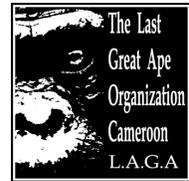


# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA



## May 2018 Report

### Highlights

- **8 traffickers arrested during 3 different operations, ivory, hippo teeth and pangolin scales seized.**
- **4 traffickers arrested in Santchou with ivory, pangolin scales and elephant bones.**
- **A trafficker arrested in Bertoua with 7 ivory tusks and hippo teeth**
- **3 traffickers arrested in Doume with over 35 kg of pangolin scales**
- **The deputy director held a meeting with an official of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement of the US State Department.**
- **The head of the investigations department travelled to Togo to train and assist investigations in the Togolese project.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **8 traffickers during three different operations.**

**4 traffickers were arrested in Santchou, West Region with an ivory tusk, elephant bones and pangolin scales.** The four who arrived on bikes with bags of contraband were arrested as they were just about to illegally sell the products. One of the traffickers had been on the run and was a major target for arrest by the Santchou wildlife reserve conservator.

During the second operation of the month, **a trafficker was arrested in Bertoua, East Region with 7 ivory tusks and hippo teeth.** He had travelled from the North with the products that was concealed in a truck ferrying cattle to the East region to sell the contraband. He bought the ivory in Ngong where a thriving black market for ivory exists, located some 45km from Garoua,.

**3 traffickers arrested with 35kg of pangolin scales in Doume in the East Region.** They buy pangolin scales from surrounding villages and sell to other traffickers in big commercial centres of Yaounde and Douala. One of the traffickers escaped during the operation but was later arrested as he tried to recover his motorbike he left behind when escaping. The bike was impounded when he escaped.

The deputy director held a meeting at the US Embassy with an official from the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement of the US State Department who was on a working visit to the country.

## Investigations

- **32 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **4 Regions** of Cameroon and Togo viz: Littoral, Center, South and East Regions.
- Good investigations in **Santchou** led to the arrest of **4 traffickers with an elephant tusk, elephant bones and pangolin scales.**
- Good investigation in **Ngong** through **Garoua** led to the arrest of a trafficker with **4 elephant tusks and 3 hippo teeth in Bertoua.**
- Good investigation in **Doume** led to the arrest of **3 traffickers with 35kg of pangolin scales.**
- The head of department and his assistant held a meeting at the Nsimalen airport with the newly appointed head of CAAT to strengthen working relations.
- The head of the investigations department travelled to Togo to train investigators and provide operational assistance to the Togolese project

*Investigations Table*

<b>Investigation Missions</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No. of Operations</b>	<b>No of traffickers arrested</b>
32	4	3	8

## Operation

**3 operations** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 8 traffickers.**

**4/5/2018** - During the first operation, **four traffickers were arrested with an ivory tusk, pangolin scales, elephant bones in Santchou, West Region.** 4 traffickers were arrested with an ivory tusk, pangolin scales and elephant bones. They transported the contraband using motorbikes as is generally the case with traffickers, who use this means of transport that is very flexible and easy to use for escape when threatened. They were arrested shortly after they began negotiations to sell the products some of which originated from the nearby Santchou wildlife reserve. The reserve is being depleted of its wildlife resources and is in a very bad state. One of the traffickers was already known to the conservator of the reserve as a major target for arrest. He was very alert and attempted to escape when he realized the team was moving in for the operation.

**23/5/2018 – A trafficker arrested in Bertoua, East Region with 4 ivory tusks and 3 hippo teeth.** He attempted to move the ivory and hippo teeth from its hideout when he was arrested. He transported the contraband hidden inside a truck transporting cattle from the North where he bought the ivory to East of the country and was just about to move the products for trafficking. The operation uncovers a trafficking route that moves in the opposite direction to that generally used by ivory traffickers. Normally, they would move ivory from the South and East regions to the North where it is smuggled across to Nigeria that has not yet put in place strong wildlife law enforcement measures. The ivory this time around was moved in the opposite direction, from the North to the East. The trafficker also dealt in leopard and lion skins as well.

**30/5/2018 - 3 traffickers were arrested in Doume, East Region with 35kg of pangolin scales.** The arrest was done in two phases. During the first phase, two of the three suspects were arrested with a bag containing the pangolin scales and were taken to the gendarmerie brigade alongside two bikes the traffickers had used for transporting the contraband. During the operation, as the two were being arrested, the third trafficker escaped leaving behind his bike. When he realized that the bike had been impounded and taken to the gendarmerie brigade, he came back to the brigade to bribe for the release of the bike and was gratefully arrested. The traffickers buy the scales from smaller traffickers in villages around Doume and sell to bigger traffickers in some commercial centres including Yaounde and Douala.

*Operations Table*

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
3	2	8	5 ivory tusks 38kg of pangolin scales 3 hippo teeth An elephant jawbone

### Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **14 missions** in and out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 1 in Mfou (Centre Region), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 4 in Djoum (South), 2 in Dschang (West), 2 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Among-Mbang (East), 1 in Doume (East) and 2 in Tiko (South West).
- There are **21 dealers behind bars this month**: 6 in East region, 2 in Adamaoua Region, 1 in Southwest Region, 4 in West Region, 7 in South Region, and 1 in Littoral Region.
- **30 cases** were followed up by the legal department this month.
- **24 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **No dealers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court rulings this month.

### *Legal Table*

No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	Prison term (in months)	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
14	0	0	0	0	0	24

### **Media**

- **47 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio and internet including; 21 written press material (15 in English and 6 in French), 17 radio news flashes (9 in French and 8 in English) and 9 internet publications (6 in French and 3 in English).
- Interviewee: Captain Alim, head of the investigations bureau at the Gendarmerie Legion in Bertoua and Baina Patrice, who is head of the Doume Forestry and Wildlife Control Post
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Djoum ivory court case, the seizure of hundreds of carved ivory and the arrest of 2 persons at a craft shop in Yaounde.
- 26 media pieces in English and 21 in French making a percentage of 55.3% in English and 44.7% in French.

### *Media Table*

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
47	0	17	21	9

### **External Relations and Policy**

- The deputy director held a meeting with an official of INL at the US Embassy to discuss on wildlife law enforcement and governance issues in the forestry sector and equally accompanied her and an Embassy official to the Mvogbetsi zoo where they were taken around by the conservator who presented the few wildlife species found in the zoo.
- The head of the legal department held a meeting with the state counsel in Abong Mbang to discuss legal strategies prior to the operation carried out in Doume and, he equally held two meetings alongside a legal adviser with a state counsel at the Bertoua Court of First Instance to put in place a legal strategy prior to the operation in Bertoua and after the operation for assessment and legal follow-up. Another legal adviser, accompanied by a volunteer at the legal department held a meeting with the attorney general of the East Court of Appeal to discuss legal strategies concerning the matter pending before the court and the head of the legal department held another meeting with the state counsel in Djoum for a matter pending before his court involving a gendarmerie colonel.

## **Management**

- Preparations for the visit of the director were carried out.
- A volunteer continued his training and testing period at the legal department.

## **Activism Front:**

### ***Ted talk video: The skill of self confidence***

While many think talent is the most important thing to have in athleticism, Dr. Ivan Joseph, a professional coach thinks self-confidence is and primordial in not only athleticism but our lives. This short video on Ted Talk takes us through how important is self confidence in achieving great successes and how it dictates whether we become successful in our goals and lives. The presentation that was done in the English language was briefly summarized in French by the deputy director who explained in greater details some of the things presented by the Ted Talk guest of the day. The talk was very explanatory and was seen very much as an advice that didn't necessitate much ado and analysis.

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>.

## **Link of the month**

The seizure of hundreds of ivory and the involvement of two persons arrested in Yaounde hotel, was published on Camer.be site.

<http://www.camer.be/67409/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-over-one-hundredof-carved-ivory-pieces-seized-in-hotel-shop-in-yaounde.html>

## **Youtube Statatics:**

2605 views within 2 weeks

## **Finance**

Please check LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) for monthly financial reports.

**This Month in Pictures**



*Four in front of Gendarmerie brigade following arrest for ivory and pangolin scale trafficking (above)*



*Two pangolin scale traffickers at the wildlife office shortly after they were found with 35kg of pangolin scales they were looking forward to selling, a third trafficker who escaped was later arrested (above)*



*Trafficker at gendarmerie legion following his arrest with ivory and hippo teeth which he transported from the north hidden inside a cattle truck.*