

April 2006 Report

Highlights -

- **Two operations against Guinean ivory connection**
- **LAGA is selected as BHC best project of the ending financial year**
- **Operation against an ivory dealer in North West province**

General

April month has been very successful politically and operationally.

LAGA was selected as BHC best project of the ending financial year.

Operations have been chosen strategically to hit ivory trade in two operations against Guinean ivory connection. The two were in Douala and are a follow up on foreigners involved in international ivory trade. Last year LAGA brought to the arrest of a big trader in Douala of a Guinean nationality. He used to buy tusks from all over the country and employ carvers manufacturing models for the Asian market. He served jail term and later left Cameroon. Now the operations arrested 3 Guineans operating in a similar way in two different places. Another dealer was arrested in North West Province on ivory trade.

An operation against an ape dealer initiated by the North West Delegation stands as a prove that LAGAs work created a ripple effect encouraging government rather than creating dependency.

After reconstruction done by LAGA last month, this month LAGA transferred all ivory into the National Ivory Storage Room in the zoo.

Investigations

- **24 investigations were held in 7 provinces.**
- Beginning of internet wildlife fraud investigation.
- Beginning of bushmeat airport investigation.

Operations

- **4 operations** carried out - 3 with the National MINFOF brigade + 1 initiated by North West delegation for a LAGA follow up.
- **17.04.06 Two operations against Guinean ivory connection.** The two were in Douala and are a follow up on foreigners involved in international ivory trade. Last year LAGA brought to the arrest of a big trader in Douala of a Guinean nationality. He used to buy tusks from all over the country and employ carvers manufacturing models for the Asian market. He served jail term and later left Cameroon. Now the operations arrested 3 Guineans operating in a similar way in two different places with 68 Kg of ivory. Subjects are behind bars.
- **28.04.06** A dealer was caught transporting a particularly **large elephant tusk from South West** province to North West to make a deal. The tusk was still very fresh showing that the elephant was recently killed. Subject is behind bars.
- **An operation against an ape poacher** was initiated by the North West Delegation. The delegation asked for LAGAs assistance. The offender is

behind bars. This is the third Provincial Delegation that started initiating its own operations. For a long time one of the arguments against LAGA's work has been that LAGA is doing law enforcement instead of the government and therefore will never achieve a **long-term institutional impact**. The operation initiated by the North West Delegation stands as a prove that LAGAs work created a ripple effect encouraging government rather than creating dependency.

- For more details see LAGA's case tracking System.
- After reconstruction done by LAGA last month, this month LAGA transferred all ivory into the **National Ivory Storage Room in the zoo**. The importance is of control over seized ivory insuring good governance.
- Interpol Cameroon contacted LAGA for channeling all ecomessages prepared on wildlife crime

Legal

- There are **14 dealers behind bars**: 2 in the west province; 7 in the south province (5 in Nsangmelima, 2 in Kribi); 3 in the littoral; 1 in the north; 1 in the north west
- - 14 cases are already scheduled and being trailed.
 - 6cases waiting for the process to reach the court of appeal
 - 7 cases waiting for a date of trial (on process in front of the state attorney or the MINFOF)
 - 9 cases on execution process
 - 13 cases those are no more active.
- **3 prosecutions**:
 - The first one on the 29 march, Ongolo Alphonse, 3 millions fine
 - The second in kribi on the 25 April, Kom Joel dariou, 200.000frs for damages.
 - The third in Kribi on the 25 April, Angoulla Boniface, 3 months imprisonment, 100.000fines, 435,000 damages.
- One appeal is made on the case of Kom Joel Dariou

Media front

- **26 media pieces** were produced and pushed to radio and written press, 17 radio news flashes (16 English, 1 French), 3 radio talk shows (2 French, 1 English) and 6 written press materials
- Guests include: MINFOF officials (Minister, Secretary General, North West Chief of Section), Diplomats as the American Ambassador, The Mayor of Nsumaloma, traditional leaders as the Fon of Bali, CARPE Focal Point Cameroon.
- Subjects: Memorandum of Understanding signed with Government, Taiping 4, Guinean + Nigerian ivory arrests, North West elephant tusk arrest, Prosecution of Logging company wildlife dealer in Campo (Kribi) South Province, local communities and wildlife law enforcement,

- Active distribution of Wildlife Justice Magazine continues in police stations, courts, Ministry delegations, and delegation of National Security, diplomatic missions, media bodies and NGOs.
- All media pieces are recorded and compiled in LAGA's computerized media archive.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA is selected as **BHC best project** of the ending financial year.
- Meeting with the Inspector General of National Security.
- Renewing communication with the European Commission in Yaounde.
- Bonobo case in DRC first stage still pending. (Remaining: the confirmation of the court procedure starting and informal letters to Russian customs.)

Management

- Candidate for secretary position, Sirri Emeline, is accepted to LAGA.
- She is giving support to media department that is in need due to pregnancy of media assistant.
- An annual report is compiled for April 05- March 06 to match financial cycle of several donors.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure for April 06

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details			Amount U
1,876,545	Investigations	24 investigations, 7 provinces	-1,876,545		\$3,508
779,150	Operations	3 operations - ivory+1 ape initia	-2,655,695		\$1,456
1,115,700	legal	follow up 17 cases14 locked su	-3,771,395		\$2,085
892,960	Media	25 media pieces+Magazine dist	-4,664,355		\$1,669
149,533	Policy and External Relations		-4,813,888		\$280
1,542,400	Management	Coordination	-6,356,288		\$2,883
351,977	Office		-6,708,265		\$658
0	LAGA Family - Investing in team spirit and pro		-6,708,265		\$0
6,708,265	TOTAL EXPENDITURE APRIL		0		\$12,539

AmountCFA	Donor				Amount U
1,647,400	Born Free	Used	April	-1,647,400	\$3,079.3
1,982,035	World Bank	Used	April	-3,629,435	\$3,704.7
1,603,660	BHC	Used	April	-5,233,095	\$2,997.5
138,870	WSPA	Used	April	-5,371,965	\$259.6
1,000,150	Arcus	Used	April	-6,372,115	\$1,869.4
336,150	ProWildlife	Used	April	-6,708,265	\$628.3
6,708,265	TOTAL				\$12,538.8

Ofir Drori
 Director
 The Last Great Ape Organization

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



2 operations against Guinean ivory ring





Establishing Ivory Storage Room. Above -previous storage

