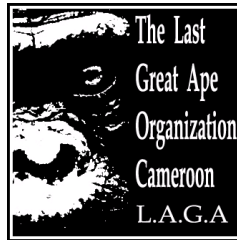


# THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2013



## Executive Summary

Despite many obstacles, tangible achievements were made over this period in LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF in the fields of investigation, arrest, prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities with focus on the fight against corruption, wildlife trade especially international trafficking in ivory, other elephant products, lion and leopard skins; Chinese traffickers of giant pangolin scales, dealers in African Grey parrots, primates etc.

In an unprecedented and exceptional move, a wildlife case for the first time was forwarded to the Special Criminal Court by the Cameroon Government. For every 6.5 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 96% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest and corruption was observed and fought in more than 80% of the cases. Operations focused on international trafficking and Chinese traffickers. 54 new cases were brought to court, 23 dealers convicted and more than \$63,000 to be paid as damages. Media exposure was at a rate of 1 media piece per day.

Replication concretized in Guinea-Conakry and TALFF – Togo launched with good operations. GALF Investigator, RALF Coordinator and a wildlife official from Uganda trained in regional exchange program. LAGA Director was invited again by ILEA; by the European Parliament to speak in a joint hearing of Development Committee and Organized Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering Committee. LAGA and PALF participated in CITES 16<sup>th</sup> CoP in Thailand on government delegations. LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to work on the Kenyan and Ugandan Replications of LAGA.

Governance issues, lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by some MINFOF Delegations were prominent during this period - sabotaging investigations, not participating in operations and writing of PV, unprocedural release of arrested dealers etc. Because of these and other prior governance issues, a joint letter was addressed to the Minister – MINFOF by LAGA, WWF and WCS to immediately remedy the situation. Specifically for LAGA, more criminals had been illegally released by MINFOF Delegates in the past year than in the whole of 10 years of work that preceded it, combined. Two criminal investigations held concerning ivory stock management and CITES, joining a worrying trend of unprecedented governance problems in MINFOF.

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



## **OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Investigations**

- A total of 324 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 10 Regions.
- Network of informants and institution of collaboration at the airports yielded good results.
- LAGA Director carried out special training sessions with Investigators for better performance.
- International Investigators used to penetrate difficult networks yielding good operations

### **Operations**

- Operations were carried out in 9 Regions against 56 suspects resulting in 54 court cases – a rate of one major dealer every 6.5 days.
- The rate of imprisonment for suspects apprehended reached 96%.
- 46% were on ivory and other elephant products 43% on international trafficking and 4 Chinese arrested.
- An ecoguard arrested for trafficking protected wildlife products and a mayor linked to ivory trafficking

### **Legal**

- 54 new cases were brought to court and represented.
- The first ever wildlife case sent to the Special Criminal Court in Cameroon
- 23 dealers convicted and more than \$63,000 (31, 500,000 FCFA) to be paid as damages to MINFOF.
- Very good prosecutions obtained notably 3years of imprisonment of an ivory trafficker.

### **Media**

- A total of 389 media pieces were produced and pushed into national media (television, radio and press) - a rate of more than one media piece per day.
- The distribution of *The Wildlife Justice Magazine* continued.
- The production and distribution of the Central African Wildlife Law Enforcement Newsletter continued.

### **Strategic Highlights**

- The strategic focus over this period was on elephant products making up 46% of total arrest. 43% of operations showed a high flow of international trafficking activities.
- Among the elephant tusks seized as a direct consequence of arrest operations, some had been seized already during past LAGA-MINFOF operations and were stolen from the National Stock.
- Governance issues, lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by some MINFOF delegations were prominent during this period. Some MINFOF officials arrested
- The booming trade in Chinese international giant pangolin scale trafficking continued.
- Focus on trade in African Grey parrots showed military connection
- Joint letter by LAGA, WWF and WCS addressed to the Minister – MINFOF to immediately remedy the situation i.e. governance issues, lack of collaboration, breach of procedure amongst others.

### **Government and External Relations**

- Several meetings were held with MINFOF officials, Diplomatic Community, National and International NGOs to discuss corruption in the NGO projects, wildlife law enforcement etc.
- LAGA Director was invited by the European Parliament to speak in a joint hearing of Development Committee and Organized Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering Committee.
- LAGA and PALF participated in CITES 16<sup>th</sup> CoP in Thailand on government delegations.
- LAGA participated and presented at the Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance (PAAWA)
- LAGA met experts and government officials in USA to add the lessons of LAGA to the forefront of strategies in the US for fighting wildlife trafficking.

### **Management**

- The Annual and Financial Reports for 2012 printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. Electronic versions available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org).
- Former Head of Legal Department went to WWF – CARPO as National Law Enforcement for Cameroon, a post he helped to create in a process of LAGA guiding WWF in stronger enforcement.
- 3 new members were welcomed into the LAGA family – 2 in Legal and 1 in Investigations Departments

### **Replication of LAGA Activities**

- Replication started in Togo and TALF becomes the newest member of our Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Network.
- Good operations carried and good prosecutions obtained – LAGA, PALF, GALF, TALFF and AALF.
- LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to work on the Kenyan and Ugandan Replications of LAGA
- GALF Investigator, RALF Coordinator and wildlife official from Uganda trained in Yaounde.

## CONTENTS

This report refers to activities from January till December 2013. 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 2012
- 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](mailto:ofir@laga-enforcement.org)

# **NARRATIVE REPORT**

## **1. Investigations**

LAGA's investigation unit carried out 324 investigation missions in all the 10 Regions of Cameroon. The department continued with structural reorganization culminating in high improvement in its professional output.

Field testing and high screening of new investigators, a total of 6 candidates were tested with 1 giving encouraging results and later retained promising he will stick to all the rules and regulation and get more operations. Training of Investigators on operations procedure continued so that they could start to actively assist and help in controlling some operations in the field. LAGA Director also carried out special training sessions with Investigators so as to enable a more effective performance in terms of intelligence, evidence gathering with use of equipment and reports on high level target dealers.

The network of informants put in place was becoming effective giving good information that led to operations in Meyomessala – South, Sangmelima – South, the Limbe Chinese arrest operation in the South West and arrests in the Douala International airport and Nsimalen-Yaounde International Airport. This strategy involving the recruitment of informants in the main wildlife trade hotspots in Cameroon continued.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training sessions continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon. During this period an Investigator from GALF – Guinea ended a 4 weeks training in Yaounde under the regional exchange program in a bid for further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement. A Wildlife Official from Uganda was trained on investigation, operation, management, legal and media procedures with the goal of replicating LAGA activities in that country.

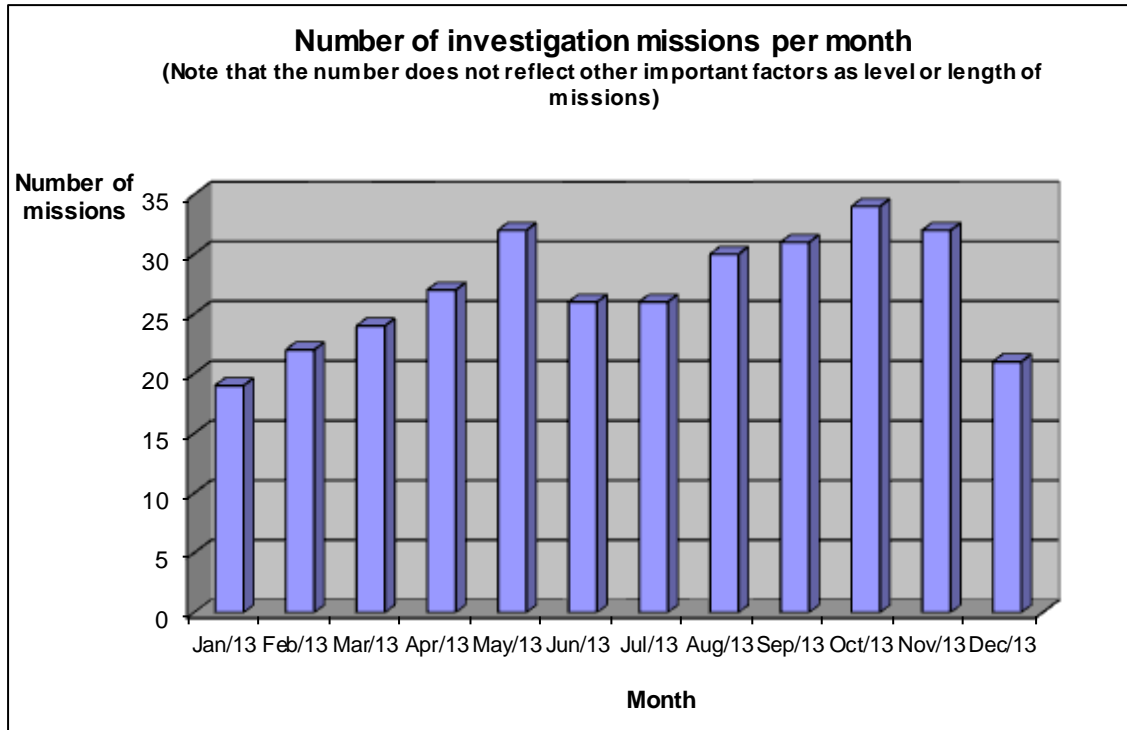
As part of a new strategy to get credible information and to make the Investigation missions more effective, a hotline that was established is giving encouraging results and flyers produced continued to be distributed This is being distributed to a specific set of informants like those working in the airports, call box operators, security guards etc. International investigators were also used to penetrate difficult networks of ivory traffickers.

The Head of Investigations Department traveled to Gabon to tap from the AALF experience of operations, arresting traffickers of wildlife and their derivative products through the airport and the seaport. He also worked with AALF investigators on investigations and operations procedures. 1 LAGA Investigator also traveled to Gabon to carry out trans-boundary investigations as part of the strategy to arrest more international; traffickers of protected wildlife products.

LAGA Head of Investigations Department travelled to Togo to help putting in place an Investigations Department for the TALFF Project through selection and training of Investigators. The Department continued in-depth involvement in investigations and

operations procedures in the replication projects especially PALF – Congo and AALF – Gabon.

During this period, there was a special investigation focus on trade in live primates; networks involved in ivory trade; trade in pangolin scales, lion and leopard skins, protected bushmeat and products of other protected wildlife species leading to the arrest of many major dealers. Attention also shifted to the Northern part of the country after a long time without focused missions.



## **2. Operations**

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 9 Regions against 56 individuals resulting in 54 court cases at a rate of 1 every 6.5 days. Operations became more difficult and sophisticated over this period and the rate of imprisonment reached 96% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial.

46% of the operations were on the busting of networks dealing in ivory and other elephant products. Of all those arrested, 43% had connections to other countries in Africa, Europe and Asia. A total of 4 Chinese were arrested for illegally trafficking protected wildlife products including ivory and giant pangolin scales. This period saw the arrest of the former Conservator of Mvog-Betsi Zoo, a highly placed official in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry, an Ecoguard was also arrested. The biggest wildlife trafficker in Cameroon was arrested for facilitating Chinese pangolin scales trafficking.

8 live primates including chimps, drills and mandrills were rescued after arresting 9 dealers involved in pet trade. A network of parrot traffickers was busted, arresting 5 dealers with 72 live African Grey parrots while transporting them in a military matriculated car - a 4x4 Toyota Hilux pickup. Dealers in felid skins were also arrested; 1 with a lion skin with connections to the Netherlands, 2 with leopard skins trafficking them between Congo and Cameroon and 1 other with a leopard skin in the West Region were lack of collaboration and breach of procedure were observed. Other operations led to the arrest of those dealing in hippo teeth, crocodile skins, giraffe parts, parts and meat of other protected wildlife species.

In January, 2 arrest operations were carried out rescuing 4 live primates including a mandrill. A well-known and well-connected dealer with a network of suppliers of live primates and his accomplice in the South Region were arrested in Meyomessala – South with 3 live primates including a live mandrill that he was illegally trying to trade in. Another dealer in live primates arriving from Bafia - Center with a 2 weeks old baboon was arrested in Yaounde - Center. Collaboration with one of the controllers in the MINFOF Brigade – Centre Region was not good during the writing of the statement of offence as the LAGA legal advisers were being intimidated.

In February, 3 international ivory traffickers belonging to the same network were arrested in Yaounde – Center with 24 elephant tusks. The leader of the network is a Cameroonian based in Congo where he has a web of suppliers. The traffickers have connections in many other countries including Congo, Gabon, France, Belgium and Italy. They drive ivory trade in Congo, Gabon and Cameroon, exporting the products through Cameroon to Europe and Asia.

March saw a total of 7 dealers arrested, 4 dealing in elephant tusks and 3 in sea turtle shells. 2 international ivory traffickers with a base in the Republic of Congo from where they drive the illegal trade in ivory to Cameroon and other countries were arrested in Yaounde - Center with 4 small elephant tusks. One of them was caught on camera burying ivory in a small hut in his compound in Congo and both have been in the business for more than 20 years. They transport ivory using 20 litre gallons that pass for oil. In another operation, 2 major traffickers of elephant tusks with suppliers in the Eastern Region and customers based in the city of Yaounde - Center and others in the Northern part of Cameroon were arrested in Lomie – East with 2 elephant tusks. The operation was jointly coordinated by LAGA and MINFOF with LAGA responsible for the legal procedure and follow-up in court.

3 dealers were arrested with 9 sea turtle shells within 2 days in 2 different operations. One of them was arrested with 7 sea turtle shells in Campo - South. He initially resisted arrest, claiming to have high connections with MINFOF officials but he was successfully transported to Kribi for legal follow-up without any major difficulties. 2 others were arrested with 2 sea turtle shells in Kribi – South. They have a motor – bike that they use in transporting the shells.

In April, a total of 5 dealers arrested following 3 operations. A high level wildlife trafficker and repeated offender of Chinese nationality arrested with his 2 Cameroonian accomplices with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to

Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West. He has connections to and denounced other members of a big wildlife trafficking network. The Chinese with no legal stay in Cameroon was already apprehended at the Douala International airport while trying to traffick 160 kg of giant pangolin scales by the Custom Authorities. After his arrest, he attempted to bribe the LAGA Legal Adviser in the field with 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000), an act that was promptly combated. The operation was carried out with the Limbe custom officials and MINFOF Fako Delegation. This arrest follows a string of seizures and arrests clamping down on the booming trade in Giant Pangolin's scales.

In another operation, a long time and experienced international ivory trafficker who frequents the Republic of Congo from where he has a network of suppliers especially in Ouessou was arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South. He has connections to South Africa and Guinea Bissau. Also, a female dealer carrying out pet trade in wildlife was arrested with a live primate in Douala - Littoral. She owns a restaurant that she uses as a cover for the trade. The live primate was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.

In May, a long time female dealer in meat of protected wildlife species with a network of suppliers in Djoum - South and a ready market in Yaounde - Center. She was arrested with 4 large bags of bush meat containing 40 different animal carcasses including 2 full mandrills, 10 yellow-backed duikers among other protected wildlife species. She was arrested between the Djoum - Sangmelima route while attempting to take them to Yaounde.

June was marked by 2 operations being carried out within 1 hour in Douala – Littoral arresting 4 major ivory dealers. In the first operation, 2 dealers also owners of an artefacts shop were arrested with 18 elephant tusks and 16 worked ivory pieces. They are well connected to other major ivory dealers in other parts of Cameroon. Among the 18 tusks, some had been seized already during past LAGA-MINFOF operations and were stolen from the National Stock. Investigations are on-going to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry.

Barely 1 hour after the first operation, 2 other well-known ivory dealers were arrested with 16 worked pieces of ivory. They have a network of suppliers in the Eastern Region and claimed to have very good packaging methods that will facilitate the transportation of the ivory out of Cameroon if needed.

Still in June, a regular dealer arrested with a leopard skin while attempting to illegally trade in it in Bafoussam – West Region. After tracking him down for 4 weeks and finally arresting him with the leopard skin, the MINFOF Regional Delegate for the Western despite the fact that the trafficker admitted he tried to sell the skin for 80,000 FCFA declared she does not work with LAGA at the same time blocking any of her sworn-in officials to establish any PV, slandering LAGA's undercover methods (that stand on 100% court conviction rate) and without examining the nature of the case said the trafficker should be released.

In July, 4 operations carried led to the arrest of 6 major dealers. Another major dealer and part of the network connected to ivory stolen from national stock was arrested in Obala -

Center by the national judicial police as a follow-up of other arrests in June. 2 members of his network were arrested with 18 elephant tusks and 16 worked ivory pieces, some of the tusks had been seized already during past LAGA operations. More investigations are on-going to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry.

In other operations involving felid skins, a major dealer arriving from Nanga Eboko - Center arrested with a lion skin while attempting to illegally trade in it in Mbandjock - Center. He initially resisted arrest, fighting and wounding one of the arresting officers and also threatened to kill the arresting team. He claims to have gotten the skin together with a Dutch national; investigations are still on-going to get other members of the network trafficking in lion skins.

2 well-known dealers carrying out wildlife trade between the East and Center Regions arrested with 7 big sacs of pangolin scales and live forest tortoise. There was crowd violence during the arrest and during the writing of the PV with LAGA Legal assistants surrounded and intimidated at the Center Regional Delegation. This once serves as a reminder of the danger accompanying our work and the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner.

Still in July, 2 more international dealers belonging to a trans-border trafficking ring plying the illegal wildlife trade between the Republic of Congo and Cameroon were arrested with 2 big fresh leopard skins and accepted on record that they had sold 2 other skins the day before their arrest. One of them, the female dealer attempted to bribe one of the arresting police officers with the sum of 500,000 FCFA (about \$1,000) for her release, an act combated by the LAGA staff present. She owns a provision store in Congo which she uses as a front business to cover her illicit trade.

The month of August was marked by the arrest of 10 suspects including a high level MINFOF official, a well-known and influential wildlife trafficker, another Chinese trafficker, and a network of traffickers using a military vehicle.

The former Conservator of Mvog-Betsi Zoo, a highly placed official in MINFOF arrested following on-going investigations to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry. He is accused of being implicated in the disappearance of more than 200 elephant tusks from the national stock. Some were amongst the 18 elephant tusks seized in Douala in June following another LAGA-MINFOF operation arresting 2 major ivory traffickers.

The biggest wildlife trafficker in Cameroon arrested in Limbe - South West Region in connection to Wei Tao, a Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe in April. The Chinese claims to be working for him and used his permits in the attempt to traffic the pangolin scales. He has been arrested several times before in connection to illegal trafficking of more than 1200 African Grey parrots.

Another Chinese national was arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde with 4 elephant tusks, 25 worked pieces of ivory and 44kg of giant pangolin scales 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is based



in Equatorial Guinea and is connected to other Chinese working in a road construction company in Djoum - South. He claims to have bought the ivory at Djoum and came to Cameroon because it is easy to get products and transport them in Cameroon.

Still in August, a network of parrot traffickers was busted, arresting 5 dealers with 72 live African Grey parrots while transporting them in a military matriculated car - a 4x4 Toyota Hilux pickup. They use the military car to avoid controls and they agreed to have functioned in this manner many times. The parrots were being transported from Mbalmayo - Center where they have a quarantine and a network of suppliers to Yaounde. They also produced illegal documents that he uses to carry out the trade. In another operation, – 2 dealers in live animals were arrested with a live baby chimpanzee while trying to illegally trade in it in Bafut - North West. One of them initially resisted arrest and refused to collaborate during the writing of the PV. The chimp was provided by one of their suppliers in Wum - North West Region, about to be taken to Nigeria.

September month saw the arrest of 2 suspects including another Chinese trafficker. The Chinese, also a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde with giant pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is also based in Equatorial Guinea and was arrested by the Gendarmes and Customs authorities of the Nsimalen airport. LAGA collaborated in the arrest operation and is responsible for legal follow-up.

A major trafficker in wildlife products especially elephant parts including ivory arrested in Edea with 2 elephant jawbones. He is also a lorry driver and claims to have connections to officers of law and order that help in facilitating his illegal trade in wildlife products. He has also been carrying out poaching activities for a very long time especially in reserves near Edea.

In October, good operations were carried out arresting 6 major dealers. 2 international dealers in wildlife products were arrested within 1 hour in Garoua – North with a wide variety of protected wildlife products including 14 hippo teeth, elephant parts, and Nile crocodiles skins; other products were serval cat skins bought from Nigeria, antelope horns and jaw bones. They poach and have suppliers in and around the surrounding protected areas including the Benoue National Park and trade between Cameroon and Nigeria. It should be noted that this areas is difficult to penetrate because dealers rarely accept to transact with those who do not speak the local Fulfulde language.

In other operations, 3 major dealers of the same network were arrested within 1 hour in Lomie – East with 4 small elephant tusks and other elephant parts including tails, jaw bones and teeth. One of them is a business man with connections to administrative authorities who initially resisted arrest. The two others are owners and riders of motorbikes who facilitate the trade through packaging and transportation from the source areas mostly in the Dja Reserve and surrounding villages to the main town of Lomie.

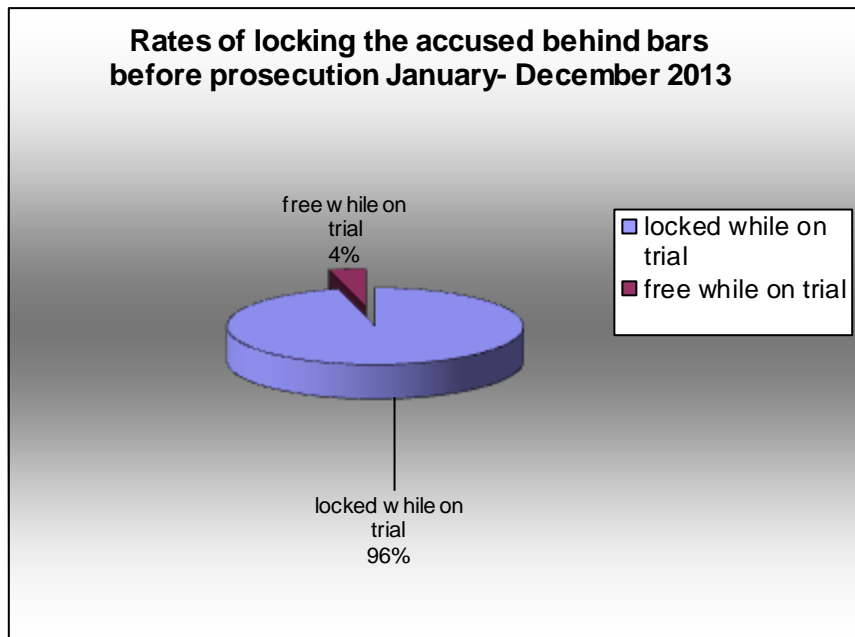
A trafficker in live primates arrested in Yaounde - Center with a 4 months old live baby mandrill while illegally trying to trade in it. He is known to have steady suppliers in the South, buys mostly from Ebolowa and sells in Yaounde. The rescued mandrill was taken to the Mvog Betsi Zoo in Yaounde for proper upkeep.

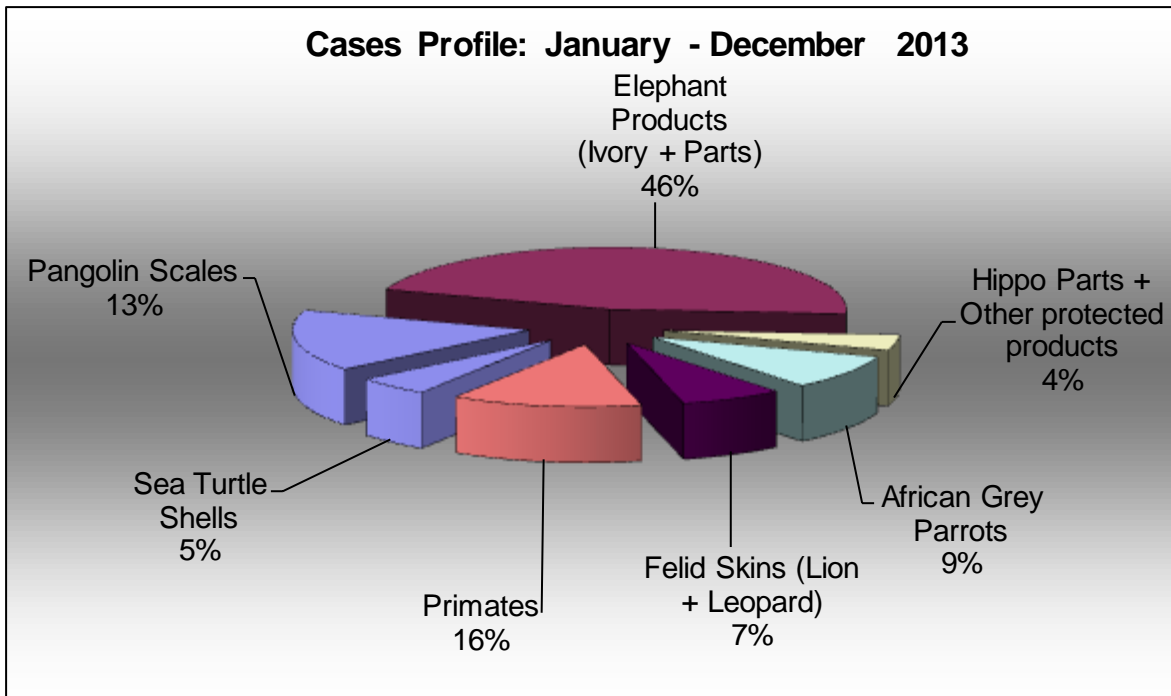
November month saw the arrest of 4 major dealers. 2 well known dealers in elephant parts and products of other protected wildlife species were arrested in Makenene - Center with a variety of elephant parts including bones, teeth and tail, and crocodile skin. They are known to have been in trade for a long time, also trading in ivory and have a ready market in Yaounde. One of them owns a bike which he uses for the transportation of the products from supply points to Makenene and then to the main city of Yaounde.

2 other major wildlife traffickers actively involved in the trade of live primates as pets were arrested with a live baby mandrill in Yaounde - Center. They were coming with it from Lolodorf – South and have other supply points in the South; selling in Yaounde - Center. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvog - Betsi Zoo in Yaounde.

December was marked by good operations arresting 3 major dealers including an ecoguard. The ecoguard working in the Waza national park was arrested with a wide variety of elephant products and other wildlife products including elephant skull, jawbones, foot and ear; and other wildlife products including giraffe skull, 9 kob horns and the skull of a topi tsessebe. He transported the products on his bike from Waza to Maroua where he was arrested. Lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by MINFOF was again observed when the MINFOF Delegate of the Far North Region refused to write a remand warrant for the suspect to be locked up and the Conservator for the Waza national park endured lack of collaboration by MINFOF especially during the writing of the complaint report (PV).

2 major ivory traffickers were arrested in Lomie – East by MINFOF officials of the control post of Djomedjo – East with elephant tusks while trying to illegally transport them using the car of the Ngoyla municipality. One of the dealers is the son of the Mayor of Ngoyla – East, who is based in Spain and tried to intimidate the arresting team, and later tried to bribe them. LAGA was involved in the Legal follow-up and questioned the Mayor on PV; and investigations are still on-going to see the involvement of the mayor and the trafficking of ivory to Spain by the arrested suspect.





### **3. Legal**

54 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.

169 missions were done out of the Center Region for follow-up, new cases and the creation of relations with judiciary authorities. More emphasis as a direct result of operations was on ivory and other elephant parts, primates, sea turtle shells, giant pangolin scales, hippo parts and products of other protected wildlife species.

This year was marked by the first ever wildlife case sent to the Special Criminal Court in Cameroon. 23 dealers convicted with imprisonment terms ranging from 2 months to 3 years; and a total of about \$63,000 to be paid to MINFOF as damages. Very good prosecutions were obtained in the month of September with a total of 13 dealers convicted.

4 dealers were sentenced in March, 2 by the Court of First Instance of Bangangte – West for the illegally trying to trade in live primates including a chimp, drill and mangabey. 2 other dealers were sentenced by the Court of First Instance of Sangmelima – South; one received an imprisonment term of 45 days for trying to illegally trade in 3 protected primates including a De Brazza’s monkey; the other was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for trying to illegally traffic elephant tusks. All the dealers were also sentenced to pay damages to MINFOF.

In May, the Court of First Instance of Douala - Bonanjo sentenced a female dealer in live primate to 3 months suspended sentence during three years and to pay a sum of 595.000 FCFA (about \$1200) as damages and 280.000 FCFA (about \$560) as fine.

In June, the Court of First Instance of Djoum - South sentenced an ivory dealer to 3 months imprisonment and to pay a sum of 600.000 FCFA (about \$1200) as damages and 100.000 FCFA (about \$200) as fine. He was arrested in Djoum for illegal detention of 22 elephant tusks.

In July, in an unprecedented and exceptional move, a wildlife case for the first time has been forwarded to the Special Criminal Court by the Cameroon Government, intensifying the fight against wildlife trafficking in the country. The court proceedings are as a result of 4 major ivory traffickers arrested in Douala – Littoral in June with huge quantities of raw and worked ivory including chopsticks which were destined for the international black market that has been at the center of accusations of driving the African elephant to extinction.

In another case, the Court of First Instance of Djoum – Djoum sentenced a dealer to 20 days of prison and to pay a sum of 200.000 FCFA (about 400) as damages and fine. He was arrested in Djoum for illegal detention and trade of 5 elephant tails.

September month was marked by the sentencing of 13 major wildlife dealers. The Court of First Instance of Limbe – South West convicts the President of the national syndicate of live wildlife exploiters to 3 months imprisonment and his Chinese partner was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. He was sentenced for facilitating the illegal exportation of giant pangolin scales and transfer of a government-issued capture permit to the Chinese trafficker who was arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria.

The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma – East slammed a 3 year sentence on a major ivory trafficker operating between the Central African Republic and Cameroon. He is also to pay the sum of 21.422.490 FCFA (about \$43,000) as damages and 1.084.000 FCFA (\$2,100) fines. He was arrested for killing of elephants, trafficking elephant tusks and grievous harm to an ecoguard.

In other cases, 2 dealers were sentenced to 1 year imprisonment each and 1 dealer to 8 months imprisonment in Djoum – South. Still in Djoum, 3 more dealers were sentenced to 1 year imprisonment each, and 1 other to 2 months imprisonment; they were all arrested in Djoum for illegal killing of elephants and trading in their parts.

The Court of First Instance of Bamenda sentenced 2 dealers to pay 3.000.000 FCFA (\$6,000) as damages and 1.000.000 (\$2,000) FCFA as fines or 2 years imprisonment each in case of non-payment; they were arrested in Bafut for illegal detention of a baby chimpanzee.

In October, 3 major ivory traffickers were sentenced to serve prison terms. The Court of First Instance of Yaounde - Administrative Centre sentenced 3 major ivory traffickers to serve prison terms. In the first case, 1 dealer was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and to pay 400.000 FCFA (about \$800) as fine and 2.000.000 FCFA (about \$4000) as

damages. He will be retained in jail for further 18 months in case of default of payment. He was arrested in Yaounde for illegally trying to sell 6 elephant tusks. In the second case, 2 other dealers were sentenced to 6 months imprisonment each and to each pay 400.000 FCFA (about \$800) as fine and 1.500.000 FCFA (about \$3000) as damages. They will also be retained in jail for 18 months and more in case of default of payment. They were arrested in Yaounde for illegally trying to trade in 4 elephant tusks.

5 dealers were sentenced in the month of November. The Court of First Instance of Djoum - South convicted 4 dealers, 2 dealers to 3 months imprisonment each and 2 others to 2 months imprisonment each for the illegal killing of elephants as well as to pay court fines and fees. They will be retained in jail for 6 months in case of default of payment of fine and court fees. They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal killing of elephants.

In another case, the Court of First Instance of Edea – Littoral convicted 1 dealer to 2 months imprisonment and 1.000.000 FCFA (about \$2,000) as damages in addition to fines and court fees for illegally trying to trade in elephant parts. He will be retained in jail for 9 months more in case of default of payment of fine and court fees.

In December, the Court of First Instance of Bafia - Center a major dealer to 50 days imprisonment and to pay 50.000 FCFA as fine, 200.000 FCFA (about \$400) as damages. He will be retained in jail for 6 months in case of default of payment of fine and court fees. He was arrested in Makenene – Center for the illegal detention and attempted sale of parts of the protected animals.

In November, 2 volunteers on test were retained as Legal Advisers after excelling in their test time.

A regional law library that was created continues to put into value what has been done before based on the LAGA model and how to proceed from there. This library with the documents therein could help in the creation of other structures in other parts of Africa and the world at large by motivated individuals.

#### **4. Media**

A total of 389 media pieces was produced and pushed into national media, including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press, a rate of more than one media piece per day. December month saw a low number of media pieces because of low produced operations after meeting the target had been met and holidays.

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 were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption. These were on – primate rescued in Yaounde, 2 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon, live primate trafficker

arrest in Meyomessala, Bafut Chief hand over primate, arrest of a lady with fresh gorilla parts, 3 Cameroonian ivory traffickers arrest in South Africa, the arrest of ivory traffickers in Yaounde, ivory trafficker prosecution in Sangmelima, sea turtle shell traffickers arrest in two different arrest operations in the Ocean division, two ivory traffickers arrest in Dja reserve, CITES, Yaounde arrest of ivory dealers, 20 ivory tusk dealer arrest in Djoum, Congo ivory dealer arrest - court hearing, Limbe arrest of a Chinese pangolin scales dealer alongside 2 Cameroonians, Yaounde 24 tusks ivory dealer arrest, Djoum-Sangmelima arrest of bushmeat dealer, 2 operations in Douala arresting ivory dealers; Sangmelima arrest of a woman dealing in huge quantities of meat of protected wildlife, the dwindling populations of big mammals especially lions, 2 operations in Douala arresting 4 ivory dealers; Yaounde arrest of international traffickers in leopard skins, Mbandjock arrest of a lion skin trafficker, Djoum judgments of trafficker in human parts and elephant meat, special criminal court opens legal proceedings on wildlife matter and Douala succession arrest of ivory traffickers; Guinea prosecution of a trafficker of over 500 chimps, Prosecution of Djoum trafficker in elephant meat and human parts and Nsimalen seizure and arrest of ivory – Yaounde; a Chinese arrested with pangolin scales in the Nsimalen international airport, the Yokadouma ivory trafficker and ecoguard murderer case sentence to jail and the seizure of parrot at the Nsimalen-Yaounde; Lomie arrest of elephant part trafficker and 2 traffickers arrested in Garoua with hippo teeth and crocodile skins etc.

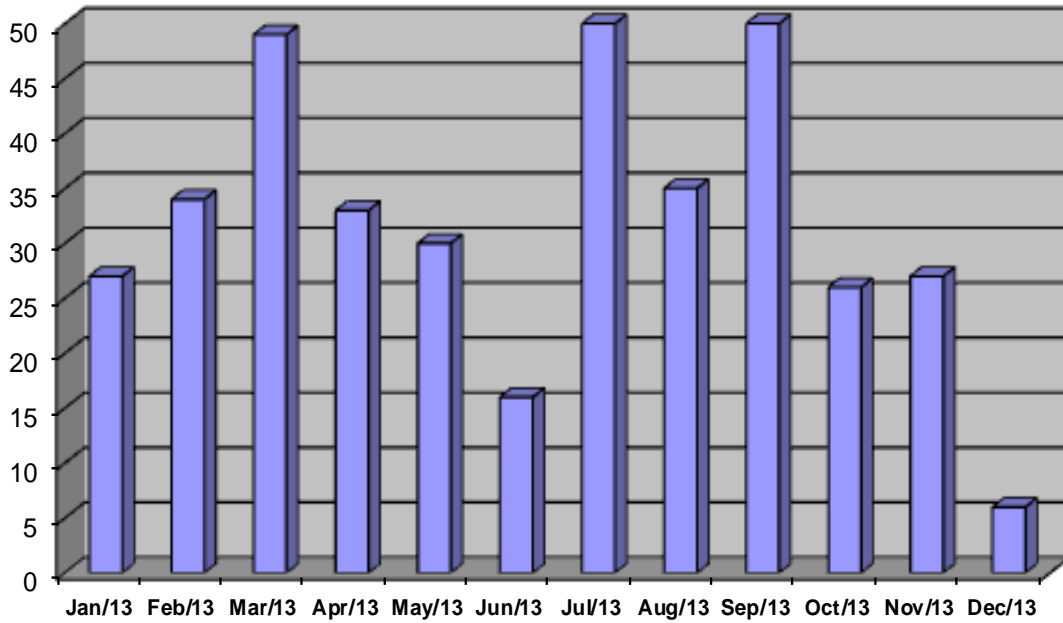
Guests included MINFOF Lawyer, Conservator of the Limbe wildlife centre, Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Buea, Head of Law Department in the University of Buea, a lecturer in the University of Cologne in Germany, Lecturer at the Catholic University of Buea, PHD student in the University of Buea, a guest lecturer at the Pan-African Institute for Development in Buea, Fako Divisional Delegate MINFOF, The Traditional Ruler of Bafut in the North West Region, the Director of Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW), the Executive Director of Environment and Rural Development Foundation (Erudef), and a lion researcher and Lecturer at the University of Dschang, LAGA Director, Veterinarian at the Limbe Wildlife Centre etc.

The *Wildlife Justice* Magazine a specialized journal that treats issues of wildlife conservation and more particularly wildlife law enforcement continued to be distributed. The Central African Wildlife Law Enforcement Newsletter also continued to be produced and distributed electronically on a monthly basis; it seeks to expand the scope of readers on issues of wildlife law enforcement in the sub-region and beyond.

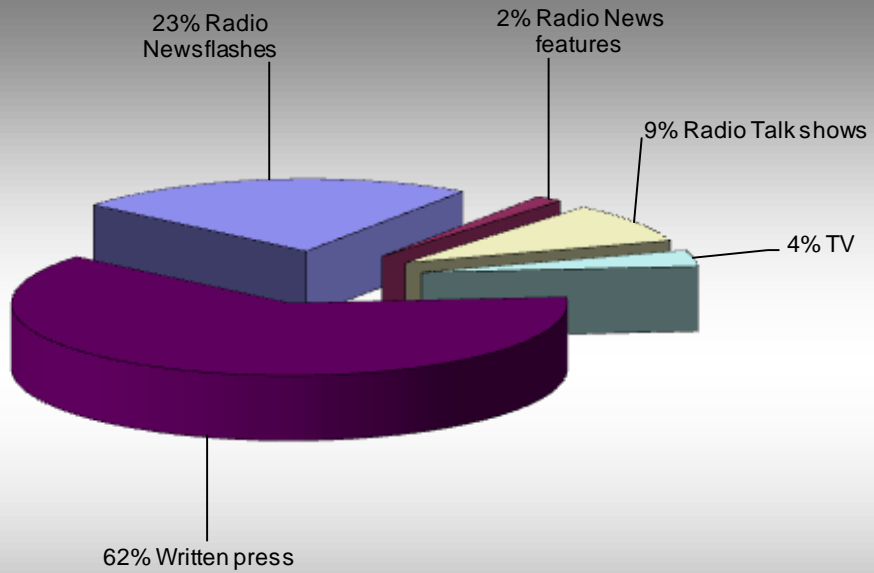
LAGA Website Analysis January - December 2013:

<b>Page Views</b>	<b>12,878</b>
<b>You Tube Views</b>	<b>84,200</b>
<b>Channel Views</b>	<b>5,588</b>

### Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed



### Split of Media Pieces



## **5. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact**

In addition to the number of operations and their effectiveness, there is another indicator 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 work with that of replication sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on elephant products, live primates, giant pangolin scales, African grey parrots, lion and leopard skins, hippo parts and other protected wildlife species, corruption in MINFOF, Chinese Traffickers and international wildlife trade.

### **8.1 Ivory and other Elephant Products**

During this period, 46% of the operations were on the busting of networks dealing in ivory and other elephant products, 66% linked to international trafficking with connections to other countries in Africa, Europe and Asia, and Chinese nationals arrested for illegally trafficking ivory. Among the elephant tusks seized as a direct consequence of arrest operations, some had been seized already during past LAGA-MINFOF operations and were stolen from the National Stock. Most of the tusks seized are small ones as the big tusks are preferred by the international ivory traffickers because they can generate more worked ivory pieces.

In February, 3 international ivory traffickers belonging to the same network were arrested in Yaounde – Center with 24 elephant tusks. The leader of the network is a Cameroonian based in Congo where he has a web of suppliers. The traffickers have connections in many other countries including Congo, Gabon, France, Belgium and Italy. They drive ivory trade in Congo, Gabon and Cameroon, exporting the products through Cameroon to Europe and Asia.

March saw the arrest of 4 traffickers of elephant tusks. 2 international ivory traffickers with a base in the Republic of Congo from where they drive the illegal trade in ivory to Cameroon and other countries were arrested in Yaounde - Center with 4 small elephant tusks. One of them was caught on camera burying ivory in a small hut in his compound in Congo and both have been in the business for more than 20 years. They transport ivory using 20 litre gallons that pass for oil. In another operation, 2 major traffickers of elephant tusks with suppliers in the Eastern Region and customers based in the city of Yaounde - Center and others in the Northern part of Cameroon were arrested in Lomie – East with 2 elephant tusks. The operation was jointly coordinated by LAGA and MINFOF with LAGA responsible for the legal procedure and follow-up in court.

In April, a long time and experienced international ivory trafficker who frequents the Republic of Congo from where he has a network of suppliers especially in Ouessou was arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South. He has connections to South Africa and Guinea Bissau. Also, a female dealer carrying out pet trade in wildlife was arrested with a live primate in Douala - Littoral. She owns a restaurant that she uses as a cover for the trade. The live primate was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.



June was marked by 2 operations being carried out within 1 hour in Douala – Littoral arresting 4 major ivory dealers. In the first operation, 2 dealers also owners of an artefacts shop were arrested with 18 elephant tusks and 16 worked ivory pieces. They are well connected to other major ivory dealers in other parts of Cameroon. Among the 18 tusks, some had been seized already during past LAGA-MINFOF operations and were stolen from the National Stock. Investigations are on-going to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry. Barely 1 hour after the first operation, 2 other well-known ivory dealers were arrested with 16 worked pieces of ivory. They have a network of suppliers in the Eastern Region and claimed to have very good packaging methods that will facilitate the transportation of the ivory out of Cameroon if needed.

In July, a major dealer and part of the network connected to ivory stolen from national stock was arrested in Obala - Center by the national judicial police as a follow-up of other arrests carried in June. 2 members of his network were arrested with 18 elephant tusks and 16 worked ivory pieces, some of the tusks had been seized already during past LAGA operations. More investigations were done to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry.

As a follow-up of these Investigations to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry, the former Conservator of Mvog-Betsi Zoo, a highly placed official in MINFOF was arrested in August. He is accused of being implicated in the disappearance of more than 200 elephant tusks from the national stock. Some were amongst the 18 elephant tusks seized in Douala in June following another LAGA-MINFOF operation arresting 2 major ivory traffickers.

In August, a Chinese national was arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde with 4 elephant tusks, 25 worked pieces of ivory and 44kg of giant pangolin scales (7 big sacs) while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is based in Equatorial Guinea and is connected to other Chinese working in a road construction company in Djoum - South. He claims to have bought the ivory at Djoum and came to Cameroon because it is easy to get products and transport them in Cameroon. He was arrested by the Gendarmes of the Freight - Nsimalen Brigade and LAGA is responsible for the proper legal follow-up.

In September, a major trafficker in wildlife products especially elephant parts including ivory arrested in Edea with 2 elephant jawbones. He is also a lorry driver and claims to have connections to officers of law and order that help in facilitating his illegal trade in wildlife products. He has also been carrying out poaching activities for a very long time especially in reserves near Edea.

October saw the bursting of a network in Lomie – East where 3 major dealers of the same network were arrested within 1 hour in Lomie – East with 4 small elephant tusks and other elephant parts including tails, jaw bones and teeth. One of them is a business man with connections to administrative authorities who initially resisted arrest. The two others are owners and riders of motorbikes who facilitate the trade through packaging and

transportation from the source areas mostly in the Dja Reserve and surrounding villages to the main town of Lomie.

In November, 2 well known dealers in elephant parts and products of other protected wildlife species were arrested in Makenene - Center with a variety of elephant parts including bones, teeth and tail, and crocodile skin. They have been in trade for a long time, also trading in ivory and have a ready market in Yaounde. One of them owns a bike which he uses for the transportation of the products from supply points to Makenene and then to the main city of Yaounde.

December month was marked by very good operations arresting 3 major dealers including an ecoguard and others connected to the Ngoyla municipality in the East Region.

2 major ivory traffickers were arrested in Lomie – East by MINFOF officials of the control post of Djomedjo – East with elephant tusks while trying to illegally transport them using the car of the Ngoyla municipality. One of the dealers is the son of the Mayor of Ngoyla – East, who is based in Spain and tried to intimidate the arresting team, and later tried to bribe them. LAGA was involved in the Legal follow-up and questioned the Mayor on PV; and investigations are still on-going to see the involvement of the mayor and the trafficking of ivory to Spain by the arrested suspect.

An ecoguard working in the Waza national park arrested with a wide variety of elephant products and other wildlife products including elephant skull, jawbones, foot and ear; and other wildlife products including giraffe skull, 9 kob horns and the skull of a topi tsessebe. He transported the products on his bike from Waza to Maroua where he was arrested. Lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by MINFOF was again observed when the MINFOF Delegate of the Far North Region refused to write a remand warrant for the suspect to be locked up and the Conservator for the Waza national park endured lack of collaboration by MINFOF especially during the writing of the complaint report (PV).

## **8.2 Primates**

During this period, 8 live primates were rescued and 9 dealers involved in pet trade arrested. Trade in live primates in big cities continued and connection to Nigeria seen.

In January, 2 arrest operations were carried out rescuing 4 live primates including a mandrill. A well-known and well-connected dealer with a network of suppliers of live primates and his accomplice in the South Region were arrested in Meyomessala – South with 3 live primates including a live mandrill that he was illegally trying to trade in. Another dealer in live primates arriving from Bafia - Center with a 2 weeks old baboon was arrested in Yaounde - Center. Collaboration with one of the controllers in the MINFOF Brigade – Centre Region was not good during the writing of the statement of offence as the LAGA legal advisers were being intimidated.

In April, a female dealer carrying out pet trade in wildlife was arrested with a live primate in Douala - Littoral. She owns a restaurant that she uses as a cover for the trade. The live primate was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.

In August, 2 dealers in live animals and bushmeat dealers were arrested with a live baby chimpanzee while trying to illegally trade in it in Bafut - North West Region. One of them initially resisted arrest and refused to collaborate during the writing of the offence statement (PV). The chimp was provided by one of their suppliers in Wum - North West Region, about to be taken to Nigeria.

In October, a trafficker in live primates was arrested in Yaounde - Center with a live baby mandrill while illegally trying to trade in it. He is known to have steady suppliers in the South, buys mostly from Ebolowa and sells in Yaounde.

2 other major wildlife traffickers actively involved in the trade of live primates as pets were arrested with a live baby mandrill in Yaounde – Center in November. They were coming with it from Lolodorf – South and have other supply points in the South; selling in Yaounde - Center.

### **8.3 Pangolin Scales**

This period saw the booming trade in Chinese international giant pangolin scale trafficking. Collaboration with the customs yielded good operations against traffickers of giant pangolin scales at the international airports of Douala and Nsimalen – Yaounde.

In April, a high level wildlife trafficker and repeated offender of Chinese nationality arrested with his 2 Cameroonian accomplices with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West. He has connections to and denounced other members of a big wildlife trafficking network. The Chinese with no legal stay in Cameroon was already apprehended at the Douala International airport while trying to traffick 160 kg of giant pangolin scales by the Custom Authorities. After his arrest, he attempted to bribe the LAGA Legal Adviser in the field with 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000), an act that was promptly combated. The operation was carried out with the Limbe custom officials and MINFOF Fako Delegation. This arrest follows a string of seizures and arrests clamping down on the booming trade in Giant Pangolin's scales.

In August, the biggest wildlife trafficker in Cameroon was arrested in Limbe - South West Region in connection to Wei Tao, a Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe in April. The Chinese claims to be working for him and used his permits in the attempt to traffic the pangolin scales. He has been arrested several times before in connection to illegal trafficking of more than 1200 African Grey parrots.

Still in August, a Chinese national was arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde with 4 elephant tusks, 25 worked pieces of ivory and 44kg of giant pangolin

scales 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is based in Equatorial Guinea and is connected to other Chinese working in a road construction company in Djoum - South. He claims to have bought the ivory at Djoum and came to Cameroon because it is easy to get products and transport them in Cameroon. He was arrested by the Gendarmes of the Freight - Nsimalen Brigade and LAGA is responsible for the proper legal follow-up.

In September, another Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde with giant pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is also based in Equatorial Guinea and was arrested by the Gendarmes and Customs authorities of the Nsimalen airport. LAGA collaborated in the arrest operation and is responsible for a proper legal follow-up.

Still during this period, 2 well-known dealers carrying out wildlife trade between the East and Center Regions arrested with 7 big sacs of pangolin scales and live forest tortoise. There was crowd violence during the arrest and during the writing of the PV with LAGA Legal assistants surrounded and intimidated at the Center Regional Delegation. This once again serves as a reminder of the danger accompanying our work and the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner.

#### **8.4 Lion Skin**

After a long time, focus on lion skin trade yielded a good operation during this period. In July, a major dealer arriving from Nanga Eboko - Center was arrested with a lion skin while attempting to illegally trade in it in Mbandjock - Center. He initially resisted arrest, fighting and wounding one of the arresting officers and also threatened to kill the arresting team. He claims to have gotten the skin together with a Dutch national; investigations are still on-going to get other members of the network trafficking in lion skins.

#### **8.5 Leopard Skin**

Operations continued to be carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade especially trans-border trade between Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.

A regular dealer was arrested in June with a leopard skin while attempting to illegally trade in it in Bafoussam – West Region. After the arrest operation, the MINFOF Regional Delegate for the Western Region in an unprocedural manner refused that the statement of offense should be taken and the dealer to be duly locked up and taken to court. This is not the first time she is disturbing normal LAGA work for reasons best known to herself, using her position to block her colleagues from collaborating with LAGA in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

In July, 2 international dealers belonging to a trans-border trafficking ring plying the illegal wildlife trade between the Republic of Congo and Cameroon were arrested with 2 big fresh leopard skins and accepted on record that they had sold 2 other skins the day

before their arrest. One of them, the female dealer attempted to bribe one of the arresting police officers with the sum of 500,000 FCFA (about \$1,000) for her release, an act combated by the LAGA staff present. She owns a provision store in Congo which she uses as a front business to cover her illicit trade.

### **8.6 African Grey Parrots**

Parrot trade is a well-organized chain of corruption and complicity with white-collar criminals thriving on this complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor. The traffickers are well connected to big export networks with accomplices in government institutions.

In August, a network of parrot traffickers was busted, arresting 5 dealers with 72 live African Grey parrots while transporting them in a military matriculated car - a 4x4 Toyota Hilux pickup. They use the military car to avoid controls and they agreed to have functioned in this manner many times. The parrots were being transported from Mbalmayo - Center where they have a quarantine and a network of suppliers to Yaounde. They also produced illegal documents that he uses to carry out the trade.

### **8.7 Sea Turtle Shells**

The illegal trade in sea turtle shells has been on-going for long and very strong in Kribi continued and the crackdown in the illegal trade also continued. In March, 3 dealers were arrested with 9 sea turtle shells within 2 days in 2 different operations. One was arrested with 7 sea turtle shells in Campo - South. He initially resisted arrest, claiming to have high connections with MINFOF officials but he was successfully transported to Kribi for legal follow-up without any major difficulties. 2 others were arrested with 2 sea turtle shells in Kribi – South. They have a motor – bike that they use in transporting the shells.

### **8.8 Hippo Parts and Products of other protected wildlife species**

In October, 2 international dealers in wildlife products were arrested within 1 hour in Garoua – North with a wide variety of protected wildlife products including 14 hippo teeth, elephant parts, and Nile crocodiles skins; other products were serval cat skins bought from Nigeria, antelope horns and jaw bones. They poach and have suppliers in and around the surrounding protected areas including the Benoue National Park and trade between Cameroon and Nigeria. This areas is difficult to penetrate because dealers rarely accept to transact with those who do not speak the local Fulfulde language.

An operation was also carried out against dealers who trade in meat of protected wildlife species. In May, a long time female dealer in meat of protected wildlife species with a network of suppliers in Djoum - South and a ready market in Yaounde - Center. She was arrested with 4 large bags of bush meat containing 40 different animal carcasses including 2 full mandrills, 10 yellow-backed duikers among other protected wildlife species. She was arrested between the Djoum - Sangmelima route while attempting to take them to Yaounde.

## **8.9 International Connection**

43% of suspects arrested during this period had connections to other countries in Africa, Europe and Asia; and Chinese nationals were arrested for illegally trafficking protected wildlife products including ivory and giant pangolin scales. On all operations pertaining to trade in ivory and other elephant products, 66% had elements of internationality.

Chinese nationals and high level traffickers were arrested at outlets notably the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde, Douala International Airport and the Bota – Limbe Seaport. They were attempting to raw and worked ivory, and giant pangolin scales from countries such as Equatorial Guinea where some are based, through Nigeria to Hong Kong and China. Some are connected to other Chinese working in road construction companies and some Cameroonians such as the biggest wildlife trafficker in Cameroon arrested in Limbe - South West Region in connection a Chinese arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales. He had been arrested several times before in connection to illegal trafficking of more than 1200 African Grey parrots.

Ivory trafficking to Europe especially Spain was also seen following the arrest of 2 major ivory traffickers in Lomie – Djoum with one of them, the son of the Mayor of Ngoyla – East based in Spain.

Ivory trade from Congo through Cameroon to other countries became more visible; 3 international ivory traffickers belonging to the same network were arrested in Yaounde – Center with 24 elephant tusks with the leader based in Congo. They drive ivory trade in Congo, Gabon and Cameroon, exporting the products through Cameroon to Europe and Asia. 2 others with a base in the Republic of Congo were arrested in Yaounde - Center with 4 small elephant tusks. One of them was caught on camera burying ivory in a small hut in his compound in Congo and both have been in the business for more than 20 years.

Trafficking to Nigeria was seen in different cases involving trade in primates from the North West Region to Nigeria, and trade in 2 international dealers in other wildlife products such as hippo teeth, elephant parts, and Nile crocodile skins etc. between Garoua and Nigeria.

International felid skin trafficking from Congo to Cameroon was seen following the arrest of 2 international leopard skin dealers of Cameroon nationality based in Congo and carrying out the trade between the 2 countries. A lion skin dealer also had connections to the Netherlands.

## **8.10 Corruption and Wildlife Crime**

Bribing attempts are documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and more than 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 positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. Corruption is also observed and combated in the regional enforcement activities.

This on-going fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. After the arrest of Chinese trafficker in giant pangolin scales in Limbe – South West Region, he attempted to bribe the LAGA Legal Adviser in the field with 500,000 FCFA (about \$1000), an act that was promptly combated. The Chinese with no legal stay in Cameroon was already apprehended at the Douala International airport while trying to traffick 160 kg of giant pangolin scales by the Custom Authorities.

Other bribery attempts were observed but what was more prominent during this period was lack of collaboration and breach of procedure was observed in 3 different MINFOF delegations this month alone. In Douala – Littoral, investigations discovered several different types of Class A life animals and parts including gorilla and chimp skulls; life crocodiles, sea turtles and African grey parrots but instead of descending to the field to carry out the necessary operation, the MINFOF Regional Delegate categorically refused to collaborate with the LAGA team stating that the suspect was “his friend” and that he has been aware of the presence of those animals.

In Bafoussam, after tracking down a dealer for 4 weeks and finally arresting him with a leopard skin, the MINFOF Regional Delegate for the Western despite the fact that the trafficker admitted he tried to sell the skin for 80,000 FCFA declared she does not work with LAGA at the same time blocking any of her sworn-in officials to establish any PV, slandering LAGA’s undercover methods (that stand on 100% court conviction rate) and without examining the nature of the case said the trafficker should be released.

In Nanga Eboko – Center, after tracking a wildlife dealer for 2 weeks, recording him while explaining his role in ape trade and the connection to export of ape meat to the US, the MINFOF Divisional Delegate and another MINFOF official (Chief of Transformation) knowingly prevented the arrest of the trafficker who had a baby chimp with him and completely sabotaged the investigation efforts. The Delegate was reluctant to contact the police as procedure demands and asked for a mission order not stipulated in LAGA’s convention with MINFOF all geared to delaying the team.

In Yaounde – Center following the arrest of a dealer in live primates arriving from Bafia – Center, collaboration with one of the controllers in the MINFOF Brigade – Centre Region was not good during the writing of the statement of offence as the LAGA legal advisers were being intimidated and it is suspected that this was because he wanted to halt the legal proceedings against the arrested dealer.

Because of these and other prior governance issues with MINFOF, a joint letter (part of this report – Annex II) was addressed to the Minister – MINFOF by LAGA, WWF and WCS to immediately remedy the situation. Specifically for LAGA, more criminals had been illegally released by MINFOF Delegates in the past year than in the whole of 10 years of work that preceded it, combined. The constant correspondences highlighting the illegal behaviour of MINFOF Delegates for now remains unanswered.

Two criminal investigations are held concerning ivory stock management and CITES, joining a worrying trend of unprecedented governance problems in MINFOF; this led to the arrest of the former Conservator of Mvog-Betsi Zoo accused of being implicated in

the disappearance of more than 200 elephant tusks from the national stock. Some were amongst the 18 elephant tusks seized in Douala in June following another LAGA-MINFOF operation arresting 2 major ivory traffickers.

Another MINFOF Official, an ecoguard working in the Waza national park arrested with a wide variety of elephant products and other wildlife products including elephant skull, jawbones, foot and ear; giraffe skull, 9 kob horns, the skull of a topi tsessebe etc.

Lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by MINFOF was again observed when the MINFOF Delegate of the Far North Region refused to write a remand warrant for the arrested ecoguard to be locked up and the Conservator for the Waza national park endured lack of collaboration by MINFOF especially during the writing of the complaint report (PV).

Following the arrest of 2 international dealers with leopard skins belonging to a trans-border trafficking ring plying the illegal wildlife trade between the Republic of Congo and Cameroon, one of them, the female dealer attempted to bribe one of the arresting police officers with the sum of 500,000 FCFA (about \$1,000) for her release, an act combated by the LAGA staff present.

In some cases, the dealers use their profession or that of their close relatives and the advantages that go with the profession to launder illegal wildlife trade. Some examples are clear like in the case of the use of a military matriculated car - a 4x4 Toyota Hilux pickup by a network of parrot traffickers that was busted in Yaounde to avoid controls. Another example is the use of the car of the Ngoyla municipality in the East Region by ivory traffickers given to them by the Mayor of Ngoyla whose son was arrested with his accomplice. He initially tried to intimidate the arresting team, and later tried to bribe them to stop the legal procedure.

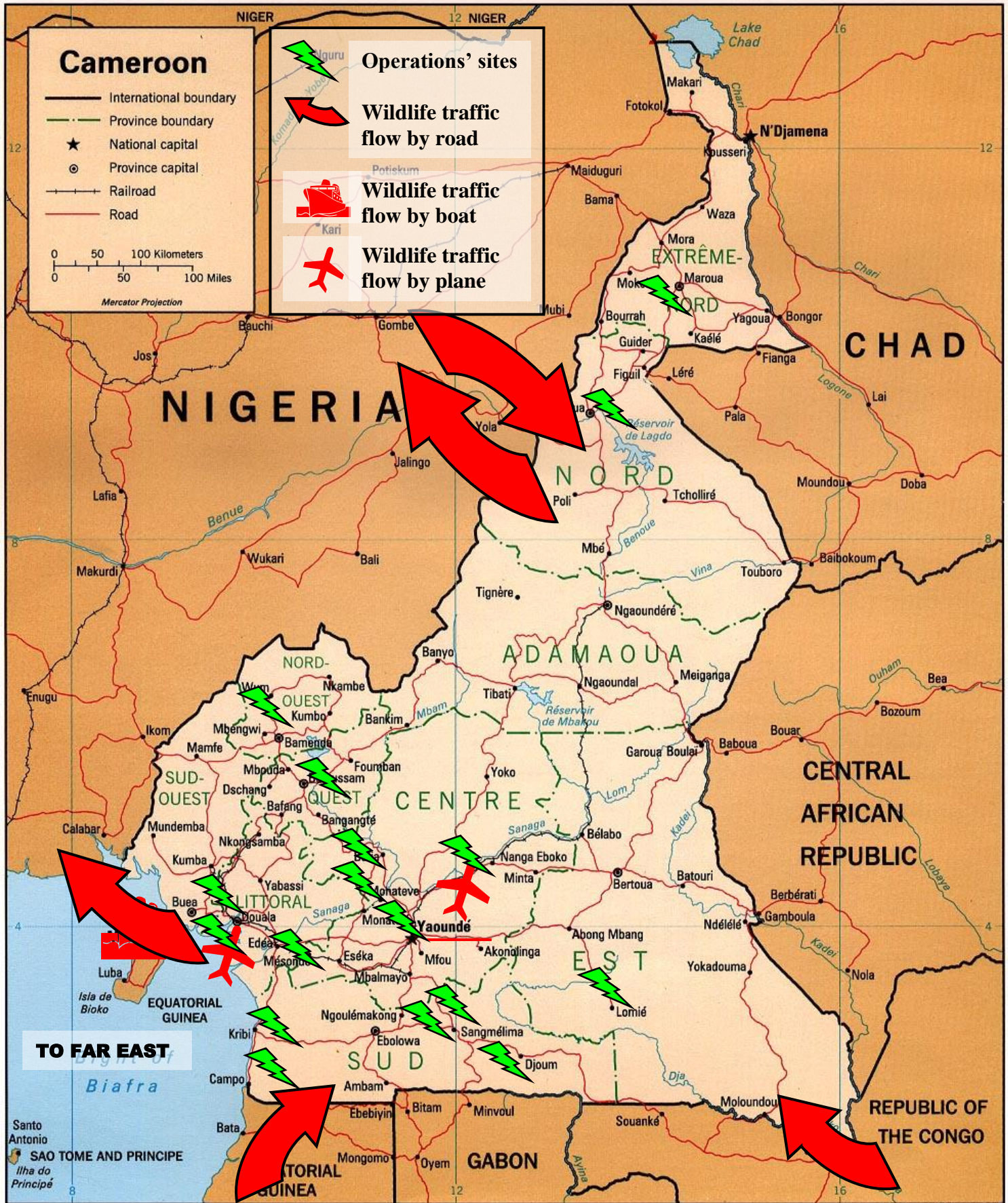
Some claim to have connections with officers of law and order who facilitate their illegal trade like the trafficker of elephant products arrested in Edea – Littoral.

In other instances, outright violence was witnessed. Following the arrest of 2 well-known dealers carrying out wildlife trade between the East and Center Regions arrested with 7 big sacs of pangolin scales and live forest tortoise in Yaounde – Center, there was crowd violence during the arrest and during the writing of the PV with LAGA Legal assistants surrounded and intimidated at the Center Regional Delegation. This once again serves as a reminder of the danger accompanying our work and the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner.

These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA and its field collaborators especially the arresting officers and the lawyers representing the MINFOF.



# Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites 2013



## **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.

LAGA Director held very important meetings with government officials - with Head of Judicial Police, with the BIR (Rapid Intervention Brigade, an elite unit) on intensifying wildlife law enforcement and fighting corruption and complicity; with the Customs General Office on collaboration regarding wildlife law enforcement at exit points especially airports and seaports and on strategies in the fight against wildlife crime

LAGA Head of Investigations Department attends meeting in MINFOF on the fight against poaching, creation and management of national parks in Cameroon. He and a Legal Assistant from the Legal Department attended a meeting organized by MINFOF in Yaounde on the formation of an anti-poaching committee in the Center Region.

LAGA trained teachers of the Garoua Wildlife School on wildlife law enforcement procedures including Investigations, Operations, Legal follow-up, Media publication and the fight against corruption. A training module was also produced to strengthen the capacity of officials engaged in the fight against wildlife criminality.

## **7. International Arena**

During this period, LAGA had many meeting with the diplomatic authorities in Cameroon and out of Cameroon, international NGOs, personalities and participated in conferences, made presentations and carried out trainings.

Many meetings were held with the Diplomatic community – with Head of Political and Economic Sector of the US Embassy, with the First Secretary of the German Embassy etc. Discussions were focused on wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption, governance problems in the forest sector etc.

LAGA Director met with EU ambassador on criticism against funding strategy in the aftermath of the Bouba Ndjida massacre and applying the Donors Governance Investment Manual for more effective funding to the wildlife sector.

LAGA Director was invited by the European Parliament to speak in a joint hearing of Development Committee and Organized Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering Committee. The presentation was on Wildlife crime, corruption and how conservation funding can actually encourage corruption. Other meetings with EP Members of Parliament focused on improving the EU wildlife Crime action plan, getting wildlife crime on Organized Crime Report agenda, and improving EU investment in Africa.

LAGA participated at the Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance (PAAWA) meeting in Nairobi, and presented on using the LAGA model to bring animal welfare laws to application. LAGA is a member of the international council of PAAWA. While there, LAGA Director held meetings with various NGOs, Government officials, international community and private sector on establishing a LAGA replication in Kenya; he also met with the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary in charge of the Environment on establishing a LAGA replication in Kenya; and held a series of meetings with Paula Kahumbu in charge of the “Hands off our elephants” campaign on leading a LAGA replication in Kenya, and on revision of the Kenyan wildlife law.

World Customs Organization invited LAGA director to speak in its headquarters in Brussels at the annual meeting of the Ethics sub-committee on anti-corruption strategies and steps Custom authorities around the world to curb corruption. This has been a rare occasion for an NGO to appear in front of the sub-committee.

LAGA Director trained in the International Law Enforcement Academy on Corruption and Wildlife Crime. He also participated in the presentation of the GRASP report on Ape trade, after contributing a preface to the report.

LAGA Director played an important role in a WCS meeting in Kigali and process of shift of strategy towards a stronger NGO role in Wildlife Law Enforcement. A similar role was played in a parallel process in WWF. He also visited Nairobi and held meetings with different NGOs and Government officials on how LAGA can assist Kenya in improving arrests and prosecution of major wildlife criminals.

In March, LAGA Director participates in CITES 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties as a member of the Cameroon Government Delegation. Thailand hosted the two weeks meeting with more than 2,000 participants and 178 countries represented. LAGA was dominant on issues of enforcement, transparency and accountability, elephants and apes among others. Time was used to make more than 100 new contacts discussing with government and NGO representatives.

Several meetings were held with other International and national organizations including WWF Cameroon Conservation Director and WCS Cameroon Director concerning Wildlife Law Enforcement and governance issues; with WWF, WCS, GIZ, ZSL, and Traffic on rising corruption in the wildlife sector and wildlife law enforcement in east of Cameroon. LAGA Director met with a team of UCLA researchers on protection strategies for south Cameroon.

LAGA Director met with CED Director on land grabbing, corruption and forest transparency; with WCS on investigations issues; with Global Witness on Luc Mathot’s ALEFI initiative - LAGA’s replication for illegal logging in Gabon; with Birdlife international on the illegal trade in African grey parrots in the region; with GIZ and WCS on the need to get better control in MINFOF to prevent traffickers from installing their vested interest in the heart of the ministry using legal trade schemes to launder their activities; with ERUDEF on cross river gorillas and stepping up wildlife law enforcement in their habitat range; WWF CARPE on training magistrates and wildlife law

enforcement; WWF and WCS on wildlife law enforcement and governance problems; with World Bank Africa Sector Manager for Environment on the LAGA approach to wildlife crime, and continued discussion with the World Bank conflict analysis team on the situation in the Central African Republic; met with Traffic on problems in CITES management as well as a network of environmental jurists; with IUCN on wildlife law enforcement and corruption; with WCS on a new strategy integrating governance to a wildlife law enforcement objective and with TNSF on wildlife crime and the Donors' Governance Investment Manual.

LAGA Director travelled to Togo to concretize replication activities in that country with operations. Focused investigations continued to target the biggest dealers in Togo and an international investigator was used to penetrate major wildlife and ivory trafficking networks. Meetings were also held with highly placed government officials including the Minister of Security, the Director of Cabinet of Ministry of Justice and the Minister of Environment on wildlife law enforcement and the case concerning is a very big ivory seizure that was carried out by the Customs authorities in Malaysia seizing 6 tons of ivory.

LAGA Director also travelled to Guinea – Conakry in a bid to put strategies in place to arrest the biggest ape trafficker we know - exporting more than 500 chimps over the years, after 10 recordings of him explaining everything about his trade. Another suspect dealing in 200 kg of ivory was targeted. He is active since 1976 and was recorded talking about cheating the airport scanners.

LAGA Director travelled to US attempting to add the lessons of LAGA to the forefront of strategies in the US for fighting wildlife trafficking. Meeting in DC and NYC with NGOs, experts and government officials. In his message he argued that the global strategy against wildlife crime still lacks crucial components and advocated for a clear indicator in the forefront of the US strategy – a weekly arrest and subsequent prosecution and imprisonment of a major wildlife trafficker for every country in the world, and for placing the fight against corruption in the center of it, in a practical and innovative way. He also met with officials, educators and the academy in South West Florida.

LAGA Director again travelled to Kenya to work on the Kenyan and Ugandan Replications. This included working sessions with coordinators, recruitment, meeting with officials, NGOs and others. He participated in the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group, and associated UNEP meetings in Nairobi meeting with government officials, NGOs and experts in fighting wildlife crime.

LAGA Head of Investigation Department and LAGA Head of Media Department met with Nancy Gelman, Program Officer, Wildlife Without Borders – Africa of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on conservation efforts in Africa, the fight against corruption and the institutionalization of the LAGA approach to wildlife law enforcement through the development of a curriculum and work with the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon.

LAGA Director presented at a Central Africa meeting on using anti money laundering techniques to combat wildlife crime. The meeting was in Gabon so time was allocated to discuss with Luc Mathot the network's strategy to rebrand itself as the EAGLE network and revise investigation strategies. He a presentation to a group of Peace Corps volunteers on activism and bringing about a change in Africa; and also presented to SIT international students on activism and wildlife law enforcement

LAGA Director trained on Wildlife Law Enforcement and corruption at the American International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana.

LAGA Director went to Togo several times to follow up arrests and investigations on high level ivory trafficking connected to 27 different countries. He also went to Guinea - Conakry to assist in live animals trade investigations and the building of the GALF team.

LAGA Head of Investigations Department travelled to Togo to help putting in place an Investigations Department for the TALFF Project through selection and training of Investigators.

Some presentations were also done – LAGA participated and presented a paper in an Interpol Sub-Regional meeting on wildlife crime; he presented in the PASA education workshop on Illegal trade in apes; he was also invited to present and participate in the Symposium on Combating Wildlife Crime organized by the Asian Development Bank, talking on the links between wildlife crime and corruption; presented on wildlife crime and corruption to Nicolas Hulot - Special Envoi for the Environment for the French President.

## **8. Management**

The year 2013 ended with excellent results - all the departments meeting up with the set targets. Work on the reconstruction of LAGA continued as well as work on action plans for departments. The Annual Activity and Financial Reports for 2012 were printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. The electronic versions are available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org). This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

Work on the reconstruction of LAGA continued as well as work on action plans for departments while stretching recruitment processes in two LAGA departments (Investigations and Legal); and on the other hand, a Jurist on trial was let go because of lack of engagement and results.

The series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development introduced by the LAGA Director 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 further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training sessions continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon; 1 Investigator arrived from GALF Guinea – Conakry to be trained under the regional exchange program for 1 month; RALF Coordinator from Central African Republic arrived Yaounde - Cameroon to be trained under the regional exchange program.

Karl Karugaba, a Wildlife Official from Uganda was trained in Yaounde on investigation, operation, management, legal and media procedures with the goal of replicating LAGA activities in that country.

March saw the departure of Replication Coordinator to Zimbabwe for further studies; and preparation for maternity leave of Assistant Manager.

In April, the former Head of Legal Department and Deputy LAGA Director - Alain Ononino went to WWF – CARPO as National Law Enforcement for Cameroon, a post he helped to create in a process of LAGA guiding WWF in stronger enforcement. It is hoped that he will take along LAGA’s law enforcement engagement, the fight against corruption and accountability in the NGO world. Collaboration with Alain will continue on law enforcement issues to better protect wildlife in Cameroon and in LAGA’s replication projects in Africa.

One Management Assistant was engaged in April to aid in management activities in the absence of the LAGA Assistant Manager who is on maternity leave.

In May, the LAGA family welcomed 2 new members this month through births – the LAGA Assistant Manager delivered a baby girl, and the wife of the Head of Media Department delivered a baby boy. We welcome the brand new babies and wish their parents the best of luck in raising them.

Several volunteers were tried in the Legal and Investigations Department with 1 retained in the Investigations Department. 3 new members were welcomed into the LAGA family in November; 2 volunteers on test were retained as Legal Advisers in the Legal Department after excelling in their test time; 1 Investigator also joined the LAGA family as a full member, promising he will stick to all the rules and regulations and bring in good operations.

Still during this period, a volunteer was let go in the Legal Department for lack of engagement and not able to meet up with LAGA standards after many months.

The LAGA family is not only about work but also in assisting one another during joyful and sad events, as well as coming together as a unit out of the working environment so as to permit members to know one another and their various families much better. October month saw Serge Ania, a Jurist in the LAGA Legal Department getting married. The LAGA family comprising of a strong delegation actively took part in the marriage in Ngaoundere - Adamawa and the newly wedded couple was assisted materially, morally and financially showing that the family as a unit is always there not only for work but for happy and sad moments. The LAGA family wishes the newly wedded couple the best of luck in matrimony.

The LAGA family took off some time from work and had a 3 day trip at the sea resort town of Kribi – South. Families travelled together to have a good time, commune together, get to know one another out of the working environment, and meet spouses and children of LAGA family members.

In December, the LAGA family members went for a 3 weeks holiday that started on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 with a special lunch and Christmas bonuses for good produced results.

## **9. Replication of LAGA Activities**

### **9.1. – General**

LAGA's goal from 2003 has been to create a new model for NGO – Government collaboration establishing wildlife law enforcement. Our hope was that by bringing about results with an innovative approach, we will be able to change the existing system and trigger a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime. The model is essentially shifting away from targeting small-time poachers in the forest and focusing in prosecution of major dealers, fighting head the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – Corruption. Following several awards and recommendations from the international community to replicate the model in other countries, LAGA has started working with other NGOs transferring the LAGA experience and model throughout the sub-region. The LAGA model is currently operating in 6 countries – Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Central African Republic (CAR), Gabon, Guinea – Conakry and Togo. Much groundwork has been covered in Chad and Nigeria and the operational part of the replication will start forthwith. The replication of the LAGA model is also geared taking cross section lessons outside of wildlife conservation; these include the fight against corruption, fostering activism, fight against child trafficking etc.

During this period, LAGA worked with other replication projects in planning and coordinating Investigation missions, carrying out operations, assisting in legal procedure and publication media pieces as well as assisting with activity and financial reports.

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

### **9.2 Gabon**

During this period, the LAGA Head of Investigations Department traveled to Gabon to tap from the AALF experience of operations, arresting traffickers of wildlife and their derivative products through the airport and the seaport. He also worked with AALF investigators on investigations and operations procedures. 1 LAGA Investigator also traveled to Gabon to carry out trans-boundary investigations as part of the strategy to arrest more international; traffickers of protected wildlife products. LAGA and AALF worked on joint investigations in the South of Cameroon.

LAGA Director met with Luc Mathot, Naftali Honig and Charlotte Houpline for a week of sessions on the formation of the EAGLE network, and different aspects of taking the work of the LAGA replications to the next level as the network continue to grow.

LAGA continued to collaborate with AALF - Gabon Investigators and Jurists on setting up a network of informants and joint investigations in North Gabon and South Cameroon.

<http://www.conservation-justice.org>

### **9.3 The Republic of Congo**

LAGA assisted PALF in planning and coordinating missions. LAGA and PALF worked on joint investigations in the South of Cameroon and North of Congo especially Ouesso. LAGA assisted PALF in planning missions, coordinating and participating in operations arresting dealers in ivory, primates and leopard skin.

In March, LAGA Director and PALF Coordinator participated in CITES 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in Thailand on the government delegation. Time was used to make more than 100 new contacts discussing with government and NGO representatives.

<http://www.palf-enforcement.org>

### **9.4 Guinea Conakry**

In January, LAGA Director travelled to Guinea – Conakry in a bid to put strategies in place to arrest the biggest ape trafficker we know - exporting more than 500 chimps over the years, after 10 recordings of him explaining everything about his trade. Another suspect dealing in 200 kg of ivory was targeted. He is active since 1976 and was recorded talking about cheating the airport scanners.

In June, an investigator arrived from GALF – Guinea Conakry to be trained in Yaounde – Cameroon under the regional exchange program for further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement.

In September, LAGA Director visited Guinea to assist in live animals trade investigations and the building of the GALF team.

### **9.5 Togo**

LAGA Director travelled to Togo in January to concretize replication activities in that country with operations. Focused investigations continued to target the biggest dealers in Togo and an international investigator was used to penetrate major wildlife and ivory trafficking networks. Meetings were also held with highly placed government officials including the Minister of Security, the Director of Cabinet of Ministry of Justice and the Minister of Environment on wildlife law enforcement and the case concerning is a very big ivory seizure that was carried out by the Customs authorities in Malaysia seizing 6 tons of ivory.



In August, LAGA Director travelled to Togo and led investigations and an operation that led to the arrest of a major international wildlife trafficker who is wealthy and well connected to high government officials, Generals, and ex-ministers etc. He was arrested with 700 kg of ivory in his home and his shop; he also deals in rhino horns. Post arrest investigations revealed that the arrested trafficker has 4 bank accounts and sits on the board of one of the banks, just one look into the smaller account showed a 70,000 USD transaction into what seems to be a money laundering "company" in the US. His phone book which gives hundreds of valuable contacts as - "Chinese ivory buyer", "supplier Nigeria", "Chinese that buy on big quantities"; phone numbers from all over the world. Another network of rhino horn traffickers of at least 5 contacts was found ("rhino horn seller, Vietnam"), many contacts of Cameroonians, Gabonese, Congolese among all others. Other paperwork including shipping documents, permits, speed post agencies, airline documents etc. were discovered in his home. Investigators are on-going to climb the chain and arrest other members of the international wildlife trafficking syndicate.

In September, LAGA Director visited Togo to continue ivory investigations, assist TALFF and meet with officials. Several authorities have been visited again for ideas exchange regarding the implementation of the new project. A training session was held to build capacity of agents in charge of export scanning at the Lome sea port. The objective of this training was to draw their attention to the extent of illicit trafficking in protected wildlife species through the Autonomous Port of Lome and give them clues to analyze the scanner results.

In October, LAGA Head of Investigations Department travelled to Togo to help putting in place an Investigations Department for the TALFF Project through selection and training of Investigators. A Jurist from AALF – Gabon also travelled to Togo to assist in putting in place a Legal Department for the TALFF Project.

LAGA, AALF and TALFF collaborated on investigations and operations. In November, The Coordinator of AALF and 1 Investigator from AALF Gabon travelled to Togo and assisted TALFF in targeting and arresting 9 major wildlife dealers.

[www.talff-enforcement.org](http://www.talff-enforcement.org)

## **9.6 Central African Republic – CAR**

LAGA Departments assisted RALF – Central African Republic on activity and financial reports; use of the LAGA Manual especially on Investigations and Operations planification and supervision.

RALF Coordinator arrived Yaounde – Cameroon from CAR to be trained under the regional exchange program for further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement.

Because of security problems in that country, no veritable arrest operations were undertaken during this period. This situation may continue for the next couple of months. LAGA played a role in developing a local solution in a security perimeter for protecting elephant population around Bayanga.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/RALF/tabid/165/Default.aspx>

## 9.7 Nigeria

Replication activities in Nigeria did not progress much during this period because of security issues in Nigeria. This will be looked at during the second semester.

## 9.8 Chad

In December, A Jurist from the LAGA Legal Department traveled to Chad to re-evaluate the level of replication preparedness of that country. Follow-up of cases initiated by a Jurist sent to Chad to evaluate and initiate court cases against dealers arrested are being followed-up and controlled by the LAGA team in Yaounde. 2 cases were effectively sent to court against 7 dealers in Amtiman for illegally trafficking in ivory and other elephant products. To make law enforcement more effective, the Minister in charge of wildlife is encouraged to immediately start the replication of LAGA activities in that country.

## 9.9 Other Countries in Africa

LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to work on the Kenyan and Ugandan Replications of LAGA. This included working sessions with coordinators, recruitment, meeting with officials, NGOs and others.

In December, Karl Karugaba, a Wildlife Official from Uganda was trained in Yaounde on investigation, operation, management, legal and media procedures with the goal of replicating LAGA activities in that country.

Plans have developed for future replications in Zambia and DRC – Kinshasa. Advice on wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption continued in several other countries.

## 9.10 Activism Front

During this period, LAGA continued to foster activism internally and externally. Creating Independent Activists is one aspect that LAGA uses to foster activism. The NGO members are encouraged to develop their own projects on the various development issues of their country and are given NGO time and management time to do develop the project in the vision of turning it in to an independent NGO/paper/book. The function of leadership is not producing more followers but to produce more leaders.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>

Activism was focused on documentaries and presentations including:

- *The Ambassador* is a documentary that unmask some of the filthy businesses that go underneath diplomacy relationship in Africa. In other words diplomats who leave Europe, Asian etc. come to Africa not just for the purpose of diplomacy but to run businesses and other illegal transaction like trafficking of drugs. The many interests (the quest for African resources) of these European and other diplomats in Africa at times spark conflicts in the region. The film shows a high level of corruption between diplomats, the states and individuals.
- *La France contre la Chine: main mise sur l'Afrique* depicts the Chinese and

French presence in Cameroon. It equally shows how both countries carry out activities in Cameroon with respect to their particular interests and the effects on Cameroon and Cameroonians. Though the judgment of who relates well in the documentary between Chinese and French is unequal, the film exposes the care free nature of Chinese communism. The Chinese attitude of grabbing everything for themselves is highly criticized.

- *Marketing Pollution – The case of Carbon and REDD* (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) - A power point presentation on the mechanisms of trading carbon as a means of curbing pollution from greenhouse gases. The presentation brings out the difficulties and limitations of the REDD program, ranging from projects areas found only in developing countries, no clear definition of forests, governance issues, technical problems, legal limitations, land grabbing problems, lack of enforcement, social problems etc. The conclusion was that trading forest carbon fails to address climate change because the problem is not attacked at the source. There is a need to find ways to stop burning fossil fuels, not create massive new loopholes to allow the pollution to continue; the North can delay effective and radical action to stop the burning of fossil fuels and claim that offsets of their carbon are stored in forests. The result is no net reduction in emissions and a few people become richer.
- *Africa's Democratic Transition: Stagnating or Progressing?* - The presentation looks at the Africa's democratic transition from the post-colonial era to the post wind of change era. It highlights the principal characteristics of the two eras while demonstrating that the post-colonial era was one of brutal dictators who had no interest in democracy and the second era making some overtures to democracy. It spells out the reasons for the sudden introduction of democratic transition in countries which were totally totalitarian. Among some of the reasons are the 1989 revolutions and the immediate causes to the Arab spring which is gradually leading to democratization in the Maghreb. The presentation explores the principal tenets of a democracy and carries out a comparative analysis of the post-colonial era and the post wind of change era while doing an evaluation of the present state of democracy on the continent and on this, it concludes that there is some political liberation but no genuine democracy is taking hold in African countries today with the exception of the some few sub-Saharan countries and the Maghreb where people power is calling the shots.
- *Crisis in the Congo uncovering the truth* - It is a documentary that uncovers the reality of the crisis in the Congo that varies on political and economic interest of some stakeholders. The idea behind the showing of this film is to procrastinate that if Cameroon is not careful the conflicts happening in its neighbouring countries might also spark out a state of unrest in Cameroon. As such a plan or solution should be worked out to be guided against conflicts in neighbouring countries.

In November, a super volunteer was trained this month in LAGA to give her tools for larger activism and opportunities to continue in a path of independent activism that LAGA can support, and to take part in the fight to bring about a change in tackling corruption and enforcing wildlife laws.

## ANNEX I- CASE TRACKING SYSTEM – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2013

Case num.	Date of operation	Region	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	Countries involved	Status
1	12-01-13	South	Meyomessala	Ako'o Joseph	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	A well-known and well-connected dealer with a network of suppliers of live primates in the South Region. He has a ready market in Sangmelima - South and Yaounde - Center. He was arrested with 3 live primates including a live mandrill that he was illegally trying to trade in. His accomplice Mvogo David was the main supplier of this set of primates.		Locked while on trial
2	12-01-13	South	Meyomessala	Mvogo David	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	Accomplice of Ako'o Joseph who frequently supplies live primates to him and at times keeps them		Locked while on trial
3	28-01-12	Center	Yaounde	Nele Kono Maurice	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	Another dealer in live primates arriving from Bafia - Center with a 2 weeks old baboon. He said that the mother was killed so as to be able to get the baby for trade. He was arrested in Yaounde. Collaboration with MINFOF was not good during the writing of the statement of offence as the LAGA legal advisers were being intimidated and it is suspected that this was because MINFOF wanted to halt the legal proceedings against the arrested dealer		Locked while on trial
4	13-02-13	Center	Yaounde	Nouhou Ibrahim	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	A Cameroonian based in Congo and the leader of a network of ivory traffickers with connections to many other countries including Congo, Gabon, France, Belgium and Italy. He was arrested in Yaounde together with 2 other members of his network with 24 elephant tusks weighing 27.5 kg. The network drives ivory trade in Congo, Gabon and Cameroon and export from Cameroon to Europe and Asia.	Congo, Gabon, France, Belgium, Italy	Locked while on trial
5	13-02-13	Center	Yaounde	Njiwouo Aboubakar	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	A member of Ibrahim's network involved in ivory trafficking in the sub-region. He is responsible for searching clients in big cities in Cameroon especially Yaounde and Douala. Arrested in Yaounde while trying to illegally trade in 24 elephant tusks with.	Congo, Gabon, France, Belgium, Italy	Locked while on trial
6	13-02-13	Center	Yaounde	Mama Mfougoup	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	Another member of Ibrahim's network responsible for the transformation of raw elephant tusks to sculpted ivory product. The network drives ivory trade in Congo, Gabon and Cameroon and export from Cameroon to Europe and Asia. He was arrested with 2 other members of the network with 24 tusks.	Congo, Gabon, France, Belgium, Italy	Locked while on trial
7	02-03-13	Center	Yaounde	Pempene Amadou	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	An international ivory trafficker with a base in the Republic of Congo from where he drives the illegal trade in ivory to Cameroon and other countries. He was caught on camera burying ivory in a small hut in his compound in Congo and says he has been in the business for more than 20 years. He and his accomplice were arrested with 4 small elephant tusks following the use of an international investigator.	Congo	Locked while on trial
8	02-03-13	Center	Yaounde	Mofokoue Mamadou	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	The accomplice of Pempene responsible for the transportation of ivory from the Republic of Congo and other regions in Cameroon. He has also been in illegal ivory trafficking for a very long time, transporting the ivory in a 20 liter gallon. They were arrested in Yaounde with 4 elephant tusks while illegally trying to trade in them.	Congo	Locked while on trial
9	06-03-13	East	Lomie	Alhadji Issa Oumarou	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	Another major trafficker of elephant tusks who has suppliers in the Eastern Region and customers based in the city of Yaounde - Center and others in the Northern part of Cameroon. He and his accomplice were arrested with elephant tusks in Lomie. The operation was jointly coordinated by LAGA and MINFOF with LAGA responsible for the legal procedure and follow-up in court.		Locked while on trial

10	06-03-13	East	Lomie	Mohamadou Aboubakar	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	The accomplice of Issa who has also been in the business for a long time and is the main person collecting the elephant tusks from their network of suppliers. They were arrested in Lomie while trying to illegally trade in 2 elepahnt tusks.		Locked while on trial
11	19-03-13	South	Campo	Akono Bekale Bernard	Dealing in sea turtle products	Trade in Shells	A dealer arrested with 7 sea turtle shells while trying to illegally trade in them in Campo - South. He initially resisted arrest, claiming to have high connections with MINFOF officials but he was successfully transported to Kribi for legal follow-up		Locked while on trial
12	20-03-13	South	Kribi	Bolaha Michel	Dealing in sea turtle products	Trade in Shells	Another dealer in sea turtle products arrested in Kribi - South with 2 sea turtle shells. He had an accomplice who has a bike that they use to transport the shells.		Locked while on trial
13	20-03-13	South	Kribi	Mbome Raoul Davy	Dealing in sea turtle products	Trade in Shells	The accomplice of Michel who uses his bike to transport sea turtle shells. They were both arrested in Kribi - South while illegally trying to trade in 2 shells.		Locked while on trial
14	08-04-13	South	Djoum	Essono Ebio Martin	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	A long time and experienced international ivory trafficker who frequents the Republic of Congo from where he has a network of suppliers especially in Ouessou. Also has connections to South Africa and Guinea Bissau. He was arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South.	Congo, South Africa, Guinea Bissau	Locked while on trial
15	12-04-13	Littoral	Douala	Elima Florence Ebune	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	A female dealer carrying out pet trade in wildlife arrested with a live primate in Douala - Littoral. She owns a restaurant that she uses as a cover for the trade. 1 live primate was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center.		Locked while on trial
16	28-04-13	South West	Limbe	Wei Tao	Dealing in Giant Pangolin Products	Trade in Giant Pangolin Scales	A Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West. He has connections to the biggest wildlife trafficker in Cameroon, using his falsified permit. He has no legal stay in Cameroon was already apprehended at the Douala International airport while trying to traffick 160 kg of giant pangolin scales. After his arrest, he attempted to bribe the LAGA Legal Adviser in the field, an act that was promptly combated.	Nigeria, China	Locked while on trial
17	28-04-13	South West	Limbe	Azie Harrison	Dealing in Giant Pangolin Products	Trade in Giant Pangolin Scales	A collaborator of Wei Tao acting as his assistant and translator in some instances. He was charged with negotiations to facilitate the transportation of the scales to Nigeria. Arrested with Wei Tao in Limbe.	Nigeria, China	Locked while on trial
18	28-04-13	South West	Limbe	Ngamgoue Elvis Thezuo	Dealing in Giant Pangolin Products	Trade in Giant Pangolin Scales	Another accomplice of Wei Tao arrested in Limbe with 7 big sacs of giant pangolin scales. He was charged with the loading of the bags in the boat to be taken to Nigeria.	Nigeria, China	Locked while on trial
19	21-05-13	South	Sangmelima	Kamadjou Charlotte	Dealing in protected wildlife meat	Trade in Bush meat	A long time female dealer in meat of protected wildlife species with a network of suppliers in Djoum - South and a ready market in Yaounde - Center arrested with 4 large bags of bush meat containing 40 different animal carcasses including 2 full mandrills and 10 yellow-backed duiker among other protected species. She was arrested between the Djoum - Sangmelima route while attempting to take them to Yaounde.		Locked while on trial
20	21-06-13	Littoral	Douala	Tagni Ibraim	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	A major ivory dealer also the owner of an artifact shop arrested with 18 elephant tusks and 16 worked ivory pieces while attempting to illegally trade in them. He and his accomplice have connections to other major dealers. Among the 18 tusks, some had been seized already during past LAGA-MINFOF operation and were stolen from the National Stock. Investigations are ongoing to track the source and the highly placed ministry officials that were responsible for the kept elephant tusks.		Locked while on trial
21	21-06-13	Littoral	Douala	Moulion Yaye	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	Another major ivory dealer and the accomplice of Tagni Ibrahim who is responsible for the transportation of ivory arrested with 18 elephant tusks and 16 worked ivory pieces while attempting to illegally trade in them.		locked while on trial

22	21-06-13	Littoral	Douala	Tcheutchoua Jean	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	A long time dealer in ivory with a network of suppliers in the Eastern Region arrested together with his accomplice with 16 worked pieces while attempting to illegally trade in them. They have connections to other traffickers in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Locked while on trial
23	21-06-13	Littoral	Douala	Teguia Kamguia	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	The accomplice of T. Jean responsible for the transportation of elephant tusks from the Eastern Region. They were arrested together with his accomplice with 16 worked pieces while attempting to illegally trade in them	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Locked while on trial
24	25-06-13	West	Bafoussam	Kengne Pascal	Dealing in leopard products	Trade in leopard skin	A regular dealer arrested with a leopard skin while attempting to illegally trade in it. After the arrest operation, the MINFOF Regional Delegate for the Western Region in an unprocedural manner refused that the statement of offense should be taken and the dealer duly locked up and taken to court despite the fact that the trafficker admitted he tried to sell the skin for 80,000 FCFA. She declared she does not work with LAGA at the same time blocking any of her sworn-in officials to establish any PV, slandering LAGA's undercover methods (that stand on 100% court conviction rate) and without examining the nature of the case said the trafficker should be released.		Free
25	05-07-13	Center	Obala	Essomba Jacques	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	Another major dealer and part of the network connected to ivory stolen from national stock from past LAGA-MINFOF operations. He was arrested in Obala by the national judicial police following more investigations. More investigations are on-going to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry.		Locked while on trial
26	11-07-13	Center	Yaounde	Enguele Marc	Dealing in wildlife products	Trade in pangolin scales and forest tortoise	A well-known dealer carrying out wildlife trade between the East and Center Regions, arrested with 7 big sacs of pangolin scales and live forest tortoise. There was crowd violence during the arrest and during the writing of the PV with LAGA Legal assistants surrounded and intimidated at the Center Regional Delegation. This once again goes to show the risks associated with LAGA's mission in the effective application of wildlife laws.		Locked while on trial
27	11-07-13	Center	Yaounde	Woa Nkanga Xavier	Dealing in wildlife products	Trade in pangolin scales and forest tortoise	Another dealer and partner of Enguele Marc arrested with 7 big sacs of pangolin scales and live forest tortoise. He owns a bike and facilitates the transportation of wildlife products from the supply points to Yaounde. He was also involved in crowd violence during the arrest and during the writing of the PV with LAGA Legal assistants surrounded and intimidated at the Center Regional Delegation.		Locked while on trial
28	20-07-13	Center	Yaounde	Makawo Clarisse	Dealing in leopard products	Trade in leopard skin	An international dealer belonging to a trans-border trafficking ring based in Souanke - Republic of Congo, plying the illegal wildlife trade between Congo and Cameroon was arrested with 2 big fresh leopard skins and accepted on record that she had sold 2 other skins the day before her arrest. She also attempted to bribe one of the arresting police officers with the sum of 500,000 FCFA (about \$1,000) for her release, an act combated by the LAGA staff present. She owns a provision store in Congo which she uses as a front business to cover her illicit trade.	Republic of Congo	Locked while on trial
29	20-07-13	Center	Yaounde	Wakan Robert	Dealing in leopard products	Trade in leopard skin	Another international wildlife trafficker and partner of Makawo Clarisse trading between the Republic of Congo and Cameroon. He is charged with contacting potential buyers in Cameroon and also agreed that he has been trading in wildlife products for a long time.	Republic of Congo	Locked while on trial
30	23-07-13	Center	Mbandjock	Mebanga Paul	Dealing in lion products	Trade in lion skin	A major dealer in wildlife products arriving from Nanga Eboko - Center arrested with a lion skin while attempting to illegally trade in it in Mbandjock - Center. He initially resisted arrest, fighting and wounding one of the arresting officers and also threatened to kill the arresting team. He claims to have gotten the skin together with a Dutch national; investigations are still ongoing to get other members of the network trafficking in lion skins.	Netherlands	Locked while on trial

31	02-08-13	North West	Bafut	Ayengue Joseph Shu	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	A dealer in live animals and bushmeat arrested with a live baby chimpanzee while trying to illegally trade in it in Bafut - North West Region. He initially resisted arrest and refused to collaborate during the writing of the offence statement (PV). The chimp was provided by one of his suppliers in Wum - North West Region, was about to be taken to Nigeria, and he claims to have bought it for 30,000 FCFA. The rescued chimp was taken to the Mvog-Betsi Zoo in Yaounde.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
32	02-08-13	North West	Bafut	Nebandonoh Denis	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	The accomplice and brother-in-law of Shu arrested with a live baby chimp that was about to be taken to Nigeria. He was responsible for the packaging (in a carton) and transportation of the chimp (on a bike). He also initially refused to collaborate during the writing of the PV.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
33	08-08-13	Center	Yaounde	Kouamo Pierre	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	Former Conservator of Mvog-Betsi Zoo and a highly placed official in MINFOF arrested following on-going investigations to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF looking into complicity and corruption in that Ministry. He is accused of being implicated in the disappearance of more than 200 elephant tusks from the national stock. Some were amongst the 18 elephant tusks seized in Douala in June following another LAGA-MINFOF operation arresting 2 major ivory traffickers		Locked while on trial
34	14-08-13	Center	Yaounde	Liu Julong	Dealing in elephant and giant pangolin products	Trade in Ivory and giant pangolin scales	A Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde with 4 elephant tusks, 25 worked pieces of ivory and 44kg of giant pangolin scales 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is based in Equatorial Guinea and is connected to other Chinese working in a road construction company in Djoum - South. He claims to have bought the ivory at Djoum and came to Cameroon because it is easy to get products and transport them in Cameroon. He was arrested by the Gendarmes of the Freight - Nsimalen Brigade and LAGA is responsible for the proper legal follow-up.	Equatorial Guinea, Hong Kong, China	Locked while on trial
35	14-08-13	South West	Limbe	Sama Jonathan	Dealing in Giant Pangolin Products	Trade in Giant Pangolin Scales	The biggest wildlife trafficker in Cameroon arrested in Limbe - South West Region in connection to Wei Tao, a Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe in April. The Chinese claims to be working for Sama and used his permits in the attempt to traffic the pangolin scales. Sama has been arrested several times before in connection to illegal trafficking of more than 1200 African Grey parrots.	Nigeria, China	Locked while on trial
36	16-08-13	Center	Yaounde	Minkada E	Dealing in African Grey Parrots	Pet trade	The leader of a network of parrot traffickers arrested with 72 live African Grey parrots while transporting them in a military matriculated car - a 4x4 Toyota Hilux pickup. He and his 4 other members of the network were transporting the parrots from Mbalmayo - Center where they have a quarantine and a network of suppliers. After his arrest, he produced fake documents that he uses to carry out the illegal trade.		Locked while on trial
37	16-08-13	Center	Yaounde	Nyemb Mayagal	Dealing in African Grey Parrots	Pet trade	A member of the parrots network arrested in Yaounde with 72 live parrots. He took his Uncle's car with a military number plate to be used in transporting the parrots. This has been done several times before because the car was never controlled at the various control posts before.		Locked while on trial
38	16-08-13	Center	Yaounde	Eloundou Aloys	Dealing in African Grey Parrots	Pet trade	The "Negotiator" of the network arrested with 72 live African Grey parrots in Yaounde. He is responsible for getting customers and brought the car provider and driver into the network. He first refused that he was part of the network, but later accepted and tried to negotiate for a bribe of about 500,000 FCFA with a member of the arresting team to no avail.		Locked while on trial
39	16-08-13	Center	Yaounde	Nono Edgogo	Dealing in African Grey Parrots	Pet trade	Driver of the car with a military number plate arrested while transporting 72 African Grey parrots with no proper document. He agreed that they have carried out such transactions several times before and were not afraid because of the cover of the military car.		Locked while on trial

40	16-08-13	Center	Yaounde	Mandela Edgard	Dealing in African Grey Parrots	Pet trade	Another member of the parrots network charged with the collection of parrots from the various suppliers and trappers, ensuring their safe-keep in the quarantine in Mbalmayo and responsible for their packaging in cages. He was arrested with the others in Yaounde with 72 live parrots.		Locked while on trial
41	16-09-13	Center	Yaounde	Luo Juansen	Dealing in Giant Pangolin Products	Trade in Giant Pangolin Scales	Another Chinese national and a high level trafficker in wildlife products arrested at the Nsimalen International Airport - Yaounde with giant pangolin scales while attempting to traffic them to Hong Kong. He is also based in Equatorial Guinea and was arrested by the Gendarmes and Customs authorities of the Nsimalen airport. LAGA collaborated in the arrest operation and is responsible for a proper legal follow-up.	China, Hong Kong, Equatorial Guinea	Locked while on trial
42	19-09-13	Littoral	Edea	Nformi Alfred Fai	Dealing in elephant products	Elephant Parts	A major trafficker in wildlife products especially elephant parts including ivory arrested in Edea with 2 elephant jawbones. He is also a lorry driver and claims to have connections to officers of law and order who help in facilitating his illegal trade in wildlife products. He has also been carrying out poaching activities for a very long time especially in reserves near Edea.		Locked while on trial
43	09-10-13	East	Lomie	Gnao Jean Pierre	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	The leader of a network of traffickers in ivory and other elephant products arrested with 2 of his accomplices in Lomie - East. He is a business man with connections to administrative authorities who initially resisted arrest. They were arrested with 4 small elephant tusks and other elephant parts including tails, jaw bones and teeth. The elephants are said to be mostly killed in and around the Dja Reserve.		Locked while on trial
44	09-10-13	East	Lomie	Habdoulazize Nzime Issa	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	A bike rider and a member of the Gnao network arrested with ivory and other elephant parts. He owns a bike and facilitates the trade by packaging and transporting the products from the source areas in the Dja Reserve and other surrounding villages.		Locked while on trial
45	09-10-13	East	Lomie	Ntynty Ale Okol	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	Another member of the Gnao network who is also a bike arrested with elephant tusks and other elephant parts. He is also an owner of a bike and does packaging and transportation of the elephant products from source areas to the major town of Lomie.		Locked while on trial
46	27-10-13	Center	Yaounde	Onana Patrice	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	A trafficker in live primates arrested in Yaounde - Center with a 4 months old live baby mandrill while illegally trying to trade in it. He is known to have steady suppliers in the South, buys mostly from Ebolowa and sells in Yaounde.		Locked while on trial
47	29-10-13	North	Garoua	Gaygoya	Dealing in hippo and crocodile products	Trade in hippo teeth and crocodile skin	A major dealer in wildlife products arrested with 14 hippo teeth and a Nile crocodile skin in Garoua - North following a lengthy investigations. He has a network of suppliers and has been involved in poaching in the surrounding national parks especially the Benoue national park and sells in Nigeria where he has a ready market for his products.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
48	29-10-13	North	Garoua	Bijeme	Dealing in elephant and crocodile products	Trade in elephant and crocodile skins	Another major dealer arrested in Garoua after 1 hour of the first arrest. He was trying to illegally trade in protected wildlife parts including elephant skins, crocodile skin, serval cat skins, antelope horns and jaw bones. He also has suppliers in and around the Benoue national park and trades between Cameroon and Nigeria. He claims to have bought the serval cat skins and Nigeria where he takes other products to sell.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
49	01-11-13	Center	Makenene	Beyongol Sebastien	Dealing in elephant and crocodile products	Trade in elephant and crocodile products	A major dealer in elephant parts and products of other protected wildlife species arrested with his partner in Makenene - Center with a variety of elephant parts including bones, teeth and tail, and crocodile skin. He is known to have been in trade for a long time, also trading in ivory and has a ready market in Yaounde.		Locked while on trial



50	01-11-13	Center	Makenene	Monong Pene Claire	Dealing in elephant and crocodile products	Trade in elephant and crocodile products	Another dealer and partner of Beyongol arrested in Makenene - Center with elephant parts and crocodile skin. He owns a bike which he uses for the transportation of the products from supply points to Makenene and then to Yaounde where there is a ready market.		Locked while on trial
51	05-11-13	Center	Yaounde	Ngongo Fabien	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	A well-known wildlife trafficker actively involved in the trade of live primates as pets arrested with his accomplice with a live baby mandrill in Yaounde - Center. They have been bringing live primates from Lolodorf - South and other areas where they have a steady supply and sell in Yaounde - Center. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvog - Betsi Zoo in Yaounde		Locked while on trial
52	05-11-13	Center	Yaounde	Amougou Sebastien	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	Another trafficker and an accomplice of Ngongo arrested with a 5 month old mandrill in Yaounde - Center arriving from Lolodorf - South. They have been trafficking in protected wildlife species for a long time and have a ready market in Yaounde		Locked while on trial
53	03-12-13	East	Lomie	Owona Max Michelieu	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	The son of the Mayor of Ngoyla - East arrested with 2 small tusks while trying to illegally transport them using the car of the Ngoyla municipality. He claims to be based in Spain and tried to intimidate the arresting team, and later tried to bribe them. The operation was carried out by MINFOF officials in Lomie and LAGA was involved in the Legal follow-up. Investigations are still on-going to see the involvement of the mayor and the trafficking of ivory to Spain by the arrested suspect	Spain	Locked while on trial
54	03-12-13	East	Lomie	Oum Paul Guy Merlin	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	The accomplice of Owona Max and the driver of the car transporting the ivory. He was also arrested in Lomie by MINFOF officials tried to negotiate for their release by bribing to no avail	Spain	Locked while on trial
55	03-12-13	East	Lomie	Owona Samba Juliette	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in Ivory	The Mayor of Ngoyla - East and the mother of Owona Max arrested with ivory while using the car of the Ngoyla municipality. The Mayor accepted on PV that she sent the 2 arrested traffickers with the car in which the ivory was being transported. Investigations are ongoing to see her involvement or role in the trafficking network.	Spain	Free while on trial
56	04-12-13	Far North	Maroua	Nyangueu Gilbert	Dealing in elephant products	Trade in elephant parts	An ecoguard working in the Waza national park arrested with a wide variety of elephant products and other wildlife products including elephant skull, jawbones, foot and ear, and other wildlife products including giraffe skull, 9 kob horns and the skull of a topi tsessebe. He transported the products on his bike from Waza to Maroua where he was arrested, Lack of collaboration and breach of procedure by MINFOF was again observed when the MINFOF Delegate of the Far North Region refused to write a remand warrant for the suspect to be locked up and the Conservator for the Waza national park endured lack of collaboration by MINFOF especially during the writing of the complaint report (PV)		Free

## Annex II – Joint Letter to the Minister on Governance Issues in MINFOF



**To: The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife  
Yaounde - Cameroon**

Date: Yaounde, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013



**Subject: Request for audience**

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, are writing to request an audience with you at your earliest convenience to discuss a number of issues that we see as serious threat to the long term conservation of the rich biological diversity of Cameroon. We have observed a worrying trend, concerning your Ministry's responses to effectively cope with illegal wildlife trade, that we felt are becoming major obstacles to the government of Cameroon commitment and effort for conserving the exceptionally rich biological diversity of the country and the defined policy for the sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations, and will like to have the opportunity to discuss some of these issues with you and where possible suggest some solutions or avenues for addressing these problems.

At this point we will be focusing attention mainly on wildlife but it is important to indicate that most of these points are valid for other sectors, as it all relate to governance, transparency and effective law enforcement, bearing in mind that all these goes together to create conditions for efficiency and effectiveness in the realization of define objectives that in our case is the long term conservation of natural resources for the benefit of Cameroon and humanity.

Conservation has long been threatened by bad governance and vested interests. Your noble task, your Excellency, is a constant fight to push back against traders who attempt to use their illicit wealth to subvert the very control systems set to regulate them. More and more policy decisions allow them to benefit from legal trade but in effect facilitate further-illegal trade.

We wish to bring to your attention several problems that fall into this context, soliciting your personal inspection and supervision.

### African Grey Parrots

Last year Cameroon's CITES Management Authority requested and was subsequently accorded an export quota for the African Grey Parrot, ending a five-year moratorium on exports, imposed after Cameroon repeatedly exceeded its quota, prompting concern from the CITES Secretariat. The request was regarded by many scientists to be flawed and lacking scientific or even economic logic. The species continues to experience population decline, information on many aspects of its ecology are lacking, and

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it is exposed to 30-50% pre-export mortality (due to poor management and conditions in-country). None of these facts are accounted for in the current decision.

The close relationship between the legal and the illegal trade in Cameroon is well documented and the court cases against the "legal" dealers finding themselves in the heart of the illegal trade are known and analyzed with great concern.

The revenue to the state generated by the export of this species is a small fraction of the total accruing to the operators. It is estimated that Cameroon generates a max of \$380 000 annually. It remains minor if we consider the sale price of between \$1500 to \$2500 for a bird on the international market, and compared to the damage to Cameroon's natural heritage and international image.

The study on which the Cameroon's application was based would not pass the peer review process required for inclusion in any scientific journal, yet here it has been used to override well-documented concerns of overharvesting and reopen a trade that could very possibly threaten the species' long-term survival. Where external appraisal was sought – too late to be taken into account, – the approach and recommendations were roundly criticized: The methodology used to calculate sustainable yield is flawed. The methodology used in ecological data collection is very likely flawed, or at the very least heavily biased towards overestimation. Vital details of the methodology are omitted, obscuring what was done and precluding replicability. Furthermore, Demographic parameters are largely absent from the report, and the unrealistic adult survival rate is given with no justification.

In light of these and other criticisms, the report should be considered invalid. The document was written as a management plan, yet there have been as yet no moves to implement the recommendations made, despite these lapses, the trade was reopened.

The removal of the key markets for wild-captured birds – the USA in 1993 and the EU in 2005 – as well as developments in captive breeding elsewhere have yet to be reflected in Cameroon's position as an exporter.

#### Elephants

The plight of Cameroon's elephants does not need introduction. Cameroon is struggling with an escalating poaching crisis, and in the international media the Government stresses the need to fight to conserve every single elephant. Yet at the same time, legal "administrative" culling and sports hunting continue, often of already thin populations and with little ecological considerations. Worse still, we have various indications that such presumably legal use of wildlife is often linked to illegal trade and legal killing schemes systematically used for the illegal trade by known traffickers.

In February 2013 for example, four elephants were killed in the Extreme North region in an authorized administrative culling within 3 weeks. These included a female and a very young elephant, and the reasons for the culling were questionable. The individuals commissioned to hunt are suspected traffickers; one of them offered the tusks for illegal sale to a French national.

In another example, a group of American hunters went to South East Cameroon in April 2013 with authorization to hunt elephants, only a few days after the WWF announced it found 28 fresh elephant carcasses in the nearby Lobeke National Park.

#### Hippopotamus

Cameroon's CITES Management Authority has appealed to the Convention to remove the trade suspension on hippos and applied for an export quota, arguing that a legal killing scheme of hippos would be introduced in Cameroon. This new request for a legal way to kill hippos correlates with the growing interest of traffickers in hippo ivory. This quota was asked without any reliable scientific study to be based upon, and apparently, with no consultation with the CITES scientific Authority of Cameroon, the Garoua Wildlife School.

The latest two surveys of hippopotamus in Benoue NP (one conducted in March 2013 with the Garoua Wildlife School), shows a 50 % population decline compared to earlier surveys in this hitherto stronghold for hippopotamus in Cameroon. It should be noted that these are the only qualitative hippo population trend data available from Cameroon. During the survey, freshly poached hippos were found with their tusks removed, corresponding with data from wildlife crime investigations documenting trade in hippo tusks.

#### Apes

In April 2013, an endangered cross river gorilla was killed in the North West region, and to the best of our knowledge, no legal action has been taken against the killers by MINFOF. The stuffing and display of the gorilla was authorized by MINFOF without consideration of bones and skull that were likely to get to the illegal trade. The decision to reward a community that broke the law and killed a highly endangered species, and the decision to display the body as an advertisement for the value of illegal trade are both highly disturbing.

In the past few months two ape traffickers were released by MINFOF failing to forward the criminals arrested red-handed to courts.

An illegal private collection of chimps that have attracted hundreds of international complaints in the past five years has still remained unresolved and with no legal consequences. Patricia Leschaeve has been buying and keeping chimps, thereby encouraging the illegal trade, and keeping apes in appalling conditions that often result in their death.

#### Ivory Burning

Wildlife traffickers in West Africa have been recorded saying that the source of their Ivory is from wildlife official from Cameroon. This is very worrying to think that wildlife official could be involved in stealing and selling ivory confiscated and stored in government storehouses, therefore confirming rumours that overtime seized ivory and other wildlife products have disappeared from the store.

With rising ivory prices it is becoming more difficult to ensure security of the ivory stock. And more and more countries are reporting their stocks have been looted. Guarding ivory stocks has become such an impossible mission that even museums in Europe are broken in to in ivory thefts from exhibits.

Cameroon's chances to legally sell this ivory are close to zero. Gabon like Kenya has burnt its ivory last year with much international media coverage and increased international investment in conservation. The Republic of Congo publicly declared it will burn its ivory stocks this year, DRC has made the same declaration not in public. Such a burn can send a very strong message to traffickers as well as broadcast Cameroon's will to protect its elephants in such dire times.

#### Pangolins

The illegal trade in pangolin scales to China is booming. In the past two weeks two large seizures of giant pangolin scales took place in Douala and Limbe and another seizure in the Charles de Gaulle airport in France. These three seizures alone represent hundreds of killed giant pangolins.

While the littoral MINFOF regional delegation refused to pursue the culprits, the Chinese and two Cameroon nationals, were arrested two weeks afterwards by the South West regional delegation when they continued their illegal activity. Certificates of Origin are being produced by regional delegates, and threatened Giant Pangolin scales, are described as common pangolin, facilitating a vast illegal trade network in the disguise of legal trade.

#### Recommendations

Your Excellency, we would like to constructively work with your collaborators on bringing quick solutions to the problems raised in this document, as well as, step up transparency and inclusion in decision making concerning legal trade schemes and obtaining better oversight of regulatory systems that are prone to be captured by traffickers and corruption.

For this purpose, we recommend the establishment of a working group to include MINFOF, the undersigned and other members of the scientific community. The working group will have to produce detailed solutions within a month and an action plan with clear deadlines.

We also recommend the establishment of a schedule for regular visits and inspections of warehouse where confiscated items including ivory other wildlife products and guns are stored. We believe that the first such visit and inspection can reasonably be organized within a week from today.

Sincerely,

On behalf of WWF – Rolf-Dieter Sprung, Conservation Director, WWF Cameroon.

On behalf of WCS – Dr. Roger C. Fotso, Country Director, Cameroon.

On behalf of LAGA – Ofir Drori, Director.



### Annex III – The Year in Pictures – Some Important Events



**A high level wildlife trafficker and repeated offender of Chinese nationality (left) arrested with his 2 Cameroonian accomplices with 7 big sacs of Giant Pangolin scales (right) while attempting to send them to Nigeria through the Bota Port in Limbe - South West. His accomplice, the biggest wildlife exporter in Cameroon was also arrested and they were both sentenced to serve prison terms.**



**The leader of a network of 3 international ivory traffickers busted in Yaounde – Center with 24 elephant tusks weighing 27.5 kg. He is a Cameroonian based in Congo and has connections in many other countries including Congo, Gabon, France, Belgium and Italy.**



**A long time international ivory trafficker who frequents the Republic of Congo from where he has a network of suppliers especially in Ouesso arrested with 20 elephant tusks in Djoum - South. He has connections to South Africa and Guinea Bissau.**



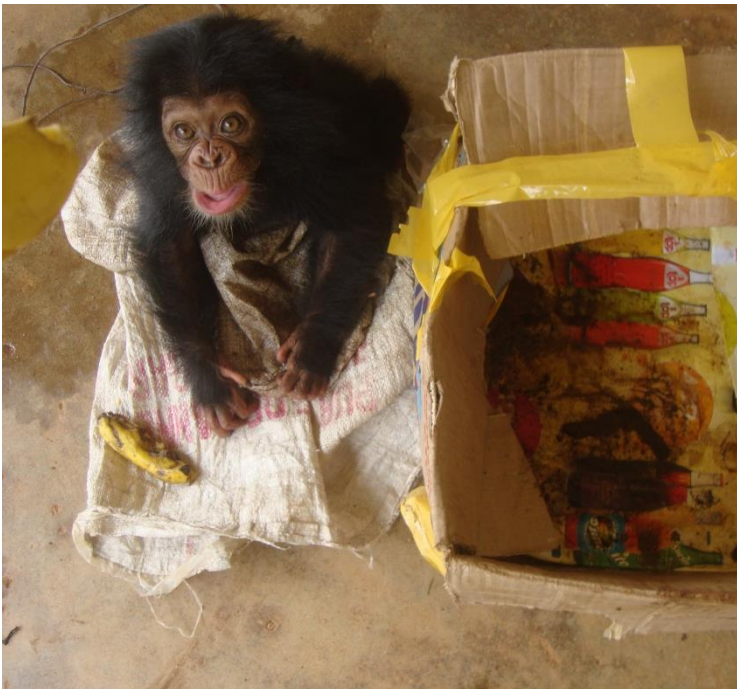
2 international ivory traffickers (left and above) with a base in the Republic of Congo arrested in Yaounde - Center with 4 small elephant tusks following the use of an international investigator. One of them was caught on camera burying ivory in a small hut in his compound in Congo and both have been in the business for more than 20 years.



2 major ivory dealers arrested with 18 elephant tusks and 16 worked ivory pieces in Douala – Littoral (Left). Among the 18 tusks, some had been seized already during past LAGA operations and were stolen from the MINFOF conservatory in Mvog-Betsi in Yaounde – Center (Top Right). Investigations are on-going to track the source of the stolen elephant tusks especially in MINFOF given that they are responsible for the conservatory and seized wildlife products. They are well connected to other major ivory dealers in other parts of Cameroon and were transporting the ivory in a travelling bag after wrapping in a 100 kg bag.



**Military matriculated 4x4 Toyota Hilux pickup used in the transportation of African Grey parrots on several occasions to avoid road control (*left*). The leader of the network of 5 carrying one of the cages containing the African Grey parrots; 72 live parrots were seized. The parrots were being transported from Mbalmayo - Center where they have quarantines and a network of suppliers to Yaounde. They also produced illegal documents that he uses to carry out the trade.**



**Baby chimp rescued in Bafut – North West about to be taken to Nigeria. 2 traffickers were arrested; and they have a network of suppliers in Wum – North West. The chimp was taken to the Limbe wildlife center for proper upkeep**

**Major lion skin dealer arrested with a lion skin in Mbandjock arriving from Nanga Eboko - Center. He initially resisted arrest, fighting and wounding one of the arresting officers and also threatened to kill the arresting team. He claims to have gotten the skin together with a Dutch national; investigations are still on-going to get other members of the network trafficking in lion skins.**





2 international dealers belonging to a trans-border trafficking ring plying the illegal wildlife trade between the Republic of Congo and Cameroon arrested with 2 big fresh leopard skins. One of them, the female dealer attempted to bribe one of the arresting police officers with the sum of 500,000 FCFA (about \$1,000) for her release, an act combated by the LAGA staff present.

#### ANNEX IV – Some Links for the Year 2013

[http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Portals/0/Documents/Activity%20reports%202012/LAGA\\_Annual\\_Report%202012.pdf](http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Portals/0/Documents/Activity%20reports%202012/LAGA_Annual_Report%202012.pdf)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RAIXy6LKrc>

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_fp8\\_D5LHkk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_fp8_D5LHkk)

[http://www.youtube.com/edit?video\\_id=IXu-Y0-pPIY](http://www.youtube.com/edit?video_id=IXu-Y0-pPIY)

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Resources/Activityreports/LAGANewsletter/tabid/220/Default.aspx>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5RN25uS890>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7t8YGsj6kE>

[https://www.youtube.com/edit?video\\_id=ircDZ2Vstvs](https://www.youtube.com/edit?video_id=ircDZ2Vstvs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yy5kLiPidQ>

[https://www.youtube.com/edit?video\\_id=hi4wnH-n20Q&video\\_referrer=watch](https://www.youtube.com/edit?video_id=hi4wnH-n20Q&video_referrer=watch)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPTnsd4ftL0>