

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## July 2020 Report



### Highlights

- **Several meetings were held within the framework of an external relations mission with wildlife and customs officials**
- **The Deputy Director did three presentations during a workshop to build capacity of frontline wildlife law enforcement.**
- **The legal department had meetings with 7 different state prosecutors to discuss matters pending at the various courts.**
- **LAGA first semester report for 2020 was published online and is being distributed upon request.**

### General

There were no arrests carried out this month and efforts are being made to rectify the situation next month.

The Deputy Director participated at a workshop in Sangmelima where he did three presentations including presentations on Information Gathering within the context of wildlife law enforcement, Investigation Techniques and a third on Information Management and Operations, The workshop that was organized by ZSL brought together stakeholders from the South and East regions that is home to some of the most important parks such as the Dja Biosphere Reserve – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Several meetings including meetings with the South Regional Police Chief, South Regional Forestry and Wildlife Delegate, Head of Customs at the Freight Department at the Doula Airport and at the Nsimalen Airport and the Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post took place. The meetings were held by the Head of Investigations and Legal Departments who were on an external relations mission to build active and collaborative platforms for eventual operations.

7 state prosecutors handling ongoing cases at the various courts around the country were met by legal department members to discuss issues pertaining to the various cases and build a common prosecutorial strategy.

## Investigations

- **18 investigation missions** were carried out in **5 Regions** out of the 10 Regions of Cameroon including the Centre, East, South, Littoral and West Regions.
- New strategies are being developed to refresh the skills of the various members in addressing difficult investigative tasks.

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
18	5	0	0

## Operation

No operations were carried out during the month and the Investigation Department used the opportunity to revamp strategies aimed at improving on skills of the various members.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **15 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 2 in Djoum (South), 2 in Bertoua (East), 4 in Douala (Littoral), 3 in Foubot (West), 1 in Bandjoun (West) and 1 in Mfou (Centre).
- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East Region, 3 in Littoral Region and 6 in West Region.
- **38 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **33 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **1 trafficker** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was 1 court ruling this month.
  - **21/07/2020**: The Mfou Court of First Instance found the accused **BIKAI ONGUENE Joseph Kevin guilty and sentenced him 6 months suspended sentences during 3 years and to pay 100.000 FCFA as fine.**
    - He was arrested in Yaounde on the 17/04/2020 for the illegal possession of Mandrill.
  - **Appeal**: An appeal has been filed this month in the case of **BIKAI ONGUENE Joseph Kevin** in the Centre Court of Appeal.

*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
15	1	0	0	1	1	33

## Media

- **40 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, internet, radio, and television including: 15 written press materials (10 in English and 5 in French), 8 internet publications (6 in French and 2 in English), 12 radio news flashes (7 in French and 5 in English), and 5 TV news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English).
- Interviewee: The Gendarmerie Company Commander in Foubot, the Foubot Brigade Commander and the LAGA Deputy Director.
- Subjects focused this month on wildlife law enforcement including the arrest of 2 human bones traffickers in Foubot, the court hearing of 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Douala as well as the court hearing of the 2 human skeleton traffickers that were arrested in Foubot.
- 21 media pieces in French language and 19 in English language making a percentage of 52.5% in French and 47.5% in English.

*Media table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>

## External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director did three presentations in Sangmelima (South) on Information Gathering within the context of wildlife law enforcement, on Investigation Techniques and on Information Management and Operations during a workshop organized by ZSL that brought together stakeholders from the South and East regions that is home to some of the most important parks such as the Dja Biosphere Reserve – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Head of the Legal Department and the Investigations Department held meetings with the South Regional Police Chief, South Regional Forestry and Wildlife Delegate, Head of Customs at the Freight Department at the Doula Airport and at the Nsimalen Airport and the Nsimalen Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post. The focus of the meetings was on building active and collaborative platforms for eventual operations.
- The head of department held meetings with the state counsels in Bandjoun and Bonandjo – Douala respectively, to discuss some wildlife matters at their jurisdiction while a legal adviser held meetings with the state counsels in Ndokoti - Douala and Bonaberie – Doula respectively, to discuss legal strategies pending at their various courts. A second legal adviser held a meeting with the state counsel in Mfou and a third legal adviser held a meeting with the state counsel in Bertoua to discuss legal strategies. The second and the third legal advisers both met the state counsel in Foubot to discuss a case pending at the his court.

## Management

- The various preventive measures against Covid-19 continued to be monitored and applied with incessant austerity
- The first semester report was published online and is available upon request.

## 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>.

## **Activism Front**

The month of March was marked by the celebration of International Women's Day which is celebrated on March 8 of each year. This day was an opportunity for women and the whole world to question about the respect of the rights and duties of women in society. A family dinner was held to celebrate women's rights with LAGA team members.

## **Finance**

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

## **Link of the month**

The online news site Camer.be focused this month on the arrest of 2 human bones traffickers in Foubot with almost two entire human skeletons. The news site underlines the fact that it is the second time in just a month that human bones traffickers are arrested in Foubot.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/81115/11:1/cameroun-two-entire-human-skeletons-seized-from-traffickers-cameroon.html>

## **This Month in Pictures**



*Deputy Director does a presentation on Information Gathering for the interest of frontline wildlife law enforcement*