

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## November 2015 Report



### Highlights

- **2 giant pangolin scales traffickers arrested during two separate operations; over 114 kg of scales contraband seized**
- **A primate trafficker arrested with 18 primate skulls.**
- **Under the EAGLE Exchange Programme the Head of the Investigation Department travelled to Guinea while a Senegalese legal adviser and a Beninese investigator were trained in Cameroon.**

### General

This month was marked by 3 operations that led to the arrest of 3 wildlife traffickers.

Two operations carried out this month led to the **arrest of two giant pangolin scale traffickers in Yaounde and in Belabo in the East Region**. The first operation that witnessed the arrest of a commercial bus driver was carried close to the Nsimalen International Airport and **100 kg of giant pangolin scales contraband found among passenger luggage**.

During another operation carried out in **Belabo, East region**, a **giant pangolin scale trafficker was arrested** and a ring of traffickers with connections to poachers around the Deng Deng National park was uncovered. He was found in **illegal possession of over 14 kg of giant pangolin scales**.

**A primate skull trafficker was arrested in Ndop, in the North West Region for illegal possession of 18 primate skulls** including 12 gorilla skulls and 3 chimpanzee skulls. The illegal trade in primate skull within this area extends to the West Region.

The Head of the Investigation Department travelled to Guinea where he provided operation assistance to enable the arrest of 4 chimpanzee traffickers and the rescuing of 2 baby chimpanzees.,

## Investigations

- **29 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out 7 **Regions** of Cameroon - Littoral, East, West, Centre, North West, South West and South Regions.
- Good investigations in Yaounde led to the arrest of one trafficker in possession of 100 kg giant pangolin scales.
- Excellent investigation in Ndop led to the arrest of one trafficker in possession of 18 primate skulls
- Good investigation in Belabo led to the arrest of one trafficker in possession 14 kg Scales pangolin

## Operation

**2 operations** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 4 traffickers.**

- **11/11/15– One trafficker arrested with 100 kg of giant pangolin scales in the Centre Region close to the entrance to the Nsimalen international airport.** The trafficker who is a commercial bus driver with a travelling agency that ferries passengers from Ebolowa to Yaounde and back had hidden the bag of scales among passenger luggage when the bus he was driving was stopped and checked by wildlife officials from the Nsimalen airport. The operation uncovered the links of supply and export highlighting the airport as a place of transaction before export.
- **13/01/15 – One trafficker arrested trafficking primate skulls during a successful operation** carried out in **Ndop, North West Region.** 12 gorilla skulls, 3 chimpanzee skulls, 1 drill skull and 2 other primate skulls were seized from the man who has links with a suspected major poacher in the area. The skulls are sold principally to traditional healers and to traffickers from the Noun Division in the West Region. 55 additional primate skulls had just been sold to a trafficker who was described as a “Bamoun man”, shortly before the arrest was carried out.
- **27/11/15 – One trafficker arrested in Belabo with over 14 kg of giant pangolin scales.** He belongs to a ring of pangolin scales traffickers who regularly buy scales from poachers around the Deng Deng National Park where the giant pangolins are killed. They are the first line of traffickers in the illegal pangolin scale trafficking business that equally involve Chinese traffickers. They buy from the poachers who leave the forest with the meat and scales and then sell to other traffickers higher up the chain. Their activities span the whole of the East region and right up to Bertoua, the regional capital.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **20 missions** out of Yaounde- Centre Region: 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Batouri (East), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 2 in Limbe (South West), 2 in Wum (North West), 1 in Ndop (North West), 1 in Mbengwi (North west), 1 in Bafoussam (West), 1 in Dschang (West), 4 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Belabo (East), 2 in Doume ( East) , and 1 in Mfou (Centre).
- There are **27 dealers behind bars during this month:** 13 in East Region, 4 in Centre region, 4 in North West Region, 5 in South West Region and 1 in the Littoral region.
- **38 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **36 cases** scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **Prosecutions:** We had 1 judgment this month.

- 11/11/2015: The Limbe Court of First Instance – South West, found the accused **Akam Michael and Kanghi Joseph** guilty for illegal killing and commercialization of totally protected species and was sentenced as follows: **Kanghi Joseph Che - 2 months imprisonment term, 100,000 CFA F for fines, 100,000 FCFA for civil damages, 30,000 FCFA for cost fees and to serve 9 months imprisonment term in default of payment of the fines.**
- **Akam Michael- 2 months imprisonment term, 50,000 CFA F for fines, 50,000 CFA F for civil damages, 20,000 F CFA for cost fees and to serve 6 months imprisonment in default of payment of fines.** Akam Michael and Kanghi Joseph Che were arrested on the **28/04/2015** in Limbe for the **illegal possession of a sea turtle shell.**

### Media

- **45 media pieces** were produced and pushed through written press, radio and internet including: 34 written press material (17 in English 17 in French), 3 radio news flashes all in French, and 8 internet publication, 4 in English and French respectively.
- **Interviewees include:** Regional Chief of Wildlife, East region.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including:** the arrest of a trafficker in chimpanzee bones in Wum, trafficker arrest with 5 mandrill skulls and a live mona monkey in Kumbo, four traffickers arrested for trading in ivory in Bertoua and Douala, a bus driver arrested in Yaounde with 100 kg of giant pangolin scales and another man caught in Belabo with 14 kg of giant pangolin scales, an ape trafficker arrest with 18 ape skulls in Ndop and 28 illegal logging arrests in Gabon
- 24 in French and 21 media pieces in English making a percentage of 53.3% in French and 46.7% in English.

### External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director accompanied by the Heads of the Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with a French conservationist who is presently volunteering with the Sanaga Young Chimpanzee Centre.

### Management

- An American anthropologist and PhD research student continued her volunteer and research work with the team. She is assisting LAGA and AC on several issues including office and administrative duties, website and data analysis, project writing and programme development while focusing on her subject of research which is the understanding of the relationships between humans and rescued chimpanzees and all of the legal and law enforcement processes that shape them.

### Activism Front

*The Wave*: film projection

- *The Wave* depicts autocracy and the problems associated with it. When a secondary school teacher is asked to teach autocracy he resorts to learning by experience; being practical about it and he creates a small state within his classroom where autocracy is tried. All the characteristics of autocracy are tried in real time. The sinister and the good are intertwined. Our poor teacher never sees all of the dangers and quickly gets involved emotionally because as it is with every autocratic government the consequences of autocracy is always beyond the ability of the Leader to control it. The movie is a simplified version of an autocratic state and enables a quick understanding of the factors and powers that come into

play within such a state. Discussions focused on the understanding of the movie and the dangers associated with autocracy.

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/Actiwithvism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

### **EAGLE Front**

- The Head of the Investigation Department travelled to Guinea where he provided operational support to the GALF team for the carrying out of an operation that resulted in the arrest of 4 chimpanzee traffickers and the rescuing of 2 baby chimpanzees.
- A legal adviser from Senegal and a Beninese investigator left the country after three weeks of training and experiences with the team.

### **Finance**

**In preparation and would be made available soon as possible.**

**This Month in Pictures**



*Arrest of a major pangolin scale trafficker in the East, collaborates with poachers killing pangolins in the Deng Deng National Park*



*Bags containing 100 kg of giant pangolin scales seized from the trafficker who doubles as a commercial bus driver*



*Several primate skulls seized from a major primate trafficker (above), primate trafficker arrested (right)*



## **Link of this month**

Arrest of a Commercial Bus Driver with 100 kg of Giant Pangolin Scales

### **[Cameroun : un conducteur de bus arrêté avec 100 kg d'écailles de pangolins](#)**



#### **Cameroun : un conducteur de bus arrêté avec 100 kg d'éca...**

Le 11 novembre dernier, les agents du ministère des Forêts et de la Faune de l'aéroport de Yaoundé Nsimalen ont appréhendé un conducteur de bus pour détention et ci...

[View on www.alwihdainfo.com](#)

Preview by Yahoo

A commercial bus driver was arrested close to the Yaounde Nsimalen International airport as he transported a bag of giant pangolin scales weighing 100 kg from the south of the country. The operation uncovers the illegal transportation and trafficking of giant pangolin scales by commercial bus drivers.