

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

October 2023 Report



Highlights

- **The Director held a meeting with three officials of the US Department of Justice to discuss challenges to environmental law enforcement in the country and to map out some areas of interests.**
- **He held a meeting with the three officials of the conservation group Noe and discussions focused on collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime in South East of the country.**
- **The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with wildlife and customs officials in the North Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.**
- **There were no operations this month and efforts are being made to ensure operations take place next month.**

General

The Director held a meeting with three officials of the US Department of Justice to discuss challenges to environmental law enforcement in the country and to map out some areas of interests. The meeting was also aimed at strengthening collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime and illegal logging. The officials were on a working visit to Cameroon.

He held a meeting with the three officials of the conservation group Noe and discussions focused on collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime in South East of the country.

The Head of the Investigation held meetings with wildlife and customs officials in the North Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime

Investigations

- **12 investigation missions** were carried out in **5 Regions** out of 10 including the Adamawa, Centre, East, West, and South.
- The Head of the Investigation Department held a meeting meetings with several officials including the North Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, the Head of the Anti Traffic Airport Unit and customs authorities.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
12	5	0	0

- **This month no operations took place, but the department brainstormed and came out with new strategies to ensure arrests next month.**

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **13 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Bafia (Centre), 2 in Nanga-Eboko (Centre), 2 in Ntui (Centre), 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 2 in Douala (Littoral) and 1 in Bertoua (East).
- There are **19 traffickers behind bars this month**: 1 in East region, 4 in South region, 5 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **36 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **34 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **4 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were 3 court rulings this month.
 - **04/10/2023**: The Akonolinga Court of First Instance found the accused **EDIMA Martine, ANGOULA Paul, NYASUNG NUHUM MBENTE and ABADA Florence not guilty and acquitted them.**

They were arrested in Akonolinga on the 19/04/2022 for the illegal possession of 91,6kg of pangolin scales.

- **05/10/2023**: The Yaounde – Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused **LOVET MBANWECK and MBOUOMBOUO ADAMOU and sentenced them to pay 200.000 FCFA each as fine and 13.355.000 FCFA as damages.**

They were arrested in Yaounde on the 29/10/2022 for the illegal possession of 180kg of pangolin scales.

- **25/10/2023**: The Nanga-Eboko Court of First Instance found the accused **EMINI OVAMBA Blaise Ismaël and OUMAROU Alfa. The court sentenced EMINI**

OVAMBA Blaise Ismaël 6 months imprisonment term and to pay 500.000 FCFA as fine. OUMAROU Alfa was sentenced 25 days imprisonment term and to pay 200.000 FCFA as damages. They were also sentenced to pay 1.000.000 FCFA as damages.

They were arrested in Nkoteng on the 31/07/2023 for the illegal possession of 47kg of pangolin scales.

- **Appeal:** An appeal was filed this month in the case of **EDIMA Martine, ANGOULA Paul, NYASUNG NUHUM MBENTE and ABADA Florence** at the Centre Court of Appeal.

Legal Table

No of Missions (Out of Yaoundé)	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
12	3	2	6 months and 25 days	2	1	34

Media

- **18** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 9 radio news flashes (5 in French and 4 in English), 7 written presses (4 in English and 3 in French) and 2 internet publications (1 each in English and in French).
- Giving a total of 9 media pieces produced in English and 9 in French making 50% in English and 50% in French each.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The Ntui arrest of 2 traffickers with 91kg of pangolin scales in Ntui and the court hearing of 3 traffickers arrested with 78kg of pangolin scales in Makenene.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
18	0	9	7	2

External Relations and Policy

- The Director held a meeting with three officials of the US Department of Justice to discuss challenges to environmental law enforcement in the country and to map out some areas of interests.
- He held a meeting with the three officials of the French based conservation group Noe and discussions focused on collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime in South East of the country.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Attorney General of the Bertoua to discuss a matter pending before the court.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the State Counsel of , Akonolinga and Bafia respectively to discuss legal strategies concerning cases pending before their courts.
- She held a meeting with the Attorney General of the Douala to discuss a matter pending before the court.
- Another legal adviser held meetings with the State Counsel of Ntui, Nanga Eboko and Djoum respectively to discuss legal strategies concerning cases pending before their courts.
- He held a meeting with the Attorney General of the Douala to discuss a matter pending before the court

Management

- All financial and activity reports of September were recorded, verified and some of them posted 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

Cameroon fact finder, this month published the arrest of 2 traffickers with 91kg of pangolin scales in Ntui. Click the link below to get the full story:

<https://cameroonfactfinder.com/pangolin-increased-traffic-in-cameroon-puts-the-prized-anteater-at-risk/>