

December 2006 Report

Highlights -

- **Internal workshop for vision and action plan of 2007**
- **2 Operations in the South Province**
- **Internal training raising the professional level in LAGA.**
- **Attaining annual target of 365 media pieces exactly.**
- **Completing 4 issues of Wildlife Justice Magazine to the professional audience.**

General

December month has been a short month for LAGA breaking in the middle of the month for holiday vacation. Still most of the LAGA members continued work on their own throughout the holidays to prevent a drop in results. Indeed operations were held, prosecutions achieved and media department succeeded in attaining an annual target of 365 media pieces exactly and caught up completing 4 issues of Wildlife Justice Magazine, but the real value of December is in continuing the reorganization of LAGA, continuing recruitment and other internal work. A workshop was organised to discuss the achievements and problems of 2006, problems faced by individuals and departments and their possible solutions. Training on self-evaluation, graphs and databases were carried out all to allow better ownership of LAGA by the LAGA members.

Investigations

- **14 investigations** were carried out in **5 provinces** including-North West, Littoral, South West, Adamawa, and West province.
- One investigator was dismissed as a result of disrespect to instructions.
- Following last month's creation of a new organigram, field report form, diagram of procedures, new investigations procedures and a new database for evaluation of field missions, **training** was carried out for using and maintaining these systems.
- Following a job offer advert for the **recruitment** of field investigators in November, **Interviews** have started and some candidates began field tests. The process will continue in January.
- In international collaboration LAGA is exercising forensic science DNA testing for both Elephants Ivory and Lions in international trafficking investigations.

Operations

2 Operations and 1 failed operation were held.

- 10/12- A failed operation in West Province, **1 leopard skin** failed as a result of insufficient evidence from the investigation unit. Procedures of use of recording equipment to acquire evidence have been revised.
- 3/12- An operation in the South Province, **9 tusks, 5 Leopards Skins, 5 Elephant tails and other protected bushmeat.** This operation involves a professional journalist that is a regular dealer in protected species.
- 13/12- An operation in the South Province, **8 parts of Mandrill, 1 rifle and 19 tusks.** Issues of corruption were tackled with gendarmes and ecogardes

who deliberately released the offenders and did not want to give their identification to the chief of forestry and wildlife post.

- The two operations were initiated by the MINFOF South Delegation and the Department of Wildlife asking for the assistance of LAGA. This stands to prove **LAGA's work lead to institutional capacity building** rather than Government dependency on the NGO.

Legal

- There are **18 dealers behind bars during this month**: 6 in the South province; 6 in the Littoral; 1 in the North, 2 in the extreme north, 2 in the Northwest, and one in the central province.
- 12 cases are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month
- 3 cases waiting for the process of appeal to reach the court of appeal. 2 in the west and 1 in the central province. The court of first instance has not completed the file needed for the transmission to the attorney general
- 4 cases not yet sent to court delay at the level of the MINFOF Minister (Fonseca, Catherine Fouda, Ngbwa Ella, Tchuenta tihhaut and Domche.
- 13 cases on execution process.
- LAGA is called for legal assistance on two operations carried on in Djoum area in the south province concerning ivory and other protected species..
- The wildlife court procedure started against the drug dealer caught in the beginning of 2006 in Bafia; on drugs procedure he was sentenced **to 3 years of imprisonment.**
- **5 prosecutions** were coming up this month:

15/12- In Douala court of first instance of Bonandjo: Tembi Eback is sentenced guilty on illegal traffic of ivory. He will have to pay 330.000 as civil award and **will served 18 months of prison.**

15/12- In Douala court of first instance of Bonandjo: Zily Ndongo is sentenced guilty of illegal traffic on ivory. He will have to 500.000 as civil award to MINFOF and will served **3months of jail**

- 13/12- In Douala court of first instance of Bonandjo: 3 were sentenced not guilty and released on doubts as a result of no appointment of lawyer. The problem has been discussed with the Minister and LAGA contracts a lawyer to make **a procedure of appeal on the three last cases.**
- 3.9 Ivory case: The ivory samples found in the containers are send for DNA testing in the Washington University by Dr. Samuel Wasser. MINFOF Minister sends a letter to the Minister of Justice, describing the delay in procedure in the case in the court while international community is waiting for an international arrest warrant.
- New Lion skin samples are to be sent for DNA testing. Waiting for the delivery of the CITES permit for exportation.
- Following Internal work in re-construction of the legal unit of LAGA -a new organigram , a new case procedure, new procedures inside the legal unit, and improving database system, training was held.
- Recruitment for the new structure of the legal department continued with four candidates volunteering this month.

Media front

- **36 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press: 25 radio news flashes (14 English, 11 French), 4 radio news features (3 English, 1 French), 3 radio talkshows (2 French, 1 English), 3 written press all in French and 2 TV features (1 French, 1 French and English).
- Guests include: Members of parliament, Secretary General of MINFOF, Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas MINFOF, British High Commissioner, LAGA Director, LAGA Communication Consulting Officer, LAGA Legal Head.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including: ivory seizure in Djoum, lion skins dealers arrest in the Far North, the role of local chiefs in wildlife law enforcement, prosecution ivory dealers in Douala, chimpanzee seizure in Mbalmayo, chimpanzee arrest in Bafang and Bamenda, two chimp dealers, prosecution of Congolese leopard skins dealers, Nigeria/Bamenda ivory dealers arrested.
- Balance of English and French was achieved with 23 media pieces in English and 21 in French giving the percentages of 52.3% in English and 47.7% in French.
- A total of 36 media pieces brought the total number of media pieces produced broadcasted and recorded for the **whole year to 365 media pieces exactly**, which is an attained target of a media piece on average of one a day. All 365 are available on a CD arranging an archive system linked to the media files.
- After November's reorganization of the Media department has into procedures and systems which include: media system, picture system, archive system and media general rules and regulations, **training** was held to exercising these systems.
- A 6 pages article about LAGA's work has been published in an Israeli Maariv newspaper on the cover in the weekend issue of the Hannuka holiday.
- The media department released 3 issues of Wildlife Justice Magazine, to catch up with an annual objective of 4. the new issues are under the themes – Wildlife offences and Crime, Combating the Ivory Trade, The Great Apes. Wildlife Justice Magazine is targeting the professional audience entrusted with the application of the wildlife law and is actively distributed to Police Stations, Ministry Stations, Courts, NGOs etc.

External Relations and Policy

- Meeting with Technical Adviser N°1 MINFOF, briefing him on LAGA's partnership with MINFOF on wildlife law enforcement issues
- Meeting with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas in MINFOF to discuss the Ivory Action Plan after the seizure of ivory in Djoum. The meeting was followed by media coverage by LAGA, which was aired, on the national TV to create deterrence in wildlife crime.
- Meeting on the with Second Secretary of British High Commission and visiting Foreign and Commonwealth Office Representative for Nigeria and Central Africa to brief them on progress in wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon.
- Inter-ministerial meeting with Secretary General of MINFOF on the reception of the Taiping 4 gorillas.

- Participation by LAGA in the Europe-Cameroon Friendship Day Exhibition in which LAGA exhibited on wildlife law enforcement progress in Cameroon with Cameroon being the international leader in wildlife law enforcement and a concentration point of wildlife products coming into and going to the different parts of the world.
- Meeting with the Secretary General of MINFOF to discuss lion conservation after the arrest of lion skin dealers in the Far North province of Cameroon.

Management

- Reorganization of LAGA continued through a second workshop finalizing new procedures and discussions on cross cutting problems.
- LAGA departments received training in analysing data and formed graphs analysing their own data gathered through 2006 as a part of a self evaluation process.
- The Financial and Activity reporting of this month has been done **independently without LAGA's director.**

Finance

LAGA Expenditure for December 06

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details			Amount U
1,672,060	Investigations	14 investigations, 5 provinces		-1,672,060	\$3,344
462,500	Operations	2 operations + 1 failed		-2,134,560	\$925
1,255,315	legal	follow up 28 cases 18 locked sub		-3,389,875	\$2,511
1,922,362	Media	36 media pieces		-5,312,237	\$3,845
184,233	Policy and Exter	T4/DNA-USA		-5,496,470	\$368
1,470,200	Management	Coordination		-6,966,670	\$2,940
626,186	Office			-7,592,856	\$1,252
7,592,856	TOTAL EXPENDITURE DECEMBER			0	\$15,186

Amount CFA	Donor				Amount U
132,500	Born Free	Used	December		\$265.0
0	World Bank	Used	December		\$0.0
2,297,362	BHC	Used	December		\$4,594.7
2,305,220	FWS	Used	December		\$4,610.4
1,856,367	Arcus	Used	December		\$3,712.7
537,707	ProWildlife	Used	December		\$1,075.4
463,700	Tracey Duggan	Used	December		\$927.4
7,592,856	TOTAL				\$15,185.7

Ofir Drori
 Director
 The Last Great Ape Organization

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES

Seizure of the first operation in the South Province. Sub director of Conservation interviewed in media coverage arranged by LAGA.





Seizure of the second operation in the South Province.





LAGA in the Europe-Cameroon Friendship Day Exhibition. The event was used to strengthen collaboration with the international community as well as gathering interviews in support of the wildlife law enforcement process. Below Vincent Mfonfu, media officer of LAGA at work.

