

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## December 2023 Report



### Highlights

- **The Deputy Director held a brief discussion with the US Ambassador on strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime during an event at the US Residence.**
- **The LAGA family participated at a solemn ceremony organised by the police in honour of our fallen hero Julius Anutenet, long time collaborator and one of the founding fathers.**
- **The LAGA team went on annual vacation and end of year activities were carried out. Office reopens in January 2023**

### **General**

No operations were done this month.

The Deputy Director held a brief discussion with the US Ambassador on strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime during an event at the US Residence. A presentation on the The Sanaga Young Chimpanzee Sanctuary was done by her Director, Sheri Speede, during the event.

He, accompanied by the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments, held a meeting with the Chief of Service in charge of wildlife crime at the Interpol National Central Bureau to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

The LAGA team went on annual vacation and end of year activities were carried out.

## Investigations

- **5 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 regions** out of 10 including the Littoral, Centre, West and South.

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
5	4	0	0

## Operation

**No operations were carried out and the team held a strategic meeting on improving on the situation next year.**

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **6 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ntui (Centre), 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Douala (Littoral) and 1 in Yabassi (Littoral).
- There are **13 traffickers behind bars this month**: 1 in East region, 3 in Centre region, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **15 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **12 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **A trafficker** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.
  - **22/12/2023**: The Yabassi Court of First Instance found the accused **LAMBO Ruben Fabius guilty and sentenced him to 100,000 FCFA as fines and 31,950 FCFA as court fees.**

He was arrested in Yabassi on the 21/11/2023 for the illegal possession of a drill.

*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	1	0	0	1	0	12

## **Media**

- **10** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 8 written press (4 each in French and in English, and 2 internet publications in French).
- Giving a total of 6 media pieces produced in the French language and 4 in English making 54.6% in French and 36.4 in English.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The arrest of a city council worker with a drill in Yabassi.

*Media Table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
10	0	0	8	2

## **External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director held a brief discussion with the US Ambassador on strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime during an event at the US Residence. A presentation on the The Sanaga Young Chimpanzee Sanctuary was done by her Director, Sheri Speede, during the event.
- He, accompanied by the Heads of Investigations and Legal Departments, held a meeting with the Chief of Service in charge of wildlife crime at the Interpol National Central Bureau to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the Attorney General of Douala to discuss ongoing cases and strengthen collaboration.
- He also held a meeting with the State Counsel in Ebolowa to discuss a matter pending before the court.
- Several meetings were held by legal advisers with State Counsels in Ntui, Yabassi and Djoum to discuss legal strategies and strengthen collaboration.

## **Management**

- Several end of year activities were planned and successfully carried out, including the sharing of Christmas gifts to every member of the team and a traditional end of year lunch in a restaurant. The entire team was congratulated for their determination and valiant efforts despite the fact that results were not the best during the year. They were encouraged to keep on the fighting spirit and hard work. Several weaknesses observed during the year were discussed and corrected.
- LAGA was hit by death in October with the passing away of one of its founding fathers, Julius Aunutenet. The LAGA family assisted at a solemn ceremony organised by the police in honour of the fallen hero.

## **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>.

## **Link of the month**

Alwihdainfo, a news site published the arrest of a city council worker with a drill in Yabassi in the littoral region. Click the link below to get the full story:

[https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-un-employe-de-mairie-arrete-en-possession-d-un-drill-a-Yabassi\\_a128415.html?fbclid=IwAR2ZkT2b6uWdAsrjQUxCsArb2o0BnXPvgXirr2OU9LI\\_IrBPLMJ5Yw8xOqE](https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-un-employe-de-mairie-arrete-en-possession-d-un-drill-a-Yabassi_a128415.html?fbclid=IwAR2ZkT2b6uWdAsrjQUxCsArb2o0BnXPvgXirr2OU9LI_IrBPLMJ5Yw8xOqE)

### **Finance**

Please check LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) for monthly financial reports.

### **This Month in Pictures**



*Former collaborator and founding father Julius Anutenet passed away in October 2023. He carried out over 200 operations with the LAGA team*

