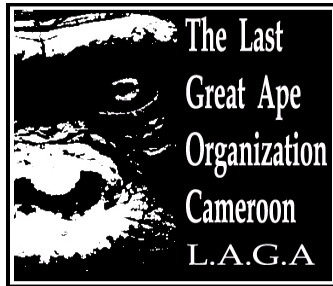


THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT JANUARY– JUNE 2026



Executive Summary

Achievements were recorded in LAGA's collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) despite the mounting number of challenges faced. These achievements were obtained in the fields of investigation, arrest, prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities. Focus was on the fight against the illegal wildlife trade in elephant tusks and pangolin scales. The EAGLE Central Coordination Unit collaborated very closely with the investigations ensuring vital support that enabled the arrest of 5 traffickers.

Persistent challenges continued to limit the number of investigation missions, making it more difficult to sustain the pace of operations. Despite these constraints, the resilience and dedication of the organisation grew stronger, ensuring that the fight against wildlife crime remained active and impactful. This determination reflects LAGA's commitment to maintaining pressure on trafficking networks even under adverse conditions, demonstrating that resource limitations did not weaken the resolve to protect Cameroon's wildlife.

A total of 5 traffickers were arrested, and importantly, all remained behind bars from the day of arrest, underscoring the effectiveness of the operations and judicial follow-up. Efforts are being intensified to secure more arrests, with the team deploying new resilient and intelligent techniques designed to adapt to evolving trafficking methods and deliver even stronger results in future.

All 5 traffickers were charged; the cases forwarded to examining judges are furthering investigations. 2 traffickers were found guilty and given a 5-year suspended sentence. They were arrested for the illegal possession of giant pangolin scales, a protected wildlife species.

The EAGLE network achieved substantial results as 18 traffickers were arrested across 6 countries.

LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)
SEMESTER REPORT
January - June 2026

OVERVIEW

Investigations

- A total of 46 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 5 regions.

Operations

- The semester was marked by the arrest of 5 traffickers during three operations. The operations resulted from limited but highly effective investigations.
- The financial challenges among others limited the number of investigation missions making it more difficult for operations to be carried out.

Legal

- 5 new cases were brought to court. All the cases are being handled by an examining judge.
- 2 traffickers were found guilty and handed a 5-year suspended prison sentence and the payment of damages of 3 750 000 FCFA. (about \$7500) to MINFOF.
- This was the only court ruling was passed during the 6-month period.

Media

- A total of 58 media pieces were produced in national media (radio, written press and internet) achieved at a rate of about 2 media pieces per week.

Management

- The annual report of 2025 was made available online.
- Management concentrated its efforts on resilience, motivation, and smart teamwork. These elements were central to overcoming the numerous challenges faced during the period.

External Relations and Policy

- Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss issues on collaboration, governance, wildlife law enforcement among others.

Strategic Highlights

- The operational focus over this period was ivory, pangolin and leopard skin trafficking.
- Strategies were put in place to deploy new intelligent and adaptive techniques in the face of growing financial challenges and evolving trafficking methods.
- The CCU evaluated and provided strategic assistance to management, operational and organisational functioning.

EAGLE Activities

- A total of 18 traffickers were arrested across 5 countries of the network during this semester.

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Also available:

1. Annual Financial Statement 2025
2. Annual Activity Report 2025
3. Media archive – Excel database linked to recorded media pieces
4. Photo archive for media use

For copies contact email; eric@laga-enforcement.org

NARRATIVE REPORT

The semester report covers the period from January to June 2026 and presents an overview of progress achieved across LAGA's core departments—Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media, and Management. It provides a strategic assessment of the organization's activities and their impact on fighting wildlife crime in Cameroon. The report further examines relations with the Cameroonian government, engagement with non-governmental bodies, collaboration with international partners, and the non-enforcement initiatives undertaken during the period.

1. Investigations

During the reporting period, the Investigation Department carried out 46 missions across 5 regions of the country. This represented coverage of only half of the national territory, as funding constraints and persistent security challenges limited operations in certain areas.

Despite these obstacles, several investigations were highly effective and in-depth, producing high-calibre operations and leads that are expected to generate further enforcement actions in the near future.

The head of the department was part of the operation team during all operations carried out during the first period of the year and this greatly boosted the operation capacity of the whole team. He visited several law enforcement and customs officials in some regions of the country to build and or improve collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.



Figure 1: Number of Investigations Missions per Month

2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out three operations resulting in the arrest of 5 traffickers. The Team experienced significant challenges during the semester but produced three strong operations with major traffickers arrested, reinforcing the country's commitment to wildlife law enforcement. Here below are the operations carried out during the semester:

In January, a trafficker was arrested with a leopard skin in Yaounde, Centre Region. The trafficker, an army Master Corporal, was arrested in Yaounde attempting to sell the leopard skin. He used his position to lend impunity to his trafficking activities and travelled from Dschang where he is based, with the contraband, covering over 300km to Yaounde before his arrest. The trafficker who understands the intricacies of the illegal trade in leopard skins brought the skin from the East of the country, specifically from Belabo.

In April, an ivory trafficker was arrested with 8 elephant tusks and 52kg giant pangolin scales in Yaounde. The trafficker based his ring in Mintom, in the South Region and the tusks were trafficked from Congo. He displayed a high level of confidence, reflecting both his professionalism and deep knowledge of ivory trafficking. The tusks and scales were transported in a hired taxi to the place of transaction where he was eventually arrested. He operated a trafficking network primarily dedicated to trading elephant tusks.

In December, 3 traffickers were arrested with 710 kg of pangolin scales in Yokadouma, in the East Region. The haul represents more than 2,300 killed pangolins! They concealed the 12 sacks of scales in a carpenter's workshop in Yokadouma. The ring activated a vast network of poachers across the East and South regions and neighboring countries, including Congo and the Central African Republic. They trafficked pangolin scales across large parts of the country, supplying major towns such as Bertoua, Yaoundé, and Douala. They maintained storage facilities in some of these towns to stockpile the scales before distribution.

Operations Table

<i>Number of Operations</i>	<i>Number of Traffickers</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
3	5	A leopard skin, 8 elephant tusks and 52kg giant pangolin scales, 710 kg of pangolin scales

Figure 2: Operation Table

3. Legal

A total of 5 new cases reached the court. The new cases are under examination by a judge. All of the cases including the old cases were being followed up. The old cases were scheduled, and the trials in court strictly followed. A court gave a 5-year suspended sentence to two pangolin scales traffickers. They were arrested in Tibati in July last year for the illegal possession of 82 kg of pangolin scales.

All of the cases initiated within this period did not yet reach the judgement stage and the rate of keeping the accused behind bars at the onset of the procedure stood at with 100%

A total of 8 missions were carried out of the Centre Region for follow-up of cases and the creation and strengthening of relations with judicial authorities. A single court ruling was passed during this period but it was a suspended sentence to 2 pangolin scales traffickers.

Legal advisers held several meetings with judicial and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

4. Media

A total of 58 media pieces were produced and pushed into media including numerous articles in all media – radio, written press and the internet; achieved at a rate of about 2 media pieces every week.. The drop in the number of media pieces could be accounted for by the low number of operations obtained during the semester. The situation is expected to be rectified once the organisation's activities regain their natural rhythm and effective flow. May recorded the highest number of media pieces and in June the entire team carried out limited activity. No TV broadcasts were done during the period.

Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including the arrest of 3 people with more than 60 African grey parrots in Bertoua; the arrest of two people including a police officer with 2 fresh leopard skins in Yaounde; the sentencing of 8 wildlife traffickers last year; the arrest of 3 people with more than 60 African grey parrots in Bertoua; the arrest of 3 people with 710 kg of pangolin scales in Yokadouma and the arrest in Yaounde of an ivory trafficker with 8 elephant tusks and 52 kg of pangolin scales.

No TV media pieces were published during the semester and efforts shall be made in the future to correcting this situation.

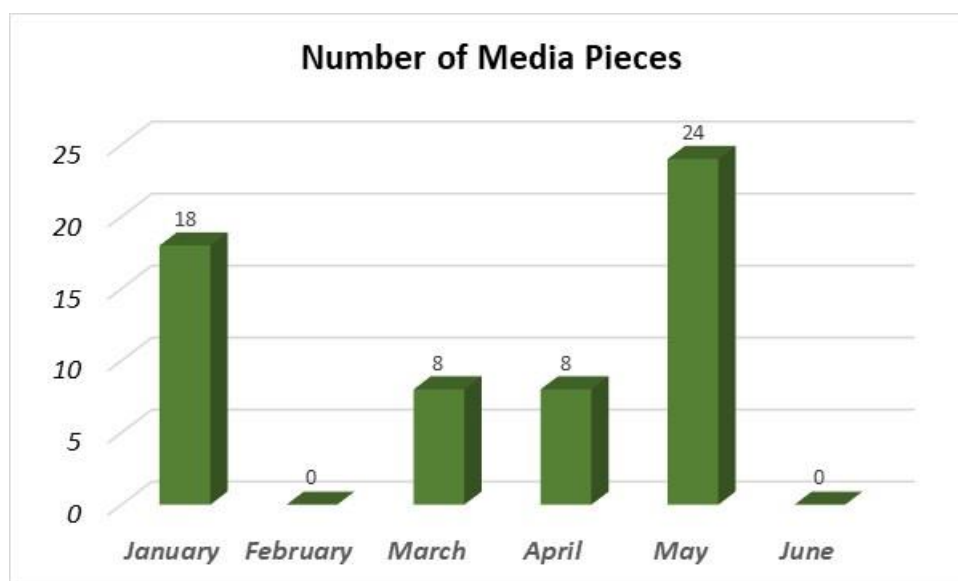


Figure 3: Number of Media Pieces Produced and Published

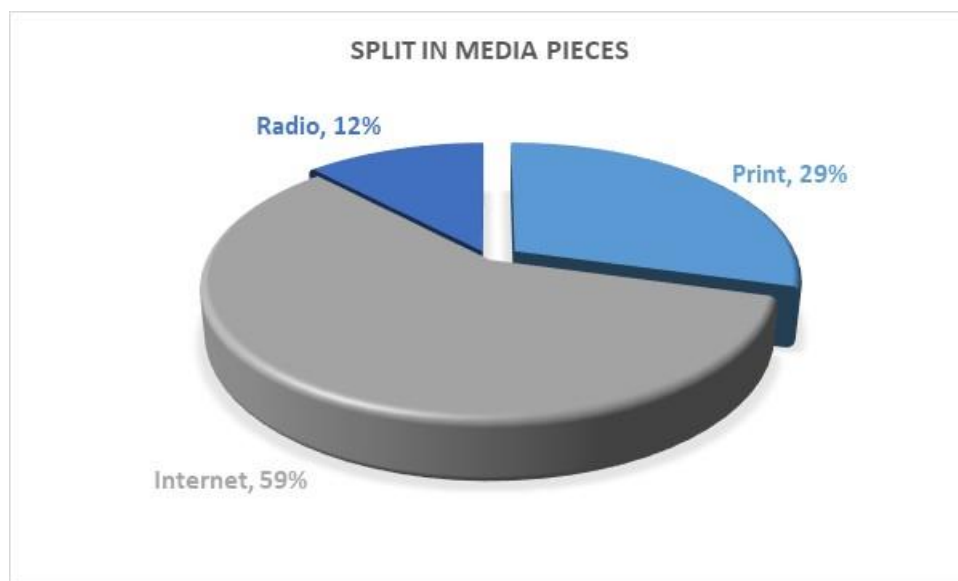


Figure 3: Split in Media Pieces

5. Management

Despite difficulties many challenges management faced during the semester which were mostly linked to producing of high level results, investigation difficulties, all the departments worked hard to improving on the results of the semester. The annual report of 2024 was uploaded online. The electronic versions are available online on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org. This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

During the semester, the organisation adopted a strategy focused on the effective and efficient management of resources and on building resilience in the face of mounting challenges. These measures were designed to confront the difficult climate in which work is being carried out, while efforts continue to expand the donor base to secure more stable and fluent financing.

Despite the constraints, management provided strong leadership, ensuring that activities continued and results were achieved with the limited funds provided by very dedicated donors. This commitment highlights the organisation's ability to adapt and persevere, even under adverse conditions.

The process to renew the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife was initiated with the administrative procedure fully engaged.

The annual financial and activity reports of 2025 were successfully completed. The activity report was published online alongside the second semester report of 202%.

Recruitment for the investigations departments was suspended. Nevertheless, two volunteer continued their training for the position of investigators.

A couple of thought-provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA team were organised to foster activism and leadership skills. A wide range of topics including activism were debated. This initiative also aims at strengthening the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

6. External Relations and Policy

Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, the diplomatic community, national and international NGOs to discuss issues on collaboration, governance, wildlife law enforcement among others. Here is a summary of some of the meetings.

In January, a legal adviser participated at a workshop on the review and validation of standard operating procedures for monitoring, investigating and prosecuting the illegal online wildlife trade in Cameroon. The workshop that took place in Soa, Yaounde, was organized by TRAFFIC.

The Legal Team held a meeting with the Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for Centre Region, to discuss the legal strategies following the operation leading to the arrest of the army corporal.

In February, The Deputy Director and the Legal Department held a meeting with the newly appointed Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. She was also handed a copy of the LAGA 2025 annual report.

In April, the Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal Department, held a meeting with an INTERPOL Criminal Intelligence Officer to discuss issues related to wildlife crime.

The Legal Team held a meeting with officials of the Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife for the Centre Region to discuss strategies related to the execution of the operation and post operation follow up.

7. LAGA and the EAGLE Network

LAGA's new model for NGO – Government collaboration establishing wildlife law enforcement, bringing about results with an innovative approach geared at changing the existing system and triggering a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime is being realised within the EAGLE network. The model is focusing on the prosecution of major traffickers, not the small-time poacher who is motivated by the city dwelling traffickers. This involves fighting head on the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – Corruption. LAGA's experience and model is currently operating within the EAGLE network that group 7 countries.

The replication of the LAGA model is also geared at taking cross section lessons outside of wildlife conservation; these include the fight against corruption, fostering activism, fight against child trafficking etc.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/tabid/166/Default.aspx>

The EAGLE network is now responsible for the replication activity of the LAGA model but LAGA continued to host training sessions in the country and in this regard, LAGA assisted the other projects in investigations, legal follow up and management.

8. Fostering Activism

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>

9. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact

Beyond the number of operations and their immediate effectiveness, a more critical measure of LAGA's work lies in the strategic value of enforcement actions and their broader impact on the illegal wildlife trade. During this reporting period, LAGA pursued diversified investigations designed not only to secure arrests but also to expose and map the multiple dimensions of wildlife crime in Cameroon. Through its collaboration with MINFOF, the operations shared insight on the complex nature of trafficking networks, offering valuable knowledge into routes, actors, and concealment methods. This approach ensures that each operation contributes to a deeper understanding of the trade, strengthening intelligence and guiding future enforcement priorities.

The strategic focus for January–June 2026 centered on ivory, pangolin scales and leopard skins, gorilla, and ivory trafficking, reflecting both the scale of these threats and their significance in national and international market. By targeting these high-value species, LAGA's work not only disrupted active criminal networks but also underscored Cameroon's pivotal role in addressing wildlife crime.

9.1 Ivory Trafficking

An ivory trafficker was arrested in Yaoundé in possession of eight elephant tusks and 52 kilograms of giant pangolin scales. The suspect operated a trafficking ring based in Mintom, South Region, with the tusks sourced from the Republic of Congo.

Displaying a high level of confidence, the trafficker demonstrated both professionalism and deep knowledge of ivory trafficking, underscoring his role as a significant actor within the illegal trade. The contraband was transported in a hired taxi, concealed in grain bags and backpacks, to the site of transaction where enforcement officers intercepted him.

Investigations revealed that his network was primarily dedicated to trafficking elephant tusks, using cover activities to facilitate cross-border trafficking. This case illustrates the sophistication of organized wildlife crime in Cameroon and highlights the importance of targeted operations in dismantling specialized trafficking rings.

9.2 Pangolin Scales Trafficking

3 traffickers were arrested in Yokadouma, East Region, with 710 kilogramf pangolin scales. Investigations revealed that the ring had activated a vast network of poachers and traffickers across the East and South Regions, extending into neighboring countries such as Congo and the Central

African Republic. The traffickers maintained storage facilities in major towns including Bertoua, Yaoundé, and Douala, enabling them to stockpile scales before distribution.

This case underscores the industrial scale of pangolin trafficking and the organized methods employed to sustain supply chains across borders. It highlights the urgent need for continued enforcement and intelligence-driven operations to dismantle networks that exploit Cameroon's position as a hub in the sub-regional illegal wildlife trade.

9.3 Leopard Skin Trafficking

A trafficker was arrested in Yaoundé, Centre Region, in possession of a leopard skin. The suspect, an army Master Corporal, attempted to sell the contraband in the capital, exploiting his military position to lend a sense of impunity to his activities. Investigations revealed that the skin originated from Belabo, East Region, underscoring the wide geographic reach of leopard trafficking networks.

The trafficker's knowledge of the illegal trade in leopard skins and his use of official status to shield his operations highlight the sophistication and audacity of traffickers. This case demonstrates how wildlife crime infiltrates diverse sectors of society, including the military, and reinforces the need for strong enforcement measures to deter such abuses of authority.

10. Corruption and Wildlife Crime

LAGA has been an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. All bribing attempts are documented into our case tracking systems. LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conferences, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA. LAGA is not a watchdog group and not created as an observer, it fights directly whenever corrupt practices or bribery attempts have been observed.

This ongoing fight is directed towards issues that touch on corruption and bad governance. When 3 traffickers were arrested in Yokadouma with over 700kg of pangolin scales, their relatives attempted to influence officials at the level of the delegation. They approached the Divisional Delegate and the Chief of Wildlife, requesting that prosecution be stopped and offering to negotiate the release of the traffickers. They further attempted to persuade the Commander of the Gendarmerie Brigade to halt the procedure. However, neither the Divisional Delegation of Wildlife nor the Commander accepted to collaborate. The Delegate even went so far as to chase them away, underscoring the refusal to compromise the integrity of the process.

Corruption attempt was rejected at the police, in April, when an ivory trafficker was arrested with eight elephant tusks., His uncle and wife approached the Head of the Police Unit, proposed an undisclosed sum of money in exchange for the release of the trafficker and the cancellation of the procedure. The officer firmly refused, issued a stern warning, and threatened to report the incident to his hierarchy as a corruption attempt.

In January, a master corporal in the Cameroon army was arrested with a leopard skin. While wildlife law enforcement officials were establishing the offence report, they faced pressure from the trafficker's family members. His relatives proposed money to the judicial police officer in an attempt to secure his release. The wildlife officials and police handling the matter stood their ground and refused to collaborate. After witnessing the steadfast attitude of the law officials, the family attempted

another approach, seeking to negotiate directly with the LAGA team. This effort also failed to produce any effect, reaffirming the resilience of the enforcement process against corruption attempts.

Annex I – List of Cases of 2024 and 2025

The list of cases and details of specific cases are made available on demand. Please contact eric@laga-enforcement.org for further information.

Annex II - the Semester in Pictures



In April Master Army Corporal arrested in Yaounde during attempts at selling leopard skin



In January, Master Army Corporal arrested in Yaounde during attempts at selling leopard skin



In May, 3 arrested in Yokadouma with over 700kg of pangolin scales concealed in 12 sacks found in a carpentry workshop

Annex III- Some media links

Several online outlets reported on the arrests, highlighting the scale of ivory, pangolin, and leopard trafficking. Coverage emphasized the Yaoundé ivory case, the massive pangolin haul in Yokadouma, and the leopard skin arrest of a military officer. Here are some examples:

In January, Cameroon News Agency, published the arrest of two people including a Police Officer with 2 fresh leopard skins in Yaounde. The skins were very fresh and were transported by one of the suspected traffickers. [Click the link below to read the full story:](#)

<https://cameroonnewsagency.com/two-people-including-a-police-officer-arrested-with-fresh-leopard-skins-in-yaounde/>

In April, Alwihdainfor.com, this month published the arrest of a trafficker with 8 elephant tusks and 52kg of pangolin scales. [Click the link below to read the full story:](#)

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/arrestation-dun-trafiquant-de-faune-a-yaounde-8-defenses-delephants-saisies/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQPMjc1MjU0NjkyNTk4Mjc5AAEe2AaMm97MR2LpPFb2M-Xz4V5GtQHT5XFCywUtSiIpApwUpEL4aVC3a0YaNEU_aem_Sk_EbFFTo2HZ881JpaSe-w

In May, Al wihda info, this month published a story on the arrest of three people with 710 kg of pangolin scales concealed in a carpentry workshop. The article focuses the trafficking ring that extends to neighbouring countries. Click the link below to read the full story:

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/cameroun-saisie-record-decailles-de-pangolin-trois-arrestations-a-yokadouma/?fbclid=IwdGRzaARu5NFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAAR4P4H0wybkP4i6u2BI2fYDzebNaGjJvYLGkvJm8NI9PqQQIoTcqFkROSZFzMQ_aem_nnsitayjNu44SXa_JSWbng&sfnsn=wa