

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

June 2023 Report



Highlights

- **No operations were carried out this month due to some challenges and several departmental meetings were held to produce good results next month.**
- **The Deputy Director held a meeting with Lisa Hywood, Founding Director of Tikki Hywood Foundation, who was on a visit to Cameroon. Discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration to strengthen the fight against pangolin trafficking.**
- **The Deputy Director participated at workshop to map out a collective understanding of the bushmeat sector as part of the process to developing a national bushmeat strategy.**

General

The Deputy Director held a meeting with Lisa Hywood, Founding Director of Tikki Hywood Foundation, who was on a visit to Cameroon. Discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration to strengthen the fight against pangolin trafficking. The Director of Tikki Hywood Foundation – Cameroon was also in attendance.

The Deputy Director participated at workshop to map out a collective understanding of the bushmeat sector as part of the process to developing a national bushmeat strategy. He did a presentation on the LAGA – Cameroon Government’s experience in wildlife law enforcement.

No operations were carried out this month and several departmental meetings were held to propose solutions to the problems and improve on results next month.

Investigations

- **15 investigation missions** were carried out in **4 Regions** out of 10 of Cameroon including the Littoral, Centre, East and South.
- The head of the department his assistant met the Chief of DGRE for Limbe - Idenau to strengthen working relations along the coastline.

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
15	4	0	0

No operations were carried out this month and strategies were put in place to ensure arrests are being carried out next month.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **15 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 3 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Akonolinga (Centre), 3 in Bafia (Centre), 1 in Ngoumou (Centre), 1 in Ntui (Centre), 2 in Dschang (West) and 3 in Douala (Littoral).
 - There are **17 traffickers behind bars this month**: 3 in East region, 2 in South region, 3 in Centre, 3 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
 - **33 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
 - **27 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
 - **3 traffickers** were convicted this month.
 - **Prosecutions**: There were three court rulings this month.
- **05/06/2023**: In the **MOHAMADOU Ibrahim** case, the appeal court of Littoral overturned the lower court's decision with regards to the imprisonment, damages and the seized vehicle's fate. The Littoral appeal court fined **him 12 months suspended sentences during 3 years, to pay the sum of 62,000,000 FCFA as damages and also ordered the confiscation of the ivory tusks seized and the vehicle used to transport them.**

He was arrested in Ambam on the 21/10/2020 for the illegal possession of 626 Kg of ivory tusks.

- **21/06/2023:** The Ngoumou Court of First Instance found the accused **ANTSIABOT MPAM Sandrine guilty and sentenced her to pay 2,500,000 FCFA as fines and 2,500,000 FCFA as damages.**

She was arrested in Mbankomo on the 27/09/2022 for the illegal possession of a live mandrill.

- **30/06/2023:** The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused **ALONA HANS Augustin guilty and sentenced him to 6 months in prison and to pay 500,000 FCFA each as fines. He was also sentenced to pay 1, 833, 000 FCFA as damages.**

He was arrested in Bertoua on the 14/03/2023 for the illegal possession of 55 Kg of pangolin scales.

Legal Table

No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)	No of Court Judgements	No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence	Prison term (in months)	No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)	No of Appeals lodged	No of Cases Tried in Courts
15	3	1	6	2	0	27

The Head of Department participated in a Workshop in Yaounde on legal remedies for harm to biodiversity in Cameroon.

Media

- **17** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press and radio. That is 15 radio news flashes (10 in French and 5 in English), and 2 written press (1 each in French and in English).
- Giving a total of 11 media pieces produced in French and 6 in English, making 64.7% in French and 35.3% in English.
- Interviewee: none
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The court case of two traffickers arrested in Bertoua with 45kg of pangolin scales, the arrest and court case of three traffickers found with 78kg of pangolin scales in Makenene.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
17	0	15	2	0

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director held a meeting with Lisa Hywood, Founding Director of Tikki Hywood Foundation, who was on a visit to Cameroon. Discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration to strengthen the fight against pangolin trafficking. The Director of Tikki Hywood Foundation – Cameroon was also in attendance.
- The Deputy Director participated at workshop to map out a collective understanding of the bushmeat sector as part of the process to developing a national bushmeat strategy. He did a presentation on the LAGA – Cameroon Government’s experience in wildlife law enforcement.
- The Head of Department held two meetings, firstly with the Attorney General in Douala and secondly with the State Counsel in Ngoumou and discussions focused on cases at their respective courts.
- A legal adviser held two meetings, one with the Ntui State Counsel and other with the Attorney General in Bertoua to discuss on matters pending at their respective courts.
- A second legal adviser held two meetings, the first with the Attorney General in Ebolowa and the second with the State Counsel in Yaounde – Centre Administratif to discuss cases pending at their respective courts,
- Two legal advisers met with the State Counsel in Bafia discuss legal strategies concerning the matter pending before the court.
- KOUNDOU AMANG Herve, a legal adviser who has been working with organization for close to 6 years left the organisation to join WCS. He was a very effective legal adviser and the entire organisation wishes him well in his new endeavours.

Management

- Held some strategy development meetings to address some of the challenges to improve on the results as no operations were carried out within the 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>.

Photo of the Month



Deputy Director with pangolin activists Lisa Hywood during her visit to the LAGA offices