

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA March 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 participated at a pangolin conservation planning workshop in Accra, Ghana, that brought together stakeholders in pangolin conservation.**
- **He participated at a workshop organized by TRAFFIC to train frontline wildlife officials working in several parks in the country. He did a presentation on the wildlife law enforcement process.**

## General

The Deputy Director participated at a pangolin conservation planning workshop in Accra, Ghana, that brought together stakeholders in pangolin conservation. The workshop focused on producing a West African regional action plan for pangolin conservation to be validated and adopted by the range states and other pangolin conservation stakeholders. He was part of a panel on the role of law enforcement in pangolin conservation.

He participated at a workshop organized by TRAFFIC to train frontline wildlife officials working in several parks in the country. He did a presentation on the wildlife law enforcement process.

**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

- **2 investigation missions** were carried out in **the Littoral Region**.
- The Head of the Investigation department had meeting aimed at strengthening collaboration Centre Region Chief of Judicial Police in Yaounde.

*Investigations Table*

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
2	1	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 a **mission in Ebolowa (South)**; that is out of Yaounde-Centre Region.
- There are **12 traffickers behind bars this month**: 2 in East region, 2 in South region, 2 in Centre and 6 in West region.
- **31 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **28 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **4 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There was a court ruling this month.
  - **14/03/2023**: The Sangmelima Court of First Instance found the accused **NDONO AFANG, EMVOUTOU, ADAMOU Issah and TCHANGOU guilty**. The court ordered **NDONO AFANG Albert and ADAMOU to pay 500,000 FCFA jointly as fine, TCHANGOU Jules and EMVOUTOU AFANG Mardoché to pay 100,000 FCFA jointly as fine. They were also ordered to pay 15,000,000 FCFA jointly as damages**. They were arrested in Sangmelima on the 15/03/2022 for illegal possession of 5 ivory tusks.

### *Legal Table*

<b>No of Missions (Out of Centre Region)</b>	<b>No of Court Judgements</b>	<b>No of Traffickers Given Prison Sentence</b>	<b>Prison term (in months)</b>	<b>No of Traffickers Sanctioned (No prison sentence)</b>	<b>No of Appeals lodged</b>	<b>No of Cases Tried in Courts</b>
1	1	0	0	4	0	28

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

### **Media**

- A media pieces, a story in an English newspaper in English, was produced and published.
- Giving a total of a media pieces produced in the English making 100% in English.
- Interviewee: none
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The World Pangolin Day – the arrest of three traffickers in Yaounde with 386 kg of pangolin scales.

### *Media Table*

<i>No of media pieces</i>	<b>TV</b>	<b>Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Internet</b>
<b>&amp;</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

### **External Relations and Policy**

- The Deputy Director participated at a pangolin conservation planning workshop in Accra, Ghana, that brought together stakeholders in pangolin conservation. The workshop focused on producing a West African regional action plan for pangolin conservation to be validated and adopted by the range states and other pangolin conservation stakeholders. He was part of a panel on the role of law enforcement in pangolin conservation.
- He participated at a workshop organized by TRAFFIC to train frontline wildlife officials working in several parks in the country. He did a presentation on the wildlife law enforcement process.

- A legal adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Yaounde Centre Administratif on a matter pending in court and he held another meeting with the Attorney General of the South Region in Ebolowa to discuss an appeal case.
- Another legal Adviser held a meeting with the State Counsel of Yaounde Centre Administratif on another case pending at the court.

### **Management**

- A search of new potential donors was carried out amidst the generally challenging financial climate in conservation after the Covid 19 priod.

### **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/Actiwithvism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

**Photo of the Month**



*Deputy Director on panel discussions during West Africa regional workshop on pangolin conservation. Sitting in the middle is the Coordinator of EAGLE Cote d'Ivoire who was also present in Accra*