

# The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

## October 2013 Report



### Highlights

- **6 dealers arrested in 3 different operations in Lomie, Yaounde and Garoua.**
- **2 international dealers arrested in Garoua – North with a variety of protected wildlife products.**
- **3 major ivory traffickers were sentenced to serve prison terms in Yaounde - Center**

### General

This month was marked by good operations arresting 6 major dealers and good court sentences against arrested ivory traffickers.

**2 international dealers in wildlife products were arrested within 1 hour in Garoua – North** with a wide variety of protected wildlife products including **14 hippo teeth, elephant parts, and Nile crocodiles skins**; other products were serval cat skins bought from Nigeria, antelope horns and jaw bones. They poach and have suppliers in and around the surrounding protected areas including the Benoue National Park and **trade between Cameroon and Nigeria**. It should be noted that this areas is difficult to penetrate because dealers rarely accept to transact with those who do not speak the local Fulfulde language.

In other operations, **3 major dealers of the same network were arrested within 1 hour in Lomie – East with 4 small elephant tusks and other elephant parts including tails, jaw bones and teeth**. One of them is a business man with connections to administrative authorities who initially resisted arrest. The two others are owners and riders of motorbikes who facilitate the trade through packaging and transportation from the source areas mostly in the Dja Reserve and surrounding villages to the main town of Lomie.

**A trafficker in live primates arrested in Yaounde - Center with a 4 months old live baby mandrill** while illegally trying to trade in it. He is known to have steady suppliers in the South, buys mostly from Ebolowa and sells in Yaounde. The rescued mandrill was taken to the Mvog Betsi Zoo in Yaounde for proper upkeep.

The Court of First Instance of Yaounde - Administrative Centre sentenced 3 major ivory traffickers to serve prison terms. In the first case, 1 dealer was sentenced to **06 months imprisonment** and to pay **400.000 FCFA (about \$800) as fine and 2.000.000 FCFA (about \$4000) as damages**. He will be retained in jail for further 18 months in case of default of payment. He was arrested in Yaounde for illegally trying to sell 6 elephant tusks. In the second case, 2 other dealers were sentenced to **06 months imprisonment each** and to each pay **400.000 FCFA (about \$800) as fine and 1.500.000 FCFA (about \$3000) as damages**. They will also be retained in jail for 18 months and more in case of default of payment. They were arrested in Yaounde for illegally trying to trade in 4 elephant tusks.

### Investigations

- **34 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **8 Regions** of Cameroon- South West, South, East, West, Littoral, Adamawa, North and Center.
- Good investigations led to arrest operations in the East, Center and North. The North in particular has been very difficult to penetrate because the dealers are not open to treat with people who do not speak the local Fulfulde language.

- LAGA Head of Investigations Department travelled to Togo to help putting in place an Investigations Department for the TALFF Project through selection and training of Investigators.
- The distribution of flyers in both English and French was re-launched last month continued.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted replication projects PALF-Congo and GALF-Guinea Investigations Department on Investigations and Operations procedures.

## Operations

**3 operations** carried out this month led to the **arrest of 6 major dealers** including 2 international wildlife traffickers in Garoua - North.

- **09/10/13 – 3 major dealers of the same network were arrested within 1 hour in Lomie – East with 4 small elephant tusks and other elephant parts including tails, jaw bones and teeth.** One of them is a business man with connections to administrative authorities who initially resisted arrest. The two others are owners and riders of motorbikes who facilitate the trade through packaging and transportation from the source areas mostly in the Dja Reserve and surrounding villages to the main town of Lomie.
- **27/10/13 - A trafficker in live primates arrested in Yaounde - Center with a 4 months old live baby mandrill** while illegally trying to trade in it. He is known to have steady suppliers in the South, buys mostly from Ebolowa and sells in Yaounde. The rescued mandrill was taken to the Mvog Betsi Zoo in Yaounde for proper upkeep.
- **29/10/13 – 2 international dealers in wildlife products were arrested within 1 hour in Garoua – North** with a wide variety of protected wildlife products including **14 hippo teeth, elephant parts, and Nile crocodiles skins**; other products were serval cat skins bought from Nigeria, antelope horns and jaw bones. They poach and have suppliers in and around the surrounding protected areas including the Benoue National Park and **trade between Cameroon and Nigeria**. It should be noted that this areas is difficult to penetrate because dealers rarely accept to transact with those who do not speak the local Fulfulde language.

## Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **10 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Mfou (Centre), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Edea (Littoral), 1 in Garoua (North), 1 in Lomie (East), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East) and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **49 dealers behind bars during this month**: 17 in the East Region, 3 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.
- **31 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: 3 dealers were sentenced this month.
  - **31/10/2013**: The Court of First Instance of Yaounde - Administrative Centre sentenced BINGONO ANGO Salomon to **06 months imprisonment** and to pay **400.000 FCFA (about \$800) as fine and 2.000.000 FCFA (about \$4000) as damages**. He will be retained in jail for further 18 months in case of default of payment. He was arrested in Yaounde for illegally trying to sell 6 elephant tusks.
  - **31/10/2013**: The Court of First Instance of Yaounde – Administrative Centre sentenced PEMPENE Amadou and MOFOKOUÉ Mamouda to **06 months imprisonment each** and to each pay **400.000 FCFA (about \$800) as fine and 1.500.000 FCFA (about \$3000) as damages**. They will be retained in jail for 18 months and more in case of default of payment. They were arrested in Yaounde for illegally trying to trade in 4 elephant tusks.

## **Media front**

- **26 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press including: 1 TV news feature in French, 17 written press material (9 in English 8 in French), and 8 news flashes (6 in English and 2 in French).
- **Guests include:** the director of LAGA.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including;** Lomie arrest of elephant part trafficker and 2 traffickers arrested in Garoua with hippo teeth and crocodile skins.
- 26 media pieces 14 in English, 12 in French making a percentage of 53.8% in English and 46.2% in French.

## **External Relations and Policy**

- LAGA Director presented to SIT international students on activism and wildlife law enforcement
- LAGA Director had a meeting with US Embassy political officer on Wildlife Law Enforcement
- LAGA Director went to Kenya to work on the replication in a series of meetings to advance that plan.
- LAGA Head of Investigations Department travelled to Togo to help putting in place an Investigations Department for the TALFF Project through selection and training of Investigators.
- Head of Investigations Department attends meeting in MINFOF on the fight against poaching, creation and management of national parks in Cameroon.

## **Management**

- This month saw Serge Ania, a Jurist in the LAGA Legal Department getting married. The LAGA family comprising of a strong delegation actively took part in the marriage in Ngaoundere - Adamawa and the newly wedded couple was assisted materially, morally and financially showing that the family as a unit is always there not only for work but for happy and sad moments. The LAGA family wishes the newly wedded couple the best of luck in matrimony.

## **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 worked with other replication projects in planning and coordinating missions with PALF, AALF, TALFF and GALF on investigations, operations and financial procedures.

LAGA Head of Investigations Department travelled to Togo to help putting in place an Investigations Department for the TALFF Project through selection and training of Investigators. A Jurist from AALF – Gabon also travelled to Togo to assist in putting in place a Legal Department for the TALFF Project.

LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo Investigations Department on Investigations and assisted in an operation; collaborated with AALF-Gabon Investigators and Jurists on setting up a network of informants and joint investigations in North Gabon. LAGA is also pushing RALF to be more engaging and to start producing more arrest operations again.

## Finance

### LAGA Expenditure by Budget Line for October 2013

Amount FCFA			Amount USD
5,489,995	<b>Investigations</b>	34 inv, 8 Regions	\$11,437
1,210,300	<b>Operations</b>	3 Operations against 6 subjects	\$2,521
2,029,038	<b>Legal</b>	follow up 36 cases 49 locked subjects	\$4,227
1,845,609	<b>Media</b>	26 Media pieces	\$3,845
2,692,425	<b>Policy &amp; External Relations</b>	Guinea/Togo//Kenya	\$5,609
980,500	<b>Management</b>	Coordination	\$2,043
3,198,677	<b>Office</b>		\$6,664
409,400	<b>LAGA Family</b>	Serge Wedding	
17,855,944	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE OCTOBER</b>		<b>\$37,200</b>

### LAGA Expenditure by Donor for October 2013

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
3,000,005	FWS	\$6,250.0
2,692,425	FWS-Replication	\$5,609.2
	BornFree UK	\$0.0
	Rufford	\$0.0
	IFAW	\$0.0
	IPPL	\$0.0
3,307,623	Luc	\$6,890.9
4,393,800	ProWildlife	\$9,153.8
2,453,319	ARCUS Foundation	\$5,111.1
	Conde Nast Award	\$0.0
2,008,772	NEU Foundation	\$4,184.9
17,855,944	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,199.9</b>

## This Month in Pictures



3 major dealers of the same network (*Left*) arrested within 1 hour in Lomie – East with 4 small elephant tusks and other elephant parts including tails, jaw bones and teeth (*Right*). One of them is a business man (in the middle – left) with connections to administrative authorities and initially resisted arrest. The two others are owners and riders of motorbikes who facilitate the trade through packaging and transportation from the source areas mostly in the Dja Reserve and surrounding villages to the main town of Lomie.



2 international dealers in wildlife products were arrested within 1 hour in Garoua – North (*Left*) with a wide variety of protected wildlife products including 14 hippo teeth, elephant parts, and Nile crocodiles skins; other products were serval cat skins bought from Nigeria, antelope horns and jaw bones, all in 2 bags (*Right*). They poach and have suppliers in and around the surrounding protected areas including the Benoue National Park and trade between Cameroon and Nigeria.

## **Links of this month**

- The President of the National Syndicate of live wildlife exploiters in Cameroon jailed – Cameroon National Television - CRTV broadcast. According to the report, the president of the syndicate was involved in providing falsified documents to a Chinese arrested with 4 sacs of pangolin skins about to be illegally exported out of Cameroon.

[https://www.youtube.com/edit?video\\_id=ircDZ2Vstvs](https://www.youtube.com/edit?video_id=ircDZ2Vstvs)

- 3 ivory traffickers arrested in Lomie – Cameroon National Television CRTV broadcast. The arrest of 3 ivory dealers in Lomie – East occurred during a crackdown operation backed up by the gendarme forces. According to the 1994 wildlife law in Cameroon, anyone found in possession of protected wildlife species is considered to have captured or killed the animal and is liable to a prison term of 1 to 3 year and or pay a fine of up to 10 million francs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yy5kLiPidQ>