

# The Last Great Ape Organization - LAGA

## February 2009 Report



### Highlights

- **3 operations were carried out this month against 3 suspects.**
- **An Internet wildlife dealer engaged in regular trade arrested** in collaboration with US authorities while trying to sell primate skulls and falsifying MINFOF Minister's signature.
- **3 wildlife dealers belonging to a network convicted** for illegally trading in a chimp.

### General

This month was marked by 3 successful operations against 3 suspects.

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. The link between Internet wildlife fraud and other forms of fraud had been discovered before and discussed with the Prime Minister of Cameroon. This case proves that while the Internet trade in Cameroon is connected to fraud, it does not mean that actual transactions do not take place.

2 other operations resulted in the arrest of 2 suspects. A dealer in Leopard skin was arrested in Bafoussam – West Region. He was 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. Another regular dealer supplying large quantities of bushmeat of protected wildlife species was arrested in Foumbot – West Region. He was arrested trying to sell a full dead cervel cat and meat of protected wildlife species

The Court of First Instance of Ntui in the Center Region has sentenced 3 female wildlife dealers to 2 years suspended sentences during 5 years and to pay 35.000 FCFA (About \$70) as fine and 500.000 FCFA (About \$1000) as damages. They belonged to a network that was busted and they were arrested in Ntui while trying to sell a live chimp.

### Investigations

- **23 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon- West, South West, South, East, Littoral and Center.
- **Internet Investigations led to a successful operation** after targeting dealer: an Internet wildlife dealer was arrested in Buea – South West Region.
- **Field Investigations led to 2 successful operations** after targeting dealers in the West Region.
- Internet Investigations targeted 6 other Internet wildlife dealers engaged in fraud in Buea – South West Region. Investigations are still ongoing.
- One field investigator was given a warning for lack of produced operations and this had a positive effect resulting into 2 produced operations by the investigator in question.

## Operations

**3 operations** were carried out this month with MINFOF against **3 subjects**.

- **14/02/09** - 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 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. His link to immigration and adoption scams is 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.
- **20/02/09** – A dealer in Leopard skin was arrested in Bafoussam – West Region. He was 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.
- **25/02/09** – A regular dealer supplying large quantities of bushmeat of protected wildlife species was arrested in Foumbot – West Region. He was arrested trying to sell a full dead cerval cat and meat of protected wildlife species.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **09 missions** out of Yaounde - Center Region: 2 in Limbe (South West), 3 in Buea (South West), 1 in Ntui (Center), 2 in Bafoussam (West), 1 in Douala (Littoral).
- There are **7 dealers behind bars during this month**: 1 in East Region, 3 in the West Region, 2 in South West Region, 1 in North West Region.
- **22 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **19 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.

**Prosecutions:** 1 case was sentenced this month.

- **21/01/09:** The Court of First of Ntui – Center Region convicted WAGNE Béatrice, NOUPTSOAH Suzanne and DEUNGUE Mireille to 2 years suspended sentences during 5 years and to pay 35.000 FCFA (About \$70) as fine and 500.000 FCFA (About \$1000) as damages. They were arrested in Ntui while trying to sell a live chimp.

## Media front

- **31 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to Radio, TV and Written Press including: 6 written press materials (3 in English, 3 in French), 22 radio news flashes (12 in English, 10 in French), 3 radio talk shows in English.
- Guests include: Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Information officer at the US Embassy, South West Regional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife, GRASP Consultant and MINEP Technical Adviser N° 1.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Buea Internet wildlife dealer, Court sentence ape dealer in Bertoua, leopard skin arrest in Bafoussam.
- 19 media pieces in English, 12 in French making a percentage of 61.3% in English and 38.7% in French.

## External Relations and Policy

- Presentation in US Embassy by LAGA Director on corruption in the NGO business.
- LAGA Director gathered a Forum on corruption in Development projects discussing methodologies for detecting legitimised corruption.

- LAGA Director gathered another forum for corruption in development projects discussing forms for solution in promoting transparency in development projects and secrecy of information.
- LAGA Director participated in the CARPE small Grant committee selection.
- The Director of 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
- 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.
- LAGA Director, LAGA Head of Media and External Relations and 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.
- Meeting held between the US Embassy Focal Point for Environment and wildlife enforcement and LAGA Director to discuss wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption.
- LAGA Head of Media and External Relations met with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Area to talk on the poor management of the Pongo Songo chimpanzee sanctuary under the Douala - Edea Wildlife Reserve.

## **Management**

- 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.

## **Finance**

### **LAGA Expenditure by budget line for February 09**

<b>Amount CFA</b>	<b>Budget line</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount USD</b>
<b>1,827,455</b>	<b>Investigations</b>	22 inv, 6 provinces	\$3,548
<b>648,000</b>	<b>Operations</b>	3 Operations against 3 dealers	\$1,258
<b>1,514,110</b>	<b>legal</b>	follow up 22 cases 7 locked subjects	\$2,940
<b>1,616,345</b>	<b>Media</b>	31 media pieces	\$3,139
<b>172,900</b>	<b>Policy &amp; External Relations</b>	Congo Replication	\$336
<b>982,300</b>	<b>Management</b>	Coordination	\$1,907
<b>1,397,320</b>	<b>Office</b>		\$2,713
<b>8,158,430</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE FEBRUARY</b>		<b>\$15,842</b>

### **Total Expenditure by donor for February 09**

<b>AmountCFA</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount USD</b>
3,974,955	FWS	\$7,949.9
2,191,475	Rufford Foundation	\$4,383.0
1,775,000	Arcus	\$3,550.0
217,000	SFS France	\$434.0
8,158,430	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,316.9</b>

## THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



**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 following collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while trying to sell more primate skulls to a shop in U.S.A. Here, he poses with skulls and other protected wildlife products that he sends to clients outside of Cameroon.**



**Falsified CITES Permit used by the Internet Wildlife dealer arrested in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He falsified the signature of the Minister – MINFOF and the official seal that he used on the permit.**



### **Links of this month**

- An Internet Wildlife dealer arrested in Buea in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service - The Herald Newspaper. A well known internet wildlife dealer in the trade of primate skulls and products of other protected wildlife species was arrested in Buea, South West Region Cameroon. He was trying to sell primate skulls to the USA using falsified CITES Permit.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwGy4DuTZ5Q>