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Application Cover Page

Program: Great Apes Conservation Fund

Project Title: LAGA-MINFOF collaboration project on Wildlife Law-Enforcement.

Amount Requested from USFWS:	\$95,084.00
Applicant's Contribution:	
Other Partner Contributions:	<u>\$97,336.00</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$192,420.00

Applicant Organization: The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA)

DUNS Number: 149186152

Tax ID Number:

Funds should be made payable to: The Last Great Ape Organization Bank account managed by Ofir Drori

Project Manager (provide complete contact information):	Grant Administrator (provide complete contact information):
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Partner organizations contributing cash or in-kind support to this project:

Organization	Contribution Amount (USD)
ProWildlife	\$6,000.00
Arcus Fund	\$50,000.00
Born Free Foundation	\$25,000.00
Parrot Trust	\$5,000.00

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in engaging partners for international wildlife conservation. To achieve this goal we may share your proposal with qualified organizations or individuals that have the potential to enhance the proposed conservation effort. If you prefer that your proposal not be shared, please check this box .



SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE



DATE

NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Ofir Drori
TITLE: Founder & Director of The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA)


USFWS Great Ape Conservation Act - Funding Proposal
LAGA-MINFOF COLLABORATION
WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT
Proposal Submitted 1st November 2012

Project Summary

This project aims to protect the great apes of Cameroon from illegal hunting by increasing the level of wildlife law enforcement nationwide and deterring potential ape hunters and traders from conducting these activities.

Cameroon contains significant numbers of four sub-species of great apes, including several key populations identified by the IUCN and GRASP. The most immediate threat to most ape populations in Cameroon is illegal hunting for meat, body parts and live infant pets. These activities are all illegal, but in the past these laws have not been properly enforced and hence the trade, and the slaughter, has been commonplace. The Last Great Ape Organisation (LAGA) works closely with the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) and other government agencies to bring about the effective enforcement of these laws. This not only curtails the operations of those illegal wildlife exploiters who are prosecuted, but as awareness spreads it will act as a deterrent and reduce the overall level of illegal hunting and trade. LAGA also aims to provide a model for NGO-government collaboration and enforcement of wildlife law throughout Central Africa.

In order to achieve these goals, the objectives of the project are:

- To identify large-scale dealers in great ape meat and live great apes, and other illegal wildlife products, and provide evidence to support action against them.
- To bring about the arrest of large-scale illegal wildlife exploiters.
- To ensure the prosecution of large scale illegal wildlife exploiters, and that sentences are handed down and served.
- To raise public awareness of the increased enforcement of wildlife law and the risks and penalties for wildlife criminals.

To provide a model for action on wildlife law enforcement, NGO-government collaboration, and wildlife crime monitoring that can be replicated throughout the region.

This project will meet these objectives through five broad activities:

INVESTIGATIONS – to identify perpetrators and provide evidence for prosecution.

OPERATIONS – to arrest perpetrators whilst engaged in the criminal act

LEGAL ASSISTANCE – to ensure that convictions are achieved and sentences served

MEDIA PROMOTION – to raise public awareness that wildlife law is actively enforced

REPORTING – to ensure transparency and provide necessary information for replication. The results of these activities will be frequent arrests and prosecutions for wildlife crimes involving great apes and other species, an increased national capacity to enforce wildlife laws, an increased public awareness of improved enforcement, and hence a reduced demand for illegally hunted apes. Outputs will include numerous media articles as well as regular, publicly available reports.

USFWS Great Ape Conservation Act - Funding Proposal
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Project Narrative

1. Statement of Need

Illegal hunting is the most immediate threat to many populations of great apes in Central Africa. Cameroon contains significant populations of both Central Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) and Western Lowland Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) which are at risk from poaching. Although national laws prohibit the killing of these animals, the enforcement of the laws has historically been very weak and provided no deterrent value. Consequently the hunting of apes and the trade in their meat, body parts and live young has been conducted quite freely.

The mission of the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) is to fight commercial poaching and the related trade in endangered species. LAGA was responsible for the first ever convictions brought in Cameroon under wildlife legislation, and working closely with the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) and other government bodies has assisted in the initiation of over 200 subsequent court cases. This not only curtails the activities of those prosecuted but, supported by a pro-active media campaign, also acts as a deterrent to others who may be tempted to engage in such activities. In this way the trade in illegal wildlife products is reduced, and hence the incentive to hunt great apes and other endangered species is minimized.

LAGA works closely with MINFOF and other agencies of the Cameroonian government to develop capacity and procedures and to establish sustainable law enforcement practice. Over time the project will progressively hand over full responsibility for all activities to the relevant government bodies, whilst putting in place financial systems (eg from punitive fines) that will allow the enforcement operations to be self-supporting. In this way, LAGA will facilitate the development of a sustainable national law enforcement programme.

By implementing this project in Cameroon, LAGA will also be establishing a model for similar activities throughout Central Africa, where they are badly needed to halt the decline in wild populations of great apes and other endangered species. This should provide a basis for similar programmes to be conducted in other countries in the region, which LAGA hopes to assist in developing. In particular, LAGA will provide a model for:

- Development of law enforcement activities
- Establishment of NGO-government collaborative activities
- Implementation of independent wildlife monitoring activities

Whilst there are some location-specific projects in the region that address the issue of illegal wildlife trade, LAGA is the only one working at the national level with the national government to improve wildlife law enforcement across an entire country. In this respect it is not duplicating any existing activities, but hopefully paving the way for this important work to be conducted in other important great ape range states.

The importance of Cameroon as a range state for great apes is clear from the “IUCN Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Gorillas in Western Equatorial Africa” and from the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) priority population analysis. The significance of bushmeat hunting as a conservation concern in this region is also clearly stated in the IUCN plan and in many academic articles such as Fa et al (Biological Conservation 129 (2006) – 497-510), reports ranging from “The African Bushmeat Trade – A Recipe For Extinction” (Ape Alliance 1998) to “The Forests of the Congo Basin – a Preliminary Assessment” (CARPE 2005), and government policy documents such as the UK government Postnote on The Bushmeat Trade (February 2005) and the European Parliament Bushmeat Resolution (2004). The need for improved law enforcement is noted in the IUCN regional plan, the European resolution, and the draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Great Apes in Cameroon, and is attested to by the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the government of Cameroon and LAGA concerning this work. The effectiveness of LAGA’s methods can be seen from the integrity of their supporters, which include the World Bank and the British High Commission in Cameroon as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and from the regular reports produced by the project and made available on its website.

This project’s activities are relevant to several of the Great Ape Conservation Act’s priority areas including:

- Compliance with applicable laws that regulate the taking or trade of apes
- Conservation education and community outreach (through national media)
- Strengthening of local capacity
- Wildlife enforcement and law enforcement.

The project also addresses many of the Great Ape Conservation Act’s additional review criteria, including:

- Act as a catalyst for activities in a previously neglected area with potential significant conservation value
- Conduct activities that do not duplicate other ongoing activities
- Conduct activities that will be harmonious with international, national and/or regional conservation priorities
- Include the participation of local people in the project activities
- Promote networking, partnerships and coalitions
- Provide for the development of a demonstration activity that can be replicated
- Implement activities that have the potential to be sustained beyond the life of the grant

The threat to great apes in Cameroon, and Central Africa in general, is immediate and direct. Whilst long-term measures for developing alternative incomes and protein sources are required to establish a sustainable situation for great ape survival, there is a very real risk that by the time such solutions are implemented there will be few or no viable ape populations left to preserve. The proximate cause

of population decline in many cases is illegal hunting for trade in meat, body parts and live infants – all activities prohibited by national law. By the enforcement of national law this immediate threat can be minimized, and the possibilities for the long term survival of viable populations of great apes substantially enhanced. Through its programme of investigation, operation, legislative follow-up and media exposure LAGA presents a practical approach to developing effective law enforcement and combating illegal hunting and trade at the national level.

LAGA has already used a previous US FWS grant to benefit the conservation of great apes. The work of LAGA benefits great apes by assisting the identification, arrest and prosecution of traders in bushmeat and in live great apes, thus curtailing these detrimental activities. In addition the awareness raised by publicizing these cases in the national media is believed to deter further potential ape hunters and traders from engaging in such activities. Some of the specific achievements facilitated by the previous grants include:

- More than 450 major wildlife dealers prosecuted.
- More than 30 apes rescued
- Replication of LAGA's experience in Congo Brazzaville resulting with the first wildlife prosecution and in the Central African Republic, Gabon and Guinea Conakry resulting, as well, with the first wildlife prosecution.

2. Project Goals and Objectives

GOAL

To assist the government of Cameroon to increase wildlife law enforcement capacity, produce effective deterrents to the killing of great apes and other wildlife, and monitor the illegal wildlife trade and other activities detrimental to ape survival, whilst providing a model for similar efforts throughout west / central Africa.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify large-scale dealers in great ape meat and live great apes, and other illegal wildlife products, and provide evidence to support action against them.
2. Bring about the arrest of large-scale illegal wildlife exploiters.
3. Ensure the prosecution of large scale illegal wildlife exploiters, and that sentences are handed down and served.
4. Raise public awareness of the increased enforcement of wildlife law and the risks and penalties for wildlife criminals.
5. Provide a model for action on wildlife law enforcement, NGO-government collaboration, and wildlife crime monitoring that can be replicated throughout the region.

3. Project Activities, Methods and Timetable

LAGA works to improve the level of wildlife law enforcement for great apes and other endangered species (particularly the ivory trade) through a concerted and comprehensive approach involving four main stages.

- **INVESTIGATIONS** – Investigators, undercover agents and informers gather precise information so that dealers in meat and the products of threatened species can be arrested in the act, producing concrete evidence for the courts.
- **OPERATIONS** – LAGA technically assists MINFOF and the forces of law and order to arrest violators and to channel complaint reports to the courts. LAGA closely supervises operations in the field.
- **LEGAL ASSISTANCE** – LAGA has a legal team which assists in the administrative procedures of prosecuting the legal cases arising from these operations. This follows the process from the police report through the entire courts procedure and on to the monitoring of prisoners serving sentences.
- **MEDIA** – LAGA puts reports in national TV news, national radio news and written press concerning the success of the operations and positive court rulings. The Cameroonian media informs the public that the law is actively enforced, thereby achieving education of the public on the change, increased deterrent, and perception of the illegal bushmeat trade as a criminal activity.

ACTIVITIES

1.1 Activating an investigation network to plan operations against major wildlife crimes.

LAGA's intelligence agents will also participate in operations.

- Intelligence operatives will be carefully selected, hired and trained in undercover investigation techniques. Investigation activities will be conducted throughout the country and will focus on particular illegal wildlife exploitation activities and specific perpetrators. The goal of the investigations is to confirm the identity of large scale illegal wildlife exploiters and to provide sufficient evidence for a successful operation.

2.1 Training and equipping the special unit against wildlife crime.

- The National Control Brigade was formed in November 2005, but still lacks capacity. The training process for the brigade will be continual and gradual. It will include specific training modules such as - Law Enforcement, Conduct of Investigations, Anti-Corruption and Fraud, Nature of wildlife crime in Cameroon, Human rights, Interview & Interrogation technique, Wildlife in Cameroon, Judicial procedures, First aid and Self-defense. The Unit will be equipped with basic law enforcement materials such as handcuffs, tear gas and road block kits, satellite phones, and a vehicle.

2.2 Supervising the special unit and assisting it in the conduction of operations, the arrest of wildlife law violators with sufficient evidence and the channeling of complaint reports to the courts.

- The LAGA team is present in the field in all levels of the operation, monitoring activities and paying special attention to identifying obstacles and preventing corruption attempts. It is very important that arrests are planned in the act so that the perpetrators' guilt is not in doubt, and that our agents be protected and their identity concealed so that they can continue to be effective. LAGA is paying field bonuses to officers contributing to a successful operation. The bonuses are registered and accounted for and are not a part of

the salary of the officers which is paid in full by the government. The bonuses system is designed as a disincentive for corruption, and for increasing motivation and encouraging officers to initiate more operations. This system has already proved itself based on the number of bribing attempts tackled and number of operations initiated by officers. The Special Unit is formed of ten carefully selected and trained officers, five from MINFOF and five from the Police Service. These personnel are made available as required by the relevant agencies, as arranged by the Director of LAGA. Dates and locations of operations are selected by the Director based on the most reliable information available from the Investigations Unit, often intercepting deals arranged by undercover investigators. The selected Special Unit officers travel to the area one or two days before the operation and familiarize themselves with the likely sites for the arrest. The operation is coordinated by LAGA that communicates directly with the investigators to set up the location of the arrest. Officers are deployed as necessary to cover all eventualities / alternative arrangements / escape attempts, under the direction of the coordinator. When the target is in sight, the nearest available officers confront them directly and make an arrest with the minimum possible use of force. A complaint report is written and channeled to the courts together with the offender in collaboration with the local Ministry delegation. The Special Unit officers remain in the area for a further day to insure the case is indeed transmitted to court.

3.1 Supervising and assisting the writing of complaint reports against subjects arrested.

- LAGA legal advisers will assist MINFOF agents with writing the complaint report to avoid errors, deal with expected weaknesses of the case, and strengthen the legal arguments. The two legal advisors start their work on a case before the operation by preparing the legal system for receiving the case and evaluating threats of corruption and governance problems. At this stage they are also insuring the arresting force is acting legally in obtaining arrest or search warrants needed. Next is guiding the arresting officer for specific legal elements needed in the interrogation and the complaint report. The legal advisors are frequently in the field in the time of operation and are often accompanying the arrest and interrogation. They are supervising the transmission of the case to court and communicate with the legal unit of the ministry and the administrative side of the court to insure understanding and identify possible problems

3.2 Sensitizing the administrative side of the legal system through meetings and distribution of materials, and soliciting high level of supervision to ensure good governance in court procedures.

- This is a long-term process which aims at creating a network of active collaborators at a high level within the court. Nurturing these relationships requires many personal meetings and establishment of regular communication with courts nationwide. Regular distribution of technical information materials already developed by LAGA – including booklets detailing and explaining Cameroonian wildlife law, CDs containing the full text of Cameroonian wildlife laws, copies of the recently launched Wildlife Justice Magazine, and legal articles from other sources – are used to keep this communication active.

3.3 Assisting the legal representation of the cases through legal analysis and advice and support of lawyers' fees.

- LAGA's legal unit produces a legal analysis of each case with legal argumentation and aggravating circumstances, a situation-response analysis of how to respond to possible arguments from the accused, and a recommended demand of damages. These files are distributed to all collaborators involved in the legal procedures. LAGA is involved in appointing a lawyer on the case and provides 25% of his fees. LAGA instructs the lawyer on prosecution strategy and is present in all hearings where debates are held in order to modify the strategy according to developments in the case. The Government of Cameroon does not have public prosecutors and in the past has relied on a representative to appear in court to prosecute wildlife crime cases. The representative is not a lawyer and the lack of professionalism results in many strong cases being lost in court. LAGA has therefore convinced the Government to invest in hiring a private lawyer for all cases. LAGA has pledged to give 25% of the fees for this independent professional, in order to support the government and help demonstrate the effectiveness of the system. These payments will only be necessary in the short term, as the program is designed to reach sustainability in a few years providing the government with a proven cycle that covers all legal costs with damages awarded.

3.4 Following up all cases on a daily basis by two legal advisers to ensure good governance in court procedure.

- Two legal advisers will be employed full time by the project to ensure that expertise is permanently available to follow through all prosecutions. The advisers will communicate directly with the courts and prosecution service, providing advice on all relevant legal matters as well as scrutiny to ensure that no corruption attempts are made by the defendant.
- A third adviser, which is a qualified magistrate, is used on a part time basis for consultation on matters of court procedure, sensitization of the legal system and legal strategy. The position of the magistrate is purely administrative and he is avoided from undertaking any other assignment involving judging of offences or any appearance in court. LAGA is therefore benefiting from his academic qualification as a magistrate in consultation that is totally separated from his function as a magistrate.

3.5 Ensuring all imprisonment sentences are served through weekly jail visits.

- As part of LAGA's comprehensive legal follow-up activities, offenders who are convicted and sentenced to a jail term are visited regularly to ensure that custodial sentences are served in full and to monitor human rights issues whilst they are in custody. Since it is impossible for LAGA's two legal advisers to hold numerous visits each week all over the country, LAGA uses a network of collaborators who are paid to hold the jail visits. The performance of the collaborators is regularly cross checked, with information that arrives from the MINFOF delegations, courts, lawyers and surprise check ups of our team to insure reliability of the system.

3.6 Ensuring damages awarded are paid through work with court bailiffs.

- The awarding of damages procedure is complex and long, and involves small fees to be paid for its execution. LAGA's two legal advisers are working on a daily basis with court administrative officials and bailiffs in pushing the cases through this process. Attempts are being made to reach a settlement with the convicted to pay the damages directly to MINFOF. Receiving revenue from wildlife court cases is crucial for securing sustainability of employment of lawyers.

4.1 Producing articles, audio and video pieces on current successful law enforcement activities.

- LAGA's media officer, having served 11 years as the Minister's journalist and one of the first to produce environmental journalism in Cameroon, is given the technical capacity to produce articles with stills photos from operations, edit radio programs with interviews, and edit video footage of operations into newsflashes. Since Cameroon is a bi-lingual country media pieces are translated to both English and French.

4.2 Putting successful law enforcement activities in the Cameroon media (written press, radio and TV).

- The media officer is using his well-established contacts with the media to schedule media pieces in all mediums. His modest salary is supplemented by a scale of bonuses for results, insuring he has the interest of pushing as many media pieces as he possibly can every month.

5.1 Developing, testing and refining a model concept for Government-NGO collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime nationwide.

- LAGA is based in a sub-region that has been identified as one of the most harmed by the international illegal wildlife trade. LAGA is a unique experience whose value lies in its potential for duplication and a larger impact beyond Cameroon. This is in line with LAGA's objective to serve as a model in the search for a paradigm shift in wildlife law enforcement.

5.2 Independently monitoring all stages in the enforcement and application of wildlife law from field operations to channeling complaints to the administrative side of the legal system, to court trials, and finally to the court verdict and its execution.

- LAGA is updating regularly its Case Tracking System, giving an overview on wildlife law enforcement performance as well as an insight on constraints in specific cases. It is different from other databases as it is product oriented. The one measurable standard chosen is prosecutions - their number and their profile. To do that LAGA needed to quantify the law enforcement process so that we will have a measurable scale translating how close you are to your product in terms of numbers. An agency that works with this system will automatically be oriented towards delivering the product and will spend much more of its working time on following up cases in court, or on other crucial activities not previously identified. The integrated nature of the database – including links from the overview to individual case details – helps to increase the transparency of the process and is also very practical, since a lawyer that is working on this case can click on the complaint report and work on it directly, or get photos of the investigation evidence from the system.

5.3 Publishing monitoring reports on LAGA's website.

- All cases will be tracked against the various stages of prosecution and sentence serving, so that their progress can be assessed and analysed. LAGA will produce monthly reports detailing the investigations and operations conducted during the month, together with the progress of ongoing cases, pieces appearing in national media, and a financial summary. These will be available by email and by download from the LAGA website.

5.4 Developing, testing and refining a concept for an independent monitor for wildlife.

- LAGA is presenting its model in international circles to be discussed as an experiment and a model to be duplicated. Feedback arrives from the various actors including the World Bank that first appointed LAGA as an independent Monitor, and the Cameroonian Government, allowing this mandate.

5.5 Producing a complete annual analysis report to map potential and lack of existing potential in developing wildlife law enforcement in the sub-region.

- LAGA produces an assessment on existing law enforcement efforts and their effectiveness or lack of effectiveness. The reports are discussed with the Government of Cameroon as well as donors.

This is an ongoing programme of activities, with investigations, operations, prosecutions and media coverage all taking place throughout the funding period. The monitoring and reporting are also ongoing activities which are already underway and will continue through this period.

LAGA Director is coordinating the four major efforts of the project – Investigations, Operations, Legal effort, and Media. This is done through regular strategy meetings and spending time in the field, in the court, and in media stations. The use of mobile phone is extensive as it is the only means of coordination LAGA staff in missions all over Cameroon.

LAGA Director is also leading the political effort communicating with the Government of Cameroon, the international community and other stakeholders to develop policy and give sustainability to LAGA's achievements

4. Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement

LAGA is a very collaborative institution working closely with national and international stakeholders on a range of issues relating to the illegal wildlife exploitation.

The most important partner in the project is the government of Cameroon, with which LAGA signed an MoU in early 2006 certifying the collaboration on these activities. The MoU has been improved in 2008 to increase LAGA's mandat in the fight against corruption and higher levels of wildlife crime and renewed in 2012. The main government agency involved is the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF), although other government agencies such as the Ministry of Justice are also consulted on various issues and activities. Collaboration with MINFOF is on a weekly and sometimes daily basis, with MINFOF officers as well as police officers represented on the special enforcement unit. It is envisaged that over time MINFOF will take more and more direct control of the activities being developed in this project, until LAGA is able to withdraw from the project entirely with the activities being maintained solely by the government of Cameroon. The relationship with the government is so close that LAGA representatives are often placed on delegations (for instance on missions to South Africa or to the CITES CoP) as government representatives rather than NGO observers. Working closely at the Ministerial level also allows LAGA to help formulate policy and plan future activities

Since its inception, LAGA has relied on building cooperative relationships with its partner/collaborator organizations and entities. For example, as a member of governmental delegations to meetings of CITES, GRASP, and AFLEG (African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance), LAGA is kept aware of the broader problems in bushmeat trade and wildlife law enforcement that impact all of forest Africa. Specific organizations with which LAGA maintains regular communication include:

- **Sanctuaries** – LAGA has been collaborating with agencies in Cameroon that provide care for animals that have been confiscated in LAGA’s operations. The three shelters are: Mefou National Park (run by the Cameroon Wildlife Aid Fund), Limbe Wildlife Centre (run by Pandrillus), and the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center (run by In Defense of Animals).
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** – LAGA has represented Cameroon as an official member of the governmental delegation in all meetings regarding this vital international treaty for the past seven years.
- **Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)** – LAGA is an active partner in GRASP, which is a project of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aimed at preventing the extinction of the world’s great apes. Cameroon has been elected to chair the GRASP council.
- **Donors** – LAGA has received financial support from: IPPL, the Born Free Foundation, , the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the World Bank, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Animal Welfare Institute, ProWildlife, The Arcus Foundation, The Neu Corporation UNEP-GRASP and the British High Commission in Cameroon.

5. Anticipated Benefits and Outputs:

1. Development of a trained and equipped special unit for enforcement of wildlife laws.
 - Increased national capacity to prevent trade in great apes and other wildlife products.
2. Legal prosecution of wildlife crimes nationwide at the rate of once a week, and cracking down of wildlife crime cartels.
 - Direct reduction in trade in great ape products and live infants through incarceration of major perpetrators.
3. Numerous media pieces to raise public aware of the change in the Government of Cameroon’s dealings with perpetrators of the wildlife protection laws.
 - Increased deterrent effect on persons involved in the illegal trade in great apes and other wildlife, leading to reduced level of trade in illegal wildlife products and decrease in hunting to supply trade.
 - Increased public understanding of concept of wildlife crime and importance of obeying wildlife laws.
4. Active and efficient collaboration between a government and an NGO fighting wildlife crime nationwide.
 - Regional model for development of effective national wildlife law enforcement is demonstrated and implemented.

6. Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

- The lack of measurable standards is one of the main obstacles for the development of wildlife law enforcement.
- The collaborative program has built-in procedures for determining the success or failure of the model. Our case follow-up reports allow direct auditing. And our product has one primary measurable standard, an objectively verifiable indicator of achievement: the number of wildlife law violators receiving and serving a deterring punishment.
- The results of the project are published on our website on a monthly basis and are opened for public evaluation and monitoring.
- We encourage independent monitors to verify our reports in the field, and do so without prior notification.
- All expenses above \$1 are being documented in the financial report.
- Operations are documented in video. All media coverage is recorded and filed.

7. Sustainability:

The project relies on several major donors. The grant applied for from US FWS is matched by at least \$97,336 from other donors, many of which may be able to provide longer term funding. However, the project is not expected to continue indefinitely, and the goal is to create an enabling situation in which the government of Cameroon can continue the majority of enforcement activities initiated under this project indefinitely without support from LAGA. Increasing awarded damages for MINFOF from wildlife cases opens the way for a self-sustained structure in which Ministry's revenue can be invested in the extended structure rather than depending on external funding.

LAGA will hope to continue its work in the region by operating similar projects in other Central African countries. More widely it aspires to work on the global development and monitoring of wildlife law enforcement activities.

8. Description of Organization(s) Undertaking the Project:

The Last Great Ape organization (LAGA) is a non-governmental organization registered in Israel in 2002. Its goal is to fight the commercial poaching with its related trade of protected species. It is a field-based organization designed to establish the effective enforcement of local wildlife law that is critical to the survival of the threatened animals. The Director, Ofir Drori, is an Israeli national, whilst all the other staff are Cameroonian. LAGA operates out of an office in Yaounde and employs around ten people on permanent basis (not including the special enforcement unit) to undertake activities from investigation to publicity to legal advocacy. It is funded by a range of international donors including US Fish and Wildlife Service, the World Bank, the British High Commission in Cameroon, the Arcus Foundation, the Born Free Foundation, World Society for the Protection of Animals, UNEP and others. LAGA is the first specialized Law Enforcement NGO in the sub-region. It focuses on threatened species, and mainly on the dealers, the primary generators of the illegal bushmeat business, the ivory trade and the pet trade.

The Cameroonian Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) is the government agency responsible for wildlife law enforcement across the country. MINFOF (Formally known as MINEF) headquarters are based in Yaounde. Like other Cameroonian Ministries its headquarter is controlling provincial services, called Delegations, across the country. Main central services are including the Department of Wildlife, The legal department, the media department and the National Brigade.

9. Project Budget Table:

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

Budget Item	FWS Attributed	Other Donors	Total
Special Unit			
<i>Personnel</i>			
MINFOF Officers	0	10,909	10,909
Police Officers	0	10,909	10,909
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Transport	10,909		10,909
Travel Subsistence	5,455		5,455
Communications	5,455		5,455
Investigations			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Investigators	0	13,091	13,091
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Travel Subsistence	0	13,091	13,091
Communications	0	10,909	10,909
Information acquisition	0	2,836	2,836
Disposables	0	1,200	1,200
Legal			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Magistrate	0	2,182	2,182
Legal Advisors	8,727	8,727	8,727
Lawyer (consultant)	0	10,909	10,909
Jail visits	2,182		2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Communication (Advisors)	8,727		8,727
Subsistence (Advisors)	3,927		3,927
Jail visits	2,182		2,182
Legal admin	1,309		1,309
Media			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Media Officer		3,927	3,927
Media Assistant		2,182	2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Media Production & Editing	4,364		4,364
Performance Related Bonus		6,545	6,545
Telephone	3,491		3,491
Local Transport		1,745	1,745
Independent Monitoring			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Secretary (translations etc)	3,273		3,273
<i>Running Costs</i>			

Website Management		900	900
Programme Administration			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Director (expatriate)	18,000		18,000
Assistant Manager (local)	6,545		6,545
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Office Rent		2,727	2,727
Services	1,091		1,091
Consumables		1,091	1,091
Telephone	6,545		6,545
Internet	1,811		1,811
Postage / Couriers		545	545
Accommodation		1,636	1,636
Local Travel Subsistence	1,091		1,091
TOTAL	95,084	97,336	192,420

10. Budget Justifications:

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

Budget Item	Unit	Unit Cost	Months	People	Total
Special Unit					
<i>Personnel</i>					
MINFOF Officers	Person / Month	182	12 months	5 Officers	10,909
Police Officers	Person / Month	182	12 months	5 Officers	10,909
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Transport	Person / Month	182 (\$227 per mission)	12 months	5 Officers	10,909 (10,868 litters of gas)
Travel Subsistence	Person / Month	41	12 months	11 People	5,455
Communications	Month	455 (955 min.)	12 months	-	5,455
Investigations					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Investigators	Person / Month	218	12 months	5 People	13,091
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Travel Subsistence	Person / Month	218	12 months	5 People	13,091
Communications	Person /Month	182 (382 min.)	12 months	5 People	10,909
Information acquisition	Month	236	12 months	-	2,836
Disposables	Month	100	12 months	-	1,200
Legal					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Magistrate	Person /Month	182	12 months	1 Person	2,182
Legal Advisors	Person /Month	364	12 months	2 People	8,727
Lawyers (contribution to fees)	Person /Month	227	12 months	4 People	10,909
Jail visits	Month	182	12 months	-	2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Communication (Advisors)	Person /Month	364 (764 min.)	12 months	2 People	8,727
Subsistence (Advisors)	Person /Month	164	12 months	2 People	3,927
Jail visits	Month	182	12 months	-	2,182
Legal admin	Month	109	12 months	-	1,309
Media					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Media Officer	Person /Month	327	12 months	1 Person	3,927
Media Assistant	Person /Month	182	12 months	1 Person	2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Media Production& Editing	Month	364	12 months	-	4,364
Performance Related Bonus	Month	545	12 months	-	6,545

Telephone	Month	291 (611 min.)	12 months	-	3,491
Local Transport	Month	145	12 months	-	1,745
Independent Monitoring					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Secretary (translations etc)	Person /Month	273	12 months	1 Person	3,273
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Website Management	Month	75	12 months	-	900
Programme Administration					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Director (expatriate)	Person /Month	1,500	12 months	1 Person	18,000
Assistant Manager (local)	Person /Month	545	12 months	1 Person	6,545
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Office Rent	Month	227	12 months	-	2,727
Services	Month	91	12 months	-	1,091
Consumables	Month	91	12 months	-	1,091
Telephone	Month	545 (1144min)	12 months	-	6,545
Internet	Month	151	12 months	-	1,811
Postage / Couriers	Month	45	12 months	-	545
Accommodation	Month	136	12 months	-	1,636
Local Travel Subsistence	Month	91	12 months	-	1,091
TOTAL					192,420

11. Governmental Endorsement:

- A letter of endorsement is attached
- In April 2006 an MoU was signed between LAGA and MINFOF concerning this project, In October 2008 the MoU was improved to give LAGA a stronger mandate to fight corruption and target the highest levels of wildlife crime. It was renewed in 2012.

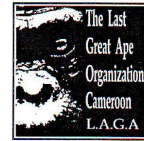
12. Map:

Project site is the entire national territory of Cameroon.



**Wildlife
Law
Enforcement**

**The Last Great Ape
Organization
Cameroon**



From: The Director **1.11.2012**
LAGA – Cameroon
Yaounde.

To: The Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington DC. USA

Subject- Agreed guidelines for FWS grant

Dear Sir,

As a framework for the project LAGA-MINFOF collaboration on Wildlife Law Enforcement,

I hereby pledge that no funds arriving from the US Fish and Wildlife Services be used for covert operations.

Sincerely yours,

**OFIR DRORI
DIRECTOR**



Cameroon-
Tel -00-237-9651803
Vallee Nlongkak,
Yaounde

Israel-
6 Kehilat Pozna St.
Tel-Aviv, 69989
Tel-00-972-3-6476623

E-mail: Ofir@LAGA-enforcement.org

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
 Paix - Travail - Patrie
 MINISTERE DES FORETS ET DE LA FAUNE
 SECRETARIAT GENERAL
 DIRECTION DE LA FAUNE
 ET DES AIRES PROTEGEES

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
 Peace - Work - Fatherland
 MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
 SECRETARIAT GENERAL
 DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
 AND PROTECTED AREAS

Yaounde, the 13 AVR 2005

No. 320 /L/MINFOF/SG/DFAP

The Minister
 To
 The Director,
 US Fish and Wildlife Services
 Washington DC -
 c/o LAGA, Tel. : 965 18 03

Subject : Endorsement letter for an application for funding.

Dear Sir,

The last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) applied for financial assistance from your administration to enable it to continue with the implementation of the joint anti-poaching control project initiated by this NGO and my ministry.

It should be recalled that the fight against poaching is one of the major priorities of Cameroon's policy for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resources. In fact, since 1999, Cameroon has been working with a national anti-poaching strategy that is updated quite regularly. Due to its complexity, the implementation of this strategy requires many stakeholders be they from the administration, non-governmental organizations or the civil society.

LAGA is one of the organizations which have contributed enormously to the progress that has been recorded in recent years as far as the prosecution of wildlife offences is concerned.

Considering the vital role this organization has to play in the implementation of the above-mentioned strategy, I have the honour to request that you pay particular attention to the application for funding submitted by LAGA.

Accept, sir, my kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,



EGBE AGHUE Hilfment