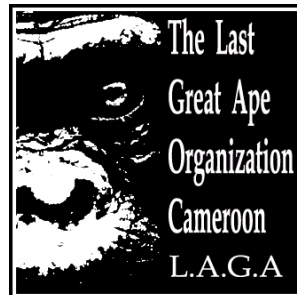


THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2011



Executive Summary

Significant progress was made over this period on many aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, with tangible achievements not only in the fields of investigation, arrest and prosecution but also in media exposure, government relations and international activities with more focus on the fight against corruption, wildlife trade especially networks of ivory traffickers and dealers in primates. 36 dealers were arrested during this period.

During this period, LAGA won another award - The Future for Nature Award in the Netherlands, given to individuals for internationally outstanding species protection efforts. The award was received by the LAGA Director, Ofir Drori in Holland and his presentation ended with three main messages that LAGA tries to put on the map - Anti-poaching in protected areas is not wildlife law enforcement, Activism and Fighting Corruption.

For every 5 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 86% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Corruption was observed and combated in more than 80% of the cases. Regional wildlife law enforcement became more effective with good operations and prosecutions. LAGA was invited by International Law Enforcement Academy to train in the first anti-corruption program, regional collaboration among the projects increased with planning regional crackdowns and a presentation was on regional law enforcement at first Interpol specialized environmental conference organized by Interpol Central African Regional Bureau in Yaounde – Cameroon. Training sessions continued in Yaounde with PALF-Congo investigator trained. AALF – Gabon Investigator and Jurist also arrived for training.

The work of the Last Great Ape Organization was supported by:



LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)
SEMESTER REPORT
January - June 2011

Overview

Investigations

- A total of 115 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 7 Regions.
- 1 Investigator was kidnapped and recovered regarding the case of 3 ivory dealers.
- PALF- Congo Investigator ends 1 month training in LAGA with good results.
- LAGA Manual used by replication projects for Investigations and Operations Procedures.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 6 Regions against 36 individuals resulting in 36 court cases at a rate of 1 per 5 days.
- About half of the operations were on ivory followed by primates.
- The rate of imprisonment for these cases reached 86%.

Legal

- 36 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases begun during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures still ongoing).
- Corruption was observed and combated in more than 80% of the cases.

Media

- A total of 167 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio and press) achieved in a rate of almost 1 media piece per day.
- The distribution of the 7th Edition of the Wildlife Justice continued.
- Online sensitization resulted in over 650 visits to the LAGA website per month. It should be noted that the LAGA website was entirely created from scratch and is maintained by the LAGA family.

Management

- The Annual Report for 2010 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. An electronic version is available on line on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org.
- Weekly meetings were introduced by the LAGA Director with LAGA family members taking on more responsibilities.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA wins another award - The Future for Nature Award in the Netherlands, given to individuals for internationally outstanding species protection efforts.
- Several meetings were held with the Minister – MINFOF, Diplomatic Community, National and International NGOs to discuss corruption in the NGO projects and wildlife law enforcement amongst others.

Replication of LAGA Activities

- LAGA Director was invited by International Law Enforcement Academy to train in the first anti-corruption program for wildlife enforcers.
- Good operations carried in all regional enforcement projects – LAGA, PALF, RALF and AALF.
- Biggest apes operation in Africa carried out by AALF Gabon with 5 traffickers arrested with 13 ape heads and 32 ape hands among other contraband wildlife.
- Regional collaboration among the projects increased with planning regional crackdowns.
- LAGA makes a presentation on regional law enforcement at first Interpol specialized environmental conference organized by Interpol Central African Regional Bureau in Yaounde – Cameroon.
- 1 PALF Investigator trained, 1 AALF Investigator and jurist also arrived for training in LAGA.

Strategic Highlights

- This period was marked by a special focus dismantling ivory trafficking networks and dealers in primates and meat of primates amongst other protected wildlife products.
- The fight against corruption and wildlife crime was intensified.
- LAGA still hitting main actors and exposing the illegal trade in sea turtle shells; several projects claimed to work on the protection of sea turtles for years with strong contrast to the open sale of sea turtle shells.

Narrative Report

Introduction

This report refers to activities from January till June 2011.

This report includes: the progress in each department of activities (Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and Management), strategic overview of and the impact of our operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, non-governmental bodies, in the international arena, and in non-enforcement initiatives LAGA has undertaken.

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1. Investigations

LAGA's investigation unit has carried out 115 investigation missions in 7 Regions during this period. The department continued with structural reorganization culminating in high improvement in its professional output. Field testing and screening of new investigators continued within this period. This high screening is primordial in selecting those who place high value on LAGA's mission, ready to participate and contribute massively in the realization of the goals unconditionally as opposed to those seeking for financial compensation as the main motivational factor. Training of Investigators on operations procedure continued so that they could start to actively assist and help in controlling some operations in the field.

During this period, there was a special investigation focus on corruption in international trafficking of Parrots that led to the arrest of the biggest wildlife exporter in Yaounde – Center and transferred to Douala after the case against him was rebuilt and a warrant issued for his arrest. Other focal areas include trade in primates and their parts, networks involved in ivory trade, trade in leopard skins and foreigners dealing in sea turtle shells. These investigations led to the busting of ivory trafficking networks and the arrest of major ivory dealers; the arrest of dealers in primates; the sea arrest of a Nigerian national dealing in sea turtle shells and other dealers trading in protected wildlife and their products. In the second semester, attention will shift to the Northern part of the country after a long time with more focused attention on lion skin dealers; and on Internet wildlife trafficking.

The Unit continued to undertake investigations relating to wildlife trade that involves additional offences not under wildlife law concerning illegal adoption scheme of children, illegal immigration, as well as international trafficking with special focus on foreigners.

Still during this period, investigators from other projects involved in the replication of LAGA activities were trained. In April, PALF Investigator from the Republic of Congo was trained in LAGA for 1 month. He was trained on procedures of Investigations, Operations, Legal follow-up on court cases and how to produce and push through media pieces. He also received training on how to work on the Investigations Organic system and how to write good field activities and financial reports. He also carried out field missions resulting in a successful operation in Kribi – South in the arrest of 2 main dealers with 9 sea turtle shells. In June, AALF investigator from Gabon arrived Cameroon and he will also be trained for 1 month. Training and exchange of Investigators will continue with the other projects in the second semester. In addition to the training, LAGA Investigations Unit is more involved in investigations and operations procedures in the replication projects especially PALF – Congo and RALF – CAR (Central African Republic) and AALF – Gabon leading to good registered successful operations with many dealers arrested.

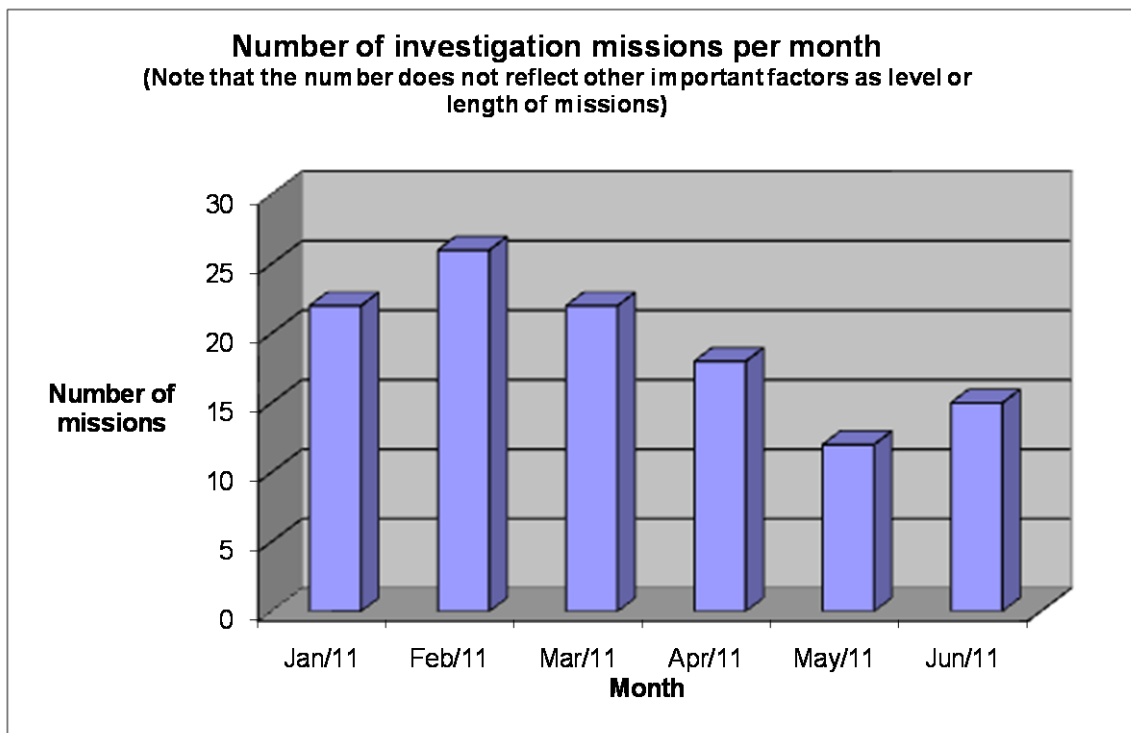
The strategy involving the recruitment of informants in the main wildlife trade hotspots in Cameroon continued with good information given from the East Region. This exercise will be carried out in all the Regions of Cameroon especially the Northern part of the country. This will permit real time information on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products as well as compensating a shortage of Investigators

In February, 1 Investigator was kidnapped regarding the case of 3 ivory dealers. This was a reminder of the danger accompanying our work and the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner. We managed to rescue him and get 5 dealers arrested in their Mercedes Benz but his life was probably saved due to sticking to procedures built for such scenarios. He was sent to infiltrate an increasingly resilient network - Douala's ivory dealers. He had recorded by his hidden camera the dealers with ivory tusks as they explain the different ways they export ivory concealed in carved armchairs, and as

they brought him to a woman that “produces permits” for illegal ivory through “her contacts in the Ministry - MINFOF”. At one point they started suspecting the investigator, and as they involved more ivory dealers they have concluded he is a LAGA investigator and kidnapped him. Since our investigators operate with strict communication procedures we understood very fast that we have a problem. We called his phone using his local dialect, again according to procedure we are all drilled with. From that we gathered he is kidnapped though we could not get his exact location. Trying to lure the dealers to different locations and searching for the dealers’ Mercedes in three different towns we finally managed to arrest them and recover our investigator who was unharmed, though quite surprised he came out of this alive. The five are still behind bars as the international community helps our anti-corruption efforts to deflect the many corruption attempts for their release. The kidnapping of a LAGA staff showed us the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner. This event was dealt with in a professional calculated manner and also stands to show the criminal nature of wildlife offenders.

April month saw one Investigator, i33 continuing his studies in South Africa. The challenge will be to continue engaging him in activism while in South Africa. He is still getting information back to the LAGA Investigations Department on his targets while in South Africa and he will be engaged in more investigations work especially on international trade.

The months of May and June witnessed a low number of missions mainly because of the Investigator i33 continuing his studies in South Africa. More investigators will be recruited and field tests done but only those who place high value on LAGA’s mission will be selected.



Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 6 Regions against 36 individuals resulting in 36 court cases. Operations became more sophisticated over the period and the rate of imprisonment reached 86% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial. More than half of the operations were on the busting of networks dealing in ivory and other elephant products.

February March and April was focused mostly on primates; April, May and June dealt mostly with major ivory trafficking networks. The main attention regarding parrots was on the biggest wildlife trafficker in Cameroon who arrested in Yaounde – Center and transferred to Douala after the case against him was rebuilt and a warrant issued for his arrest. In the second semester there will be more focus in the Northern part of Cameroon; this area has been neglected for a long time.

In January, 2 operations were carried against 3 subjects. A regular dealer of Nigerian nationality with no official residential documents for Cameroon was arrested while trying to illegally trade in 7 sea turtle shells. He is also a fisherman and has 2 other brothers he claims help him to carry out the business. In another operation, 2 well known dealers were arrested in Ebolowa - South while trying to trade in a live mandrill. They claim to be related to a highly placed official of MINFOF and their unprocedural release after the taking of the statement of offence lays credence to this claim. The MINFOF Delegate for the Southern Region refused to write a remand warrant for them to be locked up and presented to the State Prosecutor the following day. Also, the dealers and the MINFOF officials were observed speaking in their dialect after the arrest and during the writing of the statement of offence. This unprocedural and irregular behaviour was reported to the Minister who asked the said Delegate to fully collaborate with the LAGA team so as to present the dealers to the Prosecutor and for normal procedures to follow suit.

In February, 3 operations were carried out against 5 major dealers. A dealer and the owner of a shop who has been dealing in primates for more than 5 years was arrested in Yaounde – Center Region with a live Mandrill. He resisted arrest and instigated a crowd to be violent during his arrest. While in the Gendarmerie Brigade, he attempted on several occasions to negotiate with the arresting officers through bribe for his release. He also tried to bring in some highly placed relatives in the Cameroon military to intervene on his behalf. In another good operation, a regular dealer was arrested in Bangangte – West Region with a live baby chimp while trying to trade in it. He is also reputed for selling bushmeat in Bazou – West and also has some main buyers / customers in Bafoussam - West. Still in February, 3 major dealers in ivory and products of other protected wildlife species were arrested in Kribi – South for trying to trade in 4 elephant tusks, kidnapping and violent attempts on a LAGA staff and a collaborator. One of them is also a recidivist who had been arrested before for other crimes and from records, affirms that he had gone to Nigeria several times to sell ivory. During the investigation phase, they kidnapped the investigator and forcefully transported him from Douala - Littoral to Kribi where they were arrested. The investigator was saved by adhering to procedure and the quick reaction of the whole LAGA team that rapidly put together officials of the forces of law and order that arrested the dealers and rescued the investigator and the collaborator.

In March, the biggest wildlife exporter was arrested in Yaounde – Center and transferred to Douala after the case against him was rebuilt and a warrant issued for his arrest. He was first arrested in 2007 and this uncovered issues of complicity and corruption within the Ministry trying to export 720 parrots to Bahrain, an illegal destination. This again validated information we had before about the organized chain of complicity in the parrot trade and how white-collar criminals thrive on this complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor. The parrots' cases uncovered corruption at a very high level; insisting to tackle it got us many new enemies, threats, and warnings that we are “stepping on the wrong toes” and that it will send us on “a one way ticket out of

Cameroon”. In a special corruption report LAGA submitted to the Minister we highlighted our evidence for the role played by a highly placed ministry official in collaborating with the offenders, issuing false declarations on CITES permits, and attempting to block our cases. The operation quickly intensified the backlash to our anti-corruption work alienating the ministry official in question and most of the involved officials in one side and LAGA and the Minister on the other. With the involvement of the British High Commissioner and other members of the diplomatic community the ministry official was removed. This in did not stop the wildlife trafficker in question and through more corruption and bribery, he succeeded to make the case file against him disappear and later in court, he claimed that no case was ever opened against him.

It should be noted that in 2009, LAGA received a strong letter of support from 7 Ambassadors as LAGA faced threats in line of their work in wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption. LAGA deals regularly with many threats – physical, political and legal. Basically this biggest wildlife dealer in Cameroon seems to have been trying to influence the court through corruption to put the LAGA Director behind bars as revenge and to escape justice after his arrest in 2007. But the debate that opened in court seemed to have little to do with reason or with law. The dealer lied under oath at least three times. Both the State Counsel and the Judge were unexplainably hostile. Nevertheless, the international community took quick and unprecedented action to stand by LAGA and the LAGA Director as no fewer than seven ambassadors signed a strong letter of support sent to the Minister of Forest, Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister. Afterwards, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife wrote a strong letter of support himself. The Ambassadors stated in their letter that they have supported the Director and LAGA’s work for a number of years and see the success in fighting wildlife trafficking as one of Cameroon’s anti-corruption success stories.

In April, 5 operations were carried out against the 14 main dealers; 3 of the operations were carried out within 3 days with 6 dealers arrested. 2 regular dealers in chimp parts were arrested in Kumba – South West while trying to collect 400.000 FCFA (\$800) for 2 chimp heads and 8 chimp limbs. The chimps were reportedly killed in the Korup National Park in the South West Region and it was not the first time they have been apprehended for trading in products of protected wildlife species. After their arrest, they tried to get the Assistant Divisional Officer for Kumba to intervene on their behalf, but this was quickly squashed by the operating team. Still in April, 2 main dealers were arrested in Kribi – South while trying to trade in 9 sea turtle shells. They claimed to have traded in ivory before with suppliers from the northern part of Cameroon and buyers from Equatorial Guinea. They resisted arrest and tried to fight with the operations team. In another operation, 2 other dealers were arrested in Kribi – South while trying to sell a live baby chimp. They have been trafficking live primates for long using a motor-bike to carry out their business. They called on former Member of Parliament from the Ocean Division to intervene on their behalf but he refused after getting the details of the case from the operations team. The live baby chimp was rescued and sent to the Limbe wildlife Center for proper care.

In other operations in April, 2 dealers in protected wildlife products arrested in Bafang – West with a very large leopard skin. They were arrested with a military uniform and a motor-bike which they use to carry out the trade. One of them is a recidivist and claims to have connections to the Bafang royal family. Another major operation in April saw a network of elephant poachers/dealers busted in Bengbis – South. 6 of them were arrested for killing an elephant in the Dja Reserve and trying to trade in its parts. They were arrested with 2 elephant tusks (about 4 kg), a gun and smoked elephant meat. They are connected to a main dealer of Malian nationality and investigations are still ongoing for his arrest. The operation was carried out by some Ecoguards of former ECOFAC. LAGA was involved in writing the complaint reports (PV), ensuring that the culprits were transported and locked-up in Sangmelima while at the same time following up the cases in the Court of First Instance in Bengbis and carrying out more investigations in order to arrest the main dealer of Malian nationality who is the main driving force behind the killings of elephants in that area.

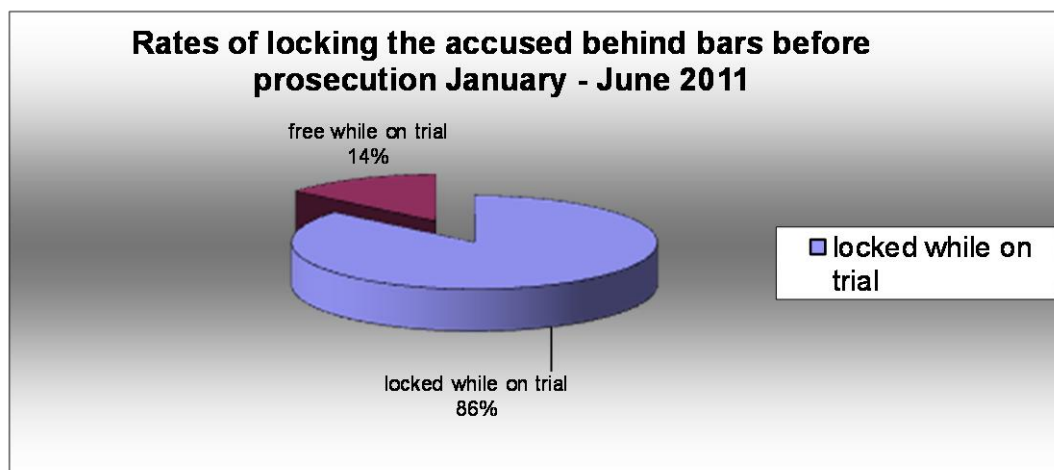
In May, 2 operations were carried out against 5 major dealers. 2 major ivory dealers known by the authorities for being involved in illegal ivory trafficking for a long time were arrested in Douala Littoral with 34 kg and more than 364 worked ivory pieces. They were arrested and the ivory seized in a well known workshop in Akwa – Douala wherein other operations had been carried out before and an area difficult to penetrate. One of the dealers who had been arrested in 2006 for ivory trafficking claimed to have been in the ivory business for more than 25 years and that his father and grandfather taught him about ivory trafficking. The other dealer attempted to bribe one of the arresting officers with about \$400 and was captured in LAGA’s camera; the bribery attempt was vigorously combated. Amongst the worked ivory pieces were Hankos (Chinese name seals) and this lays credence to the fact that the worked ivory pieces were destined for the foreign market especially the Chinese market which has been in the limelight for the past years.

Still in May, a network of 7 elephant poachers/dealers was busted in Mintom-Djoum – South. 3 of them have been arrested with a hunting rifle and ammunition in the Dja - Reserve while preparing to kill elephants in the reserve. LAGA was involved in the arrest of the suspects and has been in charge in writing the complaint reports (PV), ensuring that the culprits were transported and locked-up in Djoum while at the same time following up the cases in the Court. Investigations are still ongoing and operations planned to arrest the other members of the network.

June saw another member of the network of elephant dealers was arrested in Mintom – South. This network of 7 elephant poachers / dealers was busted in May 2011. With LAGA continuing investigations, more dealers were arrested including the most recent one. They were arrested with a hunting rifle and ammunition in the Dja - Reserve while preparing to kill elephants in the reserve. LAGA was involved in the arrest of the suspects after receiving information from some Ecoguards, and has been in charge in writing the complaint reports (PV), ensuring that the culprits were transported and locked-up in Djoum while at the same time following up the cases in the Court.

In other operations in June, a leopard skin dealer was arrested in Yaounde with a leopard skin and a leopard skull. He has a group of suppliers from Tonga – West and sells in the main cities of Yaounde – Center and Douala – Littoral. His father is his accomplice in whose house he hides the products of the protected wildlife species. 2 dealers were arrested while trying to trade in chimp parts and other wildlife species in Mindaourou – East. They were arrested with arms, ammunition and traps. Unprocedural court process was observed in this case in the court in Abong Mbang. This led the State prosecutor to reverse his decision of closing the dealers during the trial by granting bail to them. This is the second time to observe this problem within 3 months

culprits are still locked up, taking the case to the court and the follow-up of the cases in the court.



3. Legal

36 new cases reached the court during this period, these cases joined old cases that were scheduled, followed-up, tried in various courts and jail visits organized. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage with 86% imprisoned throughout the process.

125 missions were done out of the Center Region for follow-up, new cases and the creation of relations with judiciary authorities. More emphasis was on parrots with 53% of the cases followed by primates with 28%, sea turtle shells and leopard skins with 8% respectively and African Grey Parrots at 3%.

During this period, 4 cases were prosecuted with 6 dealers convicted and more than \$10,000 to be paid as damages to MINFOF. There were very good prosecutions pertaining to a dealers in ivory and other elephant products in Abong Mbang – East Region.

An outstanding prosecution was achieved in February. The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang – East sentenced one major dealer to 2 years imprisonment and to pay \$1960 as damages. He was arrested in Abong-Mbang for killing and trading in elephant parts.

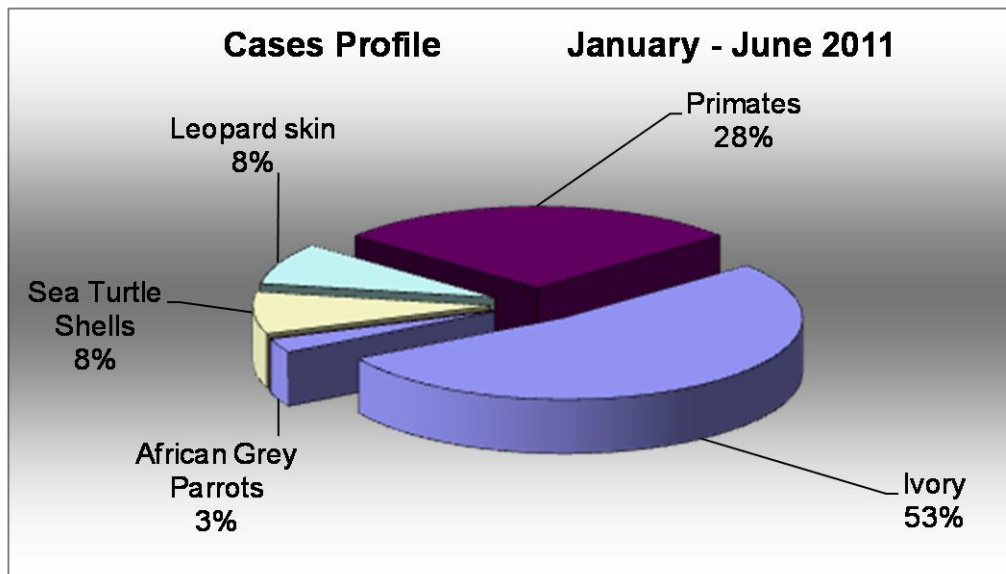
A very good prosecution was obtained in March whereby the court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang - East sentenced 2 dealers to 10 months of prison term and to pay \$2500 each as damages. They were arrested in Somalomo - East for killing and trading in elephant products. In another case in March, the Court of First Instance of Bangangte - West sentenced a dealer to 1 year of prison suspended sentence during three years and to pay \$250 as damages. He was arrested in Bangangte for detaining of 1 baby chimp and trying to trade in it.

Still in March, the Legal Department was following up cases in Abong Mbang – East against a network of 6 ivory dealers that was busted in Bertoua – East. They were arrested for trying to trade in 20 elephant tusks, hiding the tusks amongst bags containing cocoa being transported from Bertoua to Douala – Littoral and the tusks were destined for Nigeria according to the arrested dealers. The operation was initiated by WWF. The dealers attempted to bribe the Ecoguards who arrested them with a sum of 2 million Frs. CFA (about \$4000). The operations comes after a presentations and meetings with LAGA Director on corruption, wildlife crime and the need for WWF to undertake more responsibilities on wildlife law enforcement based on the LAGA Model to Country Directors and some Project Managers of WWF CARPO in 2010. Emphases were also laid on the disconnection between the core values of WWF and the realities in the field. The Head of LAGA Legal Department had also done a presentation on “NGO-Government collaboration on wildlife law enforcement: Lessons for a better involvement of WWF in Central Africa”. WWF involvement in the replication process was also highlighted with various results and challenges, as well as orientations on what they can practically do in future with existing replication projects and in countries targeted for replication.

In April, the court of First Instance of Douala – Littoral sentenced a regular dealer to six (6) months of prison and to pay \$4845 as damages and fine. He was arrested in Douala for illegal detention and trying to sell a leopard skin.

In May, the court of First Instance of Bafang - West sentenced a major dealer to 1 year suspended sentence during three years and to pay \$1070 as damages and fine. He was arrested in Bafang for the illegal detention and trying to trade in 1 leopard skin. LAGA has appealed against this ruling and the case follow-up is continuing so as to obtain a better court sentence.

A regional law library that was created continues to put into value what has been done before based on the LAGA model and how to proceed from there. This library with the documents therein could help in the creation of other structures in other parts of Africa and the world at large by motivated individuals.



4. Media

A total of 167 media pieces were produced and pushed into media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press achieved in a rate of almost one media piece per day due to the low number of field operations and cash flow problems. This could be seen during the months of March with 10 media pieces but this was compensated in June with 44 media pieces.

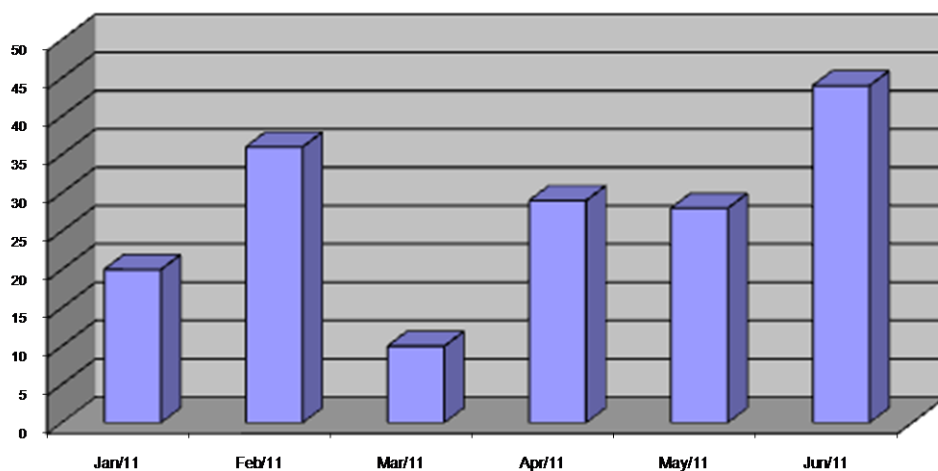
Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption. These were on - 3 dealers arrested with 700 parrots in Buea, 4 countries simultaneously clamped down on wildlife traffickers in the sub region, Yoyo arrest of a Nigerian sea turtle suspect and arrest of a mandrill trafficker; leopard skin dealers arrested in Douala, baby chimp trafficker arrested in Bangangte, traditional ruler assist in wildlife law enforcement, upcoming wildlife cases in court against wildlife defaulters; Internet chimp trader arrest in Buea and upcoming wildlife cases in court against wildlife defaulters. Among Mbang arrest of ivory dealers- judgement, Among Mbang arrest of 6 ivory traffickers – hearing, Kribi arrest of 2 sea turtle shell traffickers, leopard skin dealer arrest Bafang; Kribi 2 wildlife dealers arrest in chimp trade, Kribi dealer arrest of sea turtle shells, patriotism in saving wildlife and ivory dealer arrest Douala etc.

Guests included: Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, the Director of LAGA, South West Regional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife, South West Legion Commander of the Gendarmerie, LAGA Legal Head of Department; the Coordinator of the great ape project of USFWS, the former Information Officer at the US Embassy; Centre Regional Bureau Chief of the Eden newspaper, Victor Epie Ngome – a veteran journalist, Head of Translation Unit at the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform, Director of Wildlife – MINFOF, Director of Wildlife School Garoua – North Region, Conservator of Edea-Douala reserve, Lecturer in the University of Dschang and Researcher on lions, and former MINEP Technical Adviser..

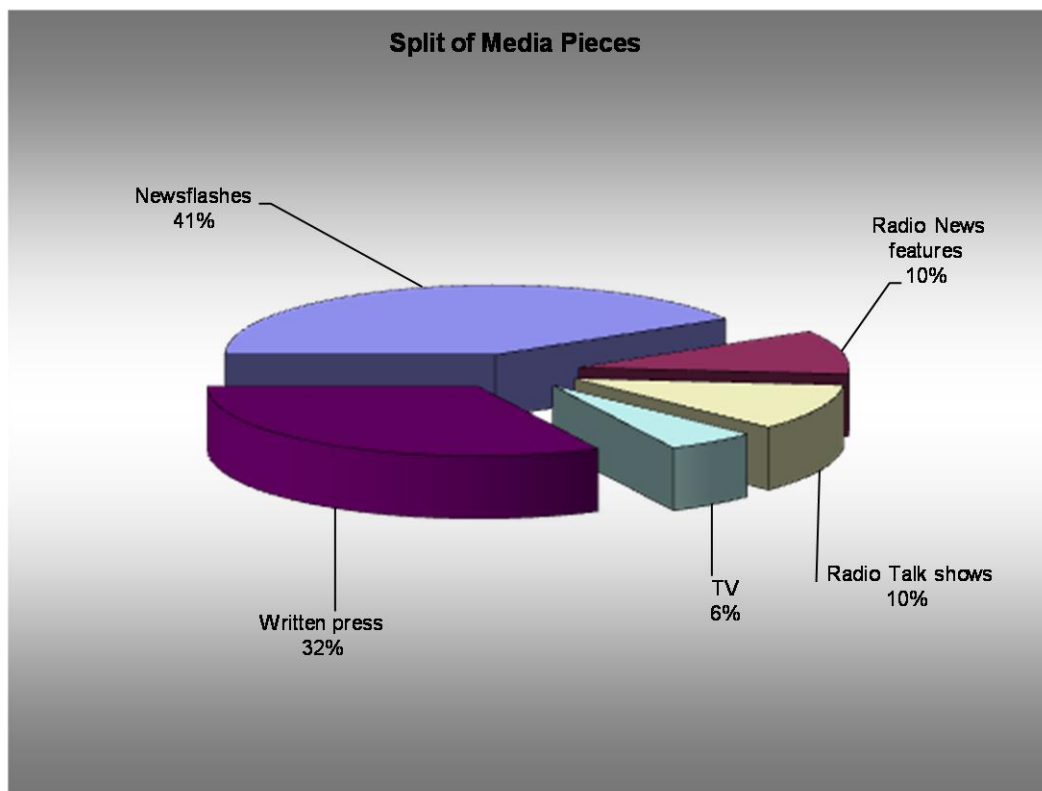
The distribution of the 7th edition of Wildlife Justice continued, and it focuses on Replication and Regional Law Enforcement. It looks at the impact of transnational wildlife trade and on ways governments should be working together to combat this trade. It extensively shows how government and NGOs can work in collaboration to apply wildlife law enforcement using the LAGA model that is actually spreading to other countries of the sub-region with the goal of creating a coordinated sub-regional response to trans-border wildlife crime. Wildlife Justice is a thematic journal that focuses on wildlife law enforcement and conservation issues.

Online sensitization resulted in over 650 visits to the LAGA website per month and accumulated YouTube views of over 67,500 during this period. It should be noted that the LAGA website (www.laga-enforcement.org) was entirely created from scratch and is maintained by the LAGA family.

Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed



Split of Media Pieces



5. Management

Work on the reconstruction of LAGA continued as well as work on action plans for departments while stretching recruitment processes in three LAGA departments (Investigations, Legal and Media). The Annual Report for 2010 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. An electronic version is available on line on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org. This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

LAGA experienced cash flow problems in February and March that slowed down the work and results of the LAGA's departments. Despite this problem, successful operations were carried out against targeted suspects showing the commitment of LAGA staff to function with limited financial resources.

LAGA family had a special lunch during the Labour Day celebration in May. During the celebrations, LAGA members were told to place a high value on LAGA's mission, ready to participate and contribute fully to the realization of LAGA's goals, as opposed to those seeking for financial compensation as the main motivational factor.

The series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development introduced by the LAGA Director continued during this period. This is a part of a new project aimed to strengthen the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family.

The weekly meeting sessions introduced by the LAGA Director continued. Other meetings and the agendas are initiated by any LAGA family member at any time. These meetings are geared towards identifying problems and proposing solutions to these problems and other existing ones so as to ascertain the smooth running of the organization, and to take initiatives in the development of the family members and the organization at large by carrying out specific assignments. During this period, there were series of meetings to discuss about finance, donors, and the bonus system among others.

The various Departments are putting in place plans to reconstruct and on measures to cut costs while maintaining the good results – for instance, choosing lawyers whose offices are close to areas of jurisdiction of cases they are handling, grouping cases passing in the same town as much as possible in one or a maximum of two dates, paying lawyers' fee as per performance, fielding targeted investigation missions etc.

In January, LAGA family resumed work after a 3 weeks Christmas holiday that started on the 17th of December 2010 with operations being carried out.

In February, 1 Investigator was kidnapped regarding the case of 3 ivory dealers. This was a reminder of the danger accompanying our work and the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner.

In March, 1 Investigator arrived from PALF – Republic of Congo in the program for the exchange of Investigators in regional enforcement to be trained for 1 month. He was trained on procedures of Investigations, Operations, Legal follow-up on court cases and how to produce and push through media pieces. He also received training on how to work on the Investigations Organic system and how to write good field activities and financial reports. He also carried out field missions resulting in a successful operation in Kribi – South in the arrest of 2 main dealers with 9 sea turtle shells. Training and exchange of Investigators will continue with the other projects in the forthcoming weeks.

In April, LAGA Director traveled out of the country for 3 weeks in Holland and Morocco. In his absence, there were excellent results in all fronts especially in the arrest of 8 dealers in 4 different operations within 10 days. This was further proof of the growing capacity and independence of the departments.

April also one Investigator, i33 continuing his studies in South Africa. The challenge will be to continue engaging him in activism while in South Africa. He is still getting information back to the LAGA Investigations Department on his targets while in South Africa and he will be engaged in more investigations work especially on international trade.

May month saw the Investigator, i35 getting married. There LAGA family comprising of a delegation of 12 actively took part in the marriage 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 is less than a dozen activists. An NGO without a single vehicle. In a world of multi-nationals among the conservation industry giants, LAGA is proud to be small and slim. During this period, the LAGA family took off some time from work and had a 2 day trip at the sea resort town of Kribi – South. Families travelled together to enjoy many activities with the main one being swimming. It was the first time many people entered into the sea. The general consensus was that it was an enjoyable experience, the initiative well lauded and that there should be more of such trips. It should be noted that the trip was not only about having a good time, but to commune together, get to know one another out of the working environment, and meet spouses and children of LAGA family members.

6. External Relations and Policy.

During this period, LAGA had many meeting sessions with highly placed government and diplomatic authorities in Cameroon, outside of Cameroon, local and international NGOs, and participated in conferences.

During this period, precisely in April, LAGA won another award - **The Future for Nature Award** in the Netherlands, given to individuals for internationally outstanding species protection efforts. The award acknowledges individuals who embody an approach to conservation that is entrepreneurial, in that it is innovative, impactful and shapes the future of conservation. Recognizing that approaches need to change, this award recognizes the power of individuals and their influence on conservation. The award was received by the LAGA Director, Ofir Drori in Holland.

The award is the forth in connection to LAGA's work, and is hoped to give more credibility to and acceptance of LAGA's message and help in its long term quest to affect conservation in a meaningful way. The ceremony was attended by about 500 invitees, and the Director of LAGA had the opportunity to give a presentation and use the occasion to send across the messages of the need for transparency and accountability and the diversity needed in participation in conservation.

The presentation ended with three main messages that LAGA tries to put on the map –

- **Anti-poaching in protected areas is not wildlife law enforcement** – While over the last few decades we have enormously increased the amount of data we possess on the nature of poaching and trade, we are still using the same old strategy, unchanged. So the ample data we have of the nature of the problem has not been integrated to our solution. Poaching is just a small part of the problem and therefore anti-poaching should be just a small part of a larger strategy for the solution.

- **Activism** – Our challenge did not necessitate a project it demanded a fight. There was no skill or degree we could search for, we had to search for and foster activism – internally motivated individuals who want to bring a change to the realities in their country. It highlights a larger problem of conservation - while striving to become more of a profession maybe conservation has lost along the way some of its base values. We need to get back to what it is all about - not a job, but a mission, and get values back to the front seat of conservation.
- **Fight corruption** – Conservation should start getting serious at tackling head-on Its no. 1 obstacle. Some of the systems we try to work with are dysfunctional and if we work with them we must be ready to work to change them. That means confrontation and it is an integral part of conservation work.

This period was also rich in meetings with the Minister MINFOF and other MINFOF officials on issues related to a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption.

LAGA also met with other government officials – with the Head of Follow-up Cell in the Ministry of Justice and the Director of Criminal Affairs in the Ministry of Justice concerning the pending wildlife cases and ensuring good governance in the court.

Many meetings were held with the Diplomatic community – With the U.S Embassy on wildlife law enforcement, corruption in the forest sector and an anti corruption unit for forest crime, the LAGA experience and its replication in the sub-region, establishing regional briefing on wildlife enforcement by LAGA and its replication, wildlife crime, APT-AID principles, fighting corruption in USAID programs and trafficking in Northern Cameroon, using the LAGA model to fight child trafficking, democracy in Cameroon and the need for an Anti-Corruption legislation; with the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Cameroon (Rural Development Section) on wildlife law enforcement and corruption in the forest sector; with the German Embassy to discuss on promoting democracy in Cameroon, wildlife law enforcement, corruption in the forest sector, the APT-AID principles of increasing accountability and transparency in development projects, the disappointment from the fight against corruption in Cameroon and the urgency of pushing for an Anti-Corruption Legislation in Cameroon; and with the Spanish Embassy to discuss the LAGA experience and democratic process in Cameroon.

LAGA met with PASOC Coordinator (EU support program for Civil Society) on corruption in the NGO sector, using LAGA experience to develop new accountability standards, the APT-AID principles of increasing accountability and transparency in development projects and developing the concept of the New Generation NGO that LAGA has created; giving presentation about the APT-AID principles certification scheme resulting in the agreement in principle to engage about 200 NGOs in APT-AID. LAGA met with CARPE – Cameroon Director to discuss on corruption in conservation projects and ways that USAID can fight it

LAGA Director took part in a dinner with a member of European parliament, the minister of Forestry and Wildlife, the E.U Ambassador and World Bank Forest Adviser.

Several meetings were held with other International and national organizations – with Dirck Byler of U.S Fish and Wildlife Service on strategies in developing wildlife law enforcement and replication strategy creating regional law enforcement; with the Director of “Voie Nouvelle – NGO” to discuss on several projects and the fight against corruption using LAGA’s experience; with the World Bank on wildlife law enforcement, replication of LAGA experience on other sectors, fighting corruption in the forest sector and beyond, project for Corruption Investigation Unit - Forest crime and wildlife law enforcement. LAGA also met with WWF, EU, and WCS on

Along Mbang ivory court case and engaging the international community to ensure good governance in the legal system; with Global Witness and CIFOR on wildlife law enforcement and anti corruption unit for forest crime; LAGA Director met with WWF Netherlands to discuss on the concern of a better management of projects enforcement and the APT AID Principles of accountability and transparency.

LAGA met with Cameroon country Director of Transparency International to discuss on the fight against corruption and combating electoral fraud; with Governance Officer of the World Bank in Cameroon discussing various corruption issues, and developing the concept of the New Generation NGO that LAGA has created; with project CHOC (UNDP led Multi-Donor program against corruption) Auditor discussing the disappointment from the fight against corruption in Cameroon, international community and the CHOC project becoming more of an obstacle than as a solution and the urgency of pushing for an Anti-Corruption Legislation in Cameroon; with WWF-CARPO Coordinator discussing corruption in WWF and ways to combat it; and with the GIZ Health Program Coordinator on corruption in the health sector, LAGA experience, the APT-AID principles of increasing accountability and transparency in development project, using technological tools to monitor distribution of subsidized health using the beneficiaries as auditors, corruption in development Aid programs and implementing innovative technology to track mosquito nets distribution in Cameroon.

Raising democracy and corruption issues in a round table discussion with Johnnie Carson Under Secretary of Africa Affairs in US State Department and the US Ambassador to Cameroon. LAGA director also met with Pauline Biyong and discussed on deadlock anti-corruption legislation.

In January, LAGA participated in the national agro-pastoral show – a show that brings together every sector of the country into one large space. LAGA occupied a stand to present some aspects of its work especially the need for urgent action against the eminent extinction of endangered species in the country and the sub-region.

During this period, LAGA was invited to present its vision of law enforcement in an Anti poaching strategy and regional law enforcement meeting. LAGA's representative followed discussions during the meeting and included methods to increase effective control and presence by Ministry officials in checking the illegal exportation of wildlife products.

LAGA Director travelled to Congo Republic and held meeting with enforcement officials and anti-corruption commission.

LAGA also met with individuals – with a Programmer on different application of Ushahidi system in Cameroon; with a volunteer on forest to discuss survey for REDD, FLEFGT and corruption in the forest sector; with an Associate Analyst for Africa of Control Risks concerning corruption and stability in Cameroon. LAGA Director had a meeting with communication consultant from Norway on upcoming great apes media campaign stressing a new approach has to be taken to create African conservation based on Africa values to deal with the justified negative sentiments towards western conservation. Another meeting was held with Freedom House Director concerning promoting democracy in the country; with Dr. Per Aaroug on the trade in Great Apes, the dire situation of lions in Cameroon, and management of the national Parks in Northern Cameroon. A series of meetings held by LAGA Director and volunteers to assist in the reorganisation of the WPE NGO after the death of its Founder. LAGA Director met with a German Journalist of Focus Magazine discussing the LAGA experience, corruption in conservation, and problems relating to FSC.

Presentations were given to Peace Corps volunteers on fostering community activism for the development of an educational manual for fostering activism to transform rural communities in Cameroon.

7. Replication of LAGA Activities

7.1. – General

LAGA's goal from 2003 has been to create a new model for NGO – Government collaboration establishing wildlife law enforcement. Our hope was that by bringing about results with an innovative approach, we will be able to change the existing system and trigger a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime. The model is essentially shifting away from targeting small-time poachers in the forest and focusing in prosecution of major dealers, fighting head the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – Corruption. Following several awards and recommendations from the international community to replicate the model in other countries, LAGA has started working with other NGOs transferring the LAGA experience and model throughout the sub-region. LAGA started working with a new budget proposal for sub-regional replication work. The LAGA model is currently operating in 4 countries – Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) and the Central African Republic (CAR) and Gabon. The replication of the LAGA model is also geared taking cross section lessons outside of wildlife conservation; these include the fight against corruption, fostering activism, fight against child trafficking etc.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/tabid/166/Default.aspx>

This vision of regional wildlife law enforcement was concretized in 2010 in with very good operations in Cameroon, Gabon, C.A.R and Republic of Congo. Experience from Cameroon has proven that enforcing existing wildlife laws and providing measurable standards for the effectiveness of the enforcement, that is the number of major wildlife law violators receiving and serving a deterring punishment, is possible.

LAGA Director was invited by ILEA (International Law Enforcement Academy) to create and train the first anti-corruption program for law enforcement officials in Africa in Botswana. He also met the head of the academy who in addition to wildlife, wants to integrate the anti-corruption program in other sectors on which ILEA focuses such as security, drugs, trafficking, terrorism, arms trade etc. It was generally agreed that LAGA will train every year, and that anti-corruption has to become a major part of their program. The LAGA Director was one of the trainers on surveillance techniques and made suggestions on more topics such as internet trade, and many other aspects especially on procedures of operations.

Regional collaboration among the projects increased with a regional meeting of country coordinators in Gabon planning regional crackdowns. The meeting resulted in a regional collaborative arrest operation between Gabon and Congo. The regional meeting covered among others - strategic planning, identifying priorities for improvement in the projects, boosting Gabon's efforts of AALF.

LAGA participated and presented its vision for Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement of enforcement without borders in the regional Interpol meeting organized by Interpol Central African Regional Bureau in Yaounde. Collaboration was established with Head of Interpol Central Africa Region Bureau in preparation of regional crackdown operations in four countries by the projects (Cameroon, CAR, Gabon and Republic of Congo) in regional wildlife law enforcement strategy.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training session continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon and trips made to other projects in the sub-region. During this period, an Investigator arrived from PALF – Republic of Congo in the program for the exchange of Investigators in regional enforcement to be trained for 1 month. He was trained on procedures of Investigations, Operations, Legal follow-up on court cases and how to produce and push through

media pieces. He also received training on how to work on the Investigations Organic system and how to write good field activities and financial reports. He also carried out field missions resulting in a successful operation in Kribi – South in the arrest of 2 main dealers with 9 sea turtle shells. Training and exchange of Investigators will continue with the other projects in the forthcoming weeks. Already, a jurist and an investigator from AALF – Gabon arrived in June for 1 month training. Others are doing the necessary paperwork and the acquisition of traveling documents.

A regional law library that was created continues to put into value what has been done before based on the LAGA model and how to proceed from there. This library with the documents therein could help in the creation of other structures in other parts of Africa and the world at large by motivated individuals.

The distribution of the first edition of the LAGA Manual continued. This manual valorises LAGA's work with all procedures and evaluation factors well spelled out from all Departments. The manual is intended to serve as a blueprint for not only the replication of LAGA activities, but for other organizations that intend to take up wildlife law enforcement and other conservation activities. Experience from Cameroon has proven that enforcing existing wildlife laws and providing measurable standards for the effectiveness of the enforcement, that is the number of major wildlife law violators receiving and serving a deterring punishment, is possible. The LAGA is the first specialized Law Enforcement NGO in the sub-region. It focuses on threatened species, and mainly on the dealers, the primary generators of the illegal bush meat business, the ivory trade and the pet trade.

The replication of the LAGA model and the transfer of LAGA experience in other countries throughout the sub-region is a continuous process whereby LAGA works with other NGOs. On a daily basis all LAGA Departments assist in the various activities of the replication projects (PALF – Congo, AALF – Gabon and RALF – Central African Republic etc.) on all managerial and financial issues especially reports; Investigations and Operations planification and supervision; legal follow-up of all court cases; and publishing and pushing through all the media pieces with all the necessary information posted on the various project websites amongst others.

7.2. Gabon

In January, LAGA helped to save the AALF case of the 5 traffickers arrested with 13 ape heads, 32 ape hands, 12 leopard skins, part of a lion skin, and 5 elephant tails among other contraband wildlife products in Gabon. This was done by building of strategies with lawyer to put the case back to track; legal follow up and supervision of activities of the Legal Assistant and to appoint a Lawyer; draft of request for reopening of debates sent to lawyer; Press release prepared and sent to the Coordinator; discussion with Head of Legal Unit of the Gabonese Ministry of Forestry on lawyer's appointment; review and correction of case analysis; draft of civil claim (damages) sent to lawyer and regular updates to the Project Coordinator.

The grisly haul represents the slaughter of a small population of great apes and proves that the illegal trade in primates is still thriving. All five dealers, four Nigerians and a woman from Benin, who are currently behind bars, have confessed to dealing in ape parts for several years. This undercover operation was carried out in a in the Gabonese capital of Libreville by activists from law-enforcement agency AALF (Appui a l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune) and officials from MINEF (Ministere des Eaux et des Forets).

In February, website work was done for PALF, RALF and AALF but specifically for AALF, the page was updated including the Gabon Decree on illegal hunting of elephant.

1 jurist and 1 investigator arrived LAGA from AALF – Gabon for a 1 month training. They will be trained on activities of each LAGA department: Investigations, Legal, Operations, Communication and Management. They will also be trained on values and results with the aim of getting skills and receiving tools and materials in order to improve on the effectiveness of the projects' activities and improve on the projects' results.

Some other results include the first strict prosecution against an ivory dealer - 6 months, 500 000 CFA fine, 10,000,000 CFA in damages, the maximum penalty under the law; training with customs by AALF, ANPN, Ministry of Water and Forests, CIRMF; and 1,000 legal booklets explaining the wildlife law have been produced and distributed.

For more information on AALF, go to <http://www.conservation-justice.org>



Heads of a gorilla and 12 chimpanzees, the hands of two gorillas and 30 chimpanzees, 12 leopard skins, part of a lion skin and five elephant tails among products recovered in an operation carried out by AALF and officials of MINEF - Gabon. The grisly haul represents the slaughter of a small population of great apes and proves that the illegal trade in primates is still thriving. All five dealers, four Nigerians and a woman from Benin, who are currently behind bars, have confessed to dealing in ape parts for several years.

7.3. The Republic of Congo

In January, LAGA assisted in the legal follow up of two cases in Ouessou for the PALF Project in Congo - Brazzaville; supervision of Legal Assistant's activities during Coordinator's absence; regular communication with State Counsel to denounce unprocedural attitude of Ouessou Commissioner in releasing Itona; to request for his strong intervention during the audience, to push for him to issue two arrest warrants against the two fugitive accused after the decision was given.

Still in January, in an operation carried out by PALF, a Chinese national was arrested at the Maya-Maya airport in Brazzaville - The Republic of Congo, with large quantities of ivory as he was preparing to board a flight to Beijing. The 35 year old man was attempting to smuggle to China 5 large elephant tusks, 80 ivory chopsticks, Hankos (Chinese name seals), 3 ivory carvings and many small ivory items. The forestry and wildlife (des eaux et forets) airport brigade agents, who recently declared a renewed alert mode for international ivory trafficking, noticed the unusual baggage and proceeded with the arrest of the suspected trafficker. They did so with the help of the national

gendarmarie and PALF (Projet d'Appui a l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune Sauvage) - an NGO project specialized in tracking down wildlife criminals.

In February, LAGA Director travelled to the Republic of Congo and held meeting with enforcement officials and anti-corruption commission as well as to evaluate the replication efforts in that country.

In March, PALF Investigator from the Republic of Congo arrived Yaounde – Cameroon and was trained in LAGA for 1 month. The training ended in April and he was trained on procedures of Investigations, Operations, Legal follow-up on court cases and how to produce and push through media pieces. He also received training on how to work on the Investigations Organic system and how to write good field activities and financial reports. He also carried out field missions resulting in a successful operation in Kribi – South in the arrest of 2 main dealers with 9 sea turtle shells.

Still in March, LAGA helped to upload videos on PALF YouTube channel and worked on slideshow for PALF website.

In May, LAGA assisted in the setting up of PALF Investigations Department, giving directives on recruitment and coordinating the field testing of 2 Investigators with encouraging results as 1 investigator has given an operation.

LAGA also assisted PALF in the coordination of an operation, working specifically with one Investigator on procedures in Manual from Investigations through to operations planification and strategies. The said operation was successful – 3 dealers arrested with 17 sea turtle shells. LAGA also assisted in the court proceedings that led to the prosecution of Ecoguards that were arrested for illegal wildlife trafficking.

Some other actions by PALF include – the arrest of mandrill dealer in Pointe-Noire, corruption of the gendarmerie observed with the dealer released while on trial. The arrest of a major ivory dealer in northern Congo in possession of ammunition for an AK; this saw an international collaboration with Gabonese authorities for border operations with a strong collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, thanks to support from the US embassy in the past.

For more information on PALF, go to the new website <http://www.palf-enforcement.org>

7.4. Central African Republic – CAR

LAGA Departments assisted RALF – Central African Republic on activity and financial reports; use of the LAGA Manual especially on Investigations and Operations planification and supervision; legal follow-up of all court cases; and follow-up in publishing and pushing through all the media pieces with all the necessary information posted on the RALF webpage.

LAGA is also assisting the RALF Coordinator – Hubert to settle well by trying to get an space for RALF outside of the WWF Bangui concession as the present arrangement compromises the identity of Investigators and high risk of information leakage; the ability of Hubert to make decisions on a daily basis and able to consult freely with other projects – LAGA, PALF and AALF; look for a place to keep seized animals outside of the WWF concession.

In May, LAGA assisted Hubert (RALF Coordinator) on Investigations and Operations procedures in the 2 successful operations (1 leopard skin, and 1 crocodile skin). LAGA also discusses directly with the Investigators to encourage them and to give them directives on how to get more operations.

Among other court sentences, this period saw another landmark prosecution of a wildlife dealer has achieved in C.A.R. He was sentenced to one and a half year imprisonment. The year and half imprisonment term judgement is exceptionally high for this country.

There was also good support of Ministry of Justice in producing circulars for courts around the country for strict application of wildlife law; similar support was expressed in a letter from the Ministry of Water and Forests.

Go to <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/RALF/tabid/165/Default.aspx> for more information.

7.5. Nigeria

In December 2010, the Head of Legal Department travelled to Nigeria in order to meet the authorities of National Environmental Standard Regulation and Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and discussed about the replication of wildlife law enforcement in Nigeria and to set the foundations. The follow-up continues and he is trying to engage a special unit in Nigeria to assist in the enforcement of the wildlife law in Nigeria. Another trip to Nigeria will be organized in the second half of the year.

Naftali Honig – PALF Coordinator had a good meeting with WCS – Nigeria and they are ready to open an office in Abuja for a start and discussions are presently on budget and other practicalities.

7.6. Chad

LAGA directly supervised and pushed for the legal procedure to be followed pertaining to the case of 2 Chinese arrested with ivory in Chad by talking directly with the concerned authorities.

IFAW is ready to finance the replication in Chad and LAGA is assisting in getting a more serious and credible NGO to pilot the activities in Chad.

7.7. Other Countries in Africa

LAGA Director was invited by ILEA (International Law Enforcement Academy) to create and train the first anti-corruption program for law enforcement officials in Africa in Botswana. He also met the head of the academy who in addition to wildlife, wants to integrate the anti-corruption program in other sectors on which ILEA focuses such as security, drugs, trafficking, terrorism, arms trade etc. It was generally agreed that LAGA will train every year, and that anti-corruption has to become a major part of their program. The LAGA Director was one of the trainers on surveillance techniques and made suggestions on more topics such as internet trade, and many other aspects especially on procedures of operations.

Groundwork and contacts are still ongoing in replicating the activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea (an initiative taken by Luc Mathot – AALF Coordinator).

7.8. Fostering Activism

During this period, LAGA continued to foster activism internally and externally. The NGO is not a technical institute in charge of mere execution of Program. The NGO should foster activism and act in the spirit of fighting for a cause and undertake a secondary goal to produce activist, leaders and bring a positive change to their country beyond the service of the NGO. The NGO should instill specified values in its members. Staff is recruited not according to merely skills but examined in their values and potentials to become independent activists. The rarest quality of personnel is honesty and the desire to bring a change in one's country. Any recruit has to pass a period of volunteering where these aspects (values) are thoroughly examined. The post in the NGO should

not be regarded as a job but as a mission and therefore demanding exceptional devotion, commitment, sacrifice, initiatives, self discipline fitting a fight for a cause. At any point of time, when a member of the organization does not prove these qualities, he/she will be removed. LAGA members are encouraged to carry any external activities connected to a cause and some NGO's time will be given to do so.

Fostering Community Activism is a field that is largely ignored in education work in the developing world context. Guidelines and lesson plans in educating communities in anything from healthcare, to agriculture; but teaching skills for individuals is different from developing a community. Community activism relates to the social capital of a community – the shared norms or values that promote social cooperation, instantiated in actual social relationships. Transfer of skills is therefore not all that is needed in order to develop a community. We need to instil a spirit of community service valuing the public interest. When we refer to “Strengthening a Community”, “Developing Community Leadership”, “Mobilizing a Community” - we do not refer to mere transfer of skills. We do not refer to human capital but to social capital.

Creating Independent Activists is one aspect that LAGA uses to foster activism. The NGO members are encouraged to develop their own projects on the various development issues of their country and are given NGO time and management time to do develop the project in the vision of turning it in to an independent NGO/paper/book. The function of leadership is not producing more followers but to produce more leaders.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>

Presentations were given to Peace Corps volunteers on fostering community activism for the development of an educational manual for fostering activism to transform rural communities in Cameroon.

2 NGOs created by LAGA members continued to function normally during this period– one is known as Action for Citizen and Community Development (ACCOD) which has already secured funding. ACCOD aims at working with grass root communities, through education and information dissemination programmes, geared towards its principal mission which is building informed and participatory citizens necessary for a democracy, as well as development to grow. The other NGO known as SCATI (Stop Child Abuses and Trafficking Initiatives) aims at putting into synergy individuals and organizations with specific technical skills in one or several precise domains of action (health, community empowerment, law enforcement, policy making, social work, social mobilization etc.) enabling them to act in favour of the eradication of the causes, the factors and the consequences of child abuses and trafficking; by throwing or at facilitating any initiatives which contribute to put an end to the practices of the traffic of the children on the Cameroonian territory .

In addition to creating other NGOs, the series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development introduced by the LAGA Director continued during this period.

7.9. Child Trafficking

As part of LAGA lessons given outside of wildlife law enforcement, LAGA Director gave a presentation in Catholic Relief Service (CRS) on how to use LAGA's model to combat child trafficking and to solve the problem of lack of prosecution of child traffickers by fighting corruption.

Projects are still being created to obtain major prosecutions by fighting corruption. One such project was created by a LAGA family member known as SCATI (Stop Child Abuses and Trafficking Initiatives) aims at putting into synergy individuals and organizations with specific technical skills in one or several precise domains of action (health, community empowerment, law enforcement,

policy making, social work, social mobilization etc.) enabling them to act in favour of the eradication of the causes, the factors and the consequences of child abuses and trafficking; by throwing or at facilitating any initiatives which contribute to put an end to the practices of the traffic of the children on the Cameroonian territory . The first project drafted aims at putting in place a platform of organizations which will work together to fight child trafficking from the denunciation of traffickers to the judgment through the withdrawal of victims and their coverage at different level.

7.10. Fight against corruption

The ideas of LAGA were presented in different forums. The AC (Anti-Corruption) hotline created on the base of the LAGA experience served as a lesson for the Transparency International hotline.

LAGA took a decade-long baseline of zero prosecutions under the existing wildlife law - a shocking baseline shared with almost all Central and Western African countries with sharp contrast to the amount of public funds poured into conservation - as a symptom of failure of the aid business, and its inability to tackle the first obstacle to development - corruption.

LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. Bribing attempts are documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and 80% of all court cases within the legal system. But LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. The project is considered to have moved Cameroon from the decade long zero wildlife prosecution baseline to a one per week rate of a major wildlife dealer arrest and prosecution, and achieved legitimacy for an NGO to fight corruption within a governmental process.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Corruption/tabid/180/Default.aspx>

8. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact

Beyond the number of operations and their effectiveness, there is an even more important factor in evaluating LAGA's work – the strategic value of the operations in reducing the level of illegal wildlife trade. In this regard LAGA is choosing diversified operations, which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon. Consequently, LAGA-MINFOF work sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on primates, ivory and other elephant products, sea turtle shells and other products, leopard skins and African Grey parrots. Corruption and Wildlife Crime is another focal area that LAGA is combating.

8.1 Primates

During this period, a total of 10 dealers were arrested for being involved in the illegal trade of live primates or parts of killed primates. 2 live chimps and 2 live mandrills were rescued and sent to wildlife centers.

In January, 2 well known dealers were arrested in Ebolowa - South while trying to trade in a live mandrill. They claim to be related to a highly placed official of MINFOF and their unprocedural release after the taking of the statement of offence lays credence to this claim. The MINFOF Delegate for the Southern Region refused to write a remand warrant for them to be locked up and presented to the State Prosecutor the following day. Also, the dealers and the MINFOF officials

were observed speaking in their dialect after the arrest and during the writing of the statement of offence. This unprocedural and irregular behaviour was reported to the Minister who asked the said Delegate to fully collaborate with the LAGA team so as to present the dealers to the Prosecutor and for normal procedures to follow suit.

In February, a major dealer and the owner of a shop who has been dealing in primates for more than 5 years was arrested in Yaounde – Center Region with a live Mandrill. He resisted arrest and instigated a crowd to be violent during his arrest. While in the Gendarmerie Brigade, he attempted on several occasions to negotiate with the arresting officers through bribe for his release. He also tried to bring in some highly placed relatives in the Cameroon military to intervene on his behalf.

Still in February, another regular dealer was arrested in Bangangte – West Region with a live baby chimp while trying to trade in it. He is also reputed for selling bushmeat in Bazou – West and also has some main buyers / customers in Bafoussam - West.

In April, 2 regular dealers in chimp parts were arrested in Kumba – South West while trying to collect 400.000 FCFA (\$800) for 2 chimp heads and 8 chimp limbs. The chimps were reportedly killed in the Korup National Park in the South West Region and it was not the first time they have been apprehended for trading in products of protected wildlife species. After their arrest, they tried to get the Assistant Divisional Officer for Kumba to intervene on their behalf, but this was quickly squashed by the operating team.

Still in April, 2 other dealers were arrested in Kribi – South while trying to sell a live baby chimp. They have been trafficking live primates for long using a motor-bike to carry out their business. They called on former Member of Parliament from the Ocean Division to intervene on their behalf but he refused after getting the details of the case from the operations team. The live baby chimp was rescued and sent to the Limbe wildlife Center for proper care.

In June, 2 dealers were arrested while trying to trade in chimp parts in Mindaourou – East. LAGA has now taken over the legal procedure from the writing of the complaint reports (PVs), ensuring that the culprits are still locked up, taking the case to the court and the follow-up of the cases in the court. Here too, unprocedural and irregular behaviour was observed with the unprocedural release of the dealers by the State Counsel of Abong Mbang – East. Measures are being taken by LAGA through the MINFOF lawyer and the Ministry to put the case back in its normal track.

8.2 Elephant products

During this period, 3 networks involving a total of 16 ivory dealers were busted in Kribi, Bengbis and Mintom all in the South Region. The Kribi network kidnapped the investigator who was trying to infiltrate it. At one point they started suspecting the investigator, and as they involved more ivory dealers they concluded he is a LAGA investigator and kidnapped him. In another operation, 2 major ivory dealers known by the authorities for being involved in illegal ivory trafficking for a long time were arrested in Douala - Littoral with 34 kg and more than 364 worked ivory pieces.

In February, 3 major dealers in ivory and products of other protected wildlife species were arrested in Kribi – South for trying to trade in 4 elephant tusks, kidnapping and violent attempts on a LAGA staff and a collaborator. One of them is also a recidivist who had been arrested before for other crimes and from records, affirms that he had gone to Nigeria several times to sell ivory. During the investigation phase, they kidnapped the investigator and forcefully transported him from Douala - Littoral to Kribi where they were arrested. The investigator was saved by adhering to procedure and the quick reaction of the whole LAGA team that rapidly put together officials of the forces of law and order that arrested the dealers and rescued the investigator and the collaborator.

This kidnapping was a reminder of the danger accompanying our work and the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner. We managed to rescue him and get 3 dealers arrested in their Mercedes Benz but his life was probably saved due to sticking to procedures built for such scenarios. He was sent to infiltrate an increasingly resilient network - Douala's ivory dealers. He had recorded by his hidden camera the dealers with ivory tusks as they explain the different ways they export ivory concealed in carved armchairs, and as they brought him to a woman that "produces permits" for illegal ivory through "her contacts in the Ministry - MINFOF". At one point they started suspecting the investigator, and as they involved more ivory dealers they have concluded he is a LAGA investigator and kidnapped him. Since our investigators operate with strict communication procedures we understood very fast that we have a problem. We called his phone using his local dialect, again according to procedure we are all drilled with. From that we gathered he is kidnapped though we could not get his exact location. Trying to lure the dealers to different locations and searching for the dealers' Mercedes in three different towns we finally managed to arrest them and recover our investigator who was unharmed, though quite surprised he came out of this alive. The five are still behind bars as the international community helps our anti-corruption efforts to deflect the many corruption attempts for their release. The kidnapping of a LAGA staff showed us the importance of following strict measures and procedures in the field to deal with such events in a professional manner. This event was dealt with in a professional calculated manner and also stands to show the criminal nature of wildlife offenders.

In April, a network of elephant poachers/dealers was busted in Bengbis – South. 6 of them were arrested for killing an elephant in the Dja Reserve and trying to trade in its parts. They were arrested with 2 elephant tusks (about 4 kg), a gun and smoked elephant meat. They are connected to a main dealer of Malian nationality and investigations are still ongoing for his arrest. The operation was carried out by some Ecoguards of former ECOFAC. LAGA was involved in writing the complaint reports (PV), ensuring that the culprits were transported and locked-up in Sangmelima while at the same time following up the cases in the Court of First Instance in Bengbis and carrying out more investigations in order to arrest the main dealer of Malian nationality who is the main driving force behind the killings of elephants in that area.

In May, 2 major ivory dealers known by the authorities for being involved in illegal ivory trafficking for a long time were arrested in Douala Littoral with 34 kg and more than 364 worked ivory pieces. They were arrested and the ivory seized in a well known workshop in Akwa – Douala wherein other operations had been carried out before and an area difficult to penetrate. One of the dealers who had been arrested in 2006 for ivory trafficking claimed to have been in the ivory business for more than 25 years and that his father and grandfather taught him about ivory trafficking. The other dealer attempted to bribe one of the arresting officers with about \$400 and was captured in LAGA's camera; the bribery attempt was vigorously combated. Amongst the worked ivory pieces were Hankos (Chinese name seals) and this lays credence to the fact that the worked ivory pieces were destined for the foreign market especially the Chinese market which has been in the limelight for the past years.

Still in May, a network of 7 elephant poachers/dealers was busted in Mintom-Djoum – South. 3 of them have been arrested with a hunting rifle and ammunition in the Dja - Reserve while preparing to kill elephants in the reserve. LAGA was involved in the arrest of the suspects after receiving information from some Ecoguards, and has been in charge in writing the complaint reports (PV), ensuring that the culprits were transported and locked-up in Djoum while at the same time following up the cases in the Court. Another member of the network was arrested in June and Investigations are still ongoing and operations planned to arrest the other members of the network.

8.3 Sea Turtle Shells

This period was marked by a continuation of the crackdown in the illegal trade of sea turtles. These operations, following those of 2010 concretizes the fact that illegal trade in sea turtle shells has been ongoing for long and very strong in those areas. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting main actors and exposing the silence of the local authorities and projects in some of the area. In January, a regular dealer of Nigerian nationality with no official residential documents for Cameroon was arrested while trying to illegally trade in 7 sea turtle shells. He is also a fisherman and has 2 other brothers he claims help him to carry out the business.

In April, 2 other major dealers were arrested in Kribi – South while trying to trade in 9 sea turtle shells. They claimed to have traded in ivory before with suppliers from the northern part of Cameroon and buyers from Equatorial Guinea. They resisted arrest and tried to fight with the operations team.

8.4 Leopard skins

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive regions despite the corruption and complicity of local officials. The focused operations were effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for leopard skin trade. Operations were carried out in Bafang – West Region and Yaounde – Center against illegal dealers in leopard skins.

In April, 2 dealers in protected wildlife products arrested in Bafang – West with a very large leopard skin. They were arrested with a military uniform and a motor-bike which they use to carry out the trade. One of them is a recidivist and claims to have connections to the Bafang royal family.

In June, a leopard skin dealer was arrested in Yaounde with a leopard skin and a leopard skull. He has a group of suppliers from Tonga – West and sells in the main cities of Yaounde – Center and Douala – Littoral. His father is his accomplice in whose house he hides the products of the protected wildlife species.

8.5 African Grey Parrots

During this period, the biggest wildlife exporter arrested in Yaounde – Center and transferred to Douala after the case against him was rebuilt and a warrant issued for his arrest. He was first arrested in 2007 and this uncovered issues of complicity and corruption within the Ministry trying to export 720 parrots to Bahrain, an illegal destination. This again validated information we had before about the organized chain of complicity in the parrot trade and how white-collar criminals thrive on this complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor. The parrots' cases uncovered corruption at a very high level; insisting to tackle it got us many new enemies, threats, and warnings that we are “stepping on the wrong toes” and that it will send us on “a one way ticket out of Cameroon”.

In a special corruption report LAGA submitted to the Minister we highlighted our evidence for the role played by a highly placed ministry official in collaborating with the offenders, issuing false declarations on CITES permits, and attempting to block our cases. The operation quickly intensified the backlash to our anti-corruption work alienating the ministry official in question and most of the involved officials in one side and LAGA and the Minister on the other. With the involvement of the British High Commissioner and other members of the diplomatic community the ministry official was removed. This in did not stop the wildlife trafficker in question and through more corruption and bribery, he succeeded to make the case file against him disappear and later in court, he claimed that no case was ever opened against him.

It should be noted that in 2009, LAGA received a strong letter of support from 7 Ambassadors as LAGA faced threats in line of their work in wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption. LAGA deals regularly with many threats – physical, political and legal. Basically this biggest wildlife dealer in Cameroon seems to have been trying to influence the court through corruption to put the LAGA Director behind bars as revenge and to escape justice after his arrest in 2007. But the debate that opened in court seemed to have little to do with reason or with law. The dealer lied under oath at least three times. Both the State Counsel and the Judge were unexplainably hostile. Nevertheless, the international community took quick and unprecedented action to stand by LAGA and the LAGA Director as no fewer than seven ambassadors signed a strong letter of support sent to the Minister of Forest, Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister. Afterwards, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife wrote a strong letter of support himself. The Ambassadors stated in their letter that they have supported the Director and LAGA's work for a number of years and see the success in fighting wildlife trafficking as one of Cameroon's anti-corruption success stories.

8.6 Corruption and Wildlife Crime

LAGA took a decade-long baseline of zero prosecutions under the existing wildlife law - a shocking baseline shared with almost all Central and Western African countries with sharp contrast to the amount of public funds poured into conservation - as a symptom of failure of the aid business, and its inability to tackle the first obstacle to development - corruption.

LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. Bribing attempts are documented in more than 85% of our field arrest operations, and 80% of all court cases within the legal system. But LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. The project is considered to have moved Cameroon from the decade long zero wildlife prosecution baseline to a one per week rate of a major wildlife dealer arrest and prosecution, and achieved legitimacy for an NGO to fight corruption within a governmental process.

This ongoing fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. In March, the biggest wildlife exporter was arrested in Yaounde – Center and transferred to Douala after the case against him was rebuilt and a warrant issued for his arrest. He was first arrested in 2007 and this uncovered issues of complicity and corruption within the Ministry trying to export 720 parrots to Bahrain, an illegal destination. The parrots' cases uncovered corruption at a very high level; insisting to tackle it got us many new enemies, threats, and warnings that we are "stepping on the wrong toes" and that it will send us on "a one way ticket out of Cameroon".

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Attempts and suspicions of bribery were observed during some other arrest operations. This was vivid in May in Douala during the arrest of 2 well known ivory traffickers that resulted in the seizure of 34 kg and more than 364 worked ivory pieces. One of the dealers attempted to bribe one

of the arresting officers with about \$400 and was captured in LAGA's camera; the bribery attempt was vigorously combated.



Bribery attempt observed and captured in LAGA's camera during the ivory operation in Douala. On the left is an officer of law and order collaborating with LAGA during the operation that resulted in the arrest of 2 major dealers, one of whom is attempting to bribe as seen in the picture. This attempt was vigorously combated by the LAGA team in the field.

Bribery attempts, suspicion of corruption and wrong court procedures were observed in many other cases. In January, 2 well known dealers arrested in Ebolowa - South while trying to trade in a live mandrill claimed to be related to a highly placed official of MINFOF and their unprocedural release after the taking of the statement of offence lays credence to this claim. The MINFOF Delegate for the Southern Region refused to write a remand warrant for them to be locked up and presented to the State Prosecutor the following day. Also, the dealers and the MINFOF officials were observed speaking in their dialect after the arrest and during the writing of the statement of offence. This unprocedural and irregular behaviour was reported to the Minister who asked the said Delegate to fully collaborate with the LAGA team so as to present the dealers to the Prosecutor and for normal procedures to follow suit.

In February in Yaounde - Center, a major dealer and the owner of a shop arrested with a live mandrill attempted on several occasions to negotiate with the arresting officers through bribe for his release. He also tried to bring in some highly placed relatives in the Cameroon military to intervene on his behalf to no avail.

In April in Kumba – South West, 2 regular dealers in chimp parts were arrested in Kumba – South West while trying to collect 400.000 FCFA (\$800) for 2 chimp heads and 8 chimp limbs tried to get the Assistant Divisional Officer for Kumba to intervene on their behalf, but this was quickly squashed by the operating team. Still in April in Kribi – South, 2 other dealers arrested while trying to sell a live baby chimp called on former Member of Parliament from the Ocean Division to intervene on their behalf but he refused after getting the details of the case from the operations team.

In June in Abong Mbang – East involving 2 dealers that were arrested while trying to trade in chimp parts in Mindaurou – East, an unprocedural and irregular behaviour was observed with the unprocedural release of the dealers by the State Counsel of Abong Mbang. A relative of the dealers and a friend of President of the court interfering in the process; this made the State prosecutor to reverse his decision of locking-up the dealers during the trial by granting them bail. Measures are being taken by LAGA through the MINFOF lawyer and the Ministry to put the case back in its normal track.

These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA. LAGA is not a watchdog group and not created as an observer, it fight directly whenever corrupt practices or bribery attempts have been observed.

Annex I – Case Tracking System – January – June 2011

Case num.	Date of operation	Region	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	countries	
								involved	Status
1	21-01-11	Littoral	Yoyo-Edea	Dele Toumolo	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	A regular dealer of Nigerian nationality with no official resident documents for Cameroon. He is also a fisherman and has 2 other brothers he claims help him to carry out the business. He was arrested while trying to illegally trade in 7 sea turtle shells.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
2	27-01-11	South	Ebolowa	Minko Nkomo Alain	Dealing in a live mandrill	Pet trade	A well known dealer arrested in Ebolowa - South while trying to trade in a live mandrill. He and his accomplice claim to be related to a highly placed official of MINFOF and their unprocedural release after the taking of the statement offence lays credence to this claim. The MINFOF Delegate for the Southern Region refused to write a remand warrant for them to be locked up and presented to the State Prosecutor the following day. Also, the dealers and the MINFOF officials were observed speaking in their dialect after the arrest and during the writing of the statement of offence. This unprocedural and irregular behaviour was reported to the Minister who asked the said Delegate to fully collaborate with the LAGA team so as to present the dealers to the Prosecutor and for normal procedures to follow suit.		Locked while on trial
3	27-01-11	South	Ebolowa	Ango Jacques Desire	Dealing in a live mandrill	Pet trade	Another well known dealer arrested in Ebolowa - South while trying to trade in a live mandrill. He and his accomplice claim to be related to a highly placed official of MINFOF and their unprocedural release after the taking of the statement offence lays credence to this claim. The MINFOF Delegate for the Southern Region refused to write a remand warrant for them to be locked up and presented to the State Prosecutor the following day. Also, the dealers and the MINFOF officials were observed speaking in their dialect after the arrest and during the writing of the statement of offence. This unprocedural and irregular behaviour was reported to the Minister who asked the said Delegate to fully collaborate with the LAGA team so as to present the dealers to the Prosecutor and for normal procedures to follow suit.		Locked while on trial
4	02-02-11	Center	Yaounde	Dongmo Pierre	Dealing in a live mandrill	Pet trade	The owner of a shop who has been dealing in primates for more than 5 years. He resisted arrest and instigated a crowd to be violent during his arrest. While in the Gendarmerie Brigade, he attempted on several occasions with the arresting officers to negotiate through bribe for his release. He also tried to bring in some highly placed relatives in the Cameroon military to intervene on his behalf.		Locked while on trial
5	03-02-11	West	Bangangte	Njafa Njamen Gislain	Dealing in a live chimp	Pet trade	A regular dealer arrested with a live baby chimp while trying to trade in it. He is a well known dealer reputed for selling bushmeat in Bazou – West and also has some main buyers / customers in Bafoussam - West.		Locked while on trial
6	09-02-11	South	Kribi	Fotso Dieudonne Ngassa	Dealing in ivory	Ivory trade	A major dealer in ivory and products of other protected wildlife species. He is also a recidivist who had been arrested before for other crimes and from records, affirms that he had gone to Nigeria several times to sell ivory. During the investigation phase, he and some members of his network kidnapped the investigator and forcefully transported him from Douala to Kribi where they were arrested. The investigator was saved by adhering to procedure and the quick reaction of the whole LAGA team that quickly put together officials of the forces of law and order who arrested the dealers and rescued the investigator.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial

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7	09-02-11	South	Kribi	Basso Kadjou Hergatte	Dealing in ivory	Ivory trade	The wife and an accomplice of Fotso. She participates in the selling of the protected wildlife products. She was also involved in the kidnapping of the LAGA investigator. She openly threatened the Investigator, saying she will kill him if it happens that they are arrested.		Locked while on trial
8	09-02-11	South	Kribi	Njouxou Oumarou	Dealing in ivory	Ivory trade	Another accomplice and a member of the Fotso network. He runs the shop where products are kept before trading in them or before being taken to Nigeria. He actively participated in the kidnapping of the LAGA investigator and help in forcefully transporting him from Douala to Kribi.		Locked while on trial
9	01-03-11	Center	Yaounde	Sama Jonathan	Dealing in African Grey Parrots	Pet trade	The biggest wildlife exporter arrested in Yaounde – Center and transferred to Douala after the case against him was rebuilt and a warrant issued for his arrest. He was first arrested in 2007 and this uncovered issues of complicity and corruption within the Ministry trying to export 720 parrots to Bahrain, an illegal destination. The parrots' cases uncovered corruption at a very high level; insisting to tackle it got us many new enemies, threats, and warnings that we are "stepping on the wrong toes" and that it will send us on "a one way ticket out of Cameroon". Through more corruption and bribery, he succeeded to make the case file against him disappear and later in court, he claimed that no case was ever opened against him.	Bahrain	Locked while on trial
10	18-04-11	South West	Kumba	Oke George Beta	Dealing in chimp parts	Chimp trade	A regular dealer in chimp parts arrested in Kumba - South West while trying to collect 400.000 FCFA (\$800) for 2 chimp heads and 8 chimp limbs. He is reputed to be a regular dealer in protected wildlife and the chimps were reportedly killed in the Korup National Park. After his arrest, he tried to get the Assistant Divisional Officer for Kumba to intervene on their behalf but this was quickly squashed by the operating team.		Locked while on trial
11	18-04-11	South West	Kumba	Tabi Emmanuel Ekoko	Dealing in chimp parts	Chimp trade	Another regular dealer and the accomplice of Oke George. He was also arrested in Kumba - South West while trying to collect 400.000 FCFA (\$800) for 2 chimp heads and 8 chimp limbs. He is also reputed to be a regular dealer in protected wildlife and the chimps were reportedly killed in the Korup National Park.		Locked while on trial
12	20-04-11	South	Kribi	Edjenguele Paul	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	A well known dealer arrested in Kribi - South while trying to trade in 9 sea turtle shells. He claims to have traded in ivory before with customers in Equatorial Guinea and a network of suppliers from the Northern part of Cameroon. He resisted arrest and tried to fight with the operations team.	Equatorial Guinea	Locked while on trial
13	20-04-11	South	Kribi	Bondjekoue Thomas	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	Another well known dealer an accomplice of Edjenguele Paul arrested in Kribi - South while trying to trade in 9 sea turtle shells. He also resisted arrest and tried to fight with the operations team.	Equatorial Guinea	Locked while on trial
14	21-04-11	South	Kribi	Alphonse Messi	Dealing in a live chimp	Pet trade	A poacher/dealer arrested in Kribi - South while trying to trade in a live chimp. He is well known in Lolodorf - South for wildlife trade. He resisted arrest and tried to get a former Member of Parliament to intervene on their behalf after their arrest without success. A female baby chimp was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center for safekeeping and care.		Locked while on trial
15	21-04-11	South	Kribi	Ndengue Mekeme	Dealing in a live chimp	Pet trade	Another dealer and the accomplice of Alphonse Messi arrested in Kribi - South while trying to trade in a live chimp. He owns and rides the motorbike they use in carrying out their illegal deals. He resisted arrest and tried to fight with a member of the operations team.		Locked while on trial
16	27-04-11	West	Bafang	Bouba Michel	Dealing in Leopard skin	Skin Trade	A dealer in protected wildlife products arrested with a very large leopard skin in Bafang - West. He is also a recidivist who claims to be connected to the Bafang royal family. They were arrested with w military uniform which they use to carry out their illegal deals.		Locked while on trial

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17	27-04-11	West	Bafang	Tedemnou Patrick	Dealing in Leopard skin	Skin Trade	Another dealer arrested with Bouba Michel with a very large leopard skin in Bafang - West. He owns and rides the motorbike with which they were arrested, and which they use to carry out the illegal trade in protected wildlife species.		Locked while on trial
18	27-04-11	South	Bengbis	Atangana Amougou Ignace	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	A main dealer and driver behind a network of elephant poachers and ivory dealers busted in Bengbis - South. He is in charge of supplying arms and ammunition, and was arrested with 5 other members of a network that kills elephants in the Dja Reserve and trades in their products. They were arrested with 2 small elephant tusks, a gun and smoked elephant meat. This operation was carried out with ECOFAC - Western Section. One of their main buyers is a Malian.	Mali	Locked while on trial
19	27-04-11	South	Bengbis	Mbita Valentin	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Bengbis - South. He is one of those charged with the drying of meat from the killed elephants in the Dja Reserve. This operation was carried out with ECOFAC - Western Section.	Mali	Locked while on trial
20	27-04-11	South	Bengbis	Kede Armand	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	A member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Bengbis - South. He is also one of those charged with the drying of meat from the killed elephants in the Dja Reserve.	Mali	Locked while on trial
21	27-04-11	South	Bengbis	Onono Thomas	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	The main person charged with the killing of elephants in the Dja Reserve. He is a member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Bengbis - South. He also participates in the smoking of the elephant meat.	Mali	Locked while on trial
22	27-04-11	South	Bengbis	Ndjele Lucas	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Bengbis - South. He is the main person responsible for the transportation of the smoked elephant meat, also in getting clients for the meat.	Mali	Locked while on trial
23	27-04-11	South	Bengbis	Bessala Jean Pierre	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	A member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Bengbis - South. He is one of those charged with the drying and transportation of the meat from the killed elephants in the Dja Reserve. He also looks for clients for the smoked meat.	Mali	Locked while on trial
24	27-04-11	South	Bengbis	Ango Ntyene	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Bengbis - South. He is one of those responsible for the drying and transportation of the smoked elephant meat, also in getting clients for the meat.	Mali	Fugitive under chase.
25	25-05-11	Littoral	Douala	Djandako Simeon Alain	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	A well known ivory dealer in whose workshop operations had been carried out before. He is in charge of the sale especially to foreigners and trafficking to foreign markets, notably China. During his arrest, he attempted to bribe one of the arresting officers with about \$400 for his release but LAGA fought against this vigorously. He has been in the business for more than 20 years with his partner. They were arrested with 364 ivory pieces weighing 34 kg.	China	Locked while on trial
26	25-05-11	Littoral	Douala	Mengue Ango Jean Gilbert	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another well known ivory dealer arrested in the difficult Akwa neighbourhood in Douala with 364 ivory pieces weighing 34 kg. He is a recidivist who had been arrested before in connection to ivory trafficking. He claims to have been in the business for more than 25 years and that it has been in the family for generations starting with his grandfather and then his father. He was in charge of the transformation of raw ivory into worked pieces.	China	Locked while on trial
27	25-05-11	South	Mintom	Opkwa'a David	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	A member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Mintom - South. He is reported to be one of the main poachers involved in the killing of elephants in the Dja Reserve. He was one of the first suspects to be arrested and provided information on how to arrest the other members of the network. They were arrested with a hunting gun and ammunition.		Locked while on trial

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28	25-05-11	South	Mintom	Emane Emame	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of a network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Mintom - South. He is said to be the leader of the network planning when and where to kill elephants in the Dja Reserve. Investigations still ongoing to arrest him.		Fugitive under chase.
29	25-05-11	South	Mintom	Nkema Jean Pierre	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	A member of the network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Mintom - South. He is one of those charged with the drying and transportation of the meat from the killed elephants in the Dja Reserve. He also looks for clients for the smoked meat. Investigations still ongoing to arrest him.		Fugitive under chase.
30	25-05-11	South	Mintom	Ndjo David	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of the network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Mintom - South. He is said to be mainly charged with the transportation of the meat whenever an elephant is killed. Investigations still ongoing to arrest him.		Fugitive under chase.
31	25-05-11	South	Mintom	Bidoulaman Paul	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of the network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Mintom - South. He is said to be the main person charged with the killing proper of the elephants.		Fugitive under chase.
32	26-05-11	South	Mintom	Akoulou Achille Noel	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of the network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Mintom - South. He is the main supplier of arms and ammunition used in the killing of elephants in the Dja Reserve. He was arrested following the information given by another arrested member of the network.		Locked while on trial
33	01-06-11	South	Mintom	Mongpomo Paul	Dealing in Elephant Products	Ivory trade	Another member of the network of elephant poachers / ivory dealers busted in Mintom - South; involved in the killing of elephants in the Dja Reserve. He was also arrested following the information given by other arrested members of the network. He stated on the statement of offence (PV) that they have been carrying out poaching and trading in elephant products for a long time and that he has killed many elephants before.		Locked while on trial
34	16-06-11	Center	Yaounde	Nyolong Bitmbia Cedric	Dealing in Leopard skin	Skin Trade	A major leopard skin dealer arrested in Yaounde with a leopard skin and leopard skull. He has a group of suppliers from Tonga - West and sells in the main cities of Yaounde - Center and Douala - Littoral. His father is his accomplice in whose house he keeps the products of protected wildlife species before selling them.		Locked while on trial
35	24-06-11	East	Mindaourou	Binini Bile Armand	Dealing in chimp parts	Bushmeat trade	A regular dealer in chimp and chimp products arrested while trying to trade in chimp parts in Mindaourou – East by another project. LAGA has now taken over the legal procedure from the writing of the complaint reports (PVs), ensuring that the culprits are still locked up, taking the case to the court and the follow-up of the cases in the court. Here too, unprocedural and irregular behaviour was observed with the unprocedural release of the dealers by the State Counsel of Abong Mbang – East. Measures are being taken by LAGA through the MINFOF lawyer and the Ministry to put the case back in its normal track.		Locked while on trial
36	24-06-11	East	Mindaourou	Djambane Joublaing Jackson	Dealing in chimp parts	Bushmeat trade	Another dealer in chimp and chimp products arrested while trying to trade in chimp parts in Mindaourou – East by another project. LAGA has now taken over the legal procedure from the writing of the complaint reports (PVs), ensuring that the culprits are still locked up, taking the case to the court and the follow-up of the cases in the court. Here too, unprocedural and irregular behaviour was observed with the unprocedural release of the dealers by the State Counsel of Abong Mbang – East. Measures are being taken by LAGA through the MINFOF lawyer and the Ministry to put the case back in its normal track.		Locked while on trial