



ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

PO Box 3650, Washington, DC 20027-0150 www.awionline.org
telephone: (703) 836-4300 facsimile: (703) 836-0400

September 28, 2005

Dr. Shirley McGreal
Chairwoman
International Primate Protection League
PO Box 766
Summerville, SC 29484
USA

Dear Dr. McGreal:

The Animal Welfare Institute has enjoyed a close partnership with the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA), for several years. Mr. Ofir Drori, together with his small group of tireless staff, work against tremendous odds to investigate, expose and bring to justice, the perpetrators of wildlife protection law violations. We consider their work essential to the future survival of several wildlife species threatened with extinction, including Cameroon's gorillas and chimpanzees.

LAGA's focus is on animal dealers, the illegal bushmeat business, the ivory trade and commercial trade in exotic animals as pets. Such trades with their lucrative overseas markets and oftentimes corrupt local officials, are linked to other forms of international crime. It is a tremendously dangerous industry to oppose. LAGA, working on the ground and with local enforcement authorities, has proven immensely successful at uncovering sophisticated smuggling operations involving live apes, ivory and other animal parts, and has been directly responsible for the seizure of smuggled goods, arrest of perpetrators and public exposure of corrupt officials.

We strongly endorse the continuation of LAGA's work and applaud those who support and assist in their efforts.

Sincerely,

Cathy Liss
President