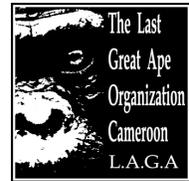


The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

December 2019 Report



Highlights

- **LAGA Deputy Director participated at the experts' meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership held in Douala.**
- **The entire LAGA team went on annual vacation and end of year activities were carried out. Office reopens in January 2020.**
- **The team visited the tourist resort site of Nkonlandom shortly before going on annual vacation.**

General

No arrests were carried out this month as the team rounded up activities for the year by preparing to go on vacation.

The Deputy Director participated in Douala, at a follow up meeting of the experts' meeting that held in Ndjamená earlier this year and produced the Ndjamená declaration of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. Deliberations during the meeting focused on operationalizing the resolutions taken at the Ndjamená meeting.

The entire LAGA staff went on traditional annual leave following one year of continuous commitment and hard work.

Two traffickers arrested last month for ivory trafficking were given a 6-month imprisonment term by the Batouri Court of First instance.

Investigations

- **14 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **5 Regions** out of the 10 regions of Cameroon including Littoral, East, South, West and Centre Regions.
- The Assistant Head of Department traveled to Yokadouma for investigation assistance to wildlife officials in the reported seizure of ivory products.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
14	5	0	0

Operation

No operations were carried out this month

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **8 missions** out of Yaounde-Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Bangangte (West), 1 in Batouri 1 in Bertoua, 1 in Yokadouma (East).
- There are **10 traffickers behind bars this month**: 4 in East Region, 3 in South Region, 1 in Centre Region and 2 in Littoral Region.
- **35 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **30 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **3 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.
 - **17/12/2019**: The Batouri Court of First Instance found the accused **ALIOUM Abdou and MAHAMAT Abdoulaye guilty and sentenced them 6 months prison term and to pay 100.000 FCFA each as fines and 4.000.000 FCFA as damages.**

They were arrested in Batouri on the 13/11/2019 for illegal possession and circulation of 2 elephant tusks.

Media

- **17 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to written press, internet and the radio, including; 7 written press materials (4 in English language and 3 in French language), 1 internet publications in French and 9 radio news flashes (5 in French and 4 in English).
- Interviewee: none

- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the second court hearing of a Ghanaian national who was arrested 18 African grey parrots in Kienke as well as the court hearing of two persons that were arrested with 2 ivory tusks in Batouri.
- 9 media pieces in French language and 8 in English language making a percentage of 52.9% in French and 47.1% in English.

Media Table

No of Media Pieces	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
17	0	9	7	1

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director participated at a follow up meeting of the experts’ meeting that held in Ndjamena earlier this year and produced the Ndjamena declaration of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. Deliberations during the meeting focused on operationalizing the resolutions taken at the Ndjamena meeting.
- He participated at meeting organized by WWF, bringing together conservationists and others who are interested in providing an enabling environment for stakeholders (especially government) of the wildlife law enforcement process to effectively carry out their responsibilities
- The heads of the legal and investigations departments held meetings with security and customs officials at the Douala international airport to foster closer collaboration within the framework of the convention signed with the Customs Department.
- The entire LAGA staff went on annual leave following a full year of hard work and committed endeavours to realizing 2019 objectives. The staff is expected back on January 13, 2020 when work shall begin in earnest.

Management

- End of year activities including buying and sharing of gifts, end of year bonuses award and lunch were carried out successfully under the stewardship of management and the entire team departed for break.

Presentation: The Situation of Internally Displaced Persons

The crisis facing the country is on everybody’s mind and several presentations have treated this topic and this continues with a legal adviser painting the picture of how those who were displaced by the various conflicts in the country are faring. He geographically locates where these IDPs are coming from and where they have mostly settled with three regions, North West, South West and Far North regions mostly affected. While the causes by now are pretty well know to everybody, the living conditions are still a matter of great conjecture and he tells the story of some of the hardships they are going through including psycho-social trauma while enumerating some of the relief efforts carried out by government. The discussions focused on what solutions are available both policitally and socially to resolve the various conflicts in the country.

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

Al wihda info, an online news site publishes a story on the trial of two traffickers who were arrested in Batouri with 2 ivory tusks as the site announces that it is very possible that they shall be prison sentences.

https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Cameroun-Abong-Mbang-Cinq-personnes-arretees-pour-traffic-d-ecailles-de-pangolin_a69072.html

This Month in Pictures



The entire LAGA team took some moments off for relaxation and team building at the Nkolandom touristic site, some few km from Ebolowa, the South Regional headquarters.