

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA November 2022 Report



## Highlights

- **The Head of the Legal Department and legal advisers held meetings with several Attorneys General and State Counsels on building legal strategies on ongoing cases and strengthening collaboration.**
- **The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with the Chief of the Directorate General of External Relations in Ambam and some wildlife officials of the South Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.**

## General

The Head of the Legal Department and legal advisers held meetings with several State Counsels on building legal strategies on ongoing cases and strengthening collaboration.

The Head of the Investigation Department held meetings with the Chief of the General Directorate of External Relations in Ambam and some wildlife officials of the South Region to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

**No operations were carried out this month and strategies were put in place to ensure arrests are being carried out next month.**

## Investigations

- **15 investigation missions** out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including West, Centre, South, and East Regions.
- The Head of the Investigation department had working and enforcement of collaboration meetings with the Chief of Directorate General of External Relations of Ambam and the Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Control Post of Kye-ossi to strengthen collaboration.

*Investigations Table*

<b>Investigation Missions</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No. of Operations</b>	<b>No of traffickers arrested</b>
15	4	0	0

## Operation

**No operations were carried out this month and strategies were put in place to ensure arrests are being carried out next month.**

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **7 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Ntui (Centre), 2 Douala (Littoral) and 1 in Bertoua (East).
- There are **20 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in East Region, 2 in South Region, 4 in Centre, 6 in Littoral Region and 6 in West Region.
- **40 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **36 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **A trafficker** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.
  - **10/11/2022**: The Yaounde – Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused **MOHAMADOU Awal not guilty and acquitted him**. However, the court found the accused **ABOUKAR Ali guilty and sentenced him to 2 months in prison, to pay 200,000 FCFA as fines and 45,610 FCFA as court fees. He was also ordered to pay 620,000 FCFA as damages.**

They were arrested in Yaounde on the 03/09/2022 for the illegal possession of 56 kg of ivory tusks.

- **Appeal:** An appeal has been filed this month in the case of **MOHAMADOU Awal and ABOUKAR Ali** 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
7	1	1	2	0	1	36

Media

- **49** media pieces were produced and pushed through to the media including: written press, radio and internet. The publications were as follows: 23 in written press (14 in English and 9 in French), 22 in radio broadcast (12 in French, and 10 in English) and 4 on the internet all in French.
- Giving a total of 25 media pieces produced in the French language, and 24 in English making 51% in French, and 49% in English.
- Interviewee: none
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the Yaounde arrest of two traffickers with 66kg of pangolin scales, the court hearing of three traffickers arrested in Douala with human bones, the Yaounde arrest of two traffickers with a mandrill, another two traffickers arrested still in Yaounde with close to 180kg of pangolin scales, and the sentencing of three traffickers convicted for human bones trafficking in Douala.

*Media table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>

## **External Relations and Policy**

- The Head of the Investigations Department held a meeting with the State Counsel at the Douala –Bonanjo Court of First Instance and the Attorney General in Bertoua to discuss legal strategies in a case pending before the at their various courts.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the Attorney General in Ebolowa and they discussed legal strategies on a case pending at the South Appeal Court and she later held another meeting with the State Counsel of the Court of First Instance at Yaounde – Centre Administratif on strategies on an ongoing case at the court.
- A second legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel in Akonolinga to discuss strategies on an upcoming case at his court.
- A third legal adviser held a meeting with the Attorney General of the Littoral Court of Appeal to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending at the court.

## **Management**

- Preparations for end of year activities were started and emphasizes were placed on strategies to ensuring results could be boosted to meet the various targets set at the beginning of the year. A meeting was held with all heads of departments.

## **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/Actiwithvism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

## **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**

Stopblablacam.com, an online news site this month published the court sentence of three traffickers convicted for trafficking in human bones. They were arrested after a long standing investigations into pangolin scales and leopard skin trafficking to India...

<https://www.stopblablacam.com/societe/1611-9685-douala-cinq-ans-de-prison-pour-trois-trafiquants-d-ossements-humains>