

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

April 2021 Report



Highlights

- **The Deputy Director, held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry Forestry and Wildlife to discuss issues related legal procedures and court cases.**
- **The Head of the Investigations Department held meetings with some law enforcement officials in Sangmelima and in Djoum to strengthen collaboration.**
- **The entire team celebrated the International Labour Day on the eve of the Day, with some activities and a luncheon.**
- **An investigator from Gabon came to the end of a one-month experience sharing mission to the country**
- **There were no operations this month and strategies were re-examined to improve on the situation next month.**

General

The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Secretary General to discuss the prosecution of arrested wildlife traffickers and other related issues. He was accompanied to the meeting by the Head of the Legal Department.

The Head of the Investigation Department held a meeting in Sangmelima with the newly appointed Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for the Dja and Lobo Division to discuss areas of collaboration that can play essential roles in the effective prosecution of wildlife traffickers in the division. He equally held meetings in Djoum with a State Prosecutor, the Gendarmerie Chief of Brigade and the Wildlife Chief of Post, the Chef of the South Antenna of the Dja Wildlife Reserve, to discuss areas of collaboration in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

The entire team celebrated the International Labour Day, on the eve of the Day activities focused on a PowerPoint presentation, the watching of an activism movie and a luncheon

No operations took place this month and new strategies were formulated to ensure operations take place next month. The month recorded a very low number of the media pieces that are expected to increase next month as enforcement activities intensify.

Investigations

- **16 investigation missions** out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including: Littoral, South, Centre and East Regions.

Investigations Table

| Investigation Missions | Regions | No. of Operations | No of traffickers arrested |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16 | 4 | 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 **10 missions** out of Yaoundé-Centre Region: 2 in Douala LAGA Legal Department carried out **6 missions** out of Yaoundé - Centre Region: 1 in Bertoua (East), 2 in Ebolowa (South) 1 in Ambam (South) and 2 in Douala (Littoral).
- There are **13 traffickers behind bars this month**: 4 in East region, 2 in Centre region, 1 in Littoral, and 6 in West region.
- **24 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **20 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **1 trafficker** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was 1 court ruling this month.
 - **07/04/2021**: The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused **ONANA NDZANA Bernard guilty and sentenced him one year in prison and to pay 200,000 FCFA as fines. He was also sentenced to pay 200,000 FCFA as damages.**
 - He was arrested in Bertoua on the 09/03/2021 for illegal possession of 109 kg of pangolin scales.

Legal Table

| No of Missions (Out of Yaoundé) | No of Court Judgements | No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence | Prison term (in) | No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence) | No of Appeals lodged | No of Cases Tried in Courts |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

Media

- **3 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, in English.
- Interviewee: None.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the arrest of a customs official with a mandrill at Ambam, and the arrest of a man with more than 100kg of pangolin scales in Bertoua.
- 3 media pieces all in the English language.
- The month recorded a very low number of the media pieces that are expected to increase next month as enforcement activities intensify.

Media Table

| <i>No of media pieces</i> | TV | Radio | Newspapers | Internet |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director accompanied by the Head of Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with Secretary General to discuss prosecution procedures and wildlife cases.
- The Head of the Investigation Department held a meeting in Sangmelima with the newly appointed Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for the Dja and Lobo Division to discuss areas of collaboration that can play essential roles in the effective prosecution of wildlife traffickers in the division. He equally held meetings in Djoum with a State Prosecutor, the Gendarmerie Chief of Brigade and the Wildlife Chief of Post, the Chef of the South Antenna of the Dja Wildlife Reserve, to discuss areas of collaboration in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the State Counsel of Ebolowa on legal strategies on a planned operation and he equally met with the Attorney General of Douala to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending before the Appeal Court.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the Attorney General of Bertoua to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending before the Appeal Court.
- Another legal adviser held two meetings: one with the Bertoua State Counsel and the second with the Bertoua Attorney General to discuss matters at their courts respectively.

Management

- Preparations and celebrations of the Labour Day 2021 were carried out.
- The investigator from Gabon ended a successful one-month experience sharing mission to country.

Activism Front:

Presentation: The International Labour Day.

The presenter takes us through the origin of the labour day, why do we celebrate it, how is it celebrated around the world, what are the main problems faced by workers, what are the solutions and the employer-employee dialectics. A debate on the working conditions in the organization ensued and

the general vision and procedure in solving the problems were explained by the Deputy Director who enjoined all to relax and celebrate as it was the day of the worker.

Movie: Omo Child: The River and the Bush

Lale Labuko documents his moves to save children who are killed by their very own people because tradition says so. They are the “Mingi”, children born with some disabilities or perceived disabilities or simply out of wedlock among the Kara people in Ethiopia. They simply have to die because tradition says they are a curse and of course Lale disagrees. He fights on and wins the fight to preserve the lives of these children after saving and taking over dozens from the mouth of death. His initiatives fully capture all what activism is about that the dedication of one man can make a change. The debates concentrate on the tradition itself, activism and the will to fight on. against all the odds.

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/Activithvism/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

There were no links for this month.

This Month in Pictures



The Deputy Director presenting the 2021 International Labour Day on the eve of the day.