

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

October 2024 Report



Highlights

- **The Deputy Director participated at a training on financial investigations and the fight against wildlife crime.**
- **The Heads of the Legal and Investigation Departments held a meeting with a security official in Douala and customs officials in Yaounde.**

General

The Deputy Director participated at a training on financial investigations and the fight against wildlife crime. Participants were drawn from several government ministries and institutions including the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.

He held a meeting with an official from RUSI, an international NGO, on financial investigations and the strengthening of collaboration.

The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Chief of Customs for the East Section to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime. Discussions also focused on the Memorandum of Understand with the Customs Department.

The Head of Investigations and Legal Department met with Security and Customs officials in Douala and Yaounde t to strengthen the existing collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

The Legal Team held meetings with judicial and wildlife officials on ongoing cases in several courts and to strengthen collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime

Investigations

- **16 investigation missions** were carried out in **3 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the East, Adamawa and South.
- **A recruitment advert was published in the government owned national daily newspaper Cameroun Tribune.**

Investigations Table

| Investigation Missions | Regions | No. of Operations | No of traffickers arrested |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 16 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

Operation

No operations were carried out this month, efforts are being made to get better results next month.

Legal

- The Legal Department carried out **9 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Ambam (South), 1 in Kye-Ossi (South), 1 in Sangmelima (South), 1 in Ntui (Centre), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Douala (Littoral) and 1 Idenau (South-West). There are **12 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region, 1 in South region and 6 in West region. **20 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **15 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> |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |

Media

- **18** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 4 written press (2 in English & 2 in French), 11 radio news flashes (9 in the French language & 2 in the English language) and 3 internet publication (2 in French and 1 in English).
- Giving a total of 12 media pieces produced in the French language and 6 in the English language - 66.7% in French and 33.3% in English.
- Interviewee: None
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the court hearing of 4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Ebolowa.

Media Table

| <i>No of media pieces</i> | TV | Radio | Newspapers | Internet |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 18 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 3 |

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director participated at a training on financial investigations and the fight against wildlife crime. Participants were drawn from several government ministries and institutions including the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.
- He held a meeting with an official from RUSI, an international NGO, on financial investigations and the strengthening of collaboration.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Head of General Research Directorate Unit in Douala and the Chief of Customs of the Nsimalen Airport to strengthen collaboration in the fight against Wildlife Crime.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Ebolowa to discuss legal strategies on an operation.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsels of Akonolinga and Abong Mbang to discuss legal strategies concerning matters pending before their courts.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Ntui to discuss legal strategies concerning matters pending before the court

Management

- Financial and activity reports of September 2024 were prepared and made available online.

Finance

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

Link of the month

Alwihda info, a news site, published the arrest of 4 traffickers with 2 elephant tusks in Yaounde. The traffickers, including two computer engineers, a retired colonel of the Ministry in charge of Forestry and one other were charged and brought to court.

Click the link below to read the full story:

<https://www.newsducamer.com/lutte-contre-le-braconnage-quatre-suspects-devant-la-justice-pour-traffic-divoire-a-ebolowa/>