



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Yaounde, Cameroon

July 6, 2007

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to share my high regard for the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA), an NGO that has energized wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon.

As you are well aware, the protection of wildlife, and especially of protected or endangered species, is a high priority for the United States.

During my tenure as the US Ambassador to Cameroon, I have followed with great interest LAGA's unique evolution as a pioneering NGO in wildlife law enforcement. LAGA has gained legitimacy from through its relationship with the Government of Cameroon and leveraged its position to contribute to the fight against corruption within enforcement and judicial processes.

LAGA's work offers a commendable model, driving a sea change in wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon and resulting in an average of one wildlife prosecution each week. I have the highest regard for the small, dedicated team of LAGA and have encouraged their efforts to spread the successful model in other countries in the sub-region.

This innovative approach carries potential beyond just the wildlife conservation. As more countries seek to replicate LAGA's success in wildlife law enforcement, it is equally important to explore how larger lessons can be drawn on more active roles that NGOs are able to play in Africa's prime challenge - the fight against corruption.

LAGA and its team members have my utmost support, and I encourage your collaboration with their efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niels Marquardt', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Niels Marquardt