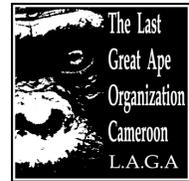


The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA



August 2018 Report

Highlights

- **Crackdown on international syndicated of pangolin scales traffickers carried out in Douala.**
- **6 traffickers arrested with 718kg of pangolin scales, over 600kg were giant pangolin scales transported from Bangui in the Central Africa Republic.**
- **The Deputy Director returned from the DRC where he granted two conferences at two universities.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **two traffickers**.

6 traffickers were arrested in a crackdown on a syndicate involving the DRC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria with 718kg of pangolin scales. The international network dealt in rhino horns and lion parts and had connections to Vietnam. Two of the traffickers are nationals of the Central African Republic. 690kg were giant pangolin scales and 571kg were transported from Bangui where one of the traffickers boarded a flight to Douala shortly before the contraband was smuggled to Cameroon.

The Deputy Director granted a conference at the University of Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo where he equally held meetings on wildlife law enforcement.

Investigations

- **25 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon and viz: Littoral, Center, West, South and East Regions.
- A transnational network of pangolin scales trafficker involving several countries including vietnam was investigated thanks to good collaboration within the network with the arrest of 6 traffickers with 718kg of pangolin scales in Douala.
- The head of department and the assistant had a meeting with Mr. Kwoge Abwe of the Ebo forest research project where they discussed on the situation of primates in the forest and the continuous activities of poachers there.
- The head of department had a meeting with the conservator of Yoko and they exchanged on the level of trafficking in his area.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
25	5	1	6

Operation

An operation carried out with MINFOF this month **arresting six traffickers**.

18/08/2018 – Six traffickers were arrested with 718kg of pangolin scales in Douala. One of the traffickers flew in from Bangui after smuggling 571kg of giant pangolin scales to Douala where he was arrested alongside five others including another Central African national. The pangolin scales driven in two cars to a neighborhood in Douala, where an illegal transaction was about to take place, but all 6 traffickers were arrested in an ambush. One of them attempted to escape but was quickly stopped. The network was involved rhino horns and lion trophy trafficking and had connections to Vietnam. The traffickers were very cautious, professional and smart in their transactions. They sourced the scales through lower level traffickers in Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and exporting them to Nigeria via Cameroon. Most of the 718kg of pangolin scales originated from the DRC where they have strong impunity and cover from members of the ruling elite. When the scales arrived in Nigeria, they were assembled for illegal export.

Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
1	1	6	718kg pangolin scales

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **7 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Ambam (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Ebolowa (South) and 1 in Abong-Mbang (East).
- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East region, 1 in Southwest region and 8 in South region.
- **31 cases** were followed up by the legal department this month.
- **26 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	1	31

Media

- **25 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, TV and internet including; 5 written press material (4 in English and 1 in French), 11 radio news flashes (8 in French and 3 in English), 7 internet publication (5 in French and 2 in English), and 2 TV broadcast (1 in French and 1 in English).

- Interviewee: Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, Interim delegate at the Wouri Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife, the Deputy Director of LAGA.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the arrest and court hearing of 2 men caught in Douala with a live Chimp as well as the crackdown operation arrest of 6 persons still in Douala with 718kg of pangolin scales.
- 14 media pieces in French and 10 in English making a percentage of 58.3% in French and 41.7% in English.
- The Deputy Director was guest at a TV news broadcast with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and they discussed the recent arrest of six pangolin scales traffickers.
- A new volunteer started her trial period after the highly selective process that saw hundreds of CVs examined and shortlisted candidates interviewed.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
24	2	5	11	6

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director returned from DR Congo where he granted two conferences on the Cameroon wildlife law enforcement model and held meetings with some university officials and teachers to discuss some wildlife crime and enforcement concepts and its inclusion in university curriculum.
- The Head of the Legal Department had a meeting with the state counsel of Djoum to discuss legal strategies concerning the matter pending before his court and accompanied by a legal adviser he held another meeting with the state counsel at Douala – Bonanjo on the arrest of pangolin scale traffickers. He later held a meeting with the head of the legal unit at the Ministry to discuss a matter at the Djoum court and with the Director of Wildlife to discuss the Teng case.
- A legal adviser and a volunteer held another meeting with the Director of Wildlife on the same case and another volunteer held a meeting with the state counsel in Abong Mbang on matters pending in the courts. Meetings were equally held by legal advisers with the state counsels in Ambam and Douala – Ndokoti on matters taking place at the various courts.

Management

- The testing of a new volunteer was started at the Media department.
- The trial period of a new volunteer was ended due to insufficient demonstration of required skills and competences.

- LAGA continued search for a new office. The search was started last year because of the dilapidated state of the present office and the increase in the number of members who are finding it difficult to have enough space within the present structure.

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>.

Presentation: la traite negriere (Human Trafficking)

The presenter, a legal adviser, tackles one of the most baffling anachronism of our times, human trafficking. The mere existence of this form of trade or its brutality beats the mind but her presentation shows it is there and moving on strongly. She starts by introducing human trafficking while linking it up to slavery trade that existed in the past. She talks about its history, its different forms, the methods and evaluated of the situation with its consequences and challenges. While discussions invariably led to talking about slavery and other crimes such as paedophilia, law enforcement as part of the solution was discussed. The LAGA model had in the past been replicated in the domain and this was highlighted.

Link of the month

Alwihdainfo, a news site published the arrest of six traffickers in Douala in the Littoral Region of Cameroon in 718kg. The syndicate that runs a pangolin scale trafficking network in the RDC, CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria was dismantled as they attempted to traffic the scales with close to 600kg coming in from Bangui.

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-six-trafiquants-d-ecailles-de-pangolins-arretes-a-Douala_a66270.html

Youtube Statatics:

2605 views within 2 weeks

Finance

Please check LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org for monthly financial reports.

This Month in Pictures



Members of a syndicate of pangolin scales trafficking shortly after their arrest sitting at the premises of the wildlife office. Two are from the CAR



718kg of seized pangolin scales in front of the wildlife office in Douala

Van ferrying some of the pangolins scales impounded during arrest operations