

The Last Great Ape Organization - LAGA

August 2007 Report



Highlights -

- **Extraordinary media results** with **70 media pieces** out
- **4 operations** were carried out **against 5 dealers** in a clamp down on **leopard skin trade**
- **Taiping Four negotiations** with South African delegation visit

General

August month gave good results in operations, media, and the political level.

4 operations were carried out **against 5 dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade** in sensitive provinces. The focused operation was effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for leopard skin trade. One of the operations was of specific interest, involving a **leopard skin dealer** trying to sell a part of a locally manufactured gun. His **link to the illegal workshop manufacturing the illegal arms** is still investigated.

This month also showed **extraordinary media results** with a record breaking of **70 media pieces - more than 2 media pieces per day rate**.

LAGA took part in **2 days of negotiations with the South African delegation** for the return of the Taiping four. It was confirmed that the gorillas will be returned in the end of November.

The month was very active in meetings in the ministry aiming at **stopping irregularities in specific provinces**. It ensured the **Minister's support in the fight against corruption** and resulted in a circular calling for the stop of irregularities.

Investigations

- **32 investigations** were carried out in **7 provinces** including - North West, West, Center, Adamaoua, Littoral, North and Extreme north.
- LAGA met with the **US Embassy Security** on re-establishing collaboration on wildlife cases. It was decided that Internet wildlife fraud is chosen for future collaboration.
- New investigator recruited.

Operations

4 operations were carried out **against 5 dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade** in sensitive provinces

- 13/8 -leopard skin dealer arrested in Bamenda in the North West province. 2 dealers involved in leopard skin trade. During the operation, the first dealer violently resisted arrest which allowed his accomplice to run away. The suspect is kept in jail while waiting for trial, and an arrest warrant was issued against the fugitive.
- 21/8 -Second operation involves a **leopard skin dealer** trying to sell a part of a locally manufactured gun. His **links to the illegal workshop manufacturing the illegal arms** is still investigated. He was arrested in Mbouda in the West province.
- 23/8 - Another operation resulted to the arrest of another leopard skin dealer in **Bandjoun** in the West Province. The fresh nature of the skin indicated that the leopard had just been killed for the trophy, which is now in high demand.
- 27/8 -The fourth operation led to the arrest of **another leopard skin dealer** with apparent history in the trade **in Bafang** in the West province.

Legal

- There are **9 dealers behind bars during this month**: 1 in the Littoral Province; 2 in the Extreme North, 1 in the Center Province, 3 in the West Province, 1 in the South West Province, 1 in North West Province.
- **43 cases were followed up** by the legal department this month
- The legal department sent **16 missions out of the Central Province** this month: 3 in Bamenda (North West), 5 in Bafoussam (West Province), 1 in Maroua (Extreme North), 1 in Mora (Extreme North), 3 in Foumban (West), 1 Douala Littoral, 1 in Mbouda (West), 1 in Bafang (West).
- 17 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 new problematic cases: Aye Aye Edgard, Moustapha Oumarou and others, and Ngu George are presented to the Ministry and Secretary General of MINFOF for specific follow up.
- 17 cases on execution process
- **Prosecutions:**
06/08/07 in the Garoua Court Appeal: The court confirms the decision of the first judge for the case of Souleymanou Ali - 6 month suspended for 3 years, 500,000 FCFA damages and 100,000 FCFA fine.
- 16/08/2007, a very important meeting by the LAGA Director and Head of Legal Department with the Director of Criminal Affairs in the Ministry of Justice on behalf of the Minister. This concerned the delay in the issuance of an International Warrant of Arrest against the main suspects of the 3.9 Tons ivory case. A positive outcome was gotten.
- **Meeting with assistant of the Director of Criminal Affairs** concerning the problematic cases. He is ready to collaborate with LAGA in the fight against wildlife crime and corruption.
- In the recruitment process 2 interviews were done and one new volunteer is accepted.

Media front

- **Extraordinary media results** with a record breaking of **more than 2 media pieces per day** rate.
- **70 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press including: 6 written press materials (4 in English, 2 in French), 3 radio talk shows (2 in English, 1 in French), 58 radio news flashes (39 in English, 19 in French), 3 TV features (2 in English, 1 in French).
- Guests include: Minister MINFOF, MINFOF Delegate for West Province, Director of Wildlife and protected areas, Director of Pretoria Zoological Garden, (Head of Taiping Four delegation to Cameroon), Inspector No 2-MINFOF, Director LAGA.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; distribution of PASA apes identification cards, 3years imprisonment sentence, arrest of elephant tails dealer in Foumban, Arrest of elephant tails and leopard skin dealer in Foumban, Arrest of female trading in leopard skin in Bafoussam, leopard skin dealers arrest in Bamenda and Bandjoun, dealer arrest in Mbouda, negotiations on the return of the Taiping four gorillas.
- 47 media pieces in English, 23 in French making a percentage of 67%in English and 33%in French.

External Relations and Policy

- The month was very active in meetings in the ministry aiming at stopping irregularities in specific provinces. It ensured the **Minister's support and resulted in a circular calling for the stop of irregularities.**

- LAGA meeting in MINFOF chaired by the Secretary General of MINFOF on the **evaluation of the MINFOF-LAGA MoU**.
- LAGA took part in **2 days of negotiations with the South African delegation** for the return of the Taiping four. It was confirmed that the gorillas will be returned in the end of November.
- LAGA meeting with the Director of REM, Independent Observer of forestry in Cameroon on issues of corruption in the forest sector and the role international community should play to change it.
- LAGA meeting with the West provincial delegate on evaluation of wildlife law enforcement progress in the province.
- LAGA meeting with the Director of Criminal Affairs and Pardons of the Ministry of Justice. The meeting focused on the delay in issuing international arrest warrants against the Hong Kong ivory seizure. The Director mentioned he received instructions from the Minister of Justice to assist LAGA in any concerns in the fight against corruption.

Management

- Key members of LAGA are having a series of meetings on applying the lessons learnt from LAGA in the fight against corruption beyond wildlife law enforcement.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by budget line for August 07

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details	Amount USD
2,265,400	Investigations	32 inv,7 provinces,	\$4,720
681,100	Operations	4 Operations, Against 5 dealers	\$1,419
1,395,975	legal	follow up 43cases 8 locked subjects	\$2,908
1,737,525	Media	70 media pieces	\$3,620
285,400	Policy & External Relations	T4 Negotiations/South Africa/UK	\$595
1,410,400	Management	Coordination	\$2,938
834,208	Office		\$1,738
8,610,008	TOTAL EXPENDITURE AUGUST		\$17,938

LAGA Expenditure by donor for August 07

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
235,000	Born Free	\$489.6
1,947,525	BHC	\$4,057.3
2,610,748	FWS	\$5,439.1
573,000	Arcus	\$1,193.8
360,700	Body Shop	\$751.5
371,900	ProWildlife	\$774.8
0	UNEP-Congo	\$0.0
2,511,135	UNEP-General	\$5,231.5
8,610,008	TOTAL	\$17,938

Ofir Drori
 Director
 LAGA - The Last Great Ape Organization

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



Leopard skin dealer arrested in Bandjoun ,West Province. A part of clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive provinces. The focused operation was aimed to send the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for leopard skin trade.



South African delegation meeting the delegation of Cameroon in the Taiping Four negotiations meeting at the Limbe Wildlife Centre, Cameroon on the return the four gorillas.



leopard skin dealer arrested in Bamenda in the North West province. 2 dealers involved in leopard skin trade. During the operation, the first dealer violently resisted arrest.



Leopard skin dealer arrested trying to sell a part of a locally manufactured gun. His **link to the illegal workshop manufacturing the illegal arms** is still investigated. He is arrested in Mbouda in the West province, as a part of **clamping down on leopard skins trade** in sensitive provinces.

Links of this month

- Taiping 4 negotiations with South African Delegation visit : Two days of negotiations with the South African Delegation for the return of the Taiping four gorillas to Cameroon. It was confirmed that the gorillas will be returned in the end of November 2007

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JNJ3p6aO7E>