

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

January 2022 Report



Highlights

- **LAGA's second semester and annual reports of 2021 were published online at the organisation's website**
- **The Deputy Director held a meeting with a consultant from Tetra Tech, a US –based group, to introduce the EAGLE Network.**
- **The Head of Legal Department held meetings with some wildlife officials in the South to build collaboration in investigating wildlife crimes in the region.**
- **The Head of the Legal Department and a legal adviser held a meeting with the Head of Legal Unit of Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife new draft bill for the forestry and wildlife sector.**
- **The team returned from annual vacation.**

General

There were no arrests carried out this month.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with a consultant from Tetra Tech, a US –based group, to introduce the EAGLE Network and discuss the fight against wildlife crime.

The Deputy Director held a zoom meeting with Community Manager of Timby on the use of a data collection software and its application in the fight against wildlife crime.

He held a meeting with a consultant from Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to present the activities of the organisation and discuss data collection in the bushmeat sector in the country.

The Head of Legal Department held meetings with some wildlife officials in the South to build collaboration in investigating wildlife crimes in the region.

The Head of the Legal Department and a legal adviser held a meeting with the Head of Legal Unit of Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues related to the new draft bill for the forestry and wildlife sector.

The Team resumed work after an end of year vacation that started in December.

LAGA's second semester and annual report of 2021 were published online at the organisation's website

Investigations

- **4 investigation missions** out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including: Littoral, West, South and East Regions.
- The investigation department resumed work after a leave period.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
4	4	0	0

Operation

No operations were carried out during the month because only a couple of investigation missions were carried out shortly after resumption of work by the LAGA team following an end of year vacation.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **6 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Ambam (South), 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), and 1 in Bafang (West).
- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East region, 2 in South region, 1 in Centre and 6 in West region.
- **23 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **17 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **1 trafficker** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was 1 court ruling this month.
 - **24/01/2022**: The Court of First Instance found the accused **PENE YOKO Armel guilty and sentenced him to 2 months in prison and to pay 920,250 FCFA as fines and 79.750 FCFA as court fees . He was also ordered to pay 1,000,000 FCFA as damages.**

He was arrested in Nanga-Eboko on the 17/11/2021 for illegal possession of 86kg of pangolin scales and a baby baboon.

- **21/01/2021**: The Ambam Court of First Instance found the accused **MOHAMADOU Ibrahim guilty and sentenced him to 4 months in prison and to pay 1,000,000 FCFA as fines and 60,000,000 FCFA as damages.**

He was arrested in Ambam on the 21/10/2020 for illegal possession of 626 kg of ivory tusks.

- **25/01/2021**: The Kribi Court of First Instance found the accused **BEMEHHE Clara Rosalie guilty and sentenced her to a one-month imprisonment term and to pay 500,000 FCFA as damages.**

She was arrested in Kribi on the 10/12/2020 for illegal possession of a mandrill.

- **Appeal:** An appeal was filed this month in the case of **MOHAMADOU Ibrahim** in the South Court of Appeal.
- The Head of the Legal Department and a legal adviser held a meeting with the Head of Legal Unit of Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues related to the new draft bill that shall govern the sector.

Legal Table

No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	Prison term (in months)	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
6	3	3 traffickers	2 months x1 4 months x 1 1 month x1	0	1	17

Media

No media pieces were produced and published this month, however, the department has in place plans and efforts to ensuring that the situation is adjusted next month.

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with a consultant from Tetra Tech, a US –based group, to introduce the EAGLE Network and discuss the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Deputy Director held a zoom meeting with Community Manager of Timby on the use of a data collection software and its application in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He held a meeting with a consultant from Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to present the activities of the organisation and discuss data collection in the bushmeat sector in the country.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meetin with the Attorney General in Douala to discuss legal strategies on a case pending at the Appeal Court.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the Attorney General in Ebolowa to discus legal strategies on a case pending at the Appeal Court.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the Djoum State Counsel to discuss an ongoing case at his jurisdiction.
- Another adviser hela a meeting with the State Counsels in Ambam and Bafang, respectively, to discuss legal strategies concerning matters pending before their repective courts

Management

- The entire team resumed work after an annual 3-week vacation.
- LAGA’s second semester and annual reports 2020 were published online at www.laga-enforcement.org .

- A volunteer started his training and testing period in investigations.

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 .