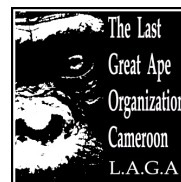


# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## October 2015 Report



### Highlights

- **4 major ivory traffickers arrested in the Littoral and East Regions with ivory contraband.**
- **One of the traffickers is a repeat offender who had earlier served two imprisonment terms for ivory trafficking.**
- **A member of the Central Coordination Unit was in Cameroon for a week-long working visit.**
- **Under the EAGLE Exchange Programme the Deputy Director travelled to Uganda for a support mission.**

### General

This month was marked by 2 operations that led to the arrest of 4 wildlife traffickers.

During one of the operations, **two major ivory traffickers were arrested in Douala**. One of the traffickers is a repeat offender and had earlier served two imprisonment terms for ivory trafficking. **Several ivory jewellery and other carved pieces** were recovered from the two.

During another operation carried out in **Bertoua**, **two major and long serving ivory traffickers were arrested in Bertoua in the East Region**. The first was arrested as he attempted to sell raw ivory while investigations led to the arrest of the second who was also connected to the deal.

The Organizational and Development Officer of the EAGLE's Central Coordination Unit visited the country for a week-long mission and the deputy director visit the EAGLE Uganda project for a support mission under the EAGLE Exchange programme.

## Investigations

- **26 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **7 Regions** of Cameroon-Littoral, East, West, Centre, SouthWest, Adamaoua and South Regions.
- Good investigation in Bertoua led to the arrest of 2 traffickers in possession of an ivory tusk.
- Good investigation in Douala led to the arrest of 2 traffickers in possession of a several sculpted ivory pieces.

## Operation

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

- **13/10/15** – An operation carried in **Douala, Littoral Region, led to the arrest of two major ivory traffickers with several ivory jewellery and carved pieces.** A new development was witnessed as counter-intelligence manoeuvres were carried out by the traffickers who set a team to cover the illegal moves as they pull the ivory deal. They had undercover agents to keep watch on activities going on around the surroundings where they were doing business. One of the traffickers is a serial offender and had earlier served two separate prison sentences for ivory trafficking in Douala.
- **14/10/2015** – An operation carried out against **a long time major trafficker in Bertoua in the East Region enabled his arrest and that of a fellow trafficker for illegal possession of ivory.** Following thorough follow-up investigations, the second trafficker was arrested. The two belong to an ivory trafficking ring. One of the arrested traffickers had been in trafficking for a very long time and his family members are equally involved. They both belonged to a chain that specializes in ivory trafficking, recruiting poachers in the East region and providing them with hunting bullets.

## 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), 3 in Douala (Littoral), 2 in Limbe (South West), 2 in Wum (North West), 1 in Bafoussam (West), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 1 in Koumbou (North West), 4 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Garoua (North) and 1 in Lomie (East).
- There are **36 dealers behind bars during this month:** 16 in East Region, 7 in Centre region, 3 in North West Region, 1 in South Region, 7 in South West Region and 2 in the Littoral region.
- **30 cases** were followed up by the legal department this month.
- **29 cases** scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- **Prosecutions:** We had 1 judgment this month.
  - 12/10/2015: The Douala Court of First Instance – Littoral, found the accused **Sama Jonathan Aneng** not guilty for the illegal capture of totally protected species and was discharged and acquitted. **Sama Jonathan Aneng** was arrested on the **4/12/2007 in Douala** for illegal detention of **727 African grey parrots.** An appeal was lodged against this ruling

## Media

- **18 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio and internet including: 12 written press material (7 in English 5 in French), 2 radio news flashes all in French, and 3 internet publication in French and 1 in English.

- **Guests include:** Menchum divisional delegate of forestry and wildlife.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including:** the arrest of Wum Primate bones trafficker arrest, Kumbo mandrill skulls trafficker arrest, Bertoua and Douala 4 ivory traffickers arrest, and Yaounde Pangolin scales arrest.
- 9 media pieces in English and 9 in French making a percentage of 50% in English and 50% in French.

### **External Relations and Policy**

- The deputy director held a meeting with the German Ambassador to discuss wildlife law enforcement challenges.
- Several meetings were held by the legal department with state counsels handling some wildlife cases while a jurist attended the Centre regional anti-poaching committee meeting that is held once every year.

### **Management**

- An American anthropologist and PhD research student joined the team for volunteer and research work. She is expected to assist the organisation in many domains including office and administrative duties, website and data analysis 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.
- The LAGA team and its guests – family members, the Organisational and Development officer, the American anthropologist and the jurist from SALF, Senegal, visited the Mefou national park where they watched and connected with gorillas and chimpanzees. One of the animals – the mona monkey, that was saved last month from traffickers during the operation carried out in Kumbo was found in good health and it was a happy reunion with the LAGA team that was present in Kumbo to rescue her from the trafficker.

### **Activism Front**

Film projection: Cesar Chaves

- It is always difficult to live as a foreigner in someone else's country, even worst to claim for rights in a country where you're considered a pest. Cesar Chavez is a film that portrays the challenge a migrant took on himself to lead non-violent demonstrations to bring change in the lives of migrant farmers in forming labor unions. His struggles and determinations in a pacific manner, in making sure the rights of migrant farmers is instituted, yield him fame and recognition in a country where he was disregarded. Debates on the film centered on tentative answers to the question; why many people would not want to be at the forefront of a gainful cause.

Projection of a Ted Talk: Cheetahs vs Hippos by Dr. George Ayittey

- In understanding Africa's development pitfalls and inability to change, one needs to look at what Ghanaian economist George Ayittey says, that we have two categories of people within our public dispensation, those he called the cheetahs – the upcoming and energetic Africans whose moral and financial probity is never in doubt and they are therefore ready to make a change for their countries and then on the other hand we have the hippos who constitute the vast majority of present leadership, the corrupt, the autocratic and those who are pulling down the nations. He proposes what those of the cheetah generation should be doing to engage Africa's development potential and wrong-foot the hippos who have been pillaging their countries for so many years and are in no hurry to leave. Debates look at some of the ideas he advocated and the basis for Africa's development.

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>.

### **EAGLE Front**

- LAGA's deputy director under the same programme travelled to Uganda to provide support for the young project and to share experiences. He assisted in many activities during his stay in Uganda including project coordination, recruitment interviews, operations and investigation techniques and procedures and media outreach.
- The Organisational Development Officer of EAGLE network spent a week with LAGA to gain practical experience from an EAGLE project and also to understand techniques in recruitment of activists and replicable ways to foster activism and family spirit.
- A legal adviser from Senegal arrived the country for a three week-long training and experience sharing mission under the EAGLE Exchange programme.
- The head of the investigation department provided technical assistance to TALFF (Togo), SALF (Senegal) and GALF (Guinea) projects on operation and ongoing investigations.

### **Finance**

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

**This Month in Pictures**



*One of two ivory traffickers arrested in Douala at the wildlife office prosecution to begin*



*Carved ivory was among several other pieces seized from the traffickers in Douala.*




*Several ivory jewellery and carved pieces seized from ivory traffickers in Douala*



*Two traffickers arrested in Bertoua, East for ivory trafficking, they have been in the illegal business for a long time*

**Link of this month**

**[Man arrested in Wum for Illegal Wildlife Trafficking](#)**



**Man arrested in Wum for Illegal Wildlife Trafficking**

A man was arrested for illegal possession and circulation of chimpanzee and mandrill bones, in Wum, in the Menchum Division of the North West Region. He was arrest...

[View on cameroonmirror.com](#) Preview by Yahoo

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Preview by Yahoo

<http://cameroonmirror.com/man-arrested-in-wum-for-illegal-wildlife-trafficking/>

Arrest of a trafficker in Wum for illegal commercialisation in chimpanzee and mandrill bones, totally protected species and in a region where huge population pressures, trafficking and poaching has virtually decimated entire populations of primates.