

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

December 2021 Report



Highlights

- **A pangolin scales trafficker was sentenced to 8 months in prison. He was arrested in October 2021 with 77kg of pangolin scales.**
- **The entire LAGA team went on annual vacation and end of year activities were carried out. Office reopens in January 2022**

General

There were no arrests carried out this month. The team went on annual vacation and shall be back in January fully refreshed and prepared to step up activities.

The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused TAPA KOUOKAP Guy Rostand guilty and sentenced him to 8 months in prison and to pay fines and damages of close to 4 000 000 FCFA. He was arrested in Bertoua in October 2021 with 77kg of pangolin scales.

The Head of the Legal Department and some legal advisers held several meetings with State Counsels in jurisdictions where cases are ongoing to discuss legal strategies and strengthen collaboration.

Investigations

- **10 investigation missions in 4 out of 10 Regions** of Cameroon including: Littoral, South, Centre and East Regions.
- The department went for vacation and will resume in January 2022

Investigations Table

Investigation Missions	Regions	No. of Operations	No of traffickers arrested
10	4	0	0

Operation

There were no operations carried out this month. The team went on annual vacation mid-month and shall be back in January with a strong push to getting more results.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Ambam (South), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 1 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Bafang (West) and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **18 traffickers behind bars this month**: 6 in East Region, 4 in South Region, 1 in Littoral Region, 1 in Centre and 6 in West Regions.
- **36 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **32 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **2 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were 2 court rulings this month.
 - **03/12/2021**: The Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused TAPA KOUOKAP Guy Rostand **guilty and sentenced him to 8 months in prison and to pay 400,000 FCFA as fines and 222,345 FCFA as court fees. He was also ordered to pay 3,500,000 FCFA as damages.**

He was arrested in Bertoua on the 14/10/2021 for the illegal possession of 77 kg of pangolin scales.

- **13/12/2021**: The Kribi Court of First Instance found the accused **KOUMBA Rene guilty and sentenced him to pay 25,000 FCFA as fines and 200,000 FCFA as damages.**

He was arrested in Kribi on the 07/07/2021 for illegal possession of a mandrill.

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
10	2	1	8	1	0	32

Media

- **32** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio, internet and TV production. That is, 11 written press (6 in English and 5 in French), 11 radio news flashes (7 in English and 4 in French), 7 internet publications (6 in French and 1 in English) and, 3 TV productions (1 in French, 1 in Pidgin English and 1 in English).
- Giving a total of 16 media pieces produced in the French language, 15 in the English language and 1 in pidgin English making 50% in French, 46.9% in English and 3.1% in pidgin
- Interviewees: Two officials of Upper Sanaga Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife including the Divisional Delegate and the Chief of Wildlife.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: The Noting arrest of a trafficker with parrots and a baby baboon, court hearings of 3 traffickers arrested with a juvenile drill at Bafang and the court hearing of the trafficker arrested with pangolins and a baboon in Nkoteng.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
32	3	11	11	7

External Relations and Policy

- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the Attorney General of Douala to discuss legal matters concerning cases pending before the Appeal Court and he also held two other meetings with the Kribi State Counsel and the Bafang State Counsel respectively to discuss legal strategies for cases at their respective courts.
- A legal adviser equally held meetings with the State Counsels of Djoum and Bertoua respectively to discuss legal issues on cases in courts within their jurisdictions.
- Another legal adviser held meetings with the Attorney General of Ebolowa to discuss legal strategies concerning a matter pending before the Appeal Court and the State Counsel of Nanga Eboko to discuss legal strategies on cases at his court.

Management

- Several end of year activities were planned and successfully carried out and this included the sharing of Christmas gifts to every member of the team and a traditional end of year lunch in a restaurant. The entire team was encouraged to keep on the fighting spirit shining and praised for their resilience and hard work during the year continued to having several changes including the Covid pandemic. Several weaknesses observed during the year were discussed and corrected.

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>.

Link of the month

Camer be, an online news site this month published the story on the court hearing of 3 traffickers arrested with a baby drill in Bafang. They appeared in court for the third time to answer to charges of drill trafficking.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/89131/11:1/cameroun-three-traffickers-to-appear-in-court-for-drill-trafficking-at-bafang-cameroon.html>

Finance

Please check LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org for monthly financial reports.