

November 2006 Report

Highlights -

- **Reconstruction of LAGA**
- **2 lion's skins operations in the Far North, 4 dealers arrested. Cross border trafficking involving Nigeria and Chad.**
- **First LAGA operation in the far North Province**
- **Training Senior officers in National Gendarmerie School**

General

November month has been mainly a month of reconstruction of LAGA. This work was carried by the LAGA family, in a process of self-evaluation, analysis and evolution defining the challenges of next year and the adjustments needed to meet with them. The drafting of changes in procedures and organigram were immediately applied and recruitment started in two of LAGA's departments.

This month has also registered success in operations with 2 lion's skins operations in the Far North, 4 dealers arrested. Cross border trafficking involving Nigeria and Chad. This is the first time LAGA extends its operations to the far North – an important trafficking junction to Nigeria, as it is a remote and isolated province. The illegal trade in Lion products has been a point of focus to LAGA since the start of a political process initiated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as a response to the shocking revelation that estimate of lion's population has dropped to half in the last decade. This drastic decline has brought together delegates from the two sub regions for a meeting in Cameroon where LAGA has pointed international illegal trade as one of the causes for this decline. LAGA's work on illegal trade in Lions is sponsored by the Born Free Foundation.

One of the important challenges of LAGA is to carry its lessons to a wide range of professional circles. Much work that has been done on this aspect last month continues in an invitation from the National Gendarmerie school officials to prepare for training workshop on wildlife law enforcement for Senior Gendarme Officers at the Command Training school in Yaoundé. LAGA gave an exposé on illegal wildlife trade and trade routes, with Cameroon being the main outlet. The event was successful and will become a routine.

LAGA's Head of Legal Unit – Marius Talla – moved to France to follow a Phd Program. He is still assisting LAGA from outside of Cameroon. Before moving on, Marius trained a candidate for the Legal Unit. Marius's contribution to shaping LAGA has been tremendous. The LAGA family wishes him the best as he continues in his professional path.

Investigations

- **20 investigations** were carried out in **9 provinces** including-North West, Littoral, South West, Centre, South, Adamawa, West, North and Far North
- One investigator was suspended as a result of disrespect to instructions.

- A new **Organigram**, field report form, diagram of procedures, new procedures inside the investigation unit are put in place. A new database was developed for evaluation of field missions. A new post was created for a chief investigator focusing on international investigation and internet trade.
- A job offer advert for the **recruitment** of field investigators was published in Cameroon Tribune on the 22.11.06.
- A **sophisticated hidden video Camera** was donated to the Investigation unit by CICADA Production.

Operations

3 Operations and 1 failed operation were held.

- 14/11- A failed ivory operation in West Province, involving 3 dealers with 4 ½ **raw tusks** as a result of inefficiency of undercover failing to notify operation unit in time when investigator signaled him to move for an arrest. Procedures of working with external undercover have been revised.
- 08/11- **High personality of Mbalmayo detaining a chimp for 25 years and admitting to kill a gorilla.** The offender is a very wealthy and well connected individual and presents a challenge to the fight against corruption. The National brigade of control and LAGA went for the operation. A complaint report is drafted, signed and sent to the minister.
- 4/12-(extended mission from November) **2 lion's skins operations in the Far North, 4 dealers arrested. Cross border trafficking involving Nigeria and Chad.** This is the first time LAGA extends its operations to the far North – an important trafficking junction to Nigeria, as it is a remote and isolated province. The illegal trade in Lion products has been a point of focus to LAGA since the start of a political process initiated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as a response to the shocking revelation that estimate of lion's population has dropped to half in the last decade. This drastic decline has brought together delegates from the two sub regions for a meeting in Cameroon where LAGA has pointed international illegal trade as one of the causes for this decline.

Legal

- There are **17 dealers behind bars**: 6 in the South, 8 in Littoral, 1 in the North and 2 in the Northwest Province.
- 9 cases are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- 9 cases waiting for the process to reach the court of appeal. The court is delaying to end the process the file and to forward to them to the general attorney
- 4 cases not yet sent to court delay at the level of the MINFOF Minister. This will be addressed next month in a meeting with the Minister.
- 11 cases on execution process.
- **3 prosecutions** were coming up this month:
- 27/11-In Yaounde court of appeal: the court confirms the decision of the first judge for the case of Etere and Obele.

- 06/11-In the court of first instance in Fouban, in the case of Folem Oumarou and -Nsangou Bonny, a civil award of 900.000 FRS CFA and a fine of 300.000 were given.
- 22/11-In the court of Douala Bonandjo, in the case of Kabongo Tshishungu a Congolese arrested on leopard skin: 6 months imprisonment with probation of 3 years, 200.000 fine and 1.630.000 for damages.
- Undertaking of Internal work in re-construction of the legal unit of LAGA -a new organigram , a new case procedure, new procedures inside the legal unit, improving database system are all put in place.
- Recruitment for the new structure of the legal department started with two candidates volunteering this month.
- LAGA's Head of Legal Unit – Marius Talla – moved to France to follow a Phd Program. He is still assisting LAGA from outside of Cameroon. Before moving on, Marius trained a candidate for the Legal Unit. Marius's contribution to shaping LAGA has been tremendous. The LAGA family wishes him the best as he continues in his professional path.

Media front

- **32 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press: 3 written press materials (all in English), 1 radio talk show in English, 3 radio news features (1 English, 2 French), 21 radio news flashes (13, English, 8 French), 4 TV news features (2 English, 2 French).
- Guests include: Members of parliament, Gendarmerie School Director, Lieutenant Gendarmerie School, South West MINFOF official, British High Commissioner, BBC director/producer.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Gendarmerie Training workshop, Role of Members of Parliament in environment, Ivory dealer Douala, Taiping 4, Bafia drug and ape dealer, Two chimp dealers arrested
- Media department has been reorganized into procedures and systems which include: media system, picture system, archive system and media general rules and regulations.
- 20 media pieces were produced in English and 12 in French. The department is working towards attaining a balance in the production of programmes in both languages.
- Media pieces are recorded and compiled into LAGA's computerized media archive and picture archive.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA has been invited by the **National Gendarmerie school officials** to prepare for training workshop on wildlife law enforcement for Senior Gendarme Officers at the Command Training school in Yaoundé. LAGA gave an exposé on illegal wildlife trade and trade routes, with Cameroon being the main outlet. The event was successful and will become a routine.
- Meeting with **Shelters** in connection with the Cameroon Wildlife Aid Fund and Limbe Wildlife Centre. The two main issues discussed focused on

strengthening relationship with Shelter on wildlife law enforcement based on LAGA's partnership with MINFOF centring on saturation of the Shelters and the positive role played by LAGA in solving the problem linked to the association of Papaya France and in creating the Pongo Songo shelter. This issue has been followed by LAGA for the past two years and this meeting was to help reach a solution.

- Meeting with MINFOF Cabinet, National Control Brigade and Department of wildlife to discuss prospects of further training of Gendarmerie officers.
- Meeting on with Minister Delegate of Ministry of Justice discussing an MoU with the Ministry.
- Meeting with the Minister Delegate for Delegation of National Security.
- Meeting LAGA and MINFOF Delegate West province with MINFOF to discuss MINFOF-LAGA wildlife law enforcement progress in the West province.
- Second meeting with South West MINFOF Delegate on Wildlife Law Enforcement.
- Rebuilding LAGAs website has started in Israel in a format that would allow maintenance of the website from Cameroon.

Management

- **Reconstruction of LAGA** -Much work was carried by the LAGA family, in a process of self-evaluation, analysis and evolution defining the challenges of next year and the adjustments needed to meet with them. The drafting of changes in procedures and organigram were immediately applied and recruitment started in two of LAGA's departments.
- The Financial and Activity reporting of this month has been done **independently without LAGA's director**. This is the end of a learning process of the departments reacting to a problem of gap in reporting raised in August (see August activity report).

Finance

LAGA Expenditure for November 06

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details		Amount L
1,802,850	Investigations	17 investigations,6 provinces	-1,802,850	\$3,467
644,665	Operations	3 operations + Ivory Storage Rc	-2,447,515	\$1,240
1,059,570	legal	follow up 28 cases24 locked su	-3,507,085	\$2,038
828,425	Media	31 media pieces	-4,335,510	\$1,593
1,108,150	Policy and Exter	CITES SC54/GATF/T4	-5,443,660	\$2,131
1,533,800	Management	Coordination	-6,977,460	\$2,950
512,217	Office		-7,489,677	\$985
3,200	LAGA Family - Investing in team spirit and pro		-7,492,877	\$6
7,492,877	TOTAL EXPENDITURE October		0	\$14,409

AmountCFA	Donor					Amount U
1,842,313	Born Free	Used	October		-1,842,313	\$3,542.9
0	World Bank	Used	October		-1,842,313	\$0.0
1,970,325	BHC	Used	October		-3,812,638	\$3,789.1
1,379,570	FWS	Used	October		-5,192,208	\$2,653.0
944,665	Arcus	Used	October		-6,136,873	\$1,816.7
166,404	IFAW	Used	October			\$320.0
818,700	ProWildlife	Used	October			\$1,574.4
370,900	DSWF	Used	October			\$713.3
7,492,877	TOTAL					\$14,409.4

Ofir Drori
 Director
 The Last Great Ape Organization

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



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