

24.10.2007

To whom it may concern:

With great admiration, I am pleased to verify my personal endorsement of Mr. Ofir Drori, the founder and key motivating leader of the Last Great Ape Organization, as a man of exceptional resourcefulness, dedication, competence and good character.

Mr. Drori's thoughtful and energetic work in Cameroon has been a vital factor in that country's significantly improved wildlife law enforcement capabilities. The statistics speak for themselves. Just as importantly, Cameroon is now winning the esteem of other countries, particularly in West Africa, which seek to emulate its dramatic progress. Good works can be contagious.

One benchmark of progress is this year's award of Interpol's Ecomessage Award, which acknowledges Cameroon's exceptionally good law enforcement communications and cooperation with regard to major ivory trafficking. I am fully convinced that the only way to suppress international syndicates trafficking in endangered species is via good communications and energetic cooperation. I am further convinced that Mr. Drori's personal efforts are, in very large measure, the underlying motivation for these important developments in Cameroon.

Mr. Drori's approaches to fighting wildlife crime are unconventional. This is an expression of his particular talent for taking what very few resources are available, and applying them to solve major problems. Achieving such effective solutions in the face of very substantial challenges is highly commendable.

His effectiveness and his personal repute have earned him important admiration. Once considered an upstart, he now enjoys the confidence of Cameroon's wildlife director, and has been embraced as part of the national delegation to CITES. His effectiveness and personal repute have spread well beyond the borders of Cameroon, with organizations, including Interpol, using data that he has collected into their intelligence analyses of criminal syndicates involved in wildlife crime. Ofir Drori's good efforts are today helping major law enforcement organizations target criminal syndicates that exploit wild animals illegally.

Bill Clark