

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## May 2023 Report



### Highlights

- **3 traffickers trafficker arrested with 78kg of pangolin scales at the popular bus stop town of Makenene in the Centre Region.**
- **The Deputy Director held a meeting with 3 officials from the US Departments of Justice and Agriculture to discuss wildlife law enforcement and illegal logging in the country.**

### General

The month was marked by the **arrest of 3 traffickers, with 78kg of pangolin scales.**

**3 traffickers arrested in Makenene, Centre Region, with 78 kg of pangolin scales.** They travelled from Ndikimekini on motorbikes. They were cautious, tried a number of tricks and came around without the pangolin scales to the place of transaction. They mixed up the scales and parked it in a single bag that was transported on a motorbike. They were very knowledgeable in the illegal business and did everything they could to avoid arrest.

The Deputy Director held a meeting with 3 officials from the US Departments of Justice and Agriculture to discuss wildlife law enforcement and illegal logging in the country.

He participated at a celebratory event to mark the crowning of the King of England, on the invitation of the British High Commissioner.

The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels on ongoing wildlife cases and strengthening of collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

## Investigations

- **5 investigation missions** were carried out in **3 regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the Littoral, Centre and South.
- Good investigation in **Ndikinemiki** led to the arrest of 3 pangolin scales traffickers with 78kg of pangolin scales seized in Makenene.

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
5	3	1	3

## Operation

**An operation** carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 3 traffickers**.

**05/05/2023 – A trafficker was arrested in Makenene, Centre Region with 78kg of pangolin scales.** They first travelled from Ndikinimeki, a nearby town, on a motorbike and arrived Makenene without the contraband. They were cautious and tried a number of tricks because they were fully aware of the illegality of the business. Two others returned to Ndikinimeki, mixed up the scales and parked it in a single bag that was transported on a motorbike. They were very knowledgeable in the illegal business and did everything they could to avoid arrest. Makenene is a popular resting spot for travellers plying the Yaounde, Bafoussam to Bamenda highway. The place is fast, intense with business littering the small town and this attracts all kinds of business including the illegal trade in wildlife species and bushmeat.

*Operations Table*

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	3	78kg of pangolin scales seized

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **8 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Makenene (Centre), 1 in Bafia (Centre), 1 in Ngoumou(Centre) and 2 in Douala (Littoral).

- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in East region, 2 in South region, 3 in Centre and 6 in West region.
- **27 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **21 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No trafficker** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were no court rulings 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 Cases Tried in Courts</i>
8	0	0	0	0	0	27

**Media**

- **28** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio and internet. That is 13 written press (8 in English and 5 in French), 10 radio news flashes (7 in French and 3 in English) and 5 internet publication (4 in French and 1 in English).
- Giving a total of 16 media pieces produced in French and 12 in English making 57.1% in French and 42.9% in English.
- Subjects treated included: two traffickers arrested in Bertoua with 45kg of pangolin scales and the arrest of three traffickers with 78kg of pangolin scales in Makenene.
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*Media table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>

**External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with 3 officials from the US Departments of Justice and Agriculture to discuss wildlife law enforcement and illegal logging in the country.

- He participated at a celebratory event to mark the crowning of the King of England, on the invitation of the British High Commissioner.
- He participated at a fund raising event in honour of Ape Action Africa held at the Residence of the British High Commissioner.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel in Yaounde – Centre Administratif and another meeting with the State Counsel in Ngoumou to discuss legal strategies on cases at their respective courts.
- He held another meeting with the Attorney General in Ebolowa to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending at the Appeal Court.
- Another legal adviser had a meeting with the state counsel of Akonolinga to discuss the legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the court.
- She equally held a meeting with the Attorney General of the Appeal Court in Douala on legal strategies on a matter at the Court.
- A third legal adviser held a meeting with State Counsel in Bafia on strategies on the operation that was carried out.
- He held a meeting with the Attorney General in Bertoua to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the Appeal Court.

### **Management**

- An audit session was started by Moore Stephens and preparatory activities were carried out to provide a professional and conducive work environment and accessibility to all the necessary documents for the auditors to successfully carry out their activity. The audit session is expected to finish early next month.

### **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](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) .**

### **Link of the month**

Stopblablam, an online news site this month published the story of the arrest of three traffickers and the seizure of 78kg of pangolin scales at a popular place in the country known as Makenene. People stop there during their journey to rest and eat all kind of dishes including dishes with pangolin meat. Get more by clicking on the link below...

<https://www.stopblablam.com/societe/2905-10600-especes-protegees-trois-personnes-interpellees-avec-78-kg-d-ecailles-de-pangolin-a-makenene>

**This Month in Pictures**



*Traffickers pose with law enforcement shortly after the seizure of 78kg of pangolin scales at a popular bus stop town in Centre Cameroon*