

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

January 2012 Report



Highlights

- **3 operations** carried out arresting **3 wildlife** dealers in Cameroon.
- **A dealer in primate parts arrested** in Tinto with **chimp and mandrill skulls**.
- **7 dealers sentenced** in Abong-Mbang and Yokadouma.
- **The 2011 Annual Report on activities and finance completed and posted online.**

General

This month was marked by very good operations in Cameroon with the arrest of 3 dealers.

2 arrest operations carried out this month were as a result of good **and reliable information from recently recruited informants**, the arrest of a female dealer in Lomie - East with a giant pangolin; and the arrest of a dealer in primate skulls in Tinto – South West with chimp and mandrill skulls. In another operation, a regular dealer was arrested in Douala with live and meat of protected wildlife species including 2 live crocodiles and a dead agile mangabey.

7 dealers sentenced in Abong-Mbang and Yokadouma in the East Region. The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang sentenced a dealer in meat of protected wildlife arrested in Lomie – East to 1 year of prison term and \$10.000 as fine suspended sentence for 3 years. The same court sentenced 2 dealers (a man and his wife) to 2 years of prison and to pay \$6.000 as fine suspended for 3 years. They were also arrested in Lomie for dealing in the meat of protected wildlife species. The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma sentenced 4 ivory traffickers to 1 month of prison each and to pay \$10.000 as damages and fine. They were arrested in Yokadouma for illegally keeping and trafficking of 44 elephant tusks. Appeals have been lodged against all these prosecutions and there is strong suspicion of bribery and corruption for which an investigation has been opened.

The 2011 LAGA Annual Activity and Financial Reports were promptly completed, sent to the various donors and posted on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org.

Investigations

- **25 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon- West, South West, South, East, Littoral and Center.
- The network of informants put in place is becoming effective, **2 arrest operations** is the result. An informant recruited in 2011 gave very good information that resulted into an operation in Lomie – East Region. Another informant in the South West Region gave information that led to the arrest of a dealer in primate skulls.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo Investigations Department on Investigations and Operation Procedures.

Operations

3 operations were carried out this month against **3 subjects** in Cameroon.

- **11/01/12** – a well known dealer arrested in Douala – Littoral with some live and killed protected animals including crocodiles, agile mangabey amongst other species. He was also transporting the meat of protected wildlife species in his car with which he was arrested. He also had some ammunition on him that he gives to poachers to hunt animals for him.
- **16/01/12** – a regular female dealer arrested in Lomie – East while trying to trade in a giant pangolin. This information was furnished by a newly recruited informant in that part of Cameroon and the LAGA operations team coordinated the operation. It is suspected that she

corrupted some Gendarme officers because she was allowed to escape after passing some time in their custody.

- **24/01/12** – following more information from another informant, a dealer in primate parts was arrested in Tinto – South West Region with chimp and mandrill skulls. He has been in this trade for long and investigations are still ongoing to get more skulls that he is alleged to have hidden.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **19 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 4 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bamenda (North West), 1 in Lomie (East), 5 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Yokadouma (East), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Bafoussam (West), 1 in Dschang (West), 1 in Limbe (South West), 1 in Muyuka (South West), 1 In Tinto (South West) and 1 in Mamfe (South West).
- There are **22 dealers behind bars during this month**: 9 in the East Region, 4 in the South West Region, 1 in Littoral Region, 1 in North West Region, 5 in South Region and 2 in West Region.
- **30 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **26 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: 7 dealers were sentenced this month.
 - **03/01/2012**: The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang sentenced MOHAMADOU Belo 1 year of prison term and \$10.000 as fine suspended sentence for 3 years and to pay \$3.000 as damages. He was arrested in Lomie-East for illegal dealing in the meat of protected wildlife species.
 - **03/01/2012**: The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang sentenced NGUILIWOU Madeleine and ATEBA Jean Pierre to 2 years of prison and to pay \$6.000 as fine suspended for 3 years, and to pay \$3.000 as damages. They were arrested in Lomie-East for dealing in the meat of protected wildlife species.
 - **20/01/2012**: The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma sentenced MUHAMADU Sani Bello, SULE Njeba, CHIN Basile Lemgha and PIUS Yondo 1 month of prison each and to pay **\$10.000 as damages and fine**. They were arrested in Yokadouma for illegally keeping and trafficking of 44 elephant tusks.
- **3 appeals** were registered concerning all the cases that were prosecuted this month.

Media front

- **17 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, and written press including: 5 written press materials (4 in English and 1 in French), 2 talk shows in English and 10 news flashes (5 in English and 5 in French).
- Guests include: The Traditional Ruler of Bafut and craftsmen.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Tinto ape skulls dealer arrest and arrest of crocodile and pangolin dealer in Douala.
- 11 media pieces in English, 6 in French making a percentage of 64.7% in English and 35.3% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA Director participated in a meeting initiated by Citizen Governance Initiative to form an NGO caucus for the Access to Information in Cameroon.
- LAGA Director met with the British High Commission on wildlife law enforcement challenges, corruption, transparency and access to information.

- LAGA Director met with two evaluation teams – one of the World Bank and one by Global Witness – on rethinking the approach to forest governance in Cameroon, the fight against corruption and access to information.
- LAGA Director participated in a WWF international move to focus on wildlife law enforcement against the ivory trade in a meeting with WWF CARPO and gave a presentation on tackling ivory syndicates.
- LAGA Director participated in a meeting concerning the study on African Grey Parrots and the issue of reopening the trade in that species.

Management

- LAGA family resumed work after a 3 weeks Christmas holiday that started on the 16th of December 2011. During the holidays, they met in the home of one LAGA family member to commune together.
- The 2011 LAGA Annual and Financial Reports were completed, sent to the various donors and posted on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org.

Activism Front

All the education activities carried out by the LAGA family are online; this could be gotten at the LAGA website – <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

Replication

During this month, LAGA helped other replication projects in completing their 2011 Annual Reports; planning and coordinating missions with the PALF Investigations Department.

In the Replication of LAGA activities and Regional Law Enforcement, January month has been a good month for prosecution but limited in good operations. Operations were carried out solely in Cameroon with 3 dealers arrested in 3 different operations. 7 dealers were sentenced in Cameroon in 3 different prosecutions. Good prosecutions were obtained by PALF with a 3 year prison sentence for a major ivory poacher, a case in which 4 policemen have been implicated. In another case, a 1 year prison sentence was obtained against an arms supplier.

AALF antenna opened in Makokou, to work with “Brigade Faune “Minkebe Est”, ANPN and WWF. AALF-Makokou supported ANPN for a judicial case in Makokou, concerning elephant poachers and their buyer, who lives in Libreville. RALF started groundwork with a series of meetings with the Ministry in charge of Wildlife to revamp and give a new impetus to wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption in the Central African Republic. LAGA Annual Report including activities of all the projects (LAGA, PALF, AALF and RALF) was completed, sent to the various donors and posted on the LAGA website. The Annual Financial Reports were also completed, sent to the various donors and also posted on the LAGA website.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by budget line for January 2012

Amount CFA	Budget Line		Amount USD
1,844,520	Investigations	26 inv, 7 Regions	\$3,689
871,900	Operations	2 Operation against 3 subjects	\$1,744
2,177,025	Legal	follow up 34 cases 14 locked subjects	\$4,354
1,116,155	Media	20 Media pieces	\$2,232
932,937	Policy & External Relations	Congo/Gabon/CAR/Australia/USA	\$1,866
980,300	Management	Coordination	\$1,961
1,749,061	Office		\$3,498
9,671,898	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JANUARY		\$19,344

LAGA Expenditure by Donor for January 2012

Amount CFA	Donor	Amount USD
2,284,420	FWS	\$4,568.8
375,535	FWS-Replication	\$751.1
1,216,786	BornFree UK	\$2,433.6
250,000	IPPL	\$500.0
1,065,155	BornFree USA	\$2,130.3
1,718,055	Future for Nature	\$3,436.1
2,761,947	ARCUS Foundation	\$5,523.9
9,671,898	TOTAL	\$19,343.8

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



Live dwarf crocodile, monitor lizards, dead agile mangabey etc; as well as ammunition seized during the arrest of a well known dealer in protected wildlife and their meat in Douala – Littoral Region.



Dealer in primate parts arrested in Tinto – South West Region with chimp and mandrill skulls. He has been in this trade for long and investigations are still ongoing to get more skulls that he is alleged to have hidden.

Links of this month

- The 2011 Annual Report was promptly completed and posted on line. The reports centers on all aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, tangible achievements in the fields of investigation, arrest and prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities. It also focuses on the fight against corruption, replication and activism amongst others.

http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Portals/0/Activity%20reports%202011/LAGA_Annual_Report%202011.pdf

- Footage of a dealer in ape skulls arrested in Tinto. Tinto is a locality near Mamfe in the South West region of Cameroon. The suspect was recorded and apprehended while trying to illegally trade in chimp and mandrill skulls.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VgWp-kpz4Y&feature=channel>