

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

August 2023 Report



Highlights

- **An ape trafficker arrested and a chimpanzee rescued in Ebolowa, South Region**
- **2 more traffickers arrested and a mandrill rescued in Ebolowa, South Region.**
- **The Deputy Director participated at an event to welcome new embassy officials of the Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy in Yaounde**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **3 traffickers, one for trafficking in live chimpanzee and 2 others for illegal possession of a mandrill.**

An ape trafficker arrested, and **a baby chimpanzee rescued; 2 more traffickers** arrested with a **young mandrill in Ebolowa, South Region.** The ape trafficker was arrested while attempting to sell the chimpanzee. The animal had been chained and caged alongside a dog in the home of the trafficker. The little female was frail and aggressive and looked like she had suffered from trauma. The trafficker talked about trying to sell the chimp to a governor. The mandrill was spotted in the street by the arresting team. The trafficker was arrested and a second detained at the police station when he showed up after police requested for his presence.

The Deputy Director participated at an event to welcome new embassy officials of the Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy in Yaounde. He held brief discussions with the US Ambassador and the Second Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Yaounde. Discussions focused on wildlife law enforcements and the fight against wildlife crime.

Investigations

- **9 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the Littoral, Centre, East and South.
- Credible information from a South based informant led to the arrest of a primate trafficker and a live baby chimpanzee rescued in Ebolowa.
- The Head of the Department met the Judicial Police Chief of Ebolowa in a bid to renew working relations and appreciate his efforts in the last operation

Investigations Table

| Investigation Missions | Regions | No. of Operations | No of traffickers arrested |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 2 |

Operation

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

- **18/08/2023 –An ape trafficker arrested and a chimpanzee rescued and 2 more primate traffickers arrested with a mandrill in Ebolowa, South Region.** The ape trafficker was arrested while attempting to sell the chimpanzee. The animal had been chained and caged alongside a dog in the home of the trafficker. The little female was frail and aggressive and looked like she had suffered from trauma. The trafficker talked about trying to sell the chimp to a governor. The mandrill was spotted in the street by the arresting team. The trafficker was arrested as he tried to escape and a second detained at the police station when he showed up after police requested for his presence.

Operations Table

| No of Operations | Regions | No of Traffickers Arrested | Contraband |
|------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 3 | A live chimpanzee and a live mandrill |

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **7 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Akonolinga (Centre),1 in Bafia (Centre), 1 in Nanga-Eboko (Centre), 1 in Dschang (West), 1 in Ebolowa and 2 in Douala (Littoral).
- There are **17 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in East region,4 in South region, 2 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **32 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **29 cases** weres scheduled in court this month.
- **2 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.

08/08/2023: The Dschang Court of First Instance **discontinued the procedure against DJOUOTE Hubert following the death of the accused and found the accused FOSSO innocent and not guilty for lack of evidence.** On the other hand, the court found the accused **BOUNA Jean Valerie and MBE Jean guilty and sentenced them to pay 150,000 FCFA each as fine and 4,587,500 FCFA jointly as damages.**

They were arrested in Balessing on the 23/06/2023 for illegal possession of 3 leopard skins and a crocodile skin.

Legal Table

| No of Missions (Out of Yaoundé) | No of Court Judgements | No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence | Prison term (in) | No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence) | No of Appeals lodged | No of Cases Tried in Courts |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 29 |

Media

- **23** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including:23 radio news flashes (14 in French and 9 in English)
- Giving a total of 14 media pieces produced in the French and 9 in English making 60.9% in French and 39.1% in English.
- Interviewee:none
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the Nkoteng arrest of 2 traffickers with 47kg of giant pangolin scales and the arrest of three traffickers with a chimp and a mandrill in Ebolowa.

Media table

| <i>No of media pieces</i> | TV | Radio | Newspapers | Internet |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 23 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 |

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director participated at an event to welcome new embassy officials of the Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy in Yaounde. He held brief discussions with the US Ambassador and the Second Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Yaounde. Discussions focused on wildlife law enforcements and the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the newly appointed Centre Regional Chief of Wildlife to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- The Head of the Legal Department and a legal adviser held a meeting with the State Council of Ebolowa and the South Regional Delegate for Forestry and wildlife to discuss strategies before and after an operation and the two held another meeting with the State Council of Yaounde – Ekonou on a wildlife case.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the State Council of Dschang to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the court
- A legal adviser also met with the State Council of Akonolinga to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the court
- She also met with the State Council of Bafia for the same purpose
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the Attorney General of Douala to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the Appeal Court.
- He held another meeting with the State Council of Yaounde Centre Administratif to discuss legal strategies concerning a wildlife case at the court.

Management

- Organised strategic meetings with heads of departments to boost performance

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>.

Finance

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

Link of the month

There no links this month as no online stories was published

This Month in Pictures



Chained chimp was rescued from trafficker (left) who held the animal in very deplorable conditions at his residence in Ebolowa South



Arrested for illegal possession of a mandrill and at the wildlife office in Ebolowa waiting for the drafting of the offences