

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

February 2017 Report



Highlights

- **This month no operations took place, new strategies are formulated to ensure more arrests next month.**
- **The Head of Legal Department did a presentation on the writing of complaint statements and follow-up of case during an international workshop that took place in Douala.**
- **The Head of Investigations Department took part in the National Anti Poaching Committee meeting held in Mbalmayo.**
- **The Deputy Director took part in event that witnessed the burning of 3 tons of pangolin scales in Yaounde.**
- **Assistant Coordinator of SALF arrived Cameroon for a short training mission.**

General

The Head of the Legal Department did a presentation on writing complaint statements and follow up of cases during an international workshop bringing together participants from the magistracy, customs, police, wildlife department and NGOs. The Head of the Investigations Department attended the Anti Poaching Committee Meeting that sought to revamp its activities after a long period of relapse and The Deputy Director attended the occasion that was organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to burn three tons of pangolin scales seized during wildlife law enforcement operations in the country and prior to the event he held a brief meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to discuss pangolin issues and the scales destruction..

- **This month no operations took place, new strategies are formulated to ensure more arrests next month.**

Investigations

- **13 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon -Littoral, East, Center, and South Regions.
- The Head of Investigations represented the organisation in the National Anti Poaching Committee meeting.
- **This month no operations took place, new strategies are formulated to ensure more arrests next month.**

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
13	5	0	0

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **8 missions** out of Yaoundé- Centre Region: 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Mbanga (Littoral), 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Mfou (Centre), 1 Nsimalen, 1 in Dschang (West), and 2 in Batouri (East).
- There are **24 traffickers behind bars this month**: 6 in East region, 2 in Centre region, 3 in Northwest region, 4 in Southwest region, 3 in West region, 3 in South region and 3 in Littoral region.
- **34 cases** were followed up by the legal department this month.
- **29 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- No traffickers were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court rulings this month.
- The Head of the Legal Department did a presentation on writing complaint statements and follow up of cases during an international workshop bringing together participants from the magistracy, customs, police, wildlife department and NGOs. The objectives of the workshop that was organized by TRAFFIC included training of personnel on product identification and techniques and procedures of investigating wildlife crimes.

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
8	0	0	0	0	0	34

Media

- **24 media pieces** were produced and pushed through in written press, radio, TV and internet including; 10 written press material (5 in English and 5 in French), 10 radio news flashes (6 in French and 4 in English), 1 TV production (1 in French) and 3 internet production (all in French).
- Interviewee: Forestry engineer at the Littoral Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife and Charlotte Houpline Coordinator of SALF.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Douala arrest of two Chinese nationals with over 5 ton of pangolin scales, two arrested in Yaounde with zebra and leopard skins, the arrest OF big time primate trafficker in Guinea and the incineration of over 3 tons pangolin scales by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.
- 15 media pieces in French and 9 in English making a percentage of 62.5% in French and 37.5% in English.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
24	1	10	10	3

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director attended the occasion that was organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to burn three tons of pangolin scales seized during wildlife law enforcement operations in the country and prior to the event he held a brief meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to discuss pangolin matters and the scales destruction. He was accompanied to the scales destruction ceremony by the Head of Investigations Department.
- The Deputy Director attended a meeting of technical partners of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife who work under the group called CCPM. Discussions focused on various conservation issues including wildlife law enforcement and LAGA was present for the first time after several months of absence.
- The Head of the Legal Department did a presentation on writing complaint statements and follow up of cases during an international workshop bringing together participants from the magistracy, customs, police, wildlife department and NGOs. The objectives of the workshop

that was organized by TRAFFIC included training of personnel on product identification and techniques and procedures of investigation wildlife crimes.

- The Head of the Investigation Department attended the National Anti Poaching committee meeting that sought to revamp its activities. He introduced key concepts on wildlife crime that may lead to changes in the name of the committee.
- Several meetings were held by legal advisers with state prosecutors in Mbanga, Douala – Bonaberi, Ebolowa and Dschang to discuss issues related to cases within their jurisdiction.

Management

- Cecile Bloch, the coordination assistant of SALF joined the Cameroon team for training as part of her preparation for being appointed the coordinator of SALF.
- Recruitment process in the investigations department continued with interviews conducted and advert for the position of internet investigator done..

Activism Front: Movie – Racing Extinction

An award nominated movie that describes the extinction of wildlife species in a comprehensive and holistic manner, looking at the problem from several sides while portraying the work of artists, scientists, journalists and others who attempt to bring to light the role of man in this unprecedented destruction. They equally look AT solutions to the problems. The 2015 film is an excellent showpiece of the extinction problem and the politics of getting humans to work for conservation. It exposes the huge illegal trade in wildlife and its ability to destroy whole species to extinction. For example, horrific scenes show thousands of shark fins destined for the restaurant business. The role of global warming is highlighted as some species cannot adapt to temperature changes and chemical composition of oceans etc. Discussions focused on the role of man, the work we are doing, the politics of conservation and politicians unwilling to make the right decisions.

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/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

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Finance

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible.

This Month in Pictures



Over three tons of pangolin scales go up in flames for the first time in Africa during a ceremony organised for the event. The profile of the pangolin is gradually improving as the illegal trade in scales is growing at breakneck speed

Links of the month

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

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