

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

November 2023 Report



Highlights

- **A primate trafficker arrested and a young drill rescued in Yabassi, Littoral Region,**
- **Recruitment was intensified with two candidates starting their testing and training period.**
- **The Deputy Director participated at an event at the Residence of the British High Commissioner to celebrate the birthday of the King of England**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **a trafficker with a young drill.**

A primate trafficker arrested and a drill rescued in Yabassi, in the Littoral Region. The very young drill, an endangered primate, stressed and agitated, was tied with a rope in the waist. The trafficker, who works for a city council, transported the cage with the drill on his bike. He was waiting for another supply of a baby primate that was killed when local poachers shot dead its mother.

The Deputy Director participated at the event celebrating the King of England's birthday. He had brief discussions with some diplomats, the Vice President of the Senate and the Director of Customs on wildlife crime.

Recruitment was intensified with two candidates that started their testing and training period at the media and management departments respectively.

Investigations

- **12 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the Littoral, Centre, East and South.
- Good investigation in Yabassi led to the arrest of a primate trafficker with a live drill in Yabassi.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
12	4	1	1

Operation

An operation carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 1 trafficker**.

- **21/11/2023 –A primate trafficker arrested and young drill rescued in Yabassi, Littoral Region.** The very young drill, an endangered primate, stressed and agitated, was tied with a rope in the waist. He kept the animal at his residence in a Yabassi. The trafficker, who works for the local city council, transported the cage with the drill on his bike. He was waiting for another supply of a baby primate that was killed when local poachers shot dead its mother.

Operations Table

No of Operations	Regions	No of Traffickers Arrested	Contraband
1	1	1	A live drill

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **5 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Bafia (Centre), 1 in Douala (Littoral) and 2 in Yabassi (Littoral).

- There are **13 traffickers behind bars this month**: 1 in East region, 3 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **24 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **21 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **3 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.
 - **28/11/2023**: The Bafia Court of First Instance found the accused **ANDELA EDZIGUI Maximin Junior, EMBOM Jean and ISSEKSEK Pascal guilty. ANDELA EDZIGUI Maximin Junior was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment and the two others to 6 months suspended sentences during 3 years.** They were also sentenced to pay 100,000 FCFA each as fine and 1,758,500 FCFA jointly as damages.

They were arrested in Makenene on the 05/05/2023 for the illegal possession of 38 kg of pangolin scales.

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
5	1	1	2	2	0	21

Media

- 15 media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 11 radio news flashes (7 in French and 4 in English), 1 written press in French, 1 magazine in French and 2 internet publications in French.
- Giving a total of 11 media pieces produced in the French language and 4 in English making 73.3% in French and 26.7 in English.
- Interviewee: Wildaid Central Africa Director and LAGA Deputy Director
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The Ntui arrest of 2 traffickers with 91kg of pangolin scales, the arrest of a city council worker with a drill and an interview of the Deputy Director on wildlife crime.

Media Table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
15	0	11	2	2

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director participated at the event celebrating the King of England's birthday. He had brief discussions with some diplomats, the Vice President of the Senate and the Director of Customs on wildlife crime.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the Attorney General of Douala to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the Appeal Court.
- He held a meeting with the MINFOF Divisional Delegate of Nkam to discuss wildlife law enforcement strategies.
- The Head of the Legal Department and a legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Yabassi to discuss legal strategies after carrying out the operation.
- A legal adviser also met with the State Counsel of Bafia to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the court

Management

- 2 new candidates for positions in the Media and Management Departments were brought into the team for their final testing and training.

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

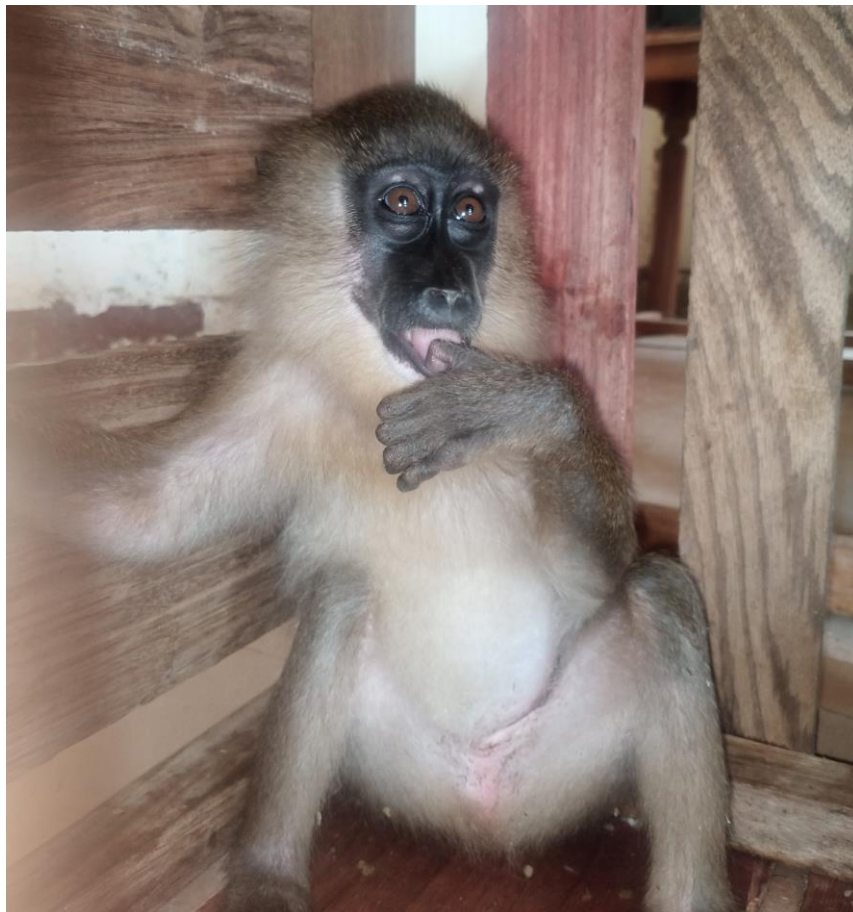
In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org.

Link of the month

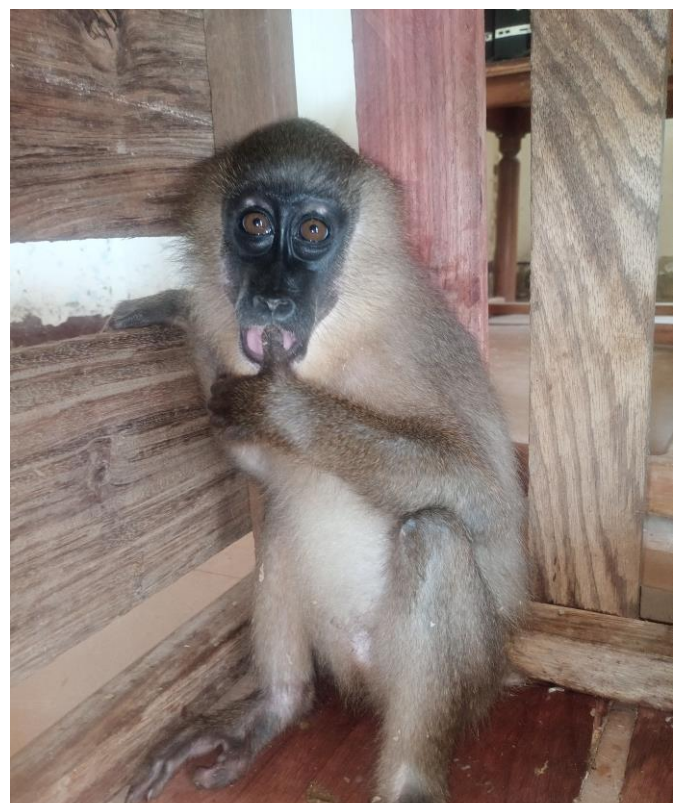
Douala today, a news site published an article on pangolin and the trafficking of the species in Central African countries. Click the link below to get the full story:

<https://doulatoday.com/afrique-centrale-le-traffic-de-pangolin-genere-pres-de-419-milliards-de-f-cfa-par-an/>

This Month in Pictures



Rescued in Yaboassi, Littoral Region



Council worker arrested for illegal possession of a mandrill