

## October 2006 Report

### **Highlights -**

- Participation in **CITES 54<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee** as a member of the Cameroon delegation
- Presentation in front of the **CITES Great Ape Task Force**
- Presentation at the **Limbe Wildlife Center Enforcement Workshop** in front of 30 Wildlife officers
- **A climb in professional level in Operation Unit**
- **Two ape dealers arrested**
- **Two operations against an elephant poacher and a dealer**
- A visit of **Galit Zangwill with Israeli TV**

### **General**

October month has been successful for the international role of LAGA as well as its operation level.

LAGA's participation in CITES Standing Committee, The Great Ape Task Force meeting and many other meetings initiated during these journeys to Geneva and Nairobi were not only effecting policy but used for teaching, learning, and exchanging ideas, learning from other experiences and putting LAGA's lessons as a Wildlife Law Enforcement NGO into a larger context. This is in line with LAGA's objective to serve as a model in the search for a paradigm shift in wildlife law enforcement. From the aspect of institutional growth - two operations initiated by the MINFOF Littoral Delegation asking for the assistance of LAGA stand to prove LAGA's work lead to institutional capacity building rather than Government dependency on the NGO.

The operation unit proved a climb in professional level this month, dealing usefully with a complex operation.

LAGA experienced closure of a cycle as Galit Zangwill, former Manager of LAGA arrived for a visit in Cameroon. The visit was kept as a surprise to the LAGA family. She arrived with an Israeli TV crew filming an episode in a Prime Time Series on Israelis abroad.

### **Investigations**

- **17 investigations** were carried out in 6 provinces including-West, North West, Littoral, South West, Centre and South provinces.
- Work on reorganizing the investigation unit resulted in the decision to issue a public recruitment advertisement.

### **Operations**

3 Operations were held. The operation unit proved **a climb in professional level** this month.

- 10/21- **Two ape dealers arrested.** The two dealers were arrested trying to sale a baby chimp. The dealers, well aware of their illegal act and the risk of arrest, made **extensive efforts to conceal the animal**, moving on a motorcycle in the cover of the night and using many methods trying to confuse our forces. They were trying to use the **complicity of a police station to release them** in any case of arrest. Arresting them despite all their efforts involved undercover

work and proved a climb in the professional level of the operation unit. The complaint report is forwarded to court by the police station. MINFOF is not involved in the operation although there a mission order signed by the Minister.

- 10/24- **Two operations against an elephant poacher and a dealer** in Douala. The 2 connected operations were involving 4 fresh elephant tusks and a bag of dry elephant meat. The two are behind bars. The operations were initiated by the MINFOF Littoral Delegation asking for the assistance of LAGA. This stands to prove **LAGA's work lead to institutional capacity building** rather than Government dependency on the NGO.

### Legal

- There are **22 dealers behind bars**: 2 in the West province; 6 in the South province; 7 in the Littoral; 1 in the North, 4 in the Northwest, 2 in central
- 9 cases are already scheduled and being trailed in the court this month. (Vacancy period for magistrates continuing).
- 9 cases waiting for the process to reach the court of appeal.
- 9 cases waiting for a date of trial (on process in front of the state attorney or the MINFOF).
- 9 cases on execution process.

### Media

- **31 media pieces** were produced and pushed to radio and written press: 19 news flashes(10English, 9 French), 3 news features (2 English, 1 French), 3 talk shows (2French, 1 English), 6 written press all in English
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: Leopard skin dealer prosecution Douala, ivory dealer arrest in Douala, Taiping 4, Bafia drug and ape dealer, LWC wildlife law enforcement workshop, prosecution Sangmelima, Former PM spearheads wildlife law enforcement, Environmental Exigencies for parliament, Two chimp dealers arrested in Yaounde, ivory dealer Douala.
- Guests include: **Minister of MINEP, Members of Parliament**, MINFOF Provincial Delegate North West, , World Research Institute Representative, CARPE coordinator, ecoguard Dja, departmental head Dja, World Agro Forestry representative.
- A week of this month's activities was documented by a **foreign TV crew** – an Israeli TV crew arrived to Cameroon with Galit Zangwill to film an episode in a Prime Time Series on Israelis abroad.
- All media pieces are recorded and compiled in LAGA's computerized media archive.

### External Relations and Policy

This month was reach in events highlighting LAGA' role in the sub region:

- LAGA participated in the **CITES 54<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee as a member of the Cameroon delegation**, and not as an NGO observer. Cameroon is a regional representative in the Standing Committee. Cameroon was praised by the CITES secretariat for its role in Wildlife Law Enforcement. Cameroon was in the heart of major policy issues as trade in elephant ivory and played a positive role especially in the MIKE/ETIS Working Subgroup. The occasion

was used to hold many meetings to reach understanding on the international ivory investigation of 3.9 tones.

- LAGA participation and presentation in the **CITES Great Ape Task Force** meeting in Nairobi. The meeting focused on trying to bring focal points in different range countries to work on the trade in great apes. LAGA's presentation on great apes trade and action consisted of issues involving cases in Cameroon as well as many other countries in the region. Cameroon was considered as the only country so far carrying out intensive operations against trade in great apes. The occasion was used to hold several meetings, among which with GRASP, Interpol Wildlife Officer the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and Kenya CITES MA.
- Media assistance at an **international conference of Members of Parliament** from the Congo Basin on monitoring of legislative environmental representation.
- Meeting of LAGA with the Coordinator of Legislative Environmental representation project of the American based World Research Institute (WRI) and the Second Secretary in the British High Commission in Yaounde.
- Participation and presentation by LAGA in **wildlife law enforcement workshop organized by the Limbe Wildlife Centre**.
- Meeting with newly appointed Chief of National Control Brigade of MINFOF and briefing him on LAGA activities
- Meeting with MINFOF South West Delegate to address problems in wildlife law enforcement in the province.
- Need for improvement of **relations with the two shelters** CWF and the Limbe Wildlife Center was raising in the ape operation of this month. While the shelters complained to be saturated the rescued chimp was staying with LAGA for close to two weeks before being accepted by CWF. A meeting was scheduled for the following month to address this issue.

### Management

- Internal work resulted in a decision to reorganize LAGA and its management, this was shared with Galit Zangwill who agreed to assist in advising and locating new human resources.

### Finance

#### LAGA Expenditure for October 06

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

AmountCFA	Donor					Amount U
1,842,313	Born Free	Used	October			\$3,542.9
0	World Bank	Used	October			\$0.0
1,970,325	BHC	Used	October			\$3,789.1
1,379,570	FWS	Used	October			\$2,653.0
944,665	Arcus	Used	October			\$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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