

August 2006 Report

Highlights -

- **Four operations – Apes, Ivory and leopard skins**
- **Former Prime Minister assists in LAGA operation**
- **Unprecedented prosecutions – prosecutions of 8 cases.** Precedence of a **maximum punishment of 3 years.** Precedent of a prosecution of **military** personnel. Record damages awarded.

General

August has been a very successful politically and operationally. This highlights the development of LAGA's Cameroonian staff, as this month's results have been achieved without the LAGA director.

Four operations concerning apes, ivory and leopard skins have been carried out successfully. One of them carried great political importance: it involved the support of a former Prime Minister. The Prime Minister arrived personally to the field assisted in the operation involving a chimpanzee and led the authorities to confiscate a baboon that was held in his "Rock Farm". This event will be used in the media to portray more importance to the wildlife law enforcement process.

August was also an excellent month for legal achievements with a record of 8 prosecutions. It was the first time a full maximum imprisonment sentence of 3 years was laid down. It is also the first time a military personnel was prosecuted successfully on a wildlife offence. On top of all of these August saw a new record in damages awarded to the Ministry in charge of Wildlife - around \$35,000. These legal achievements are a dividend of a long process.

Investigations

- **17 investigations were carried out in 5 provinces.**

Operations

- **Four operations** were carried out.
- 12/8/06 An operation took place in Bamenda on a **chimpanzee and a baboon** from two different location. It should be noted that the **former Prime Minister** of Cameroon - Honorable Simon Achidi Achu has arrived to personally assist in the operation concerning the chimp and led the authorities to his "rock farm" where he asked for an additional baboon to be confiscated.
- 17/8/6 The second and third operations took place in Bamenda **three dealers** were caught trying to sell **two leopard skins and two elephant tusks**. Two of the dealers owned the two tusks and one skin while one dealer owned the second skin. These two operations where carried out at the same time.
- 24/8/6 A dealer was caught trying to sell a chimpanzee in the Yaounde
- **Officer Julius is back** to the LAGA family after his suspension and following his admission in his faults.
- For more details see LAGA's case tracking System.
- After reconstruction and transfer of all ivory into the **National Ivory Storage Room in the zoo**, LAGA continued in building a **national computerized**

database. The importance is of control over seized ivory insuring good governance.

Legal

- There are **12 dealers behind bars**: 2 in the west province; 6 in the south province; 4 in the littoral; 1 in the north.
- 8 cases are scheduled in the court this month.
- 10 cases waiting for the process to reach the court of appeal
- 6 cases waiting for a date of trial (on process in front of the state attorney or the MINFOF)
- 9 cases on execution process

- **Prosecutions of 8 cases:**
- 8/08/2006- The first instance court of yaoundé mfoundi, fined the offender with a civil award of 500.000 cfa FRS and 100.000 fine, in chimpanzee case in Nlongkak
- 1/05/2006- The first instance court of sangmelima, fined the parties (the civil and the military) with a civil award of **17.860.000 CFA FRS (around \$35,000)**, 50.000 CFA FRS fine against each of the 5 civilian and **12 months of imprisonment**, and against the **military - 36 months of imprisonment. Precedence of a maximum punishment of 3 years. Precedent of a prosecution of military personnel.**
- 11/08/2006- In the first instance court of Garoua, souleymanou is found guilty, he is punished with a **3 years suspended sentence of 1year**, 500.000frs to be paid as damages to MINFOF, and 500.000 fine.

- Concerning the international investigation, the complaint report is signed by the Minister and sent to the court of first instance of Douala Bonanjo.

Media front

- **31 media pieces** were pushed through radio; television and written press: 2 talk shows French, 25 newsflashes (16 French, 9 English), 4 written press (2 French, 2 English).
- Guests include: SG MINFOF, North West MINFOF Provincial Delegate, Conservator of Dja Reserve
- Subjects- wildlife law enforcement including: Prosecution of 6 illegal wildlife dealers in Sangmelima, prosecution of lion skin dealer in the North, prosecution chimp in Bamenda, operation Edea chimpanzee dealer, Ivory arrest in Bafut.
- All media pieces are recorded and compiled in LAGA's computerized media archive.

External Relations and Policy

- Meeting with the Provincial Delegates of MINFOF for the North West and West provinces by LAGA officials in Bamenda and Bafoussam respectively to evaluate the progress of wildlife law enforcement in those provinces

Management

- LAGA director is on leave for most of the month for wedding plans. LAGA's Cameroonian staff of Management and the different departments have developed more independence and produced good results on their own.
- It was concluded that while filling a human resources gap in media department, moving secretary resulted in excessive workload for Assistant Manager.
- The Born Free Foundation expresses concern that LAGA does not comply with its standard of monthly reporting. LAGA recognizes the problem but considers lowering the reporting standards to quarterly reports unacceptable. Discussions continue as LAGA proposed building its capacity with a part-time overseas professional in charge of communication with donors and potential donors.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure for August 06

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details			Amount L
1,313,300	Investigations	17 investigations, 5 provinces		-1,313,300	\$2,550
715,900	Operations	4 operations		-2,029,200	\$1,390
971,550	legal	follow up 24 cases 12 locked su		-3,000,750	\$1,887
758,125	Media	31 media pieces		-3,758,875	\$1,472
91,758	Policy and External Relations			-3,850,633	\$178
1,366,300	Management	Coordination		-5,216,933	\$2,653
524,312	Office			-5,741,245	\$1,018
0	LAGA Family - Investing in team spirit and pro			-5,741,245	\$0
5,741,245	TOTAL EXPENDITURE AUGUST			0	\$11,148

AmountCFA	Donor					Amount USD
673,850	Born Free	Used	August			-673,850 \$1,308.4
1,521,820	World Bank	Used	August			-2,195,670 \$2,955.0
1,204,525	BHC	Used	August			-3,400,195 \$2,338.9
1,325,150	FWS	Used	August			-4,725,345 \$2,573.1
1,015,900	Arcus	Used	August			-5,741,245 \$1,972.6
5,741,245	TOTAL					\$11,148.0

Ofir Drori
 Director
 The Last Great Ape Organization

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



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