

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

February 2025 Report



Highlights

- **2 traffickers, arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Douala, Littoral Region.**
- **The Head of the Legal Department participated at a workshop in Cochin, India on the Assessment of Environmental Damages**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of **2 traffickers with 2 elephant tusks.**

2 ivory traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks. One of them is a notorious regional trafficker at the center of criminal networks stretching to Chad, Congo and CAR. He is linked to several illicit activities including trafficking in precious stones and cars, in the sub region. He travelled over 500 km from the Ngaoundere to Douala to organize the illegal trade of the tusks.

The Head of the Legal Department participated at a workshop in Cochin, India on the Assessment of Environmental Damages where he did a presentation on the calculation of damages in criminal proceedings relating to wildlife offences in Cameroon

Investigations

- **20 investigation missions** were carried out in **7 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the East, Centre, Littoral, West, Adamawa, North and South.
- Good investigation that started in the **Bertoua** and **Ngaoundere** finally led to the arrest of 2 traffickers with 2 elephant tusks in **Douala**.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
20	7	1	2

Operation

An operation carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 2 traffickers**.

06/02/2024 – 2 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Douala, Littoral Region. One of them is a notorious regional trafficker at the center of criminal networks stretching to Chad, Congo and CAR. He is linked to several illicit activities including trafficking in precious stones and cars, in the sub region. He travelled over 500 km from the Ngaroundere to Douala to organize the illegal trade of the tusks. He is connected to several trafficking rings in the North of the country especially in Ngaoundere. He specializes in facilitating the trafficking of elephant tusks in the country and beyond.

Operations Table

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	2	2 elephant tusks

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **7 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 3 in Ntui (Centre), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 2 in Douala (Littoral) and 1 in India.
- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in Centre, 5 in Littoral region, and 6 in West region.
- **21 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **11 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>
7	0	0	0	0	0	17

Media

- **21** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 10 radio flashes (7 in the French language & 3 in the English language) 7 written press (4 in English & 3 in French), and 4 internet publication (3 in French & 1 in English).
- Giving a total of 13 media pieces produced in the French language and 8 in the English language making 61.9% in French and 38.1% in English.
- Interviewee: Deputy Director of LAGA
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the Douala arrest of 2 traffickers with 2 elephant tusks.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
21	0	10	7	4

External Relations and Policy

- The Head of Department participated at a workshop in Cochin, India on the assessment of environmental damages and their direct allocation to the different structures specifically responsible for wildlife protection in the respective countries. The aim of this workshop was to produce a guideline for common remedies and damages claims in environment cases for publication by the Specialist of IUCN's World Commission on Environmental and Biodiversity Law. He did a presentation on the calculation of damages in criminal proceedings relating to wildlife offences in Cameroon.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the State Counsel of Abong Mbang, to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending before the court.
- Two legal advisers had a meeting with the State Counsel of Douala to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending before the court.
- They also held a meeting with a court registrar on matters pending before the Examining Magistrate at the Yaounde Centre Administratif High Court.
- A legal adviser had a meeting with the State Counsel of Ntui to discuss legal strategies on matters pending before the court.
- Another legal adviser had another meeting with the State Counsel of Ntui on the same issue.

Management

- Annual Financial reports were finalized and published on the website.
- A new initiative of hold monthly meetings with heads of departments was started. The initiative aims at making management effective at controlling, supervising and boosting performances within the various departments.

Finance

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

Activism Front

A power point presentation was given by the Head of the Legal Department on employee led activism and how companies can handle it. The presentation was centered on activism, employee led activism within and outside the workplace and why a company should listen to their voices, and what it takes to improve. Debates were around activism the difference between activism and ideology.

Link of the month

Cameroon fact finder news site, this month published the arrest of 2 traffickers with 2 elephant tusks in Douala. The traffickers were arrested in a crackdown operation conducted by Wildlife officers in collaboration with the Police and technically assisted by LAGA.

[Click the link below to read the full story:](https://cameroonfactfinder.com/illegal-ivory-trade-two-arrested-in-douala/)

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This Month in Pictures



Two, including a notorious regional trafficker, arrested with two ivory tusks in Douala. They pose at the Wildlife office in Douala above, waiting for official to start drawing complaint reports against