

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA April 2017 Report



Highlights

- **A trafficker arrested with two carved ivory tusks.**
- **Several meetings held with wildlife officials to reinforce collaboration and discuss strategic issues related to wildlife law enforcement**
- **GALF Legal Adviser from Guinea completed a month-long training under the EAGLE exchange program.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **one trafficker with two ivory tusks.**

A trafficker was arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region. He was found with two carved ivory tusks.. He travelled from Kribi to Yaounde to complete a business deal that would see him sell the two ivory tusks but was arrested.

The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held meetings with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to enhance collaboration, with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and the Head of the Legal Unit to discuss challenges to effective wildlife law enforcement.

GALF Legal Adviser from Guinea completed a month-long training under the EAGLE exchange program

Investigations

- **14 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in 5 **Regions** of Cameroon-Littoral, East, West, Centre, and South Regions.
- Good investigations in Kribi led to the arrest of one trafficker with 2 sculpted ivory tusks in Yaoundé
- The Head of Investigations had meetings with the Chiefs of Post in Libongo, Salapoumbè, Djoum and Mintom ; localities found in the East and South Regions.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
14	5	1	1

Operation

One operations carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting one trafficker.**

- **22/05/2017 – 1 traffickers arrested in Yaounde, Centre Region with 2 carved ivory tusks.** . He travelled all the way from Kribi to link up with the ivory underworld in Yaounde to sell the contraband. He had carefully wrapped the ivory in his underwear to conceal and repulse anyone who could have any intentions of trying to know what was bulging inside his back during the journey to Yaounde..

Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
1	1	1	2 carved ivory tusks

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **9 missions** out of Yaounde Centre Region: 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Mbanga (Littoral), 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 1 in Dschang (West), 1 in Batouri (East), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Meiganga (Adamaoua) and 1 in Mfou (Centre).
- There are **25 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East region, 3 in Adamaoua Region, 3 in Northwest Region, 3 in Centre Region, 4 in Southwest Region, 3 in West Region, 3 in South Region and 1 in Littoral Region.
- **25 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **21 cases** were scheduled and being tried in court this month.
- No trafficker were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court rulings this month.

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
10	0	0	0	1	1	29

Media

- **20 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, radio, and internet including; 11 written press material (7 in French and 4 in English), 5 radio news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English), and 4 internet production (3 in French and 1 in English).
- Interviewee: None
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Messamena arrest of pangolin scales trafficker, a Reverend Father apprehended with ivory, Sangmelima leopard skin and teeth arrest and an ivory trafficker arrested in Yaounde..
- 13 media pieces in French and 7 in English making a percentage of 65% in French and 35% in English.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
20	0	5	11	4

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife on a number of issues pertaining to effective collaboration and strategic challenges within the mutual relationship.
- They also held a meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to understand the Ministry's position on the African grey parrots whose protection status had changed warranting an escalation of law enforcement measures against parrot traffickers. They equally discussed the follow-up of the Teng case with Hong Kong officials.
- Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the State Counsel at the Yaounde court while legal advisers of the department met other State Counsels in Ebolowa, Abong Mbang and Mbanga to discuss wildlife cases pending in courts and one of them equally held a meeting with the Advocate General of the Littoral Region on a wildlife case in court.

Management

- A legal adviser from Guinea was left the country after a month-long organisational training.
- One candidates for recruitment continue his testing period within the legal department while the testing of one other was stopped for lack of sufficient improvement and high standards.

Activism Front:

Presentation: Talking to the Media

The Deputy Director uses the occasion of activities to mark World Environment Day to carry out a presentation on a topic which is rarely discussed but which activists absolutely need for their communication - that is how to talk to the media. He describes the processes and the tips to use when talking to the media with emphasises on the dos and don'ts. Discussions were mainly on understanding the pitfalls and problems.

Talk on World Environment Day

The Deputy Director also used the occasion to give a brief talk on the topic - the world environment day - describing its history, its importance, what the organisation has planned and what commitments are we as individuals, are taking, in ensuring that we live to the cannons of proper environmental protection.

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.

Link of the month

The Cameroonian run online site, [camer.be](http://www.camer.be) reported on the arrest of a wildlife traffickers arrested at the Bastos neighbourhood in Yaounde. The trafficker was arrested for the illegal possession of 2 carved ivory.

<http://www.camer.be/60438/11:1/cameroun-cameroon-two-ivory-tusks-seized-in-yaounde-and-man-arrested.html>

This Month in Pictures



Wildlife trafficker at the police station answering to questions on his supplying ivory products to the black market, he travelled all the way from the south to the nation's capital to conduct business but met with law enforcement operatives. Two carved ivory tusks were found in his possession