

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## July 2023 Report



### Highlights

- **2 traffickers arrested with 47kg of giant pangolin scales in Nkoteng, Centre Region**
- **The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting with wildlife officials that focused on the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Ministry of Wildlife and Protected Areas.**
- **Legal advisers held several meetings with State Counsels on ongoing wildlife cases and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **2 with 47kg of giant pangolin scales.**

The scales are from the endangered giant pangolin. The traffickers took steps to avoid arrest and used a motorcycle to move around. They transported the pangolin scales in a bag and moved hesitantly, conscious of the risks of their illegal business.

The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting with wildlife officials that focused on the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Ministry of Wildlife and Protected Areas.

The legal advisers held several meetings with State Counsels on ongoing wildlife cases and the strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

## Investigations

- **11 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the Littoral, Centre, West and South.
- Good investigation in **Nkoteng** led to the arrest of **2 pangolin scales traffickers** with 47kg of giant pangolin scales in **Nkoteng**

*Investigations Table*

<b>Investigation Missions</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No. of Operations</b>	<b>No of traffickers arrested</b>
11	4	1	2

## Operation

**1 operation** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 2 traffickers**.

**31/07/2023 – 2 traffickers arrested in Nkoteng, Centre Region with 47kg of giant pangolin scales.** The scales are from the endangered giant pangolin that was poached around the Sanaga River where they collaborated to obtaining the scales. The traffickers took steps to avoid arrest and used a motorcycle to move around. They transported the pangolin scales in a bag and moved hesitantly, conscious of the risks of their illegal business.

*Operations Table*

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	*2	47kg giant pangolin scales

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Bafia (Centre), 1 in Nkoteng (Centre), 2 in Nanga-Eboko (Centre), 1 in Dschang (West) and 3 in Douala (Littoral).

- There are **15 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in East region, 2 in South region, 2 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **34 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **28 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court rulings this month.

*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>
10	0	0	0	0	0	28

**Media**

- No media pieces were published this month and efforts are underway to improve on the situation as from next month.

**External Relations and Policy**

- Accompanied by the Heads of the Investigation Department and the Legal Department, the Deputy Director held a brief meeting with the Centre Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife on the pending operation against the pangolin scales trafficker.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the State Counsel in Dschang to discuss strategies on an ongoing case.
- He and a legal adviser held a meeting with the Attorney General of Douala to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter at the Appeal Court.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the State Counsels of Yaounde – Centre Administratif, and Bafia respectively to discuss legal strategies on ongoing cases at their various courts.
- Another legal adviser held meetings with State Counsels of Nanga Eboko to discuss legal strategies following a successful operation.

- She a meeting with the Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife of the Upper Sanaga Division to discuss strategies following a successful operation
- The above two legal advisers held am a meeting with Akonolinga to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the court.

### **Management**

- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department participated at a meeting with wildlife officials that focused on the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Ministry of Wildlife and Protected Areas.
- Monthly activity and financial reports of June 2023 were prepared and published online.

### **Finance**

**In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) .**

**This Month in Pictures**



*Two arrested with 47kg of giant pangolin scales*