

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA October 2012 Report



Highlights

- **LAGA conquers the Buckingham Palace by winning The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal given by Prince Philip – the husband of Queen Elizabeth.**
- **Traditional ruler contributes to conservation efforts by giving a primate in his possession.**
- **A dealer in live primates arrested in Ebolowa – South.**
- **LAGA family makes a trip to the Mefou National Park.**

General

This month was marked by the conquering of the Buckingham Palace by LAGA through another award and a traditional ruler contributing to wildlife conservation efforts.

LAGA wins another award – **The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal given by Prince Philip – the husband of Queen Elizabeth.** It is the sixth in connection to LAGA's work thereby giving more credibility to and acceptance of LAGA's message and help in its long term quest to affect conservation in a meaningful way. The award was received by the LAGA Director and given the media coverage including BBC; he used it to pass the need of wildlife law enforcement message across and the total engagement of the LAGA family in this fight. The award came with a Rolex watch but since this status symbol represents all that is against LAGA values regarding the materialistic society and its spiritual poverty, the \$5000 watch is being auctioned at eBay and the money raised will be used to finance LAGA arrest operations.

The traditional ruler of Nsem in Bafut Subdivision of the North West Region, **His Royal Highness Chief Mbonifor I has handed over a live baboon to wildlife officials of the North West Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife as his contribution to the conservation efforts.** He had been keeping the baboon for the past 9 years and when he got information that the law prohibits the possession of protected species; he immediately invited the wildlife officials to come and take the animal. The baboon is now receiving care from specialists at the Limbe Wildlife Centre that participated in the rescue operation. The Last Great Ape Organisation – LAGA provided technical assistance during the confiscation.

A major dealer was arrested with a live primate while attempting to trade in it in Ebolowa - South. He has been keeping this one for almost a year and had sold many others before claiming that he has made a lot of money from trade in wildlife species.

LAGA family took off some time from work and had a 1 day trip to the Mefou National Park - Center. 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, and connecting with the nature LAGA is set to protect.

Investigations

- **28 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon- South West, West, South, East, Littoral and Center.
- Good investigations identified a major dealer in primates leading to an arrest operation. Despite the operation, more operations focused investigations are required.
- For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training sessions continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon. An investigator arrived from PALF –

Republic of Congo to be trained under the regional exchange program; training and exchange of project personnel in regional enforcement will continue with the other projects in the forthcoming months.

- The distribution of flyers in both English and French continued. Strategies have been put in place to track distribution and for it to be more effective. This is part of a new strategy to get credible information and to make the Investigation missions more performant.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo on Investigations and Operation Procedures.

Operations

1 operation was carried out this month against **1 subject**.

- **24/10/12** – A major arrested with a live primate while attempting to trade in it in Ebolowa - South. He has been keeping this one for almost a year and had sold many others before claiming that he has made a lot of money from trade in wildlife species.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **12 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 3 in Douala (Littoral), 2 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Djoum (South), 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Mamfe (South West), and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **40 dealers behind bars during this month**: 17 in the East Region, 1 in the South West Region, 1 in North West region, 16 in South Region and 4 in West Region.
- **28 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **24 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions**: No case was sentenced this month.

Media front

- **33 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press including: 16 written press materials (10 in English and 6 in French), 3 radio talk shows in English, 4 radio news feature (3 in French and 1 in English), 1 TV talk show in English, 2 TV news features (1 in English and French each) and 6 news flashes (1 in English and 5 in French).
- Guests include: LAGA Director, Fako Divisional Chief of Section for wildlife – MINFOF, Resident Veterinary doctor at the Limbe Wildlife Centre, and Ape Action Africa Head of education program.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Bazou chimp dealer arrest judgement, notorious elephant trafficker arrested in Congo, Examining the plight of rhino, illegal wildlife trade and its sinister consequences and Mvila arrest of wildlife dealer with an agile mangabey.
- 18 media pieces in English, 15 in French making a percentage of 54.5% in English and 45.5% in French.

External Relations and Policy

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- The convention of LAGA with the Government was renewed and signed by the ne Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.
- LAGA Director presents about activism to Peace Corps volunteers
- LAGA Director discusses with World Bank
- Meeting with the Born Free team in Horsham - UK
- Meeting with British High Commissioner on anti-corruption strategies
- Meeting with Paul Bour on possibilities for a regional anti-poaching task force
- Meeting with FAO representative on their bushmeat initiative
- Meeting with RELUFA on corruption and extractive industry.
- Meeting with the CHOC project on integrating anti-corruption methods to donor policies in the forest sector. Several other collaborators from the forest sector have been consulted.
- Meeting with WCS Regional Policy Director on conservation challenges.
- Meeting with TRAFFIC director for Central Africa about replicating LAGA possibilities.
- Meeting with Transparency International on various transparency and accountability.
- Meeting with World Bank Extractive Industry specialist on the upsurge in poaching, wildlife crime and corruption.
- Participation in the US Embassy consultation with Civil Society.
- Meeting with CRS on using LAGA methods for the service of the fight against child trafficking
- Participating in WWF strategy meetings on the wildlife crime campaign.

Management

- LAGA family took off some time from work and had a 1 day trip to the Mefou National Park - Center. 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.
- 1 new candidate on trial in the Investigations Department was let go this month because of lack of results and inability to adhere and follow Investigations procedures. He claims to have been attacked in Bertoua – East during an investigation mission but failed to inform anyone in LAGA immediately, nor did he put in practice the necessary security procedures.

Activism Front

All the education activities carried out by the LAGA family are online; this could be gotten at the LAGA website – <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>. This month's activism front was on:

- Surviving progress - The film talks on progress which is a difficult question to answer knowing that progress is relative. There is the idea of extremism projected in the film which to an extent leads to capitalist system of life. In relating the film to development in Africa, many condemned the idea of indebting in order to progress. However, progress is development and development is progress when we are not indebted or has to lose something to gain a little.

Question:

1. What is progress?
2. Should one be indebted to progress?

Replication

During this month, LAGA worked with other replication projects in planning investigations, operation procedures; advice on following up court cases and the production of media pieces.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training sessions continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon. An investigator arrived from PALF – Republic of Congo to be trained under the regional exchange program; training and exchange of project personnel in regional enforcement will continue with the other projects in the forthcoming months.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by budget line for October 2012

Amount CFA			Amount CFA
2,078,250	Investigations	28 inv, 6 Regions	\$4,115
636,000	Operations	1 Operation against 1 subjects	\$1,259
2,392,310	Legal	follow up 28 cases 40 locked subjects	\$4,737
1,498,935	Media	33 Media pieces	\$2,968
948,240	Policy & External Relations	Congo/Gabon/CAR/S.Africa/Guinea/Israel/UK	\$1,878
948,500	Management	Coordination	\$1,878
1,521,568	Office		\$3,013
212,205	LAGA Family	Mefou Park Trip	\$420
10,236,008	TOTAL EXPENDITURE OCTOBER		\$20,269

LAGA Expenditure by Donor for October 2012

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
2,674,570	FWS	\$5,296.2
604,570	FWS-Replication	\$1,197.2
1,280,543	BornFree UK	\$2,535.7
2,130,910	Rufford	\$4,219.6
0	IFAW	\$0.0
0	IPPL	\$0.0
0	ProWildlife	\$0.0
3,215,415	ARCUS Foundation	\$6,367.2
330,000	Joe Franklin	\$653.5
10,236,008	TOTAL	\$20,269.3

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



Prince Philip (left) and Ofir Drori (LAGA Director) during the award of The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal at Buckingham Palace – England.



The traditional ruler of Nsem - Bafut Subdivision of the North West Region (in traditional attire) and MINFOF officials during the handing over of a baboon (in cage) as his contribution to the conservation efforts.



Connecting with nature - a cross section of LAGA family members during a one day trip to the Mefou National Park, taking some time off from work. 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.

Links of this month

- Trafficking of human parts and wildlife - Cameroon National Program - Hello Cameroon receives the Director of LAGA live in the program. Ofir Drori speaks on the recent event of wildlife trafficking in protected wildlife alongside human parts. A network busted and suspects mostly young men arrested with elephant meat and human parts; most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jw817-K24wU>