

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

November 2018 Report



Highlights

- **The Deputy Director participated at the 18th Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in Brussels, Belgium.**
- **A legal adviser did a presentation on LAGA's experience in fighting corruption during a sub-regional workshop that held in Sangmelima.**
- **The Deputy Director was a guest at a lunch that brought together some NGO officials offered by the Head of European Union Delegation at his residence.**

General

Several meetings and external relations activities were carried out this month and the Deputy Director travelled to Brussels, Belgium to participate at the 18th MoP of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). During the meeting, he met with several government and nongovernmental stakeholders. He was a guest at a lunch offered by the Head of the European Union Delegation at his residence in Yaounde and in Douala he facilitated an open discussions session during a sub-regional workshop that brought together prosecutors, law enforcement officers and NGO officials to discuss illegal logging. One of the legal advisers did a presentation on the fight against corruption in wildlife law enforcement at a sub-regional workshop that held in Sangmelima.

No operations took place took place this month and strategies that were formulated last month to ensure more arrests continue to be implemented and it is expected that it shall bring in good results next month.

Investigations

- **22 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon including Littoral, Centre, South, South West, East and West Regions.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the newly appointed chef of forestry and wildfire control post at the Douala port to create collaborative platforms while his assistant travelled to the ports of Tiko, Limbe and Idenau for the same purpose with the newly appointed chiefs of forestry and wildlife control posts and to reinforce working relations with customs officials at the said ports.
- The Head of Department also travelled to Douala to collaborate with gendarmes in a post arrest procedure following the apprehension of 3 with more than 400kg of ivory heading to Nigeria.

Investigations Table

| Investigation Missions | Regions | No. of Operations | No of traffickers arrested |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 22 | 6 | 0 | 0 |

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried **8 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Ambam (South) and 1 in Sangmelima (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Bagangté (West), 1 in Mfou (Centre).
- There are **12 dealers behind bars this month**: 3 in East region, region, 3 in Centre Region and 6 in South region.
- **32 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **28 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No court rulings during** this month.
- **No appeal filed within this month**

Legal Table

| No of Missions (Out of Yaounde) | 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 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |

Media

- **42 media pieces** were produced and push into the various media including the written press, radio and internet, and this was achieved at a rate of over one media piece per day;
- 20 written press material (12 in English and 8 in French), 16 radio news flashes (9 in French and 7 in English), and 5 internet publication (4 in French and 2 in English) and 21 media pieces in English and 21 in French making a percentage of 50% in English and 50% in French.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including the Douala arrest of 3 persons with 125 tusk and dozens of ivory pieces, the second court hearing of the 4 persons arrested in Douala with 435kg of pangolin scales; the court case of the 6 traffickers who were arrested with 718kg of pangolin scales in the same city, and the court hearing of 3 persons who were arrested with many wildlife products including 158 ivory pieces, 128 parrots' heads and feathers in Douala last year
- The Assistant Head of the Media Department returned to the country after successfully participating in a strain training course on media campaign for development and social change in the Netherlands

Media Table

| No of Media Pieces | TV | Radio | Newspapers | Internet |
|--------------------|----|-------|------------|----------|
| 42 | 0 | 16 | 20 | 6 |

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director travelled to Brussels to participate at the 18th MoP of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and before going to Belgium, he travelled to Douala where he coordinated an open discussion session for NGOs, law enforcement officers and prosecutors during a US Justice Department sub regional workshop on fighting illegal logging.
- He was guest of a lunch offered to some NGO officials by the Head of the European Union Delegation at his residence in Yaounde.
- Deputy Director participated at an international preparatory meeting for the ministerial conference on fighting poaching and other transboundary criminal activities in the Central African sub region, where ministers of defense, security and protected areas will meet. During the preparatory meeting he was coopted into the technical committee preparing working documents for the conference that shall be held in N'Djamena early next year.
- The Head of the Legal Department held meetings with state counsels in Douala – Bonanjo, and Douala – Bonaberi to discuss cases pending in their courts and with the Gendarmerie Legion Commander in Douala to discuss a wildlife trafficking investigations
- One of the legal officers participated at a WWF organized regional workshop in Sangmelima where she did a presentation on the experience of LAGA in fighting corruption. She equally had a meeting with the Legal Unit Head at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss legal issue on the matters pending in courts.

Management

- The recruitment process in the legal department intensified with over one hundred applications for the post of a legal adviser received. Interviews for preselection are expected to start very soon.

- A lunch was held this month with all LAGA members coming together to share a common meal in the office.

Activism Front:

Presentation: The Anglophone crisis deep rooted in the All Anglophone Conferences (AACs)

The presenter gets into the present crisis rocking the country as a separatist movement is trying to gain independence for the Anglophone regions. He briefly recounts the history of the country as from the 1950s and the problems that erupted as time went on. This culminated to the 1993 All Anglophone Conference and a subsequent AAC with all recommending greater autonomy and a return to federalism. His analyses highlighted the exploitation and abuse suffered by the minority Anglophones and he says this has caused the precarious situation and the violence witnessed in the Anglophone regions. He examines the present solutions to the problems and questions whether the next AAC that is planned could really solve the Anglophone problem. Discussions focused on areas of possible solutions, on the terminological divide – Francophone/Anglophone and the fragile grasp of the ideology sustaining the raging civil war in the Anglophone regions

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

Camer.be, an online news site publishes the story of the arrest of three who were about heading to Nigeria with bales of clothing and ivory hidden inside the illicit cargo. Ports gendarmerie arrested the traffickers and over 125 ivory tusks were seized.

<https://www.camer.be/71740/11:1/cameroon-cameroun-traffic-divoire-vers-le-nigeria-trois-personnes-arretees.html>

YouTube Statistics:

2605 views within 2 weeks

This Month in Pictures



The Deputy Director (right) with a ZSL official at the 18th Meeting of Parties (CBFP) in Brussels, Belgium



Loveline, our legal officer travelled to Sangmelima to do a presentation on LAGA's experience on fighting corruption in law enforcement