

The Last Great Ape Organization – LAGA

August 2021 Report



Highlights

- **The Deputy Director, participated at the US States Department International Visitor Leadership Program which was done virtually because of the Covid 19 pandemic**
- **The Head of the Legal Department did presentations on some wildlife prosecution procedures during a training for wildlife law enforcement and judicial officials.**
- **An investigator from Congo arrived the country for a one-month experience sharing mission.**
- **The entire team including their spouses travelled to Kribi for an annual team building and relaxation trip.**
- **There were no operations this month and strategies were re-examined to improve on the situation next month.**

General

The Deputy Director participated at the US States Department International Visitor Leadership Program which was done virtually because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The programme brought together participants from 12 African countries and focused on the theme Combatting Wildlife Trafficking.

The Legal Department held a series of meetings with State Counsels in their jurisdictions to follow up and strategize on some ongoing cases.

The Head of the Legal Department did presentations on some wildlife prosecution procedures during a training for wildlife law enforcement and judicial officials.

An investigator from Congo arrived the country for a month-long experience sharing mission.

The entire team accompanied by their spouses travelled to the seaside resort town of Kribi where they spent a full weekend within the framework of a teambuilding and relaxation trip.

No operations took place this month and new target areas of investigations were explored were to ensure operations take place next month.

Investigations

- **15 investigation missions in 4 out of 10 Regions** of Cameroon including: Littoral, South, Centre and East Regions.
- The investigation department received an investigator from Congo for a working visit that will last for a month.

Investigations Table

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

- **This month no operations took place, but the department brainstormed and came out with new target areas for further investigations to ensure arrests next month.**

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **12 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 3 in Djoum (South), 4 in Ebolowa (South), 3 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre) and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **15 traffickers behind bars this month**: 5 in East region, 1 in South region, 2 in Centre region, 1 in Littoral region and 6 in West region.
- **26 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **19 cases** were scheduled in court this month.
- **2 traffickers** were convicted this month.
- **Prosecutions**: There were 2 court rulings this month.
 - **23/08/2021**: In the case of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife against ANGO Jean and ENDELE NANGA Venant, **the South Court of Appeal ruled against the judgment delivered by the Djoum Court of First Instance, and declared that the Djoum Court was competent to hear the matter.** On the 26/11/2019, the Djoum Court of First Instance had declared itself incompetent to hear the matter in favour of the Military Tribunal.

They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal possession and circulation with 216 elephant tusks and 81 elephant tails.

- **27/08/2021**: The Yaounde Centre Administratif Court of First Instance found the accused NDZANA Célestin **non guilty**. On the other hand, the Court **found NKWASSI Sylvester and BEKOMBO GUIWA Bruno guilty and sentenced them 5 months in prison and to pay 30,975 FCFA each as court fees. They were also ordered to pay 100,000 jointly as damages.**

They were arrested in Yaounde on the 24/09/2020 for the illegal possession, circulation and commercialization of two African grey parrot and three red-fronted parrots.

- **Appeal:** An appeal has been filed this month in the case of **NDZANA Célestin, NKWASSI Sylvester and BEKOMBO GUIWA Bruno** in the Centre Court of Appeal.

Legal Table

No of Missions (Out of Yaoundé)	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	2	2	5x2	0	1	26

Media

- **29** media pieces were produced and pushed to the media including: written press, radio, and internet. That is, 17 written press (9 in English and 8 in French), 5 radio news flashes (3 in French and 2 in English) and, 7 internet publications (6 in French and 1 in English).
- Giving a total of 17 media pieces produced in the French language, and 12 in the English language making 58.6% in French, and 41.4% in English.
- Interviewee: The Divisional Officer of Yaounde I and the Commander of Nlongkak Gendarmerie Brigade.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: the Yaounde arrest of a trafficker with 331 kg of pangolin scales and 3 leopard skins. The court case of a mandrill trafficker arrested in Minitom and the arrest of another trafficker in Djoum with a baby mandrill, the Kribi arrest of a city council worker in Kribi with another mandrill.

Media table

<i>No of media pieces</i>	TV	Radio	Newspapers	Internet
29	0	5	17	7

The Deputy Director gave an interview to an American based conservation news site Mongabay.com, on wildlife trafficking and conflicts in Cameroon.

External Relations and Policy

- The Deputy Director participated at the US States Department International Visitor Leadership Program which was done virtually because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The programme brought together participants from 12 African countries and focused on the theme Combatting Wildlife Trafficking
- The Head of the Legal Department actively participated in a training for wildlife and judicial officials in combatting wildlife crime. He presented three training modules including the first on the basic wildlife law procedure, the second on the calculation of civil damages in wildlife cases and the third on the qualities of a good wildlife offence statement.

- The Head of the Legal Department accompanied by a legal adviser held a meeting with the State Council of Yaounde Centre Administratif on strategies to carry out an operation.
- They held another meeting with the Attorney General of Ebolowa to discuss legal strategies on a case pending in court.
- The Head of the Legal Department held a meeting with the State Council in Ebolowa to discuss legal strategies on a matter pending in court.
- A legal adviser held meetings with the State Councils in Djoum and Nanga Eboko respectively to discuss legal strategies in matters at their jurisdictions.
- Another legal adviser held a similar meeting with the Attorney General in Douala for the same purpose.

Management

- Preparations and organisations of the trip to Kribi were effectively carried out.
- The preparations, reception and hosting of the investigator from Congo was effectively carried out.

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>.

Finance

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

Link of the month

Camer.be, an online news site this month published the story of the court hearing of a trafficker who was arrested with a baby mandrill at Mintom. The case was heard for the fourth time.

<https://www.camer.be/mobile/87709/11:1/cameroun-a-woman-to-appear-in-court-for-mandrill-trafficking-cameroon.html>

This Month in Pictures



The LAGA family took time off to relax together as many learned how to swim near the Atlantic Ocean in Kribi