

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

February 2023 Report



Highlights

- **On the occasion of activities marking the World Pangolin Day, the Deputy Director and the Head of Legal Department participated at an event to raise the awareness of young people on the plight of the pangolin.**
- **The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with some police and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration in investigating wildlife crimes.**
- **There were no operations this month and the Team is working on strategies to improve the results next month**

General

The Deputy Director and the Head of Legal Department participated at an event to raise the awareness of young people on the plight of the pangolin. They both did presentations on the pangolin and law enforcement against pangolin trafficking: The event that was organised by Wildaid brought together hundreds of students from some high schools in Douala, Littoral Region. It was part of activities to celebrate the 2023 World Pangolin Day.

The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with some police and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration in investigating wildlife crimes.

The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels and Attorney Generals to discuss legal strategies on cases pending at their various courts and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

Investigations

- **3 investigations missions were undertaken in one Region** out of 10, that is the Centre Region.
- The Head of the Investigation Department had a working session with the Head of the Directorate General of External Relations in Ambam, the MINFOF Delegate in Ambam, the Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Control Post of Nkoteng, and the Police Commissioner of Nkoteng.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
3	1	0	0

Operation

There were no operations this month and the Team is working on strategies to improve the results next month

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **8 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 2 in Ngoumou (Centre), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 1 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Douala (Littoral).
- There are **12 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in East region, 2 in South region, 2 in Centre and 6 in West region.
- **31 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **28 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **2 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.
- **01/02/2023**: The Nanga-Eboko Court of First Instance found the accused **ANDINGA NANGA Christine and OVANDANA Pierre Lafleur guilty and sentenced them to one month 10 days in prison and to pay 500.000 FCFA each as fine.**

They were arrested in Nanga-Ebokoon the 15/12/2022 for the illegal possession of 120 kg of pangolin scales.

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>
8	1	2	1.3 months	0	0	28

Media

- **14** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including written press, radio and internet. That is 6 written press (3 in French and 3 in English), 5 radio broadcast (3 in English, and 2 in French) and 3 internet publication (2 in French and 1 in English).
- Giving a total of 7 media pieces produced each in the French language, and in English making 50% in French, and 50% in English.
- Interviewee: Deputy Director of LAGA
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The World Pangolin Day – the arrest of three traffickers in Yaounde with 386 kg of pangolin scales.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
	0	5	6	3

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director and the Head of Legal Department participated at an event to raise the awareness of young people on the plight of the pangolin. They both did presentations on the pangolin and law enforcement against pangolin trafficking: The event that was organised by Wildaid brought together hundreds of students from some high schools in Douala, Littoral Region. It was part of activities to celebrate the 2023 World Pangolin Day
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the State Counsel in Ngoumou to discuss the execution of an arrest warrant.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the State Counsel of Yaounde – Centre Administratif and the Attorney General of the East Court of Appeal respectively ongoing cases in their courts.

- Another legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel in Sangmelima and the Attorney General of the South Court of Appeal respectively to discuss ongoing cases at their courts.
- A third legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsels in Nanga Eboko and Ngoumou respectively to discuss ongoing matters at their various courts.

Management

- All financial and activity were prepared and submitted. The activity report of January 2023 was published online.

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

Stopblablacam, an online news site this month published a story highlighting the World Pangolin Day and the number of pangolins killed in 2022. The article equally underlined the need for celebrating the day. Get more by clicking on the link below...

<https://www.stopblablacam.com/societe/1702-10090-le-cameroun-sensibilise-le-public-pour-reduire-la-pression-sur-le-pangolin-menace-d-extinction>

This Month in Pictures



The Head of the Legal Department schools students on law enforcement protecting pangolins in the country at the Lycee Joss in Douala