

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## March 2020 Report



### Highlights

- **As a precautionary measure, the LAGA office was closed for five days after a member reported high fever and he was later found to have malaria dissipating fears of a Covid-19 infection.**
- **The Deputy Director held a meeting with Global Earth Watch President and a consultant who were visiting the country.**
- **An investigator from Gabon returned to Libreville following a three-weeks long training and experience sharing mission.**

### General

There were no arrests carried out this month partly caused by the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The Deputy Director held a meeting the president of Global Earth Keeper and a consultant working for the organisation. they discussed issues related to conservation in the northern regions of the country.

The LAGA team returned to work after a five-day office shutdown due as a precautionary measure following the case of high fever reported by one of its members amid fears of Covid-19. His test revealed he had malaria and has since recovered and returned to his desk.

An investigator travelled from Gabon for a three-week training and experience sharing mission with the investigation department. He returned safely to Libreville after a successful mission.

## Investigations

- **12 investigation missions** were carried out in **5 Region** out of the 10 Regions of Cameroon viz: Centre, West, East, Littoral and South Regions.
- The department received an investigator from Gabon with whom ideas and experiences were exchanged during his stay in LAGA.

*Investigations Table*

<b>Investigation Missions</b>	<b>Regions</b>	<b>No. of Operations</b>	<b>No of traffickers arrested</b>
12	5	0	0

## Operation

No operations were carried out during the month mostly due to the Covid-19 situation that has affected normal activities in every part of the country.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **6 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Kribi (South), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bandjoun (West), 1 in Bertoua (East) and 1 in Batouri (East).
- There are **6 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in East region and 3 in Littoral region.
- **24 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **22 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No trafficker** was convicted this month.

*Legal Table*

<b>No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)</b>	<b>No of Court Judgements</b>	<b>No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence</b>	<b>Prison term (in months)</b>	<b>No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)</b>	<b>No of Appeals lodged</b>	<b>No of Cases Tried in Courts</b>
6	0	0	0	0	0	22

## Media

- **31 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, internet and the radio, including; 13 written press materials (7 in English and 6 in French), 8 internet publications (5 in French and 3 in English) and 10 radio news flashes (6 in French and 4 in English).
- Interviewee: No interviews were done for this month
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The court hearing of several traffickers arrested with 5 leopard skin in Bandjoun, ivory and parrot traffickers' arrests.
- 14 media pieces in English language and 17 in French language making a percentage of 45.1% in English and 54.8% in French.

*Media table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>

## External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the President of Global Earth Watch and a consultant working for the conservation group. They discussed conservation problems in the northern regions of Cameroon including public awareness campaigns, transhumant pastoralism, community participation in initiatives, the apprehension by local communities of white people working in conservation projects in their communities and the country at large among many others. He exchanged with them, some experiences and practical ideas on how to optimise efforts towards the achievement of conservation objectives in the region.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the State Counsel in Bonaberi to discuss legal strategies on a case pending before the court and with the customs Head of Operations HALCOMI3 Zone 1 in Douala to discuss a case involving the customs department.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel in Bandjoun to discuss legal strategies in a matter pending before the court and another legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel in Bertoua for the same purpose

## Management

- Measures were taken and followed up to ensuring guidelines and directives given by the government against Covid-19 were scrupulously followed and adhered to.
- Office was shutdown for a 5-day quarantine that was organised following fears a member may have been infected with coronavirus but tests later showed he had malaria. Office was reopened following this confirmation.
- Several measures were taken in respect to the Covid\_19 situation in the country and include sanitation measures, distribution and pasting on office walls guidelines, respect of government measures including social distancing.

## 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**

Camer.be, an online news site focused this month on the arrest of a wildlife trafficker with 5 leopard skins in Bandjoun, West Region. The article also draws attention to the trafficking in leopard skins amidst the fact that the leopard is a totally protected species.

<https://www.camer.be/79324/11:1/cameroun-trafficker-arrested-in-bandjoun-cameroon.html>