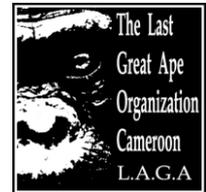


The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

April 2012 Report



Highlights

- **17 dealers were sentenced this month** and more than **60 million FCFA (\$120,000)** to be paid to MINFOF as damages.
- **2 dealers sentenced to 30 months imprisonment each in Yokadouma – East.**
- **6 dealers arrested in 4 separate operations.**

General

This month was marked by very good prosecutions and operations. 17 dealers sentenced, more than 60 million FCA awarded to MINFOF as damages; and 6 more dealers arrested.

17 dealers sentenced this month and more than 60 million FCFA (\$120,000) to be paid to MINFOF as damages; **2 of dealers sentenced to 30 months imprisonment each** in Yokadouma – East. A total of 15 dealers sentenced in Yokadouma: 2 dealers sentenced to 3 months and 6 months respectively, 2 others who are recidivists sentenced to 30 months of prison term each, they were arrested inside Lobeke National Park for illegal capturing and killing of about 1000 African grey parrots. 3 others sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment; they were arrested in Salapoumbe for killing of elephants and illegally trying to trade in the elephant products. A network of 5 dealers were sentenced to 18 months of prison each, they were arrested inside the Boumba-Beck National Park for illegal killing of 6 elephants and trying to trade in their products; and 3 more sentenced to 10 months of prison term each. 1 dealer of live primates (mandrill) sentenced to 6 months of prison in Ambam – South; and 1 dealer of primate parts (chimp and mandrill skulls) sentenced in Mamfe – South West.

4 operations were carried out this month with 6 dealers arrested. A major dealer was arrested with 5 elephant tails in Lomie – East; 2 regular dealers in ivory were arrested in Messok – East for the killing elephants and trying to trade in its parts; 2 other ivory traffickers were arrested in Lomie – East with 8 elephant tusks, they attempted to bribe the arresting team with 1 million FCFA (about \$2000) for their release, an act that was combated by the LAGA team in the field. Another dealer was arrested in Mintom – South with 8 elephant tails. He claims to have steady customers in Djoum and Sangmelima, some of whom are high government officials. This claim is being investigated.

The Regional Law Enforcement Network (LAGA, PALF and AALF) participated at the Central African Sub-region Workshop on Wildlife trafficking and dismantling transnational illicit network in Gabon. They also held a meeting - PALF, AALF and LAGA - in order to outline a strategy for the next few months especially on Investigations.

The Director of LAGA, Ofir Drori published a book titled **The Last Great Ape – A Journey Through Africa and a Fight for the Heart of the Continent**. It is a story of the fight against extinction and the tragedy of endangered worlds, not just of animals but of people struggling to hold onto their culture. The book reveals the intense beauty and strife that exist side by side in Africa, and Ofir makes the case that activism and dedication to a cause are still relevant in a cynical modern world. This dramatic story is one of courage and hope and, most importantly, a search for meaning.

Investigations

- **21 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **7 Regions** of Cameroon- South West, West, South, North West, East, Littoral and Center.
- More focused and high level investigations continued this month with regards to the hundreds of elephants killed by international poachers in the Bouba Ndjidda National Park in the Northern region of Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad.
- Investigations led to arrest operations in the East and South Regions.
- LAGA Investigations Department assisted PALF-Congo Investigations Department on Investigations and Operation Procedures.
- The Department continued with the use of informants, a strategy that yielded a good operation in Lomie-East.

Operations

4 operation were carried out this month against **6 subjects** with MINFOF

- **15/04/12** – A major dealer known to traffic ivory and other elephant products was **arrested while trying to sell 5 elephant tails** in Lomie - East. He initially resisted arrest and conducted himself violently while at the Gendarmerie brigade of Lomie
- **16/04/12** – **2 regular dealers in ivory were arrested** in PALLISCO timber concession in Messok – East for the killing elephants and trying to trade in its parts. One of them is charged with the supply of arms and ammunition, while the other of Baka origin is responsible for the poaching of the elephants.
- **17/04/12** – **2 well known ivory traffickers were arrested in Lomie – East with 8 elephant tusks.** They run a supply line from the East to the Northern part of Cameroon. After the arrest, they **attempted to bribe** the arresting team **with 1 million FCFA** (about \$2000) for their release, an act that was combated by the LAGA team in the field.
- **28/04/12** - Another **major dealer arrested in Mintom – South with 8 elephant tails** while trying to illegally trade in them. He claims to have steady customers in Djoum and Sangmelima, some of whom are high government officials. This claim is being investigated to permit the arrest of the said officials.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **18 missions** out of Yaounde - Centre Region: 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Bamenda (North West), 2 in Bertoua (East), 4 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Lomie (East), 1 in Yokadouma (East), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Ambam (South), 2 in Djoum (South), 1 in Bafoussam (West), 1 in Limbe (South West), 1 in Muyuka (South West), and 1 in Mamfe (South West).
- There are **37 dealers behind bars during this month**: 25 in the East Region, 2 in the South West Region, 1 in littoral Region, 1 in North West region, 6 in South Region and 2 in West Region.
- **49 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **45 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.
- **Prosecutions: 17 dealers were sentenced this month.**
 - **03/04/2012:** The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma - East sentenced Tokendji to **3 months** of prison term; Danladji Adamou to **8 months** of prison and to pay **\$400 as fine**; Atangana Roger and Onana lazare (both recidivists) to **30 months of prison** and to pay **\$8.000 each as fine**. Atangana and Onana were also sentenced to pay jointly to MINFOF the sum of **\$17.360 as damages**. They were arrested inside Lobeke National Park for illegal capturing and killing of more than 1000 African grey parrots.

- **03/04/2012:** The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma sentenced BIAKANG Jean-Bosco, YONGO Jean-Paul and AMENDI Beautrice to **10 months** of imprisonment each and to pay **\$1.000 each as fine**. They were also sentenced to pay jointly to the MINFOF the sum of **\$15.360 jointly as damages**. They were arrested in Salapoumbe for killing of elephants and illegally trying to trade in the elephant products.
- **03/04/2012:** The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma sentenced NZAMESSIE Francis, NYAMECK Simon, NGEUH Moise, BEMBO Lucas and NDASSA Abdou Ramani to **18 months** of prison each and to pay **\$6.000 each as fine**. They were also sentenced to pay jointly to MINFOF **\$61.211 as damages**. They were arrested inside the Boumba-Beck National Park for illegal killing of 6 elephants and trying to trade in their products.
- **03/04/2012:** The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma sentenced NGANDJIBOLO Nestor, LIBAYA Francis and KOLONGO René to **10 months** of prison each and to pay **\$1.000 each as fine**. They were also sentenced to pay jointly to MINFOF **\$18.110 as damages**. They were arrested in Salapoumbe for illegal killing of elephants.
- **05/04/2012:** The Court of First Instance of Ambam – South sentenced ZOUAME ZOUAME Gothar to **6 months** of prison and to pay **\$4.917 as fine and damages**. He was arrested in Ambam for illegal detaining and trying to trade in a live mandrill.
- **12/04/2012:** The Court of First Instance of Mamfe sentenced NEMOH Moses to pay **\$3.280 as fine and damages**. He will be retained in jail for 12 months in case of nonpayment. He was arrested in Mamfe for illegal killing of tortoise and illegal detaining of gun;

Media front

- **37 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio and written press including: 24 written press materials (15 in English and 9 in French), 2 radio talk shows in English, 1 radio news features in French, and 10 news flashes (6 in English and 4 in French).
- Guests include: LAGA Director and program officer of US Fish and wildlife service great Ape.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; 7 wildlife traffickers arrested in Guinea Conakry, Interpol step up fight against elephants killer, Yokadouma re-judgment of ivory dealers and 3 elephant parts and ivory traffickers arrest in Lomie.
- 23 media pieces in English, 14 in French making a percentage of 62.2% in English and 37.8% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- The LAGA Director and Deputy Director participated in Regional Wildlife Trafficking meeting in Gabon. Still in Gabon, the Regional Law Enforcement Network held a meeting - PALF, AALF and LAGA - in order to outline a strategy for the next few months.
- The Director of LAGA was invited to give a presentation about establishing wildlife law enforcement in Central Africa in the IPPL conference in the US. He gave a presentation in front of a large audience of IPPL supporters.
- The Director of LAGA used the opportunity of the tour to promote his new book to deliver two presentations on wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption. The first was in the World Bank headquarters and the second in Forest Service and included FWS, DOJ, and State Department.
- Information has been shared between four governments on movements of Sudanese poachers on the border of CAR – Chad towards Sudan.

Management

Management communication was neglected this month due to international travels of the Director.

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>. Activism this month was on:

- Book published by Ofir Drori titled **The Last Great Ape – A Journey Through Africa and a Fight for the Heart of the Continent**. The book's aim is to connect the general public with activism. It is mostly of Ofir's journeys across Africa, living in nature and spending time with very remote communities that keep their tradition. It also talks about the beginning of LAGA and the fight against corruption. "The Last Great Ape" is a story of the fight against extinction and the tragedy of endangered worlds, not just of animals but of people struggling to hold onto their culture. The book reveals the intense beauty and strife that exist side by side in Africa, and Ofir makes the case that activism and dedication to a cause are still relevant in a cynical modern world. This dramatic story is one of courage and hope and, most importantly, a search for meaning.

Replication

During this month, LAGA helped other replication projects in planning investigations and operations, following up court cases and the production of media pieces.

In Gabon, the Regional Law Enforcement Network held a meeting - PALF, AALF and LAGA - in order to outline a strategy for the next few months.

Special mission continued in Chad concerning the Bouba Ndjida elephant massacre and supervised by LAGA. The mission in the South East of Chad was focused on getting more information and tracking the poachers alleged to come from Sudan who killed more than 300 elephants.

LAGA assisted PALF and RALF in planning and coordinating missions. LAGA and AALF worked on joint investigations in the South of Cameroon.

Finance

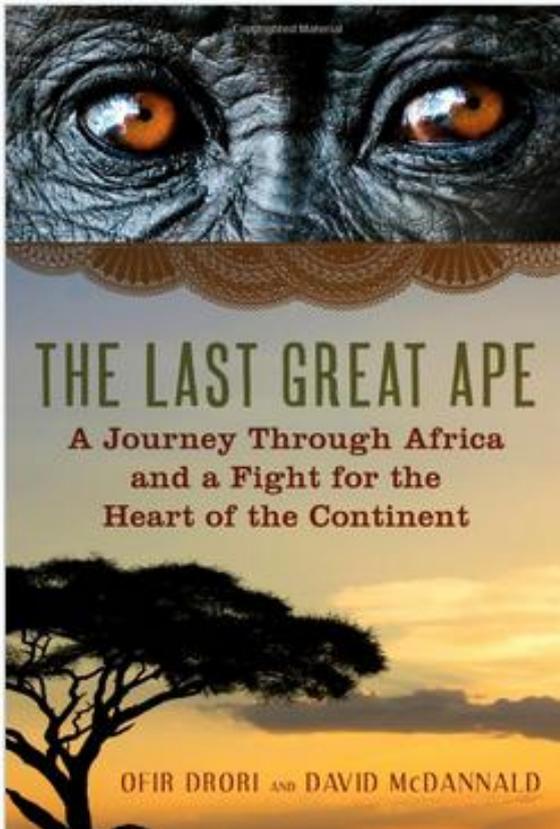
LAGA Expenditure by budget line for April 2012

Amount CFA	Budget Line		Amount USD
1,609,310	Investigations	21 inv, 7 Regions	\$3,219
886,600	Operations	4 Operation against 6 subjects	\$1,773
3,108,090	Legal	follow up 49 cases 37 locked subjects	\$6,216
1,366,835	Media	37 Media pieces	\$2,734
2,622,444	Policy & External Relations	US+Gabon trip Congo/CAR/Chad/Guinea/Nigeria	\$5,245
850,800	Management	Coordination	\$1,702
1,352,730	Office		\$2,705
718,550	LAGA Family Limbe Trip/Labor Day		
12,515,359	TOTAL EXPENDITURE APRIL		\$25,031

LAGA Expenditure by Donor for April 2012

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
1,363,300	FWS	\$2,726.6
289,600	FWS-Replication	\$579.2
105,500	BornFree UK	\$211.0
125,700	Rufford	\$251.4
0	IFAW	\$0.0
1,980,971	IPPL	\$3,961.9
3,351,660	Darwin	\$6,703.3
0	BornFree USA	\$0.0
3,310,180	Future for Nature	\$6,620.4
1,988,448	ARCUS Foundation	\$3,976.9
12,515,359	TOTAL	\$25,030.7

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



The Last Great Ape – A Journey Through Africa and a Fight for the Heart of the Continent by Ofir Drori. The book's aim is to connect the general public with activism. It is mostly of Ofir's journeys across Africa, living in nature and spending time with very remote communities that keep their tradition. It also talks about the beginning of LAGA.



2 well known ivory traffickers arrested in Lomie – East with 8 elephant tusks. They run a supply line from the East to the Northern part of Cameroon. After the arrest, they attempted to bribe the arresting team with 1 million FCFA (about \$2000) for their release, an act that was combated by the LAGA team in the field.

Elephant tails following the arrest of a major dealer known to traffic ivory and other elephant products in Lomie - East. Another dealer was arrested in Mintom – South with 8 elephant tails while trying to illegally trade in them.

Links of this month

- CNN interview with Ofir Drori on his book – **The Last Great Ape – A Journey Through Africa and a Fight for the Heart of the Continent**. It is a story of the fight against extinction and the tragedy of endangered worlds, not just of animals but of people struggling to hold onto their culture. The book reveals the intense beauty and strife that exist side by side in Africa, and Ofir makes the case that activism and dedication to a cause are still relevant in a cynical modern world.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTdpwf4g6Oo>