

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

July 2010 Report



Highlights

- **3 parrot dealers of Ghanaian nationality sentenced in Douala – Littoral.**
- **A recidivist ivory dealer arrested in Lomie – East.**

General

This month was marked by the prosecution of 3 international parrot traffickers of Ghanaian nationality in Douala – Littoral Region.

The Court of First Instance of Bonanjo - Douala – Littoral sentenced 3 parrot dealers of Ghanaian nationality to 2 year of prison suspended sentence during three years and to pay **\$9400 each as damages**. They were arrested in Douala for illegally trading in African grey parrots. The operation for their arrest started in 2009 and they are a part of a network of parrot traffickers in Douala, **linked to some of the biggest wildlife traffickers**. After their arrest, they stated in their statements of offence that the parrots were being taken to **2 main traffickers who were the main actors in the seizure of the more than 1000 parrots in Douala in January 2010**.

A well known and repeated offender with connections to other main dealers in Yaounde - Center Region was **arrested in Lomie – East Region with 2 elephant tusks**. He has been in the trade for a long time and is a recidivist who had been arrested before for the killing of an elephant. This operation was carried out with MINFOF – Lomie.

Investigations

- **10 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon- North West, South, West, South West, East and Center.
- Investigations are still ongoing pertaining to a target who is illegally keeping a chimp in the Western Region of Cameroon.
- Internet Investigations are still ongoing concerning some accomplices of an Internet Wildlife trafficker who was arrested in Bamenda – North West Region. He is engaged in the falsification of government documents and CITES Permit.
- The department is experiencing a shortage in effective investigators resulting into less arrest operations.

Operations

An operation was carried out this month against **1 subject**.

- **20/07/10 - A well known and repeated offender with connections to other main dealers in Yaounde - Center Region was arrested in Lomie – East Region with 2 elephant tusks**. He has been in the trade for a long time and is a recidivist who had been arrested before for the killing of an elephant. This operation was carried out with MINFOF – Lomie.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **6 missions** out of Yaounde- Centre Region: 2 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Kribi (South), 1 in Abong-Mbang (East), 1 in Bertoua and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **9 dealers behind bars during this month**: 1 in the East Region, 4 in the South West Region, 2 in the littoral Region, and 2 in the North West Region.
- **18 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **15 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.

- **Prosecutions:** 3 dealers were sentenced this month
 - **12/07/10-** The Court of First Instance of Bonanjo - Douala – Littoral sentenced Amiah Awudu, Yeboa Eric and Osei Solomon to 2 year of prison suspended sentence during three years to pay \$ **9400 as damages**. They were arrested in Douala for illegal detaining of African grey parrots. **All of them are of Ghanaian nationality and are connected to major exporters of African Grey parrots in Cameroon.**
- **1 appeal** was registered this month against the ruling gave by the court of first instance of Administrative Center – Yaounde in the matter of MINFOF Vs Njocky Eyoum Theodore who was arrested for dealing in a live mandrill and an elephant foot.

Media front

- **22 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to the radio and written press including: 6 written press materials, 3 in English and 3 in French, and 16 radio news flashes (9 in English and 7 in French).
- Guests include: Fon of Bali.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Court hearing of dealer arrested for killing a chimp in Basu – Eyumojock – South West Region, court hearing of internet wildlife trader in Bamenda, Arrest of gorilla killer in Lomie - Dja.
- 14 media pieces in English, 8 in French making a percentage of 63.6% in English and 36.4% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- LAGA Director met with Dan Stiles to discuss about ivory trade study done in the year 2000 and current IUCN study on elephant meat and ivory trade, using LAGA’s data to analyse scope and magnitude of ivory trade and social analysis of trade networks.
- Meeting held between Tara Neda, US Embassy Legal Adviser and LAGA Director to talk on Anti-corruption legislation, problem of wildlife cases in the legal system and the fight against corruption in the legal system.
- Dirch Bayler of US Fish and Wildlife Services and LAGA Director met to discuss on wildlife enforcement, the financial support to LAGA and its replication in the sub region.
- Meeting between LAGA Head of Media and External Department and the Coordinator of the Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society, Dr Gordon Ajonina on the Pongo Songo Affair in the Douala Edea Wildlife Reserve.
- The LAGA Head of Media and External Relations met with Superintendent Ndema at the General Delegation for National Security to discuss on the MoU between LAGA and his Delegation.

Management

- LAGA still experienced severe cash flow problems this month that slowed down the work and results of the LAGA’s departments.
- LAGA lost a friend and collaborator – Wolfgang of German nationality who was highly involved in environmental educational activities. He died in Kribi – South, and LAGA fully participated in his burial in Kribi and later organized a tribute for him at his residence in Yaounde – Center.

Activism Front

Education activities were carried out on the following: Child trafficking.

- **TRAFFIC** - A film on child trafficking in America - The film portrays the trafficking of women and young girls for sexual exploitation and brings out complicity of policemen, border porosity, use of Internet that makes the trade highly codified, making it difficult for traffickers to be tracked down. During discussion after the film, it could be said that poverty and some traditional practices are the main causes of the phenomenon in Cameroon.

Traffic is the story of an encounter between a young lady from Eastern Europe and a Mexican girl both victims of an organised network of human traffickers for sexual exploitation between USA and Mexico. It is also an encounter between a young Mexican boy and an American policeman all of them determined to track down the kidnapped girl (the boy's younger sister) and another victim (the policeman's daughter).

What similarity can we make between the context of the film and the situation of Cameroon paying attention to the subject matter of the film?

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by budget line for July 2010

Amount CFA	Budget line	Details	Amount USD
832,465	investigations	10 inv, 6 Regions	\$1,604
350,000	Operations	1 Operation against 1 subjects	\$674
1,557,960	legal	follow up 18 cases 9 locked subjects	\$3,002
1,135,010	Media	22 media pieces	\$2,187
117,500	Policy & External Relations	Congo/CAR/Israel	\$226
853,000	Management	Coordination	\$1,644
818,572	Office		\$1,577
5,664,507	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JULY		\$10,914

LAGA Expenditure by donor for July 2010

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
2,133,875	FWS	\$4,111.5
1,344,512	ProWildlife	\$2,590.6
1,172,610	BornFree Foundation	\$2,259.4
	World Parrot Trust	\$0.0
1,013,510	Rufford Foundation	\$1,952.8
5,664,507	TOTAL	\$10,914.3

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



Late Wolfgang – friend and collaborator of LAGA of German nationality who was highly involved in environmental educational activities. He died in Kribi – South, and LAGA fully participated in his burial in Kribi and later organized a tribute for him at his residence in Yaounde – Center.

Links of this month

Friends, well wishers and volunteers of Wolfgang's association WPE – Wild Plant Eco-Project organised a gathering to pay tribute to Wolfgang in Yaounde. The occasion was orchestrated with testimonies of his works in the wildlife sector especially with children, songs and the story of his end narrated by Sedter and Laundry both colleagues of Wolfgang. Wolfgang was a man full of ambitions and one of his ambitions was to sensitize and protect animals especially the apes. While in Cameroon he went from one school to another to sensitise children on the need to protect animals especially the endangered species.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oriTL3y7RFo>