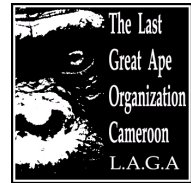


# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## October 2018 Report



### Highlights

- **The Deputy Director held a working session with customs officials to prepare an MoU to be signed between the two parties.**
- **The Assistant Head of the Media Department travelled to the Netherlands for a three-week training course on media campaign for social change.**
- **The Deputy Director gave an interview to the Chinese television channel CCTV on the illegal trade in apes in the country and sub region.**

### General

In view of intensifying the fight against wildlife trafficking, especially at exit ports of the country where considerable contraband passes through, discussions on an MoU to be signed by the customs department and LAGA, were held at the Customs Head Office in Yaounde. Three LAGA members, including the Deputy Director and two department heads participated in the discussions with officials.

**This month no operations took place; new strategies were formulated to ensure more arrests next month.**

## Investigations

- **21 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon including Littoral, Centre, South, West and East Regions.
- The head of department travelled to Douala to meet implement strategies that were developed earlier in the year to improve on the high profile investigations and to meet up with the requirements of the new generation of investigators.
- **This month no operations took place, but the department brainstormed and came out with new strategies to ensure more arrests next month.**

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
24	5	0	0

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **4 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Ambam (South) and 1 in Djoum (South).
- There are **13 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in East region, 1 in South West region, 3 in Centre Region and 6 in South region.
- **32 cases** were followed up by the legal department this month.
- **28 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **6 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were two court rulings this month.
  - **18/10/2018**: The Yaounde – Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused **MENDO’O KOTTO Christian** not guilty but found accused **NTOSSO JESMAIN Patrick, NJAYOU Maurice Florantin and TABOULLA TALLA Yves** guilty as charge and sentenced them to **one month in prison** each and **to pay 100.000 FCFA each as fines and 3.000.000 FCFA jointly as damages.**

They were arrested in Yaounde on the 20/09/2018 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 207 Kg of pangolin scales.

- **23/10/2018**: The Djoum Court of First Instance found the accused **NANGA Venant, DONGO DOUM Gervais and ALIOUM Souley** guilty as charged and sentenced them to **5 months in prison and to jointly pay 3.000.000 FCFA as fines and 53.000.000 FCFA as damages.**

They were arrested in Djoum on the 03/05/2018 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 106 ivory tusks.

- **Appeal:** An appeal has been filed this month in the case against **MENDO’O KOTTO Christian, NTOSSO JESMAIN Patrick, NJAYOU Maurice Florantin and TABOULLA TALLA Yves** at the Centre Court of Appeal.
- The head of the department, accompanied by a legal adviser, held a meeting with the MINFOF legal unit head to discuss cases handled by some lawyers.

*Legal Table*

No of Missions (Out of Yaounde)	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
4	2	6	6	0	1	28

**Media**

- **32 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, and internet including; 17 written press material (11 in English and 6 in French), 10 radio news flashes (4 in French and 8 in English), and 5 internet publication (2 in French and 3 in English).
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Douala arrest of six pangolin scales traffickers and the arrest of 4 pangolin scales traffickers in the same town, Yaounde arrest of policeman and three others with pangolin scales
- 18 media pieces in English and 14 in French making a percentage of 56% in English and 44% in French.
- The Assistant Head of the Media Department travelled to the Netherlands to participate in a training course on media campaign for development and social change. She attended lectures and practical sessions on creating stories, engaging audiences in order to bring positive change in the society.

*Media Table*

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
32	0	10	17	5

**External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director accompanied by the heads of the legal and investigations departments held a working meeting with customs officials to complete work of the terms of the MoU to be signed by the both parties
- He did an interview with the state run Chinese television channel CCTV on the trafficking of apes in the country and the sub region.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the state counsel in Djoum to discuss a case at his jurisdiction while some legal advisers held meetings with the state counsels in Douala Bonanjo and in Ambam, to discuss issues related to pending cases in their respective jurisdictions.

## **Management**

- Recruitment process in the legal continued and an advert on recruiting new volunteers for the department made public.
- One volunteer in the investigation department was removed after failing to attain the required standards following his training in the department.

## **Activism Front:**

### **Presentation: Domestic Pollution and its Impact on Health**

The presentation takes us through the various types of pollution and among those cited, the presenter tells us about air, water, soil, noise and domestic pollutions. On domestic pollution, he elaborates on what is meant by domestic pollution, that is referring to all harmful substances that are exposed at home or, more broadly in enclosed spaces, work and leisure area, public spaces etc. He equally defined more terms such as, pollution, household waste and pollutants. He described the consequences of domestic pollution on our health and ways of avoiding it. Debates focused on the role of individuals in ensuring pollution free environment, government's role in ensuring regulations governing the sector is respected and the bigger impact of this pollution on our health.

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 on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) .**

## **Link of the month**

Camer.be, a news site published an article on the court hearing of six traffickers arrested in Douala with over 700 pangolin scales. Three have failed to appear in court so far and the article questions the logic behind granting bails to traffickers who never show up in court.

<https://www.camer.be/70851/6:1/cameroon-cameroun-des-trafiquants-en-proces-comparaitront-ils-devant-le-tribunal-de-bonanjo.html>

## **YouTube Statistics:**

2605 views within 2 weeks



**This Month in Pictures**



*The Deputy Director in grey jacket and navy blue shirt accompanied by the heads of investigations and legal departments in talks with customs officials during MoU discussions*



*The media officer travelled to the Netherlands for a media training course and poses with some of her trainers at the media centre*