

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## January 2026 Report



### Highlights

- **An army Master Corporal trafficker arrested with a leopard skin in Yaounde, Centre Region.**
- **The Legal Team held a meeting with the Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for Centre Region, to discuss the legal strategies.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of **a traffickers with a leopard skin.**

An army Master Corporal was arrested in Yaounde with a leopard skin. He used his position to lend impunity to his trafficking activities and travelled from Dschang where he is based, with the contraband covering over 300km to Yaounde before his arrest. The trafficker who understands the intricacies of the illegal trade in leopard skins brought the skin from the East of the country where leopards are facing constant survival threats.

The Legal Team held a meeting with the Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for Centre Region, to discuss the legal strategies following the operation leading to the arrest of the army corporal.

## Investigations

- **5 investigation missions** were carried out in 4 **Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the East, West, Centre and South.
- Good investigation that started in **Dschang** led to the arrest of a leopard skin trafficker who is an army corporal with a leopard skin in Yaounde

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
5	4	1	1

## Operation

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

**23/01/2026 – 1 traffickers arrested with a leopard skin in Yaounde, Centre Region.** An army Master Corporal was arrested in Yaounde with a leopard skin. He used his position to lend impunity to his trafficking activities and travelled from Dschang where he is based, with the contraband, covering over 300km to Yaounde before his arrest. The trafficker who understands the intricacies of the illegal trade in leopard skins brought the skin from the East of the country, specifically from Belabo.

*Operations Table*

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	1	leopard skin

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out a **single mission** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 Limbe (South-West).
- There are **11 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in Centre, and 3 in Littoral region, 3 in East.
- **32 cases** were followed up by the Legal Team this month.
- **13 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **No trafficker** was convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was 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>
1	0	0	0	0	0	13

## Media

- **23** media piece was produced and pushed to the media including: 16 internet publications (11 in the English language and 5 in French), and 7 written press (5 in the English language and 2 in French).
- Giving a total of 16 media pieces produced in the English language and 7 in the French language making 69.6% in English and 30.4% in French.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the arrest of 3 people with more than 60 African grey parrots in Bertoua and the arrest of two people including a Police Officer with 2 fresh leopard skins in Yaounde.

*Media Table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

## **External Relations and Policy**

- The Legal Team held a meeting with the Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for Centre Region, to discuss the legal strategies following the operation leading to the arrest of the army corporal.
- The Head of Department held a meeting with the State Counsel of Yaounde Centre Administratif to discuss legal strategies before and after carrying out the operation
- A legal adviser participated at a workshop on the review and validation of standard operating procedures for monitoring, investigating and prosecuting the illegal online wildlife trade in Cameroon. The workshop that took place in Soa, Yaounde, was organized by TRAFFIC.

## **Management**

- The Team returned from a 3-week annual vacation which started in December 2025. Everyone reported on the first day.
- One of our experienced investigators welcomed twin babies into his family. The babies are all doing well and were warmly welcomed by the entire Team.

## **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**

Cameroon News Agency, this month published the arrest of two people including a Police Officer with 2 fresh leopard skins in Yaounde. The skins were very fresh and were transported by one of the suspected traffickers. Click the link below to read the full story:

<https://cameroonnewsagency.com/two-people-including-a-police-officer-arrested-with-fresh-leopard-skins-in-yaounde/>

**This Month in Pictures**



*Master Army Corporal arrested in Yaounde during attempts at selling leopard skin*