

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

August 2019 Report



Highlights

- **The Deputy Director held a meeting with the North West Chiefs of Customs Sector on the implementation on the MoU signed with the Customs Department.**
- **The Legal Department followed up several cases among which was the case on the trafficking of ivory 216 ivory tusks with connections to a gendarmerie colonel.**
- **The Deputy Director participated at two workshops where he carried out presentations on the challenges of wildlife law enforcement and the state of pangolin scales trafficking in the country and he had a briefing with a USFWS official who participated at one both workshops.**
- **The Deputy Director accompanied by the Head of Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with two Interpol officials to explore areas of collaboration and experience sharing**
- **There were no operations this month and strategies were re-examined to improve on the situation next month.**

General

The Deputy Director held a meeting with the North West Customs Chief of Sector in Bamenda and equally gave a talk to the staff of the Custom Sector on the implementation of the protocol agreement between Customs and LAGA. He did a presentation on the challenges to effective law enforcement during an international workshop that brought together members of the bushmeat working group CABAG and met several officials including a USFWS official. He equally did another presentation and partly facilitated a workshop organised by TRAFFIC on the creation of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group. A legal adviser did a presentation on the writing of effective offence statements for the benefit law enforcement agents and judicial officials.

No operations took place this month; new strategies were formulated to ensure more arrests next month.

Investigations

- **217 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon viz: Littoral, East, West, South and Centre Regions
- The Assistant Head of Department accompanied the Deputy Director to Bamenda where they held a meeting with the Chief of Customs Sector Northwest Region.
- **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
17	5	0	0

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Mbanga (Littoral), 1 in Ebolowa (South), 3 in Djoum (South), 2 in Sangmelima (South) and 1 in Bangangte (West).
- There are **12 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in East region, 3 in South region, 1 in Centre region and 5 in Littoral region.
- **26 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **23 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **3 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was 1 court ruling this month.
 - **20/08/2019**: The Sangmelima Court of First Instance found the accused **BERRY NGANE Stéphane** and **ZANG AFANE Daniel Patrick** guilty and sentenced them to **1 year prison sentence suspended during 3 years** and to **pay 300.000 FCFA each as fines** **BANGA Ruphin** was also found guilty and sentenced to **4 months prison sentence and to pay 50.000 FCFA as fines**. All of them were also sentenced to **jointly pay 4,000,000 FCFA as damages**. They were arrested in Sangmelima on the 11/04/2019 for illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of 5 ivory tusks and an elephant tail.

Legal Table

No of Missions (Out of Yaounde)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	Prison term (in)	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
10	1	1	4	1	0	36

Media

- **19 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, and internet including; 12 written press materials (6 in English and 6 French language each), 5 radio news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English) and 2 internet publications in French.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the court case of a policeman arrested with 1 ivory tusk and lion skulls among others in Yaounde and, the Loum arrest of 3 people with 4 leopard skins.
- 11 media pieces in French and 8 in English making a percentage of 57.9% in French and 42.1% in English.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
19	0	5	12	2

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting in Bamenda with the North West Chief of Customs Sector on the implementation on the MoU signed with the Customs Department and later granted a talk on the subject to the staff of the sector. He was accompanied by the Assistant Head of the Legal Department.
- The Deputy Director participated at an international workshop in Yaounde organised by the Bushmeat working group called CABAG and he did a presentation on the challenges to effective wildlife law enforcement. He met with some officials during the workshop among whom was Nancy Gelman, of the US Fish and Wildlife He also participated and partly facilitated another workshop organised by TRAFFIC where he did a presentation on the state of the illegal pangolin scales trade in the county.
- The Deputy Director accompanied by the Head of Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with two Interpol officials and he equally held briefing with to explore collaborative avenues and experience sharing.
- A legal adviser actively participated in a workshop in Sangmelima to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officials, prosecutors and ecoguards in the fight against poaching and trafficking in grey parrots in Cameroon where she did a presentation on establishing wildlife offence statements, investigation technics and intelligence gathering

- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the state counsel in Sangmelima to discuss legal strategies on a matter that was forwarded to him and a legal adviser held a meeting with the state counsel in Douala – Ndokoti while another legal adviser held a meeting with the state counsel in Djoim and a third legal adviser held a similar meeting with the state counsel in Mbanga all discussing legal strategies on matters pending in front of the respective courts.

Management

- The last batch of staff to undergo a first aid training completed their course and wrote an end of course examination organised by the Cameroon Red Cross.

Activism Front:

Presentation: The Last King of Scotland

Idi Amin ranks amongst one of the most brutal and violent dictators the world has seen and the movie reminds us of how just bad things were during his reign. The movie gives us a picture of the man, how he ruled Uganda and some of the most melodramatic moments of a dictator's life. He could be seen in glittering fun and amidst the violence and bloodshed. It reminds us of how far we have come from the period when coup d'états and military dictatorships were the norm. A comparative analysis of dictatorships in Africa then and now was carried out after the presentation.

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 .

Link of the month

Arrested for trafficking in lion skulls and a leopard skin, a police officer is facing trial for illegal possession of parts of protected wildlife species and as the date of the hearing of the case approached alwidha info.com carried the story to remind readers that the suspect shall soon stand trial.

https://www.alwidhainfo.com/Cameroun-Yaounde-Un-policier-au-tribunal-pour-traffic-d-especes-sauvages_a76272.html

This Month in Pictures



The Deputy Director presenting the state of pangolin scales trafficking in the country at Mbankomo.