



Embassy of the United States of America

Septembre 30, 2005

To whom it may concern,

The United States puts high importance on the conservation of biodiversity in general and in the conservation of great apes in particular. This is expressed in the creation of the Congo Basin Initiative and the U.S. Great Ape Fund, respectively.

In this context, I would like to congratulate The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) for its contribution to promoting wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon in general and particularly for its recent meeting with the Prime Minister and for the creation of a National Brigade.

The US Embassy in Cameroon has followed LAGA's impressive achievements both in the field and in political circles, and is pleased by the constant positive role it is has played as well as its effective results.

LAGA is working in a context larger than the specific objectives it undertook. An appreciated characteristic of LAGA is its wide communication with the different actors in the conservation sector both in Cameroon and internationally, among donors, diplomatic missions, NGOs and different government ministries.

LAGA has chosen the sensitive field of law enforcement, which is more sensitive for NGO-Government collaboration than other fields. Yet it has managed to gained wide legitimacy from the Cameroonian Government and it enjoys good NGO-Government relations. One example of this is the Cameroon Government's exceptional decision to include LAGA as a member of the official delegation to the meetings of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

This is not the first congratulation letter from the U.S. Embassy concerning LAGA's work, and hopefully it will not be the last.

Best Regards,

P. Christopher McCabe
Environmental Officer