangolin was also recovered from the vehicle.

9.3 Live Primates

Chimpanzees are amongst the most illegally traded primates in the country and two baby chimpanzees were seized from a traditional authority: Baby chimpanzees are generally the object of such devastating trade and they then to be resilient to the maltreatment they receive. This encourages traffickers to commit to illegally trading them. Mandrills are also commonly illegally traded in the country. Live primates are always rescued from precarious situations; malnourishment and diseases. They arrive sanctuaries in very bad state and generally require fast measures to save them from death.

Still in March a trafficker was arrested with 2 baby chimpanzees in Yaounde, Centre Region. The traditional chief was arrested at his residence. He had iron cages to detain and imprison wild animals including the baby chimps that kept holding the bars desperately longing to be outside.

9.3 Leopard Skins

The illegal trade in leopard skins has taken hold in the west of the country because of traffickers are 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. 2 traffickers were arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Melong, close to the West Region. One of the traffickers transported the skins hidden in bags containing locally made kitchen utensils from Mbouda in the West Region to Melong where he was arrested.

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.

Annex I – List of Cases Semester 1, 2022

The list of cases and details of specific cases are made available on demand. Please contact eric@laga-enforcement.org for further information.

Annex II - the Semester in Pictures



He was found with 246kg of pangolin scales and carcasses of wildlife species loaded in a refrigerator in February

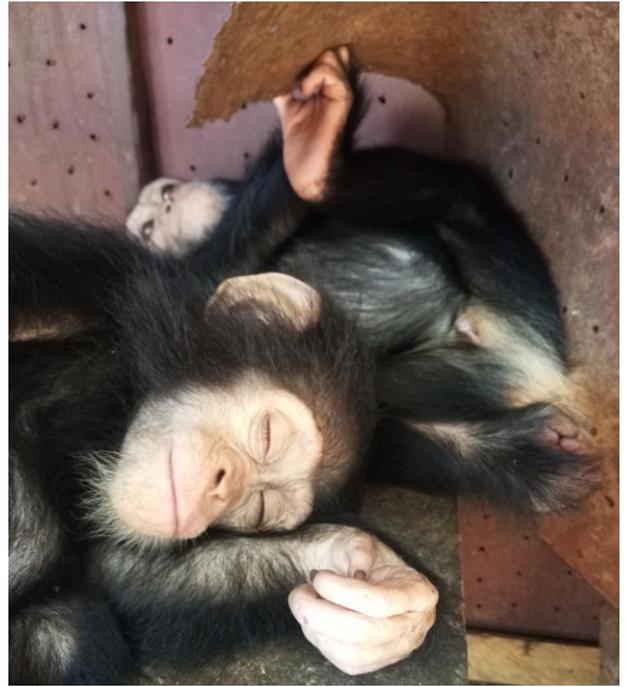


Arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin during their attempts at selling them in February





Caged chimpanzees held captive at the residence of a traditional authority who was arrested in March



A gang of ivory traffickers arrested in March in the South Region shortly before prosecution begins.





One of five traffickers arrested with 90kg of pangolin scales in April



Malian and Cameroonian arrested for trafficking 386kg of pangolin scales in April in Yaounde



Arrested in April for trafficking several primate skulls; at wildlife office



Annex III - Some media links

Several online news sites carried stories on the arrest of traffickers within the semester and here are some examples:

In February, Camer be, an online news site published the story of a trafficker arrested with 246kg of pangolin scales, 3 more pangolins and monkey carcasses and 48kg of bushmeat in Bertoua.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/89866/11:1/cameroun-a-trafficker-arrested-with-pangolin-scales-cameroon.html>

In March, site published the story of two traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Melong.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/90174/11:1/cameroun-two-men-arrested-with-a-leopard-skin-cameroon.html>

In June, Alwihda info published the story of the arrest of 4 traffickers in Akonolinga with 90kg of pangolin scales.

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-quatre-trafiquants-arretes-avec-90-kg-d-ecailles-de-pangolin-a-Akonolinga_a114553.html