

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

January 2013 Report



Highlights

- **2 operations** arresting **2 wildlife** dealers rescuing 4 live primates.
- **The 2012 Annual Report on activities and finance completed and posted online.**

General

This month was marked by 2 operations in Cameroon with the arrest of 2 dealers.

2 arrest operations carried out this month rescuing **4 live primates** including a mandrill. A well-known and well-connected dealer with a network of suppliers of live primates in the South Region arrested in Meyomessala – South with 3 live primates including a live mandrill that he was illegally trying to trade in.

Another dealer in live primates arriving from Bafia - Center with a 2 weeks old baboon was arrested in Yaounde - Center. Collaboration with one of the controllers in the MINFOF Brigade – Centre Region was not good during the writing of the statement of offence as the LAGA legal advisers were being intimidated and it is suspected that this was because he wanted to halt the legal proceedings against the arrested dealer.

The 2012 LAGA Annual Report on activity and finance promptly completed, sent to the various donors and posted on the LAGA website. The link to the report is [http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Portals/0/Documents/Activity%20reports%202012/LAGA Annual Report %202012.pdf](http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Portals/0/Documents/Activity%20reports%202012/LAGA%20Annual%20Report%202012.pdf)

Investigations

- **19 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **7 Regions** of Cameroon- North West, South West, South, West, East, Littoral and Center.
- The network of informants put in place is becoming effective as seen in the Meyomessala operation. An informant recruited in 2012 gave very good information that resulted in an operation.
- 1 candidate is being tested in the field this month. He is well connected to some dealers in skins of big cats and it is hoped that this will result in good operations.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo Investigations Department on Investigations and Operation Procedures resulting in an operation in that country.

Operations

2 operations were carried out this month against **2 subjects** in Cameroon.

- **12/01/13** – A well-known and well-connected dealer with a network of suppliers of live primates in the South Region. He has a ready market in Sangmelima - South and Yaounde - Center. He was arrested with 3 live primates including a live mandrill that he was illegally trying to trade in.
- **28/01/13** – Another dealer in live primates arriving from Bafia - Center with a 2 weeks old baboon. He said that the mother was killed so as to be able to get the baby for trade. He was arrested in Yaounde. Collaboration with MINFOF was not good during the writing of the statement of offence as the LAGA legal advisers were being intimidated and it is suspected that this was because MINFOF wanted to halt the legal proceedings against the arrested dealer.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **12 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bamenda (North West), 1 in Bangangte (West), 1 in Limbe (South West), 1 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Djoum (South), 2 in Ebolowa (South), 1 in Meyomessala (South) and 2 in Sangmelima (South).
- There are **32 dealers behind bars during this month**: 14 in the East Region, 1 in the South West Region, 1 in Centre region, 1 in North West region, 12 in South Region and 4 in West Region.
- **21 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **18 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.

Media front

- **27 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, and written press including: 14 written press material (11 in English 3 in French), 3 radio talk shows in English, 2 radio news features in English and 8 news flashes (4 each in English and French).
- **Guests include:** MINFOF Lawyer, conservator of the Limbe wildlife centre, Lecturer and researcher at the University of Buea, Head of law department in the University of Buea and a lecturer in the University of Cologne in Germany.
- **Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including;** baby baboon rescued in Yaounde, 2 ivory traffickers arrest in Gabon, live primate trafficker arrest in Meyomessala, Bafut chief hand over baboon and arrest of a lady with fresh gorilla parts.
- 20 media pieces in English, 7 in French making a percentage of 74.1% in English and 35.9% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA Director travelled to Togo to concretize replication activities in that country with operations. Focused investigations continued to target the biggest dealers in Togo and an international investigator was used to penetrate major wildlife and ivory trafficking networks. Meetings were also held with highly placed government officials including the Minister of Security, the Director of Cabinet of Ministry of Justice and the Minister of Environment on wildlife law enforcement and the case concerning is a very big ivory seizure that was carried out by the Customs authorities in Malaysia seizing 6 tons of ivory.
- LAGA Director also travelled to Guinea – Conakry in a bid to put strategies in place to arrest the biggest ape trafficker we know - exporting more than 500 chimps over the years, after 10 recordings of him explaining everything about his trade. Another suspect dealing in 200 kg of ivory was targeted. He is active since 1976 and was recorded talking about cheating the airport scanners.

Management

- LAGA family resumed work after a 3 weeks Christmas holiday that started on the 15th of December 2012.
- The 2012 LAGA Annual Report completed, sent to the various donors and posted on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org.

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>.

Replication

During this month, LAGA helped other replication projects in completing their 2012 Annual Reports; planning and coordinating missions with the PALF Investigations Department.

Special investigation missions were carried out in Togo and Guinea-Conakry to target the biggest wildlife dealers in those countries and to carry out operations.

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by Budget Line for January 2013

Amount FCFA			Amount USD
1,876,908	Investigations	19 inv, 7 Regions	\$3,830
1,102,285	Operations	2 Operation against 2 subjects	\$2,250
2,787,398	Legal	follow up 21 cases 32 locked subjects	\$5,689
1,268,765	Media	27 Media pieces	\$2,589
3,183,486	Policy & External Relations	Guinea+Togo trip Congo/Nigeria/Gabon/S.Africa/France/Israel	\$6,497
873,200	Management	Coordination	\$1,782
1,699,744	Office		\$3,469
12,791,785	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JANUARY		\$26,106

LAGA Expenditure by Donor for January 2013

Amount FCFA	Donor	Amount USD
4,632,505	FWS	\$9,454.1
2,792,616	FWS-Replication	\$5,699.2
236,539	BornFree UK	\$482.7
1,797,913	Rufford	\$3,669.2
0	IFAW	\$0.0
0	IPPL	\$0.0
0	ProWildlife	\$0.0
3,332,213	ARCUS Foundation	\$6,800.4
12,791,785	TOTAL	\$26,105.7

This Month in Pictures



A well-known and well-connected dealer with a network of suppliers of live primates in the South Region with some of the live primates with which he was arrested. Not in the picture is also a live mandrill he was trying to illegally trade in. He has a ready market in Sangmelima - South and Yaounde - Center.

Links of this month

- The 2012 Annual Report on activity and finance was promptly completed and posted on line. The reports centers on all aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, tangible achievements in the fields of investigation, arrest and prosecution, media exposure, government relations and international activities. It also focuses on the fight against corruption, replication and activism amongst others.

http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Portals/0/Documents/Activity%20reports%202012/LAGA_Annual_Report%202012.pdf