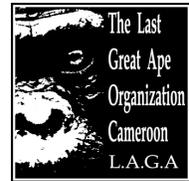


# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## June 2018 Report



### Highlights

- **LAGA Director arrived the country for a series of meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife and diplomatic officials.**
- **The Deputy Director attended a workshop organised by the British High Commission to discuss illegal wildlife trade. He equally attended a training on project evaluation.**
- **The Head of the Legal Department attended a workshop in Douala that focused on law enforcement training curriculum.**
- **The Head of the Legal Department of EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire arrived Cameroon for a two-week training.**
- **There were no operations this month and strategies were examined to improve on the situation the following month.**

### General

LAGA Director arrived Cameroon for a week-long visit during which he held meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. During one of the meetings with the Minister, he was accompanied by the Deputy Director and discussions focused on issues of collaboration and wildlife law enforcement. Accompanied by the Deputy Director, he equally held meetings with the British High Commissioner, French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador and the European Union Head of Mission to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process in the country and its associated governance problems.

**This month no operations took place; new strategies were formulated to ensure more arrests next month.**

## Investigations

- **24 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon viz: Littoral, Center, South, East and West Regions.
- The Assistant Head of Department went to Ebolowa, Kye-ossi and Abang-minko'o to reinforce working relations with the chiefs of custom bureau of these towns.
- The Head of Department held a meeting at the Nsimalen airport with the chief of CAAT, to reinforce working relations.
- **This month no operations took place, but the department brainstormed and came out with new strategies to ensure more arrests next month.**

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
24	5	0	0

## Legal

- The Legal Department carried **16 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 1 in Mfou (Centre Region), 1 in Nsimalen (Centre Region), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 2 in Ambam (South Region), 3 in Djoum (South), 1 in Dschang (West), 1 in Bangangte (West), 3 in Bertoua (East) and 2 in Abong-Mbang (East).
- There are **20 dealers behind bars this month**: 6 in East Region, 1 in Southwest Region, 4 in West Region, 8 in South Region, and 1 in Littoral Region.
- **33 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **29 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **8 dealers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were 3 court rulings this month.
- **08/06/2018**: The Dschang Court of First Instance – Centre, found the accused **MFONGOCK Didier, MELAT Blaise, ATOKI Suzanne and NYAMPE Charles** guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. They were ordered to pay **100.000 FCFA as fines and 38.000 FCFA as court cost**. They were arrested in Santchou for illegal possession, and commercialization of an elephant tusk, an elephant jaw bone and pangolins scales.

- **12/06/2018:** The East region Appeal Court, found the accused **FEUSSI André** guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species. He was ordered to pay **50.000 FCFA as fine and 35.587.000 FCFA as civil damages**. He was arrested in Betare Oya for illegal possession, and commercialization of 36.5 Kg of pangolin scales, 6 hippopotamus teeth and 2 boa skins.
- **19/06/2018:** The East region Appeal Court, found the accused **NJEUDJI Jules, TIKAYA Franc and TOUE Moussa Liboire** guilty of illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of a live chimpanzee. They were ordered to pay **2.000.000 FCFA as civil damages and 38.000 FCFA as court cost**. They were arrested in Batouri for illegal possession and commercialization of a live chimpanzee.
- **Appeal:** An appeal has been filed this month in the case of **MFONGOCK Didier, MELAT Blaise, ATOKI Suzanne and NYAMPE Charles 2, ENGA ANANSE Felix** in the West region Court of Appeal.

#### *Legal Table*

No of Missions (Out of Yaounde)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	Prison term (in months)	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
16	3	0	0	8	1	29

#### Media

- **24 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, TV and internet including; 12 written press material (7 in English and 5 in French), 6 radio news flashes (3 in French and 3 in English), 1 radio news feature in French, 2 TV news productions (1 in French and 1 in English) and 3 internet publication (2 in French and 1 in English).
- Interviewees: Baina Patrice Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Control Post Doume and LAGA Deputy Director
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: a man arrested with elephant tusks in Bertoua, Doume arrest of three with pangolin scales, the rescue of 2 mandrills and the arrest of a man in Ambam and wildlife crime workshop.
- 12 media pieces in English and 12 in French making a percentage of 50% each in both English and French.

#### *Media Table*

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
24	2	7	12	3

## **External Relations and Policy**

- LAGA Director, arrived Cameroon for a week-long visit during which he held meetings with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. During one of the meetings with the minister, he was accompanied by the Deputy Director, discussions focused on issues of collaboration and wildlife law enforcement.
- He and the Deputy Director equally held meetings with the British High Commissioner, French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador and the European Union Head of Mission to discuss the wildlife law enforcement process in the country and its associated governance problems.
- They equally held a meeting with ZSL officials to examine the state of collaboration and proposals for better partnership.
- The Deputy Director held meetings with some US embassy officials to discuss strategies for effective wildlife law enforcement and he participated in a workshop on illegal wildlife trade organized by the British High Commission.
- He held a meeting with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and was accompanied by the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments. Discussions focused on investigations at the Nsimalen airport.
- The Deputy Director and departmental heads held a meeting with the Permanent Secretary and the Head of Administration and Finance of OCFSA, an intergovernmental body that focuses on wildlife conservation in the Central Africa sub-region. The meeting focused on creating a collaborative platform in fighting wildlife crimes. He followed a two-day training on project evaluation with Human rights group RECODH.
- They equally held a meeting at the airport with the Chief of Nsimalen Forestry and Wildlife Control Post and the customs chief of brigade at the airport's freight section.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Mary Pons of the Papaye Chimpanzee Sanctuary who was accompanied by the Conservator of Douala-Edea Reserve. The meeting focused on examining and proposing solutions to some conservation and security problems at the sanctuary.
- The Assistant Head of the Media and External Relations Department held a meeting with the Head of the Communications Unit at the ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss on how to improve media activity and collaboration between the two communication units.
- The Head of the Legal Department participated in a workshop in Douala on the "Validation of Training Modules for the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon". During the workshop, he did a presentation on establishing wildlife offence statements, monitoring and support of wildlife crime litigation in court. He also held meetings with the state counsels of Ambam and Djoum to discuss issues related to cases pending in their respective jurisdictions.
- Several meetings were held by the legal advisers with state counsels in Bangangte, Dschang, Bertoua and the advocate general of the East Court of Appeal to discuss issues related to pending cases in their respective jurisdictions.

## **Management**

- The Head of the Legal Department at EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire arrived for a short training and experience sharing mission.
- Recruitment process in the legal and media departments were reinitiated and one candidate selected to start her volunteering at the legal department next month.

## **Activism Front:**

### **Presentation: The Franc CFA, a tool to control African states within the franc zone**

The presentation that was done by the Head of the Legal Department goes down memory lane, explaining how the colonial history of a currency that was forced upon African French colonies and designed singularly for the benefit of the metropole – France. It describes the changes that took place after independence and the split into the West and Central Africa franc zones. The presenter argues that is a system that blocks economic growth for these countries and hampers their economic independence with France holding exchange reserves worth 12 billion euros for these countries. The fixed exchange rate to the euro has disadvantaged the competitiveness of these economies and France's participation in the management of the two central banks is an absurdity considering these banks are for independent states. Criticisms of CFA F was unanimous and bitter because of the inability or the unwillingness of African leaders to strip off this currency for independent national currencies. The currency is a reminder of the hated colonial past and the master perpetuating the legacy. This is just one of the reasons France is not roundly loved by the people of Francophone Africa.

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

### **Finance**

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

### **Link of the month**

Alwihda info, a news site published the arrest of three traffickers in Doume in East region of Cameroon with 35kg of pangolin scales. One of the traffickers who escaped the initial arrest could not stand losing his bike and decided to come back and corrupt the gendarmes who could not have dreamed better, he was immediately arrested.

[https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-des-trafiquants-fauniques-arretes-a-Doume\\_a64294.html](https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-des-trafiquants-fauniques-arretes-a-Doume_a64294.html)

### **Youtube Statics:**

2605 views within 2 weeks

## **This Month in Pictures**



*The Deputy Director presenting group work during workshop organized by the British High Commission.*



*The Head of Legal Department at EAGLE Ivory Coast says goodbye to LAGA after spending close to two weeks in the country where he had training sessions in all departments.*