

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## November 2020 Report



### Highlights

- **A notorious big time trafficker arrested in connection to the trafficking of African grey parrots.**
- **He was arrested following a warrant issued by an examining judge handling the case against two traffickers arrested for trafficking in parrots in Yaounde in September.**
- **The Deputy Director did a presentation on the Trafficking of African grey parrots in Cameroon during a virtual workshop organized in Nigeria by the World Parrot Trust.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **a trafficker in connection to the arrest of two parrot traffickers in September.**

A notorious and longtime parrot trafficker arrested following the arrest of two parrot traffickers in September. After evading justice for several weeks, he was finally arrested when leaving his home early morning. His arrest followed the arrests of a seller illegally selling African Grey Parrots and a second trafficker at his residence where the parrots were hidden. They both revealed the supplier of the parrots, after which the examining judge issued an arrest warrant for this significant trafficker who had been involved in the illegal parrot business in the country for decades.

The Deputy Director held two meetings; the first with a wildlife law enforcement expert assisting a conservation project around the Mt. Cameroon reserve and the second with the new project manager of the Tikki Hywood Foundation who recently arrived the country.

The Deputy Director did a Zoom presentation titled Parrot trafficking in Cameroon; An Inside into the Illegal Trade during a virtual workshop organized by the World Parrot Trust together with the Nigerian CITES Management Authority and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation that was primarily focused on disseminating information from recent research in Nigeria into the status and threats to Grey parrots including the threat of trade.

## Investigations

- **20 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 regions** out of the 10 regions of Cameroon including the Centre, East, Littoral and South Regions.
- Following information from a previous arrest, a warrant of arrest was issued by the examining magistrate of Yaounde Centre Administratif leading to the arrest of major parrot trafficker in Yaounde.

*Investigations Table*

<b>Investigation Missions</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No. of Operations</b>	<b>No of traffickers arrested</b>
20	4	1	1

## Operation

**An operation** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 2 traffickers**.

**3/11/2020 – a trafficker arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region in connection with the case against two arrested in Yaounde for parrot trafficking in September.** He is a long time parrots traffickers with dozens of years of experience and had been evading justice. He was arrested following an arrest warrant issued by an examining judge handling the case against two parrot traffickers arrested in September. One of them was found illegally selling parrots in Yaounde and the second who supplied the parrots to the street vendor was subsequently arrested at his residence. They all revealed who supplied the parrots and this led the examining judge issuing an arrest warrant for the big time trafficker who is credited with dozens of years in the illegal parrot business in the country.

*Operations Table*

<b>No of Operations</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No of Traffickers Arrested</b>	<b>Contraband</b>
1	1	1	In connection with the seizure of 3 parrots and 6 Rose-ringed parakeets in September

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **8 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Foubot (West), 2 in Bertoua (East), 2 in Ebolowa (South) and 2 Ambam (South).
- There are **13 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in East Region, 2 in Centre Region, 1 in Littoral Region, 1 in South Region and 6 in West Region.
- **28 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **23 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **3 wildlife traffickers** were convicted this month and a further **4 human skeleton traffickers** were convicted.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.
  - **26/11/2020**: The Douala - Ndokoti Court of First Instance found the accused **TCHIEKOU Théophile, MANYOMBE Samuel and MAKEMBE Lydie guilty. TCHIEKOU Théophile and MAKEMBE Lydie were sentenced to one year suspended sentence during 3 years and MANYOMBE Samuel was sentenced to a one-year imprisonment term. They were also sentenced to pay 200.000 FCFA each as fines and 6,000,000 jointly as damages.**

They were arrested in Douala on the 07/05/2020 for the illegal possession of 2 ivory tusks.
  - **04/06/2020**: The Foubot Court of First Instance found the accused **AMADOU TIJANI, KPOUHENZEN Radifatou, SAPTT Aboubakar and ABDEL Aziz guilty and sentenced them to 5 years in prison and to pay 100,000 FCFA each as fines.**

They are suspected wildlife traffickers arrested on the 20/05/2020 for illegal sale of a human skeleton.

### *Legal Table*

No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	Prison term (in months)	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
8	1	7	72	2	0	23

## **Media**

- 39 media pieces were produced and pushed through to written press, internet and radio including: 20 written press materials (14 in English and 6 in French), 8 internet publications (6 in French and 2 in English), and 11 radio news flashes (6 in English and 5 in French).
- Interviewee: None
- Subjects focused this month on wildlife law enforcement including: the Ambam court hearing of a suspected wildlife trafficker arrested with 626 kg of ivory, and the court hearing of three other traffickers arrested with 26kg of ivory tusks in Douala, as well as their judgement.
- 22 media pieces in English language and 17 in French language making a percentage of 56.4% in English and 43.5% in French.

*Media table*

<b>No of media pieces</b>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>

## **External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director did a presentation on the trafficking of the African grey parrot in the country during a virtual workshop organized in Nigeria to discuss issues related to the conservation of the species which has been intensely trafficked over the years in the country and in the Central African sub region.
- He held a meeting with the new Project Manager of the Tikki Hywood Foundation who recently arrived the country and they discussed several issues relating to pangolin conservation and wildlife conservation in general.
- The Deputy Director held another meeting with GFA consultant Stephane Crayne to discuss law enforcement initiatives around the Mt. Cameroon area and strategies to effectively fight wildlife crime in the area.
- He participated at a Cameroon Pangolin Working Group meeting that was aimed at relaunching the activities of the group that has been lethargic since the coming of Covid 19.
- The head of department held a meeting with the Ambam state counsel to discuss strategies on a matter forwarded to him and he held another meeting accompanied by a legal adviser, with the Yaounde – Centre Administratif state counsel to discuss strategies on a case forwarded to him. The legal adviser held a meeting with the Ebolowa state counsel to discuss a matter pending at the court.
- Another legal adviser held a meeting with the Douala Ndokoti state counsel to discuss strategies on a matter pending at the court and he equally held a meeting with the attorney general of the Littoral Appeal Court to discuss a matter pending at the court. Another legal adviser held a meeting with the state counsel in Foubot for the same purpose.

## **Management**

- Preparations for end of year activities were started and emphasizes were placed on strategies to ensuring results could be boosted to meet the various targets set at the beginning of the year.

## **Activism Front**

All the activism fostering activities carried out by the LAGA family are online; this could be gotten at the LAGA website –

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

## **Finance**

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) .

## **Link of the month**

The online news site Stopblablacam focused this month on the court hearing of three traffickers arrested with two ivory tusks in Douala. The news site underlines the need for an exemplary sanction to serve as deterrence.

<https://www.stopblablacam.com/societe/1911-5478-douala-trois-hommes-au-tribunal-pour-un-traffic-d-ivoire>

## This Month in Pictures



*African grey parrots in tiny little cages and sold along the streets of Yaounde. They were seized in September with two traffickers arrested leading to the issuance of an arrest warrant and the arrest of against a big time parrot traffickers who supplied the parrots to other traffickers and street vendors*