

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## July 2016 Report



### Highlights

- **A trafficker arrested in Njombe, Littoral Region with 8 sea turtle shells**
- **EAGLE Financial Officer completed an audit and financial management assistance mission to the country.**
- **Recruitment of an internet investigator and an accountant - interviews conducted.**
- **The first semester ended with 20 arrests, with 71% staying behind bars from the moment of arrest while media pieces were published at the rate of one per day.**
- **2016 First Semester Report was compiled and published online**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **a trafficker during an operation.**

The operation was carried out in **Njombe in the Littoral Region** arresting **one trafficker with 8 sea turtle shells.** The illegal business that he has been running for a couple of years include trafficking in a number of protected wildlife species including crocodiles and several primate species from different classes of protection.

The EAGLE Financial Officer left the country after two weeks of auditing and financial management support to LAGA.

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.

The month was generally very slow and results were below the required standards and measures are being put in place to ensure that there are improvements next month.

20 arrests were carried out during the first semester with 71% of those arrested staying behind bars from the moment of arrest while a media piece was published each day during the same period. This is contained in the 2016 First Report that was published online on LAGA's website.

## Investigations

- **6 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **7 Regions** of Cameroon: Littoral, East, West, Centre, South, Adamaoua, and north Regions.
- Good investigations in Njombe, Littoral led to the arrest of one trafficker with 08 Sea turtle shells

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
6	7	1	1

## Operation

**One operation** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting a trafficker**.

- **7/07/16 – one traffickers 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 contraband. 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.

*Operations Table*

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
1	1	1	8 Sea turtle shells

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **11 missions** out of Yaoundé - Centre Region: 1 in Nsimalen (Centre), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bafang (West), 1 in Njombe-Penja (Littoral), 1 in Lomie (East), 1 in Mamfe (South-West), 1 in Buea South-West, 1 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Bamenda ( North West).
- There are **36 traffickers behind bars this month**: 10 in East region, 4 in Centre Region 5 in North West Region, 4 in South West Region, 2 in North region, 4 in West Region, 6 in South Region and 1 in Littoral Region.
- **29 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **27 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.

- No dealers were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions:** There were no court rulings this month because of adjournments that were requested to give enough time for proper trial and punishment of the accused for some of the cases and the month of July is within a period reserved for magistrates to take annual leaves.

*Legal Table*

No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
11	0	0	0	0	27

**Media**

- **18 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio and internet including; 10 written press material (7 in English and 3 in French), 5 radio news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English) and 3 internet publications (2 in French and 1 in English).
- Interviewee:
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Abong Mbang arrest of two traffickers with 13 chimp skulls and an arrest of a man in possession of sea turtle shells in Njombe.
- 18 media pieces in English and 7 in French making a percentage of 61% in English and 39% in French.
- An American TV Documentary team worked with the Media Department and filmed some activities of the organisation.

*Media Table*

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
18	0	5	10	3

**External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director held a meeting Nancy Gelman from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Tarla Francis of the Mentor PoP Fellowship programme. He equally met with Alexandre Borde, Chief Executive Officer of Carbonium, 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.

- Several meetings were held by the Head of the Legal Department and some legal assistants with State Counsels in Douala, Abong Mbang, Njombe-Penja and in Mamfe, Djoum to discuss cases in their jurisdiction.

### **Management**

- The new accountant who started work in April resigned her position to travel to the UK to meet her husband who is resident there.
- A recruitment and selection process for a new accountant was launched with job adverts posted in newspapers. Applications files were screened with 4 candidates selected and given an interview. The recruitment process is ongoing with the EAGLE Financial Officer assisting with an online Skype interview.
- The recruitment of a new investigator reached its final stages with 2 candidates interviewed and one chosen for a trial period.
- The EAGLE Financial Officer finished her two-week auditing and financial management assistance mission to LAGA and travelled back to her station.
- Preparations were made for the visit of Head of Investigations of EAGLE Uganda
- The 2016 First Semester Report was compiled and published online.
- 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. Members shall be trained in the upcoming months as they attend the course in different badges.
- Procedure to open salary accounts for staff members was engaged at a bank.

### **Activism Front**

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>.

### **Finance**

**In preparation and would be made available soon as possible.**

## This Month in Pictures



*Arrested for trafficking in eight turtles shells, trafficker squats behind his booty shortly after his arrest by wildlife officials.*



*Trafficker at wildlife office for the writing of a complaint report, he admitted to selling a wide variety of wildlife species including the crocodile, the Nile monitor among others.*

## Links of the month

Cameroon's French language website Camerbe publishes the story of the arrest of the turtle shell trafficker in the Littoral Region and this was immediately picked up by some other online news sites.

[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-cameroon.html>