

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

April 2024 Report



Highlights

- **2 traffickers arrested with body parts of 2 killed gorillas. The parts that included heads and limbs had blood still dripping indicating the gorillas were recently killed.**
- **The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Chief of Service in charge of wildlife crime at the INTERPOL National Central Bureau to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **2 traffickers with parts of two killed gorillas.**

2 traffickers arrested with body parts of 2 killed gorillas in Doume, East Region. The parts that included heads and limbs had blood still dripping indicating the gorillas were recently killed. The two were specialised in poaching and trafficking in great apes. The two disappeared from the Gendarmerie cell where they were remanded in custody with strong links to corruption. They were reported to have “escaped”. The hunt is ongoing and the corruption incident is under investigations.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Chief of Service in charge of wildlife crime at the INTERPOL National Central Bureau to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

Investigations

- **11 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the West, Centre, East and South.
- Good investigation in Lomie led to the arrest of 2 primate traffickers in Doume with two gorilla heads, 4 chimpanzee limbs, and 4 fresh gorilla limbs.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No. of traffickers arrested
11	4	1	2

Operation

An operation carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 2 traffickers**.

31/5/2022 – 2 traffickers arrested in Doume, East Region with parts of 2 killed gorillas
The parts that included heads and limbs had blood still dripping indicating the gorillas were recently killed. The two were specialised in poaching and trafficking in great apes. The two disappeared from the Gendarmerie cell where they were remanded in custody with strong links to corruption. They were reported to have “escaped”. The hunt is ongoing and the corruption incident is under investigations. They operated mainly from Lomie and were specialized in trafficking parts of great apes – chimps and gorillas. They had strong connections around their base.

Operations Table

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	2	2 gorilla heads, 4 chimpanzee limbs, and 4 fresh gorilla limbs.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **5 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Ntui (Centre), 2 in Doumé (East), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East).
- There are **11 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **16 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **14 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No traffickers** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court ruling this month.

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 Cases Tried in Courts</i>
5	0	0	0	0	0	16

Media

- **12 media pieces** were produced and pushed to the media including: 10 radio news flashes (7 in French and 3 in English), 1 written press in English, and 1 internet publication in French.
- Giving a total of 8 media pieces produced in the French language and 4 in English making 66.7% in French and 33.3 in English.
- Interviewee: Ofir Drori, the Founder of EAGLE network,
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: 30 traffickers arrested in 4 African countries during the first quarter of the year 2024.

Media Table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
12	0	10	1	1

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Chief of Service in charge of wildlife crime at the INTERPOL National Central Bureau to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the State Counsel of Ntui to discuss legal strategies on an ongoing case at the court.
- Two legal advisers held a meeting with State Counsels of Abong Mbang to discuss legal strategies on an ongoing matter at the court.
- The Heads of the Legal and Investigations Departments held a meeting with the Chief of Wildlife in Abong Mbang and the Doumé Gendarmerie Brigade Commander to strategize on the operation that led to the arrest of 2 gorilla traffickers.
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Management

- A new candidate was tested and retained for trial for the Investigations Department.

Finance

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

Activism Front

A movie, 'Bringing down a dictator' was screened in the office as part of activities marking the commemoration of Labour Day celebration in LAGA. The movie centers on the use of peaceful or non-violent method in a protest to bring a positive change. It also outlines some qualities including determination, fighting spirit and teamwork a team should have in order to succeed in a common cause. The Otpor had all of these qualities which made it possible for them to bring down Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

Link of the month

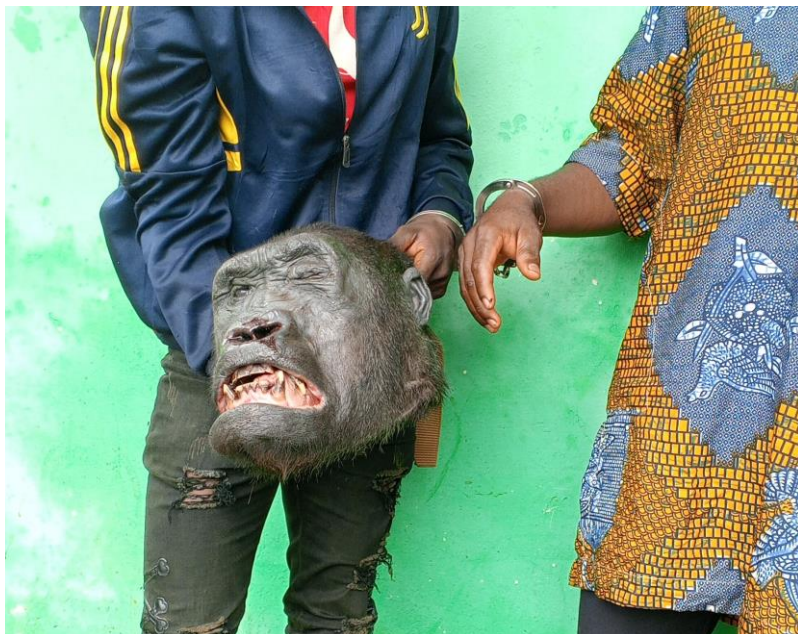
Alwihda info, a news site, published the arrest of 30 traffickers in 4 African countries during the first quarter of the year. These arrest were carried out with the technical assistance of NGOs in the EAGLE network. Click the link below to get the full story:

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Afrique-30-trafiquants-arretes-dans- quatre-pays-du-continent_a131947.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1EPlobwzyqpx0GtEG7Mvh-8w_Y48JgKEolf0T3EIDDfshQCwp8OMuWtbU_aem_AYaEKEn34xXqmkiGVDnqP1Pe9CbuVuB8yRHZJPA2Mv97IEj4x3FyBoSeZBsgjPAc5bA73ix1-ieI_cqFgMk3-zit

This Month in Pictures



Arrested in Doume for trafficking in fresh gorilla parts, they await interrogation at the wildlife office



Arrested traffickers carry gorilla head.