

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

## November 2013 Report



### Highlights

- **4 dealers arrested in 2 different operations in Makenene and Yaounde.**
- **5 major dealers were sentenced this month in Djoum and Edea for killing and trading in elephant products.**
- **LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to work on the Kenyan and Ugandan Replications of LAGA.**
- **LAGA Director travelled to the US attempting to add the lessons of LAGA to the forefront of strategies in the US for fighting wildlife trafficking.**

### General

This month was marked by good operations arresting 4 major dealers and 5 dealers sentenced to serve prison terms.

**2 well known dealers in elephant parts and products of other protected wildlife species were arrested in Makenene** - Center with a variety of elephant parts including bones, teeth and tail, and crocodile skin. They are known to have been in trade for a long time, also trading in ivory and have a ready market in Yaounde. One of them owns a bike which he uses for the transportation of the products from supply points to Makenene and then to the main city of Yaounde.

**2 other major wildlife traffickers actively involved in the trade of live primates as pets were arrested with a live baby mandrill in Yaounde - Center.** They were coming with it from Lolodorf – South and have other supply points in the South; selling in Yaounde - Center. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvog - Betsi Zoo in Yaounde.

**5 dealers were sentenced this month.** The Court of First Instance of Djoum - South **convicted 4 dealers, 2 dealers to 3 months imprisonment each and 2 others to 2 months imprisonment each** for the illegal killing of elephants as well as to pay court fines and fees. They will be retained in jail for 6 months in case of default of payment of fine and court fees. They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal killing of elephants.

In another case, the Court of First Instance of Edea – Littoral convicted **1 dealer to 2 months imprisonment and 1.000.000 FCFA (about \$2,000)** as damages in addition to fines and court fees for illegally trying to trade in elephant parts. He will be retained in jail for 9 months more in case of default of payment of fine and court fees.

LAGA Director travelled to the US attempting to add the lessons of LAGA to the forefront of strategies in the US for fighting wildlife trafficking. Meetings were held in DC and NYC with NGOs, experts and government officials. In his message **he argued that the global strategy against wildlife crime still lacks crucial components and advocated for a clear indicator in the forefront of the US strategy** – a weekly arrest and subsequent prosecution and imprisonment of a major wildlife trafficker for every country in the world, and for placing the fight against corruption in the center of it, in a practical and innovative way.

**3 new members were welcomed into the LAGA family this month;** 2 volunteers on test were retained as Legal Advisers in the Legal Department after excelling in their test time; 1 Investigator also joined the LAGA family as a full member, promising he will stick to all the rules and regulations and bring in good operations.

## Investigations

- **32 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **7 Regions** of Cameroon - South West, South, East, West, Littoral, Far North and Center.
- One Investigator on test joined the LAGA family as a full member promising he will stick to all the rules and regulation and get more operations. He had been an Investigator before and was sanctioned for failing to adhere to regulations and procedures.
- Good investigations led to arrest operations in the Center Region.
- LAGA Head of Investigations Department and a Legal Assistant from the Legal Department attended a meeting organized by MINFOF in Yaounde on the formation of an anti-poaching committee in the Center Region.
- A volunteer was trained on investigation and operation procedures with the goal of identifying and arresting major dealers in and out of Cameroon.
- The distribution of hotline flyers in both English and French continued.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted replication projects PALF-Congo and GALF-Guinea Investigations Department on Investigations and Operations procedures.

## Operations

**2 operations** carried out this month with MINFOF led to the **arrest of 4 major dealers**

- **01/11/13 – 2 well known dealers in elephant parts and products of other protected wildlife species were arrested in Makenene** - Center with a variety of elephant parts including bones, teeth and tail, and crocodile skin. They are known to have been in trade for a long time, also trading in ivory and have a ready market in Yaounde. One of them owns a bike which he uses for the transportation of the products from supply points to Makenene and then to the main city of Yaounde.
- **05/11/13 – 2 other major wildlife traffickers actively involved in the trade of live primates as pets were arrested with a live baby (5 months old) mandrill in Yaounde - Center.** They were coming with it from Lolodorf – South and have other supply points in the South; selling in Yaounde - Center. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvog - Betsi Zoo in Yaounde.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **16 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region:, 2 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Nanga-Eboko (Centre), 3 in Bafia (Centre), 1 in Kribi (South), 2 in Djoum (South), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Edea (Littoral), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East) and 2 in Bertoua (East).
- There are **47 dealers behind bars during this month**: 17 in the East Region, 1 in the South West Region, 16 in Centre region, 2 in North West region, 2 in North Region, 8 in South Region and 1 in Littoral Region.
- **36 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **34 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **2 volunteers on test were retained as Legal Advisers** after excelling in their test time
- **Prosecutions**: 5 dealers were sentenced this month.
  - **05/11/2013**: The Court of First Instance of Djoum - South convicted POLA Makaba and EKOMANE Salomon to **3 months imprisonment** and to pay **15.000 FCFA as fine**. The same court also convicted ZOULAT Jean Marc and MENGUE Joel to **2 months imprisonment** and to pay **10.000 FCFA as fine**. They were also convicted to **pay 397.050 FCFA each as court fees**. They will be retained in jail for 6 months in case of default of payment of fine and court fees. They were arrested in Djoum for the illegal killing of elephants.

- **15/11/2013:** The Court of First Instance of Edea convicted MFORMI Alfred FAI to **2 months imprisonment** and to pay **100.000 FCFA as fine, 1.000.000 FCFA (about \$2,000) as damages and 53.300 FCFA as court fees.** He will be retained in jail for 9 months more in case of default of payment of fine and court fees. He was arrested in Edea for illegal detention of elephant parts.

### Media front

- **27 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press including: 4 TV news features (2 in French and in English equally), 14 written press material 7 in English as well as French, 4 news flashes all in English and 5 radio talk shows all in English.
- **Guests include:** the North regional chief of control brigade, North delegate of MINFOF and wildlife specialist and veterinarian at the Limbe wildlife centre
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including;** 2 traffickers arrested in Garoua with hippo teeth and crocodile skins, the arrest of 2 traffickers in possession of a live mandrill and the arrest of 2 traffickers in elephant parts and crocodile skin.
- 27 media pieces 18 in English, 9 in French making a percentage of 66.7% in English and 33.3% in French.
- LAGA Director appeared on CNN in an interview on the fight against wildlife trafficking, and on US Fox news on the same subject.

### External Relations and Policy

- LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to work on the Kenyan and Ugandan Replications of LAGA. This included working sessions with coordinators, recruitment, meeting with officials, NGOs and others.
- LAGA Director participated in the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group, and associated UNEP meetings in Nairobi meeting with government officials, NGOs and experts in fighting wildlife crime.
- LAGA Director travelled to the US attempting to add the lessons of LAGA to the forefront of strategies in the US for fighting wildlife trafficking. Meeting in DC and NYC with NGOs, experts and government officials. In his message he argued that the global strategy against wildlife crime still lacks crucial components and advocated for a clear indicator in the forefront of the US strategy – a weekly arrest and subsequent prosecution and imprisonment of a major wildlife trafficker for every country in the world, and for placing the fight against corruption in the center of it, in a practical and innovative way.
- LAGA Director met with officials, educators and the academy in South West Florida.
- Head of Investigation Department and Head of Media Department met with Nancy Gelman, Program Officer, Wildlife Without Borders – Africa of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on conservation efforts in Africa, the fight against corruption and the institutionalization of the LAGA approach to wildlife law enforcement through the development of a curriculum and work with the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon.
- LAGA Head of Investigations Department and a Legal Assistant from the Legal Department attended a meeting organized by MINFOF in Yaounde on the formation of an anti-poaching committee in the Center Region.
- Meeting held between LAGA and the Customs General Office on collaboration regarding wildlife law enforcement at exit points especially airports and seaports

### Management

- 3 new members were welcomed into the LAGA family this month; 2 volunteers on test were retained as Legal Advisers in the Legal Department after excelling in their test time; 1

Investigator also joined the LAGA family as a full member, promising he will stick to all the rules and regulations and bring in good operations.

- The LAGA family took off some time from work and had a 3 day trip at the sea resort town of Kribi – South. Families travelled together to have a good time, commune together, get to know one another out of the working environment, and meet spouses and children of LAGA family members.

### **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>.

- A super volunteer was trained this month to give her tools for larger activism and opportunities to continue in a path of independent activism that LAGA can support, to take part in the fight to bring about a change in tackling corruption and enforcing wildlife laws.

### **Replication**

During this month, LAGA worked with other replication projects in planning and coordinating missions with PALF, AALF, TALFF and GALF on investigations, operations and financial procedures. LAGA, AALF and TALFF collaborated on investigations and operations that led to the arrest of ivory traffickers in Togo.

LAGA Director travelled to Kenya to work on the Kenyan and Ugandan Replications of LAGA. This included working sessions with coordinators, recruitment, meeting with officials, NGOs and others.

### **Finance**

#### **LAGA Expenditure by Budget Line for November 2013**

Amount FCFA			Amount USD
2,880,695	Investigations	32 inv, 7 Regions	\$5,940
1,161,800	Operations	2 Operations against 4 subjects	\$2,395
3,396,713	Legal	follow up 36 cases 47 locked subjects	\$7,004
1,727,560	Media	27 Media pieces	\$3,562
3,895,257	Policy & External Relations	Kenya training of Investigator/Togo//Kenya/Guinea/Congo/USA	\$8,031
855,300	Management	Coordination	\$1,764
2,333,436	Office		\$4,811
135,000	LAGA Family		
16,385,761	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE NOVEMBER</b>		<b>\$33,785</b>

#### **LAGA Expenditure by Donor for November 2013**

Amount FCFA	Donor	Amount USD
3,240,138	FWS	\$6,680.7
1,705,557	FWS-Replication	\$3,516.6
	BornFree UK	\$0.0
2,692,288	LUC	\$5,551.1
	IFAW	\$0.0
2,726,195	IPPL	\$5,621.0
	ProWildlife	\$0.0
1,900,450	Conde Nast Award	\$3,918.5
4,121,133	NEU Foundation	\$8,497.2
16,385,761	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,785.1</b>

## This Month in Pictures



**The 2 dealers arrested in Makenene - Center with a variety of elephant parts including bones, teeth and tail, and crocodile skin. They are known to have been in trade for a long time, also trading in ivory and have a ready market in Yaounde – Center.**



**The 2 other major wildlife traffickers actively involved in the trade of live primates as pets arrested with a live baby (5 months old) mandrill in Yaounde – Center. They were arriving with it from Lolodorf – South and have other supply points in the South; selling in Yaounde - Center. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvog - Betsi Zoo in Yaounde.**

## Links of this month

- Wildlife traffickers arrested in Garoua – North Region: Regional News, National Television CRTV Broadcast. The wildlife dealers were arrested in Garoua with hippo teeth, elephant products, crocodile skins and numerous protected wildlife species. The dealers were arrested by officials of the North Delegation of Forestry and wildlife following a hint of their operation in the trade of these protected wildlife species as reported by CRTV.

[https://www.youtube.com/edit?video\\_id=hi4wnH-n20Q&video\\_referrer=watch](https://www.youtube.com/edit?video_id=hi4wnH-n20Q&video_referrer=watch)

- Traffickers in protected wildlife products arrested in Garoua – North: “Hello Program” National Television CRTV Broadcast. The dealers were arrested with hippo teeth, elephant products, crocodile skins and numerous wildlife protected species by officials of the North delegation of forestry and wildlife.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPTnsd4ftL0>