

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

## July 2024 Report



### Highlights

- **4 traffickers, arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Ebolowa, including engineers of a logging company and of a government ministry.**
- **The Deputy Director presented on wildlife crime in Central Africa in a meeting organized by United for Wildlife in Nigeria to launch its West African Chapter**

### General

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

**4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks in Ebolowa South Region.** One of them is a forestry engineer working in a logging company and another is an electromechanical engineer in a working at a regional delegation in Ebolowa. The three traffickers were arrested with the tusks concealed in a rice sack. They attempted to sell the elephant tusks. A swift and effective interrogation led to the arrest of the 4<sup>th</sup> who was hiding around waiting in safety for the money from the transaction.

The Deputy Director presented on wildlife crime in Central Africa in a meeting organized by United for Wildlife in Nigeria to launch its West African Chapter. The meeting brought together several wildlife experts from Europe and Africa, Nigerian law enforcement and government officials.

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

## Investigations

- **17 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the Centre, East, Littoral and South.
- Good information from an informant in Bertoua led to the arrest of 4 ivory traffickers with 4 elephant tusks weighing 11.7kg in Ebolowa.

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No. of traffickers arrested
17	4	1	4

## Operation

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

**23/7/2024 – 4 traffickers arrested in Douala, South Region with 4 elephant tusks.** One of them is a forestry engineer working in a logging company and another is an electromechanical engineer working at a regional delegation in Ebolowa. The three traffickers were arrested with the tusks concealed in a rice sack. They attempted to sell the elephant tusks. A swift and effective interrogation led to the arrest of the 4<sup>th</sup> who was hiding around waiting in safety for the money from the transaction. A government secondary school teacher is also among the arrested traffickers. The tusks were transported from Ambam, the base of the traffickers to Ebolowa where they attempted to sell.

*Operations Table*

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

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **7 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 3 in Ntui (Centre) and 1 in Akonolinga (Centre).
- There are **12 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **18 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **13 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>
7	0	0	0	0	0	13

**Media**

- 18 media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: 1 written press in English and 17 radio news flashes (11 in the French language & 6 in the English language).
- Giving a total of 11 media pieces produced in the French language and 7 in the English language making 61.1% in French and 38.9% in English.
- Interviewee: none
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the court hearing of 3 traffickers arrested with 91kg of pangolin scales in Ebolowa and the arrest of 4 traffickers with 4 elephant tusks in Ebolowa.

*Media table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

## **External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director presented on wildlife crime in Central Africa in a meeting organized by United for Wildlife in Nigeria to launch its West African Chapter. The meeting brought together several wildlife experts from Europe and Africa, Nigerian law enforcement and government officials.
- The Head of Department and a legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Ebolowa to discuss strategies of an operation.
- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Ebolowa to discuss legal strategies after an operation.
- He held a meeting with the State Counsel of Djoum to discuss the legal strategies concerning matters pending before the court.
- He held a meeting with the Chief of the Brigade at the South Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss the legal strategies on matters pending before the court.
- Another legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Ntui and 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**

- The recruitment process was continued a candidate for investigation interviewed and retained for testing.
- Preparations, the reception and hosting of a member of the Cote d'Ivoire team were done. The experience sharing mission is expected to run for one month.

## **Finance**

**In preparation and would be made available soon as possible on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org) .**

## **Activism Front**

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

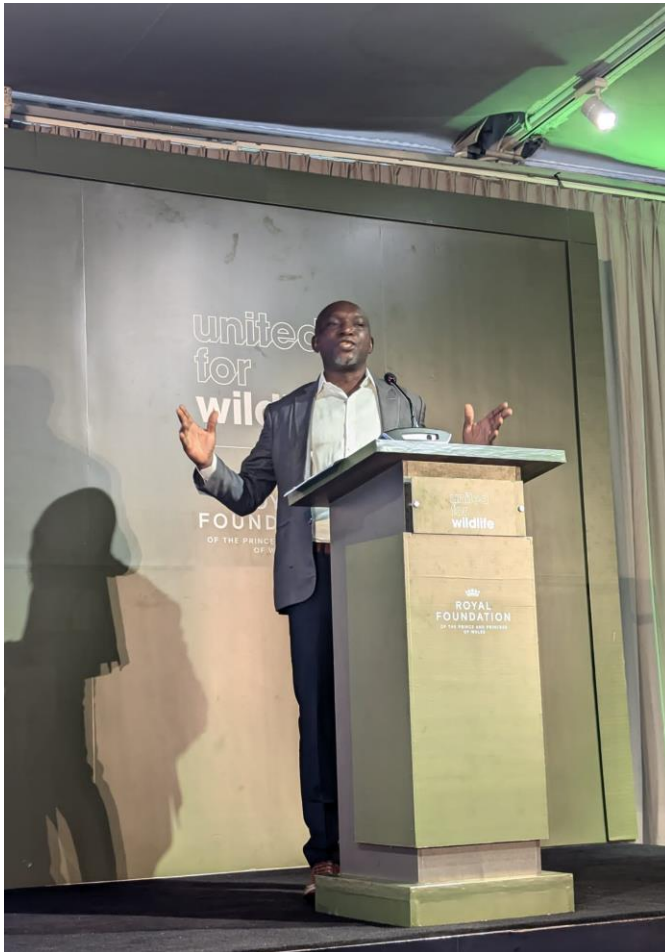
## **Link of the month**

There was no media link this month, and efforts are being made to improve on the situation next month.

**This Month in Pictures**



*Four traffickers were arrested with four elephant tusks in Ebolowa, South Region.*



*Deputy Director gave a presentation on wildlife crime in Lagos during a United for Wildlife meeting*