

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## April 2025 Report



### Highlights

- **A trafficker arrested in connection with the arrest to 2 elephant tusk traffickers in February.**
- **The Deputy Director did a presentation on pangolin trafficking during a meeting organized by held a Wildlife Conservation Network. He earlier held a meeting with an official from the organization.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **an ivory trafficker**.

A woman arrested for her connection to ivory trafficking arrests that took place in February, in Douala. She was arrested during a follow up operation, after additional investigations and interrogation, revealed she was the holder of the elephant tusks that were seized from 2 traffickers in February. She concealed the elephant tusks at her residence in a neighbourhood in Douala, where the first arrests took place.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the Wildlife Conservation Network to discuss issues related to pangolin scales trafficking and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

He participated at a meeting organized by the Wildlife Conservation Network bringing together conservation groups that deal with pangolin protection. He did a presentation on pangolin scales trafficking in the country during the meeting.

## Investigations

- **13 investigation missions** were carried out in 4 **Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the East, Centre, Littoral and South.
- Following the State Counsel’s instruction to arrest a third suspect linked to the operation of February that saw two suspects arrested with 2 elephant tusks, an investigation was carried out leading to her arrest in Douala. The legal proceedings are ongoing.

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
13	4	1	1

## Operation

**An operation** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting a trafficker.**

**24/04/2024 – 1 trafficker arrested in connection with the arrest of 2 traffickers in February, in Douala, Littoral Region.** The woman was arrested during a follow up operation, after additional investigations and interrogation, revealed she was the holder of the elephant tusks that were seized from 2 traffickers in February. She concealed the elephant tusks at her residence in a neighbourhood in Douala, where the first arrests took place.

*Operations Table*

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	2	Follow up operation to the arrests of 2 traffickers in Douala with 2 elephant tusks in February.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 3 in Ntui (Centre), 2 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Djoum (South) and 2 in Douala (Littoral)
- There are **12 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region, and 6 in West region.
- **26 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **9 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No traffickers** were 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 trials in Courts</i>
10	0	0	0	0	0	9

A legal adviser travelled to Abidjan to assist the legal department in the project and exchange experiences.

## Media

- 26 media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 10 radio news flashes (8 in French and 2 in English), 9 internet publication in the French language and 7 written press (4 in English & 3 in French).
- Giving a total of 20 media pieces produced in the French language and 6 in the English language making 76.9% in French and 23.1% in English.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the arrest of 90 traffickers across 7 African countries and the arrest of a woman in connection with 2 elephant tusks that were seized in Douala.

### *Media Table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>

### **External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with an official of the Wildlife Conservation Network to discuss issues related to pangolin scales trafficking and strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
- He participated at a meeting organized by the Wildlife Conservation Network bringing together conservation groups that deal with pangolin protection. He did a presentation on pangolin scales trafficking in the country during the meeting.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the State Counsel of Douala to discuss legal strategies on an operation.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with a court clerk on matters pending before the Examining Magistrate at the Yaounde Centre Administratif High Court.
- He had a meeting with the State Counsel of Ntui and Abong Mbang, respectively, to discuss legal strategies on pending court matters.
- Another legal adviser had another meeting with the State Counsel of Djoum and Ntui, respectively, to discuss legal strategies on matters pending before the court.

### **Management**

- March Financial reports were finalized and published on the website.
- A legal adviser travelled to Cote d'Ivoire for a month-long mission to assist the project in Abidjan and exchange experiences.

### **Finance**

**In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) .**

### **Activism Front**

The Chief Investigator gave a power point presentation on the management of waste in the country inspired by the overcrowded waste found at every corner of the town of Yaounde. He talked on various ways waste could be deposited while calling on the government to improve collaboration with non-governmental entities to manage domestic waste.

Discussion centered on:

- What are the causes leading to huge waste stockpiles and pollution in our cities?
- Who should be blame or take responsibility?
- How can the situation of waste stockpiles in our towns be resolved?

### **Link of the month**

Camer. be an online news site, this month published the arrest of a woman in connection with 2 elephant tusks that were seized in Douala on February 2025. The suspect is the daughter to a former Delegate of Tourism and Leisure. [Click the link below to read the full story:](https://www.camer.be/89131/11:1/cameroun-lutte-anti-braconnage-une-femme-trafiquant-les-defenses-delephant-aux-arrets-cameroon.html)

<https://www.camer.be/89131/11:1/cameroun-lutte-anti-braconnage-une-femme-trafiquant-les-defenses-delephant-aux-arrets-cameroon.html>