



Board of Directors
Arcus Foundation
502 East Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo
MI 49007

Born Free Foundation
3 Grove House Foundry Lane
Horsham West Sussex
RH13 5PL UK

28th September 2005

Dear Sirs

I understand that the Last Great Ape Organisation (LAGA) in Cameroon is submitting a request for funding from the Arcus Foundation. The Born Free Foundation would like to offer its full support towards this funding application.

01403 240170

The Born Free Foundation first met Ofir Drori, the Director of LAGA, in 2003. We were extremely impressed with Ofir's vision. Far from being daunted by the scale of the problems facing wildlife in Cameroon, he was offering practical solutions to those problems. It quickly became clear to us that LAGA was to provide a critical contribution to the protection of Cameroon's wildlife. Born Free Foundation have now been supporting LAGA for almost two years.

01403 327838

wildlife@bornfree.org.uk

Just a few short months after our first meeting, the LAGA team was instrumental in securing the first ever conviction for a wildlife crime in Cameroon. Although laws existed, there had been little or no pressure for them to be enforced. This conviction was an extremely significant achievement both for LAGA and for the authorities in Cameroon.

www.bornfree.org.uk

William Travers

Since that first conviction, LAGA's achievements in the field of wildlife law enforcement and public awareness have been many. Operations and convictions have been wide and varied – from exposing ivory trade dealers to convicting those illegally selling bushmeat in local restaurants.

"Born Free is an international wildlife charity working to prevent animal suffering and protect species in the wild"

Crucially, Ofir appears to have developed an excellent working relationship with the authorities in Cameroon. Indeed, he attended the last CITES* Conference of the Parties as a member of the Cameroon delegation and has frequent meetings at the Ministry. This is undoubtedly of great importance to LAGA's work, and enables Ofir to have significant input on national and international issues, such as the "Taiping Four".

Virginia McKenna OBE
Terry Adams
Richard Arthur
Rupert Grey
Joanna Kennedy
Rosamund Kidman Cox
Andrew Newton
Monty Ruben
Jenny Seagrove
Sandi Toksvig
Ronnie Wilkie

It is clear to me that LAGA's achievements are not only important for Cameroon, but also have wider implications for the central African region as a whole. LAGA is the first organisation of its kind in the region and I believe it is developing into a model organisation which other like-minded organisations can follow. Cameroon is increasingly taking a leading role within the region on wildlife matters. For example, in early October Cameroon will be hosting one of two regional workshops on lion conservation.

Ofir and his team at LAGA risk their lives on a daily basis in order to protect Cameroon's wildlife, and are undoubtedly in need of further sustained support for their work. I would therefore wholeheartedly support LAGA's application to Arcus Foundation.

Joanna Lumley OBE

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss LAGA further.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee

Best regards,

Charity no 1070906
Vat no 528340551

Will Travers
CEO, Born Free Foundation

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*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna