

THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, LAGA CAMEROON 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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 pangolin scales, primates and ivory, and leopard skins. The team stepped up its professionalism following new instructions, recommendations and proposals during in house meetings and the results were forthcoming with important pangolin scales, primates and ivory operations carried out with high levels of expertise. Trafficking in leopard skins and others including lion, zebra and crocodile skins was targeted while the grey parrots once more received special attention. Operations against live chimp traffickers attracted a lot of attention and hard work and 5 chimpanzees, 3 babies and 2 adults were rescued.

36 major traffickers were arrested, at a rate of one for every 10 days, approximately. 73 % stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Corruption was observed and combated in a number of the cases. 41 new cases were brought to the courts and 37 traffickers were found guilty and given prison sentences, fines, damages and penalties and with two traffickers given the maximum penalty of 3 years and in another matter a trafficker was ordered to pay damages totaling 107, 559, 000 F CFA (about \$215,120) to MINFOF. Media exposure was at a rate of one media piece per day.

The EAGLE network achieved remarkable results as 406 traffickers were arrested across 9 countries within the network during year. The LAGA team hosted activists from other countries for an intense training programme and included legal advisers from Guinea and Madagascar and the Assistant Coordinator from SALF. The Deputy Director and the Interim Director travelled to Ivory Coast for coordination assistance to the new replication project.

Several meetings were held by the Director and Deputy Director with government and diplomatic officials in Yaoundé and with many other stakeholders within the wildlife law enforcement domain.

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LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)
ANNUAL REPORT
January – December 2017

OVERVIEW

Investigations

- A total of 284 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 8 regions.
- The network of informants continued producing results leading to good operations.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 6 regions arresting 36 major traffickers at a rate of 1 per 10 days resulting in 41 court cases. LAGA provided legal assistance to some law enforcement units to 5 of the cases and was not part of the initial arrests operations.
- Operations on pangolin scales, primates and ivory accounted for over 65% of the total number of operations
- The rate of imprisonment of arrested offenders was 73%.
- 3 baby and 2 adult chimpanzees were rescued from ape traffickers during four operations.
- A record breaking 5.4 tonnes of pangolin scales ready for illegal shipment was recovered from 2 Chinese nationals arrested in January.

Legal

- 41 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases began during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures still ongoing).
- 37 traffickers were found guilty and handed prison sentences, fines, damages and penalties. Damages amounted to some 214,081,500 F CFA (about \$428,163) to be paid to MINFOF.
- 26 court judgements were passed during the year and one of the court rulings gave the full prison sentence of 3 years although very week sentences necessitated the lodging of 7 appeals which is a very high number.
- January had a record 8 court judgements handed down by the various courts.

Media

- A total of 375 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio, press and internet) achieved at a rate of more than one media piece per day.

Management

- The annual report for 2016 was made available online.
- A new legal adviser was recruited.
- Focus was on stepping up professionalism, general effectiveness and optimizing investigation procedures.
- The new project development officer was recruited on a part time basis.

External Relations and Policy

- Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss corruption issues, wildlife law enforcement etc.
- LAGA carried out activities in celebrating the World Environment Day and this cumulated in tree planting at the Mefou National Park while the organization was present for the first time at the Meeting of Parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

Strategic Highlights

- The strategic focus over this period was on trafficking in pangolin scales representing 27%, 19% for primates trafficking, 19% for ivory trafficking and leopard skins 15%. 5.4 tons of pangolin scales were seized during one operation - 2 Chinese were arrested.
- The focus was on stepping up improvements through respect and optimisation of existing procedures.
- Strategies to improve on an effective recruitment process were initiated.

EAGLE Activities

- A total of 406 traffickers were arrested across 9 countries of the network during the year.
- Exchange visits continued among the countries and legal advisers from Madagascar, Guinea and an Assistant Coordinator from Senegal visited the country while the Deputy Director and the Interim Director travelled to Ivory Coast. The Head of the Legal Department travelled to Senegal to provide assistance. LAGA received a super volunteer who was trained and he moved on to the new Ivorian project.

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Also available:

1. Annual Financial Statement and Semester I & II reports 2017
2. Monthly Financial and Activity Reports January to December 2017
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

1. Investigations

LAGA's investigation unit carried out 284 investigation missions in 9 regions of Cameroon. The department continued intensifying recruitment, strategies to get big time traffickers and weekly meetings for planning and execution of activities.

High level investigations were carried out with improved and sustained collaboration with the EAGLE Central Coordination Unit (CCU) and consequently the understanding and respect for procedure improved. Several meetings on improving investigative standards and collaboration with other departments were held.

All through the year, new strategies were formulated and implemented to meet up with changing tactics by traffickers. One of the strategies included improving investigation and information sources and this essentially consisted in recruiting informers at new strategic positions over the national territory and at trafficking hubs especially at points of exit from the country. The improvement in strategy resulted in the improvement in the quality of investigations and results.

Field testing and high screening of new investigators were done and a total of 4 candidates including one for the post of an internet investigator were tested with encouraging signs of their abilities and some have already given operations. They need to continue producing more good quality work and learn to stick to procedures. Training of Investigators on operations procedure continued especially as new relations within the departments and the CCU were codified into a framework of procedures to be fully respected.

A new Assistant Head of the Investigation was appointed to the investigation department. Gilbert Njua Atem moved from the legal department to the investigation department and together with the Head of the Investigation Department, they carried out several training sessions for the benefit of investigators, especially three new investigators who are being tested.

The network of informants put in place assisted in the realization of a number of operations including the arrest of two Chinese nationals in Douala with over 5 tons of pangolin scales.

The Head of the Investigations Department and the Assistant Head, each held several meetings with some wildlife and customs officials to build collaborative platforms; enabling effective investigations and information exchange. Meetings were held with wildlife chiefs of posts of Lubing, Salapoumbe, Djoum and Mintom in the South and East regions and customs officials in Douala (Littoral Region), Tiko Limbe, (Southwest Region) and the Anti Trafficking Unit at the Douala and Yaoundé airport.

During this period, there was a special investigation focus on pangolin scales trafficking; that has recently escalated to very high levels and professional traffickers are getting organized around the trade.

Jean Claude Vignoli, a super volunteer, was trained for several weeks within the department during his 3 months training period in the organization.

Number of Missions

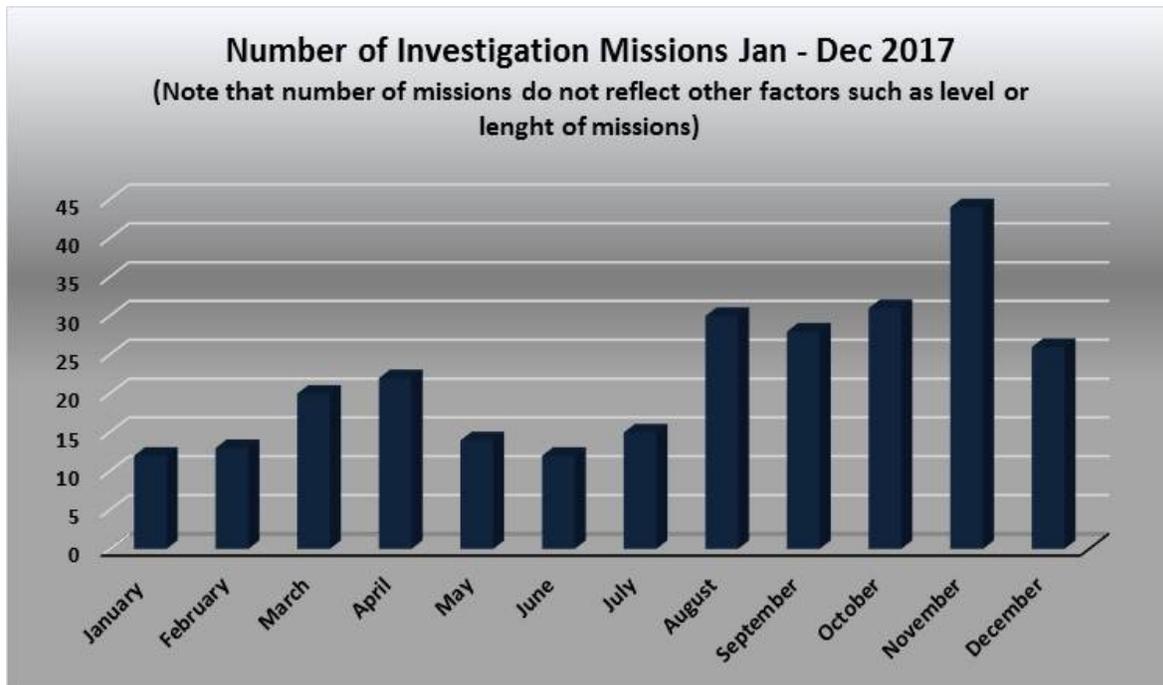


Figure 1: Number of Investigations Missions per Month

2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 6 regions against 36 individuals at a rate of one per 10 days and 41 new cases were brought to the courts this year while 5 of the cases were taken on by LAGA from operations carried out by the police or wildlife officials who solicited support. The drop in results could partly be accounted for by complications from some quarters including the attitude of some wildlife officials who were either unwilling to work, presenting handicaps and excuses or complaining about absence of sworn officials and refusing to carry out operations. The drop was also due to the fact that several new investigations techniques were initiated and it needed time to be assimilated by the investigators while 3 new investigators were on trial. The rate of imprisonment stood at 73% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial.

27% of the operations were on the busting of networks dealing in pangolin scales and while ivory trafficking and live primates (chimps and mandrill) represented each 19% each. African grey parrots trafficking resurfaced once more as 2 were arrested with over 218 grey parrots about to be illegal exported from the country. Two Chinese were arrested for illegally trafficking in 5 tons of pangolin scales that was sealed inside a container ready for illegal export. There year saw the arrest of a chimp trafficker at the Entrance to the Douala airport freight terminal with two adult chimps inside two cages behind a truck. 3 baby chimps were also rescued later in the year. Lion skin trafficking also resurfaced with the arrest of three traffickers in Meiganga, Adamawa with a lion skin, 2 leopard skin and 2 crocodile skins. Two of the arrested traffickers had travelled from Garoua to Meiganga with the products.

In January two operations were carried out. During the first operation, 2 Chinese nationals arrested in Douala, Littoral, with 5.4 tons of pangolin scales ready for illegal export to China. The scales were parked inside two containers. They were first of all parked inside 300 boxes that were loaded into iron boxes that were welded into frames that partitioned the containers. This arrangement made it difficult to investigate the containers as it took hours for a trained welder to cut open the containers and the boxes to enable wildlife officials to have a glimpse of the content of the boxes. During the second operation, 2 traffickers were arrested in Yaoundé, Centre with 3 zebra skins, a leopard skin and 40 pieces of carved ivory. Cameroon has no wild populations of zebra and the skins came all the way from Tanzania. The operation was the first ever arrest operation involving zebra species in the country.

The next operation would take place in March as no operations were done in February. 2 traffickers were arrested in Yaoundé, Centre Region for unlawful possession and export of African grey parrots. A Ghanaian parrot trafficker and his accomplice were arrested with 218 African grey parrots they were about to illegally exported from Cameroon. Shortly before their arrest, they had illegally assisted in the shipment of a haul of the parrots through an Air Ivoire flight to Ghana via Ivory Coast and they were intercepted in Accra. The network that was big, experienced and complex involving parrot traffickers with links in countries of the West and Central African sub regions, Asia and Europe had a professional organization with several layers of trafficking within the chain

In April, a total of 5 traffickers were arrested following 3 operations. 3 traffickers were arrested in Meiganga, Adamaoua Region with a lion skin, 2 leopard skins and 2 crocodile skins. Using a car, one of the traffickers transported the contraband hidden inside bags containing maize, for hundreds of kilometers and joined an accomplice shortly before their arrest. He equally had supporting documents proving he was travelling with maize. The traffickers also supplied wildlife contraband to clients based in Yaoundé and Douala.

During the second operation, a trafficker was arrested in Messamena in the East Region with 94kg of pangolin scales. The trafficker who owned a store was suspected to have been regularly supplying pangolin scales to clients in Yaoundé and Douala. He would transport and sell bags of scales and on returning to his base he would buy provisions and supplies for his store.

The third operation of the month was against a catholic priest who was arrested in Sangmelima in the South Region with 2 ivory tusks, a skin and 4 teeth from a recently killed leopard. The clergyman has been trafficking ivory for over 5 years, working with a network of poachers, providing them with money and supplies of essentials such as clothing and food to the poachers and their family; and bullets for the shooting. He supplied the towns of Yaoundé, Douala and Sangmelima with raw ivory, transporting the ivory without raising suspicion at checkpoints because he was mistakenly trusted and was never bothered nor his car searched.

In another operation, a long time experienced international ivory trafficker who frequently went to the Republic of Congo where he had a network of suppliers especially in Ouesso was arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South. He has connections to South Africa and

Guinea Bissau. Also, a female dealer carrying out pet trade in wildlife was arrested with a live primate in Douala - Littoral. She owned a restaurant that she used as a cover for the trade. The live primate was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.

In May, a trafficker was arrested in Yaoundé, Centre Region with 2 carved ivory tusks. He travelled all the way from Kribi to link up with the ivory underworld in Yaoundé to sell the contraband. He had carefully wrapped the ivory in his underwear to conceal and repulse anyone who could have any intentions of trying to know what was bulging inside his bag, during the journey to Yaoundé.

In June, 2 operations were carried out with 3 traffickers arrested. One trafficker was arrested in Yaoundé, Centre Region with a leopard skin and 45kg of pangolin scales. He travelled from Douala with the contraband to sell in Yaoundé and was arrested in the act. He was part of a network that used the social media to advertise wildlife contraband to prospective buyers all over the world. He resided in Gabon where he ran a criminal ring of small traffickers supplying the contraband and a network of Chinese and Nigerians with whom he did business.

During the second operation carried out in Douala, 2 ape traffickers were arrested at the entrance to the freight terminal at the airport with 2 female adult chimps, crammed into tiny cages that could barely contain their size. They had been living in these tiny cages for years and could not even stand up. One of the traffickers had been in the business of trafficking primates for a long time. He had been trying to buy a male chimp to mate and reproduce with the two female chimps. He demonstrated his expertise, in transporting the adult chimps as he drove the truck across the town, with the chimps hooting, grunting and screaming at the back of the car, in their cages. They were immediately attended to by a veterinarian from the Limbe Wildlife Centre and then quickly taken to the centre for the commencement of treatment and lifetime support and care by the experienced caregivers. The trafficker equally had used Facebook to advertise the presence of one of the chimps in their company. On the instructions of the state prosecutor, a house search carried out at the residence of the traffickers found a patas monkey and a Nile monitor.

In July, a trafficker was arrested in Yoko, Centre Region with 18kg of raw ivory tusks. The ivory tusks were cut into four pieces to enable him to efficiently conceal and carry the contraband that was hidden inside a rice sack. The team travelled over 300km to the town to carry out the operation in the area that is noted for corruption and complicity between wildlife criminals and local authorities. The trafficker, last year, narrowly escaped arrest in the same town following an information leak on his pending arrest and it is believed the leak was orchestrated by local officials involved in the operation. The area that is infested with numerous traffickers is notoriously challenging for wildlife law enforcement operations and the operation team had to come all the way from the regional office to avoid any leaks. An attempt was even made by some local gendarmes to stop the car ferrying the team and the trafficker out of the town.

In August, a trafficker was arrested in Ebolowa, South Region with a baby chimpanzee and 35kg of pangolin scales. The arrest took place at a police checkpoint as he travelled with the animal hidden inside a bag. The little animal that was frail and badly malnourished was immediately rushed to the Mefou National Park where it is being given the required,

appropriate treatment and care. The trafficker is known to deal in several primate species which he got from an organized ring of poachers in the Meyo area including places such as Mann, Nyambisa and he equally sold huge quantities of pangolin scales across the border, in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. He dealt in a wide variety of protected species, including primate species as he was expecting live mandrill from a poacher shortly before he travelled but the poacher failed to turn up with the mandrill.

September month saw the arrest of 7 suspects. An ape trafficker arrested in Djoum, South Region with a baby chimp which he had concealed in a bag. He travelled from Meyos III to Djoum to sell the little baby. He had shot and killed the mother of the baby, cut the body into pieces of meat which he trafficked. He then tried to sell the baby shortly before his arrest. He went around searching for clients and this provided enough information for an investigation and operation. He was also known to deal in several other primate species in the area. The chimp was taken to the Mefou National Park where it is receiving lifetime support and care.

During the second operation, a young couple (a man and woman) were arrested with a baby mandrill and 41kg of pangolin scales in the Elig Edzoa neighbourhood, a few dozens of metres from where a clandestine illegal sale of bushmeat usually takes place in Yaoundé, Centre Region. They had travelled from the South to the capital with the wildlife to sell. A rope was tied around the waist of the little baby mandrill which was then put inside a tiny bag to conceal it from curious eyes. Once again the baby was taken to the Mefou National Park.

During the third operation of the month, 4 traffickers were arrested with a baby chimpanzee in Manjo, Littoral region. They had bought the baby from a poacher. This was a regular activity of the traffickers who were very opportunistic wildlife traffickers dealing in various wildlife; dead or alive. The chimp was taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre but unfortunately passed away after efforts to provide first aid assistance and treatment failed. He had been badly treated and malnourished during his unfortunate stay with the traffickers.

In October, good operations were carried out arresting 6 major traffickers. During the first operation, 2 traffickers were arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Yaoundé, Centre Region. The two were arrested at the Bastos neighbourhood in Yaoundé after they arrived on board a taxi that is owned by one of the traffickers. He also had a ring of poachers who supplied him with raw ivory while he dealt directly with Chinese traffickers. Shortly before his arrest, he had driven the taxi car in from Bafia and it is suspected he went to collect wildlife products. He demonstrated remarkable cautiousness by inspecting the Carrefour Bastos area to ensure all was well for his illegal ivory transaction.

During the second operation, 2 traffickers were arrested in Ebolowa, Centre Region with 50kg of pangolin scales. The two were arrested at the Mekalat neighbourhood in Ebolowa. They carefully concealed the two bags containing the scales when they arrived the neighbourhood but were uncovered by wildlife officials. They are long time traffickers with a history of trafficking with other nationalities including a Nigerian national who regularly bought and exported pangolin scales. They equally had a collection of smaller traffickers scattered around villages near Djoum and Mvangan. They would go around collecting the scales and when the quantities were significant, they would sell on to a bigger trafficker. Their activities span across Gabon and Congo and had been going on for a number of years.

A third operation would witness the arrest of 2 traffickers in Bangangte, West Region with two leopard skins and pangolin scales. One of the leopard skins was still very fresh. Pangolin scales were also seized during the operation, from one of the traffickers who travelled all the way from Bangolap, a few kilometres from Bangangte, on a bike with the leopard skin and the pangolins scales. He joined company with the traditional notable who also had a skin. The traditional ruler is suspected to belong to a network of traffickers in leopard skins and is alleged to have sold at least 10 skins a month to his arrest.

November month saw the arrest of 6 major traffickers. 3 traffickers were arrested with 4 ivory tusks and 10.5kg of giant pangolin scales in Sangmelima, South Region. One of the traffickers smuggled ivory from Gabon and would use the trade in cocoa beans as a cover; concealing wildlife products in cocoa bags when he moved the contraband from the south to the capital city. He is suspected of having good connections to some officials. The second trafficker bought 2 ivory tusks from poachers in the same region. The third trafficker, a lady, ensured their transactions were carried out successfully.

A criminal ring was crushed following the arrest of 3 traffickers in Douala, Littoral Region with 128kg of pangolin scales. The 3 traffickers arrested with 128kg of pangolin scales after wildlife officials and police arrived their stronghold in a dangerous neighbourhood in the economic capital. They were arrested in the act as 4 bags of pangolin scales lay on the floor in front of them. They operated a real criminal ring with two based at the supply areas in the east of the country while the third who was at the economic capital and port city did the marketing, searching for clients, negotiating the prices and selling the products.

Operations Table

<i>Number of Operations</i>	<i>Number of Traffickers</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
19	36	5545kg of pangolin scales, 3 zebra skins, 218 African grey parrots, 2 croc skins, 1 lion skin, 2 adult chimps, 4 ivory tusks and 40 ivory pieces, 5 leopard skins and 4 teeth 18kg ivory, one live baby chimp, 35kg pangolin scales, 2 baby chimps, one live mandrill, 41kg pangolins scales, 2 ivory tusks, 50kg pangolin scales, 10kg pangolin scales, 4 ivory tusks, 10.5kg giant pangolin scales, 128 pangolin scales

Figure 2: Operation Table

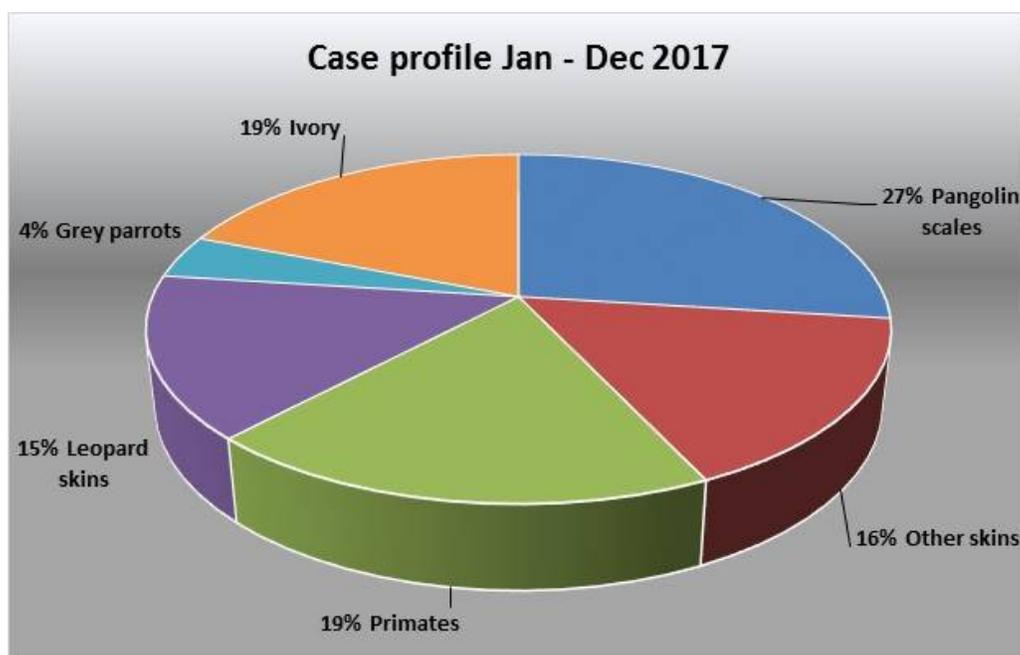


Figure 3: Operations profile

3 Legal

41 court cases were initiated, followed up and represented. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage, and most subjects are imprisoned throughout the process instead of being allowed to move freely and conduct further criminal acts. 73% of those arrested were locked while on trial.

123 missions were done out of the Center Region for follow-up, new cases and the creation and strengthening of relations with judiciary authorities. More emphasis as a direct result of operations was on pangolin scales, ivory, primates, feline skins and products of other protected wildlife species.

During this period, 26 court judgements were passed with 39 traffickers found guilty and 16 of them given prison sentences while 23 others were either given suspended prison sentences or were heavily fined. Up to 7 appeals were lodged against some weak court rulings.

In January, a record 8 court judgements were passed and 2 other judgements were passed in March and April while one was handed down in June. Two significant court judgements were passed in the Courts of First Instance in Abong Mbang where two were found guilty and given full three years sentenced as stipulated by the law for ape skull trafficking while still in the same month; a court ordered a wildlife law offender to pay damages totaling 107,559,000 F CFA (about \$215,118).

In January, the first judgement was passed at the Yaoundé, Centre-Administratif Court of First Instance that found the accused MFPOU Felix Desire guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. He was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment and to pay 2,000,000 F CFA (about \$4000) as civil damages and

122,000 F CFA (about \$244) as fines. He was arrested in Yaoundé for illegal possession and commercialization of 14 sculptured pieces of ivory.

The Garoua Court of First Instance – North, found the accused ABDOU Bratal and ADIMIKO Bakary guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. They were sentenced to one-month imprisonment term each and to pay 300,000 FCFA (about \$600) as fines and 2,000,000 FCFA (about \$4000) as civil damages. They were arrested in Garoua on the 6th of May 2016 for illegal possession, and commercialization of 25 pieces of ivory objects.

The Akonolinga Court of First Instance found the accused NDONGO Désiré and BIWOLE Georges Brice guilty. NDONGO Désiré was sentenced to a suspended prison term of 2 years within 5 years; he was further sanctioned to pay 200,000 F CFA (about \$400) as fines. BIWOLE Georges Brice was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment suspended for 3 years. They were ordered to pay the sum of 30,450 F CFA (about \$7) as court costs. They were arrested in Ayos on the 9th of May 2016, for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 4 gorilla skulls and 6 chimpanzee Skulls.

The Bertoua Court of Appeal found the accused Anthony NWABU NWANNE NWOYE guilty and sentenced him to 10 months imprisonment and to pay 107,559,000 F CFA (about \$215,120) as civil damages and 57,900 F CFA (about \$116) as court costs. He was arrested in Bertoua for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 5 bags full with pangolins scales weighing 200kg and 12 elephant tusks.

TCHABO BAKOP Norbert was found guilty as charged and sentenced them to pay 42,175 F CFA (about \$84) each as court costs or to serve further 6 months in default of payment of the said cost, awarded the civil party damages of 20, 900,000 F CFA (about \$41,800). They were arrested in Bimako for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of chimpanzee skulls.

The Nkongsamba Court of First Instance found the accused TCHOUATOU Elvis Diderot guilty and sentenced him to 2 months of imprisonment and to pay 650,000 F CFA (about \$1300) of civil damages and 69,550 F CFA (about \$140) as court costs or to serve further 6 months in default of payment of the said cost. He was arrested in Melong on the 4th of November 2016 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of one leopard skin, a python skin, a chimpanzee skull, and 2 marine snail shells.

The Abong-Mbang Court of First Instance found the accused person BOTTO KANGA and MILLAH Bernard guilty as charged and sentenced them to 3 years of imprisonment, they were further sanctioned to jointly pay 133.366 F CFA (about \$267) as court costs immediately or to serve further 6 months of additional imprisonment term. The court awarded the sum of 2,500,000 F CFA (about \$5000) as civil damages to the MINFOF. They were arrested in Lomié on the 19th of August 2015 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 2 chimpanzee skulls, 2 gorilla skulls and other products.

The Yaoundé Centre- Administrative Court of First Instance found the accused MAKAWO Clarisse & WAKAN Robert guilty as charged and sentenced them to jointly pay 200,000 F CFA (about \$400) as fines and to pay 7,300 F CFA (about \$ 15) as court costs. The court

ordered them to pay the sum of 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000) as civil damages to the MINFOF. They were arrested in Yaoundé on the 20th of July 2013 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 2 leopard skins.

The Mbanga Court of First Instance, found the accused ENGA ANANSE Felix guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. He was sentenced to pay 150,000 FCFA (about \$300) as fine, 36,000 FCFA (about \$71) as court fees and 400,000 FCFA (about \$800) as damages. He was arrested in Njombe Penja for illegal possession and commercialization of 8 tortoise shells.

The Ntui Court of First Instance – Centre, found the accused BATOURE WADJIRI Noel guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. He was sentenced to: three months imprisonment; ordered to pay 360,000 F CFA (about \$720) as civil damages, 50,000 F CFA (about \$100) as fines and 29,650 FCFA (about \$30) as court fees. He was arrested in Yoko for illegal possession and commercialization of 2 ivory tusks.

The Meiganga Court of First Instance – Adamaoua, found the accused NASSOUROU Abdoulaye and Aboubakari guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species including 2 crocodile skins, 2 leopard skins and a lion skin; while YAYA Boubakari was found not guilty. NASSOUROU Abdoulaye and Aboubakari were sentenced to: 7 months in prison and to pay 52,950 F CFA (about \$104) as court fees and 5.205.000 FCFA (about \$10,410) as civil damages. They were arrested in Meiganga on the 13/04/2017.

The Yaoundé Ekounou Court of First Instance found the accused person DONFACK Alphonse Thomas guilty as charged and sentenced him to pay 675,600 F CFA (about \$1,150) as fine and awarded to MINFOF the sum of 3,000,000 FCFA (about \$6,000) as civil damages. He was arrested in Yaoundé on the 08/06/2017 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a leopard skin and 45kg of pangolin scales.

The Yaoundé Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused ANGBWE Henri Joel and FEUGUE Leticia guilty of illegal capture, possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species including a live mandrill and 20kg of pangolins. They were sentenced to 60 days imprisonment and to pay 24,560 FCFA (about \$49) as court fees and 1,000,000 FCFA (about \$2000) as civil damages. They were arrested in Yaoundé on the 12/09/2017.

The Yaoundé Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused person OUMAROU BOUKAR ABOUBAKAR guilty as charged and sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment suspended during 3 years, and to pay 54,060 FCFA (about \$108) as court fees and awarded to MINFOF the amount of 600,000 FCFA (about \$ 1,200) as civil damages. He was arrested in Yaoundé on the 22/05/2017 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of sculpted ivory pieces.

The Yaoundé Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused person TCHAKOUNTE YVES BERTIN guilty as charged and sentenced him to 300,000 FCFA (about \$600) as fine, and to pay 174,250 FCFA (about \$348) as court fees and awarded to

MINFOF the amount of 3,000,000 FCFA (about \$6,000) as civil damages. He was arrested in Yaoundé on the 18/06/2014 for illegal capture, possession, circulation and commercialization of a live mandrill

The Yaoundé Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused NLANG OKO Yoann and BASSIROU Yaya guilty of illegal capture, possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species (2 ivory tusks). They were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended during 3 years and to pay 278,850 FCFA (about \$556) as court fees and 5,000,000 (about \$10,000) FCFA as civil damages. They were arrested in Yaoundé on the 27/05/2015.

The Sangmelima Court of First Instance found the accused EVEGUE Frederick Marie guilty as charged and ordered that he pays 200.000 FCFA as fine, 27,850 FCFA (about \$48) as court fees and 6,000,000 FCFA (about \$1,200) as damages. He was arrested in Sangmelima on the 20/04/2017 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species including 2 elephant tusks, a leopard skin and 4 leopard teeth.

The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused person OBA'A ABOUTOU Celestin as charged and sentenced him to 4 months imprisonment term and to pay 41,561 FCFA (about \$82) as court fees and awarded to MINFOF the amount of 1,500,000 FCFA (about 3,000) as civil damages. He was arrested in Ebolowa on the 30/08/2017 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a baby chimp and pangolin scales.

The Appeal Court of Centre maintained the ruling of the Bafia court of first instance that found the accused person MBENTAIE Douglas guilty as charged and sentenced him to 6 months suspended sentence during 3 years and 10,000 FCFA (about \$20) as fine, and awarded MINFOF the amount of 450,000 FCFA (about \$900) as civil damages. He was arrested in Yaoundé on the 6/06/2015 for illegal capture, possession, circulation and commercialization of 4 chimpanzee skulls and a yellow back duiker skull

The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused ANVELA Ernest Laurent and ZOBO EVINA Samuel guilty of illegal capture, possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species (50kg pangolin scales). They were sentenced to: 3 months imprisonment suspended during 3 years and to pay 167,783 FCFA (about \$339) as court fees and 2,700,000 FCFA (about \$5,400) as civil damages. They were arrested in Ebolowa on the 11/10/2017.

The Sangmelima Court of First Instance found the accused MENGUE Jeanette not guilty, MBELECK Rigobert and NSUM NSUM Dany guilty as charged and sentenced 6 months suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 150.000 FCFA (about \$300) as fine, 35,850 FCFA (about \$71) court fees and 2,625,000 FCFA (about \$5,250) as damages. He was arrested in Sangmelima on the 15/11/2017 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species including 4 elephant tusks 10 kilograms of pangolin scales.

Seven appeals were lodged during this period against court rulings; a very high number because of the very week court rulings given by some judges.

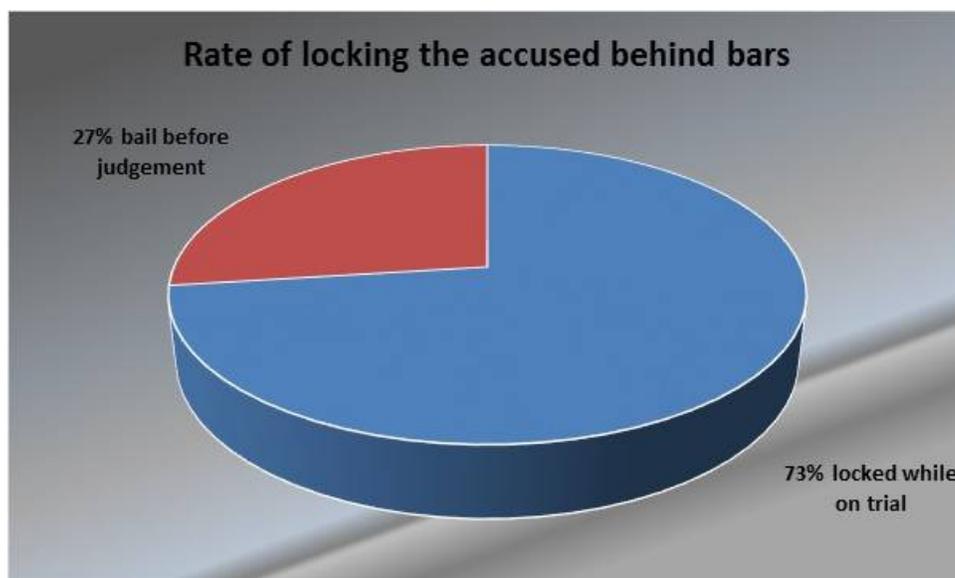


Figure 4: Rate of locking accused behind bars

4. Media

A total of 375 media pieces was produced and pushed into national media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press, the internet a rate of more than one media piece per day. June and December month saw the lowest number of media pieces while September recorded the highest numbers to clear the discrepancies in June. In December, the law media results could be partly explained by the fact that the yearly target was already largely attained and some weeks of the month were set aside for annual vacation.

Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption. These included; the arrest of 3 traffickers at the Nsimalen international airport with 679kg of pangolin scales; the Douala arrest of 2 Chinese nationals with over 5.4 tons of pangolin scales; the Yaoundé arrest of 2 traffickers with zebra, leopard skins and ivory objects; the arrest of a big time primate trafficker in Guinea; the incineration of over 3 tons of pangolin scales by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife; the Nkoabang arrest of 2 for African grey parrots trafficking; the unprecedented arrest of 64 wildlife traffickers across Africa in one month; the Meiganga arrest of 3 with lion, crocodile and leopard skins; the arrest of a trafficker in Messamena with over 100kg of pangolin scales; the arrest of a Reverend Father with ivory, leopard skin and teeth in Sangmelima; the ivory trafficker arrest in Yaoundé; the arrest of a trafficker in Yaoundé with 41kg of pangolin scales and a leopard skin; the arrest of 2 in Douala for chimp trafficking and their trial; the Yoko arrest of an ivory trafficker, the court trial of priest for ivory trafficking; the case against the trafficker arrested in Yoko with 2 fresh elephant tusks; the Ebolowa arrest of an ape trafficker and the rescue of a baby chimp; the Djoum arrest of an ape trafficker and the rescue of a baby chimp; the arrest in Yaoundé of two traffickers in pangolins scales and a baby mandrill; the arrest of 4 ape traffickers and the rescue of a third baby chimp; the court trial of mandrill traffickers arrested in Yaoundé; the various court cases against wildlife traffickers of the October, the Yaoundé arrest of two ivory traffickers, the apprehension of 2 suspects trading in pangolin scales in Ebolowa; the sentencing of 3 traffickers in Meiganga for lion and leopard skin trafficking; the Bangangte arrest of two with leopard skins and pangolin scales; the intensification wildlife operations with arrest of 6

persons in October; the Sangmelima arrest of 3 for ivory and pangolin scales trafficking, the Doula arrest of 3 persons with 128kg of pangolin scales, the arrest of another 2 in Ebolowa with 71kg of pangolin scales as well as Bangangte the arrest of 2 trafficking pangolin scales and leopard skins and the arrest of 2 traffickers in Djoum over the illegal possession of 216 ivory tusks and 81 tails.

Interviews and quotes used in the various media pieces were from; Head of Nsimaen International Airport Anti-Trafficking Unit and his Assistant, Forestry Engineer Tchasso Rachel of the Douala Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife, Charlotte Houpline Coordinator of SALF, Ofir Drori, the Director of LAGA and Jonathan Stark, Conservationist, Littoral Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Regional Delegation Controller No 3, Jean Ngnondete, Forestry Controller at the Centre Regional Delegation.

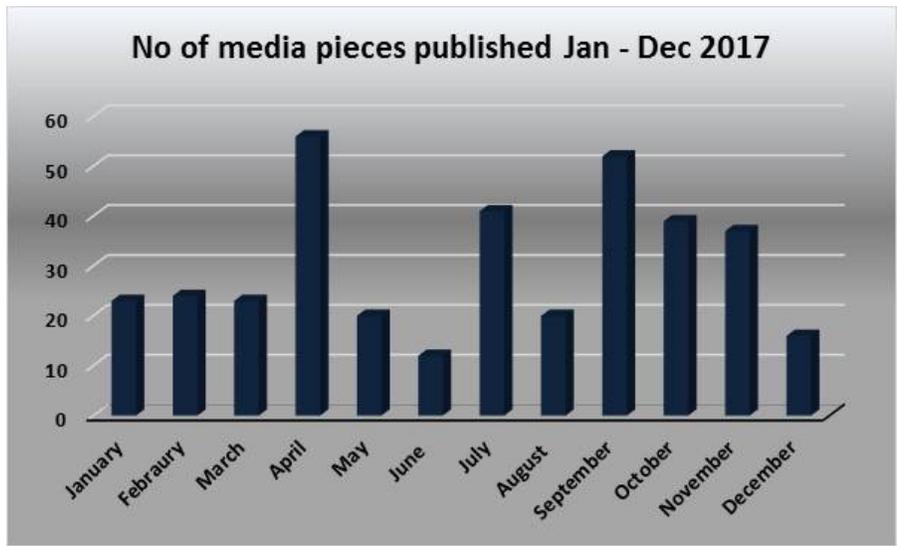


Figure 5: Number of Media Pieces Produced and Published

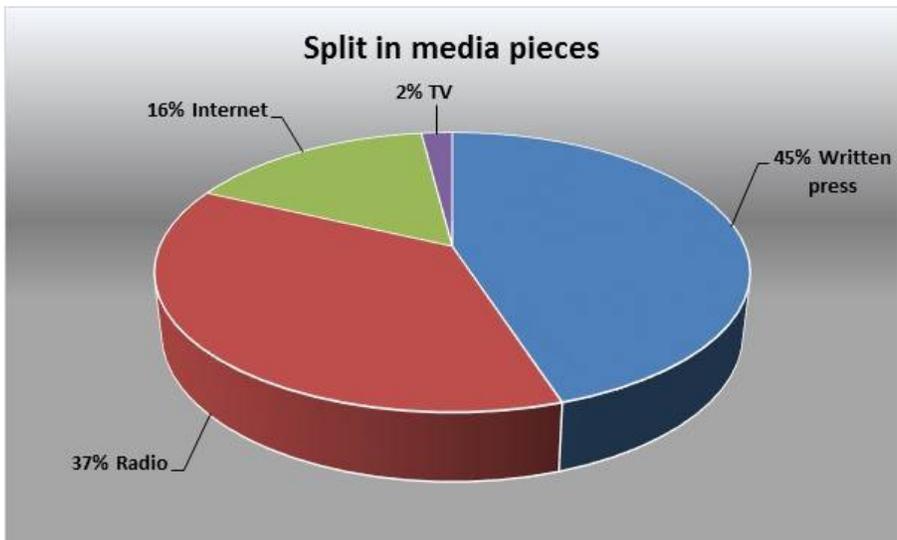


Figure 6: Split of Media Pieces

5. Management

LAGA stepped up its professionalism by capitalizing on the huge experience of its staff with many having over 10 years' experience. Management equally liaised effectively with the Central Coordination Unit (CCU) on several activities. The work of improving and upholding the finest moral and ethical values among staff that was started last year continued with visible signs of significant and encouraging improvements in this regard. The Deputy Director and Interim Director each travelled to coordinate the new replication project in the Ivory Coast. The Interim Director travelled to Israel for a management training programme while the Assistant Head of Media Department travelled to the US for a film festival. The Deputy Director carried out a one-day anti-corruption training for the benefit of trainees of the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), Gaborone, Botswana. The EAGLE Exchange programme witnessed several visits while the recruitment process for new investigators and legal advisers continued and one legal adviser was recruited.

The 2016 Annual report and the first semester report of 2017 was published online. The electronic versions are available on line on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org. This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

Under the EAGLE Exchange Programme, training sessions continued to be held in Yaoundé – Cameroon, with the Coordination Assistant from SALF (Senegal) joining the team for training as part of her preparation for being appointed the coordinator of SALF and this took place in February while in March a volunteer from Madagascar completed a three-week-long training session. In April, a legal adviser from Guinea arrived the country for a month-long organisational training. Jean Claude Vignoli, a super volunteer carried out a three-month volunteering and training programme during the last three months of the year. He moved on to the Ivory Coast project.

The Director travelled to Cameroon twice within this period. The first visit was carried out in March and he spent one full working week with the staff and he would later come in June when he spent another full week.

A new legal adviser, Herve Nkoudou Amang, was recruited to fill the gap created by the sacking of two legal advisers last year for ethical shortcomings. A new project development officer was recruited on part-time to provide support to all departments of the organisation and especially the media department where she is attached.

A series of thought-provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA team were organised to foster activism and leadership skills. A wide range of topics including activism were presented and debated. This initiative also aims at strengthening the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

The recruitment process of a new internet investigator that started since last year received a boost with one candidate put on trial.

6. External Relations and Policy

The Director and the Deputy Director held meetings with the US Ambassador, the Canadian High Commissioner and the Counsellor at the German Embassy in March and the Director held another series of meetings including meetings with the British High Commissioner and the American Ambassador to discuss challenges to wildlife law enforcement in the country and the progress of the EAGLE network among other issues. The Deputy Director held a meeting with the incoming British High Commissioner to present the state of wildlife law enforcement in the country.

The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife on a number of issues pertaining to effective collaboration and strategic challenges within the mutual relationship. The Deputy Director equally held several other meetings with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas on several issues during the course of the year. One of such meetings was held prior to the event to destroy three tons of pangolin scales seized during wildlife law enforcement operations in the country.

The Deputy Director travelled to Gaborone, Botswana, where he trained customs and wildlife officials at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) on the fight against corruption. 23 participants, wildlife and customs officials, from Mozambique, Angola and Botswana were trained on dealing with corruption within the wildlife law enforcement process – enabling them to understand why should corruption be tackled and how to do it.

The Deputy Director attended the 17th Meeting of Parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership where he took part in several meeting sessions and side events. He equally held discussions with several top ministry and NGO officials on topical issues of the MoP and on wildlife law enforcement. He also held a briefing meeting with the Head of the African Program of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He participated in the stream that focused on biodiversity and crime, took part in a couple of side events including the pangolin and ivory side events while holding a meeting to discuss the implementation of the CABAG project. The 5-day meeting brought together participants from several countries in the Central African sub region, the European Union and the US.

The Deputy Director attended a meeting of technical partners of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife who work under the group called CCPM. Discussions focused on various conservation issues including wildlife law enforcement and LAGA was present for the first time after several months of absence. He equally held several meetings with the Coordinator and fellows of the Mentor PoP programme on their mentorship and on several other activities within the conservation sector.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with Juul Jensen Timm, a PhD research student on the illegal trade in pangolins and reptiles. He held another meeting with Dr. Chris Thouless of Save the Elephant (based in Kenya) on issues around ivory trafficking in the country, specifically on the dynamics and routes used by traffickers and on law enforcement. Another meeting was held with Rachel Hogan of Ape Action Africa and Angelia Young, a pangolin conservation enthusiast on the protection and conservation of pangolins in the country.

The Assistant Head of Investigation Department and Dr. Noga Shanee held a meeting with the sub director of wildlife conservation sitting in lieu of the Director of Wildlife to discuss the persistent problem of illegal parks and zoos in the country.

The Assistant Head of the Media Department travelled to the US where she attended the Jackson Hole Wildlife Summit and Wildlife Film Festival, an event that brought together over 750 people including conservationists, explorers, scientists, media practitioners, film producers and directors, to share experiences on species conservation. Issues discussed included the present state of the big cats and its impact and survival among others. The successful wildlife law enforcement model in Cameroon was explained by her and expounded on the successes recorded so far and its replication in other countries.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Centre Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues connected to wildlife law enforcement operations in the Centre Region. The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department took part in a ceremony organized at the West regional delegation to mark the handing over of functions by the outgoing Regional Delegate, who is on retirement, to the newly appointed Regional Delegate.

The Head of the Legal Department did a presentation on writing complaint statements and follow up of cases during an international workshop bringing together participants from the magistracy, customs, police, wildlife department and NGOs. The objectives of the workshop that was organized by TRAFFIC included the training of personnel on product identification and techniques and procedures on wildlife crime investigations.

The Head of the Investigation Department attended the national anti-poaching committee meeting that sought to revamp its activities. He introduced key concepts on wildlife crime that may lead to changes including changing the name of the committee. A legal adviser attended the regional anti-poaching committee meeting at the Governor's office and during the meeting he talked about the poor collaboration among wildlife law enforcement stakeholders; the poor handling of charges against wildlife traffickers by some state counsels and the poor decisions arrived at after trials. The Centre Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife in presenting her law enforcement activities highlighted the fruitful collaboration with LAGA that resulted in the arrest of two with live mandrill and pangolins scales.

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 realized 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 that was formerly the preserve of LAGA and the youngest project is in Ivory Coast where the Deputy Director and the Interim Director have contributed to coordinating during two separate visits to the country. Collaboration between the EAGLE CCU and LAGA were intensified during this semester at all levels including investigations, operations, legal, media and management. LAGA continued to host training sessions in the country and in this regard, LAGA hosted two legal advisers from Guinea and Madagascar who received training and participated in numerous field activities while the Assistant Coordinator from the Senegal project travelled to Cameroon for a month-long intensive training.

8. Fostering Activism

During this period, LAGA continued to foster activism internally and externally. Creating independent activists is one aspect that LAGA uses to foster activism. The NGO members are encouraged to develop their own projects on the various development issues of their country and are given NGO time and management time to develop the project in the vision of turning it in to an independent NGO/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 listed below and also tree planting at the Mefou Park.

- ***Climate Change:*** The presentation walks us through the concept of climate change as it delves into the explanation of change and the mechanism of green house effects is adequately explained by an investigator who was the presenter of the day. The presentation looks at the problems, the causes and the consequences, the natural catastrophes from devastating climatic changes and the role played by some western powers in the present predicament. The refusal even by some, who don't even want to acknowledge there is a problem, is perplexing. Discussions focused mostly on enabling the presenter and those who are still to present to grasp the intricacies of successful PowerPoint presentations, the Paris agreement and the denial of some of the changing climate and their effects on the ordinary man.
- ***Racing Extinction:*** An award nominated movie that describes the extinction of wildlife species in a comprehensive and holistic manner, looking at the problem from several sides while portraying the work of artists, scientists, journalists and others who attempt to bring to light the role of man in this unprecedented destruction. They equally look IT solutions to the problems. The 2015 film is an excellent showpiece of the extinction problem and the politics of getting humans to work for conservation. It exposes the huge illegal trade in wildlife and its ability to destroy whole species to extinction. For example, horrific scenes show thousands of shark fins destined for the

restaurant business. The role of global warming is highlighted as some species cannot adapt to temperature changes and chemical composition of oceans etc. Discussions focused on the role of man, the work we (LAGA) are doing, the politics of conservation and politicians unwilling to make the right decisions.

- ***The Queen of Katwe:*** Many succumb to poverty and depravation but not Fiona, a genius in chess who comes from the earth's poorest of the poorest but who refused to carve in to this fate. She fights her way through a slim chance of hope, her ability to play chess like a grand master and undo the odds by bringing in success and dragging her family from the filth and insecurity of one of Africa's slumps to a shining new house at a suburb she could only dream off. This could not have been possible without the dedication of a bright and young coach who gives all he could to save desperate children and coaches Fiona to believe in her abilities while guiding her to meander through huge challenges. The movie is a shining example of poverty in Africa, bravery and determination to succeed if given the minimum of opportunities. The movie is culled from a life experience. The Queen of Katwe draws the members of the LAGA family to heightened levels of emotion as they go through the 2-hour long movie without visibly feeling time passing. Discussion focused on determination and the will to succeed, courage and the never-let-go attitude that we all need to pass through. It equally points out the activism of our young coach who stands by his poor chess players who beat the odds against life and vanity.
- ***Suffragette:*** The moving struggle, determination and sacrifice put up by women to change the working life of wives and mothers. Maud a working wife sacrificed her home to join and fight for the political, social and economic rights of women. The film depicts the length at which a woman can go to obtain what she wants as the sacrificial death of one of them finally gave them the rights to all they ever wanted (the right to vote, the right to have same wages like men and the right to have a say in their children's lives). The debating question was to know if sacrificing one's life necessary mean to die. This question was argued from different angles with some concluding that a sacrifice for a cause is worth loosing anything that one holds dearly. However, death can only come by chance and not by choice.
- ***Talking to the Media:*** The Deputy Director uses the occasion of activities to mark World Environment Day to carry out a presentation on a topic which is rarely discussed but which activists absolutely need for their communication - that is how to talk to the media. He describes the processes and the tips to use when talking to the media with emphasises on the dos and don'ts. Discussions were mainly on understanding the pitfalls and problems.
- ***Talk on World Environment Day:*** The Deputy Director also used the occasion to give a brief talk on the topic - the World Environment Day - describing its history, its importance, what the organisation has planned and what commitments, we as individuals, are taking, in ensuring that we live to the cannons of proper environmental protection.

- ***Tree Planting at the Mefou Park:*** The entire LAGA family, on the occasion of World Environment Day, visited the Mefou National Park and joined several volunteers to plant several trees and held discussions with park management. They equally briefly watched the chimps and gorillas found in the park which caters for primates that have been rescued. After the tree planting, prizes were given to winners of the *LAGA Environment Day Poem Competition* that involved staff writing poems on the theme “Protection of the Environment”.
- ***Activism and community conservation against wildlife trafficking:*** The head of the project, Neotropical Primate Conservation & Reclaim Conservation in Peru presented the objectives and goal of her project to LAGA team and these weren't very different LAGA's. Dr. Noga said they included the confiscations of wildlife while ensuring traffickers get proper punishments for breaking the law, identifying authorities' deficiencies' in acting against wildlife traffickers and draw the authorities and the public's attention to the fight against wildlife trafficking in Peru. However, she made mentioned of the challenges the project is facing in implementing the country's wildlife law which are complex and twisted. The presenter equally talked of another form of conservation which has to do with empowering the community to carryout self-conservation.
- ***The Form of a State: Federation and Unitary State:*** Against a backdrop of mounting tensions amidst secessionist and federalist tendencies in Anglophone Cameroon, the presentation takes us through two forms of state; the unitary and federal state. As a measure to avoid controversies and potentially heated tensions and arguments, the presenter limits himself to just technicalities, defining, describing and delimiting the various forms, explaining their characteristics while avoiding polemical political verbiage and disputations. The presentation helps us understand the major differences between the two forms. The debates focused on the history and trends of the two forms and their advantages and disadvantages for the citizens.
- ***The Economic Crisis in the Sub Region:*** A legal department adviser attempts an explanation for the current economic crisis the sub region faces as petrol prices have exposed the inadequacies of economic policies by the various regimes. He goes through the economic causes of the slump but what catches the attention of his audience is governance and bad politics. Discussion moved from economic analysis to real politicking, governance and colonialism, the role of the whiteman and his institutions etc.
- ***Presentation: AC participation at the 7th Session of Conference of State Parties to UNCAC at Vienna:*** The presentation covers the recent participation by two members of the AC team to the UNCAC CoP 7 that took place in Vienna from the 6 to 10, November and it touched on the understanding of UNCAC and the activities of UNCAC coalition to which AC is a member. The objective of the participation was highlighted and included offering AC an active participation in the UNCAC Coalition of Civil Society, strategize and strengthen AC's fight against corruption while building an international portfolio for international cooperation. During the conference, they gave a presentation on technical assistance at a plenary session and equally attended several side events that focused on diverse topics including tackling

grand corruption, asset recovery and international cooperation, judicial integrity and corruption in wildlife crime. Several of AC's goals and objectives were effectively articulated during the Vienna convention. They equally talked about issues to be addressed by AC which include taking the fight against corruption to another level, initiating collaboration with state agencies like CONAC as well as other civil society organizations that fight against corruption, gaining financial independence and increasing international allies

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 pangolin scales, primates (chimps and a mandrill), ivory and leopard skins.

9.1 Pangolin Scales

One of the biggest ever seizure of pangolin scales in the sub region was carried out in January, in Douala with the seizure of 5.4 tons of scales that had been parked for illegal export. The arrest of two Chinese nationals tells us all we need to know about the booming illegal trade in pangolin scales. Chinese traffickers are more than ever before taking advantage of the circuits and tactics of ivory trafficking because ivory and pangolin scales are similar in bulk. Chinese involvement in pangolin scale trafficking has pushed prices for pangolin scales up and unbelievable prices are being quoted for pangolin scales in every remote supply zone.

Another pangolin scale operation was carried out in April with the arrest of a trafficker and seizure of 94kg of pangolin scales in the East Region. He also developed a tactic in developing his illicit trade and handling the bulk of scales trafficking. He posed as a businessman, travelling to major cities with bags of scales to sell and on returning to his base, he filled the bags with groceries for his store. In June, an operation involving pangolin scales was carried out in Yaoundé with the arrest of a trafficker who had 45kg of pangolin scales stuffed inside a travelling bag. He was equally arrested with leopard skin as indicated above.

In August one trafficker was arrested in Ebolowa, South Region, with a baby chimpanzee and 35kg of pangolin scales, then a second operation in September saw the arrest of a couple with a mandrill and they equally had pangolin scales with them. Two traffickers were arrested in Ebolowa, Centre Region, with 50kg of pangolin scales. The two were arrested at the Mekalat neighbourhood in Ebolowa They carefully concealed the two bags containing the scales when they arrived the neighbourhood but were uncovered by wildlife officials. They are long time traffickers with a history of trafficking with other nationalities including a Nigerian national who regularly bought and exported pangolin scales. Their activities span across Gabon and Congo and had been going on for a number of year.

Another pangolin scale operation was carried out in November when three traffickers were arrested with four ivory tusks and 10.5kg of giant pangolin scales in Sangmelima, South Region. One of the traffickers bought 2 ivory tusks from a fellow Cameroonian trafficker

while in Gabon and smuggled the contraband across the border. The international dimension of pangolin scales trafficking is gradually being uncovered everyday showing the caliber of traffickers involved in moving pangolins scales across long distances.

9.2 Ivory

Ivory trafficking continues to be of huge interest as traffickers try to find new ways of getting ivory out. Even people from very unsuspecting corners are pulled by the profit they can get from ivory that commands huge attention from international trafficking networks.

In this regard, the most significant ivory operation was carried out in April when a Reverend Father of the Catholic Church was arrested with 2 ivory tusks. The trafficker has been in the business for a long time and had built a network of poachers who he supplied hunting accessories including bullets and was in return supplied with ivory which he sold at some major towns in the country. He used his car to personally transport the wildlife contraband, taking advantage of his religious status while sailing through control points unchecked

In May, a trafficker who seemed to be linked with the ivory trafficking network in the north of the country was arrested in Yaoundé with 2 ivory tusks. He travelled from Kribi where he is based to Yaoundé with the contraband. He intended to travel north after selling the ivory to get new supplies.

Ivory traffickers who are always the most skillful and complicated continue to be arrested during the second part of the year. In July, a notorious trafficker who had been operating with complicity and support from officials was arrested in Yoko with two ivory tusks. He was immediately removed from the locality where such complicity could bring down the case and taken to Ntui where the legal process was carried out smoothly. The case once more demonstrated that if close attention is not made, traffickers build relationships with officials to protect the illegal trade in ivory.

In October, 2 traffickers were arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Yaoundé, Centre Region. The two were arrested at the Bastos neighbourhood in Yaoundé after they arrived on board a taxi that is owned by one of the traffickers. He also had a ring of poachers who supplied him with raw ivory while he dealt directly with Chinese traffickers. Shortly before his arrest, he had driven the taxi car in from Bafia and it is suspected he went to collect wildlife products. He demonstrated remarkable cautiousness by inspecting the Carrefour Bastos area to ensure all was well for his illegal ivory transaction.

In November, 3 traffickers were arrested with 4 ivory tusks and 10.5kg of giant pangolin scales in Sangmelima, South Region. One of the traffickers bought 2 ivory tusks from a smuggler who smuggled the contraband across the border. He trades in cocoa beans as a cover for his ivory trafficking and conceals wildlife products in cocoa bags when he moves the contraband from the south to the capital city. He is suspected of having good connections to some officials. The second trafficker bought 2 ivory tusks from poachers in the same region. The third trafficker, a lady, ensured their transactions were carried out successfully.

9.3 Primates

A good number of live animals were rescued this year from ape traffickers. A total of 5 chimps, one mandrill and a patas monkey were seized from traffickers and it started in June when two traffickers were arrested at the entrance to the Douala airport freight terminal with two female chimpanzees, crammed into two small cages. One of the traffickers had been in the business of primate trafficking for a long time. A house search that followed at his premises found a patas monkey and a Nile monitor. Live animals are still very much the focus of traffickers and generally, these are traffickers with a certain kind of skill needed to keep live animals for long years, transport and sell or export them generally using fake permits or are issued permits with the complicity of some unscrupulous officials.,

During the second period of the year, three baby chimps and a mandrill were rescued. In August during an operation carried out in Ebolowa, a baby chimp was rescued while a trafficker was arrested. He equally had 35kg of pangolin scales. The arrest took place at a police checkpoint as he travelled with the animal hidden inside a small bag, demonstrating the kind of treatment given to primates by their captors. The little animal that was frail and badly nourished was immediately rushed to the Mefou National Park where it is being given the required, appropriate treatment and care.

In September, an ape trafficker arrested in Djoum, South Region with a baby chimp which he had concealed in a bag. As above, he too concealed the animal in a bag. He travelled from Meyos III to Djoum to sell the little baby. He had shot and killed the mother of the baby, cut the body into pieces of meat which he trafficked. He then tried to sell the baby shortly before his arrest. Still in September, 4 people were arrested with a baby chimpanzee in Manjo, Littoral region. They had bought the baby from a poacher. This was a regular activity of the traffickers who were very opportunistic wildlife traffickers dealing in various wildlife; dead or alive. The chimp was taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre but unfortunately passed away after efforts to provide first aid assistance and treatment failed. He had been badly treated and malnourished during his unfortunate stay with the traffickers. Finally, a mandrill was rescued from a couple in Yaoundé from a couple who were also arrested with pangolins scales.

9.4 Leopard Skin

Many operations carried out within this period witnessed the arrest of several leopard skin traffickers indicating the continuous trade in the feline skins. This is one area of trafficking that has always been ongoing and it suffices to dig deep to uncover it. Since the work on wildlife law enforcement started in earnest, in the country, each year, a good number of leopard skins traffickers is arrested.

The first leopard skin operation of the month was conducted in January when 2 traffickers were arrested in Yaoundé, Centre, with several contraband including zebra skins, carved ivory pieces and leopard skins. The traffickers operated as a well-oiled gang with specific tasks indicating the professionalism of traffickers these days. Traffickers seem to have developed their skills across the board and those working on skins are no different. This was once more proven in April when 3 traffickers were arrested trafficking in skins of three protected species including the lion, the crocodile and the leopard. They carried out a number of tricks to travel over 300 km to sell the skins in Meiganga in the Adamaoua region. They immersed the skins in bags of maize and used documents showing they were indeed transporting maize. Their ability in travelling long distances to supply skins was once more

demonstrated in June when a trafficker was arrested with leopard skins and pangolin scales. He travelled close to 300km from Yaoundé to supply the contraband. Strikingly enough was the fact that during all three operations carried out within the first semester, the leopard skin traffickers also had contraband from other protected species.

During the second period of the year, investigative focus on leopard skin, led to an operation in the West Region that saw a man arrested with two leopard skins. One of the leopard skins was still very fresh allaying any suspicion that this could be a skin taken from a traditional palace. Pangolin scales were also seized during the operation from one of the traffickers who travelled all the way from Bangolap, a few kilometres from Bangangte, on a bike with the leopard skin and the pangolins scales. He joined company with the traditional notable who also had a skin. The traditional ruler is suspected to belong to a network of traffickers in leopard skins and is alleged to have sold at least 10 skins a month to his arrest.

9.5 Other Skins (Lion, Zebra and Crocodile skins)

For the very first time in the country, a zebra skin was seized in January from two traffickers. They equally had a leopard skin and ivory pieces. The zebra skins came all the way from Tanzania, pointing to their ability to move contraband over long distances. The traffickers worked as a team of at least three, as indicated earlier, this is another evidence of skin traffickers stepping up professionalism and teamwork. The third member of the gang who is the supplier, furnishing the wildlife products, is still at large. The presence of a lion skin during this operation is very troubling considering the population of lions in the country has fallen to barely a few hundreds. It is over 3 years that the last lion skin operation was carried out during a crackdown in Nanga Eboko in the Centre Region and it could easily have been understood to mean lion skin trafficking had ceased to exist because of the dwindling numbers but the operation that was carried out in Meiganga this year is a stake reminder of the horrid character of wildlife trafficking that would only cease when the species is extinct.

9.6 African grey parrots

A trafficking network of African grey parrots was busted in March. The network that spans West and Central Africa, specializing in the trafficking of African grey parrots had been in the business for a long time. Two were arrested in Yaoundé with 218 parrots which were being packaged for illegal air transport. Shortly before their arrest, they had illegally exported a haul of parrots through the Nsimalen International Airport to Ghana although the ultimate destination of the parrots was said to be Hong Kong. African grey parrot traffickers are among the best in using air transport for exportation of their contraband and understand the mechanism involved in slipping illegal cargo into airplanes.

10. Corruption and Wildlife Crime

Bribing attempts are documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and more than 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. Corruption is also observed and combated in the regional enforcement activities.

This ongoing fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. During this period, most of the corruption attempts were immediate and on wildlife officials taking statements and writing complaint reports. In about 5 of such cases attempts were made at stopping the prosecutorial process at this stage by offering bribes, peddling of influence and bringing pressure to bare but all met with resistance.

Corruption attempts started as early as January when two Chinese nationals were about to be arrested and they understood the situation. Immediately they set out possibilities for negotiation and tried to use their Cameroonian workers to talk to arresting team members. Although corruption was resisted at this state, it seems the Chinese did not lose faith in their ability to influence the judicial process and later proceedings showed this could have been carried out successfully. In the later stages of the judicial process wildlife officials had to ask that the matter be tried by a college of judges.

Still in January, when two were arrested with carved ivory pieces, zebra and leopard skins, law enforcement officials establishing the complaint report immediately came under pressure from family members of the traffickers who proposed money for the abandonment of the process. This failed and they thought contacting LAGA members present could be the solution, so they approached but failed obviously

In May, two who were arrested with two ivory tusks and a wildlife official in the ministry attempted to get their release by applying pressure on his colleague to abandon the procedure but this failed and attention was once more turned to LAGA members present. Another law enforcement official (a policeman) attempted releasing another arrested trafficker in June when he was arrested for leopard skin and pangolin scales trafficking. The policeman, who is a brother to the trafficker, requested the assistant superintendent who was in charge of the matter to close the case for an “amicable arrangement” but he failed.

On October 10, when two were arrested for trafficking in 50kg pangolin scales in Ebolowa and as wildlife law enforcement officials set out establishing the offence report at the police station, they received pressure from the trafficker’s brother, who is a policeman. He suggested to the wildlife officials to find a way to stop the matter at his level but the wildlife officials and police handling the matter stood their ground.

Still in October when some leopard skin traffickers were arrested in Bangangte, the state counsel who received the case immediately came under intense pressure from the family of the traffickers including some traditional notables and community members to release one of them and they succeeded in getting the state counsel release him despite our vociferous arguments and complaints.

In November, police arrested three people with 158 ivory tusks, over 1000kg of pangolin scales and equally hundreds of parrot parts and one of the trafficker’s brother who is an army general started mounting pressure for the matter to be resolved at that level. This fell on deaf ears as police stood firm and, pursued the process that went to the level of the state counsel who decided to release them on bail.

In other instances, outright obstructive tactics and maneuvers were made by some wildlife officials not to take part in operations or to sabotage operations. This was the case in the North Region where despite good investigations leading to enough evidence of an elephant ivory trafficking ring about 40km from the regional capital Garoua, the North Regional Delegate deployed obstructive procedures and finally an operation could not be carried out. In spite of the evidence having been given to him, up till date nothing has been done by the Delegate to arrest the ivory traffickers.

These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA and its field collaborators especially the arresting officers and the lawyers representing the MINFOF.

Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites 2017



ANNEX I- LIST OF CASES INITIATED IN 2017

Case no.	Operation Date	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int Connection	Status
1	17/01/2017	Douala, Littoral	Yaobao Long	illegal detention of more than 5 tons of pangolins scales	Illegal exporter of endanger wildlife products	Chinese dealer, he is the manager of a company called TL Tian Li Lambris PVC which he uses as a cover to carry out illegal trade in wildlife	Chinese	locked while on trial
2	17/01/2017	Douala, Littoral	Chen Peng	illegal detention of more than 5 tons of pangolins scales	Illegal exporter of endanger wildlife products	Accomplice of Yaobao Long in the illegal trafficking of pangolins scales	Chinese	locked while on trial
3	27/01/2017	Yaoundé, Centre	Njikam Jean Esai	illegal detention circulation and commercialization of 40 sculptured ivory pieces, 3 zebra skins and 1 leopard skin	Craftman/seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker in Ivory and zebra skins. He works in partnership with a certain Papa Ivoire who supplies him sculptured ivory objects for him to sell to potential buyers. He paints the sculptured Ivory in wood paint so he could sell easily due to the high demand of this sculptured ivory objects in wood paint. He intended to sell the skins for 2,000,000 FCFA.	Tanzania and Congo	locked while on trial
4	27/01/2017	Yaoundé, C	Nsangou Ndassa	illegal detention circulation and commercialization of 40 sculptured ivory pieces, 3 zebra skins and 1 leopard skin	Craftman/seller	The dealer is a co-offender to Njikam Jean who both belong to the same notorious network. He got the 3 zebra skins from tanzania.	Tanzania and Congo	locked while on trial
5	24/03/2017	Yaoundé, C	Dramaini Osman	Illegal capturing, detention circulation and Exportation of 218 African gray red-tail parrots	Capturer	The dealers are employees of a network of parrots dealers with base in Cameroon Ghana Europe and Asia. They forge export and veterinary documents to facilitates the export of parrots with the aid of their accomplices in the ministry and at airports. On the 23rd March They succeeded to pass through the Nsimalem airport with 60 parrots.	Ivory coast, Ghana and Hong Kong	Looked while matter is at the examining magistrate

Case no.	Operation Date	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int Connection	Status
6	24/03/2017	Yaoundé	Mativi Ezechiel	Illegal capturing, detention and Exportation of 218 African gray red-tail parrots	Capturer	The dealers are employees of a network of parrots dealers with base in Cameroonn Ghana Europe and Asia. They forge export and veterinary documents to facilitates the export of parrota with the aid of their accomplices in th e ministry and at airports. On the 23rd March They succeeded to pass	Ivory coast, Ghana and Hong Kong	Locked while matter is at the examining magistr ate
7	13/04/2017	Meiganga	Nassourou Abdoulaye	Illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 02 Panthere skins, 02 crocodile skin and 01 Lion skin	Seller	The accused is high profiled dealer belonging to a network of protected animal skins trade; notably Leopards, Lions and Crocodile skins. They make contacts with poachers in Garoua and its envieons to get the skins transport them to where ever their customers are found.	None	Locked while on trial
8	13/04/2017	Meiganga	Aboubakary	Illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 02 Panthere skins, 02 crocodile skin and 01 Lion skin	Seller	The accused is high profiled dealer belonging to a network of protected animal skins trade; notably Leopards, Lions and Crocodile skins. They make contacts with poachers in Garoua and its envieons to get the skins transport them to where ever their customers are found.	None	Locked while on trial
9	13/04/2017	Meiganga	Yaya Boubakary	Illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 02 Panthere skins, 02 crocodile skin and 01 Lion skin	Seller	The accused is high profiled dealer belonging to a network of protected animal skins trade; notably Leopards, Lions and Crocodile skins. They make contacts with poachers in Garoua and its envieons to get the skins transport them to where ever their customers are found.	None	Locked while on trial
10	14/4/2017	Messamena	Feussi Andre	Illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 118kg of pangolin scales	Seller	he collectes pangolin scales arouns Dja reserve and sell it in Douala and Yaounde	Nome	Locked while on trial

<u>Case no.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Int Connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
11	20/4/2017	Sangmelima	Evege Frederick Marie	illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 02 elephant tusks, 04 leopard teeth and 01 leopard skin.	Seller	The dealer is a Reverend priest of the Roman catholic, who outside his normal activities he is in the centre of illegal wildlife trade in protected species. He has his collaborators which he sends to the forest to kill and extract the trophies which he then sells to his customers with the pretext that he was searching for money to build a new church for his community.	None	free while on trial
12	22/05/2017	Yaoundé	Oumarou Bouka Aboubakar	illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 02 calved ivory objects	Calver / Seller	The dealer is based Kribi and has collaborators in major towns. They have their sources where they buy raw ivory calve them into various valuable objects and sell to their customers and potential customers. This is done by hiding behind other calved products made in wood, clay soil etc which they expose on their stands to distract the authorities.	None	Locked while on trial
13	08/06/2017	Yaoundé	Donfack Alphonse Thomas	illegal detention of 45 kgs of giant pangolin scales and 01 Leopard skin.	Seller	The dealer is a Cameronian based in Gabon, he buys his wildlife products in Gabon from his numerous suppliers, transport them to Cameroon where he resells to Nigerians and other buyers depending on who pays what. He claims to be a traditional practitioner who hides behind the said activity to do his illegal businesses. He hides his products in	Gabon,	looked while on Trial
14	14/8/2017	Yoko	Oumarou Sanda	Illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 10kg of pangolin scales	Poacher and seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker and poacher who also is involved in the sales of munitions. He is an ex-convict and still continues with his activity. He was arrested while trying to make one of his usual supplies.	None	free while on trial

<u>Case no.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Int Connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
15	30/06/2017	Douala	Tchindji Francois	Illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 02 adult Chimpanzees	Seller/capture r	The dealer is a very wealthy notable based in Douala who is the head of a network specialized in the export of primate. They have connections with some authorities of the Douala international airport who aid their evacuations out the the airport	Chana	looked while on Trial
16	30/06/2017	Douala	Ayataga Djalla Martial	Illegal detention, circulation and commercialization of 02 adult Chimpanzees	Seller/capture r	He is a middle man and makes the contacts of the markets where their products are sold, he also owns a mini zoo in his residence and where he also sell his live species to his partners who are at time foreigners. Following a house search ordersd by the state counsel, a live monkey, Aligator and a turtle were found in his mini zoo.	Chana	looked while on Trial
17	05/07/2017	Yoko	Batoure Wadjiri Noel	18kg of raw elephant tusks.	Poacher and seller	The dealer belongs to a network of traffickers who sponsor men in the forest to get elephant killed and their tusks extracted, they work closely with the wildlife authorities of they area who protect them from arrest. An attempt ha once been made to arrest them. the Regional delegate sent a team from Yaounde to get them arrested but only one of them was caught with 2 elephant tusks.	None	locked while on trial
18	29/08/2017	Ebolowa	Ondo Ondo Bertrand	1 baby chimp and 6 kg of pangolins scales	Poacher and seller	The dealer buys his wildlife products around south region and re sell to Yaounde, Ebolowa, Nigerians, Guinea and Gabon other buyers depending on who pays what. He claims to be a farmer who hide behind the said activity to do his illegal businesses. He hides his products in travelling bags to divert the attention of the authorities.	Gabon, Guinea	locked while on trial

<u>Case no.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Int Connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
19	08/09/2017	Djoum	AKO Mendo'o Gervais	1 baby chimp	Poacher and seller	The dealer buys his wildlife products around Dja reserve and re sell to Djoum He hides his products in travelling bags to divert the attention of the authorities.	None	Locked while on trial
20	12/09/2017	Yaoundé	ANGBWE Henri Joel	1 baby Mandrill	seller	ANGBWE Henri Joel and MFEGUE Leticia are a couple of traficker active between Mintom and Yaounde	None	Locked while on trial
21	12/09/2017	Yaoundé	MFEGUE Leticia	Pangolin scales	seller	ANGBWE Henri Joel and MFEGUE Leticia are a couple of traficker active between Mintom and Yaounde	None	Locked while on trial
22	18/09/2017	Manjo	DJESSONG Daniel	1 baby chimp	seller	member of a well established network of poacher between Nkongsamba, Manjo and Douala who are known for illegal killing for illegal of protected species principally chimpanzees and elephants. He was arrested with Djionkou Gerard, Ewane Robert and Ngolle Cedrick	None	Locked while on trial
23	18/09/2017	Manjo	DJIONKOU Gerard	1 baby chimp	seller	Another member of a well established network of poacher between Nkongsamba, Manjo and Douala who are known for illegal killing for illegal of protected species principally chimpanzees and elephants. He was arrested with Djessong Daniel, Ewane Robert and Ngolle Cedrick	None	Locked while on trial
24	18/09/2017	Manjo	EWANE NJOME Robert	1 baby chimp	Poacher and seller	Head of a big network of poachers of totally protected species, particularly chimpanzee and elephant.he workes with a major poacher call Payos. He was arrested with Djessong Daniel, Djionkou Gerard and Ngolle Cedrick	None	Locked while on trial

Case no.	Operation Date	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int Connection	Status
25	18/09/2017	Manjo	NGOLLE ENONGUENE Cédric	1 baby chimp	Seller	Another member of a well established network of poacher between Nkongsamba, Manjo and Douala who are known for illegal killing for illegal of protected species principally chimpanzees and elephants. He was arrested with Djessong Daniel, Ewane Robert and Djonkou Gerard	None	Locked while on trial
26	09/10/2017	Yaoundé	Tallah Wukaku Francis	2 ivory tusks	Seller	A member of a big network involved in ivory trafficking in the sub-region. He is responsible for searching clients in big cities in Cameroon especially Yaounde and Douala. Arrested in Yaounde while trying to illegally trade in 2 elephant tusks with.	None	free while on trial
27	09/10/2017	Yaoundé	Dikoum Dikoum Jean Ernest	2 ivory tusks	Seller	Accomplice of Tallah Wukaku; he assisted him during the trade of ivory tusks	None	free while on trial
28	10/10/2017	Ebolowa	ANVELA Ernest	Pangolin scales	Seller	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales trafficking in the south region. He is responsible for searching clients in big cities in Cameroon especially Yaounde and Douala. Arrested in Ebolowa while trying to illegally trade in 71 Kg of pangolin scales	None	Locked while on trial
29	10/10/2017	Ebolowa	Zo'Obo Evina Samuel	Pangolin scales	Seller	Accomplice of Mvele Ernest; he assisted him during the trade of pangolin scales	None	Locked while on trial
30	18/10/2017	Bangangté	Ngatcha Simplicie	1 Leopard skin	Seller	Used cover as a a paramount chief of Bakong village in Bangangte to carry out illegal trade in wildlife. He has been doing this business for years with his accomplice	None	Locked while on trial
31	18/10/2017	Bangangté	Fokeu Nkouendou Yannick Landry	1 leopard skin and 10 Kg of pangolin scales	Seller	Accomplice of Ngatcha te paramount Chief. He is the one responsible for searching clients in big cities in Cameroon especially Yaounde and Douala.	None	Locked while on trial

<u>Case no.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Int Connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
32	11/10/2017	Douala	Adamulbrahim	158 elephant tusks, 1500 kg of pangolin scales, 124 head of parrot	expoter	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales and Ivory tusks trafficking in the south and East regions. He is responsible for searching clients in Oveng and Djoum	Nigeria	free while on trial
33	11/10/2017	Douala	UPAH Macmiman	158 elephant tusks, 1500 kg of pangolin scales, 124 head of parrot	expoter	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales and Ivory tusks trafficking in the south and East regions. He is responsible for searching clients in Oveng and Djoum	Nigeria	free while on trial
34	11/10/2017	Douala	AKENJI Ebenezer Ajeko	158 elephant tusks, 1500 kg of pangolin scales, 124 head of parrot	expoter	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales and Ivory tusks trafficking in the south and East regions. He is responsible for searching clients in Oveng and Djoum	Nigeria	free while on trial
35	15/11/2017	Sangmelima	Mbeleck Rigobert	4 ivory tusks and 10 Kg of pangolins scales	Seller	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales and Ivory tusks trafficking in the south and East regions. He is responsible for searching clients in Oveng and Djoum	None	Locked while on trial
36	15/11/2017	Sangmelima	NSUN NSUN Dany Blondeau	4 ivory tusks and 10 Kg of pangolins scales	Seller	Accomplice of Mbeleck Rigobert leaving in Sangmelima; he assisted him during the trade of pangolin scales and ivory tusks	None	Locked while on trial
37	15/11/2017	Sangmelima	MENGUE Jeannette	4 ivory tusks and 10 Kg of pangolins scales	Seller	She is the wife of Mbeleck Rigobert; she also involved in the illegal ivory trade	None	free while on trial
38	21/11/2017	Douala	MOUNCHICKP OU Aboubakar	128 Kgs of pangolin scales	Seller	A member of a big network involved in pangolins scales. He is in charge to collect pangolin scales in East region especially in Doume and sent it in Douala at Nsangou Nfoya	None	Locked while on trial

<u>Case no.</u>	<u>Operation Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Int Connection</u>	<u>Status</u>
39	21/11/2017	Douala	NSANGOU Nfoya Oumarou	128 Kgs of pangolin scales	Seller	Accomplice of Mounchikpou Aboubakar Nsangou who is the wholesaler. He live in Douala and his roll is to check the wholesalers	None	Locked while on trial
40	21/11/2017	Douala	NJIKAM Amidou	128 Kgs of pangolin scales	Seller	Accomplice of Mounchikpou Aboubakar who is also in charge to collect wildlife products including pangolin scales in differents areas of East region	None	Locked while on trial
41	13/12/2017	Djourn	Mah Mvomo	216 ivory tusks and 81 elephant tails	Seller	A member of a big network dealing with a colonel of army involved in elephant tusks and elephant tails. He is in charge for the transportation of the tusks	None	Locked while on trial
42	13/12/2017	Djourn	Pekassa Adam	216 ivory tusks and 81 elephant tails	Seller	A member of a big network dealing with a colonel of army involved in elephant tusks and elephant tails. He is in charge for the transportation of the tusks	None	Locked while on trial

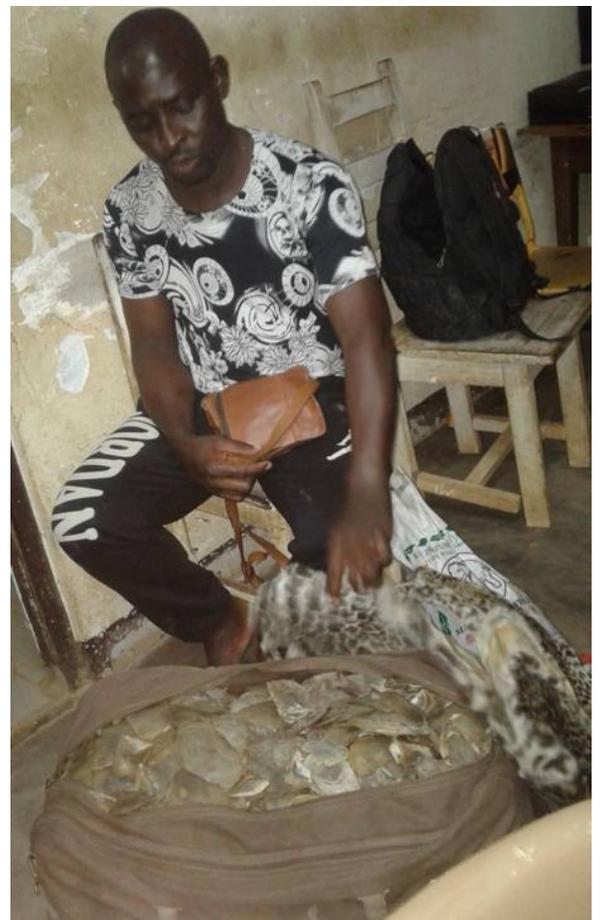
Annex II – The Year in Pictures



Two Chinese nationals (above) wait for prosecutorial process to begin at the wildlife office in Douala following their arrest with an impressive haul of 5.4 tons of pangolin scales loaded into two containers that were about to be illegally shipped out of the country. Close to 300 boxes of scales seized(right)

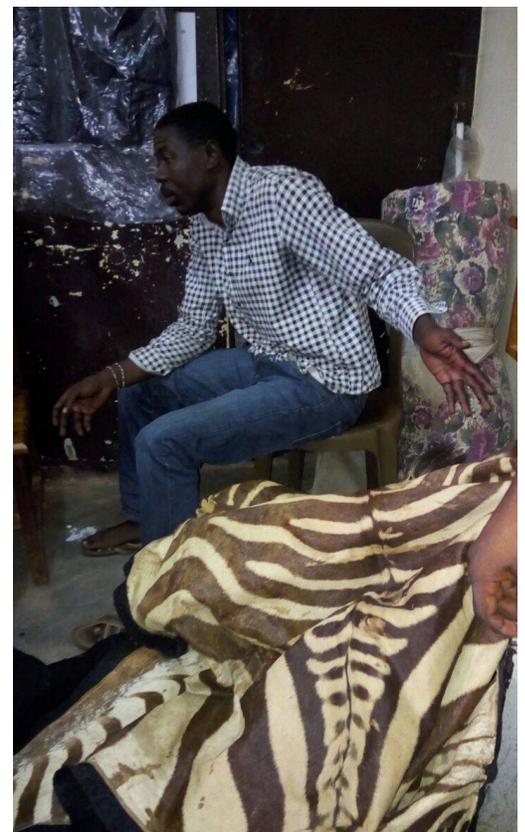
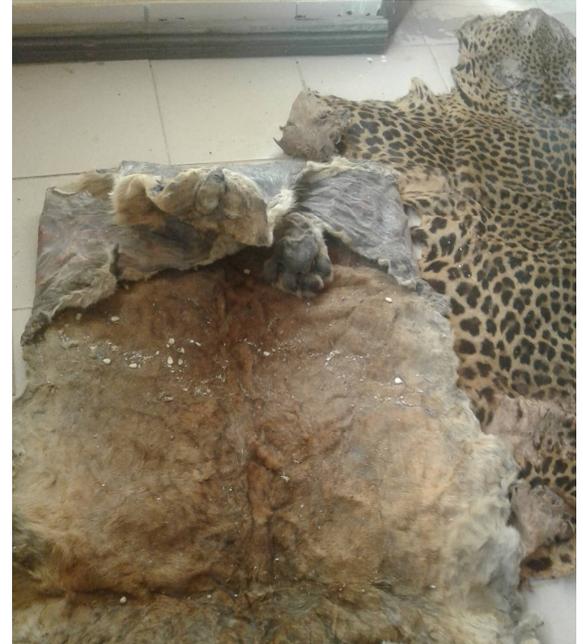


Pangolin scales trafficker arrested in the East squats at the wildlife office shortly before legal procedures begin, he was found with close to 100kg of scales (above). Trafficker arrested in Yaoundé with a leopard skin and pangolin scales at police station waiting for the commencement of legal proceedings (right)





Three arrested in Adamawa for trafficking in lion, leopard and croc skins, they stand in front of the wildlife office and the skins are displayed, skins were hidden inside bags of maize as they were transported over long distances (above and top right)



Zebra skins all the way from Tanzania seized in Yaoundé. One of the traffickers at a police station shortly after their arrest (above)



Leopard skin and ivory seized from arrested Catholic priest who attempts to sell them. He had turned to wildlife trafficking transporting ivory to deliver in major cities without being detected. (left)



Two chimpanzees rescued from traffickers at the entrance to Douala freight terminal and one of the chimps inside a tiny cage at trafficker's resident (top left) and at Limbe Wildlife Centre, chimps are now enjoying life following their rescue from grueling experience (top right)



218 parrots packed inside a cage at the outskirts of Yaoundé ready for illegal shipment (above) and newly produced cages ready for packaging of parrots to be transported by flight found at the premises of the parrot traffickers (left).



A big time ivory trafficker who was arrested at a notorious locality known for complicity between government officials and traffickers. He had earlier escaped arrest because of information leak from one of the officials who was involved in team to arrest him.



Arrested in Yaoundé for ivory trafficking, he awaits his future at the police office



A baby mandrill hidden inside a bag and heading to be sold as a pet was rescued from two traffickers who travelled with the baby inside this little bag to Yaoundé



He was seized from a trafficker in Djoum who had shot, and killed her mother while selling parts of her body to the bushmeat trade, he too was heading for trafficking



Rescued from four traffickers in Manjo, who maltreated and malnourished him and would succumb to death after his rescue when attempts to treat him at the Limbe Wildlife Centre failed



Two arrested mandrill traffickers at police station shortly before drafting of complaint reports



Two pangolin scale traffickers at the wildlife office shortly after they were found with 50kg of pangolin scales they were looking forward to selling (above)



Two leopard skins seized from two traffickers who equally had pangolin scales for sale. (Above)



One of the traffickers claims to be a traditional notable but seems to prefer wildlife trafficking, at wildlife office



A criminal ring - three arrested in Douala for trafficking in pangolin scales wait for prosecution process to begin at office of wildlife chief



Seized 128kg of pangolin scales collected in the East for illicit trade in port city Douala,



He returned to Gabon where he bought two ivory tusks and was arrested with two others in the South following the uncovering of an illicit business that ran between the two countries. 10.5kg of pangolin scales were also seized from the traffickers and taken to the wildlife office

ANNEX IV – Some Links for the Year 2017

In February the French based online site, [alwihda.info](http://www.alwihdainfo.com) reported on the arrest of two Chinese nationals with over 5 tons of pangolin scales. The two expatriates were arrested at the Douala at their base as they prepare to ship 5.4 tons of pangolin scale out of the country.

http://www.alwihdainfo.com/Criminalite-faunique-deux-Chinois-arretes-a-Douala_a49807.html

In March, the online site, [alwihda.info](http://www.alwihda.info) that reports in French, comes back on the arrest of two Chinese nationals with over 5 tons of pangolin scales. The two traffickers were arrested in Douala as they prepared to ship 5.4 tons of pangolin scales out of the country.

http://www.alwihdainfo.com/Criminalite-faunique-deux-Chinois-arretes-a-Douala_a49807.html

In April, the news site, alwihda info reports on the arrest of 3 wildlife traffickers in Meiganga, the Adamawa Region of Cameroon. The three were caught red handed with a lion skin, 2 leopard skins and 2 crocodile skins hidden in bags of grains.

http://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-Meiganga-Trois-trafiquants-arretes_a53847.html

In May, the Cameroonian run online site, [camer.be](http://www.camer.be) reported the story of a wildlife traffickers arrested at the Bastos neighbourhood in Yaoundé. The trafficker was arrested for the illegal possession of 2 carved ivory tusks.

<http://www.camer.be/60438/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-two-ivory-tusks-seized-in-yaounde-and-man-arrested.html>

In June, , [camer.be](http://www.camer.be) posts an online article telling the story of the arrest of a trafficker in Yaoundé who travelled from Douala with a leopard skin and pangolin scales to sell in the capital.

<http://www.camer.be/60774/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-from-douala-to-yaounde-wildlife-trafficker-arrest.html>

In July, Ahwihda.info, takes on the story of the arrest of a big time ivory trafficker in Yoko, highlighting the challenges faced with law enforcement in the area and the magnitude of the illegal trade.

http://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-un-trafiquant-d-ivoire-arrete-a-Yoko_a56028.html

In October, Camer.be, published a story on the arrest of two traffickers in Yaoundé. they were arrested by wildlife ministry officials and police officers over the unlawful possession of elephant tusks.

<http://www.camer.be/63414/11:1/cameroun-ivory-traffickers-arrested-in-yaounde-cameroon.html>

In November, Camer.be, published the arrest of a traditional notable and another man in Bangangte. They were arrested over the illegal possession and commercialisation of leopard skins and pangolin scales in a town deep inside the West Region, an area known for intense leopard skins trafficking.

<http://www.camer.be/64025/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-traditional-notable-arrested-with-fresh-leopard-skin.html>

In December, Camer.be, published the story on the seizure of 216 ivory tusks on board a military car and the indictment of the two involved while also highlighting the murky role played by the military in ivory trafficking in the country.

<http://www.camer.be/65078/11:1/cameroun-deux-personnes-inculpees-a-la-suite-de-la-saisie-de-216-pointes-daivoire-et-81-queues-daalaphant-dans-la-voiture-daun-colonel-cameroon.html>