

The Last Great Ape Organization - LAGA

July 2007 Report



Highlights -

- New LAGA Website launched - www.LAGA-enforcement.org
- LAGA's online videos reach 5,000 views
- Internal and External **communication project realized**
- 2 operations were carried out **against 2** subjects
- **Important commendation letter from the US Ambassador**

General

July month marks the realization of Internal and External communication project.

Internal and External communication project started in the beginning of the year, aiming to build capacity in electronic communication in order to improve the communication and unity within LAGA as well as with different collaborators. Media assistant, Cynthia Chuck was in charge of the project that involved exploring different communication strategies and mastering, among others: filming, electronic editing, lay out, web design.

This month marks the successful realization of the project. LAGA has built **capacity in electronic communication and the Internet**. The new **LAGA website** is launched, **LAGA's email** system and communication within the organization was drastically improved, YouTube **videos reached more than 5,000 views** in just a few months.

The assignment of rebuilding the **website** presented an opportunity of **building capacity** in LAGA. There was a need in a website that is dynamic, that can be updated all the time, to reflect our monthly cycle of actions and achievements. Cynthia Chuck was the main person working on it, and although it took long time to learn, we are very proud of it, as it is all ours.

US Ambassador in Cameroon has sent another letter **commending LAGA's work**, highlighting its uniqueness as a pioneer not only in wildlife law enforcement but also in the fight against corruption

Investigations

- **24 investigations** were carried out in **6 provinces** including - North West, South West, West, East, Littoral and Center.
- Training continues with Internet undercover in South West Province.
- The month of July witnessed an increase in field investigations. This is due mainly to the continuation of recruitment procedure and more field tests for new investigators. This recruitment process will continue in August.
- Collaboration with 3 custom officers at the Douala seaport and various speed post agencies.

Operations

2 operations were carried out **against 2** subjects:

- One operation arresting a dealer trying to sell **2 leopard skins** took place in Bafoussam in the west province. The two leopard skins were hidden in the back of a shop.
- A dealer arrested trying to sell **3 Elephant tails and a leopard skins** in Fombran West Province. The suspect **resisted violently** and fought the police force; the command of officer Julius, his experience and approach to human rights prevented a disaster.

Legal

- There are **12 dealers behind bars during this month**: 6 in the South province; 1 in the Littoral; 2 in the Extreme North, 1 in the Central province and 1 in the South West Province, and 1 in the West Province.
- **26 cases were followed up** by the legal department this month.
- 22 cases are scheduled and being tried in the court this month.
- 2 cases are scheduled and being tried in the appeal court of Garoua this month (Hassana and Souleymanou).
- 3 cases waiting for the process of appeal to reach the court of appeal. 2 in the West, 1 in the Littoral and 1 in the South Provinces. The Court of First Instance has not completed the file needed for the transmission to the Attorney General.
- 15 cases on execution process.
- The legal department has sent 4 missions out of the central province this month. 1 in Bamenda North West Province), 2 Bafoussam (West Province), 1 in Garoua (North Province), to follow up cases in different courts.
- 3 jail visits were organized, Oumarou Mana and Hamidou Adama in the case of the lions skin in Maroua; Tembi Eback in the case of ivory in Douala.

Media front

- **40 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press including: 6 written press materials (4 in English, 2 in French), 34 radio news flashes (22 in English, 12 in French).
- Guest includes: Minister MINFOF.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; 2 leopard skin dealers in Baham in Bafoussam court of First Instance, killer of an Ecoguard jailed-South west Province, The role of wildlife sanctuaries in wildlife law enforcement, lion skin dealers in court- Maroua, ivory dealers in court- Bamenda, igniting wildlife law enforcement in the Congo's
- 26 pieces in English, 12 in French making a percentage of 65%in English and 35%in French.
- **Internal and External communication project** was realized. LAGA has built **capacity in electronic communication and the Internet**. The new **LAGA website** is launched, **LAGA's email** system was modified, YouTube **videos reached more than 5,000 views** in just a few months.
- The assignment of rebuilding the **website** presented an opportunity of **building capacity** in LAGA. There was a need in a website that is dynamic, that can be updated all the time, to reflect our monthly cycle of actions and achievements. Here in Cameroon, it is rare to find a good web professional. So just like with Wildlife Justice Magazine I decided we do it from scratch by ourselves, more difficult but we end up with new capacity. It also helped to minimize costs to a total of around \$50. Cynthia was the main person working on it, and although it took long time to learn, we are very proud of it as it is all ours.

External Relations and Policy

- **US Ambassador in Cameroon** has sent another letter commending LAGA's work, highlighting its uniqueness as a pioneer not only in wildlife law enforcement but also in the fight against corruption.
- Meeting with the **Minister of Forestry and Wildlife**, the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, Director of International Cooperation, Head of National Brigade and Head of Follow-up Department on deteriorating results in wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon, irregularities in legal procedures and **corruption problems faced in specific provincial delegations** of MINFOF. The meeting ended with the agreement as soon as possible to create **a new unit in**

Department of Wildlife and Protected Areas to work with LAGA and send a **circular to Delegates** to stop irregularities.

- The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife **complemented LAGA's achievements in media** sensitisation in a second meeting held by the end of the month.
- LAGA assisted in preparatory meetings, participated and made a presentation in the **CARPE workshop at the US Embassy** on Enhancing the Capacity of Media Practitioners in Environmental Reporting. LAGA presentation was on the **unique Module for Measuring Media Performance and the Role of Media in the Fight against Corruption**.
- LAGA met with the Head of the Communication Unit of the General Delegation for National Security to explore avenues of collaboration on wildlife law enforcement through the national CRTV radio programme titled "Canal Police".
- Meeting with COMIFAC Executive Secretary on biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin.

Management

- LAGA is assisting Eunice the assistant manager in her plans to continue her studies abroad.
- LAGA Director introduces a series of thought provoking sessions of Saturday debates on corruption and development. This is a part of a new project aimed to strengthen the capacity unity and values of the LAGA family.
- Internal and External communication project was realized. As a result Cynthia Chuck is removed from the media department to be a developer of future projects. This success highlighted the value in devoting resources to development and maintain constant evolution.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by budget line for July 07

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details	Amount USD
2,199,721	Investigations	26 inv,6 provinces,	\$4,489
418,724	Operations	2 Operations, 3 locked	\$855
1,246,825	legal	follow up 26cases12locked subjects	\$2,545
1,225,284	Media	40 media pieces	\$2,501
220,707	Policy & External	Israel/South Africa/DRC/Nigeria	\$450
1,272,300	Management	Coordination	\$2,597
1,621,817	Office		\$3,310
8,205,378	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JULY		\$16,746

LAGA Expenditure by donor for July 07

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
166,900	Born Free	\$340.6
1,435,284	BHC	\$2,929.2
2,236,604	FWS	\$4,564.5
418,724	Arcus	\$854.5
348,000	Body Shop	\$710.2
318,646	ProWildlife	\$650.3
90,000	UNEP-Congo	\$183.7
3,191,220	UNEP-General	\$6,512.7
8,205,378	TOTAL	\$16,746

Ofir Drori
 Director
 LAGA - The Last Great Ape Organization

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



Elephant tails and leopard skin dealer arrested, West province



Links of this month

- LAGA MINFOF Elephant tails and leopard skin arrest: Successful elephant tails, leopard skin and civet skin operation on a dealer caught with these products. Trade in live or part of protected animal species like leopards, elephants and apes is illegal according to Cameroon wildlife law with a prison term of up to 3 years. The dealer is in prison awaiting court judgement.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ms6iZAHfTA>

- New LAGA website -

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