

# THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



## 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 ivory and ape skulls. Ivory networks were given special attention with several ivory traffickers arrested through the use of old techniques and tactics that were revamped, polished and used. Ape traffickers were targeted within this period as a growing trend was uncovered with ape traffickers getting more and more organised. Trafficking in several other wildlife species equally drew the attention of the investigation and operations teams with several other arrests made. There was an intensification of operations against traffickers in leopard skins that received fresh attention after a long period of almost no activity on leopard skin trafficking. The investigation department grew in ambition and focused much of its investigations on very important targets and improvement in the quality of results was witnessed during the year.

34 major traffickers were arrested, at a rate of one for each 11 days period. 71 % stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Corruption was observed and combated in a number of the cases. 34 new cases were brought to the courts and 36 traffickers were convicted and given prison sentences, fines, damages and penalties and damages and fines amounted

The LAGA team hosted activists from other countries for an intense training program including legal advisers and investigators from Senegal, Guinea, and Madagascar. , The Head of Investigations Department of EAGLE Uganda, the Assistant Coordinator, Coordinator from Benin equally visited the country .. The EAGLE Financial Officer equally visited the country for finance management assistance. The Deputy Director travelled to the US for a series of meetings with government officials and to participate in a workshop on the illegal bushmeat trade in Central Africa. LAGA Head of Investigations provided operation assistance in Senegal

Governance issues and breach of procedure by some MINFOF delegations were observed. Refusal to prosecute wildlife traffickers and subsequently releasing them, influence peddling and threats were observed. Also sidelining of the organisation during some important events was equally observed and phone calls were made to officials to show disagreements .

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# LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)

## ANNUAL REPORT

January - December 2016

### Overview

#### Investigations

- A total of 241 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 9 regions.
- Network of informants continued producing results leading to good operations.

#### Operations

- Operations were carried out in 7 regions arresting 34 major traffickers resulting in 34 court cases at a rate of 1 per 11 days.
- Operations on apes and ivory accounted for 60% of the total number of operations
- The rate of imprisonment of arrested offenders was 71%.
- A total of 64 ape skulls were seized during this period; 46 were from the chimpanzee while 18 were gorilla skulls.
- A live chimpanzee was rescued from traffickers and taken to a chimp sanctuary.
- 34 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases begun during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures still on-going).
- 19 court judgements were passed during the year, 36 traffickers were convicted and handed prison sentences, fines, damages and penalties of varying levels of severity. Damages amounted to some 74 393 000 F CFA (\$149, 206)
- Very good prosecutions were obtained, notably a two-year sentence given to a wildlife trafficker.

#### Media

- A total of 367 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio, press and internet) achieved at a rate of one media piece per day.

#### Management

- The annual report for 2015 was printed, distributed and put online
- A new accountant was recruited.
- Two investigators was sacked.
- Focus was on introducing renewed vigour and the strict respect of rules and procedures.

#### External Relations and Policy

- Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss corruption issues and wildlife law enforcement etc.
- The Deputy Director and LAGA's team of legal advisers trained fellows of the US sponsored Mentor PoP Fellowship Programme.
- LAGA participated in events leading to the celebration of World Environment Day, did a presentation and took part in a panel discussion.
- The Deputy Director travelled to the US for meetings with some government officials and participation at a bushmeat workshop.

#### Strategic Highlights

- The strategic focus over this period was on ape skull and ivory trafficking representing 33% and 27% respectively
- Getting back to the basics – the use of old tactics and techniques was intensified.
- Giant pangolin scales trafficking received further attention within this period and over 300 kg of scales were seized. .
- Investigations were once more focused on wildlife trafficking through the internet and this resulted in one operation.

#### **EAGLE Activities**

- Exchange visits continued among the countries; legal advisers and investigators from Senegal, Guinea, Madagascar and an Assistant Coordinator visited the country while the Head of Investigation travelled to Senegal.
- The EAGLE Financial Officer visited the country for a two-week long auditing and finance management assistance to LAGA.
- The EAGLE Charter was produced and distributed to all members.

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## Also available:

1. Annual Financial Statement and 2016 Semester Reports
2. Monthly Financial and Activity Reports January to December 2016
3. Media archive – Excel database linked to recorded media pieces
4. Photo archive for media use

For copies contact email; [eric@laga-enforcement.org](mailto:eric@laga-enforcement.org)

## **NARRATIVE REPORT**

This report is on the activities from January to December 2016. The report includes; the progress in each department of activities (Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and Management), strategic overview of and the impact of our operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, non-governmental bodies, in the international arena, and in non-enforcement initiatives LAGA has undertaken.

### **1. Investigations**

LAGA's investigation unit carried out 241 investigation missions in 9 regions of the country during this period. The department stepped up its activities with emphasis on investigating high level targets while refocusing attention on investigation procedures and tactics to fight complacency. Several meetings were held within the department to work on respecting these procedures, reenergizing investigators, sharpening old skills for effective investigations and to deal with ethical shortcomings and dishonesty.

The strategy to get credible information and to make investigation missions more effective, using a hotline that was established was continued. The Head of the Investigations Department held several meetings with some wildlife officials to build collaborative platforms; enabling effective investigations and information exchange.

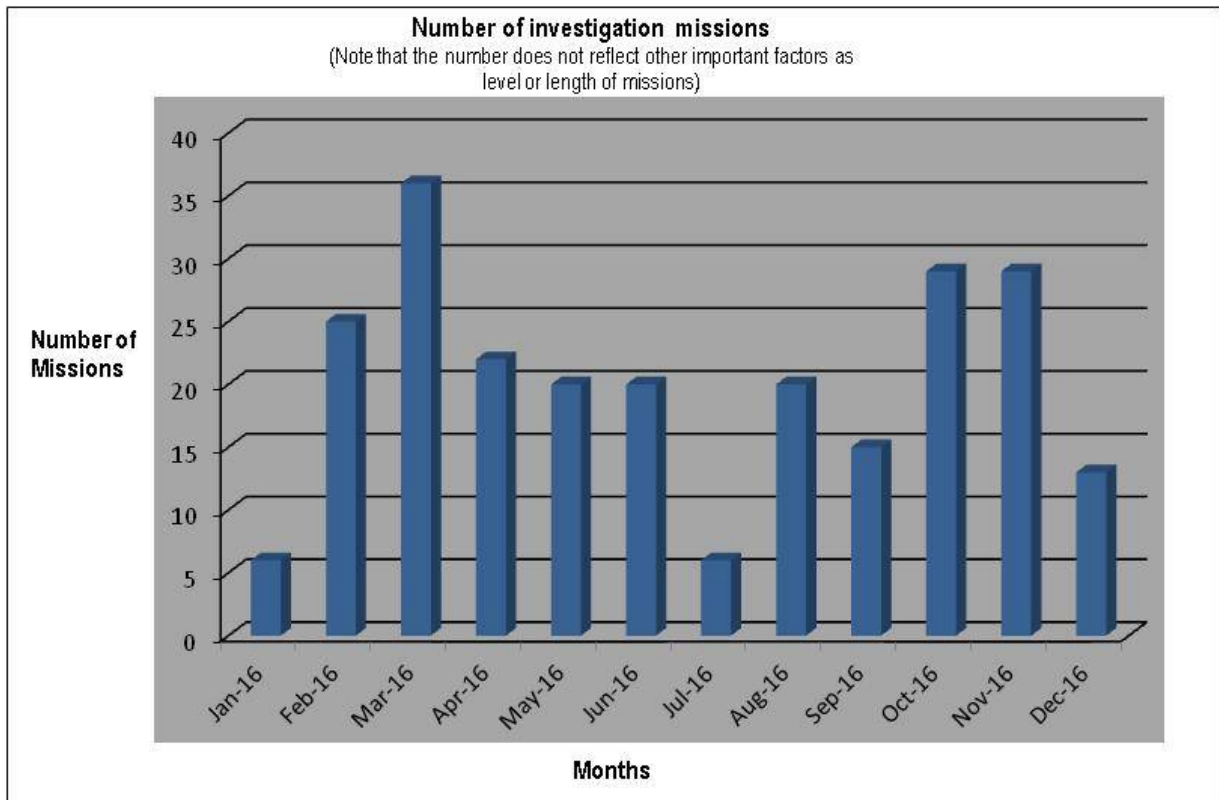
Under the EAGLE Exchange Programme, a Senegalese and a Malagasy investigator were trained in the country for over 3 weeks while the Head of Investigations of EAGLE Uganda visited the country for an experience sharing mission. The Head of Department travelled to Senegal where he provided operation assistance in Ziguenchor where two traffickers were arrested with an impressive amount of ivory products and turtle shells.

The Head of the Investigations Department held several meetings with wildlife, customs and other enforcement officials at the Nsimalen and the Douala international airports to foster collaboration in wildlife law enforcement

Two old investigators were swiftly removed following an internal investigation that found dishonesty. LAGA is built on values that are rigorously kept, and this is an example of zero tolerance to violating these values and their behavior is against the EAGLE Charter that was introduced to members within this period.

The department provided technical support to customs at the Nsimalen international airport in the arrest of 4 officials attempting to smuggle 680 kg of pangolin scales to Malaysia.

## Number of Missions



**Figure 1: Number of Investigations Missions per Month**

## **2. Operations**

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 7 regions against 34 individuals resulting in 34 court cases at a rate of one per 11 days and this result would be improved upon during next year to attain a rate of one per 7 days, as per the required standards. This drop in result could be accounted for by a sustained and time consuming effort to improve the quality of investigations and operations. Old and tested techniques were used during operations. This shift quickly resulted in the arrest of three cyber traffickers as early as January. Other bigger and important targets were equally investigated during this period and operations were conducted. Operations against ape trafficking were intensified and this produced 33% of the total number of operations while 27% was focused on ivory trade and trafficking in other wildlife species including pangolin scales, leopard skins and, sea turtle shells was addressed with operations carried out against the traffickers. A total of 64 ape skulls were seized during this period; 46 were from the chimpanzee while 18 were gorilla skulls.

In January, 3 wildlife trafficking cybercriminals were arrested in Douala, in the Littoral Region for cyber trafficking and scamming after attempting to sell 2 lion and 2 cheetah cubs through an internet transaction. The 3 cybercriminals advertised through the internet. After months of collaborative efforts and days of patience in Douala waiting for the cybercriminals to make a move, the team of wildlife officials and the police carried out the operation that got them arrested. The first two criminals were arrested as they attempted to finalise transactions while the third, the suspected boss of the group, was arrested soon afterwards. This was not the first attempt by the three who are all family members: two brothers who are law students at the University and a cousin of theirs who is an accountant. They had used forged CITES permits with a fake signature of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife among other forged documents.

In February, a major international trafficker of Nigerian nationality was arrested in Bertoua, in the East Region with 12 ivory tusks and 200 kg of giant pangolin scales. His client base included Chinese buyers and he had a long list of Chinese contacts and names. The extent of his business and professionalism was impressive as he bought the wildlife products from poachers in the East, in Congo and Gabon and then sold to Chinese and Nigerian buyers. He ferried wildlife products to Nigeria while a fraction of his main clients was based in Yaounde and Douala. He owned a storeroom close to Garoua Boulai, located close to the border with the Central African Republic. He used the storeroom to keep wildlife products especially as he dealt with the bulk of pangolin scales and ivory. He mastered the region very well and was born in Bertoua. He used the front business of car spare parts dealer as a cover for his illegal activities but the shop barely had any car parts. The trafficker was known to wildlife law enforcement officials in the region and was suspected to have been trafficking wildlife species since 2013.

A second operation was carried out in February and an ape skull trafficker arrested in Dimako, in the East Region with 5 chimpanzee skulls, and 4 gorilla skulls. He was known to regularly traffic in primate parts as a middleman, getting supplies from poachers and selling to other traffickers. He got the ape skulls from poachers located near a logging company that is close to Dimako.

In March, a major trafficker was arrested in Ebolowa, in the South Region, with 3 elephant tails and 3 hoofs. He had been doing ivory deals with a client who travelled from Yaounde to Ebolowa where the sales are conducted. The trafficker is equally a poacher and it was found out that he sold ivory every two weeks. He was aware that the activity was illegal and used a local gendarme official as cover and provider of insight information on the movements of wildlife officials. He in turn corrupted the law enforcement officer with money and meat. He hired a gun from a relative at 25 000 F CFA per poaching mission which was done inside the Campo Ma'an National Park and as far as the Equatorial Guinea after crossing the Ntem River in search for elephants.

A second operation in March saw the arrest of 3 ape skull traffickers in Ebolowa, in the South Region with 8 chimpanzee skulls, 4 gorilla skulls, 2 warthog skulls and a mandrill skull. As with the first operation of the month, a client from Yaounde, this time with more precision - from the Briqueterie neighbourhood - was mentioned as one of the clients of one of the arrested traffickers who mainly dealt in ivory. Although mainly an ivory trafficker, he killed chimpanzees also.

The third operation in March witnessed the arrest of a trafficker in Bafang, in the South Region with 3 fresh chimpanzee heads and 7 skulls, an elephant tail, a mandrill skull and a skin from a young python. This is a professional trafficker who dealt in various types of wildlife species he obtained from a big base of poachers who killed all kinds of wildlife species. He sold every species he got. Once more, fresh chimpanzee heads were recovered and again this points to the parallel illicit trade alongside the bushmeat trade of chimpanzee.

In April, 2 traffickers were arrested in Kumbo, Bui Division and in Nkambe Donga Mantung Division, in the North West Region, with 15 mandrill skulls, 6 gorilla skulls, a pair of buffalo horns and 4 chimpanzee hands. The first trafficker was arrested after travelling from Nkambe to Kumbo for the transaction. Then the second trafficker was arrested in Nkambe following the interrogation of the first who confirmed earlier investigation reports that indicated that the two functioned together as a small team and one of them had to travel with the products to Kumbo to conduct the transaction while the second waited to collect his share of the money. After the findings, the state counsel immediately issued an arrest warrant and the arresting team travelled over 80 km to get the second trafficker in Nkambe which is not very far from the Nigerian border, providing further proof that the border division of Donga Mantung, is a transit zone for wildlife products.

A second operation was carried out in April and a sea turtle shell trafficker arrested in Eseka with 8 sea turtle shells, 3 chimpanzee skulls and 2 kg of pangolin scales. He is a known supplier of sea turtle shells in the area. He had a number of regular buyers.

In May, 2 traffickers were arrested in Garoua, North Region, with 20 ivory chopsticks and 5 bangles. Two raw ivory tusks were later recovered from them, as, one of them admitted that he had more ivory concealed at his residence. The two tusks were hidden deep inside the ground and after the arrest, family members who tried to facilitate their release, dug up the tusks and handed them over to wildlife officials. The traffickers are specialised in processed ivory business and they worked as a team with one of them buying raw ivory and the second carving out ivory objects for sale. They had been doing the illegal activity for the past 10 years.

The second operation of May, witnessed the arrest of 2 ape skulls traffickers in Ayos, Centre Region, with 6 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls. They are experienced ape skull traffickers and were arrested despite being suspicious and alert, making efforts to conceal their activities.

In June, 2 traffickers were arrested in Abong Mbang, East Region with 13 chimpanzee skulls, The two travelled from Somalomo, close to the Dja Faunal Reserve. The traffickers ferried chimpanzee meat regularly from the Somalomo to Abong Mbang and as far as Yaounde for sale. They seemed not to be very interested in trafficking ivory despite the huge differences in profit levels because according to them, ivory attracts a lot of attention from wildlife officials.

A second operation carried out in June saw the arrest of a trafficker in Bafoussam, West Region with 39 ivory bangles and 3 leopard skins. He is the owner of a big arts shop and sells a huge variety of arts objects. He is an influential and well connected man and LAGA continued to push for the procedural prosecution of the case as wildlife officials mounted obstacles for the legal procedure to continue.

During the month of July, a trafficker was arrested in Njombe, Littoral Region, with 8 sea turtle shells. He has been in the business for a couple of years and has been trafficking in a variety of wildlife species. He admitted to also selling crocodiles and several primate species and his client base was equally wide and varied. A photo of a Nile monitor tied to his bike was found inside his phone. He buys from a network of poachers.

In August, two operations were carried out leading to the arrest of 3 traffickers. One trafficker was arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region, with 29 carved ivory pieces, He is an experienced ivory trafficker who runs an arts shop in which he sells bronze and wood artifacts. He is part of a notorious network in Yaounde that deals in arts objects including those made from ivory. This network is based around the Tsinga neighbourhood which is considered to be one of the leading ivory trafficking neighbourhoods in Yaounde. The network has put in place several codes and mechanism to protect their illegal ivory trade and these include the use of coded language understood only by those belonging to the network, support mechanism for those arrested and jailed to enable their business to thrive even when in prison. They get ivory supplies principally from the East Region, although when supplies are not flowing adequately, members of the network travel to the region to get raw ivory for carving. The trafficker doubles as a sculptor. Chinese clients are his main buyers and he has a very strong tie with some of them.

During the second operation in August, 2 traffickers were arrested in Ngaoundal, Adamawa Region with 128 kg of giant pangolin scales. One of the traffickers travelled from Tibati to Ngaoundal with the scales and he is known to have been supplying even larger quantities of giant pangolin scales. The trafficking in pangolin scales is intense in the region that is close to Mbam and Djerem National Park that was created in 2000. The traffickers operate in a close network that supplies wildlife products to far off commercial centres such as Yaounde and Bertoua and receive bullets



from some urban-based traffickers. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender – a document found on him is a receipt for payment of a fine after a ruling by the Tibati Court of First Instance that found him guilty of wildlife trafficking. Several parts of other wildlife species including totally protected species were found at the home of one of his concubines.

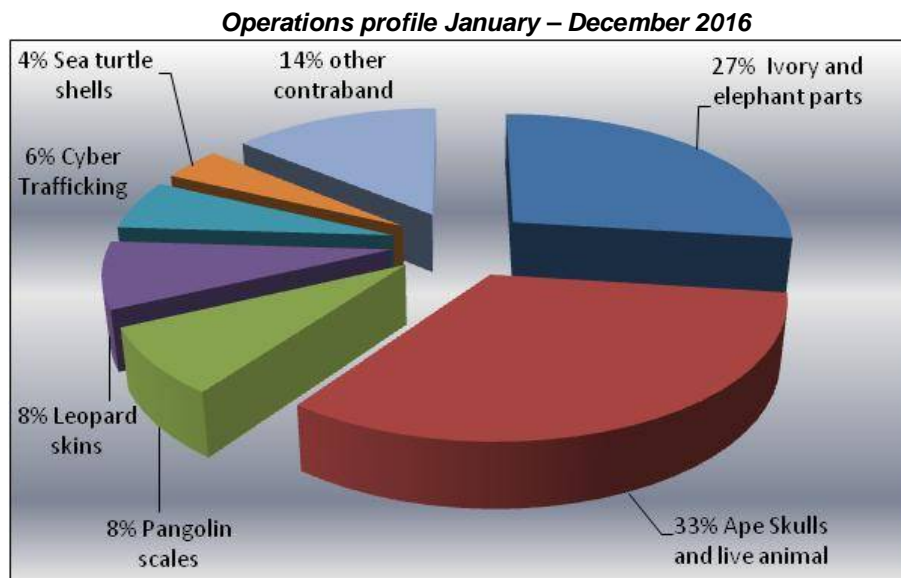
In September, one trafficker was arrested in Douala, Centre Region, with 29 carved pieces. He is a big time ivory trafficker who operates from the Marche de Fleurs, a market that is considered to be a hideout for ivory traffickers in Douala and a hub for international ivory trafficking in the sub region. He belongs to a ring of traffickers operating from this area and as he resisted arrest, several of his accomplices and friends violently sort to release him but failed and he was arrested by the police.

In October 2 traffickers were arrested in Dschang, West Region, with 14 carved ivory objects and two leopard skins. One of them is a sculptor who carves various kinds of arts objects from wood and from ivory, which he sells. He owns a shop and this serves as base to conduct illegal ivory sales in the town and the second is said to be a 3rd degree traditional head. It has been reported that these traditional rulers sell leopard skins and report to the police that the skins were stolen from them . This operation is tangible proof of what is going on with the leopard skins in the West Region. A bowl that contained the seized ivory was found in the shop one of the traffickers among several carved wood objects. The trafficker who brought ivory had been into trafficking for a long time.

In November, 4 significant operations were carried out leading to the arrest of 7 traffickers. During the first operation, one trafficker was arrested in Melong, Littoral Region, with a leopard skin, a chimpanzee skull among other wildlife contraband. He regularly deals in diverse wildlife products, buying them from neighbouring villages to supply his customers.

A trafficker was arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region, with 14 carved ivory objects. He operated from a hotel kiosk, using wood carving as a cover to illegally sell carved ivory objects. The art dealers used the trade as a perfect cover not only to traffic in ivory but also to have an easy access and exposure to clients. They work in a gang consisting of , sculptors, sellers and suppliers providing raw ivory. In Ebolowa, South Region, 2 significant traffickers were arrested with 2 carved ivory tusks, 2 statuettes and several other carved pieces. Both belong to a wider circle of traffickers, operating in the area for years. One of them owns a restaurant where they regularly made deal with traffickers. At the time of their arrest, an ivory statuette was visible in the restaurant. This may have served as an ad slot for the traffickers or a lead to inform traffickers of the ivory trade going on in the restaurant.

During the last operation of the month, 3 ape traffickers, members of a circle specializing in trafficking live animals, arrested in Batouri, East Region, as they tried to smuggle a chimp in a car. The live chimpanzee was rescued. One of them, the declared owner of the chimpanzee, confessed that he had caged the chimp for 12 years, but the rescued chimp is barely 6 years old, which seems to indicate other chimps have been captured, died or sold and replaced during this time. The trafficker concealed the locked cage on the back of the truck with a dusty tarpaulin in order to evade law enforcement detection. The female chimp was probably an orphan that had been separated from her mother after she was killed for bushmeat. Akim, as the chimp was called, was frail, underfed and wore a melancholic look when she was rescued. She was taken to the IDA Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre for lifetime care.



**Figure 2: Operations profile**

### **3. Legal**

During this period, 34 new cases reached the court and the cases joined old cases that were scheduled, followed-up, tried in various courts and jail visits were organized. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage with 71% imprisoned throughout the process.

184 missions were carried out of the Centre Region for follow-up of new cases and the creation and strengthening of relations with judiciary authorities. More emphasis as a direct result of operations was on ape skulls, ivory and elephant parts, leopard skins, pangolin scales, sea turtle shell and cyber trafficking was also addressed.

During this year, 20 court judgements were passed and with varying sentences against wildlife traffickers given by the courts. 36 traffickers were found guilty with 24 of them given prison sentences while 12 offenders were either given suspended prison sentences or were heavily fined and three appeals were lodged against some weak court rulings. Court judgements were passed in January, March, April, October and August while two court rulings were handed down in the months of February, May, November and May. Two significant court judgements were passed in the Courts of First Instance in Dschang where three were found guilty and given one year imprisonment terms for ivory trafficking with payment of fines amounting to 5,650,000 F CFA (about \$ 11,600) and in Kumbo where two were given the following prison sentence: 2 years imprisonment term for the first accused and 1 year 6 months imprisonment to the second offender.

In January three judgements were passed and in the first judgement, 2 people were found guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and were sentenced to 2 months imprisonment term each and ordered to pay 1,450,000 F CFA (about \$2900) for civil damages, fines of 500,000 F CFA (about \$1000) and court costs of 38,500 F CFA (about \$80). They were arrested in Batouri for illegal possession and circulation of 2.5 kg of giant pangolin scales and 2 chimpanzee skulls.

The second judgement was passed by the Bertoua Court of First Instance- East, that found a trafficker guilty and sentenced him to 55 days imprisonment and payment of court costs of 30,340 F CFA (about \$60) and civil damages of 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000). He was arrested in

Belabo for illegal possession of 15 kg of giant pangolin scales. The same court, found 2 accused people guilty and handed them a 6-month suspended imprisonment term suspended for 3 years and ordered to pay civil damages of 1, 210, 000 F CFA (about \$ 2400) and court costs of 94, 840 F CFA (about \$ 190). They were arrested in Bertoua for the illegal possession of one ivory tusk.

In February, the Dschang Court of First Instance – West, sentenced two traffickers to one year imprisonment term each, payment of 5, 650, 000 F CFA (about \$11,200) as civil damages and fines of 1.000.000 F CFA (about \$ 2000). They were arrested in Santchou for illegal possession and circulation of 2 ivory tusks.

The Kribi Court of First Instance- South, found the 2 accused traffickers guilty and were sentenced as follows: payment of court costs of 110, 000 F CFA (about \$220), civil damage of 1, 000, 000 FCFA (about \$2000) and 500, 000 F CFA (about \$1000) each as fines. They were arrested in Kribi for illegal possession of 31 sea turtle shells and the judgement was passed in February.

In March, the Yaoundé Court of First Instance- Centre Administratif, sentenced a trafficker who was arrested in Yaounde for the illegal possession of 17 Chimpanzee skulls and 2 mandrill skulls to 2 months imprisonment term with civil damages of 3,000,000 F CFA (about \$ 6000) to be paid including fines amounting to 100,000 FCFA (about \$200) and 9 months imprisonment in default of payment of the fines.

The second ruling of the month of March was passed by the Bertoua Court of First Instance, East, that found an accused guilty and sentenced him to 75 days in prison, ordered him to pay 27,480,000 F CFA (about \$54900) for civil damages and fines amounting to 100,000 F CFA (about \$200), 89,000 F CFA (about \$180) for court costs and 9 months imprisonment in default of payment of the fines. He was arrested in Bertoua for illegal possession and circulation of 12 ivory tusks, 5 bags of giant pangolin scales and 2 elephant jawbones.

The third ruling in March was passed by the Ebolowa Court of First Instance- South that sentenced 2 people to 4 months imprisonment term each and to pay court costs of 68, 000 F CFA (about \$130), civil damages of 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000) and fined 100,000 F CFA (about \$200) They were arrested in Ebolowa for illegal possession of 4 gorilla skulls, 8 chimpanzee skulls, 2 wart hog skulls and a mandrill skull.

In April the Ebolowa Court of First Instance-, South sentenced a trafficker who was arrested in Ebolowa with 3 elephant tails, 3 hoofs and teeth to 2 months imprisonment term, payment of civil damages of 2,000, 000 F CFA (about \$4000), fines of 300, 000 F CFA (about \$600) or face 18 months imprisonment in default of payment of fines.

The second judgement in April was against 2 traffickers who were found guilty and sentenced to 6 months suspended imprisonment sentence within 3 years, and payment of 2,000,000 F CFA (about \$4000) for civil damages. They were arrested in Doume for illegal possession and circulation of 2 gorilla skulls, one chimpanzee skull and one elephant tail. The ruling was passed by the Abong Mbang Court of First Instance.

The same court passed another ruling in April that saw 3 traffickers sentenced to 6 months suspended imprisonment term within 3 years, and payment of civil damages of 3, 170, 000 F CFA (about \$6340) and 105,000 F CFA (about \$210). They were arrested in Dimako for illegal possession of 4 gorilla skulls, 5 chimpanzee skulls, and 1 live crocodile.

In May, the Kumbo Court of First Instance-, North West found two accused guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and were given varying sentences as follows: the first was sentenced to either pay a fine of 2,500,000 F CFA (about \$5000)

or serve 2 years imprisonment term and the second was sentenced to pay a fine of 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000) or serve 18 months imprisonment term. Civil damages to be paid amounted to 5,090,000 F CFA, (about \$10,180) and fines to 34, 500 F CFA (about \$70) each or they serve a further 3 months imprisonment term. They were arrested in Kumbo for the illegal possession of 15 mandrill skulls, 6 gorilla skulls, 4 chimpanzee parts, 2 monkey skulls, and a pair of buffalo horns.

The second ruling of May was passed by the Ndop Court of First Instance – North West, that found the accused guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and was sentenced to 3 months suspended imprisonment term within 1 year, payment of 3,000,000 F CFA (about \$6000) for civil damages, 40, 000 F CFA (about \$80) for court costs and 40 days imprisonment in default of payment of the court costs. He was arrested in Ndop for illegal possession and circulation of 13 chimpanzee skulls, 3 monkey skulls, 1 gorilla skull and 1 drill skull.

In June, the Djoum Court of First Instance, South found the 2 accused traffickers guilty of illegal possession and circulation of 4 ivory tusks and 3 elephant tails and for the illegal killing of two elephants. They were sentenced to 10 months imprisonment term each and to jointly pay 200,000 F CFA (about \$400) as fines and 1,000,000 F CFA (about \$2000) as civil damages. They were arrested in Mintom for the illegal killing of 2 elephants and illegal possession of 4 ivory tusks.

In August the Abong Mbang Court of First Instance, East, found the 2 accused traffickers guilty of illegal possession of trophies of totally protected species (13 Chimpanzee skulls). They were sentenced to 4 months imprisonment each and to jointly pay 100,000 F CFA (\$200) as fines, 29, 800 (\$60) for court fees and 4,257,000 F CFA (\$8,520) as civil damages. They were arrested in Abong Mbang on the the 8th of June 2016, for illegal possession of 13 Chimpanzee skulls.

In October, the Bafang Court of First Instance – West, found the accused guilty of the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and he was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment and to pay 500,000 F CFA (\$1000) for civil damages; 150,000 F CFA (\$300) as fine, 27,950 F CFA (\$54) for court fees and a further 9 months imprisonment in default of payment of court costs and fines. He was arrested in Bafang for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 10 chimpanzee skulls, 1 mandrill skull, 1 python skin and 1 elephant tail.

In November, 2 court judgements were passed and according to the first judgement passed in Douala at the Bonanjo Court of First Instance in the Littoral Region, the accused was found guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and was sentenced to: 3 months imprisonment term; payment of 1,000,000 F CFA (\$2000) for civil damages and 75, 000 F CFA (\$150) as fines, 27,950 FCFA (\$54) for court fees and 6 months imprisonment in default of payment of the fines. He was arrested in Douala for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 160 pieces of carved ivory.

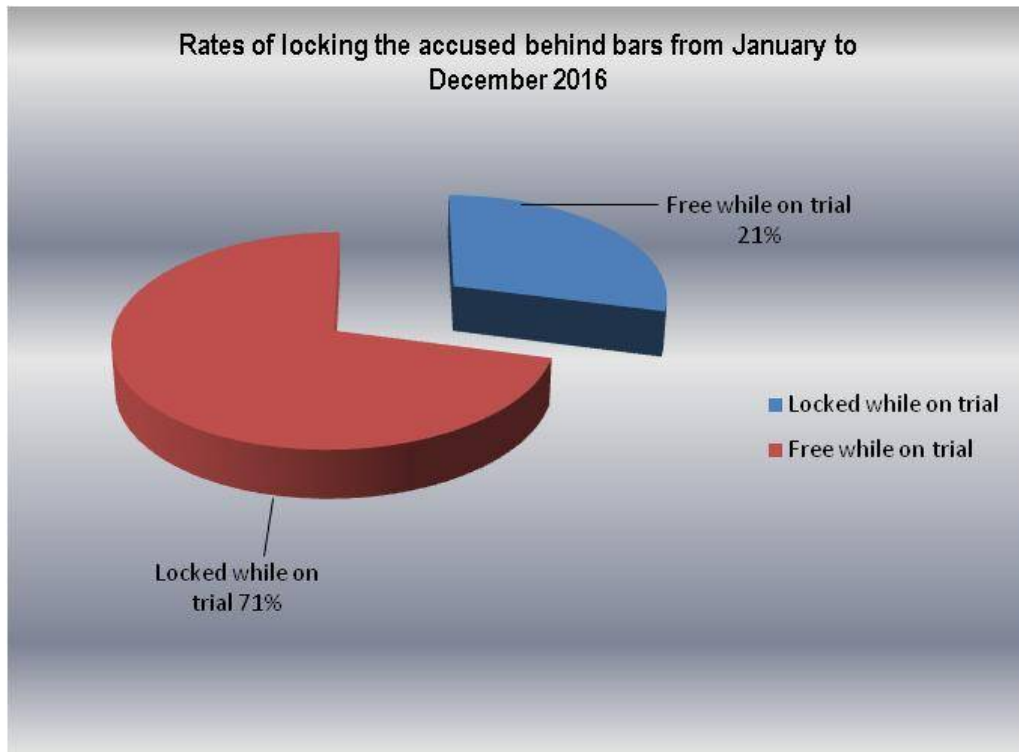
The second ruling was also at the Bonanjo Court of First Instance in Douala, Littoral, and the accused was found guilty and sentenced to a one-year suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 1,000,000 F CFA (\$2000) as civil damages and 59,400 F CFA (\$118) as court fees. Two others were declared not guilty for lack of evidence and released. They were arrested in Douala for illegal exportation of lion cubs, cheetah, tiger and forgery of CITES permit and certificate of origin

In December, 3 court rulings were passed and in the first decision, the Tibati Court of First Instance – Adamawa, found the 2 accused people guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and bullets They were sentenced as follows: 3 months imprisonment term each; payment of 8, 115, 000 F CFA (\$16, 230) jointly as civil damages, 300,000 F CFA (\$600) each as fine, 425,600 F CFA (\$851) for as court fees and 18

months imprisonment in default of the payment of such fines. They were arrested in Ngaoundal for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 128 kg of giant pangolin scales and bullets.

The East Court of Appeal found the accused guilty and sentenced them to 6 months suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay 6,431,000 FCFA (\$12, 861) as civil damages and 129,000 F CFA (\$230) as court fees. They were arrested in Doume for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a gorilla skull, one warthog skull and an elephant tail.

Four appeals were lodged during the year, against court rulings; one in March, two in April and one in November..



**Figure 3: Rate of locking accused behind bars**

#### **4. Media**

A total of 367 media pieces were produced and pushed into media and these included numerous articles in all media – radio, television, written press and the internet achieved at a rate of one media piece per day. January month saw the lowest number of media pieces because of the low level of operations within the month as staff just resumed work after the Christmas break. Low numbers of media pieces were equally witnessed in July and August which are traditionally very slow months in media coverage and operations results. These discrepancies was immediately corrected in the months following the low output as very high number of media pieces were obtained in February and November that produced the highest number of media pieces following the stepping of up arrest operations within the months. The immediate effect of the successful operation was increased the number of stories to cover and publish.

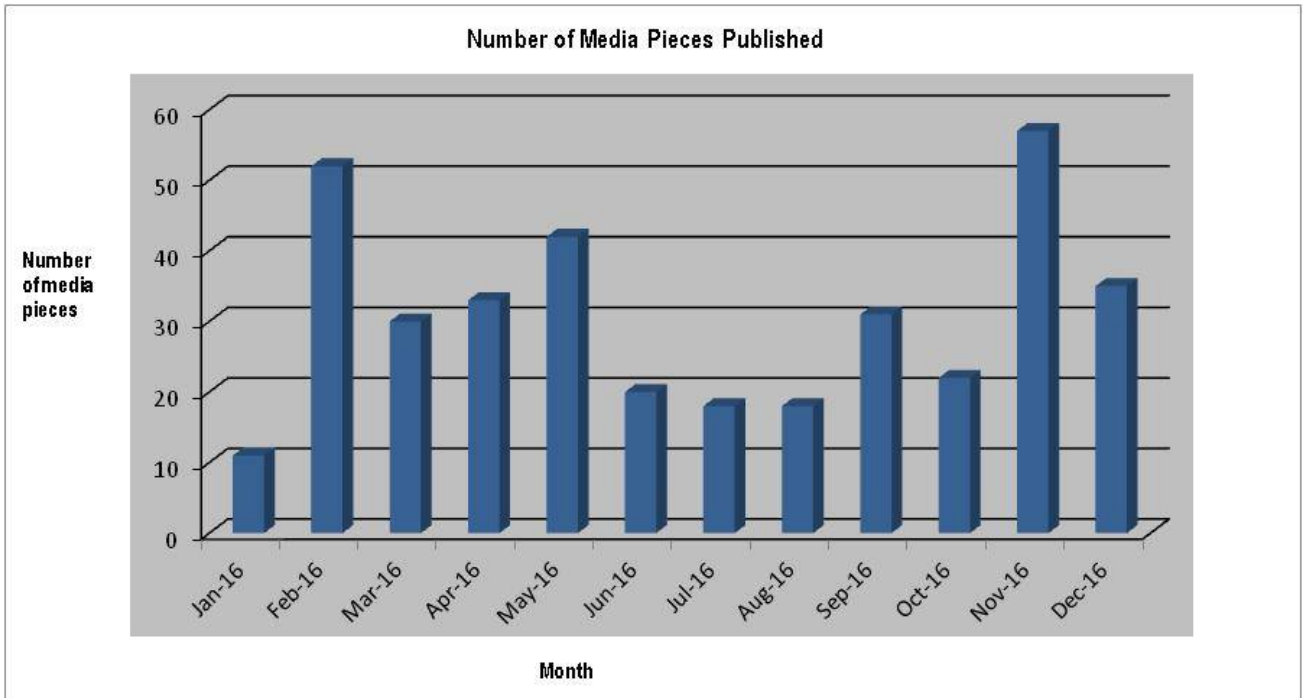
Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption. These included; the Ndop arrest of a trafficker with 18 ape skulls in Ndop, pastor caught with 19 chimp skulls, Douala arrest of three cyber wildlife criminals, Dimako ape trafficker arrest, Bertoua arrest of Nigerian with 12 tusks and 200 kg pangolin scales, Ebolowa trafficker arrest with 3 elephant tails and 3 hoofs, Ebolowa arrest of three traffickers with 12 ape skulls, Bafang arrest of trafficker with 10 ape skulls and elephant tail, arrests of two primate traffickers in Kumbo and Nkambe, Eseka sea turtle shell trafficker arrest, Garoua arrest of two traffickers with ivory bangles and chopsticks, Ayos arrest of two ape skull traffickers, Abong Mbang arrest of two traffickers with 13 chimp skulls and the destruction of ivory by the Cameroon government, the Abong Mbang arrest of two traffickers with 13 chimp skulls, the arrest of a man in possession of sea turtle shells in Njombe, the Ngaoundal arrest of two giant pangolin scales trafficker and their imprisonment, the arrested in Douala of a major ivory trafficker, the Ebolowa arrest of two significant ivory traffickers, the arrest in Yaounde of a trafficker with carved ivory objects, the Melong leopard skin trafficker arrest, the arrest in Batouri of three people smuggling a chimp, the Nsimalen international airport arrest of illegal pangolin scales exporters, the imprisonment of two chimp skull traffickers in Abong Mbang, the arrest of five people with 200 radiated turtle in Madagascar, . the sentencing by Bertoua court of a pangolin scale trafficker of Nigerian nationality

Interviewees included: the Head of Conservation at conservation group, In Defence of Animal, East Regional Chief of Wildlife, Upper Nkam Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, Bui Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, the Deputy Director of LAGA, a French conservationist volunteering at the Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Center, The Chief of Section of Wildlife and Protected Areas at the Menoua. Divisional Delegation and the Kadey Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife

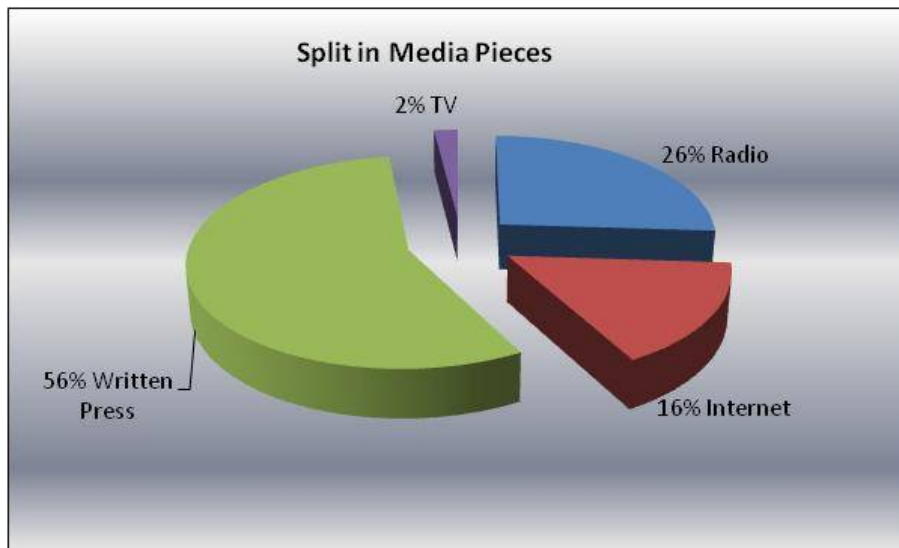
An American TV Documentary team worked with the Media Department to film activities of the organisation. A documentary film titled “Silent Forests” is expected to be produced following the filming.

The Media Department provided technical assistance to the Nsimalen airport anti trafficking unit, enabling TV and Radio coverage of the operation that led to the arrest of 4 airport officials for trafficking in pangolin scales. ,

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



**Figure 4: Number of Media Pieces Produced and Published**



**Figure 5: Split of Media Pieces**

## **5. Management**

LAGA started another phase of reconstruction that focused on work and moral ethics and this was centred on revamping old procedures and bringing in new ones that would lead to greater efficiency in activities and more effective results. In this respect, the tax situation was examined and resolved, the EAGLE Charter was distributed and explained to all, respect of rules and procedures were strictly enforced. The EAGLE Exchange programme witnessed several exchange visits between LAGA and the other projects while the recruitment process continued with a new accountant recruited.

The Annual report of 2015 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. The electronic versions are available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org). This is a result of

teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

Management continued to handle the EAGLE Exchange programme with exchange visits conducted. Two investigators – a Senegalese and a Malagasy investigator, spent 3 weeks each in the country and were drilled on various aspects of investigations and operations while the Ugandan Head of Investigations visited the country for an experience sharing mission. Two legal advisers arrived from Senegal and Guinea completed a three-week-long training session. In May, the Assistant Coordinator from Benin was also trained in the country. The Head of the Investigation Department travelled to Senegal for an operation support mission. Rens Frederik Ilgen, a super volunteer also spent a month for a capacity building initiative that saw him being trained in all departments of the organisation. He equally carried out field work. The EAGLE Financial Officer visited the country twice for auditing and financial management assistance to LAGA and travelled back to her station. She also participated in the recruitment process of the new accountant. The Head of the Legal Department in Togo and the Coordinator of AALF-Benin, visited the office briefly after attending a workshop in Limbe, Cameroon.,

Alex Fonkoua was selected to undergo a 6-month volunteer period for the position of an accountant after a long and efficient recruiting process that involved the Financial Officer of the EAGLE network. An accountant was recruited in April, then left her post two months after for further studies.

The EAGLE Charter was distributed to all and a talk by the Deputy Director was carried out to enable a clear understanding of our values and principles with a strong call to upholding these cherish values. Emphasises were put on the respect of procedures and new determination was engaged in moral rectitude while two investigators were sacked following internal investigations that found dishonesty. Management also continued to vigorously scrutinised activity, carrying out investigations in cases where wrongdoings and dishonesty were suspected –one other investigation was done in this respect and the culprit warned. .

After a long period of reconstruction, LAGA entered an era of improved professionalism at various levels of activity and most especially at investigations and operation departments. The Central Coordination Unit (CCU) of EAGLE liaised with management to effective carry out successful operations that scrupulously respect procedure. A new phase of information sharing and collection by the CCU was successfully implemented and the optimisation of data collected from this activity is underway. The Director arrived the country for a three-day working visit and held several meetings with management and other team members.

A programme to train LAGA members on first aid by the Cameroon Red Cross started in earnest with the first trainee completing her course in July. Two other members equally completed the training. Members shall be trained in the upcoming months as they attend the course in different badges.

To foster activism and leadership skills, a series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA team on corruption and development continued. This is an initiative that also aims at strengthening the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

The year ended with satisfactory results although the targets were not fully met and the LAGA family was given an end of year meal during which they were wished happy feasting as December 16, 2016 marked the beginning of vacation that enabled members to take some rest, feast and refresh for the upcoming year.



## **6. External Relations and Policy**

During this year, LAGA had many several meeting sessions with some government officials, highly placed diplomatic authorities, university officials, local and international NGOs.

The Deputy Director travelled to the United States where he held a number of meetings with some staffers of the Senate, two senior counsels of the Justice Department, several US Fish and Wildlife officials including law enforcement officials, national zoo officials and with some young tech experts. Also present during the trip was Vincent Opyene Head of EAGLE Uganda and they carried out several presentations on the EAGLE's law enforcement model and their implementation on the ground in Cameroon and Uganda. The meetings equally looked at possible areas of collaboration and highlighted the importance of successful application of wildlife laws within the EAGLE network. The tech experts group held several meetings with the two EAGLE officials to look at various solutions to field problems and the writing of a software to enable fast communication between investigators and the office when in need. The EAGLE officials spent one week participating in a workshop on the illegal commercial bushmeat trade organised by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They attended a talk on bankrupting kleptocracy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The Deputy Director held a meeting at the US Embassy and the meeting included a US Foreign Service Officer from the US State Department and a Senior Counsel with the Justice Department with discussions focused on illegal logging and initiatives to address the situation in the country. He equally held other meetings with US Embassy's officials including the Executive Assistant Media, to review efforts at fighting wildlife crime in 2015 and brainstorm on ideas that could assist in mapping a way forward for bigger results and impact. .

The Deputy Director met with two regional experts, Paul-Simon Handy and Ruben de Koning of the UN Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic to discuss wildlife trafficking in the region and a couple of other meetings with officials including the Director of the Prague zoo from the Czech Republic on wildlife law enforcement around the Dja Faunal Reserve and discussion topics included the conception and implementation of conservation projects with the communities living close to the Reserve

The Deputy Director held several meetings with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to discuss wildlife law enforcement, collaboration and information sharing as part of an improved partnership with the Ministry. He attended several meetings under the chair of the Director of Environmental Policy in the Ministry of Environment to prepare for the World Environment Day. The meetings brought together stakeholders in wildlife conservation including officials from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Interpol, Customs, WWF, IUCN and LAGA. As part of the activities for celebrating this day, he did a presentation on the LAGA model and was a panellist on the round table to discuss the theme of the year - Zero Tolerance to Illegal Wildlife Trade.

The Deputy Director held several meetings with Nancy Gelman from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss developments on the Mentor Progress on Pangolin Fellowship Programme (Mentor PoP Programme) and held several other meetings with the Coordinator of the programme, and the Mentor PoP fellows on the fellowship programme. The Deputy Director and legal advisers including the Head of the Legal Department trained fellows of the Mentor PoP Programme on the wildlife law enforcement model and LAGA hosted two fellows from the legal systems action group for a month-long intensive training. The Deputy Director equally did a presentation to Mentor Manatee Fellows which is also a US Fish and Wildlife sponsored fellowship programme.

The Deputy Director gave a live interview on Midday News on State TV on the occasion of the burning of 3.5 tons of ivory by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Vice Dean in charge of research at the University of Yaounde to discuss issues on the wildlife law and its enforcement in the field by LAGA and with the two Regional Delegates of North and Adamawa, respectively, to discuss collaborative efforts and wildlife law enforcement in their part of the country. He equally held a meeting with three officials from WWF Congo who called to discuss the EAGLE model and its proper application in the field. He met with Alexandre Borde, Chief Executive Officer of Carbonium, an institution working on a United Nations Development Project which focuses on integrated trans-boundary conservation and discussions focused on the place of wildlife law enforcement within the project.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official from the Enough Project that seeks to assist wildlife rangers at the Waza National Park. The discussions focused on an analysis of their project and imperatives to be tackled for a successful implementation. He also held a meeting with an official from the Prague zoo who visited the office to talk about a buffer zone project the zoo is intending to carry out in the Dja area. Another meeting was held with Thomas Bacha of IUCN to discuss issues related to organizational governance and transparency.

The Head of the Legal Department did a presentation on the writing of an effective offence statement and the calculation of civil damages in a wildlife case during a workshop organized by TRAFFIC in Garoua, North Region, for stakeholders involved in combating wildlife crime.

On the activism front and as part of activities marking the day set aside for the remembrance of slave trade and its abolition, the Deputy Director visited the Bimbia Slave Trade Market under the framework of an event organized by Cameroonian journalists promoting tourism in the country. He equally wrote articles that were published as part of an effort to cut out a collective amnesia on slave trade and the historic slave trade market in Bimbia.

## **7. LAGA and the EAGLE Network**

LAGA's new model for NGO – Government collaboration establishing wildlife law enforcement, bringing about results with an innovative approach geared at changing the existing system and triggering a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime is being realised within the EAGLE network. The model is essentially shifting away from targeting small-time poachers in the forest and focusing on the prosecution of major traffickers, 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>**

LAGA model replication activity was taken over by the EAGLE network after the its creation with its administrative structure, the Central Coordination Unit becoming fully functional. Nevertheless, the main activities among the various projects in the network continued and included exchange visits, training, information and skills sharing. In this regard, LAGA hosted two legal advisers from Senegal and Guinea who received training and participated in numerous field activities while the Assistant Coordinator from the Benin project travelled to Cameroon for a month-long intensive training. A Dutch conservationist was also trained in LAGA

The EAGLE Financial Officer visited the country to audit and assist the management of finance in LAGA.

## **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 including:

- ***Ted Talk:*** Ghanaian investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas becomes an undercover agent to investigate stories since his early journalism career and provides startling video evidence of police taking bribes, of rags, the inhuman and dire living conditions of inmates in an African prison, the killing of children with deformities in some of communities and the albino spell problem in Tanzania. His journalism which he says is progressive and aimed at effecting positive changes brings tremendous impact and all, including the bad guys, become aware of his existence, that is why he cannot allow his face to be known publicly but naming, shaming and jailing is his leitmotiv as he seeks to provide answers to questions corrupt African regimes have often cynically asked when corruption accusation erupt: where is the evidence? His is a telling and brave journalism, he deliberately becomes a prisoner to do undercover work in the prison. Discussions focused on corruption and his bravery and most especially on his investigations with most of LAGA seeing the resemblance with our investigations and those present enjoyed this very much.
- ***Wag the Dog:*** This movie is all about strategy and spin, very useful for public action. If you get the best strategy and the right spin, you invariably come on top even though in substance, you may be found out. An American president seeking re-election is faced with a dramatic twist of events when two weeks to go for voting taking place, his sexual adventures are made public and this virtually spells the end of his career. Hold on a minute, he hires a spin doctor who hires a Hollywood producer and together they produce an exhilarating strategy and spin, to keep him in power and among the diversionary tactics that make up the strategy is a fake war the US is fighting against little known Armenia. This is a big lie but it works, attention is distracted from the scandal and the president is re-elected. The war has the advantage of drawing attention away from the president's sexual mishaps and allowing his spin doctors to do their thing. The projection comes at an opportune moment when a certain Donald Trump has come from nowhere to front run the GOP race in American 2016 primaries. It equally tells us much about our politicians, their lies and deceptions. Discussions focused on the role of spin in politics and the importance of strategy in action.
- ***Activism Create Distinction:*** With less than 48 hours to the celebration of the International Labour Day, Anna Egbe takes a look at activism and the processes that defines it, its importance and ramifications with a comparative look at our own brand of activism. In a very interesting presentation, people were very attentive and enjoyed it because that makes part of our daily life, she explores the value of activism, the passion activist have and their determination to succeed. Discussions were focused on some of the shortcuts activist use to promote their positions and the differences between influence peddling, lobbying and advocacy and a question was asked:: is one born with an activist or can you become an activist?

- ***Virunga:*** Virunga is a complex mix of activism, conservation work, oil exploration and wars as they come to meet at the Virunga National park and there is someone to explore and document the issues. It raises the huge challenges rangers at the park have and the dangers to their lives as they seek to protect gorillas that largely have nowhere to go but face the barrel of the gun and oil companies that destroy their habitats for selfish profits. The movie is dense and provides many images of bravery and self abnegation, with rangers battling to keep their positions as war draws close. It also highlights the damaging consequences of war in the DRC and the role of mining in undermining conservation initiatives. Talking points included corruption as the big oil company try to corrupt their way through, politics, commitment, activism, humanitarian assistance and people power.
- ***Immigration - Trends and Issues:*** The Deputy Director examines immigration against the backdrop of recent immigration in Europe that played a big role in Brexit. While looking at the historical context of immigration and recent immigrations and trends, he picks out advantages and disadvantages and this enables a clearer understanding of the phenomenon which is essentially human and not a problem as some politicians would like it to be. Discussions focused on the status of immigration, immigration and refugee problems, the examination of the advantages and disadvantages.
- ***Welcome to Cameroon:*** Welcome to Cameroon is a documentary report that takes a look at the historic Bimbia Slave Trade Market where slaves brought from the hinterland were sold and “loaded” onto to ships for collections centres such as Fernando Po and onwards to the Americas. The report takes us back to explain what happened. The shooting is done during the visits of “Camericans” to the market site and Dr. Lisa Aubrey, who has carried out extensive research on the site, is among the Camericans. Camericans are US citizens who have through DNA research discovered their roots – which is in Cameroon. The emotional documentary showed how our grand fathers suffered. Discussions focused on modern day slavery, the same is the situation happening today thanks to our dictators who are very much like the slave merchants of that period, collective amnesia on slave trade and the state of ruins for this historic site.
- ***New Penal Code in Cameroon:*** Two jurists from the legal department took time off to prepare and present the main changes that were introduced to the penal code following its revision and adoption that was done this year amidst numerous debates among professionals and the public. Several changes and amendments were made that directly affect the lives of ordinary Cameroonians, on issues such as the payment of rents, on adultery, on gender equality but the presentation looked at changes that affect the work of wildlife law enforcement and in this regard the probable replacement of an imprisonment term with that of a community service was of significant importance. Debates were concentrated on this topic and as well as on the various changes that are found in the new penal code.
- ***Immunity:*** The presentation that was done by the Head of the Legal Department takes a look at the various types of immunities as set forth by the law in the country and among these are parliamentary, presidential, diplomatic immunities and those that protect members of government. The point of focus was immunity provided to members of government and this constituted the main reason why the newly adopted penal code had to be sent back to parliament by the president for revision following the first, after more than 40 years of existence. This provided for heated debates and the Head of the Legal Department of the Togolese project was present and made comparative analyses with the situation in Togo
- ***Non Human Primate Use in Biomedical Research:*** The presentation takes a look at the use of non human primates in biomedical research and explains what is the practice. One of the reasons primates are preferred in biomedical research is the similarity between non human

primates and their fellow human being. What animals are frequently used, their origins and where they eventually end up after use were some of the issues dealt with. They are used for all kinds of testing including drugs, tobacco, military and sex experiments but their use raises several medical as well as ethical problems as the presentation takes us through these issues while also getting on to the legislative and legal concerns related to the practice. Comments at the end of the presentation focused on the ethical questions, interrogating the consequences for the animals as they face threats to their survival, our rights and responsibilities and statistics involved. It should be noted that there is strong opposition to this practice in several quarters.

## **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 apes, ivory and other elephant parts while sea turtles, pangolins and other wildlife received some attention too. The illegal trade in leopard skins had for some time been given less attention while focus had principally been on ape skulls and ivory traffickers

### ***9.1 Apes and Primates***

The illicit trade in ape parts is demonstrated everyday by the big number of traffickers arrested trafficking skulls which is very much an item of trade in its own right, as well as a by-product of the illicit trade in ape meat. A total of 64 ape skulls were seized during this period with 46 chimpanzee skulls seized while the remaining 18 were gorilla skulls. Arrest operations concerning apes and primates accounted for 33% of the total number of operations. The regularity of the seizures – ape skull operations were carried out during the year - provided a good indication of the size of the illicit trade and is a symptom of the bigger problems connected with fighting the illicit trade in ape meat. Focus was shifted from apes, which constituted the bigger part of arrests during the first semester to ivory during the second semester and this accounted for the drop in the number of operations targeting ape traffickers during the last 6 months.

In February, an operation carried out in Dimako, in the East Region saw the arrest of an ape skulls trafficker with 5 chimpanzee and 4 gorilla skulls. Investigations revealed that they bought the skulls from some poachers near a logging company close to Dimako. The trafficker regularly trafficked ape and primate parts in the area. The negative impact of logging companies in areas with populations of protected species can never be overemphasised.

In March, two arrest operations found 18 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls with the arrest of 4 traffickers. During the first operation, 8 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls were recovered from three traffickers who were part of a network of ape parts traffickers. One of the traffickers is also a major ivory trafficker. The second operation saw the arrest of a trafficker with 7 chimpanzee skulls and 3 heads which still had some flesh, among other wildlife contraband. The trafficker had a number of suppliers providing the contraband, an indication of the nature of the demand and supply chain involved in the trade in ape parts and the newly found organisational skills of ape traffickers.

In April, two operations were carried out involving chimpanzee and gorilla skulls. The first was carried out in Kumbo and in Nkambe in the North West Region with the arrest of two with several primate skulls including 6 gorilla skulls and the second operation of the month found a trafficker in Eseka, Littoral region with 3 chimp skulls among other contraband. The operation in Nkambe, a locality not very far from the Nigeria border demonstrates the importance of cross border

trafficking and a confirmation that the North West Region is a transit zone for wildlife traffickers moving to and fro Nigeria.

In May, 2 ape skull traffickers were arrested in Ayos, Centre Region with 6 chimpanzee skulls and 4 gorilla skulls. The two are experienced ape skull traffickers and before their arrest, were extremely alert and cautious showing fear to be intercepted, demonstrating the growing professionalism of ape traffickers who are not just ordinary bushmeat sellers but organised and experienced traffickers, always cautious to avoid exposure and arrest.

In June, an operation was carried out in Abong Mbang in the East Region arresting 2 traffickers with 13 chimpanzee skulls. The two who travelled from Somalomo that is close to the Dja Faunal Reserve were also implicated in the ferrying of chimpanzee meat from around the reserve to Abong Mbang and Yaounde for sale. They were both found to belong to a network of ape parts traffickers.

In November, three people were arrested in Batouri, East as they tried to smuggle a chimp in a car. One of them, the declared owner of the chimpanzee, confessed that he had caged the chimp for 12 years, but the rescued chimp is barely 6 years old, which seems to indicate other chimps had been captured, died or simply sold and replaced during this time. The trafficker concealed the locked cage on the back of the truck with a dusty tarpaulin in order to evade law enforcement detection. Once more the professionalism of chimp traffickers was demonstrated in this operation as the three were very anxious to carefully hide the chimp. The female chimp was probably an orphan that had been separated from her mother after she was killed for bushmeat. Akim, as the chimp was called, was frail, underfed and wore a melancholic look when she was rescued. She was taken to the IDA Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre for lifetime care. Another trafficker who deals in various species was arrested in the Littoral Region with a chimpanzee skull among other wildlife contraband. He regularly sold diverse wildlife products, buying them from neighbouring villages to supply his buyers.

The trafficking of ape parts is becoming increasingly organised with networks springing up with traffickers working and understanding each other in a chain process, akin to the ivory business. With increasing threats from wildlife law enforcement officials, these traffickers are getting more and more sophisticated.

## ***9.2 Ivory and Elephant parts***

Last year a tactical move to get ivory traffickers was initiated and it involved targeting them through the illegal trade in elephant parts and although it proved very successful, it nevertheless needed a change because ivory traffickers are very good at understanding tactics. So focus was redirected to ivory as the product of trafficking itself and the use of old and tested techniques were re-introduced. The redirection of efforts to ivory itself was particularly fruitful during the second part of the year with five significant ivory operations were carried out and these operations unravelled a tactic used by traffickers who are now increasingly taking the business of dealing in arts objects to sell carved ivory pieces. The sophistication of the traffickers was more witnessed as they used several different tactics to do business. Two of those arrested used a restaurant business as a cover for ivory trafficking.

The first operation was carried out in Bertoua, East Region in February with the arrest of a major trafficker of Nigerian nationality with 12 elephant tusks and 200 kg of giant pangolin scales. The trafficker who used the cover of a businessman dealing in car spare parts had a storeroom where huge quantities of wildlife products could be stored. He ran his illegal activity across the Central African sub region from Gabon, Congo, Cameroon right to Nigeria and he equally had as clients Chinese traffickers. Ivory traffickers are known for their organisation, their trafficking across borders and professionalism.

In March, an operation was carried out in Ebolowa, South Region, with the arrest of a major trafficker with wildlife contraband - 3 elephant tails and 3 hoofs. He is known to have sold ivory every two weeks and had a regular client coming in from Yaounde to Ebolowa to buy ivory. He equally doubled as a poacher and used a local gendarme officer to cover his illegal activity and provide inside information on the movements of wildlife officials.

In May, in Garoua in the North Region, two traffickers were arrested with 20 ivory chopsticks and 5 bangles with 2 ivory tusks later recovered. The two ivory tusks were hidden deep inside the ground and the two who are specialised in ivory carving business, worked as a team with one of them buying raw ivory and the second carving out ivory objects for sale. They had been carrying their illegal activities for the past 10 years.

In June, an influential and well connected trafficker was arrested in Bafoussam, West Region, with 39 ivory bangles and 3 leopard skins but was never prosecuted and LAGA continues to push for the procedural prosecution of the case as wildlife officials mount obstacles hindering prosecution. This is testimony of the power of ivory traffickers as they are rich and influential with the ability to resist arrest and or circumvent the prosecution process.

An operation carried out in Yaounde in the Centre Region, in August recovered 64 ivory pieces from an arrested trafficker. The carved ivory objects were among several arts objects the trafficker deals with as he runs a shop for arts objects which is a cover business for illicit ivory trafficking. He belongs to a network of ivory traffickers who deal in sculpted arts objects. During the investigations leading to the arrests, it was discovered that the network has developed signs, symbols and special codes to communicate within the network. Strong solidarity was equally witnessed among members of the network with a support mechanism for those arrested and jailed to enable their business to thrive even when in prison. They get ivory supplies principally from the East Region, although when supplies were not flowing adequately, members of the network would travel to the region to get raw ivory for carving.

In September, a major ivory trafficker was arrested in one of the biggest illegal ivory markets in the sub region. The Marche des fleurs in Douala is known to be a very important spot for international ivory trafficking and it is a dangerous place with several traffickers doing business undercover there. The trafficker was arrested with 29 carved pieces. He belongs to a ring of traffickers operating from this area and as he resisted arrest, several of his accomplices and friends violently sort to release him as police was in action.

In October, an operation that was carried out in Dschang in the West Region and 2 traffickers were arrested with 14 pieces of carved ivory and 2 leopard skins. The first trafficker specialises in carving art objects from wood and ivory. A bowl where the ivory pieces were stored was later found in the shop where he sells the objects.

In November, two operations involving ivory were carried out. One trafficker was arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region, with 14 carved ivory objects. He operated from a hotel kiosk, using wood carving as a cover to illegally sell carved ivory objects. The art dealers use the trade as a perfect cover not only to traffic in ivory but also to have an easy access and exposure to clients. They work in a gang consisting of suppliers providing raw ivory, sculptors and sellers.

In Ebolowa, South Region, 2 significant traffickers arrested with 2 carved ivory tusks, 2 statuettes and several other carved pieces. Both belong to a wider circle of traffickers, operating in the area for years. One of them owns a restaurant where they regularly made deals with traffickers. At the time of their arrest, an ivory statuette was visible in the restaurant. This may have served as an ad slot for the traffickers or a lead to inform other traffickers.

### **9.3 Pangolin Scales**

The illegal trade in pangolin scales is booming and appear to be taking advantage of the circuits of ivory trafficking and ivory traffickers seem to be showing interest in scales trafficking. This is facilitated by the nature of the pangolin trafficking chain which is sustained by the Chinese who are equally the main buyers of illegal ivory. In this regard, the ivory trafficker arrested in February with 12 ivory tusks was equally found with a huge consignment of giant pangolin scales. 5 bags of pangolin scales weighing some 200 kg were seized from the trafficker who had a storeroom in Gaoura Boulai close to the Central African border. Pangolin scales are similar to ivory because they need huge logistical organisation and ivory traffickers are suited for this organisation. Another operation was carried out in Eseka with a small quantity of pangolin scales seized alongside the main contraband that the trafficker attempted to sell, that is sea turtle shells. Pangolin scales have been the object of many seizures in Asia recently and Cameroon is one of the supplying nations.

Pangolins are rapidly driving to extinction, as the booming illegal trade is on an exponential increase. Another operation carried witnessed the seizure of 128 kg of giant pangolin scales in August with 2 traffickers were arrested in Ngaoundal, Adamawa Region in August. The professionalism of pangolin scale traffickers seem to be improving with the ability to travel long distances with bulky load. One of the traffickers travelled from Tibati to Ngaoundal with the scales and he is known to have been supplying even larger quantities of giant pangolin scales to far off commercial centres of the country. The trafficking in pangolin scales is intense in the region that is close to Mbam and Djerem National Park that was created in 2000. The traffickers operate in a close network that supplies wildlife products to far off commercial centres such as Yaounde and Bertoua and receive bullets from some urban-based traffickers. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender – a document found on him is a receipt for a payment of a fine after a ruling by the Tibati court of first instance that found him guilty of wildlife trafficking. Several parts of other wildlife species including totally protected species were found at the home of one of his concubines.

### **9.4 Leopard Skin and Others**

Three operations were carried out within this period against 4 leopard skin traffickers. The illegal trade in leopard skins in the country is a constant activity as the skins derive huge profits for the traffickers within a context of an ever ready demand in the local black market. It is one of those illegal trades that have a ready internal market and this makes it a very tempting business for many traffickers. It is also exported to the West Africa and abroad.

Three leopard skins were seized in June from a trafficker arrested with ivory bangles. He has a big shop that sells diverse art objects, he is influential and well connected. Other wildlife contraband seized included warthog skulls, a python skin in March, a pair of buffalo horns seized in April and a live crocodile seized in February. The illicit wildlife trade concerns a huge and varied base of wildlife species.

Two operations other operations were carried out against three leopard skin traffickers. During an operation done in West Region in October, two traffickers were arrested dealing in carved ivory pieces and leopard skins, One of them was said to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree traditional head. It had been reported that these traditional rulers sell leopard skins and reports them as stolen and this operation was a tangible proof of what goes on with the leopard skins in the West Region. The second operation took place in November and one trafficker was arrested in the Littoral Region with a leopard skin, a chimpanzee skull among other wildlife contraband. He is an opportunist wildlife trafficker who buys several different wildlife products to make quick profit on selling them.

### **9.5 Sea turtle shells**



A single sea turtle shell trafficker was arrested in July with 8 shells. He deals in varied wildlife species especially as bushmeat and he has been running the business for a couple of years before his arrest. He looks very much like an opportunist; trying to sell every species he lays hands on. This is a telling indication of the diverse nature of wildlife crime offenders. On the one side, big time professionals who organise a hugely profitable business with lots of specialisation and on the other, opportunists who try to sell everything they get to make some profits.

### ***9.5 Cyber trafficking***

The first operation this year was the arrest of three cyber traffickers in Douala who attempted to sell lion and cheetah cubs using the internet as their means of communication. The three cybercriminals had advertised 2 lion and 2 cheetah cubs through the internet. They had forged documents including CITES permits that enabled them to convince clients abroad that they had the legal authorisation to export wildlife from the country. The first two criminals were arrested as they attempted to finalise transactions while the third, the suspected boss of the whole group, was arrested soon afterwards. Their transactions were mainly done through the internet including the use of websites and email. A new brand of wildlife traffickers are eager to take advantage of avenues provided by the internet, to traffic in wildlife products with minimum exposure. A cyber trafficker had been arrested in 2009 in Muyuka, South West Region and he was found to have earlier shipped dozens of primate skulls to the United States.

## **10. Corruption and Wildlife Crime**

LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. All bribing attempts are documented into our case tracking systems. LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA. LAGA is not a watchdog group and not created as an observer, it fight directly whenever corrupt practices or bribery attempts have been observed.

This on-going fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. After the arrest of an elephant parts trafficker in Ebolowa, in March, the brother of the offender immediately contacted the judicial police officer who was part of the arrest operation to offer bribe and secure his release but this was swiftly rejected by the police officer.

A breach of procedure was observed in the West Region following the arrest in June of a leopard skin and ivory bangles trafficker who was found in the act and the case, despite being a straight forward case of flagrante delicto, witnessed many setbacks posed by wildlife officials who instead of forwarding the case to the state counsel, said investigations to ascertain trafficking on the part of the suspect would continue, whereas the law is clear and possession alone is sufficient to establish offence.

In November, after the arrest of 3 live chimp traffickers in Batouri, in East Region, in an attempt to secure the release of the traffickers, huge pressure from some logging bosses in the area were brought to bear on the divisional delegate and the state counsel handling the matter. When this failed, a case was filed at the court claiming that the three were illegally arrested and the judge had to rule on this before the continuation of the process. Luckily, the judge ruled against them.

Bribery attempts are recorded in almost every operation with family members always on the look out to hand tips. To some corrupt officials involved in the cases

# Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites January-June 2016



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## Annex I – List of Cases Initiated in 2016

Case No	Operation Date	Location	Case Name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int. Connection	Status
1	1/30/216	Douala (Littoral)	<a href="#">TABE Peter TAKEM</a>	Illegal exportation of lion cubs, cheetah and tiger and forgery of CITES Permit and Certificate of Origin .	Seller	The accused is a notorious cyber criminal "scammer" who indulges in the illegal exportation of protected wildlife species to various destinations in countries where the potential buyer is in this case Azerbaijan. The accused used a fraudulent CITES Permit and a fraudulent Certificate of Origin in which the Signature of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Phillip Ngole Ngwese.	Azerbaijan and Canada	locked while on trial
2	1/30/216	Douala (Littoral)	<a href="#">BAIYE OROCK JOSEPH</a>	Illegal exportation of lion cubs, cheetah and tiger and forgery of CITES Permit and Certificate of Origin .	Seller	The accused is a notorious cyber criminal "scammer" who indulges in the illegal exportation of protected wildlife species to various destinations in countries where the potential buyer is in this case Azerbaijan. The accused used a fraudulent CITES Permit and a fraudulent Certificate of Origin in which the Signature of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Phillip Ngole Ngwese.	Azerbaijan and Canada	locked while on trial
3	1/30/216	Douala (Littoral)	<a href="#">BETECK OROCK Martin</a>	Illegal exportation of lion cubs, cheetah and tiger and forgery of CITES Permit and Certificate of Origin .	Seller	The accused is a notorious cyber criminal "scammer" who indulges in the illegal exportation of protected wildlife species to various destinations in countries where the potential buyer is in this case Azerbaijan. The accused used a fraudulent CITES Permit and a fraudulent Certificate of Origin in which the Signature of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Phillip Ngole Ngwese.	Azerbaijan and Canada	locked while on trial
4	2/9/216	Bertoua (East)	<a href="#">Anthony NWABU NWANNE NWOYE</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 12 ivory tusks, 2 elephant molars and 5 bags of giant pangolin scales.	Trader/Seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker and dealer in protected animal species particularly giant pangolin. He works in a network with his partners in Abong Mbang (East) and Lomie, and Batouri (East) who supplies him the ivory and giant pangolin scales which he sells to his buyers on demand. He was to sell the pangolin scales for 10,000 FCFA a kg, 50,000 FCFA for the elephant molars and 3 Million for the ivory Tusks. The accused also has contacts in China.	Nigeria, China	locked while on trial
5	2/9/216	Dimako (East)	<a href="#">OLINGA BAKBOKE Jean</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 1 live crocodile, 5 chimpanzee skulls, and 4 gorilla skulls.	Forest technician/Seller	The dealer belongs to a notorious network involved in the trafficking of primates and reptiles particularly chimpanzee and gorilla skulls. He gets these trophies from the neighbouring villages of Ta'a, Loumboum and Nlongtimbi. He sells them to potential buyers at 250,000 FCFA based upon arrangement with the buyers.	None	locked while on trial

Case No	Operation Date	Location	Case Name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int. Connection	Status
6	2/9/216	Dimako (East)	<a href="#">YOUDOM NGOMSI Sidoine</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 1 live crocodile, 5 chimpanzee skulls, and 4 gorilla skulls.	Trader/Seller	The dealer is a middleman between Olinga and Tchabo and potential buyers. He gets potential buyers for Olinga and Tchabo	None	locked while on trial
7	2/9/216	Dimako (East)	<a href="#">TCHABO MBAKOP Norbert</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 1 live crocodile, 5 chimpanzee skulls, and 4 gorilla skulls.	Seller	The dealer is a typical crocodile and protected reptiles trafficker. He bought the crocodile at 10,000 FCFA and sells them at 25,000 FCFA to potential buyers.	None	locked while on trial
8	3/3/216	Ebolowa (South)	<a href="#">Mballa Amougou Benoit</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 3 elephant tails, 3 elephant hoofs, and 2 elephant teeth.	Poacher and Seller	The dealer is a notorious dealer and poacher in elephants and other protected species. He confessed hunting in the forest of Ngon in Equatorial Guinea. He carries out his hunting activities with a certain Bengono and Ndongo who are members of the network. The dealer admitted that he killed the 3 elephants which trophies were found in his possession together with his accomplice at Mgan. He confessed	France	locked while on trial
9	3/16/216	Ebolowa (South)	<a href="#">ABA Jean Didier</a>	Illegal possession of 4 gorilla skulls, 8 chimpanzee skulls, 2 Wart hog skulls and 1 mandrill skull	Student and Poacher	The dealer is notorious trafficker and hunter specializing in primates as well as ivory. He admitted that he is a hunter and carries out his hunting activities in the localities of Assok II. He sells these animal trophies at 95,000 FCFA each.	None	locked while on trial
10	3/16/216	Ebolowa (South)	<a href="#">EMANE George</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 4 gorilla skulls, 8 chimpanzee skulls, 2 Wart hog skulls and 1 mandrill skull	Seller	He belongs to the same network as ABA Jean and is an accomplice. He aids in transporting these trophies to potential buyers.	None	locked while on trial
11	3/16/216	Ebolowa (South)	<a href="#">NYANGON O ELOM Arsene</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 4 gorilla skulls, 8 chimpanzee skulls, 2 Warthog skulls and 1 mandrill skull	Seller	He is an accomplice to ABA Jean Didier and they belong in the same network. He assists in getting potential buyers as well as ensuring smooth transactions between his brother a poacher Ekoumou and Didier.	None	locked while on trial
12	3/20/216	Mintom (South)	<a href="#">ASOO Martin</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 4 ivory tusks weighing 5.5.kg, 23 ammunitions, 1 War fire arm, 3 elephant tails and elephant meat. -Illegal killing of 2 elephants	Farmer, Poacher and Seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker and poacher in elephants. He carries out this illegal activity with his partners ZOO, Mbida and Ngambi who all belong to the same network. They carry out this hunting activity with the use of Firearms as well as war fire arms. The proceeds of the sale of the elephant trophies are divided amongst them and in this case he claims he was entitled to 30,000 FCFA after the sale of the ivory tusks.	None	locked while on trial

Case No	Operation Date	Location	Case Name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int. Connection	Status
13	3/20/216	Mintom (South)	<a href="#">NGAMBI</a> <a href="#">KONGO</a> <a href="#">GERARD</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 4 ivory tusks weighing 5.5.kg, 23 ammunitions, 1 War fire arm, 3 elephant tails and elephant meat. - Illegal killing of 2 elephants	Farmer, Poacher and Seller	The dealer is a co-offender to As'o'o and Zo'o and involves in the illegal hunting of elephants particularly. They spent over a week around the reserve and killed 2 elephants. He claims he was to sell the elephant meat for 8,000 FCFA and was to receive 30,000 FCFA for sale of the ivory tusks. He also uses fire arms and ammunitions for hunting.	None	locked while on trial
14	3/29/216	Bafang (West)	<a href="#">SAMBA</a> <a href="#">Venant</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 10 chimpanzee skulls, 1 mandrill skull, 1 elephant tail and 1 Python skin.	Farmer/Seller	The dealer is a notorious hunter who carries out his hunting activities in the localities of Nkondjock. He sells these trophies to potential buyers in Bafang (West) and other neighbouring localities who have links with Chinese buyers.	None	locked while on trial
15	4/15/216	Kumbo (North West)	<a href="#">NDAGE</a> <a href="#">Demian</a> <a href="#">ABE</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 15 mandrill skulls, 6 gorilla skulls, 2 monkey skulls, 4 chimpanzee parts and 1 Buffalo horn.	Driver/Seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker in primates particularly chimpanzees, gorillas and chimpanzee skulls. He also deals in buffalo horns. He was to sell the buffalo horns for 100,000 FCFA, 15,000 FCFA per mandrill skull and 25,000 FCFA for the gorilla skulls. He works in collaboration with a certain Nfor Genesis who supplies this primate trophies. He is in the same network as Angoh Sebastien.	None	locked while on trial
16	4/15/216	Kumbo (North West)	<a href="#">ANGOH</a> <a href="#">Sebastine</a> <a href="#">TATO</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 15 mandrill skulls, 6 gorilla skulls, 2 monkey skulls, 4 chimpanzee parts and 1 Buffalo horn	Farmer/Seller	The dealer is specialized in trafficking primates and their trophies particularly gorillas, chimpanzees and mandrill skulls. He collects these primate trophies from hunters and other Sellers and sells them to potential buyers at fixed prices. He intended to sell them at 30,000 FCFA. He belongs to the same network as Ndage Demian.	None	locked while on trial
17	4/26/216	Eseka	<a href="#">BIKOI</a> <a href="#">NSOUNG</a> <a href="#">A Jean Joli</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 8 sea turtle shell, 3 chimpanzee skulls and 2 kg of pangolin scales.	Farmer/Seller	The accused is a poacher and notorious trafficker who works in collaboration with a certain MADE and BATAMAG who belongs in the same network. They sell these trophies to potential buyers on fixed prices. They take these trophies from surrounding village localities.	None	locked while on trial
18	5/6/216	Garoua (North)	<a href="#">ABDOU</a> <a href="#">Bralat</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 2 Pieces of ivory, 20 ivory Chopsticks and 5 ivory Bangles.	Craftman/Seller	The accused is a notorious trafficker and dealer in ivory and ivory related products. He belongs in the same network as Bakary and gets these ivory from another dealer in the network from Bouba Njidah. He sells these ivory to potential buyers on fixed high prices.	None	locked while on trial

Case No	Operation Date	Location	Case Name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int. Connection	Status
19	5/6/216	Garoua (North)	<a href="#">ADIMIKO BAKARY</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 2 Pieces of ivory, 20 ivory Chopsticks and 5 ivory Bangles.	Craftman/Seller	The accused is a co-offender to Abdou and belongs to the same notorious network. He is an ivory Sculpter and sculpts ivory gotten from his supplier at Bouba Njidah himself. He sells these transformed ivory to potential buyers at fixed prices.	None	locked while on trial
20	5/9/216	Akolonin ga (East)	<a href="#">NDONGO Desire</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 4 gorilla skulls, and 6 chimpanzee skulls.	Planter	The dealer is a trafficker involved in primates and other protected animal species. He works in the same network as Biwole George. He sells these trophies to potential buyers at fixed prices. He gets them from the localities at Ngelemendouka and helps in transporting them to potential	None	locked while on trial
21	5/9/216	Akolonin ga (East)	<a href="#">BIWOLE Georges Brice</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 4 gorilla skulls, and 6 chimpanzee skulls.	Bus Driver	The dealer is a co-offender to Ndongo Desire and they belong to the same network. He assists Ndongo in transporting these primate trophies to potential buyers destinations. He confirmed that he benefits 5,000 FCFA for transportation. They sell these trophies to potential buyers at fixed prices.	None	locked while on trial
22	6/8/216	Abong Mbang (East)	<a href="#">BIKOM ADJAP Bertrand</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 13 chimpanzee skulls.	Farmer/Seller	The accused person is a notorious trafficker in Primates and their trophies. He collected the chimpanzee skulls from somalomo and from nearby villages to the Dja Reserve. He intended to sell the chimpanzee skulls at 10,000 FCFA for the big ones and 5,000 FCFA for the small ones. He works in the same network with MEDIBE who are all co-offenders.	None	exportation
23	6/8/216	Abong Mbang (East)	<a href="#">MEDIBE Dieudonne Simplicie</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 13 chimpanzee skulls.	Seller	He is a co-offender to BIKOM all of the same network and a notorious dealer in Primates and their trophies. He collected these trophies from villagers at Somalomo and got some around the Dja Reserve. He was to get 115,000 FCFA from the total sale of these chimpanzee skulls.	None	locked while on trial
24	6/30/216	Bafoussam (West)	<a href="#">Mbougang Joseph</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 3 leopard skins and 31 ivory bangles	Traditional Ruler/Seller	The dealer is a Notable of the Royal Palace of Batie and a traditional ruler of a small village in Batie. He owns a museum in Bafoussam (West) and Batie. He uses this as a means to carry out illegal trafficking in trophies of Protected animal species particularly leopard skins and ivory already transformed into bangles. He intended to sell the leopard skins for 650,000 FCFA for the ivory no price was fixed yet.	None	Free while on trial

Case No	Operation Date	Location	Case Name	Offence	Profil	Remarks	Int. Connection	Status
25	7/7/216	Njombe (Littoral)	<a href="#">ENGA ANANSE Felix</a>	Illegal possession and circulation of 8 seaturtle shell.	Farmer/Seller	The dealer is a renowned trafficker in seaturtle shell as well as other game and their meat. He collects these turtle shell from members of the same network at 19,000 FCFA for the 8 seaturtle shell and intended to sell one turtle shell between 5,000 and 10,000 FCFA to	None	locked while on trial
26	8/23/216	Yaoundé	<a href="#">TJABAG Pierre</a>	Illegal possession of 5 pieces of sculptured ivory	Seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker and is a member of a network involved in ivory trafficking. He is a notorious swindler. and uses sculptured cow bones to deceive potential customers that it is ivory and mixes these fake sculptured ivory with real ones to sell. He sells these ivory products upon fixed prices	None	locked while on trial
27	8/30/216	Ngaoundal	<a href="#">Nwana DOH Felix</a>	Illegal possession of 128 kg of giant pangolin scales	Seller	He is a notorious giant pangolin scales trafficker as well as other protected animal species. He belongs to the same network as Ndjoheu Jean Marie who connects him to potential buyers. He works in collaboration with a certain Sani in Yoko who supplies him with enormous quantities of giant pangolin scales and also collects some of these scales from hunters in Tibati. He has been in the trafficking business for over 6 months and sells these giant pangolin scales to potential buyers upon agreed prices	None	locked while on trial
28	8/30/216	Ngaoundal	<a href="#">NDJOHEU Jean Marie</a>	Illegal possession of 128 kg of giant pangolin scales	Seller	He is a recidivist and notorious trafficker. He deals in giant pangolin scales, bush meat as well as other protected animal species. He works with hunters and furnishes them with ammunitions to poach these protected animal species to which he then sells to potential buyers on fixed prices. He was arrested and prosecuted earlier this year at the C.F.I Tibati for illegal trafficking in protected animal species and illegal possession and furnishing of hunting ammunitions to hunters. On the 1/07/216 he was found guilty as charged and sentenced to pay fines. An enormous quantity of 'bushmeat' was seized at his home	None	locked while on trial
29	9/29/216	Douala (Littoral)	<a href="#">ABDOUL KARIM Ibrahim</a>	Illegal possession of 160 sculpted ivory pieces.	Seller	The dealer is a notorious trafficker in ivory and ivory related products. He works in collaboration with a certain woman all of the same network who supplies him with these sculpted ivory to sell to potential buyers upon demand. He intended to sell the sculpted ivory objects for 100,000 FCFA. He uses the sale of artistic objects to conceal his trafficking in ivory objects. He strongly resisted arrest causing public disorder and its the second time the accused attempted escape from arrests	None	locked while on trial

Case No	Operation Date	Location	Case Name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Int. Connection	Status
30	28/10/216	Dschang (West)	<a href="#">TSANGUE Clement</a>	Illegal possession of 14 sculpted ivory pieces and 2 leopard skins	Craftman/Seller	The accused is a notorious trafficker and dealer in ivory and ivory related products. He belongs in the same network as Bakary and gets these ivory from another dealer in the network from Bouba Njidah. He sells these ivory to potential buyers on fixed high prices.	None	locked while on trial
31	28/10/216	Dschang (West)	<a href="#">KENFACK Albert</a>	Illegal possession of 14 sculpted ivory pieces and 2 leopard skins	Craftman/Seller	An established dealer and member of the network in leopard skin trafficking between Dschang (West), Bafou and balevang. he is a paramount chief of Aghang village in Bafou	None	locked while on trial
32	4/11/216	Nkongssamba	<a href="#">Tchouatou Elvis Didero</a>	Illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 1 leopard skin, 1 python skin, 1 chimpanzee skull 2 shell of marine	Seller	He is a trafficker belonging to a network. He buys his products from neighboring villages to supply his potential buyers.	None	Locked while on trial
33	7/11/216	Yaoundé	<a href="#">Mfoupou Felix désiré</a>	illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 14 sculptured ivory pieces	Seller	He is an artist and hide behind wood carving to do his illegal business. He buys ivory sculpture them and sell behind. He also fools ignorant buyers with cow bone in the place of ivory. His collaborator escaped arrest.	None	locked while on trial
34	10/11/216	Ebolowa (South)	<a href="#">Afouroum Emile Manuel</a>	illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 1 full sculptured ivory, 1 calved ivory in the form of Pidgeon, 1 calved ivory in the form of Rhinoceros and ivory chips	Seller	He is a high profile ivory trafficker belonging to a network. He buys ivory from poachers, sculpture them in various forms and sell to potential buyers at different prices.	None	locked while on trial
35	10/12/216	Ebolowa (South)	<a href="#">Mouko Clement</a>	illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 1 full sculptured tusk, half sculptured ivory, 1 calved ivory in the form of Pidgeon, 1 calved ivory in the form of Rhinoceros and ivory chips	Seller	He belong to the same network with Afouroum	None	locked while on trial
36	21/11/216	Batouri (East)	<a href="#">Njeudji Jules</a>	illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a live chimpanzee	Seller	Njeudji is a high profiled trafficker who is a member of a network trafficking in live animals. He captures them in the wild and sell to potential buyers in various places. He has a complete group comprising of the owner of the vehicle and a driver who facilitates	none	Locked while on trial
37	21/11/216	Batouri (East)	<a href="#">Tikaya Frank Nathan</a>	illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a live chimpanzee	Seller	He belongs to the same network with Njeudji and Toue, he puts his vehicle at the disposal of their business to transport the live animal to where ever it is going to.	none	Locked while on trial
38	21/11/216	Batouri (East)	<a href="#">Toue Moussa Liboire</a>	illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a live chimpanzee	Seller	He is also a member of the network dealing in live protected animals, he is a driver who carries the products to destination and get	none	Locked while on trial



## Annex II – The Year in Pictures



*A major trafficker arrested in Douala with ivory contraband as his accomplices violently sought to hamper arrest, he had earlier escaped arrest (above)*



*One of two significant ivory traffickers arrested in Ebolowa. They had a restaurant business for cover, ivory was seen on display in the restaurant*



*One of two traffickers arrested in the North West Region for trafficking in several primate skulls and other wildlife parts; surrounded by law enforcement officials and dozens of wildlife parts seized from the traffickers at the wildlife office*



*13 chimpanzee skulls seized from two traffickers who travelled from the Dja faunal reserve to Abong Mbang where they were arrested; operations around the Dja faunal reserve are proofs of the devastation ongoing at the World Heritage Site that was once considered to be one of the best protected wildlife areas in the region*



*Nine ape skulls seized in the East Region from a trafficker who bought the skulls from poachers near a logging company (below)*

*Ape skulls - 8 chimpanzee and 4 gorilla seized from three traffickers in Ebolowa (above)*





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



*An international ivory trafficker arrested in East Region. He has links throughout the sub region and right to Nigeria. At the wildlife office answering to questions (above) and contraband including 12 ivory tusks over 200 kg of giant pangolin scales seized from trafficker who used the cover posing as spare parts dealer and owns a storeroom for wildlife products (below)*





*Contraband of ivory bangles and leopard skins seized from an influential and well connected trafficker. The trafficker is still to be prosecuted as wildlife officials pose obstacles for the process to take its due course.*



*Carved ivory pieces and leopard skins seized from two in the West of the country as they attempt to sell the contraband (above)*



*Akim rescued after six years of caged traumatic life, she was underfed, melancholic and frail; 3 traffickers were arrested. . After her rescue she was removed from her cage and taken to IDA Sanaga Yong Sanctuary Chimpanzee Rescue Centre for lifetime care and freedom (left)*



## Annex III – 2016 Links

[CAMEROUN :: Un Pasteur arrêté avec 19 crânes de chimpanzés à Yaoundé. :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



### CAMEROUN :: Un Pasteur arrêté avec 19 crânes de chim...

Un homme présenté par l'un de ses proches comme un pasteur, a été arrêté le 16 Décembre 2015, alors qu'il essayait de vendre 19 crâ

[View on camer.be](#)

Preview by Yahoo

[Cameroun: Un Nigérian arrêté à Bertoua pour trafic d'ivoire. :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



### Cameroun: Un Nigérian arrêté à Bertoua pour trafic d'ivo...

Un ressortissant nigérian a été arrêté à Bertoua dans la région de l'Est pour détention et commercialisation illégales des pointes d&#

[CAMEROUN :: Three wildlife traffickers arrested in Ebolowa with 14 ape skulls :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



### CAMEROUN :: Three wildlife traffickers arrested in Ebolo...

Three wildlife traffickers were arrested on March 16, 2016 following a sting operation carried out by The South Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife working...

[View on www.camer.be](#)

Preview by Yahoo

[CAMEROUN :: Cameroon: Two traffickers arrested for Primate Skulls Trafficking in the North West Region - Camer.be](#)



**CAMEROUN :: Cameroon: Two traffickers arrested for P...**

Two people were arrested in connection with the illegal sale of dozens of primates skulls in the North West Region during an operation carried out on April 15, 2016...

[CAMEROUN :: Un Trafiquant de carapaces de tortues aux arrêts :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



**CAMEROUN :: Un Trafiquant de carapaces de tortues aux ...**

Un homme a été arrêté à Njombé, dans la région du Littoral, pour détention illégale de carapaces de tortues de mer. Ces tortues sont des e

[View on www.camer.be](#)

Preview by Yahoo

<http://www.camer.be/53254/11:1/cameroun-un-trafiquant-de-carapaces-de-tortues-aux-arrets-cameroun.html>



**CAMEROUN :: Cameroon: Two slammed prison sentences...**

Two people have been sentenced by the Abong Mbang Court of First Instance for trafficking in skulls following their arrest and trial that lasted two months. The cas...

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