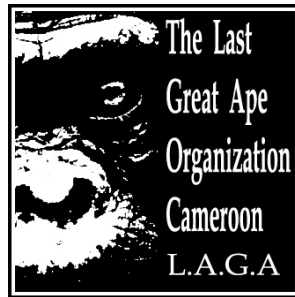


THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2009



Executive Summary

There was a general improvement of results on all aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, with tangible achievements not only in the fields of investigation, arrests and prosecution but also in media exposure, government relations and international activities with a continued focus on the fight against corruption. LAGA effectively improved the 2009 results as promised thereby compensating the dip in 2008.

This year for every 7 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 71% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest and corruption was observed in 77% of the cases. For every single day a media piece was put on national news and recorded. The logging industry was again exposed with the arrest of a Manager in a Logging company. More than 1/3 of the operations were on ivory trade with 1 ton seized in Douala – Littoral Region. Collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service led to the arrest of a long time Internet wildlife dealer who forged the MINFOF Minister's signature and falsified the CITES Permit.

This year was very significant in that LAGA was successful in replicating its activities in the Central African Republic through LAGA missions and operations, and a LAGA family member effectively kicking off RALF activities.

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



OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Investigations

- A total of 251 investigation missions were conducted in all the 10 Regions of Cameroon.
- More focus on Ivory during this period with an international investigator hired to track ivory dealers.
- International investigations carried out in the C.A.R, Republic of Congo, and the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the replication and follow-up of replication of LAGA activities in the sub-region.
- Collaboration with other countries and organizations especially the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Internet Investigations yielded very good results.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 7 Regions against 52 individuals resulting in 52 court cases – a rate of one major dealer every 7 days.
- The rate of imprisonment for suspects apprehended reached to 71%.
- More than 1/3 of the operations were on ivory trade and other elephant products with 1 ton seized in Douala – Littoral Region.

Legal

- 52 new cases were brought to court and represented.
- Corruption was observed in 77% of the cases.
- 15 cases were prosecuted with 26 dealers sentenced, and over \$54,000 to be paid as damages MINFOF.
- 3 ivory dealers sentenced to 1 year imprisonment terms each in Douala – Littoral Region.
- First prosecution in the Republic of Congo following the replication of LAGA activities in that country.

Media

- A total of 366 media pieces were produced and pushed into national media (television, radio and press) - a rate of one media piece per day.
- German national TV visited and filmed 3 operations with LAGA on a documentary about LAGA's work.
- A journalist of "Envoyée Special" of France 2 Television network with 4.5 million viewers visited LAGA and covered the 1 ton ivory seizure and other ivory operations in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.
- Online sensitization resulted in over 500 visits to the LAGA website per month.
- *Wildlife Justice* Magazine (a bilingual journal about the progress of wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon) printed and distributed.

Strategic Highlights

- Concerted efforts saw the arrest of many foreign dealers. A manager in a logging company was arrested dealing in apes and exposing the logging industry linked to illegal trade in wildlife.
- Internet Investigations with International collaboration resulted in the arrest of 5 Internet wildlife dealers.
- Operations were carried out in Bangui – Central African Republic, and Brazzaville – Republic of Congo after the dealers had crossed over the River Congo from Kinshasa – Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the replication and follow-up of replication of LAGA activities in the sub-region.
- Crackdown in the trafficking of African Grey parrots continued.

Government Relations

- The Minister – MINFOF writes a strong letter of support to LAGA.
- LAGA Activities replicated in the Central African Republic resulting into successful operations.
- A forum convened on corruption in development projects, methodologies for detecting legitimized corruption, solution in promoting transparency in development projects and secrecy of information
- There was a continuing increase in the number of operations initiated by MINFOF rather than LAGA.

Management

- A strong letter of support from 7 Ambassadors as LAGA faces threats in line of their work stating the success of LAGA in fighting wildlife trafficking and one of Cameroon's anti-corruption success stories.
- 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.
- A new Legal Head of Department was appointed.
- A new PALF coordinator in The Republic of Congo.
- Head of Legal Department makes a presentation on Internet wildlife trade during the Conference of the Interpol Wildlife Working Group in Brazil.
- LAGA Director continued with the series of thought provoking sessions of debates on corruption and development for the LAGA Team.

CONTENTS

This report refers to activities from January till December 2009. The organization experienced a major climb in the political level and operational levels. This report includes: the activities in each department (Investigations, Operations, Legal, and Media), strategic overview of our operations and their impact on wildlife crime, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, the international arena, and in management.

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Further documents also available:

- Annual financial statement 2009
- Monthly financial and activity reports January - December
- Media archive – excel database interlinked to recorded media pieces
- Photo archive for media use

For copies please email ofir@laga-enforcement.org

NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Investigations

LAGA's investigation unit carried out 251 investigation missions in all of Cameroon's 10 Regions during this year with international investigations in the Republic of Congo and Central African Republic that led to 2 operations while replicating the LAGA model and as part of follow-up of the replication activities. Also, an International Investigator was hired for a special mission to track ivory dealers in Cameroon; this resulted into the arrest of one ivory dealer in Yaounde – Center. The missions ranged in duration from 1 to 10 days, with several often required to underpin a single operation, and many relating to activities still being investigated in anticipation of future operations.

During this period, there was a special focus on ivory trafficking, primates, logging companies, Internet investigations targeting wildlife dealers who trade over the Internet, African Grey parrots amongst others. Investigations were opened on the 1 ton of ivory seized in Douala – Littoral in September. Investigations were also opened on the more than 300 parrots seized at the Douala International Airport about to be illegally exported by a well known trafficker of Ghanaian nationality who had been arrested before.

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 who had succeeded to illegally send 22 consignments of wildlife products to U.S.A. Other dealers were arrested in Bamenda – North West Region and Buea – South West Region while trying to illegally trade in protected wildlife species over the internet using falsified official documents.

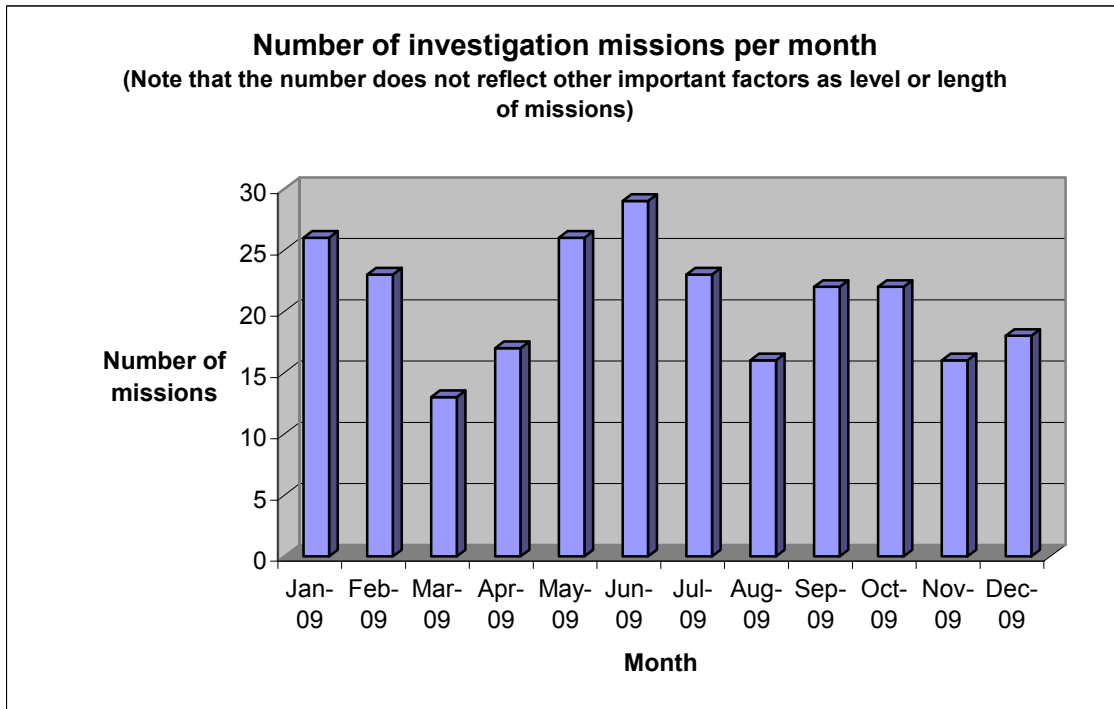
Since the beginning of 2009, the unit has shown a high level of professionalism and an increase in the scope of its impact by undertaking investigations relating to wildlife trade but involving additional offences not under wildlife law (including the illegal adoption of children and illegal immigration), 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 the South West, North West, North, Littoral, South and East Regions. This exercise will be carried out in all the Regions of Cameroon so as to permit real time information on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

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 promising results.

In July, one field Investigator was suspended for 2 months with no salary for that period for disciplinary reasons. In September, one field investigator stopped working with LAGA because of disagreement over procedures of work.

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



2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out 52 operations in 7 Regions resulting in 52 court cases –one for every 7 days of the year. Operations became more sophisticated over the period and the rate of imprisonment of the accused individuals while awaiting trial was 71% of the cases. There was a special focus on ivory and African grey parrots traffickers, international wildlife trade involving foreigners and targets involved in cyber wildlife trade. More than 1/3 of the operations were on ivory trade and other elephant products.

In May, 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 in Ngambe Tikar – Center 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 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 comes 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.

Other operations on primates were carried. In March, A regular dealer in chimps was arrested trying to sell a full dead chimp that he had kept in a deep freezer in Douala - Littoral Region. Another dealer in live primates and other wildlife products was arrested trying to illegally trade in a live mandrill and the foot of an elephant with his father being an accomplice and by his own admission, he is a wildlife trader with about 20 years experience. In June, an international network of 4 wildlife traffickers made up of 1 Cameroonian and 3 Nigerians was busted in Bafoussam – West Region while illegally trafficking 4 live baboons from Nigeria with no permits. Still in June, 3 dealers were arrested in Nkambe – North West for killing 2 chimps and illegally trading in the chimp parts. In August, a notorious illegal wildlife dealer arrested at Bengbis - South Region h a hunting rifle and 23 ammunitions, threatened the arresting officers with his weapon and resisted arrest. A live chimp was rescued and taken to the Mefou National Park in the Center Region by the Cameroon Wildlife AID Fund (CWAF). In September, a well known dealer was arrested in Djoum – South Region for illegally trading in live primates and products of other endangered wildlife species. He is a recidivist who had been arrested several times before. In December, a chimp of more than 10 years old was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center from Bazou – West Region.

Another area of focus this year was on trade in Ivory and other elephant products. In September, a network of international ivory traffickers was busted in Douala – Littoral Region. 2 members of the network were arrested by the Littoral Regional Delegation for National Security with a huge consignment of raw ivory totaling 1 ton representing more than 150 killed elephants. The ivory is purported to be from Cameroon and Gabon and that some highly placed government officials are also part of the network, and 2 other identified members are fugitives under chase. According to the Director of LAGA, illegal ivory trade is a well organized international criminal business and well connected to other organized crime syndicates such as illicit trade in drugs and arms. The illegal ivory trade is rooted in corruption. Fighting corruption is therefore necessary in stopping illegal ivory trade; this, through effective wildlife law enforcement and prosecuting the heads of the criminal ivory trafficking cartels.

More operations were carried out pertaining to illegal trade in ivory. In March, a dealer was arrested trying to illegally trade in elephant parts in Yaounde – Center Region. This operation was carried in collaboration with French-based wildlife conservation NGO – SFS (Sauvegarde Faune Sauvage). In May, an ivory dealer was arrested in Abong Mbang – East with raw tusks. In July, a well known dealer whose area of operation is the Dja Reserve was arrested in Somalomo – East. He has as an accomplice, a Gendarme officer working in the Brigade of Messamena – East who supplies him ammunition and the military gun that seems to have been stolen and more investigations are being carried out on this. In August, 3 wildlife dealers were arrested in Abong Mbang – East while illegally selling elephant products and meat from an industrial refrigerator. A senior government official - The Senior Divisional Officer of Boumba and Ngoko - Yokadouma in the East Region was quoted as being part of the network. In October, 2 other operations focused on ivory were carried - a well known ivory dealer with supplies from the Northern part of Cameroon was arrested in Yaounde following a special mission carried out with an International Investigator. He is part of a network of ivory dealers in a notorious and violent hotspot known as “Briqueterie” in Yaounde, an area difficult to

penetrate and that served to connect ivory dealers in the major towns of Douala, Yaounde etc. In another case, 2 dealers were arrested in Bengbis – South for illegally trying to trade in a pair of elephant tusks. They were denounced by their own village committee for the wanton killing of elephants.

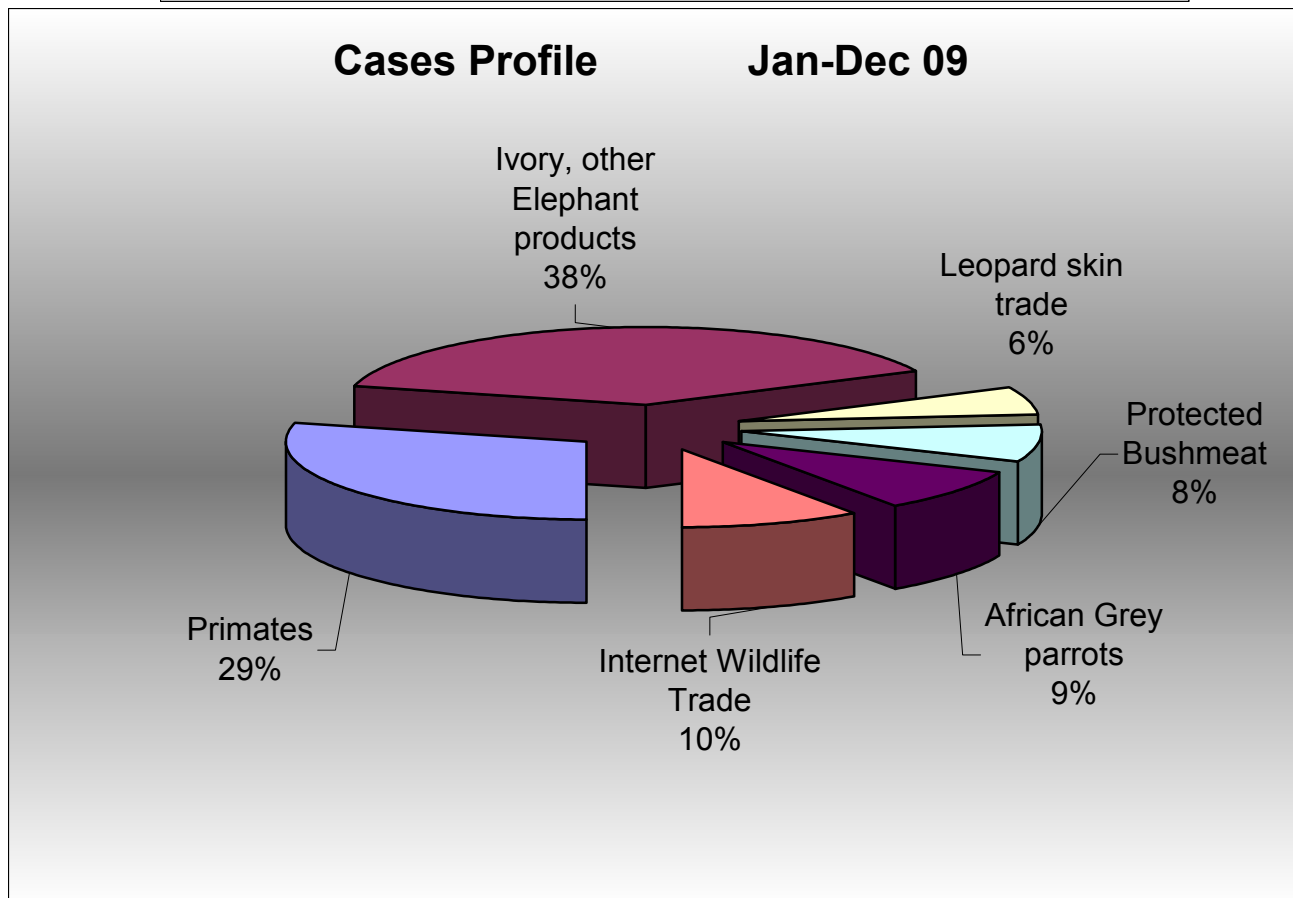
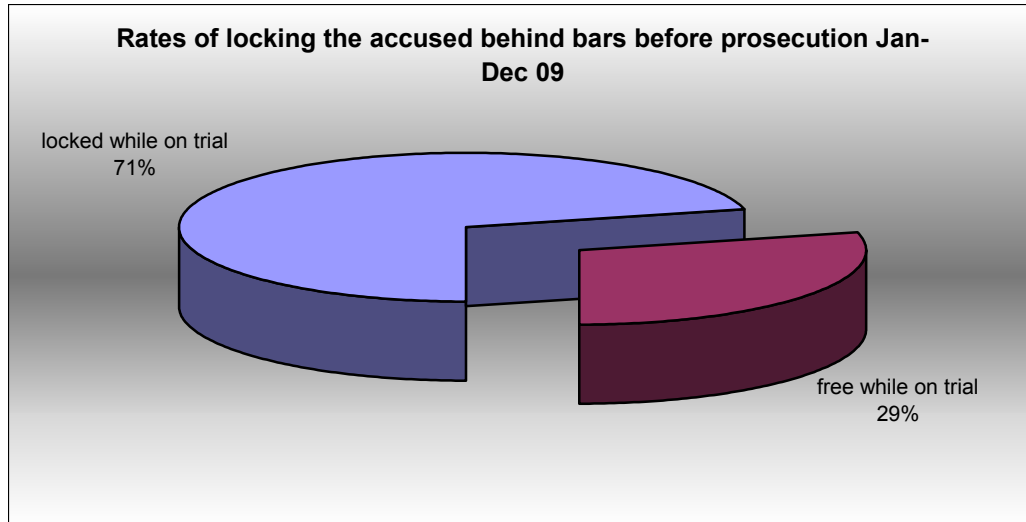
In December, a network of 4 ivory traffickers and elephant poachers was busted in Meyomessala – South Region. They were arrested for killing and illegally trading in ivory and elephant meat. One member of the network is an Ecoguard working with the Dja Biosphere Reserve. He was responsible for the acquisition of the gun and ammunition used for hunting and responsible for the sale of the ivory. Another member of the network is of Malian nationality. They were arrested with a military gun and ammunition and investigations are being carried out to get the military person responsible for the supply of the gun. The operation was carried out with ECOFAC. An operation was carried out against 2 well-known dealers in Mamfe – South West region who were involved in the killing of an elephant and illegally trading in its tusk, the elephant meat and other products. This was done with MINFOF – Mamfe in the South West Region.

A crackdown on Internet wildlife trade was intensified with arrests of 5 internet wildlife dealers carried out in Buea – South West and Bamenda – North West Regions respectively. One of the operations was carried out with the US Fish and wildlife service confirming that actual trade takes place via the Internet as opposed to the initial assumption that they were merely scam cases. 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.

Operations also intensified pertaining to illegal trafficking of African Grey parrots. An operation was started against a well known international illegal wildlife trafficker of Ghanaian nationality and 3 of his accomplices, 2 Ghanaians and 1 Guinean (Guinea – Conakry). The trafficker who is connected to a big export network uses much money to sponsor the illegal export of African Grey parrots with the use of falsified government documents. More than 300 parrots were seized at the Douala International airport by MINFOF Littoral Region about to be illegally exported using a falsified CITES permit purported to have been delivered in Congo – Kinshasa by the Guinean national. The Ghanaian exporter was arrested in 2007 with more than 500 African Grey parrots destined for Bahrain. This furthermore validated information we had before about the organized chain of complicity in the parrot trade and how white-collar criminals thrive on this complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor. Another parrot dealer was arrested in Abong – Mbang – East Region He is the main intermediary between parrot capturers and parrot exporters in that area.

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive regions despite the corruption and complicity of local officials. Operations were carried out against illegal dealers in leopard skins in the West and East Regions.

In December, 3 dealers specialized in illegal trade in bush meat of protected wildlife species were arrested in Yaounde – Center. They have suppliers from the East, South and Central Regions and have a store with deep freezers where keep the killed animals. Instead of concentrating in arresting and legally pursuing the dealers, the MINFOF team was more interested in selling the bush meat. Many irregularities were observed during the auction sale of the bush meat and more investigations are being carried out so as to pin-point these irregularities and acts of corruption that possibly took place. In February, another dealer in protected bush meat was arrested in Foubot – West.



3. Legal

52 court cases were initiated, followed up and represented. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage, and most subjects are imprisoned throughout the process instead of being allowed to move freely and conduct further criminal acts. The sentences being handed down are becoming more severe although the process of bringing the case to trial is becoming more time consuming due to corruption. Despite that, outstanding prosecutions were achieved this year, 15 cases were prosecuted with 26 dealers sentenced, at a rate of 2.2 dealers per month. Over \$54,000 was to be paid as damages MINFOF. Also, there was the first prosecution in the Republic of Congo following the replication of LAGA activities in that country. Corruption and trade of influence was observed in 77% of the cases though we think it will be more because most of the cases are still ongoing.

In January, a dealer in a live chimp was convicted in Bertoua - East to 3 months imprisonment and to pay over \$3000 as fines and damages to MINFOF. In February, the Court of First Instance of Ntui - Center 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 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 was 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 that started in September 2008. 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 convicted 2 wildlife traffickers to pay damages and fine of more than \$8000. They will be retained in prison for 12 months in case of non payment of the damages and fine. One of those sentenced is a well-known wildlife trafficker of British Nationality with past records of conviction and served jail time in U.S.A. for wildlife trafficking. 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.

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 for illegally trading in leopard skins. They will be retained in prison for 18 months in case of non payment of the damages and fine.

In July, the Court of First Instance of Ndokoti - Douala convicted a major wildlife dealer to 6 months suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay an amount about \$2700 as fine and damages. He will be retained in prison for 11 months in case of non-payment of fine and court charges. He was arrested in Douala for illegal killing and trying to illegally trade in a chimpanzee.

In August an outstanding prosecution was obtained in the Court of First Instance of Bonanjo – Douala that convicted 3 wildlife dealers to 1 year imprisonment terms, and to pay a total of more than \$3000 as fines and damages. They were arrested in Douala in detention and illegal trade in wildlife trophies (worked ivory).

In September, 3 cases were prosecuted leading to the conviction of 4 dealers. The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang (East) sentenced 1 dealer to pay about \$1300 as fine and damages for illegally trafficking elephant tusks and African Grey parrots. The Court of First Instance of Bamenda (North West) sentenced 2 dealers to pay jointly, a total of about \$2700 as fines and damages, or 9 months imprisonment in default of payment illegally trying to trade in leopard skins. The Court of First Instance of Yaounde Administrative Center sentenced 1 dealer to 1 year suspended sentence for 3 months and to pay a total of about \$1500 as fines and damages for illegally trading in a leopard skin and elephant products.

In October, The Court of First Instance of Bengbis (South) sentenced 2 dealers to 1 year in prison and to pay a total of about \$2000 as damages and fines; they will be retained in jail in default of payment of the fines and damages for trying to illegally trade in 2 elephant tusks. In another case, the Court of First Instance of Bamenda (North West) sentenced one dealer to pay a total of \$4000 as fines and damages for illegally trading in a live primate.

3 dealers were sentenced in November. The Court of First Instance of Bengbis (South) sentenced a dealer to 6 months in prison and to pay a total of about \$3500 as fines and damages. He will be retained in jail in default of payment of the fines and damages. He was arrested in Somalomo – Dja Reserve for the killing of elephants. In another case, the Court of First Instance of Nkambe (North West) sentenced 2 dealers to pay a total 647 248 FCFA (about \$1300) as fines and damages. They will be retained in jail for 21 months in default of payment of fines and damages. They were arrested for illegally killing and trading in 3 chimpanzees.

In December, The Court of First Instance of Bafoussam sentenced 1 dealer to pay a total of \$1200 as fines and damages. He will be retained in jail for 6 months in default of payment of fines and damages. He was arrested for illegal trade in leopard skins.

168 missions were done out of the Center Province for follow-up, new cases and the creation of relations with judiciary authorities. There were relations opening with Provincial Attorney Generals and State Attorneys all with positive cooperative outcomes and expressions of their readiness and commitment to work with LAGA.

4. Media

A total of 366 media pieces was produced and pushed into national media, including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press, a rate of about one media piece per day. There were few media pieces in March, April and June due to lack of produced operations and financial problems faced by LAGA and more in September, October, and November because of high number of produced operations.

The capacity, professionalism, and matching results in this department have been growing steadily. A program of intensified media campaigning continued with efficient wildlife sensitization/awareness messages, which involved many stakeholders as guests.

Subjects consisted of a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues, including: all LAGA-MINFOF operations and prosecutions, the meetings between LAGA and the Minister – MINFOF, the replication of LAGA activities in the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, Italian logging Director arrested with 3 chimps and crocodile skin, 1 ton ivory case in Douala, Gorilla symposium in Germany, Gorilla symposium in Germany, case file established against gendarme officer in Abong – Mbang – East, 21st INTERPOL conference in Brazil, Internet wildlife trade and fraud etc.

Guests included: Prime Minister of Cameroon, Minister of MINFOF, Uganda Minister of State for Tourism, British Parliamentarian, Deputy British High Commissioner, Information officer at the US Embassy, Congo Ambassador, Director of “In Defence of Animals” – Africa, GRASP Consultant, Technical Adviser N° 1 at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas – MINFOF, Deputy Director of Wildlife in the Ministry of Wildlife in Nigeria, LAGA Director, Director of WCS Calabar – Nigeria, South West Regional Delegate – MINFOF, Littoral Regional Delegate – MINFOF, CARPE Focal Point Manager, CCORUD Manager, Traditional Ruler of Bali Nyonga, Conservator of Mvog Betsi Zoo - Yaounde, The Chairman of G.C.E. Board, Directors of programmes CRTV (Cameroon Radio and Television), MINFOF Divisional Delegate Ndian, Executive Secretary of BDCP-C, Senior Officer of MINFOF Control Brigade, LAGA Head of Media and External Relations Department, LAGA Legal Unit Head, LAGA Media Assistant,

This year, LAGA received foreign TV journalists. In March the German national TV visited and filmed 3 successful operations with LAGA and a documentary about LAGA’s work - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jvne-jBgW60>. In September, LAGA received Barbara, a journalist of Envoyée Speciale - France 2 Television network who covered the 1 ton ivory seizure in Douala and filmed a successful operation with LAGA - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXv0WeBe8-Q>. Envoyée Speciale has about 4.5 million viewers. Still in September, XINUA press Agency journalist met LAGA Director to discuss about Chinese involvement in the illegal ivory trade.

Since June, the 6th 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 6th 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.

This year, LAGA continue with full-time website analysis:

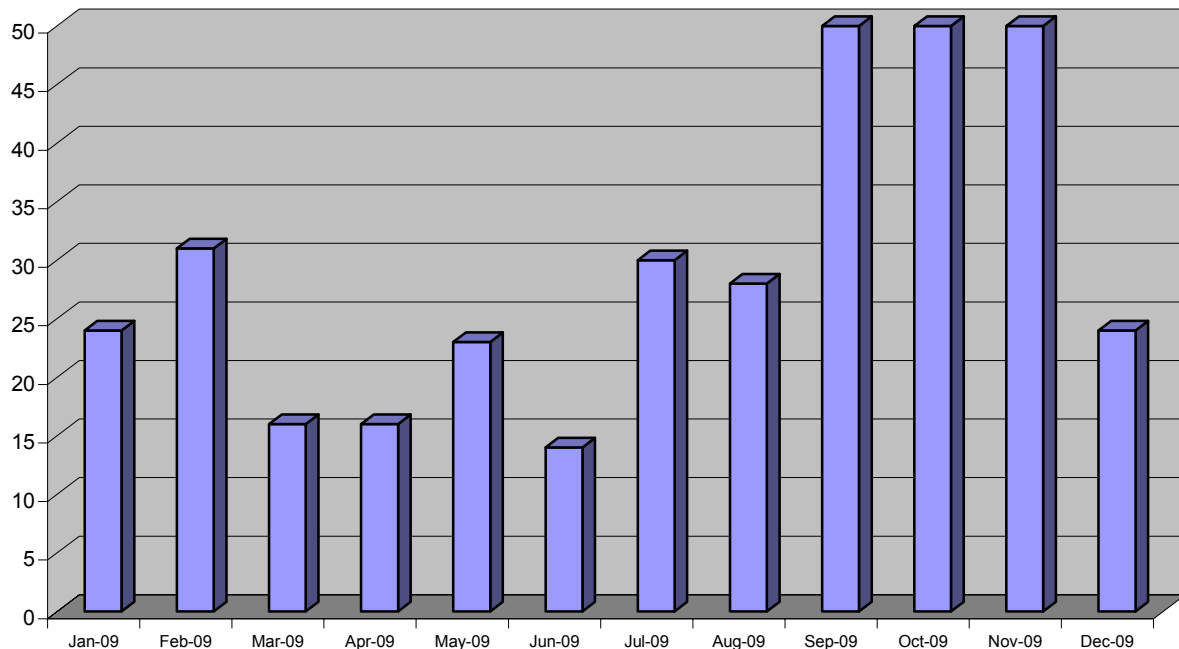
There were over 5000 views on the LAGA website for 2009 and page views stood at about 14200. Views of LAGA videos on youtube were over 41000, and over 2000 channel views.

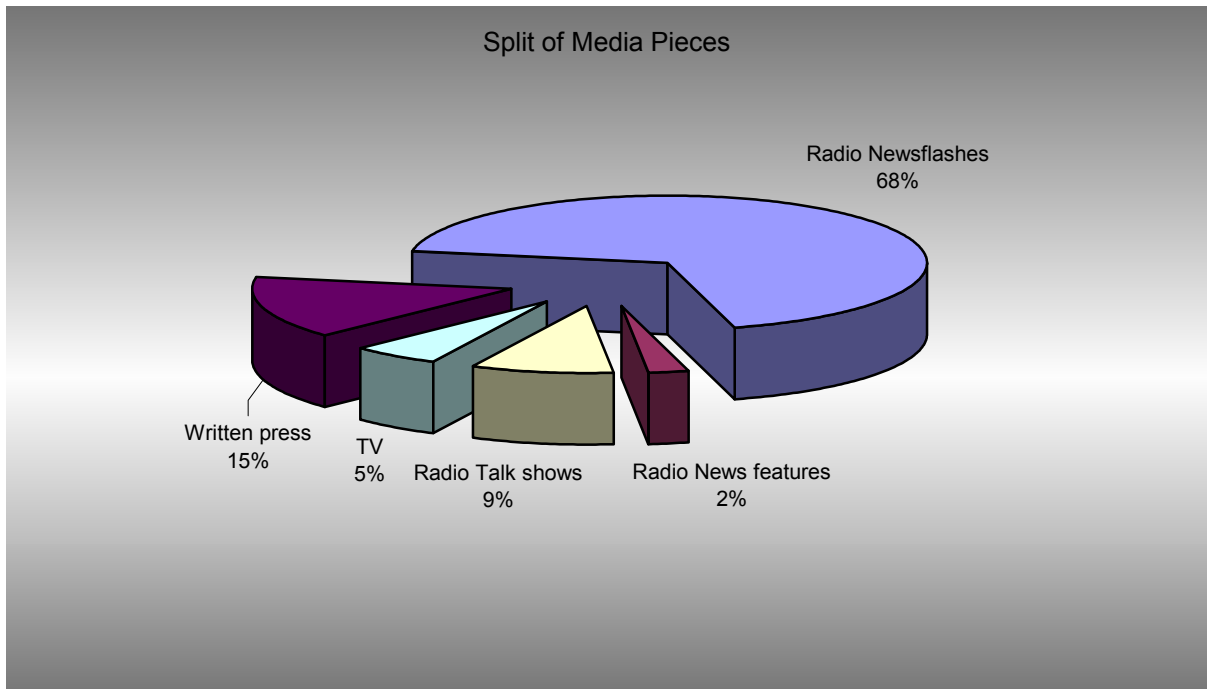
LAGA ranked 12th on Google search engine when each of these terms were used for search: “Great ape”, “Wildlife law enforcement” and “Corruption wildlife”.

Google search produced the following statistical entries when the following phrases were searched:

1. LAGA Cameroon – 31 200 entries
2. LAGA Cameroun – 493 000 entries
3. LAGA wildlife Cameroon – 118 000 entries
4. The Last Great Ape Organization – 192 000 entries.

Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed





5. 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's work sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the entire sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on great apes and other threatened primates, ivory, feline skin trade, Internet wildlife trade and International arena.

5.1. Apes & other threatened primates

A total of 7 operations were carried out against 15 suspects dealing in great apes resulting in 15 court cases. 10 live primates were rescued and sent to specialized structures for up keeping.

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 and 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. 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.

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.

In August, a notorious illegal wildlife dealer arrested at Bengbis in the South Region with a live chimp, other chimp parts and skulls and some elephant products. He was arrested with a Hunting Rifle and 23 ammunitions. He threatened the arresting officers with his weapon and resisted arrested. The chimp was rescued and taken to the Mefou National Park in the Center Region by the Cameroon Wildlife AID Fund (CWAF). The animals are suspected to have been killed and captured within the Dja Reserve which stretches between the South and East Regions. In September, a well known dealer was arrested in Djoum – South Region for illegally trading in life primates and products of other endangered wildlife species. He is a recidivist who had been arrested several times before. His whole family is involved in poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. He was arrested with a hunting rifle and threatened the operations team with the rifle. In December, a chimp of more than 10 years old was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center from Bazou – West Region.

5.2 Ivory and other Elephant Products

This year was marked by a special focus on trade in Ivory and other elephant products. Operations were carried out to crack down on national and international ivory trade in the Central African sub-region. In Cameroon, 20 cases were opened against 20 illegal ivory dealers and traffickers. In Cameroon, several highly placed government officials were involved in the illegal trade of ivory, of particular interest is LAGA uncovered that a Senior Divisional Officer is involved in illegal trade in elephant products.

In September, a network of international ivory traffickers was busted in Douala – Littoral Region. 2 members of the network were arrested by the Littoral Regional Delegation for National Security with a huge consignment of raw ivory totaling 1 ton representing more than 150 killed elephants. The ivory is purported to be from Cameroon and Gabon and that some highly placed government officials are also part of the network, and 2 other identified members are fugitives under chase. According to the Director of LAGA, illegal ivory trade is a well organized international criminal business and well connected to other organized crime syndicates such as illicit trade in drugs and arms. The illegal ivory trade is rooted in corruption. Fighting corruption is therefore necessary in stopping illegal ivory trade; this, through effective wildlife law enforcement and prosecuting the heads of the criminal ivory trafficking cartels.

Other operations were carried out pertaining to ivory and other elephant products. In March, a dealer 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). In May, an ivory dealer was arrested in Abong Mbang – East Region with 2 tusks.

In July, a well known dealer and trafficker whose area of operation is the Dja Reserve was arrested in Somalomo – East Region. He has as an accomplice, a Gendarme officer working in the Brigade of Messamena – East who supplies him ammunition and the military gun he uses for poaching. The gun seems to have been stolen and more investigations are being carried out on this.

In August, a network of 3 wildlife dealers was busted in Abong Mbang – East Region. They were arrested while illegally selling elephant products and meat from an industrial refrigerator. A senior government official - The Senior Divisional Officer of Boumba and Ngoko - Yokadouma in the East Region was quoted as being part of the network.

In October, 2 other operations focused on ivory were carried out - a well known ivory dealer with supplies from the Northern part of Cameroon was arrested in Yaounde following a special mission carried out with an International Investigator. He is part of a network of ivory dealers in a notorious and violent hotspot known as “Briqueterie” in Yaounde, an area difficult to penetrate and that served to connect ivory dealers in the major towns on Douala, Yaounde etc. He was arrested with 1 raw elephant tusk, 1 carved elephant tusk and 29 worked pieces of ivory. In another case, 2 ivory dealers and at the same time poachers were arrested in Bengbis – South Region for illegally trying to trade in a pair of elephant tusks. They were responsible for killing many elephants and were denounced by their own village committee for the wanton killing of elephants in their area.

In December, a network of 4 ivory traffickers and elephant poachers was busted in Meyomessala – South Region. They were arrested for killing and illegally trading in ivory and elephant meat. One member of the network is an Ecoguard working with the Dja Biosphere Reserve. He was responsible for the acquisition of the gun and ammunition used for hunting and responsible for the sale of the ivory. Another member of the network is of Malian nationality. They were arrested with a military gun and

ammunition and investigations are being carried out to get the military person responsible for the supply of the gun. The operation was carried out with ECOFAC. An operation was carried out against 2 well-known dealers in Mamfe – South West region who were involved in the killing of an elephant and illegally trading in its tusk, the elephant meat and other products. This was done with MINFOF – Mamfe in the South West Region.

5.3 Ivory Trafficking in C.A.R. and the Republic of Congo

While replicating LAGA’s activities in the Central African Republic (CAR) - that was already successful in the Republic of Congo, a successful operation was carried out resulting in the arrest of 2 members of a big network in Bangui – CAR specialized in international ivory trafficking. One has been in the business for more than 20 years and at the center of the network. He exports to Europe and other parts of the world - to France through a diplomat, to Italy as packages to a CAR national, to the Czech Republic through a priest delivered as packages for the Catholic Church, and to Turkey. To him, CAR is a junction with ivory arriving from DRC as well and sent towards Nigeria and Cameroon. His younger brother had been arrested before and locked up by LAGA in Cameroon. Another member is a woman of French and Central - African Nationality. She is well known and well connected. She exposed about 200Kg of ivory and was recorded saying she has 600kg of ivory in CAR, some hidden in the bush, 200 Kg in Italy and 50 Kg in France. She claims she got a CITES export permit long ago that expired and now she will “use money” to make a new permit and take all the stock to France. This is laundering illegal ivory using a legal cites permit scheme, (that alone can stand to show the problem with legal sales of ivory and the value of a total ban to effective enforcement). She is also recorded trying to sell her stock of CAR at 150,000 Euros. That should also give you an idea of the bribing power we are facing. In her house search she kept on saying “I know the Procurer General (General Attorney) which shows her intention to sabotage justice procedure using her contacts and influence. She was also bragging in her relations with the French embassy in Bangui.

In October as part of follow-up of the replication of LAGA activities in the Republic of Congo and following a special mission carried out by the LAGA Director, 3 members of a big network specialized in international ivory trafficking were arrested in Brazzaville – Republic of Congo after crossing over the river Congo from Kinshasa - The Democratic Republic of Congo. A total of 40 kg of worked ivory were seized while they were trying to trade in the ivory. This confirms our suspicion that the River Congo acts as a major trade route enhancing the illegal trade of ivory and other protected animal species.

5.4 Leopard Skin Trade

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive regions 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 carried out in Bafoussam – West Region against illegal dealers in leopard skins. A total of 3 dealers were arrested with 5 leopard skins.

5.5 Internet Wildlife Trade

As far as we know, LAGA was instrumental in bringing forward the first cyber-crime court cases in Cameroon. This year LAGA was able to conduct operations against 5 internet wildlife dealers in Buea – South West and Bamenda – North West Regions respectively. Studying the worrying growth of Internet wildlife fraud in Cameroon in the last three years we noticed the link between wildlife and other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams.

An operation was carried out with the US Fish and wildlife service confirming that actual trade takes place via the Internet as opposed to the initial assumption that they were merely scam cases. 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.

5.6. 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).

Operations started against a well known international illegal wildlife trafficker of Ghanaian nationality and 3 of his accomplices, 2 Ghanaians and 1 Guinean (Guinea – Conakry). The trafficker who is connected to a big export network uses much money to sponsor the illegal export of African Grey parrots with the use of falsified government documents. More than 300 parrots were seized at the Douala International airport by MINFOF Littoral Region about to be illegally exported using a falsified CITES permit purported to have been delivered in Congo – Kinshasa by the Guinean national. The Ghanaian exporter was arrested in 2007 with more than 500 African Grey parrots destined for Bahrain. This furthermore validated information we had before about the organized chain of complicity in the parrot trade and how white-collar criminals thrive on this complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor. The profit margins are huge.

5.7 Illegal trade in Bush Meat of Protected Wildlife Species

3 members of network specialized in illegal trade in bush meat of protected wildlife species were arrested in Yaounde – Center Region. They have suppliers from the East, South and Central Regions of Cameroon and have a store with deep freezers in which they keep the killed animals. They were arrested in the Nkoldongo market in Yaounde with meat of African Dwarf Crocodile, Giant Pangolin, Bosman's potto, De Brazza's monkey, Gorilla meat etc. Many irregularities were observed during the auction sale of the bush meat and more investigations are being carried out so as to pin-point these irregularities and acts of corruption that possibly took place. Instead of concentrating in arresting and legally pursuing the dealers, the MINFOF team was more interested in selling the bush meat.

5.8 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 and expose 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 and 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.

Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites 2009



6. Relations with the Government

The fostering of LAGA's relationship with the Government of Cameroon is of high importance in the sensitive domain of law enforcement, as building legitimacy for the concept of a Wildlife Law Enforcement NGO is LAGA's objective No. 3. During this year, LAGA held many meetings with highly placed government authorities within and outside of Cameroon, meetings with traditional rulers, cooperated with local NGOs, and participated in conferences.

This year was rich in meetings with the Minister MINFOF who wrote a strong letter of support to LAGA and LAGA Director as they face threats in their line of work. Other issues discussed were on 1 ton ivory case in Douala, trafficking of African grey parrot to the Middle East, internet trade, structural reforms on wildlife law enforcement, the fight against corruption, 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, 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 Director also met the Minister of Justice accompanied by the U.S Ambassador to discuss legal threats on LAGA. A meeting was held in the National Assembly for the preparatory meeting of parliamentarians of the sub region for climate change meeting in Copenhagen.

LAGA met with other MINFOF officials – with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas and discussed on; 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. Other issues were on the Standing Committee meeting of CITES; the draft letter to be signed by the Minister instructing the East Regional Delegation of Forestry to open a case file against the SDO of Yokaduma in the East Region, the endorsement of collaboration between government and LAGA in the enforcement of wildlife law intended to guarantee continuous funding of the project by the US Fish and Wildlife Service; the collection of samples of the ivory stock seized in Douala for a DNA test analysis etc. LAGA also met 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.

The LAGA Director met 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, building better mechanism on operations and reporting.

7. International Arena

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 1st 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, the Dutch embassy etc. Issues discussed were on wildlife law enforcement, fight against corruption in general and corruption in the environment sector, investment in the forest sector, reporting the Millennium Development Goals, democracy, increasing accountability and transparency in NGO projects, the procedure against the SDO of Yokadouma – East Region who is implicated in the trafficking of elephant products as a part of a LAGA operation, the signing of APT-AID principles amongst others. etc.

Meeting in the US with Fish and Wildlife Service international cooperation officials and Investigations Department, INTERPOL Washington, USAID biodiversity Adviser and State Department officials on international wildlife law enforcement and fighting corruption and development of enforcement in Central and West Africa

Meetings held with the World Bank to discuss on increasing collaboration on wildlife law Enforcement, using World Bank facilities for meeting on the fight against corruption, increasing the accountability and transparency in World Bank projects, how to recover stolen Funds from AIDS project specifically World Bank project on HIV AIDS etc.

Several meetings were held with other International and national organizations – with the CARPE Focal Point, WWF – Cameroon, WWF auditor and Dutch consultant to discuss corruption in WWF projects, replication of LAGA model in Central Africa Republic etc. Meeting 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, with CIFOR, the Program Officer of ICCO mainly on fighting corruption and increasing accountability and transparency in NGO projects.

Meeting with researcher from Max Plack Institute to discuss on evaluating the system of protected areas, criticism against the protected area system focus on small time poachers rather than big dealers in town and the issues of corruption and measurable standard in conservation. The Head of Hunters Association, Maes Koen and LAGA Director held meeting on corruption and accountability in hunting safari business, embezzlement of benefits to communities and tactical information on illegal wildlife trade.

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.

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.

LAGA met with RELUFA on corruption, extractive industry, transparency in industries etc; with TRAFFIC on the collaboration on investigation on trade in African grey parrots, the failure and corruption in bush meat market operation and irregularities in auction of seized bush meat; with ECOFAC on collaboration in wildlife law enforcement, threats on ecoguards, fighting corruption and complicity in the gendarmerie in the area of work; with Global Witness on independent observers and links between wildlife crime and forest crime; with the Coordinator of WCS for Africa on the assimilation of LAGA's experience into WCS projects and WCS involvement in the replication of the LAGA model in the sub region; with "Agence de Développement – A2D" in Douala which represents a net work of more than 200 NGOs. The new Head of CHOC Project met with LAGA Director to discuss the lack of progress in the project of the anti-corruption law amongst others. The Director General of the Ministry in Charge of Wildlife in Central Africa had a meeting with LAGA on the replication of LAGA model in C.A.R.

A meeting was held among the Programme Coordinators for Protected Areas of Central and West Africa, UNESCO official and the Director of LAGA: fighting corruption within the environmental sector was top on the agenda.

A series of meetings with US Peace Corps on the collaboration between LAGA and Peace Corps volunteers, wildlife enforcement, fostering activism within their volunteer work and target communities, fighting corruption in the NGO sector were issues discussed. Meetings were held in Israel with Israeli activists in searching for ways to foster activism and recruit volunteers for Africa.

LAGA Director met with US Fish and Wildlife Service officials, Gary Tabor and Frederick Sowers to discuss on criticism against corruption in development projects and possible procedures to increase accountability and transparency and control corruption in US Fish and Wildlife Service grants. The UN Ambassador of the Year of Gorilla Ian Redmond met LAGA Director to discuss on wildlife law enforcement in the sub region (Congo Basin) and corruption in conservation projects.

Discussions took place between the traditional ruler of Bali – North West Region and LAGA Media crew centered on the education of local communities on denouncing wildlife traffickers in their villages, using annual traditional dance festivals.

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 legitimized corruption, solutions 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 30th 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. In Douala during a meeting with NGOs involved in the fight against corruption within the NGO sector. He also gave presentations to government forum responsible for the fight against corruption

(CONAC, Anti-corruption ministerial cells, ANIF, National Audit Bench etc). The first was on the protection of denouncers and Whistleblowers and the second on corruption in the AID business and the APT-AID principles.

8. Management

Work on organizing LAGA's management structure and developing departmental action plans continued while expanding recruitment in three LAGA departments (Investigations, Legal, and Media). This year continued with the capitalizing of the LAGA experience in the write ups of manuals and essays analyzing work strategy and results analysis in order to disseminate later on, LAGA's lessons on wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption.

The inculcation of LAGA values continued through interactions with current workers and through the implementation of LAGA's recruitment policy: "LAGA is more of a family than an NGO—a very small group of people who stand up for each other." Close friendships are formed by sharing the hardship of the struggle against wildlife crime and the constant tension that accompanies LAGA's mission—workers become a family fighting together for one goal. This is much more than an anecdote, this is a management approach, though one that is more developed in the competitive private sector: develop the inner motivation of your staff by appealing to their psychological need to belong, and make them stakeholders in the success or failure of your organization. These values bore results during the many months that LAGA's director went out of Cameroon on missions. The excellent results on all fronts proved the growing capacity and independence of LAGA's departments. It gave an opportunity for the LAGA family to prove their initiative and ability to run LAGA successfully when the director is away.

LAGA received a strong letter of support from 7 Ambassadors as LAGA faces threats in line of their work in wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption. LAGA deals regularly with many threats – physical, political and legal. Basically the biggest wildlife dealer in Cameroon seems to have been trying to influence the court through corruption to put the LAGA Director behind bars as revenge and to escape justice after his arrest in 2007. But the debate that opened in court seemed to have little to do with reason or with law. The dealer lied under oath at least three times. The case file against him was reported to have "disappeared" and later in court, he claimed that no case was ever opened against him. Both the State Counsel and the Judge were unexplainably hostile. Nevertheless, the international community took quick and unprecedented action to stand by LAGA and the LAGA Director as no fewer than seven ambassadors signed a strong letter of support (see Appendix) sent to the Minister of Forest, Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister. Afterwards, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife wrote a strong letter of support himself. The Ambassadors stated in their letter that they have supported the Director and LAGA's work for a number of years and see the success in fighting wildlife trafficking as one of Cameroon's anti-corruption success stories.

The Annual Report for 2008 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. An electronic version is available on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org. This is

a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

This year, the former 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 the months of March, April, July, August and November that slowed down the work and results of the LAGA's departments. Despite this problem, work continued and successful operations were carried out showing the commitment of LAGA staff to function with limited financial resources.

In April, a website www.apt-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.

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. In September, he gave a presentation on the international wildlife trade through the Internet during the Conference of the Interpol Wildlife Working Group in Brazil. His presentation was highly appreciated and he had opportunity of making new contact with other law enforcement agencies represented from other parts of the world. This is in continuation of the process instituted by the LAGA Director in which other members of the LAGA family are given the opportunity to take part in international forums and to build more capacity.

In September, LAGA activities were replicated in the Central African Republic. LAGA's vision of replicating its model to other countries in the sub-region that was already successful in the Republic of Congo continued in the Central African Republic (CAR). The transfer of experience was concretized in tangible results with a successful operation resulting into the arrest of 2 principal international ivory traffickers in Bangui – CAR. The LAGA Director and another member of the LAGA family arrived in the CAR charged with assessing wildlife law enforcement, building a replication of LAGA with WWF-CAR, and transferring Cameroon government's globally acclaimed wildlife law enforcement experience to the CAR wildlife law enforcement authorities. The mission was very successful and was geared at igniting law enforcement through precedence and creating a structure to sustain effective law enforcement at the request of the government. It was carried out at 3 levels:

1. Political
2. Structural
3. Operational

For details - <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/tabid/166/Default.aspx>

2 members of a big network in Bangui – CAR specialized in international ivory trafficking. One has been in the business for more than 20 years and at the center of the network. Another member is a woman of French and Central - African Nationality. She is well known and well connected.

As part of follow-up of the replication of LAGA activities in the Republic of Congo and following a special mission carried out by the LAGA Director, 3 members of a big network specialized in international ivory trafficking were arrested in Brazzaville – Republic of Congo after crossing over the river Congo from Kinshasa - The Democratic Republic of Congo. Also, a new PALF Coordinator – Naftali Honig was put in place in the Brazzaville.

In July, one field Investigator was suspended for 2 months with no salary for that period. She presented unclear receipts for lodging and transportation and could not furnish convincing explanation. In September, she stopped working with LAGA because of disagreement over procedures of work. In October, an International Investigator was hired for a special mission to track ivory dealers in Cameroon resulting into the arrest of one ivory dealer in Yaounde – Center.

One volunteer was tried out in the Media Department but was not retained because he did not meet up with the standards set up by the Department; another was recruited in the department in August to replace the one not retained.

The series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development continued during this period. This is a part of a new project aimed to strengthen the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family. For more, go to <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/LAGAValues/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

ANNEX 1- CASE TRACKING SYSTEM – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 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 caracal and meat of protected wildlife species such as leopard. | | 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 Eyoun 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 | Yaounde | Eyom Moukoko Salomon | Dealing with a live primate and Elephant Products. | Trade in Protected wildlife and wildlife products. | The father of Djockey Eyom Theodore and his co-author. By his own admission, he is a long time dealer for 20 years. | | 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 captureurs 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 (MINFOP). | | Locked while on trial |
| 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 and presented falsified documents as permits for the animals. | Nigeria | Free 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 | Free 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 life baboons and he also entered Cameroon without any valid entry documents. | Nigeria | Free while on trial |

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|----|----------|------------|-----------|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|--|
| 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 | Free 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 |
| 20 | 08/07/09 | East | Somalomo | Mebibu Daniel | Dealing with elephants and elephant products. | Trade in elephant products and meat | A well known poacher, dealer and trafficker whose area of operation is the Dja Reserve. He has been in this activity for long and well connected to the local authorities and Gendarmerie. He affirmed that the military gun and ammunition he used for poaching was given to him by an officer of the Gendarmerie in Mesamena - East Region to whom he supplied meat, ivory and other products of the elephants he kills in the reserve. | | Locked while on trial |
| 21 | 08/07/09 | East | Mesamena | Lemoni George | Dealing with elephants and elephant products. | Trade in elephant products and meat | An officer of the Gendarmerie in Mesamena - East and an accomplice of Mebibu Daniel to whom he supplies ammunition and gave the military gun used in poaching. Meat and trophies of the killed elephants was supplied to him through a network especially bike riders with transportation done in the night to avoid detection. More investigations are being carried out to see other highly placed officials involved and how a military gun which he acquired illegally could be given for poaching. | | free while more investigations are ongoing |
| 22 | 21/07/09 | West | Bafoussam | Njiki Yamokue | Dealing with Leopard Skin | Skin Trade | A regular dealer in leopard skins and products of other protected wildlife species. Has suppliers in the West Region and a ready market in the Littoral Region. A member of a network operating mainly between the 2 regions. | | Locked while on trial |
| 23 | 21/07/09 | West | Bafoussam | Moupe Amza | Dealing with Leopard Skin | Skin Trade | Another member of the network of wildlife dealers between the West and Littoral. He is the main agent in the West where he gets the products and informs Njiki Yamokue when products are in a reasonable quantity and ready for supply. They were arrested while trying to trade in 2 leopard skins. | | Locked while on trial |
| 24 | 23/07/09 | North West | Bamenda | Fon Valery | 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 who supplies him with falsified CITES Permits. He was arrested trying to receive money for a capuchin monkey from a victim in Netherlands using falsified government documents and CITES Permits. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. | Netherlands | Locked while on trial |

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|----|----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| 25 | 04/08/09 | East | Abong Mbang | Memdjokam Martine | Dealing with Elephant products and meat | Trade in elephant products and meat | A regular dealer in elephant products and meat in provision store. She was caught with a consignment of elephant meat and elephant trunk from an industrial refrigerator for sale. She claimed the meat belonged to the Senior Divisional Officer of Mboumba et Ngoko - Yokaduma in the East Region. Also has a partner who goes out to collect the products and meat. In 2008, a gorilla meat and parts were seized from the same shop. | | Locked while on trial |
| 26 | 04/08/09 | East | Abong Mbang | Domche Andre | Dealing with Elephant products and meat | Trade in elephant products and meat | An accomplice of Memdjokam Martine involved in the illegal trade in elephant products and meat. He is in charge of the transportation of the products and meat and supplies to the store for sale. | | Locked while on trial |
| 27 | 04/08/09 | East | Abong Mbang | Minsing Mimbang | Dealing with Elephant products and meat | Trade in elephant products and meat | The Senior Divisional Officer (SDO) of Mboumba et Ngoko - Yokaduma in the East Region. He is assumed to be the main supplier of the elephant products and meat sold by Memdjokam Martine in Abong Mbang who admitted in the complaint report that SDO was highly involved in the selling of elephant meat and other products. He is a highly placed government official and uses his post to carry out illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. | | Free while more investigations are ongoing. |
| 28 | 22/08/09 | South West | Buea | Ekema Henry | 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 arrested trying to receive money for a capuchin monkey from a victim in The Netherlands using falsified government documents and CITES Permits. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. | The Netherlands | Locked while on trial |
| 29 | 29/08/09 | South | Bengbis | Ebale Nfou Daniel | Dealing with chimp, chimp products | Chimp Trade | A notorious illegal wildlife dealer arrested at Bengbis in the South Region. He was arrested with a Hunting Rifle and 23 ammunitions. He threatened the arresting officers with his weapon and resisted arrested. He was caught with a live chimp, other chimp parts and skulls and some elephant products. A live chimp was rescued. This operation was carried out with ECOFAC. | | Locked while on trial |
| 30 | 01/09/09 | South | Djoum | Owona Nanga Hubert | Dealing with primates | Pet trade | A recidivist who had been arrested several times before. His whole family is into poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. He was arrested with a life mandrill, life forest tortoise and other protected wildlife products. He was arrested with a hunting rifle and threatened the operations team with the rifle. | | Locked while on trial |
| 31 | 21/09/09 | Littoral | Douala | Mahammad Ousman | International Ivory trafficker | Ivory Trade | An International illegal ivory trafficker who is a member of a big network that exports ivory through Nigeria to the international black market. He was involved in the seizure of a huge consignment of ivory totalling 1 ton. The ivory is purported to be from Cameroon and Gabon and that some highly placed government officials are also part of the network. More investigations are being carried out on this and for his arrest. | Gabon, Nigeria, Asia | Fugitive under chase. |
| 32 | 21/09/09 | Littoral | Douala | Bate Valentine | International Ivory trafficker | Ivory Trade | A member of the international illegal ivory trade network that was busted in Douala - Littoral Region during the seizure of 1 ton of ivory. He was responsible for the transportation of the ivory to Tiko - South West Region from where it was to be sent to Nigeria and to the international black market. | Gabon, Nigeria, Asia | Locked while on trial |

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|----|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 33 | 21/09/09 | Littoral | Douala | Nkengoung Dieudonne | International Ivory trafficker | Ivory Trade | Another member of the international illegal ivory trade network that was busted in Douala - Littoral Region during the seizure of 1 ton of ivory. He was the driver of the truck used for the transportation of the ivory destined for Tiko - South West Region from where it was to be sent to Nigeria and to the international black market. | Gabon, Nigeria, Asia | Locked while on trial |
| 34 | 21/09/09 | Littoral | Douala | Issa Arouna | International Ivory trafficker | Ivory Trade | An international ivory dealer of chadian nationality and a member of the international illegal ivory trade network that was busted in Douala - Littoral Region during the seizure of 1 ton of ivory. He is said to be in the Chadian military and is in charge of ivory from Chad and the northern part of Cameroon. | Gabon, Nigeria, Asia, Chad | fugitive under chase. |
| 35 | 11/10/09 | Center | Yaounde | Abdoulaye Ousmanou | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | A well known ivory dealer with supplies from the Northern part of Cameroon. He was arrested with 1 raw elephant tusk, 1 carved elephant tusk and 29 worked pieces of ivory while trying to illegally sell to a French citizen. He was accompanied by a Gendarme officer who was brought along in hopes to give him some immunity. | France | Locked while on trial |
| 36 | 15/10/09 | South | Bengbis | Binkoum Calvin | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | An ivory dealer and at the same time a poacher who was responsible for killing many elephants and was even denounced by his own village committee. He and his accomplice were arrested while trying to sell a pair of tusks. | | Locked while on trial |
| 37 | 15/10/09 | South | Bengbis | Ntoulou Mindje Herman | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | An accomplice of Binkoum Calvin responsible for keeping elephant meat and tusks after poaching. He was also denounced by the villagers and arrested with 2 tusks while illegally trying to trade in them. | | Locked while on trial |
| 38 | 16/10/09 | Center | Yaounde | Nguini Marcel | Dealing with protected bushmeat | Trade in Bushmeat | A member of network specialized in trade in bush meat of protected wildlife species. They have suppliers from the East, South and Central Regions and have a store with deep freezers in which they keep the killed animals. They were arrested in the Nkoldongo market in Yaounde - Center Region with meat of African Dwarf Crocodile, Giant Pangoline, Bosman's potto, De Brazza's monkey, Gorilla meat etc. Over 240 killed and live animals were seized. His role is to meet the suppliers and gives the command. | | Locked while on trial |
| 39 | 16/10/09 | Center | Yaounde | Akono Mbama Etienne | Dealing with protected bushmeat | Trade in Bushmeat | Another member of network specialized in trade in bush meat of protected wildlife species. They have suppliers from the East, South and Central Regions and have a store with deep freezers in which they keep the killed animals. They were arrested in the Nkoldongo market in Yaounde - Center Region with meat of African Dwarf Crocodile, Giant Pangoline, Bosman's potto, De Brazza's monkey, Gorilla meat etc. Over 240 killed and live animals were seized. He is in charge of transporting the meat to Yaounde. | | Locked while on trial |
| 40 | 16/10/09 | Center | Yaounde | Akono Guy Patrice | Dealing with protected bushmeat | Trade in Bushmeat | A member of network specialized in trade in bush meat of protected wildlife species. They have suppliers from the East, South and Central Regions and have a store with deep freezers in which they keep the killed animals. They were arrested in the Nkoldongo market in Yaounde - Center Region with meat of African Dwarf Crocodile, Giant Pangoline, Bosman's potto, De Brazza's monkey, Gorilla meat etc. Over 240 killed and live animals were seized. He keeps the supplied meat in the market in Yaounde. | | Locked while on trial |

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|----|----------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 41 | 02/11/09 | South | Djoum | Manga Clother | Dealing with protected animal sp | Trade in protected wildlife | A recidivist who had been arrested before for illegal trade in wildlife. His father and brother are well known dealers who had also been arrested. He threatened the arresting officials with a hunting rifle. He was arrested for illegally killing protected wildlife species together with 5 Agile Mangabey and 2 Bay Duikers. | | Locked while on trial |
| 42 | 01/12/09 | Littoral | Douala | Sackey Eugene | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | Pet trade | Ghanaian, international parrot trafficker connected to a big export network. Uses much money to sponsor the illegal export of African Grey parrots with the use of falsified government documents. He was arrested in 2007 with more than 500 African Grey parrots destined for Bahrain. Another consignment of more than 300 parrots were seized at the Douala International airport about to be exported. | Ghana Bahrain | Fugitive under chase |
| 43 | 01/12/09 | Littoral | Douala | Amiah Awudu | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | Pet trade | An accomplice of Sackey Eugene of Ghanaian nationality. He resides in Douala and keeps the parrots for Sackey at his residence in Douala. | Ghana | Fugitive under chase |
| 44 | 01/12/09 | Littoral | Douala | Onene Gyinah Charles | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | Pet trade | Another accomplice of Sackey Eugene who resides in Douala and also involved in the illegal trafficking of parrots through the Douala International Airport. He assists Sackey with the transportation of the parrots. | Ghana | Fugitive under chase. |
| 45 | 02/12/09 | West | Bazou | Yamgo Tchankeu | Illegal keeping of live chimp | Illegal detention | She was arrested for illegally keeping a big chimp. A chimp of more than 10 years old was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center | | Free while on trial |
| 46 | 14/12/09 | Littoral | Douala | Abdouraman Diallo | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | Pet trade | An accomplice of Sackey Eugene of Guinean nationality (Guinea Conakry). He provided a falsified CITES Permit used for the illegal exportation of more than 300 parrots. The parrots were seized at the Douala International Airport. | Guinea Conakry, Ghana | Fugitive under chase |
| 47 | 18/12/09 | South | Meyomessala | Atangana Amougou | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | A member of a network of dealers in ivory and elephant meat in charge of transporting ivory and meat of killed elephants. They were arrested with a military gun and ammunition supposedly supplied by a military man. Their main area of operation is the Dja Biosphere Reserve. | | Locked while on trial |
| 48 | 18/12/09 | South | Meyomessala | Aboubakar Keita | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | A member of the Meyomessala network of Malian nationality. He was in charge contacting other ivory dealers in Cameroon for the supply of ivory and meat of the killed elephants. | Mali | Fugitive under chase |
| 49 | 18/12/09 | South | Meyomessala | Bowo Gervais | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | Another member of the Meyomessala network. He was amongst those arrested for illegally killing and trading in ivory and elephant meat. | | Locked while on trial |
| 50 | 18/12/09 | South | Meyomessala | Bolap Olivier | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | An Ecoguard working in the Dja Biosphere Reserve and the main focal point of the Meyomessala network of dealers in ivory and elephant meat. He was the main point of contact with the military man who supplied the gun and ammunition. He was also responsible for the keeping and selling of ivory. | | Locked while on trial |
| 51 | 30/12/09 | South West | Mamfe | Nemoh Moses Oben | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | A well-known dealer who was arrested for the killing of an elephant and illegally trading in its tusk, the elephant meat and other products. He has an accomplice with whom he carries out the illegal trade. | | Locked while on trial |
| 52 | 30/12/09 | South West | Mamfe | Tambe Andreas Efong | Dealing with ivory | Ivory Trade | An accomplice of Nemoh Moses. He was also involved in the killing of an elephant and trading in the products. He heard about the arrest of Oben Moses and escaped from the village. A warrant has been issued against him and investigations are being carried out to locate and arrest him. | | Fugitive under chase. |

ANNEX 2- CASES OF CORRUPTION OBSERVED – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009

| <u>Case num.</u> | <u>Date of operation</u> | <u>Location /Region</u> | <u>Case name</u> | <u>Offence</u> | <u>Corruption Observed</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 10/01/09 | Bamenda - North West | Vincent Suh Ngwabe | Internet fraud, falsifying government documents and CITES Permits | He tried to negotiate with the police officer in charge of arrest so that he would not be locked up. |
| 2 | 10/01/09 | Bamenda - North West | Mathias Sam Ngonain | Internet fraud, falsifying government documents and CITES Permits | He contacted his elder brother to negotiate on his behalf with the police officer in charge of arrest for his release. |
| 3 | 14/02/09 | Buea - South West | Awunganyi Philip Njukang | Internet wildlife trade, forgery of Minister's signature and falsifying government documents and CITES Permits. | After his arrest he attempted negotiating with LAGA legal adviser. Due to the fact that the appeal filed by the state counsel against the ruling of the examining magistrate has been stuck for several months, it is highly suspected that the judiciary have been bribed. He also tried to negotiate with the arresting officer for his release. |
| 4 | 20/02/09 | Bafoussam - West | Simo Victor | dealing with leopard skin | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 5 | 25/02/09 | Foumbot-West | Patrick T. | dealing with totally protected animals meat | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 6 | 03/03/09 | Yaounde - Center | Njankouo Aboubakar | dealing with leopard skin and elephant teeth | During the writing of complaint report, somebody from his family attempted negotiating with the MINFOF officials He offered about \$400 so that the case will not be forwarded to the court. |
| 7 | 09/03/09 | Yaounde - Center | Djocky Eyoum Théodore | dealing with live mandrill and 1 elephant foot | During the writing of complaint report, somebody from his family attempted negotiating with the MINFOF officials. |
| 8 | 03/09/09 | Yaounde - Center | Eyoum Moukoko | dealing with live drill and 1 elephant foot | During the writing of complaint report, somebody from his family attempted negotiating with the MINFOF officials. |
| 9 | 10/03/09 | Douala - Littoral | Siani Tchassi | illegal killing of 1 chimpanzee | Reports coming from the lawyer indicate that the president of the court may have been bribed for the release from custody of the accused. |
| 10 | 14/05/09 | Ngambe Tikar - Center | Ramoni Mirko | illegal detention of 3 chimps and 1 crocodile skin | On the way back to Ntui he had made contact with the MINFOF divisional delegate informing him of his arrest and on arrival to Ntui he contacted the Senior Divisional Officer wanting both to intervene in halting the case from reaching the court. The Senior Divisional Officer equally contacted the delegate demanding the release of the accused. The attitude of the State Counsel seems to indicate he was bribed by the accused because he was not clear on the practical modalities on which the accused was granted bail. Report from the legal adviser indicates that the accused was granted bail at the sum of about \$2000 but no mention of this fact was made by the state counsel of Ntui either to the civil party nor on the case file. |
| 11 | 27/05/09 | Abong-Mbang - East | Megnone Eugene Blondel | dealing with ivory and grey parrots | The Chief of transformation at the MINFOF Delegation who is also the mayor of Abong-Mbang attempted to block the case from being forwarded to the court and for the release of the offender who happened to be his relative. |
| 12 | 27/05/09 | Abong-Mbang - East | Abada Abada Emmanuel | dealing with grey parrot | He attempted negotiating with the MINFOF officials and legal adviser for his release. He offered about \$600 as bribe so that the case should not be forwarded to the court. |
| 13 | 02/06/09 | Bafoussam - West | Abdullahi Hamisu | International Wildlife trafficker | Information from the MINFOF chief of brigade West indicates that the Nigerian Consulate sent a representative to the delegation to negotiate for the release of the accused persons, reasons why the case file was not sent to the court by the delegation. It is equally possible that the regional delegate took bribe from the offenders in order to abandon charges against them. Process to send the case to court continues. |
| 14 | 02/06/09 | Bafoussam - West | Idris Samhila | International Wildlife trafficker | Information from the MINFOF chief of brigade West indicates that the Nigerian Consulate sent a representative to the delegation to negotiate for the release of the accused persons, reasons why the case file was not sent to the court by the delegation. It is equally possible that the regional delegate took bribe from the offenders in order to abandon charges against them. Process to send the case to court continues. |
| 15 | 02/06/09 | Bafoussam - West | Mohammed Abdullahi | International Wildlife trafficker | Information from the MINFOF chief of brigade West indicates that the Nigerian Consulate sent a representative to the delegation to negotiate for the release of the accused persons, reasons why the case file was not sent to the court by the delegation. It is equally possible that the regional delegate took bribe from the offenders in order to abandon charges against them. Process to send the case to court continues. |
| 16 | 02/06/09 | Bafoussam - West | Haruna Dahibu | International Wildlife trafficker | Information from the MINFOF chief of brigade West indicates that the Nigerian Consulate sent a representative to the delegation to negotiate for the release of the accused persons, reasons why the case file was not sent to the court by the delegation. It is equally possible that the regional delegate took bribe from the offenders in order to abandon charges against them. Process to send the case to court continues. |

| Case num. | Date of operation | Location /Region | Case name | Offence | Corruption Observed |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| 17 | 16/06/09 | Nkambe - North West | Mengang Mathew | Illegal killing and dealing in chimps and chimp products | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 18 | 08/07/09 | Nkambe - North West | Nwibuin David | Illegal killing and dealing in chimps and chimp products | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 19 | 16/07/09 | Nkambe - North West | Faulak Andrew | Illegal killing and dealing in chimps and chimp products | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 20 | 08/07/09 | Somalomo - East | Mebibu Daniel | killing of 2 elephants and illegal detention of 1arm and weapons | The accused sent somebody to contacted the Brigade Commander of the Somalomo Gendarmerie and it is possible that he bribed the gendarmes because road blocks were formed so that the accused would not be conveyed to Abong Mbang - East to be locked up and taken to court. |
| 21 | 08/07/09 | Mesamena East | Lemeni georges | killing of 2 elephants and illegal detention of 1arm and weapons | The minfof divisional delegation requested the establishment of a statement of offence by his sworn officials against the accused but the state counsel of Abongmbang refused to summon him giving reasons to believe that he was bribed. |
| 22 | 21/07/09 | Bafoussam - West | Njiki Yamekue | dealing with 2 leopard skins | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 23 | 21/07/09 | Bafoussam - West | Moupe Amza | dealing with 2 leopard skins | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 24 | 23/07/09 | Bamenda - North West | Fon Valery | Internet wildlife trade, falsifying government documents and CITES Permits. | His father tried to contact and bribe the State Counsel of Bamenda for the release of the accused. |
| 25 | 08/04/09 | Abong-Mbang - East | Memdjokam Martine | Dealing with elephant products and meat | Tried to use the influence of the SDO of Bomba and Ngoko so that the case should not be forwarded to court. |
| 26 | 08/04/09 | Abong-Mbang - East | Domche Andre | Dealing with elephant products and meat | Tried to use the influence of the SDO of Bomba and Ngoko so that the case should not be forwarded to court. |
| 27 | 08/04/09 | Abong-Mbang - East | Missing Mimbang | Dealing with elephant products and meat | He is the SDO for Bomba and Ngoko Dividion and uses is high post to cover his illegal trade in wildlife products. He tried to negotiate with the legal adviser |
| 28 | 24/08/09 | Buea - South West | Henry Ekema | Internet fraud, falsifying government documents and CITES Permits | The forwarding of the offence statement from the investigation officer to the state counsel suffered a huge delay which according to the lawyer were indications of a possible attempt to illegally bury the case file. |
| 29 | 29/08/09 | Bengbis - South | Ebale Mfou Daniel | Dealing with chimps and chimp products | During the first hearing of the matter, the judge oriented the accused in his defence, a situation which was decried by the lawyer. This is an indication that he may have taken something from the accused person. |
| 30 | 31/08/09 | Djoum - South | Owona Hubert Manga | Dealing with primate - drill | It should be noted that corruption has been observed in the past in the judicial institutions of Djoum. According to testimonies from ecogards, the Manga family has the habit of bribing the state counsel so that charges against them are either withdrawn or mitigated. This is illustrated by the many adjournments of the judgment by the judge in order to enable the accused person gather money for payment of this fine in order to avoid imprisonment. |
| 31 | 21/09/09 | Douala - Littoral | Mohammad Ousman | International ivory trafficker | Reports from the field allege that during the arrest of the offenders, somebody probably the owner of the tusks had bribed the police with 1 million CFA (about \$2000) for the release of the accused. Report from the lawyer and legal adviser indicates that the judicial authorities at the Bonanjo court of first instance may have been bribed because the motive and conditions of the release of the offenders were hidden. |
| 32 | 21/09/09 | Douala - Littoral | Bate Valentine | International ivory trafficker | Reports from the field allege that during the arrest of the offenders, somebody probably the owner of the tusks had bribed the police with 1 million CFA (about \$2000) for the release of the accused. Report from the lawyer and legal adviser indicates that the judicial authorities at the Bonanjo court of first instance may have been bribed because the motive and conditions of the release of the offenders were hidden. |
| 33 | 21/09/09 | Douala - Littoral | Nkengoung Dieudonne | International ivory trafficker | Reports from the field allege that during the arrest of the offenders, somebody probably the owner of the tusks had bribed the police with 1 million CFA (about \$2000) for the release of the accused. Report from the lawyer and legal adviser indicates that the judicial authorities at the Bonanjo court of first instance may have been bribed because the motive and conditions of the release of the offenders were hidden. |
| 34 | 21/09/09 | Douala - Littoral | Issa Arouna | International ivory trafficker | Reports from the field allege that during the arrest of the offenders, somebody probably the owner of the tusks had bribed the police with 1 million CFA (about \$2000) for the release of the accused. Report from the lawyer and legal adviser indicates that the judicial authorities at the Bonanjo court of first instance may have been bribed because the motive and conditions of the release of the offenders were hidden. |
| 35 | 11/10/09 | Yaounde - Center | Abdoulaye Ousmanou | Dealing with ivory | While going to illegally sell the ivory, he was accompanied by a Gendarme officer whom we suspect was there to use his position to cover any transaction that was to take place. |
| 36 | 15/10/09 | Bengbis - South | Binkoum Calvin | Dealing with ivory | no corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |

| Case num. | Date of operation | Location /Region | Case name | Offence | Corruption Observed |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| 37 | 15/10/09 | Bengbis - South | Ntoulo Mindje | Dealing with ivory | no corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 38 | 16/10/09 | Yaounde - Center | Nguini Marcel | Dealing with protected bushmeat | Dealer was released under questionable circumstances thereby leading to suspicion of corruption. Instead of concentrating in arresting and legally pursuing the dealers, the MINFOF team was more interested in selling the bush meat. Many irregularities were observed during the auction sale of the bush meat and more investigations are being carried out so as to pinpoint these irregularities and acts of corruption that possibly took place. |
| 39 | 16/10/09 | Yaounde - Center | Akono Mbama Etienne | Dealing with protected bushmeat | Dealer was released under questionable circumstances thereby leading to suspicion of corruption. Instead of concentrating in arresting and legally pursuing the dealers, the MINFOF team was more interested in selling the bush meat. Many irregularities were observed during the auction sale of the bush meat and more investigations are being carried out so as to pinpoint these irregularities and acts of corruption that possibly took place. |
| 40 | 16/10/09 | Yaounde - Center | Akono Guy Patrice | Dealing with protected bushmeat | Dealer was released under questionable circumstances thereby leading to suspicion of corruption. Instead of concentrating in arresting and legally pursuing the dealers, the MINFOF team was more interested in selling the bush meat. Many irregularities were observed during the auction sale of the bush meat and more investigations are being carried out so as to pinpoint these irregularities and acts of corruption that possibly took place. |
| 41 | 02/11/09 | Djoum - South | Manga Clothier | Illegal killing of 5 cercocerbe and 2 bay duicker | It should be noted that corruption has been observed in the past in the judicial institutions of Djoum. According to testimonies from ecogards, the Manga family has the habit of bribing the state counsel so that charges against them are either withdrawn or mitigated. This is illustrated by the many adjournments of the judgment by the judge in order to enable the accused person gather money for payment of this fine in order to avoid imprisonment. |
| 42 | 01/12/09 | Douala - Littoral | Sackey Eugene | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | He uses much money to corrupt authorities at the airport for parrots to pass through the control posts. |
| 43 | 01/12/09 | Douala - Littoral | Amiah Awudu | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | Helps his accomplice Sackey Eugene to contact and make payments to airport authorities where parrots pass. |
| 44 | 01/12/09 | Douala - Littoral | Onene Gynah Charles | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | Helps his accomplice Sackey Eugene to contact and make payments to airport authorities where parrots pass. |
| 45 | 02/12/09 | Bazou - West | Yamgo Tchankeu | Illegal keeping of live chimp | No corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |
| 46 | 14/12/09 | Douala - Littoral | Abdouraman Diallo | Dealing with live African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents | We suspect he bribes authorities to obtain CITES Permits out of Cameroon that are used to export the parrots . |
| 47 | 18/12/09 | Meyomessala - South | Atangana Amougou | Dealing with ivory | After putting them under preventive custody at the Sangmelima prison, the deputy state counsel of Bengbis who is a brother to one of the accused (Bolap Mampomo who happened to be an ecogarde) intervened and may have bribed for the accused persons to be released. |
| 48 | 18/12/09 | Meyomessala - South | Aboubakar Keita | Dealing with ivory | After putting them under preventive custody at the Sangmelima prison, the deputy state counsel of Bengbis who is a brother to one of the accused (Bolap Mampomo who happened to be an ecogarde) intervened and may have bribed for the accused persons to be released. |
| 49 | 18/12/09 | Meyomessala - South | Bowo Gervais | Dealing with ivory | After putting them under preventive custody at the Sangmelima prison, the deputy state counsel of Bengbis who is a brother to one of the accused (Bolap Mampomo who happened to be an ecogarde) intervened and may have bribed for the accused persons to be released. |
| 50 | 18/12/09 | Meyomessala - South | Bolap Olivier | Dealing with ivory | After putting them under preventive custody at the Sangmelima prison, the deputy state counsel of Bengbis who is a brother to one of the accused (Bolap Mampomo who happened to be an ecogarde) intervened and may have bribed for the accused persons to be released. |
| 51 | 30/12/09 | Mamfe South West | Nemoh Moses Oben | Dealing with ivory | Report from the legal adviser and the Chief of Wildlife - MINFOF Mamfe is to the effect that the delegate of mamfe was bribed for he went negotiating for the release of the accused but only failed when the brigade commandant insisted he should sign a paperwork to that effect. |
| 52 | 30/12/09 | Mamfe South West | Tambe Andreas Efiog | Dealing with ivory | no corruption observed but this is not conclusive. |

Annex 3 – A strong letter of support from 7 Ambassadors as LAGA faces threats.

**EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

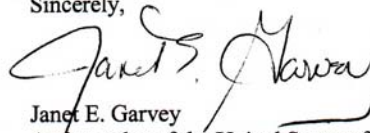
November 23, 2009

Dear Mr. Minister:

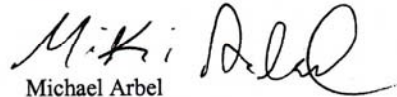
We are writing to express appreciation for your ongoing cooperation with and assistance to The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) and its Director, Ofir Drori. As you know, Mr. Drori is currently facing a court case which he is convinced is instigated by corrupt individuals trying to foil some of his work in combating corruption in the wildlife sector. We understand that Mr. Drori is sending you a complaint letter detailing concerns arising from this case and seeking clarifications from your ministry.

We have supported Mr. Drori's work for a number of years and see the success of his and your ministry's work in fighting wildlife trafficking as one of Cameroon's significant anti-corruption success stories. We hope that your timely intervention will help ensure that the current court case does not undermine LAGA or threaten Mr. Drori's ability to continue his important work. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Janet E. Garvey
Ambassador of the United States of America



Michael Arbel
Ambassador of Israel

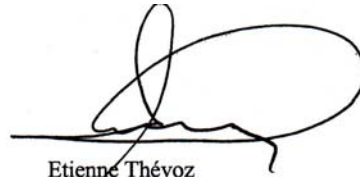


Jean-Carol Pelletier
High Commissioner of Canada



Bharat S. Joshi
High Commissioner of the United Kingdom

His Excellency
Elvis Ngolle Ngolle,
Minister of Forests and Wildlife of
the Republic of Cameroon,
Yaoundé.



Etienne Thévoz
Ambassador of Switzerland



Nicolette Saskia Bakker
Ambassador of the Netherlands



Mary Barton-Dock
Country Director of the World Bank

CC: H.E. Amadou Ali, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals of the Republic of Cameroon, Yaoundé

