

## January 2006 Report

### Highlights –

- **Drugs and Apes operation,**
- **Media efforts doubled,**
- **First case in DRC**

### General

LAGA started 2006 very positively, with good results in all departments and development within the LAGA structure.

We started off with a n important case established the link between drugs trade and wildlife trade in Cameroon, and with extending into our first active case outside of Cameroon. Media activities have been doubled carrying with it a political impact.

### Investigations

- **17 investigations were held in 7 provinces.**
- The newly appointed head of investigation unit, accomplishes his objectives for this month of building up control tablets, working program, and procedures.
- The unit shows a **high professional level in the Drugs and Apes investigation.**

### Operations

- Institution development – The National Brigade/ special unit has participated in our operations. The integration of the police into the unit is still behind schedule.
- **Drugs and Apes** - January 29, 2006 in Bafia, Centre Province. Four large sacks of **marijuana**, weighing about **50Kg** seized with a young chimpanzee. Another kind of drug was also caught in possession of the dealer which he admitted was cocaine. The drugs and wildlife dealer has been employing at least 4 poachers and has been trading other protected primates regularly. Dealer behind bars despite corruption attempts.
- This operation was appreciated by the local police admitting this has been the **largest marijuana seizure in that division.**
- For more details see LAGA's case tracking System.

### Legal

- **11 dealers behind bars:** 6 in central province, 1 in south province, 1 in the north, 2 in the west and 1 in the North west province. Jail visits held for all prisoners.
- 26 actives cases, and 5 are waiting for the scheduling of the court.
- **1 prosecution** in the central province.
- 1 opposition in the central province.
- Financial sustainability program (proving to the Ministry lawyers fees could be financed by damages awarded) - The first execution of fines and damages is being paid in the gendarmerie Station {Kiaripo Andre}. 2 cases going far on fines execution process. Lawyers' bonuses started with 2 lawyers.

### Media front

- Media efforts have been **doubled**.
- **25 media pieces** were produced and pushed to radio and written press more talk shows were introduced.
- Subjects – wildlife law enforcement including – our operations in North-West, South West and West provinces, Taiping Four, Apes and Health, CITES, tradition values and enforcement, Drugs and Apes case.
- Guests – including, Ministry directors, local Chief, an MP, NGOs. Getting more interviews from Central administration.

### External Relations and Policy

- LAGA started the **first active case outside Cameroon**, involving a bonobo international smuggling affair by expatriates. LAGA has appointed a lawyer and works with the Ministry in charge of wildlife in DRC.
- In a follow-up for the **Early Warning System** for Ebola and Anthrax based on Apes' die-off, an inter-ministerial was held and resulted in the approval of the draft for the prime-ministerial decree. Our media efforts started sensitising the public on the process and the health risks involving trade in apes.
- LAGA has been asked by UNEP to add a page to the UNEP manual to governments on implementation of MEAs as a unique effective collaboration between a government and an NGO.

### Management

- The first week of the month LAGA team was officially on vacation, though Media and Legal departments worked on their own will.
- All departments elaborated their vision for 2006.
- Capacity building of assistant manager, head of investigation, and media department resulted in freeing more management time from Director.

### Finance

- Through the dedicated help of IPPL, LAGA has received a grant from the **Arcus Foundation**.
- The grant, \$25,000 per year for two years, represents an improvement in LAGA's sustainable funding, together with the BHC grant insuring 3 years funding.

1,722,100		<b>Investigations</b>	17 investigations, 7 provinces		-1,722,100	\$3,189.1
650,805		<b>Operations</b>	1 operation - drugs and apes		-650,805	\$1,205.2
1,590,275		<b>legal</b>	follow up of 26 cases		-1,590,275	\$2,945.0
864,490		<b>Media</b>	25 media pieces		-864,490	\$1,600.9
1,455,100		<b>Management</b>			-1,455,100	\$2,694.6
238,961		<b>Office</b>			-238,961	\$442.5
93,250		<b>LAGA Family -</b>				\$172.7

