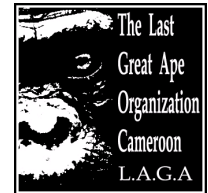


# The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

## April 2014 Report



### Highlights

- **3 dealers arrested during two operations with 2 leopards skins and giant pangolin scales seized.**
- **Notorious recidivist female trafficker arrested in Yaounde.**
- **MINFOF South, lack of collaboration and failure to forward to court suspect illegally keeping a live chimpanzee in Ambam, South Region.**
- **LAGA Director travels to Kenya to prospect on possibilities of kick-starting replication project.**

### General

Three people were arrested this month..

In a LAGA - MINFOF operation carried out in Yaounde, a female **trafficker was arrested with 4 bags of giant pangolin scales** mixed with other pangolin scales seized.. The woman who is a repeat offender and had earlier been arrested in December 2012 for trafficking in gorilla limbs is suspected to have international connections in countries such as Gabon and Canada. She is believed to have played a central role in the trafficking of bushmeat over a long time.

In Dschang in the West Region, **2 wildlife traffickers were arrested** with two leopard skins found in their possession. The two proved to be skilled professionals in the illegal leopard skin trade as they moved wildlife law enforcement officers around for several hours before their arrest in an attempt to evade possible arrest. They are established dealers and members of a network trafficking leopard skins across the West Region that has witnessed numerous arrests of leopard skin traffickers within the past 3 months.

In the South Region, **lack of collaboration and breach of procedure was observed when Regional officials of MINFOF and those of the Ntem Valley Divisional Delegation failed to arrest a man who was found to be in illegal possession of a live chimpanzee by refusing to send a team to the field.** The act comes to stop the prosecution process that was supposed to be carried out after diligent investigations had provided clear evidence of the presence of a young live chimpanzee in the keeping of the offender.

The Director of LAGA travelled to Kenya to prospect on kick-starting a replication project in the country and to share experiences concerning wildlife law enforcement.

## Investigations

- **16 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon – Littoral, West, South, Center and East
- Good investigations led to arrest operations in the West Region against dealers in leopard skins.
- LAGA informants gave good information that led to the arrest of a female dealer in giant pangolin scales.
- An operation was carried out in Yaounde that led to the setting free of 2 parrots to the wild.
- A diligent investigation carried out in Ambam – South led to the identification of a live chimpanzee although an operation against the offender was never carried out .

## Operations

**2 operations** carried out this month with MINFOF arresting **3 suspects**

- **07/04/14 – 2 major dealers arrested with 2 skins in Dschang** – West while illegally trying to trade in them; they are known to have been in the business for a long time and also sell the skins in Douala and other big cities in the country. This time they were so cautious that they even consulted an oracle through a witch doctor early in the morning of that day, to know if they would be arrested or not. Unfortunately for them, the prediction by the witch doctor that no arrest would take proved momentarily wrong as they were nabbed at about 1 pm.
- **14/04/14 – A long time female recidivist trafficker** arrested with 4 big sacs of giant pangolin scales and other related scales in Yaounde. She is also involved in bush meat trading and has a ready market with the Chinese.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **16 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Mfou (Centre), 2 In Nanga Eboko (Centre), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 3 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Bangangté (West), 2 in Dschang (West), 1 in Bafoussam (West), 1 in Ambam (South) and 1 in Mamfe (South West).
- There are **30 dealers behind bars during this month**: 14 in the East Region, 9 in Centre region, 2 in North Region and 3 in South Region, 3 in West Region.
- **38 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **30 cases** are scheduled and being tried in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: No court ruling was handed down this month.

## Media front

- **4 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, written press, tv and including: 21 written press material (9 in English 12 in French), 4 radio talk show all in English, 11 news flashes (8 in English and 3 in French), 2 tv productions all in French and 3 internet publications (1 in English and 2 in French).
- **Guests include**: Lecturer in the Garoua wildlife school.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including**: Dschang arrest of 2 leopard skins dealers and, notorious female dealer arrested in Yaounde.
- 22 media pieces in English, 20 in French making a percentage of 52.38% in English and 47.62% in French.

## External Relations and Policy

- As part of the organization committee, the Head of the Media and External Relations Department attended three preparatory meetings for the national symposium on the freedom

of assembly and protest that took place in Yaounde. He equally attended the symposium and was one of two rapporteurs who produced the final report of the symposium.

- The Director of LAGA accompanied by the Head of the Media and External Relations Department held a meeting with the newly appointed British High Commissioner and his Deputy at the British High Commission. It was an introductory meeting aimed at explaining the wildlife law enforcement process in the country, presenting some challenges involved and to examine possible areas of collaboration and support from the British High Commission.

### **Management**

- LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to share experiences with the Kenyan wildlife officials and to prospect on the possibility of kick starting a wildlife law enforcement project built on the LAGA model.
- The Director of LAGA appointed 3 staff members to positions of responsibility. Among the positions were two newly created posts; interim director and deputy director. Arrey Emmanuel Enow was appointed to the post of Interim Director who shall act in lieu and during the absence of the Director while the Head of Media and External Relations Department was appointed as Deputy Director. The vacant post of Head of the Legal Department received a new appointee in the person of Nya Aime Frisco who is a jurist with the department.

### **Activism Front**

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

### **Replication**

During this month, LAGA worked with other replication projects in planning and coordinating missions with PALF, AALF, TALFF and GALF on investigations, operations and financial procedures.

The management department worked on arrangements relating to the coming of a Kenyan jurist to Cameroon for a training with LAGA.

### **Finance**

**In preparation, will be made available as soon as possible**

## This Month in Pictures



Above woman arrested with 4 bags of giant pangolin scales mixed with other pangolin scales. This is not her first act as she had been arrested in December 2012 with gorilla limbs



Bags of giant pangolin scales mixed with other pangolin scales seized from notorious female trafficker in Yaounde. Giant pangolins are totally protected species



Left, two major traffickers arrested while trying to illegally trade in leopard skin. They are suspected to having connections to the illegal trade in leopard skin in a the West Region that has witnessed the arrest of numerous traffickers in leopard skin within the last 3 months. Right, Leopard skins seized from traffickers.



## **Link of this month**

- A trafficker in elephant parts arrested in Mindourou East Region – News on Canal 2 International. The trafficker was arrested with 4 elephant skulls and 4 elephant jaw bones in Mindourou by officials of the Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife of the upper Nyong Division, East region of Cameroon.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FN-9UxLFPr8>