

## March 2006 Report

### Highlights -

- **Memorandum of Understanding Signed with the Government**
- **Wildlife Law Enforcement Journal launched, unprecedented media results.**
- **Independent Monitoring of WWF run Campo-Ma'an NP completed**

### General

March month has been very successful politically and operationally.

After 3 years LAGA has finally achieved a signing of an agreement with the Government of Cameroon. The event was intensively covered by the media and has included high level guests as representatives of the British High Commission, The US Embassy, The World Bank, Ministry of Justice and many others

Two operations were held in Campo Ma'an area. Campo-Ma'an is a National Park managed through a project of WWF. The World Bank appointed LAGA to monitor the project giving LAGA a chance to exercise 2 of its 6 stated objectives – Creating a map of potential for the donors in exposing unsuccessful investments in law enforcement, and creating an independent monitor for wildlife crime in Cameroon.

The assessment report is a part of this monthly report.

Finally on the media side unprecedented results of 45 media pieces were achieved together with another landmark - the launching of the first edition of a bilingual bi-monthly journal on Wildlife Law Enforcement. 1000 copies have been printed and actively distributed to all major professional stakeholders.

### Investigations

- **16 investigations were held in 6 provinces.**

### Operations

- **Three operations** carried out with the National MINFOF brigade
- A dealer specialized in trading in protected wildlife species has been arrested in Yaounde with a **live chimpanzee**. The dealer was observed regularly trading in protected wildlife species including apes between Belabo in the East Province to Yaounde in the Centre Province.
- Two operations were held in Campo Ma'an area.
- A dealer in protected species worker at the Mvas saw mill showed his residence at the Mvas Camp, constructed by the SCIEB society. He was first met in the nearby logging town, Ipono. He claimed he is a regular dealer in ivory, elephant feet, and protected monkeys, and had just recently sold two tusks. He said deals take place in his house in Mvas saw mill or in Ipono. on the day of the operation, two teeth of elephant (Class A), a live crocodile (Class A) together with a live Civet (Class B) which he called a bush-dog (Class A) were present at his house in the saw mill. The crocodile was stored before by the dealer in a restaurant about 100m from the main entrance of the

Mvas Saw mill. The operation took place on 24.3.06 at the Mvas locality some 500m from the dealer's residence. The dealer transported the items on his motorcycle on his way for a deal, leaving Mvas towards Campo. He was moving on day time and did not even bother to cover the head of the crocodile. This fact is surprising as it reflects full confidence for not being caught on the way. This confidence is rarely observed in our work nationwide.

- Investigation carried out at Campo Ma'an on illegal wildlife activities identified Campo beach to be an active area of wildlife trade and concentrated in one restaurant located about 350 meters from the WWF "case de passage". These investigations took place on March month..
- Ahanda Abomo Boniface is a restaurant manager known to be a dealer in wildlife. The restaurant itself regularly serves bushmeat, and the manager is collecting fees from bushmeat dealers around for storing their meat in the refrigerator.
- A live mandrill (Class A) was kept outside tied to one of the pillars of the restaurant. Boniface is recorded saying:
  1. He believes the Mandrill came from the park
  2. That he and the restaurant owner knew that the mandrill is very rare species.
  3. That the restaurant owner, Mr. Eyenga, has bought the drill in one of his regular trips to villages around to buy bushmeat.
  4. That the animal is exposed there and even taken for walks around the beach.
  5. That the WWF staff knew about the presence of the animal and allowed him to keep it and that even "their whites" come there to see it.
  6. That all this is taking place from July 2005 just about 350m from the WWF "case de passage".
- The operation took place on 24.3.06 at the restaurant
- . .The assessment report is a part of this report.
- For more details see LAGA's case tracking System.

### Legal

- **14 dealers behind bars:** 2 in the west province; 7 in the south province (5 in Nsangmelima, 2 in Kribi); 3 in the littoral; 1 in the north; 1 in the north west. Jail visits held for all prisoners.
- **17 active cases** in the court: 11 cases are already scheduled and being trailed. 6 cases awaiting trial schedule by the court.
- **One prosecution:** Kenneth Amazuihe in Bamenda court. 50.000 FRS fine, 75000 damages, 2 months imprisonment. The judgment is not satisfying and appeal was made. Very exceptionally we managed to get the subject locked while on appeal.
- Financial sustainability program (proving to the Ministry lawyers fees could be financed by damages awarded) - The MoU agreement with the Government formalize this program and mention our tablet of financial arrangements with lawyers as an appendix of the convention.

## **Media front**

- **Unprecedented** media results.
- LAGA **launched the first edition of a bilingual bi-monthly journal** on Wildlife Law Enforcement. **1000 copies** have been printed and actively distributed to all major professional stakeholders. The journal known as **‘Wildlife Justice Magazine’** contains interviews with some government officials and diplomats on wildlife law enforcement operations. The journal focuses mainly on the progress of the Wildlife Law Enforcement process in Cameroon. The first edition is dedicated to government policy and includes interviews with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Wildlife and Forestry.
- **45 media pieces** were produced and pushed to radio and written press more talk shows were introduced.
- Subjects – wildlife law enforcement including – Launch of “Wildlife Justice” Magazine, Signing the agreement with the Government, our operations in North-West, South West and West provinces, Guinean and Nigerian ivory dealers, West Province prosecution, New ape trader arrested, Drugs and Apes case.
- Guests – including, **The Minister, the Secretary General**, Ministry directors, local Chief, an MP, NGOs. Getting more interviews from Central administration.

## **External Relations and Policy**

- An agreement has been signed between LAGA and The Government of Cameroon. The signing of the MoU closes a circle of three years, and is the first signed agreement defining LAGA’s unique mandate in Law Enforcement and the Governments commitment in this process. The event was intensively covered by the media and has included high level guests as representatives of the British High Commission, The US Embassy, The World Bank, Ministry of Justice and many others. Speeches of LAGA Director and the Minister of Wildlife and Forestry are a part of this report.
- The **first active case outside Cameroon**, involving a bonobo international smuggling affair by expatriates is moving well. LAGA has appointed a lawyer and works with the Ministry in charge of wildlife in DRC.

## **Management**

- LAGA is testing a second candidate for secretary position after Eunice Nekwa fully took over the position of Assistant Manager.
- Recruitment efforts in investigation unit are unsuccessful this month.

## Finance

- LAGA has gained a new donor – ProWildlife.

### LAGA Expenditure for March 06

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details		Amount USD
1,739,800	Investigations	16 investigations, 6 provinces	-1,739,800	\$3,192
1,140,750	Operations	3 operations - ape+ Campo Maan	-2,880,550	\$2,093
1,628,778	Legal	follow up 17 cases 14 locked subjects	-4,509,328	\$2,989
1,672,890	Media	45 media pieces+Magazine launch	-6,182,218	\$3,070
381,833	Policy and External Relations	MoU signed	-6,564,051	\$701
1,625,800	Management	Coordination	-8,189,851	\$2,983
396,627	Office		-8,586,478	\$728
13,000	LAGA Family - Investing in team spirit and professional level		-8,599,478	\$24
8,599,478	TOTAL EXPENDITURE MARCH		0	\$15,779

Amount CFA	Donor			Amount USD
375,103	Born Free	Used	March	\$688.3
1,720,760	World Bank	Used	March	\$3,157.4
120,000	AWI	Used	March	\$220.2
5,034,615	BHC	Used	March	\$9,237.8
134,200	WSPA	Used	March	\$246.2
811,550	Arcus	Used	March	\$1,489.1
403,250	ProWildlife	Used	March	\$739.9
8,599,478	TOTAL			\$15,778.9

Ofir Drori  
 Director  
 The Last Great Ape Organization

### THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



