

July 2006 Report

Highlights -

- **First prosecution concerning trade in lions.**
- **Two ivory operations**

General

July month has been a month of relative low success.

Though two operations succeeded this rate is lower than the average.

Support from the Born Free foundation resulted in the first prosecution of a lions trader. This carries some political importance recognizing that international illegal trade in Lions' trophies is indeed active.

In the middle of the month LAGA Director left for a one month leave for wedding plans. The opportunity is used to give space for LAGA's Cameroonian staff of Management and the different departments to develop more independence.

After reconstruction and transfer of all ivory into the National Ivory Storage Room in the zoo, LAGA continued in building a national computerized database. The importance is of control over seized ivory insuring good governance.

Investigations

- **13 Investigations were held in 4 provinces.**
- Start of investigation Spanish connection to ivory trade in Cameroon. Tactic information has been passed to Spain CITES MA through the CITES secretariat.

Operations

- **Two operations** were carried out with the MINFOF Provincial Delegation and **one failed operation** all in the central province
- **18/7 - Two ivory operations** with two dealers in Yaounde Mvan.
- **19/7 - Operation on ostrich egg and leopard skin** in a restaurant in Yaounde owned by a magistrate. This case has failed and is still not forwarded to court because of the Delegate of the central province.
- After reconstruction and transfer of all ivory into the **National Ivory Storage Room in the zoo**, LAGA continued in building a **national computerized database**. The importance is of control over seized ivory insuring good governance.
- For more details see LAGA's case tracking System.

Legal

- There are **12 dealers behind bars**: 2 in the west province; 5 in the south province; 4 in the littoral; 1 in the north.
- 9 cases are scheduled in the court this month.
- 9cases waiting for the process to reach the court of appeal

- 7 cases waiting for a date of trial (on process in front of the state attorney or the MINFOF)
- 9 cases on execution process
- **Two prosecutions** were taking place:
 - The first instance court of Garoua fined the parties with a civil award of 1.000.000 CFA FRS and 12 months of imprisonment in the case of Hassana, lions case in the north.
 - The first instance court of Kribi fined the parties with a civil award of 610.000 CFA FRS, and a fine of 50.000 CFA FRS against Eyanga the owner of a bar who illegally detained a drill.
- Concerning the international investigation, the complaint report is still not forwarded to the court. Negotiations have started as to seek the help of a third party in the extradition process of the main suspects to Cameroon.

Media front

- **28 media pieces** were produced and pushed through radio; television and written press: 3 radio talk shows (1 English, 2 French) 2 radio news features (1 English, 1 French), 2 TV news features French/English, 14 radio news flashes (6 English, 8 French), 7 written press (4 French, 3 English).
- Subjects – wildlife law enforcement including: Arrest of ivory dealer in Yaounde, seizure of wildlife meat in Dja and Lobo Division (Sangmalima); Yaounde shop operation; chimpanzee operation in Edea; Bafia drug and ape dealer Guests – including- Central Delegate of Wildlife, SG MINFOF, CARPE Focal point, Delegate of Mbam and Enougou, and eco-guards.
- Due to pregnancy of Media assistant, the media department was supported by a second assistant this month.
- All media pieces are recorded and compiled in LAGA's computerized media archive.

External Relations and Policy

- Neither the government of Cameroon nor LAGA attend the Interpol meeting scheduled in Beijing this month: due to administrative blockage at the level of mission order.
- LAGA met with Steve Galster, founder and director of WildAid, active NGO on issues of wildlife law enforcement in Asia to exchange information and learn from his experience in the ASEAN initiative.
- Meeting with the technical assistant of COMIFAC-Maritn Tadoum to discuss possible collaboration between their organisation and LAGA in the area of wildlife law enforcement in the Congo Basin

Management

- LAGA director is on leave from the end of the month for wedding plans. The opportunity is used to give space for LAGA's Cameroonian staff of Management and the different departments to develop more independence.

Finance**LAGA Expenditure for July 06**

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details		Amount l
1,555,750	Investigations	13 investigations, 4 provinces	-1,555,750	\$2,992
407,500	Operations	3 operations	-1,963,250	\$784
1,823,250	legal	follow up 14 cases 12 locked su	-3,786,500	\$3,506
962,800	Media	28 media pieces	-4,749,300	\$1,852
98,333	Policy and External Relations		-4,847,633	\$189
1,544,300	Management	Coordination	-6,391,933	\$2,970
642,230	Office		-7,034,163	\$1,235
0	LAGA Family - Investing in team spirit and pro		-7,034,163	\$0
7,034,163	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JULY		0	\$13,527

Amount CFA	Donor				Amount U
898,600	Born Free	Used	July	-898,600	\$1,728.1
1,842,013	World Bank	Used	July	-2,740,613	\$3,542.3
2,007,800	BHC	Used	July	-4,748,413	\$3,861.2
1,578,250	FWS	Used	July	-6,326,663	\$3,035.1
707,500	Arcus	Used	July	-7,034,163	\$1,360.6
7,034,163	TOTAL				\$13,527.2

Ofir Drori
 Director
 The Last Great Ape Organization

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES

Ivory Operations