

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

January 2016 Report



Highlights

- **3 cybercriminals arrested in Douala with falsified CITES permits advertising lions and cheetahs for online sale**
- **Work resumed after an end of year vacation that enabled staff to take a rest.**
- **LAGA receives fellows of Pangolin Mentor PoP Fellowship programme who were visiting the office for the first time.**

General

This month was marked by **1 operation** that led to the arrest of **3 wildlife traffickers**.

The operation was carried out in **Douala, Littoral Region** and this led to the **arrest of three cybercriminals who had advertised two lion cubs and two cheetah cubs through the internet**. The three had forged documents including CITES permits that enabled them to convince clients abroad that they had the legal authorisation to export wildlife from the country. The first two criminals were arrested as they attempted to finalise transactions while, the third one, the suspected boss of the whole group, was arrested soon afterwards. Their transactions were mainly done through the internet including the use of websites and email.

The entire LAGA family resumed work after a vacation during the end of year festive period after a very successful last year that attained all the targets.

Investigations

- **Six investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** of Cameroon namely Littoral, East, North West, Center, and South Regions.
- Thorough and extensive internet investigations led to the arrest of 3 cybercriminals attempting to sell feline cubs through the internet.
- The Head of Investigations held meetings with Chiefs of Forestry and Wildlife Control Posts in Bota and Tiko and in Fako with Divisional Delegation Officials to build relationships and collaborate on investigations. .

Operation

One operation carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 3 traffickers.**

- **30/01/16 – Three wildlife trafficking cybercriminals arrested in Douala, in the Littoral Region for cyber trafficking and scamming after attempting to sell 2 lion and 2 cheetah cubs through an internet transaction.** The 3 cybercriminals were arrested after advertising and transacting on the sale of two lion cubs and two cheetah cubs through the internet. After months of collaborative efforts and days of patience in Douala waiting for the cybercriminals to make a move, the team of wildlife officials and the police carried out the operation that got them arrested. The first two criminals were arrested as they attempted to finalise transactions while, the third one, the suspected boss of the whole group, was arrested soon afterwards. This was not the first attempt by the three who are all family members: two brothers are law students at the University and a cousin of theirs who is an accountant. They had used forged CITES permits with a fake signature of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife among other forged documents.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **3 missions** out of Yaoundé- Centre Region:1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Douala (Littoral) and 1 in Kumbo.
- There are **27 dealers behind bars during this month:** 11 in East Region, 5 in Centre region, 4 in North West Region, 3 in South West Region and 4 in Littoral region.
- **21 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **20 cases** scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **Prosecutions:** We had 3 judgments this month.
 - **26/01/2016:** The Batouri Court of First Instance – East, found the accused **MBOROBEN MARIUS** and **YINAFO ESSAIE** guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and were sentenced to: - **2 months imprisonment term each** and ordered to pay **1,450,000 CFA F for civil damages, fines of 500,000 CFA F and cost fees of 38,500 CFA F.** They were arrested in Batouri for illegal possession and circulation of 2.5 kg of giant pangolin and 2 chimpanzee skulls.
 - **27/01/2016:** The Bertoua Court of First Instance- East, found the accused **NJIKAM ABDOURAMANI** guilty of illegal possession and commercialization of trophies of totally protected species and was sentenced to: **55 days imprisonment and payment of cost fees of 30,340 CFA F and civil damages of 1,000,000 CFA F.** He was arrested in Belabo for illegal possession of 15 kg of giant pangolin scales.
 - **29/01/2010:** The Bertoua Court of First Instance- East, found the accused **AHMADOU BOBBO AND ALIOUM YADDI** guilty of illegal possession and commercialization

of trophies of totally protected species and was sentenced as follows: **ALIOUM YADDI- 4 months imprisonment term and AHMADOU BOBBO - 6 months suspended imprisonment term within 3 year and they were ordered to pay civil Damages of 1,210,000 CFA F and cost fees of 94,840 CFA F.** They were arrested in Bertoua for the illegal possession of 1 Ivory tusk.

Media

- **11 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, and internet including: 10 written press material (5 in English and French each), and 1 internet publication in French.
- **Guests include:** head of conservation at In Defence of Animal.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including:** an ape trafficker arrested trying to sell 18 ape skulls in Ndop and a pastor caught with 19 chimp skulls.
- 6 media pieces in French and 5 in English making a percentage of 54.5% in French and 45.5% in English.

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director received the Pangolin Mentor PoP fellows for an introductory phase of the programme. The fellows were on a round of visits to the various organisations that shall host the PoP Mentor fellows during their internship programme and LAGA is expected to host 3 fellows for the legal systems action group.
- Two meetings were held by the legal department with state prosecutors at Kumba, South West and in Douala, Littoral.

Management

- Office reopened in January after a short vacation to give time to LAGA members celebrate the various end of year feasts with their families.
- The search for a new accountant to replace the departed one who left us last year started in earnest with selection and interviewing of qualified candidates. The results shall be forwarded to the Director to enable him choose the most suitable candidate for the job. .

Activism Front

Projection of Movie – Ted Talk:

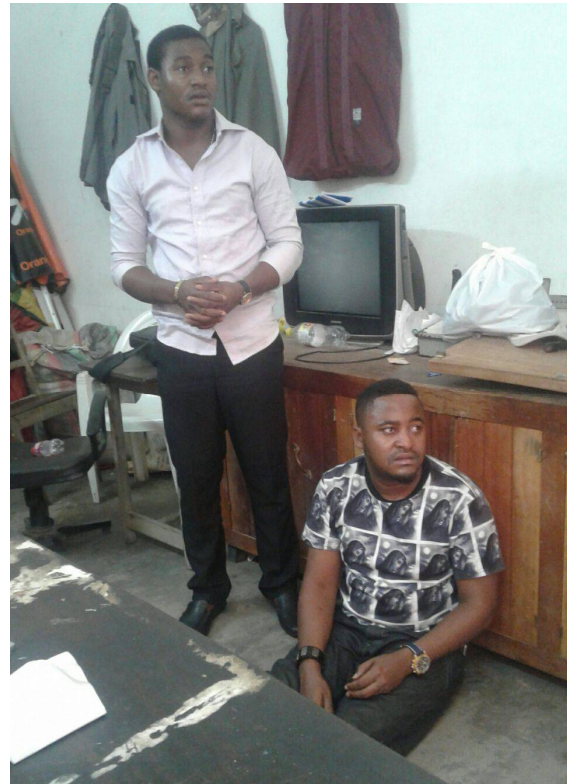
Ghanaian investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas becomes an undercover agent to investigate his stories since his early journalism career and provides startling video evidence of police taking bribes, of rags, the inhuman and dire living conditions of inmates in an African prison, the killing of children with deformities in some of our communities and the albino spell problem in Tanzania. His journalism which he says is progressive and aimed at effecting positive changes brings tremendous impact and all, including the bad guys, become aware of his existence, that is why he cannot allow his face to be known public but naming, shaming and jailing is his leitmotiv as he seeks to provide answers to questions corrupt African regimes have often cynically asked when corruption accusation erupt: where is the evidence? His is a telling and brave journalism, he deliberately becomes a prisoner to do undercover work in the prison. Discussions focused on corruption and his bravery and most especially on his investigations with most of LAGA seeing the resemblance with our investigations and those present enjoyed this very much.

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>.

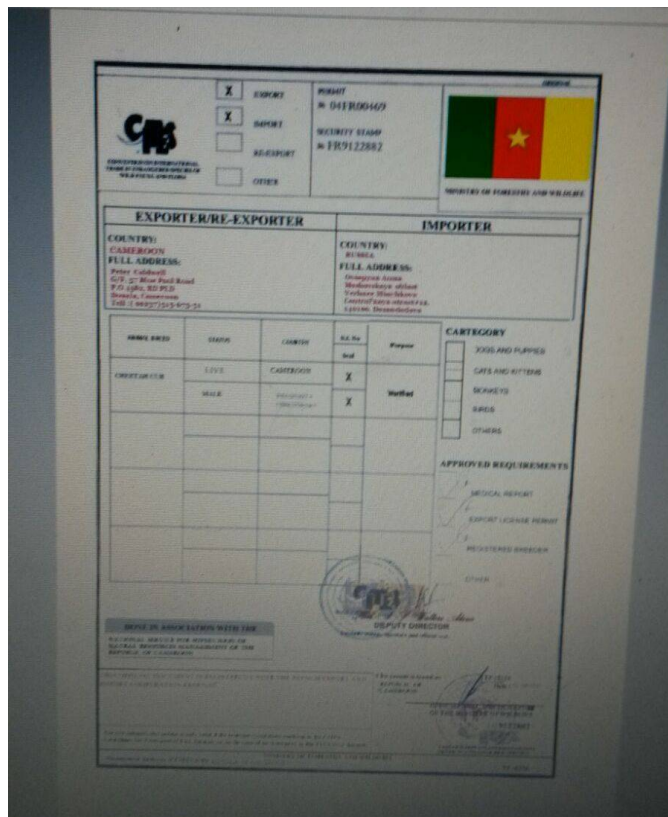
Finance

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible.

This Month in Pictures



Three cybercriminals arrested after attempting to sell two lion cubs and two cheetah cub; they placed advertisements on the internet, the transaction was carried out mainly through the internet. (above) Two of the three arrested cybercriminals at the police station (right)



Forged CITES permit used by cybercriminals to convince client they had the legal papers to export lions and cheetahs. They faked the signature of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Ngole Philip Ngwese

Pangolin Mentor PoP fellows from the sub region and from Vietnam at the LAGA that be the mentor organisation for Legal Systems Action Group

Link of this month

[CAMEROUN :: Un Pasteur arrêté avec 19 crânes de chimpanzés à Yaoundé. :: CAMEROON - Camer.be](#)



CAMEROUN :: Un Pasteur arrêté avec 19 crânes de chim...

Un homme présenté par l'un de ses proches comme un pasteur, a été arrêté le 16 Décembre 2015, alors qu'il essayait de vendre 19 crâ

[View on camer.be](#)

Preview by Yahoo

The arrest of a wildlife trafficking attempting to sell 19 chimpanzee skulls in December during an operation that was carried out with the police and later at the police station it was discovered that the trafficker is a pastor. He travelled from the South of the country to Yaounde to sell the products.