

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

August 2024 Report



Highlights

- **3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Yaounde, Centre Region. A retired Colonel of the Ministry Forestry and Wildlife that has also been in charge of National Parks was among them.**
- **The Heads of the Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with the Customs Chief of the South West Region to strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime**

General

This month was marked by the arrest of 4 **traffickers with 2 elephant tusks.**

3 traffickers arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Yaounde, Centre Region. A retired Colonel of the Ministry Forestry and Wildlife that has also been in charge of several National Parks was among them. The Colonel has been charged and the case is presently with an examining judge. The traffickers concealed the elephant tusks in the boot of a car. They refused to open the boot in an attempt to foil the arrest operation

The Heads of the Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with the Customs Chief of the South West Region to strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime in the region that borders Nigeria and is a hotspot for smuggling of wildlife contraband.

The Legal Team held meetings with several State Counsels to discuss ongoing cases in their respective jurisdictions.

Investigations

- **19 investigation missions** were carried out in **6 regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the Centre, East, Littoral, Adamawa, North and South.
- Good investigation in Yaounde led to the arrest of 4 ivories traffickers with 2 elephant tusks weighing 15 kg each in Yaounde.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
19	6	1	4

Operation

An operation carried out this month with MINFOF **arresting 4 traffickers.**

21/8/2024 – 3 traffickers arrested in Yaounde Centre Region with 2 elephant tusks. A retired Colonel of the Ministry Forestry and Wildlife that has also been in charge of several National Parks was among them. The Colonel has been charged and the case is presently with an examining judge. The traffickers concealed the elephant tusks in the boot of a car. They refused to open the boot in an attempt to foil the arrest operation. Two of the traffickers are computer engineers. The traffickers are prosecuted under the new wildlife law that that was recently signed by the President of the Republic.

Operations Table

<i>No of Operations</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>No of Traffickers Arrested</i>	<i>Contraband</i>
1	1	4	2 elephant tusks

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **8 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Ambam (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 2 in Ntui (Centre), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre) and 1 in Douala (Littoral).
- There are **14 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **20 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 Cases Tried in Courts</i>
8	0	0	0	0	0	11

Media

- **33** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 16 written press (9 in French and 7 in English), 10 radio news flashes (6 in French & 4 in the English) and 7 internet publication (5 in French and 2 in English).
- Giving a total of 19 media pieces produced in the French language and 13 in the English language making 59.4% in French and 40.6% in English.
- Interviewee: none
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the Ebolowa arrest of 4 traffickers with 4 elephant tusks as well as their court hearing.

Media Table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
32	0	10	16	7

External Relations and Policy

- The Heads of the Investigation and Legal Departments held a meeting with the Customs Chief of the South West Region to strengthen collaboration in fighting wildlife crime in the region that borders Nigeria and is a hotspot for smuggling of wildlife contraband.
- The Head of the Legal Department and two legal advisers held a meeting with the State Counsel of Yaounde Centre Administratif to discuss post operations legal strategies.
- A legal adviser had a meeting with the State Counsel of Ambam to discuss the legal strategies concerning an ivory seizure made by customs in Ambam.
- He held a meeting with the Chief of the Brigade at the South Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss the legal strategies on the Ambam customs seizures.
- Another legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Akonolinga to discuss the legal strategies concerning matters pending before their courts.
- A legal had a meeting with the State Counsel of Ntui to discuss the legal strategies on matters pending before the court.
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Management

- Two meetings were held to bring more focus on professionalism and results as the year gradually runs out. New measures to ensure effective and efficient activities and revamp results were put in place.
- In order enhance activism activities with several presentations and documentary movies planned, a new office projector was acquired.

Finance

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

Activism Front

No activism activities were carried out within the month and plans are underway to boost activism activities.

Link of the month

News du Camer, a news site, published the arrest of 4 traffickers with 4 elephant tusks in Ebolowa. The traffickers included a forestry engineer, an electro-mechanical engineer, a government secondary school teacher and one other. Their arrest is a fruit of a crackdown operation carried out by wildlife officials of the South Regional Delegation of Forestry and

Wildlife in collaboration with the South Regional Division of Judicial Police. [Click the link below to read the full story:](#)

[Lutte contre le braconnage : Quatre suspects arrêtés pour trafic d'ivoire d'éléphant dans le Sud - News du Cameroun](#)

This Month in Pictures



Four traffickers were arrested with two elephant tusks in Yaounde, Centre Region.