

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

February 2022 Report



Highlights

- **A trafficker arrested in Bonis, near Bertoua East Region with 246kg of pangolin scales representing a massacre of more than a thousand pangolins.**
- **2 more traffickers arrested in Melong, Littoral Region with a leopard skin and a civet skin.**

General

The month was marked by the **arrest of 3 traffickers, one with 246kg of pangolin scales and 2 others with a leopard skin and a civet skin.**

A trafficker arrested in Bonis, near Bertoua, East Region with 246kg of pangolin scales, and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected.

2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Melong, Littoral Region. One of the traffickers transported the skins hidden in bags containing locally made kitchen utensils for over 60km to the town where they were arrested. He ran a small shop as a cover business for wildlife trafficking.

Investigations

- **14 investigation missions** out in **5 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including: Littoral, West, Centre, South and East Regions.
- Good investigation in Bertoua led to the arrest of a 1 trafficker with 246kg of pangolin scales, 2 carcasses of pangolin, a smoked monkey carcass and parts of smoked bush meat in Bonis, near Bertoua
- Good investigation in Melong led to the arrest of 2 skin traffickers with 1 leopard skin and 1 civet skin in Melong.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
14	5	2	3

Operation

2 operations carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 3 traffickers**.

8/02/2022 – A trafficker was arrested in Bonis, East Region with 242kg of pangolin scales and in a refrigerator more pangolins and monkey carcasses found. He activated several traffickers and poachers in the area, who supplied the illegal products. He equally bought small quantities of scales locally from bushmeat traffickers. He used his entire family including his wife and children in running the illegal pangolin scales trade. The children would go around the town, collecting the scales. He had the storage facilities for keeping the big quantities of contraband he collected. The seizure represents a massacre of more than a thousand pangolins.

23/02/2022 – 2 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin in Melong, Littoral Region. One of the traffickers transported the skins hidden in bags containing locally made kitchen utensils from Mbouda to Melong where he was arrested. He ran a small shop, selling hardware and used the business as a cover business for wildlife trafficking. This explained why he concealed the skins among kitchen utensils as he moved the contraband from Mbouda to Melong. He belongs to a network of traffickers dealing in cat skins in an area notorious for the illegal activity. They arrived to the place of transaction on a motorbike with the skins.

.
. .
. .
. .

Operations Table

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
2	2	3	246kg of pangolin scales and several pangolin and monkey carcasses a leopard skin, a civet skin.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **11 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Kribi (South), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Melong-Nkongsamba (Littoral), 1 in Mbankomo (Centre), 3 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Dschang (West) and 1 in Bafang (West).
- There are **15 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East Region, 2 in South, Region, 1 in Centre, 1 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **26 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **22 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court rulings this month.

Legal Table

<i>No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)</i>	<i>No of Court Judgements</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence</i>	<i>Prison term (in months)</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)</i>	<i>No of Appeals lodged</i>	<i>No of Cases Tried in Courts</i>
11	0	0	0	0	0	22

Media

- 26 media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio, TV and internet. That is 7 written press (4 in English language and 3 in French language), 13

radio news flashes (9 in English language and 4 in French language), 3 TV productions (1 in English, French and Pidgin English each) and 3 internet production (2 in French and 1 in English).

- Giving a total of 15 media pieces produced in the English language, 10 in the French and 1 in Pidgin English making 57.7% in English, 38.5% in French and 3.8% in Pidgin English.
- Interviewee: The Lom & Djerem Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, LAGA Head of Media Department.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the arrest of a trafficker with 246kg of pangolin scales in Bertoua and the arrest of two more traffickers in possession of a leopard and civet skins in Nkongsamba.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
26	3	13	7	3

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the South African based Institute for Security Studies to discuss wildlife crime in the sub region.
- He participated at a meeting that included wildlife and NGO officials to discuss sections of the new wildlife bill that tackles wildlife crime.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department, participated at a zoom meeting of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group to plan activities for the World Pangolin Day.
- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop in Douala that focused on enabling participants from Gabon, Congo, CAR and Cameroon understand the functioning of the data collection app, Timby.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department, participated at a zoom meeting of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group to plan activities for the World Pangolin Day.
- The Head of the Legal Department, accompanied by a legal adviser, held a meeting with State Counsel in Nkongsamba to discuss legal strategies shortly before an operation while he held a meeting with the Ebolowa State Counsel to discuss legal strategies. He was accompanied by a legal adviser.
- Two legal advisers held a meeting with Bertoua State Counsel to discuss an ongoing case and two legal advisers held another meeting with the Attorney General of Douala to discuss an ongoing wildlife case.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the State Counsel of Bafang and Ebolowa respectively, to discuss ongoing court cases at their various jurisdictions.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Dschang to discuss an ongoing case.

Management

- The Deputy Director participated at a workshop in Douala to understand the functioning of a data collection and analysis tool, Timby and evaluate its usefulness for LAGA and the EAGLE Network.

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 on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org .

Link of the month

Camer be, an online news site this month published the story of a trafficker arrested with 246kg of pangolin scales, 3 more pangolins and monkey carcasses and 48kg of bushmeat in Bertoua.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/89866/11:1/cameroun-a-trafficker-arrested-with-pangolin-scales-cameroon.html>

This Month in Pictures



He was found with 246kg of pangolin scales and carcasses of wildlife species loaded in a refrigerator



Arrested with a leopard skin and a civet skin during their attempts at selling them

