

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

June 2012 Report



Highlights

- **3 dealers arrested in 2 different operations.**
- LAGA Director trains wildlife officers on corruption in the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA).
- A new version of the **LAGA Legal handbook** produced.

General

This month was marked by good operations in Cameroon

2 operations were carried out against **3 dealers**. In Yaounde – Center, **a regular dealer** from Akonolinga **was arrested with elephant products** including tails and jaws. He **proposed 2 million FCFA to the arresting team** for his release, an act that was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field. In Bazou – West, **2 well known dealers** were **arrested with a live baby chimp** while trying to illegally trade in it. **They initially resisted arrest, instigating a crowd to intimidate the operations team;** fortunately, the team used diplomacy, convinced the crowd on the necessity of getting the statements of offence of the dealers who were thereafter transported to Bangangte. The baby chimp was rescued and transported to Yaounde for upkeep and proper treatment in the Mfou wildlife reserve.

In another operation, **a major ivory dealer was arrested with 6 elephant tusks** and elephant meat in Djoum - **South, a hotspot for ivory trafficking. He had 2 guns and ammunition** on him. The operation was initiated by MINFOF - National Brigade with LAGA responsible in coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.

LAGA Director was invited again by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) **to continue with the training of wildlife officers on the corruption and ethics parts that was built in 2011.** The group was of wildlife officers, police, customs and judiciary from Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, Kenya and Botswana. The Director of ILEA proposed that this program should also be taught outside of wildlife.

A new version of Cameroon's Wildlife Law – a tool for protecting threatened species in Cameroon, by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Department of Wildlife and Protected Area, assisted by LAGA, and financed by Arcus Foundation and Born Free Foundation was produced this month with the assistance of AALF-Gabon.

Investigations

- **32 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon- South West, North West, West, South, East and Center.
- 1 new Investigator identified a dealer and this led to an arrest operation in Yaounde. 2 others new Investigators are tested with encouraging results. This is in line to compensate for the lack of results and to make the Department more performant.
- The distribution of flyers for the hotline that was produced continued this month. Strategies have been put in place to track distribution and for it to be more effective. This is part of a new strategy to get credible information and to make the Investigation missions more performant.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo and RALF-RCA on Investigations and Operation Procedures.

Operations

2 operations were carried out this month against **3 subjects**.

- **06/06/12 - A regular dealer arrested with elephant products** including tails and jaws in Yaounde. He is based in Akonolinga - Center Region and has been supplying elephant products including ivory in Yaounde to other dealers. He claims that he is getting his products from the East Region. He **proposed 2 million FCFA to the arresting team** for his release, an act that was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field.
- **14/06/12- 2 well known dealers were arrested with a live baby chimp** while trying to illegally trade in it in Bazou - West. **They initially resisted arrest, instigating a crowd to intimidate the operations team;** fortunately, the team used diplomacy, convinced the crowd on the necessity of getting the statements of offence of the dealers who were thereafter transported to Bangangte. The baby chimp was rescued and transported to Yaounde for upkeep and proper treatment in the Mfou wildlife reserve.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **21 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Nanga Eboko (Centre), 4 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bamenda (North West), 3 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Belabo (East), 2 in Abong-Mbang (East), 2 in Kribi (South), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 1 in Buea (South West), 3 in Limbe (South West) and 2 in Bangangte (West).
- There are **34 dealers behind bars during this month**: 19 in the East Region, 2 in the South West Region, 1 in North West region, 8 in South Region and 4 in West Region.
- **31 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **27 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions:** No case was sentenced this month.

Media front

- **32 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, and written press including: 17 written press materials (14 in English and 3 in French), 3 radio talk shows in English, 1 news features in French and 11 news flashes (2 in English and 9 in French).
- Guests include: LAGA Head of investigation unit, National Coordinator of the Central Africa Regional programme for the environment (CARPE), and a Cameroon environmental journalist.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Chimp rescued and a trafficker arrested in Bazou, Court hearing for elephant trafficker arrested in East and Yaounde elephant dealer arrest.
- 19 media pieces in English, 13 in French making a percentage of 59.4% in English and 40.6% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA Director was invited again by ILEA to continue with the training of wildlife officers on the corruption and ethics parts that was built in 2011. There will be a follow-up on this as the Director of ILEA proposed that this program should also be taught outside of wildlife. The group was of wildlife officers, police, customs and judiciary from Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, Kenya and Botswana.

Management

- This was not covered because of the Director's travels.

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 planning investigations and operations, following up court cases and the production of media pieces.

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LAGA assists AALF in getting the information pertaining to the burning of ivory in Gabon to the media. AALF - Gabon was one of the organisations that fought for the realisation of this moment. President Ali Bongo of Gabon set fire on the country's entire ivory stockpile of over 4000 kilogrammes worth some millions of dollars amidst a huge number of onlookers including top government officials and the international community.

LAGA assisted PALF and RALF in planning and coordinating missions. LAGA and AALF worked on joint investigations in the South of Cameroon as well as the production of the LAGA Legal Handbook.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by budget line for June 2012

Amount CFA			Amount USD
2,195,260	Investigations	33 inv, 5 Regions	\$4,181
547,400	Operations	2 Operations 3 arreted	\$1,043
3,115,615	Legal	follow up 31 cases 34 locked subjects	\$5,935
1,265,835	Media	32 Media pieces	\$2,411
1,541,917	Policy & External Relations	Botswana ILEA Mission/Chad/Gabon/Congo/South Africa	\$2,937
944,200	Management	Coordination	\$1,798
1,584,331	Office		\$3,018
11,194,558	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JUNE		\$21,323

LAGA Expenditure by Donor for June 2012

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
1,221,523	FWS	\$2,326.7
1,189,218	FWS-Replication	\$2,265.2
	BornFree UK	\$0.0
905,000	Rufford	\$1,723.8
	IFAW	\$0.0
	IPPL	\$0.0
4,616,055	Darwin	\$8,792.5
310,338	BornFree USA	\$591.1
2,952,424	ARCUS Foundation	\$5,623.7
11,194,558	TOTAL	\$21,323.0

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



The 2 well known dealers arrested with a live baby chimp in Bazou - West. They initially resisted arrest, instigating a crowd to intimidate the operations team; fortunately, the team used diplomacy, convinced the crowd on the necessity of getting the statements of offence of the dealers who were thereafter transported to Bangangte. The baby chimp was rescued and transported to Yaounde for upkeep and proper treatment in the Mfou wildlife reserve.

Links of this month

- There are no links for this month but this will be fully compensated next month.