

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

November 2024 Report



Highlights

- **3 traffickers, including an army warrant officer and a sacked army sergeant, arrested with 3 and a half elephant tusks in Yaounde, Centre Region.**
- **The Deputy Director travelled to Abidjan where he shall be assisting EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire for a couple of months.**
- **He participated at an EAGLE Network coordination meeting that was held in Nairobi from November 1 to 7, 2024 to review a broad range of issues of the network.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **3 traffickers with 3 and a half elephant tusks.**

3 traffickers arrested with 3 and a half elephant tusks in Yaounde, Centre Region. A warrant officer and a sacked army sergeant were arrested alongside a civilian. They all belong to a gang involved in trafficking wildlife and other illegal products using the cover of military personnel

The Deputy Director travelled to Abidjan where he shall be assisting the Team with management following the departure of Gaspard Julien-lafferriere who was the Coordinator of the project.

He participated at an EAGLE Network coordination meeting that was held in Nairobi from November 1 to 7, 2024. The meeting brought together Coordinators from the following countries Senegal, Togo, Congo, Uganda and Cameroon, 4 Central Coordination Unit members and a Steering Committee member.

Investigations

- **13 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the East, Centre, Adamawa and South.
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- Credible information from the Chief of Wildlife Control Brigade led to the arrest of 3 ivory traffickers including 2 military men in Yaounde with 4 pieces of ivory weighing 15.3kg

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
13	4	1	3

Operation

An operation carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 3 traffickers.**

12/11/2024 – 3 traffickers arrested with 3 and a half elephant tusks in Yaounde, Centre Region. A warrant officer and a sacked army sergeant were arrested alongside a civilian. They all belong to a gang involved in trafficking wildlife and other illegal products using the cover of military personnel. One of the military officers resisted arrest violently making threats to the arresting force as he struggled.

Operations Table

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	3	3 and a half elephant tusks

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **7 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 1 in Ntui (Centre), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East).
- There are **12 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region, 1 in South region and 6 in West region.
- **22 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **14 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **2 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was one court ruling this month.
 - **22/11/2024**: The Ebolowa Court of First Instance found the accused **EYA'AMA Charly** and **NKOULOU OBIANG Pierre** **not guilty on the grounds of lack of intent to commit a criminal offence** and on the other hand, found the accused **MEYA M'ELESSO Yannick** and **ABO'O NDONGO Fustel** **guilty** and sentenced them to pay **200.000 each as fine and 1.200.000 FCFA jointly as damages**.

They were arrested in Ebolowa on the 23/07/2024 for the illegal possession of 4 ivory tusks.
- **Appeal**: An appeal has been filed this month in the case of **EYA'AMA Charly, NKOULOU OBIANG Pierre, MEYA M'ELESSO Yannick and ABO'O NDONGO Fustel** in the South Court of Appeal.

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 trials in Courts</i>
7	0	0	0	2	1	14

Media

- 13 media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 1 written press in English, 10 radio news flashes (5 each in French & in English languages) and 2 internet publication in French.
- Giving a total of 7 media pieces produced in the French language and 6 in the English language making 53.8% in French and 46.2% in English.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the arrest of 3 traffickers including a military officer with 3.5 elephant tusks in Yaounde.

Media Table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
13	0	10	1	2

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Mentor Bat fellows programme of the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Head of the Legal Department and two legal advisers held a meeting with the State Counsel of Yaounde Centre Administratif to discuss operation and legal strategies.
- He held a meeting with the State Counsel of Djoum to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending before the court.
- A legal adviser had a meeting with the State Counsel of Ebolowa to discuss the legal strategies on a matter pending before the court.
- Another legal adviser held meetings with the State Counsels of Abong Mbang, Akonolinga and Ebolowa, respectively, to discuss the legal strategies concerning matters pending before their courts.
- A legal had a meeting with the State Counsel of Ntui to discuss the legal strategies on matters pending before the court.
- The legal advisers distributed copies of the new wildlife law to several authorities.

Management

- The EAGLE meeting of 2024 took place in Kenya - a week of fruitful discussions and bonding of activist managers. The meeting was held November 1 -7 and brought together 9 EAGLE managers - Coordinators from Senegal, Togo, Congo, Uganda and Cameroon, 4 Central Coordination Unit members and the EAGLE Director. A broad range of issues affecting the network were discussed during in-depth sessions working together to improve our way of work, growth and planning. Time with nature connected better the EAGLE leaders to the wildlife we are fighting to protect and to each other.
- A restitution of the Nairobi EAGLE Network coordinators meeting was done during a reporting session. The Deputy Director insisted on a strict application of directives that came out of the coordination meeting.
- Preparations were made for the departure of the Deputy Director to Nairobi where he attended the EAGLE Network coordination meeting and later to Abidjan where he shall spend the next two months assisting the Cote d'Ivoire team. He left for the mission to Abidjan on the 27th of November 2024.

Finance

In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org .

Activism Front

No activism activities were carried out within the month and plans are underway to boost activism activities.

Link of the month

Alwihda info, a news site, published the arrest of 3 traffickers including a military officer with 3.5 elephant tusks in Yaounde. The traffickers, included a former army sergeant who was sacked in 2017. [Click the link below to read the full story:](https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-un-militaire-arrete-pour-traffic-d-animaux-sauvages-menaces_a137190.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3u9R5ge111XttZakPtxWUSpkmSgOD2BprKO0qfmvogobNMGOrSQO2wYJs_aem_aGV5Vp8_aCeNChaBYz1v5Q)

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-un-militaire-arrete-pour-traffic-d-animaux-sauvages-menaces_a137190.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3u9R5ge111XttZakPtxWUSpkmSgOD2BprKO0qfmvogobNMGOrSQO2wYJs_aem_aGV5Vp8_aCeNChaBYz1v5Q

This Month in Pictures



Military personnel under arrest for wildlife trafficking