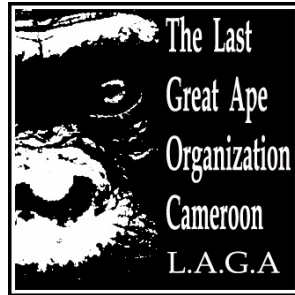


# THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

## FIRST SEMESTER REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2009



### Executive Summary

Significant progress was made over this period on some aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, with tangible achievements not only in the fields of investigation, arrest and prosecution but also in media exposure, government relations and international activities with more focus on the fight against corruption, wildlife trade and the logging industry, and Internet wildlife trade.

During this period for every 9 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 95% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. This period saw the arrest of an Italian Director of a Logging Company arrested with 3 live chimps, arrests of cyber wildlife dealers, and some illegal wildlife trade networks busted. 5 cases prosecuted with 11 dealers convicted during this period with a total of over \$27,500 to be paid as damages and fines. Following the replication of LAGA activities, there was a first prosecution in the Republic of Congo.

**The work of the Last Great Ape Organization was supported by:**



**LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)**  
**SEMESTER REPORT**  
**January - June 2009**

**Overview**

Investigations

- A total of 134 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 8 Regions.
- There was more focus on Internet Investigations with collaboration from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Trial missions result into low returns of operations.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 6 Regions against 19 individuals resulting in 19 court cases at a rate of 1 per 9 days.
- About two-third of the operations were on primates.
- The rate of imprisonment for these cases reached 95%.

Legal

- 19 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases begun during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures still ongoing).
- 5 cases prosecuted with 11 dealers convicted during this period with a total of over \$27,500 to be paid as damages and fines.
- First prosecution in the Republic of Congo following the replication of LAGA activities.

Media

- A total of 118 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio and press) achieved in a rate of less than one media piece per day.
- German national TV visited and filmed 3 successful operations with LAGA, on the documentary about LAGA's work.
- Online sensitization resulted in over 500 visits to the LAGA website per month. It should be noted that the LAGA website was entirely created from scratch and is maintained by the LAGA family.

Management

- The Annual Report for 2008 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. An electronic version is available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org).
- Legal Head of Department has advanced to take a similar role in Cameroon's Independent Observer of Forests. LAGA hopes her new structure would benefit from LAGA's approach and emphasis on prosecutions and the fight against corruption.
- A new Legal Head of Department was appointed.
- LAGA Director continued with the series of thought provoking sessions of debates on corruption and development for the LAGA Team.

External Relations and Policy

- Several meetings were held with the Minister – MINFOF, Diplomatic Community, National and International NGOs to discuss corruption in the NGO projects and wildlife law enforcement amongst others.
- The Director of LAGA made presentations in the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon, in Washington DC, and in London in the Royal Geographic Society on corruption in the NGO business, and the need for wildlife law enforcement and for a new generation of conservation focused on the fight against corruption.
- A forum was convened on corruption in Development projects, discussing methodologies for detecting legitimised corruption, solution in promoting transparency in development projects and secrecy of information

Strategic Highlights

- Concerted efforts saw the arrest of the Director of a logging company. He was arrested for dealing in apes and this exposes the logging industry linked to illegal trade in wildlife.
- More focus on illegal international wildlife trafficking through the Internet resulted into the identification, targeting and arrests following international collaboration notably the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Narrative Report

### Introduction

This report refers to activities from January till June 2009.

This report includes: the progress in each department of activities (Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and Management), strategic overview of and the impact of our operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, non-governmental bodies, in the international arena, and in non-enforcement initiatives LAGA has undertaken.

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## **1. Investigations**

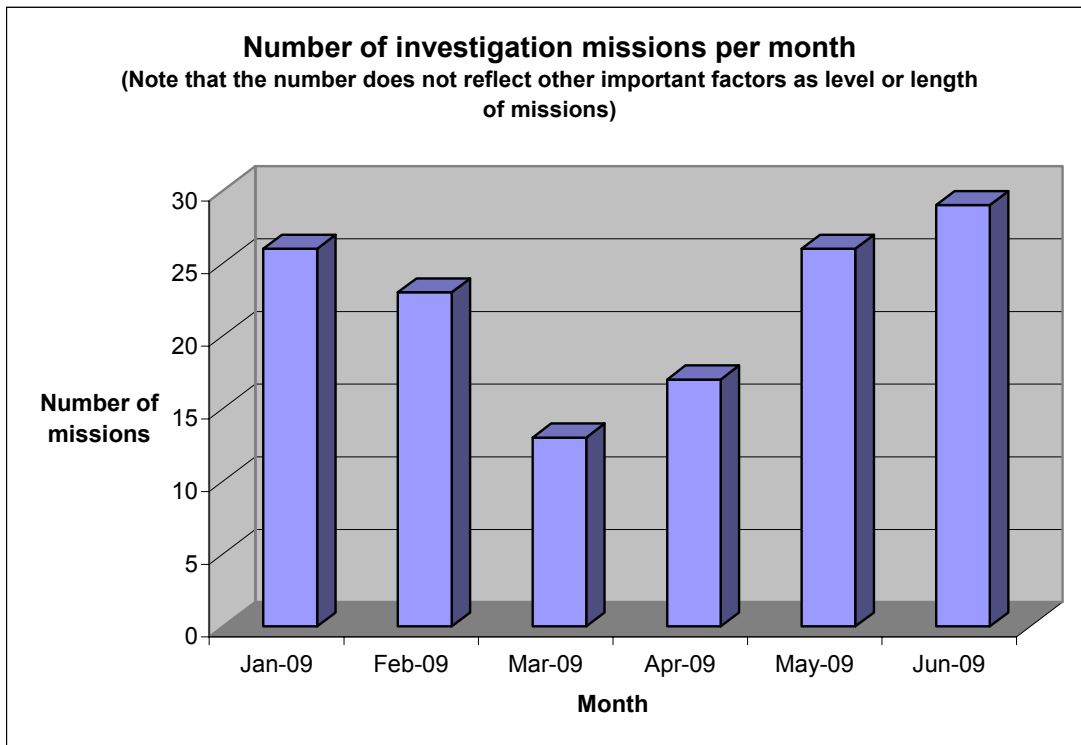
LAGA’s investigation unit has carried out 134 investigation missions in 10 Regions during this period. The department continued with structural reorganization culminating in high improvement in its professional output. Field testing and screening of new investigators continued within this period. This high screening is primordial in selecting those who place high value on LAGA’s mission, ready to participate and contribute massively in the realization of the goals unconditionally as opposed to those seeking for financial compensation as the main motivational factor. 4 new candidates are being tried in the field with excellent results.

During this period, there was a special focus on Internet Investigations targeting wildlife dealers who trade over the Internet. Internet Investigations with the collaboration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service led to the arrest of a major dealer in Buea – South West Region. 2 other dealers were arrested in Bamenda – North West Region while trying to illegally sell a chimp to a US citizen.

The Unit continued to undertake investigations relating to wildlife trade that involves additional offences not under wildlife law concerning illegal adoption scheme of children, illegal immigration, as well as international trafficking with special focus on foreigners and timber companies.

A new strategy was initiated during this period involving the recruitment of informers in the main wildlife trade hotspots in Cameroon. Informers were recruited in Buea, Muyuka, Kumba, Limbe and Idenau in the South West Region; and Douala in the Littoral Region. This exercise will be carried out in all the Regions of Cameroon. This will permit real time information on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

The months of March and April witnessed a low number of missions because of cash flow problems.



**Operations**

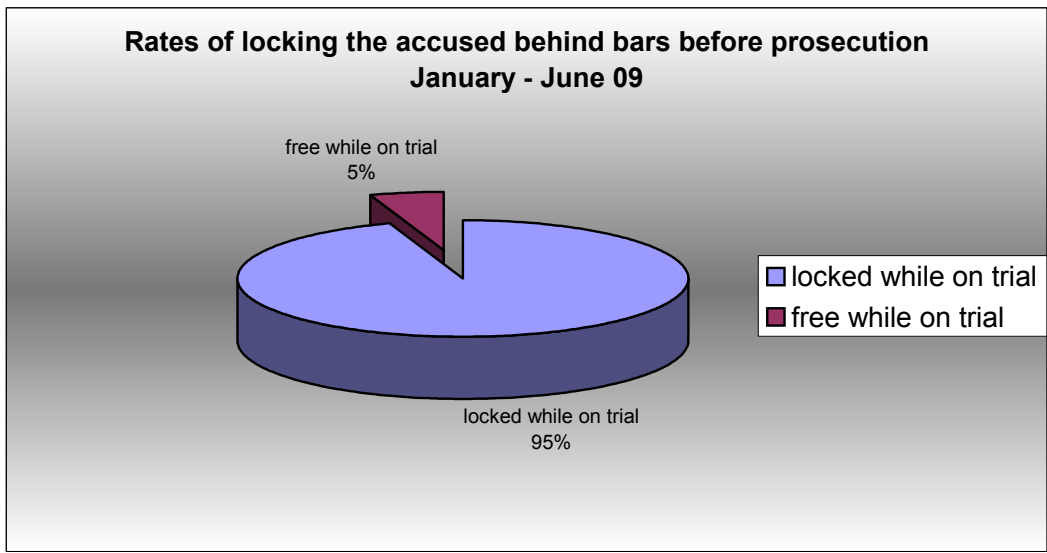
LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 6 Regions against 19 individuals resulting in 19 court cases. Operations became more sophisticated over the period and the rate of imprisonment reached 95% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial. About 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the operations were on Primates.

March, May and June were marked by a special focus on trade in Primates especially in Ngambe Tikar – Centre Region where the Director in a logging company – SMK of Italian nationality was arrested and put behind bars for illegally dealing with 3 chimps and a big fresh crocodile skin. Early this year the director of the logging company was identified as a major client of protected species ordering chimps, antelopes and other illegal trophies. For sometime we have observed his activities and there are investigations being carried out on the possibility of him supplying chimps and other protected wildlife products to other dealers in Cameroon and abroad. The operation come at a time when while in conference halls the logging industry is pledging its commitment not only to minimize their damage but to be considered as partners of wildlife law enforcement and conservation, the field realities offer a striking contrast. The logging industry that signed so many commitments to protect wildlife appears again in the top list of the illegal wildlife trade in the highest level.

In June, an international network of 4 wildlife traffickers made up of 1 Cameroonian and 3 Nigerians was busted in Bafoussam – West Region. They were arrested while illegally trafficking 4 live baboons from Nigeria with no permits. In Yaounde – Center Region, 2 dealers in a live drill were arrested. Still in June, 3 dealers were arrested in Nkambe – North West Region for killing 2 chimps and illegally trading in the chimp meat and trophies. They are well known dealers in the area and have been involved in the killing of apes and other primates for a long time.

A crackdown on Internet wildlife trade was intensified with arrests of internet wildlife dealers carried out in Buea – South West and Bamenda – North West Regions respectively. In Buea, the operation was carried out in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive provinces despite the corruption and complicity of local officials. The focused operations were effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for leopard skin trade. Operations were also carried out against illegal dealers in ivory and African Grey parrots in the East Region with the operations unit showing a very high performance.



### **3. Legal**

19 new cases reached the court during this period, these cases joined old cases that were scheduled, followed-up, tried in various courts and jail visits organized. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage with most subjects imprisoned throughout the process.

During this period, 5 cases were prosecuted with 11 dealers convicted. A total of over \$27,500 was to be paid as damages and fine to MINFOF. Also, there was the first prosecution in the Republic of Congo following the replication of LAGA activities in that country.

In January, a dealer in a live chimp was convicted in Bertoua - East Region to 3 months imprisonment and to pay over \$3000 as fines and damages to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. He was arrested while trying to sell a live chimp. The chimp was rescued but later died because of maltreatment and as a result of injuries sustained from boiled water that was thrown on it.

In February, the Court of First Instance of Ntui in the Center Region sentenced 3 female wildlife dealers to 2 years suspended sentences during 5 years and to pay over \$1000 as damages. They belonged to a network that was busted and were arrested at Ntui while trying to sell a live chimp.

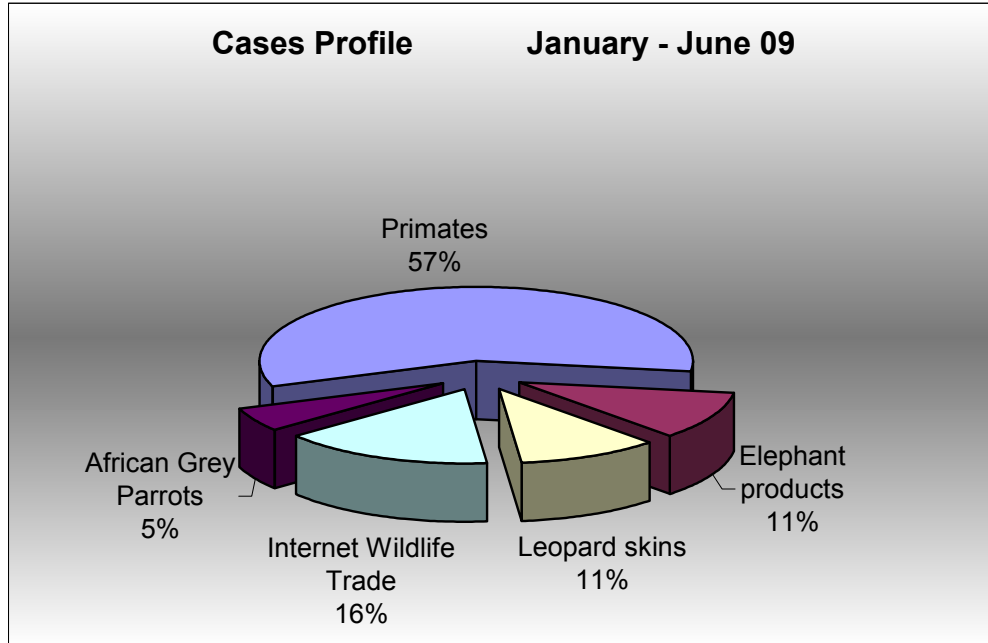
An outstanding prosecution was achieved in the Republic of Congo in March. The Court of Brazzaville in the passed the first sentence against a wildlife dealer in that country. The dealer (a chimp dealer arrested in December 2008) was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and to pay a fine of over \$2000. A senior official of LAGA is part of the team that was set-up in Brazzaville responsible for the successful replication of Cameroon's globally acclaimed wildlife law enforcement experience in the Republic of Congo. The replication of LAGA's activities started in September 2008 with more than 10 operations being carried out against wildlife dealers as of March 2009. This demonstrates that it is possible for a country to shift from a baseline of zero prosecution of major wildlife traffickers to a rate of one per week as is the case in Cameroon today.

In April, the Court of First Instance of Limbe – South West Region convicted 2 wildlife traffickers to pay damages and fine of more than \$8000 (4 Million FCFA) and that they will be retained in prison for 12 months in case of non payment of the damages and fine. They were arrested in Limbe for illegal detention of 2 giant land tortoises. One of those sentenced is a well-known wildlife trafficker of British Nationality with past records of conviction pertaining to wildlife trafficking in the U.S. A. He is connected to other wildlife traffickers in Cameroon, notably a parrot exporter whose parrots (720) were seized in 2007 at the Douala International Airport about to be sent out illegally. He was convicted and served jail time in the U.S. for illegal wildlife trafficking.

Still in April, the Court of First Instance of Mamfe – South West Region convicted 3 wildlife dealers to pay about \$13.000 jointly as damages or 1 year imprisonment in case of none payment of fine or 9 months of imprisonment in case of non payment of court fees. They were arrested in Mamfe for detaining and selling elephant products (14 tails, four tusks and a tooth).

In June, 2 wildlife dealers were sentenced in Bafoussam – West Region to 8 months suspended sentence for three years, and to pay jointly a total of about 1.3 million Frs. (about \$2500) as damages and fine. They will be retained in prison for 18 months in case of non payment of the damages and fine. They were arrested in Bafoussam for illegal detention and commercialisation of leopard skins.

75 missions were done out of the Center Province for follow-up, new cases and the creation of relations with judiciary authorities. There were unprecedented relations opening with Provincial Attorney Generals and State Attorneys. More emphasis was on primates with 57% of the cases followed by the Internet wildlife trade with 16% of the cases.



#### **4. Media**

A total of 118 media pieces were produced and pushed into media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press achieved in a rate of one media piece per 1.5 days due to the low number of field operations. This could be seen during the months of January, March, April and June with less than 20 media pieces.

Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations and prosecutions, the replication of LAGA activities in the Republic of Congo, Internet wildlife trade and fraud, links between wildlife crime and other illegal acts (drugs trade, adoption scams, immigration), Gorilla symposium in Germany, Italian logging Director arrested with 3 chimps and crocodile skin in Ngambe Tikar among others

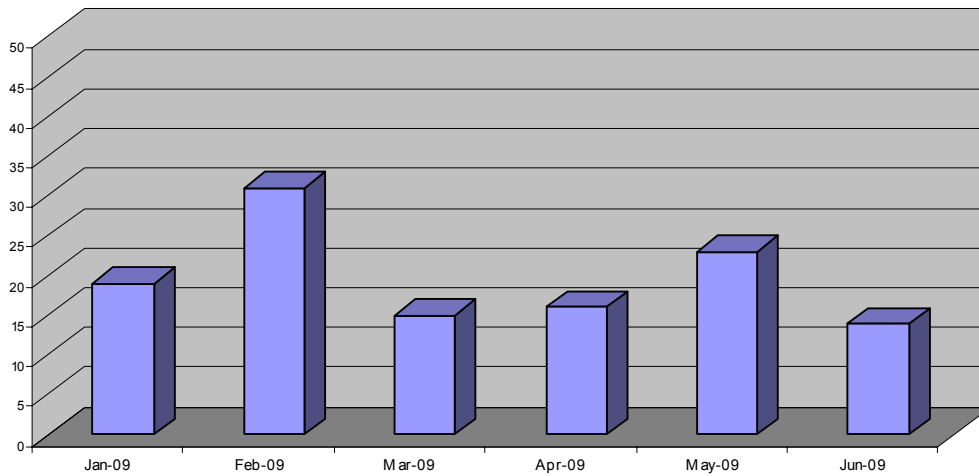
Guests included: Prime Minister of Cameroon, Minister of MINFOF, Uganda Minister of State for Tourism, British Parliamentarian, Information officer at the US Embassy, Director of “In Defence of Animals” – Africa, GRASP Consultant, Technical Adviser N° 1 at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, South West Regional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife, Littoral Regional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife, CARPE Focal Point Manager, CCRUD Manager, Traditional Ruler of Bali Nyonga, Conservator of Mvog Betsi Zoo - Yaounde, LAGA Media Assistant, The Chairman of G.C.E. Board, and LAGA Director, Directors of programmes CRTV (Cameroon Radio and Television), WCS Calabar – Nigeria. In March the German national TV visited and filmed 3 successful operations with LAGA, on the documentary about LAGA’s work.

In June, the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of Wildlife Justice Magazine was produced and distributed, and it is probably the most important under the theme Wildlife Crime and the Fight against Corruption. This theme brings together different aspects of the harms of corruption and its relation to wildlife crime,

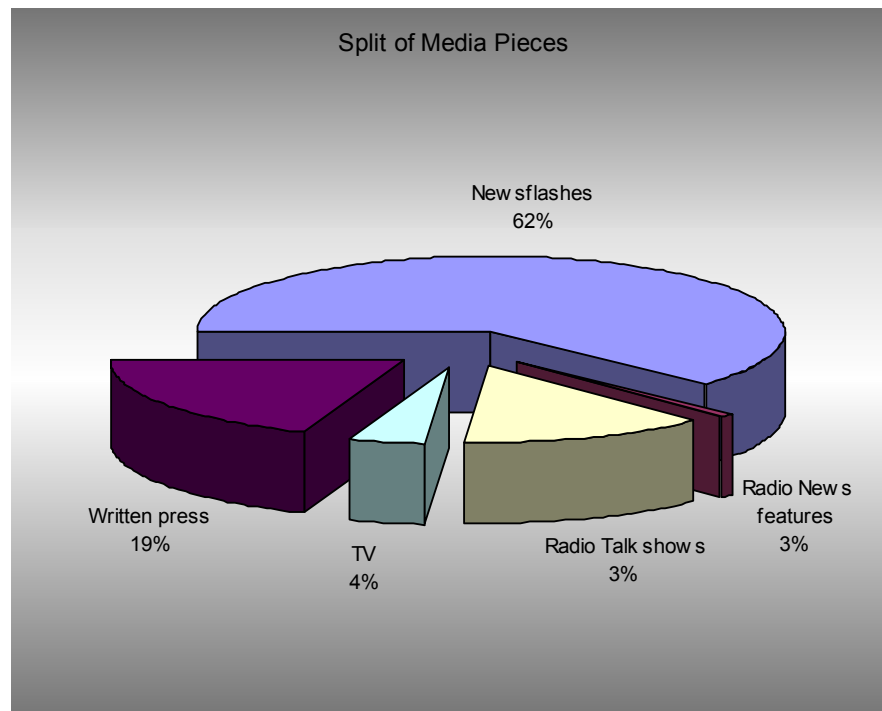
national and international academic research of corruption and the environment, the effect of corruption on the legal system, Diplomats discussed policies in the fight against corruption and its relations to wildlife conservation. Various government officials discussed both the obstacles of corruption on their tasks, as well as the ways they have developed to fight it back. Other articles gathered several experts digging into the causes and harms of corruption, its environmental impact and the role of civil society in the fight against corruption. This 6<sup>th</sup> edition is available on the LAGA website. Wildlife Justice is a publication for the professional audience in charge of the application of the wildlife law. It is actively distributed free of charge to professionals – those who are in charge of the law enforcement process – police stations, gendarmes, agents of the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, courts and custom officers. It is also provided to policy makers, media houses, higher institutions of learning and conservation organizations based in Cameroon.

Online sensitization resulted in over 500 visits to the LAGA website per month during this period. It should be noted that the LAGA website ([www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org)) was entirely created from scratch and is maintained by the LAGA family.

Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed



Split of Media Pieces





## **5. Management**

Work on the reconstruction of LAGA continued as well as work on action plans for departments while stretching recruitment processes in three LAGA departments (Investigations, Legal and Media). The Annual Report for 2008 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. An electronic version is available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org). This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

In January, LAGA family resumed work after 3 weeks Christmas holiday and activities immediately kicked off in all the departments resulting into the arrest of 2 Internet wildlife dealers. Work started in the absence of the LAGA Director and the excellent results in all fronts was more proof of the growing capacity and independence of the departments. In February, the Head of Legal Department, Horline Njike got accepted for a 6 months contract with REM (Resource Extraction Monitoring) where she can continue to fight the environmental and conservation Legal Battle. The challenge will be to continue engaging her in activism while she is working in another organization. This has been successful with Marius Talla working with the CHOC Program of the United Nations in Cameroon and Cynthia Chuck on further studies in the UK.

LAGA experienced cash flow problems in March that slowed down the work and results of the LAGA's departments. Despite this problem, 3 successful operations were carried out against 4 suspects showing the commitment of LAGA staff to function with limited financial resources.

In April, a website [www.apr-aid.org](http://www.apr-aid.org) was launched on corruption within the NGO sector, using LAGA's experience. LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within law enforcement and application process. Bribing attempts are documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and 80% of all court cases within the legal system. But LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the pressures existing within the political system, usually wasted in large conference halls and its useless political pledges of political will, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. The project is considered to have moved Cameroon from the decade long zero wildlife prosecution baseline to a one per week rate of a major wildlife dealer arrested and prosecuted, and achieved legitimacy for an NGO to fight corruption within a governmental process. In its structure LAGA also tried to address the issue of the illusion of civil society in Africa - civil society organizations are not distinct from the state or its elite, but rather serve as another tool to divert public funds for personal gain by the same elite.

LAGA family had a special lunch during the Labour Day celebration in May with everyone clad in newly acquired T-shirts bearing the LAGA Logo. The T-shirts were a special gift from the Director's family in Israel. During the celebrations, LAGA members were told to place a high value on LAGA's mission, ready to participate and contribute fully to the realization of LAGA's goals, as opposed to those seeking for financial compensation as the main motivational factor. Also, 2 ivory dealers were arrested when the Director of LAGA was out of the country. He was out for half a month and these arrests attest to the continued independence of the LAGA family.

In June, Mr. Ononino Alain was appointed as the new Head of the Legal Department. He is in charge in overseeing the smooth functioning and increase in performance of the Department. Still in June, one Legal Assistant resumed duties after 3 months of maternal leave after she had put to birth. Also, 2 volunteers were tried out in the Media Department. One was not retained because she did not meet up with the standards set up by the Department. One was retained but he later on withdrew because of other engagements that could not permit him to cope with the demands of the Media Department.

The series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development introduced by the LAGA Director continued during this period. This is a part of a new project aimed to strengthen the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

## **6. External Relations and Policy.**

During this period, LAGA had many meeting sessions with highly placed government and diplomatic authorities in Cameroon, outside of Cameroon, local and international NGOs, and participated in international conferences.

This period was rich in meetings with the Minister MINFOF on issues related to structural reforms on wildlife law enforcement, the fight against corruption, internet trade, signing of CITES permit only by the Minister, update of the Pongo Songo chimps welfare, delay in the cases on African grey parrot in court, a proposed letter to Ministry of External Relations concerning large scale trafficking of apes from Cameroon to Egypt, ongoing trafficking of African grey parrot to the Middle East, procedure for court cases to court concerning wildlife damages, the advice from LAGA on the issue of game ranching and breeding on the risks it could cause in wildlife enforcement etc.

LAGA met with other MINFOF officials – with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and discussed the following issues; the hand over of the management of the Songo Pongo Chimpanzee Sanctuary owned by Patricia of French nationality to the Conservator of the Douala Edea Reserve and eventually to PASA (pan Africa Sanctuary Alliance), designation of power of signature of CITES permits on African grey parrot trade, empowering TRAFIC and LAGA to monitor trade in African grey parrots and notification of MINFOF Regional Delegate to facilitate media coverage of wildlife law enforcement operations. With the Regional Delegate of MINFOF, South West Region to discuss on the Takamanda National Park management plan and enforcement needs. LAGA met with the Focal Point for Environment at the Prime Ministry held a meeting to discuss on follow up for a focal point on wildlife law enforcement at the Prime Ministry.

Many meetings were held with the Diplomatic community – the US embassy, British Members of Parliament and High Commissioner, Official from the Prince of Wales' Rainforest Initiative, British Foreign Office and 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary of Canadian High Commission in the UK, the French Delegation of the Ministry in charge of Wildlife, the French Technical Adviser to MINFOF and MINEP at the French Embassy etc. Issues discussed were on wildlife law enforcement, fight against corruption, corruption in general and corruption in the environment sector, investment in the forest sector, evaluating Cameroon's achievement, reporting the Millennium Development Goals, democracy, increasing accountability and transparency in NGO projects etc.

Meeting in the US about international wildlife law enforcement and fighting corruption and development of enforcement in Central and West Africa with Fish and Wildlife Service international cooperation officials and Investigations Department, INTERPOL-Washington, USAID biodiversity Adviser and State Department officials. LAGA met with the World Bank to discuss issues concerning corruption, ways to combat corruption in development projects through enforcing increased transparency and strict regulation and presentation of budget analysis of legitimised corruption.

Several meetings were held with other International and national organizations – with the CARPE Focal Point to discuss on strict regulation in fighting corruption in NGO projects. LAGA Director took part in a meeting alongside WWF auditor and Dutch consultant to discuss corruption in WWF projects. Meeting was held with CEW to discuss on recommendation of the revision of the wildlife

law; with the Wildlife Conservation Society on conservation of African grey parrot, the new project in Deng Deng, NGO best practice for transparency and good governance; with CIFOR to discuss the problem of corruption in the Forestry sector and corruption in the NGO sector. The Program Officer of ICCO had a meeting with LAGA on fighting corruption in forest sector and increasing accountability and transparency in NGO projects.

Meeting with researcher from Max Plack Institute to discuss the following issues; evaluating the system of protected areas, criticism against the protected area system focuses on small time poachers rather than big dealers in town and the issues of corruption and measurable standard in conservation.

The LAGA Director held meeting with the Directorate General for External Research at the Presidency of the Republic to discuss on increasing collaboration with the Unit on Wildlife Law Enforcement including building better mechanism on operations and reporting.

LAGA was invited to serve at the CARPE small grant committee. This was a good platform of cautioning against corruption in development projects, lack of measurable standards and accountability issues and held a meeting with CARPE to discuss on the replication of LAGA to other countries.

Many presentations were also done - in US Embassy on corruption in the NGO business. A forum was gathered on corruption in Development projects, discussing methodologies for detecting legitimised corruption. Another forum was on corruption in development projects, discussing forms for solution in promoting transparency in development projects and secrecy of information. A short presentation was given by LAGA's Director in the Royal Geographic Society - London for the 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Born Free organization. The presentation touched the need for wildlife law enforcement and for a new generation of conservation focused on the fight against corruption.

A French base association, Sauvegarde Faune Sauvage visited LAGA and discussed the following issues, wildlife law enforcement, the fight against corruption and collaboration with France on wildlife law enforcement. Another visit was by Born Free with 2 celebrities - Lady Victoria and Sean Stone, son of the film Director Olivier Stone accompanied by journalists. They covered issues on wildlife law enforcement.

## **7. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact**

Beyond the number of operations and their effectiveness there is an even more important factor in evaluating LAGA's work – the strategic value of the operations in reducing the level of illegal wildlife trade. In this regard LAGA is choosing diversified operations, which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon. Consequently, LAGA-MINFOF work sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on great apes, elephant products, leopard skins, Internet wildlife trade and African Grey parrots.

### **7.1 Primates**

The Director of a logging company of Italian nationality was arrested and put behind bars for illegally dealing with 3 chimps and a big fresh crocodile skin in Ngambe Tikar – Central Region. Early this year the director of the logging company was identified as a major client of protected species ordering chimps, antelopes and other illegal trophies. For sometime LAGA has observed his activities and investigations are ongoing on his links to other dealers and international export. 3 chimps represent 30 others killed according to the statistics of the Jane Goodall Institute.

A similar case was registered in 2008 when a manager in a logging company of Greek nationality was arrested for illegally dealing with 2 chimps, 5 parrots and a DeBrazza's monkey at Pela – Nanga Eboko in the Center Region. He was also caught with a hunting rifle with no sufficient permit.

The operations come at a time when while in conference halls the logging industry is pledging its commitment not only to minimize their damage but to be considered as partners of wildlife law enforcement and conservation, the field realities offer a striking contrast. The logging industry that signed so many commitments to protect wildlife appears again in the top list of the illegal wildlife trade in the highest level.

In March, a regular dealer in protected bush meat was arrested trying to sell a full dead chimp that he had kept in a deep freezer in Douala - Littoral Region. He has suppliers from the Eastern part of Cameroon and sells in major cities including Douala and Bafoussam. He also has a female accomplice who seeks for and supplies clients. The chimpanzee is reported to have been killed in the Ebo Reserve of the Nkam Division of the Littoral Region and more investigations are being carried out in this regard.

Still in March, a dealer in live primates and other wildlife products was arrested trying to illegally trade in a live mandrill and the foot of an elephant His father is an accomplice and a wildlife trader with 20 years experience. He does not move around to meet clients because of his age but sends his son to take protected wildlife and wildlife products to them and to carry out the illegal trade.

In June, an international network of 4 wildlife traffickers made up of 1 Cameroonian and 3 Nigerians was busted in Bafoussam – West Region. They were arrested while illegally trafficking 4 live baboons from Nigeria with no permits. The Nigerian traffickers had no valid documents for entry into Cameroon. The 4 baboons were rescued and taken to the Mvog Betsi zoo in Yaounde. Still in June, 3 dealers were arrested in Nkambe – North West Region for killing 2 chimps and illegally trading in the chimp meat and trophies. They are well known dealers in the area and have been involved in the killing of apes and other primates for a long time.

## **7.2 Internet Wildlife Trade**

Operations were on track and included focused arrests as clamp down on illegal wildlife trade over the Internet after studying the worrying growth of this type of fraud and numerous contacts from victims and international collaborators.

In January following a report to LAGA and international collaboration with a victim in U.S.A., 2 principal Internet wildlife dealers were targeted and arrested in Bamenda in the North West Region. They are engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet and were arrested trying to sell a chimp to a victim in U.S.A. using falsified government documents and CITES Permits. Their connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. The link between Internet wildlife fraud and other forms of fraud had been discovered before and discussed with the Prime Minister of Cameroon in 2007.

In February following a report to LAGA and international collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a well-known Internet wildlife dealer engaged in the trade of primate skulls and other protected wildlife products over the Internet for more than 4 years was arrested in Buea – South West Region. He had sent illegal consignments to U.S.A. 22 times. He was arrested while trying to sell more primate skulls to a shop in U.S.A. He also falsified the MINFOF Minister's signature which he used on a falsified CITES Permit. His link to immigration and adoption scams is being investigated.

### **7.3 Leopard Skins**

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive provinces. The focused operation was effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for leopard skin trade.

2 dealers illegally trading in leopard skins were arrested and all put behind bars in the West Region. Operations in the West Province were geared at busting networks thereby clamping down on trade in this particular protected species in this part of Cameroon.

### **7.4 Elephant products**

In March, a shop owner laundering illegal wildlife trade in the cover of a shop was arrested trying to illegally trade in elephant teeth and leopard skin to foreign buyers. This operation was done in collaboration with a French-based wildlife conservation NGO – SFS (Sauvegarde Faune Sauvage). Another dealer in live primates and other wildlife products was arrested trying to illegally trade in a live mandrill (a totally protected species) and the foot of an elephant. His father is an accomplice and a wildlife trader with 20 years experience. He does not move around to meet clients because of his age but sends his son to take protected wildlife and wildlife products to them and to carry out the illegal trade.

In May, an ivory dealer was arrested in Abong Mbang – East Region with 2 tusks. He has suppliers all over the East Region and also deals in African Grey parrots.

### **7.5 African Grey Parrots**

Operations were on track and included focused arrests as clamp down on illegal trade in African grey parrots. Cracking down the parrot trade allowed us to uncover how white-collar criminals thrive on high-level complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor.

2 wildlife dealers were arrested in Abong Mbang – East Region for illegally dealing in ivory and African Grey parrots. They have been carrying out this illegal trade for a very long time supplying protected wildlife products especially ivory and African Grey parrots to exporters. They affirmed that they supply parrots to the biggest wildlife exporter in Cameroon. This exporter was arrested in December 2007 while trying to illegally export 720 parrots out of Cameroon through the Douala International Airport. The operation against the exporter uncovered issues of complicity and corruption within the Ministry (MINFOF).

### **7.6 International Connections**

Beyond the number of diversified operations and their effectiveness which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon, LAGA seeks to shed more light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region in particular and the world at large involving foreigners, operations out of Cameroon or victims of Internet fraud internationally.

During this period, an Italian national was arrested for trading in apes in Cameroon, Internet fraud touched victims in U.S.A, Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands and Israel showing the growth of this type of fraud and trade. More focus will continue on International and Internet Investigations during the second half of the year.

### **7.7 Logging and Wildlife Crime**

Beyond the number of diversified operations and their effectiveness which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon, LAGA seeks to shed more light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region in particular and the world at large involving wildlife dealers and big industries/groups.

In May, the Director of a logging company of Italian nationality was arrested and put behind bars for illegally dealing with 3 chimps and a big fresh crocodile skin in Ngambe Tikar – Central Region. Early this year the director of the logging company was identified as a major client of protected species ordering chimps, antelopes and other illegal trophies. For sometime LAGA has observed his activities and investigations are ongoing on his links to other dealers and international export. 3 chimps represent 30 others killed according to the statistics of the Jane Goodall Institute.

A similar case was registered in 2008 when a manager in a logging company of Greek nationality was arrested for illegally dealing with 2 chimps, 5 parrots and a DeBrazza's monkey at Pela – Nanga Eboko in the Center Region. He was also caught with a hunting rifle with no sufficient permit.

The operations come at a time when while in conference halls the logging industry is pledging its commitment not only to minimize their damage but to be considered as partners of wildlife law enforcement and conservation, the field realities offer a striking contrast. The logging industry that signed so many commitments to protect wildlife appears again in the top list of the illegal wildlife trade in the highest level.

**Annex I – Case Tracking System – January – June 2009**

<u>Case num.</u>	<u>Date of operation</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>countries involved</u>	<u>Status</u>
1	10/01/09	North West	Bamenda	Mathias Sam Ngonain	Internet Fraud, Falsifying Government Documents and CITES Permits	Internet Wildlife Trade	A principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet. He was acting with an accomplice and they were arrested trying to sell a chimp to a victim in U.S.A. using falsified government documents and CITES Permits. Their connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. The link between Internet wildlife fraud and other forms of fraud had been discovered before and discussed with the Prime Minister of Cameroon.	U.S.A	Locked while on trial
2	10/01/09	North West	Bamenda	Vincent Suh Ngwabe	Internet Fraud, Falsifying Government Documents and CITES Permits	Internet Wildlife Trade	Another Internet wildlife dealer. He is an accomplice of Mathias Sam and was also arrested while trying to sell a chimp to a victim in the U.S.A. They were arrested in a Bank where they presented themselves to collect money they were trying to fraudulently take from the victim. They have been engaged in this scam business for more than 2 years.	U.S.A	Locked while on trial
3	14/02/09	South West	Buea	Philip Awunganyi Njukang	Internet Fraud, Falsifying Government Documents and CITES Permits	Internet Wildlife Trade	A well known internet wildlife dealer engaged in the trade of primate skulls and other protected wildlife products over the Internet for more than 4 years. He had sent illegal consignments to U.S.A. 22 times. He was arrested following collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while trying to sell more primate skulls to a shop in U.S.A. He also falsified the MINFOF Minister's signature which he used on a falsified CITES Permit.	U.S.A	Locked while on trial
4	20/02/09	West	Bafoussam	Simo Victor	Dealing with Leopard Skin	Skin Trade	Laundering illegal wildlife trade in the cover of a medicine store. He was arrested trying to illegally trade in a big fresh leopard skin. He also works as a security man in the Bafoussam market and uses that cover to get customers for his wildlife products.		Locked while on trial
5	25/02/09	West	Foumbot	Patrick	Dealing with totally protected animals meat	Bushmeat Dealer	A regular dealer supplying large quantities of bushmeat of protected wildlife species. He was arrested trying to sell a full dead cerval cat and meat of protected wildlife species.		Locked while on trial
6	03/03/09	Centre	Yaounde	Njankouo Aboubakar	Dealing with Elephant products + Leopard Skin	Trade in Protected Wildlife Products	A shop owner laundering illegal wildlife trade in the cover of a shop. He was arrested trying to illegally trade in elephant teeth and leopard skin to foreign buyers. This operation was done in collaboration with a French wildlife conservation NGO - SFS.	France	Locked while on trial
7	09/03/09	Centre	Yaounde	Djocky Eyoum Theodore	Dealing with a live primate and Elephant Products.	Trade in Protected wildlife and wildlife products.	A dealer in live primates and other wildlife products. He was arrested trying to illegally trade in a live mandrill and the foot of an elephant. His father is an accomplice and a wildlife trader with 20 years experience.		Locked while on trial

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8	09/03/09	Centre	Yaoude	Eyoum Moukoko Salomon	Dealing with a live primate and Elephant Products.	Trade in Protected wildlife and wildlife products.	The father of Djocky Eyoum Theodore and an accomplice. He is a long time dealer for 20 years. He does not move around to meet clients because of his age but sends his son to take protected wildlife products to them and to carry out the illegal trade.		Free while on trial
9	10/03/09	Littoral	Douala	Siani Tchassi Joseph Durant	Dealing with chimp	Apes / Bushmeat Trade	A regular dealer in protected bushmeat. He was arrested trying to sell a full dead chimp that he had kept in a deep freezer in Douala - Littoral Region. He has suppliers from the Eastern part of Cameroon and sells in major cities including Douala and Bafoussam. He also has a female accomplice who supplies clients. The chimp was presumably killed in a reserve and there are more investigations in this regard.		Locked while on trial
10	14/05/09	Centre	Ngambe Tikar	Ramoni Mirko	Dealing with chimps	Pet trade	The Director of a logging company of Italian nationality was arrested and put behind bars for illegally dealing with 3 chimps and a big fresh crocodile skin in Ngambe Tikar – Central Region. Early this year the director of the logging company was identified as a major client of protected species ordering chimps, antelopes and other illegal trophies. For sometime LAGA has observed his activities and investigations are ongoing on his links to other dealers and international export. 3 chimps represent 30 others killed according to the statistics of the Jane Goodall Institute.	Italy	Locked while on trial
11	25/05/09	East	Abong Mbang	Megnone Eugene Blondel	Dealing with ivory	Ivory Trade	A regular dealer in ivory and African Grey parrots. He was arrested while trying to trade in ivory and african grey parrots. He has exporters to whom he supplies products of protected species and african grey parrots. His house in Abong Mbang is used to stock parrots and other protected wildlife products before being conveyed to exporters.		Locked while on trial
12	25/05/09	East	Abong Mbang	Abada Louis	Dealing with African Grey parrots	Pet trade	A regular parrots dealer and an accomplice of Megnone Eugene Blondel. He is the main intermediary between parrot capturers and parrot exporters using . They supply parrots to the biggest wildlife exporter in Cameroon. This exporter was arrested in December 2007 while trying to illegally export 720 parrots out of Cameroon through the Douala International Airport. The operation against the exporter uncovered issues of complicity and corruption within the Ministry (MINFOF).		Locked while on trial



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13	02/06/09	West	Bafoussam	Abdullahi Hamisu	International Wildlife trafficker	Wildlife trafficking	A Cameroonian wildlife trafficker. He was arrested while illegally trafficking 4 live baboons from Nigeria to Cameroon. Has been doing this activity for long with 3 Nigerian partners. He leads the group into Cameroon.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
14	02/06/09	West	Bafoussam	Idris Samhila	International Wildlife trafficker	Wildlife trafficking	An international wildlife trafficker of Nigerian nationality. A partner of Abdullah arrested while illegally trafficking 4 live baboons. He entered into Cameroon without proper documents.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
15	02/06/09	West	Bafoussam	Mohammed Abdullahi	International Wildlife trafficker	Wildlife trafficking	Another international wildlife trafficker of Nigerian nationality and a partner of the Cameroonian. They were caught with 4 live baboons and he also entered Cameroon without any valid entry documents.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
16	02/06/09	West	Bafoussam	Haruna Dahibu	International Wildlife trafficker	Wildlife trafficking	Another member of the network of wildlife traffickers. He is also of Nigerian nationality involved in the illegal trafficking of 4 live baboons. He too had no valid entry documents for Cameroon.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
17	16/06/09	North West	Nkambe	Mengang Mathew	Dealing with chimps	Apes / Bushmeat Trade	A well known dealer and hunter who killed 2 chimps and sold the meat and trophies. He had 2 accomplices who were also involved in the killing and selling of the meat and trophies.		Locked while on trial
18	16/06/09	North West	Nkambe	Nwibuin David	Dealing with chimps	Apes / Bushmeat Trade	An accomplice of Mengang Mathew involved in the killing and illegal trade in chimp meat and trophies.		Locked while on trial
19	16/06/09	North West	Nkambe	Faulak Andrew	Dealing with chimps	Apes / Bushmeat Trade	Also an accomplice of Mengang Mathew. He was also involved in the killing of 2 chimps and the illegal trade in chimp meat and trophies. All of them have been carrying out illegal deals for long.		Locked while on trial