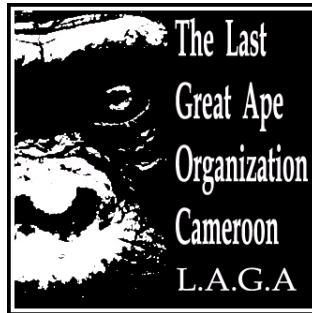


THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2008

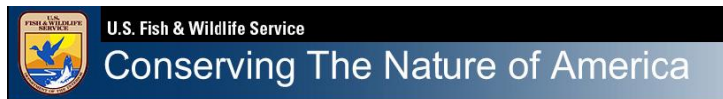


Executive Summary

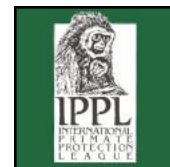
Significant progress was made over this period on all aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, with tangible achievements not only in the fields of investigation, arrest and prosecution but also in media exposure, government relations and international activities with more focus on the fight against corruption.

This period for every 7 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 92% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Every single day a media piece was put on national news and recorded. This period saw an International Operation in the Republic of Congo, a timber company manager arrested in connection to trade in chimps, more arrests of cyber wildlife scammers.

The work of the Last Great Ape Organization was supported by:



Foreign & Commonwealth Office



LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)
SEMESTER REPORT
January - June 2008

Overview

Investigations

- A total of 150 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in all the 10 provinces.
- International investigations were conducted in The Republic of Congo.
- There was more focus on Internet Investigations with collaboration from Malaysia, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Israel with excellent results.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 7 provinces against 23 individuals resulting in 23 court cases.
- An International Operation was carried out in The Republic of Congo.
- The rate of imprisonment for these cases reached to 92%.

Legal

- 24 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases begun during the period have not yet reached the prosecution stage but procedures still ongoing).
- 10 cases prosecuted during this period all receiving prison terms and damages of about \$3200 in one case.
- The Head Department attended an International Conference of Police Chiefs of Central African States. She also participated in a conference in U.S.A. on The Administration of Justice.

Media

- A total of 201 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio and press) achieved in a rate of more than one media piece per day.
- Le Point, a world renowned Magazine published an article on the goals, team and activities of LAGA with a special focus on the LAGA director and his crusade against wildlife dealers. It also focused on the unprecedented arrest of an international ivory trafficker in Brazzaville-Congo.
- The 5th edition of Wildlife Justice Magazine was printed and distributed nationally.
- Online sensitization resulted in over 500 visits to the LAGA website per month. It should be noted that the LAGA website was entirely created from scratch and is maintained by the LAGA family.

Management

- The Annual Report for 2007 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. An electronic version is available on line on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org.
- An agent in the Investigations Department was relieved of his functions following numerous digressive behaviour from the LAGA values.
- 2 volunteers joined the LAGA family during this period in the Management and Media Departments.

External Relations and Policy

- The successful experimental pilot project on effective wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon is currently being replicated in Congo Brazzaville at the request of the government of that country.
- The Director of LAGA held a meeting in Lyon - France at the International Interpol Headquarters with Interpol on International wildlife trafficking. Other issues discussed were corruption in NGO projects and setting up of Central Africa branch.
- LAGA makes a full presentation at the Central African Head of Police Conference on the fight against wildlife crime and the involvement of the police in this fight.

Strategic Highlights

- LAGA's vision of replicating its model to other countries in the sub-region has started to be realized.
- More focus on illegal international wildlife trafficking through the Internet resulted into the identification, targeting and arrests following international collaboration.
- Several important meetings were held with the Minister MINFOF, Diplomats, Officers of the forces of law and order, national and international NGOs to discuss cases of illegal trade in endangered species, corruption, MoU etc.

Narrative Report

Introduction

This report refers to activities from January till June 2008.

In this period collaboration experienced a major climb in the political level, and operational level.

This report includes: the progress in each department of activities (Investigations, Operations, Legal, Media and Management), strategic overview of and the impact of our operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, non-governmental bodies, in the international arena, and in non-enforcement initiatives LAGA has undertaken.

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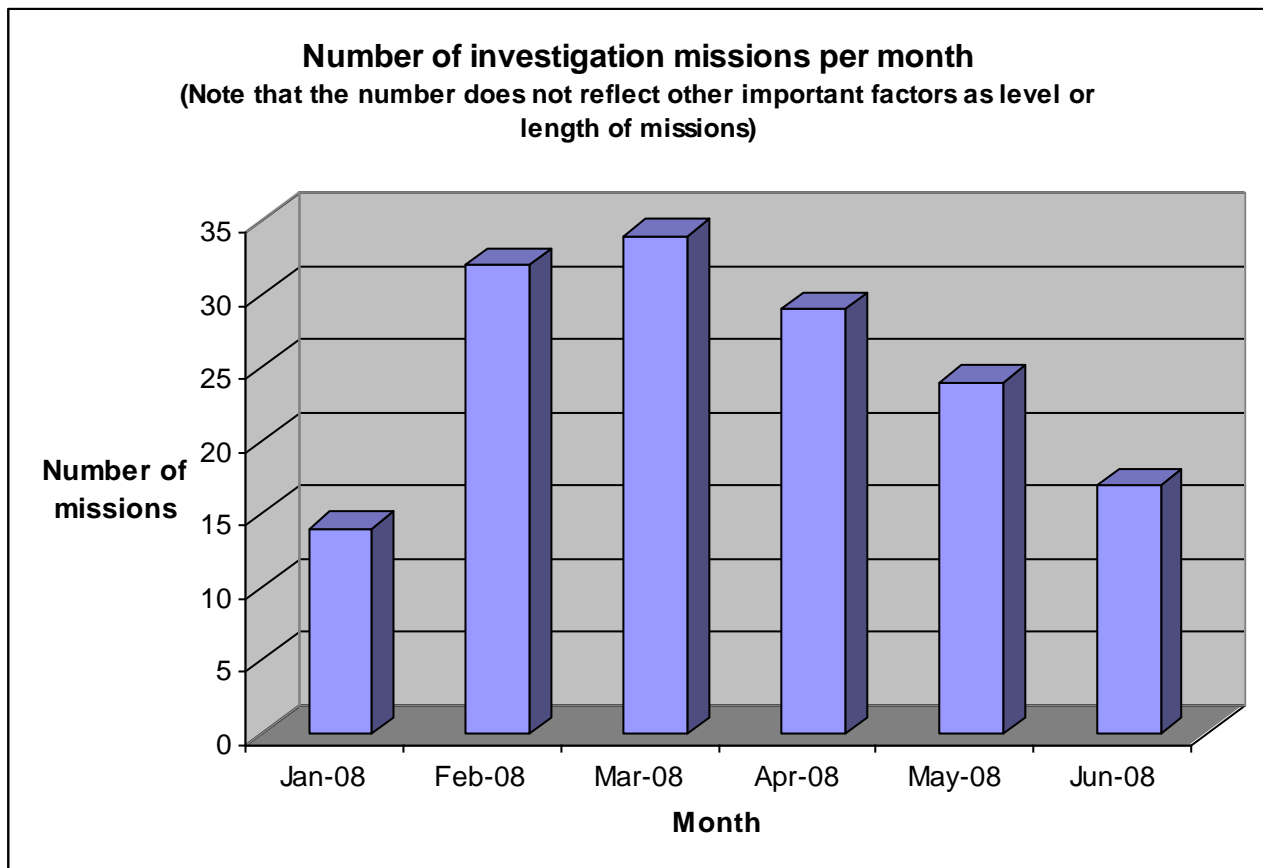
1. Investigations

LAGA's investigation unit has carried out 150 investigation missions in all the 10 provinces during this period with International Investigations in The Republic of Congo. More investigations were on routes discovered between Chad through Cameroon to Nigeria on ivory and lion skin trafficking. The department continued with structural reorganization culminating in high improvement in its professional output.

Field testing and screening of new investigators continued within this period. This high screening is primordial in selecting those who place high value on LAGA's mission, ready to participate and contribute massively in the realization of the goals unconditionally as opposed to those seeking for financial compensation as the main motivational factor. 5 new candidates are being tried in the field with excellent results.

There was a special focus on Internet Investigations targeting wildlife dealers who trade over the Internet. Following complaints to LAGA from many countries including Malaysia, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Israel, France, Spain and South Africa, the effective collaboration with these countries resulted into the arrest of some wildlife Internet dealers resulting to court cases with targets behind bars.

The Unit continued to undertake investigations relating to wildlife trade that involves additional offences not under wildlife law concerning illegal adoption scheme of children, illegal immigration, as well as international trafficking with special focus on African grey parrots, ivory and lion skins. More contacts were made and collaboration acquired with 2 informers in Douala in connection to the international trafficking of a live hippo that was sent to the Lahore Zoo in Pakistan.



Operations

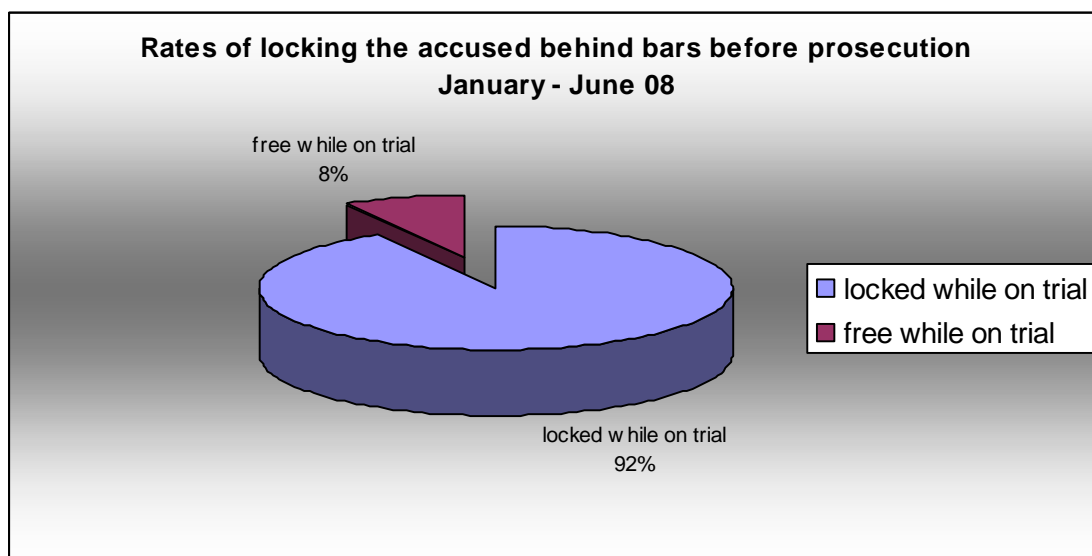
LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 7 provinces against 23 individuals resulting in 23 court cases. 1 operation was carried out in the Republic of Congo during LAGA's replication phase. Operations became more sophisticated over the period and the rate of imprisonment reached 92% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial.

January, February and March were marked by a special focus on trade in Primates especially in Nanga Eboko – Centre Province. A manager in a logging company Pangiotis Marelis of Greek nationality was arrested and put behind bars for illegally dealing with 2 chimps, 5 parrots and a DeBrazza's monkey. The operation comes at a time when the government and the International community are renewing pressure on logging companies to meet their legal responsibilities by controlling their facilities and workers against illegal hunting and related trade. A live chimpanzee was rescued from a high personality, The Senior Divisional Officer of Upper Sanaga Division - Nanga Eboko in the Centre of Cameroon. Nanga Eboko has been an area of great concern for trade in great apes for a while now and has been noted as one of the major road junctions for wildlife trafficking in the country. Highly placed official figures hold apes in their houses as if they are above the law while trade through the town intensified.

Internet and International operations were intensified. A crackdown on Internet wildlife trade was intensified with arrests carried out and the scammers put behind bars in Buea – South West Province. An International Operation was carried out in The Republic of Congo resulting in the arrest of a notorious and well-connected international ivory trafficker.

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive provinces despite the corruption and complicity of local officials. The focused operations were effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for leopard skin trade.

Operations were also carried out against illegal dealers in ivory with the operations unit showing a very high performance in April when a big network of 5 suspects dealing in large-scale ivory, trophies and elephant meat was busted in Mamfe – South West Province. They were involved in the killing of 3 elephants in Mamfe and were arrested with arms and ammunition used in killing the elephants.



3. Legal

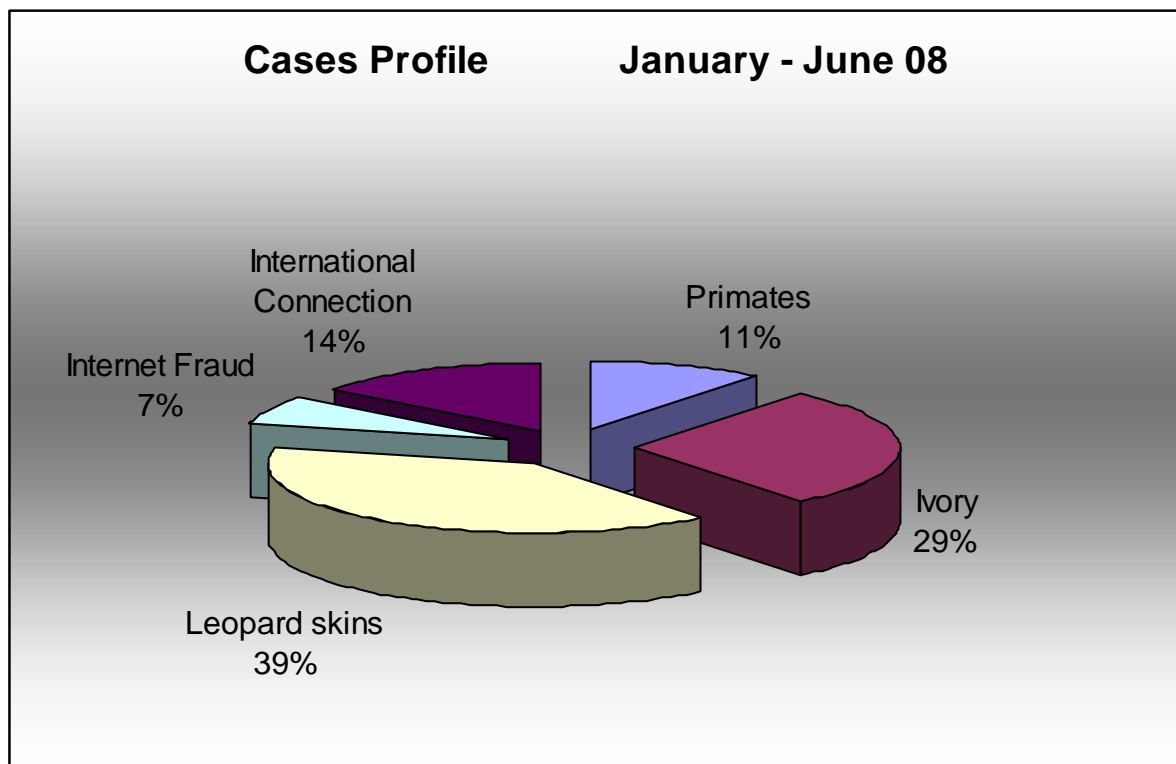
24 new cases reached the court during this period, these cases joined old cases that were scheduled, followed-up, tried in various courts and jail visits organized. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage with most subjects imprisoned throughout the process.

In June 4 wildlife traffickers were prosecuted, 2 by the Court of First Instance Bonanjo – Douala, 1 by The Court of First Instance Ndokoti - Douala in the Littoral Province, and 1 by The Court of First Instance Ngaoundere – Adamawa, all for illegally trading in leopard skins and skins of other endangered wildlife species. All were sentenced to serve prison terms, and to pay damages each to the Cameroon government with an amount of more than \$3000 for the Ndokoti-Douala case.

An outstanding prosecution was achieved in The Court of First Instance of Djoum, South Province following the prosecution of a big ivory dealer in March. He was convicted to six months imprisonment and fined for damages and judiciary fee. The duration of imprisonment in default of payment of the fines was fixed at 18 months. Other prosecutions were obtained in Abong – Mbang, East Province sentenced a wildlife dealer who was guilty for illegally trading in gorilla parts for 9 months suspended for 3 years. The offender is a retired military officer. More dealers were sentenced in Bamenda – North West Province.

LAGA participated and made a full presentation at the Central African Head of Police Conference on the fight against wildlife crime and the involvement of the police in this fight. LAGA was represented by the Head of Legal Department, the youngest participant. She was given the chance to do a full presentation on ivory trafficking during this event. Her work with the Interpol on the big ivory case got LAGA to participate in this Conference. She also participated in a conference in U.S.A. on The Administration of Justice. Civil Law, Administrative Law, and Criminal law were at the center of many conferences held in different states and within different institutional bodies.

86 missions were carried out of the Center Province for follow-up, new cases and the creation of relations with judiciary authorities. There were unprecedented relations opening with Provincial Attorney Generals and State Attorneys.



4. Media

A total of 201 media pieces were produced and pushed into media including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press achieved in a rate of more than one media piece per day. Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations and prosecutions, the replication an operation in the Republic of Congo, Internet wildlife fraud, links between wildlife crime and other illegal acts (drugs trade, adoption scams, immigration), arrest of three elephant dealers in Mamfe, Ecoguard murderer sentenced to 25 years imprisonment-Bangem, Steps being taken to safeguard the lives of the 4 stolen Cameroon gorillas recently repatriated from S.A, High profile wildlife cases in court-parrot case, Nature and Conservation and luxurious workshop, corruption in wildlife law enforcement etc. Guests included: Minister of MINFOF, the Secretary General, Ministry Directors, Provincial Delegates, Magistrates, lawyers, local Chiefs, Members of Parliament, Police Commissioners, Diplomats, Director LAGA etc.

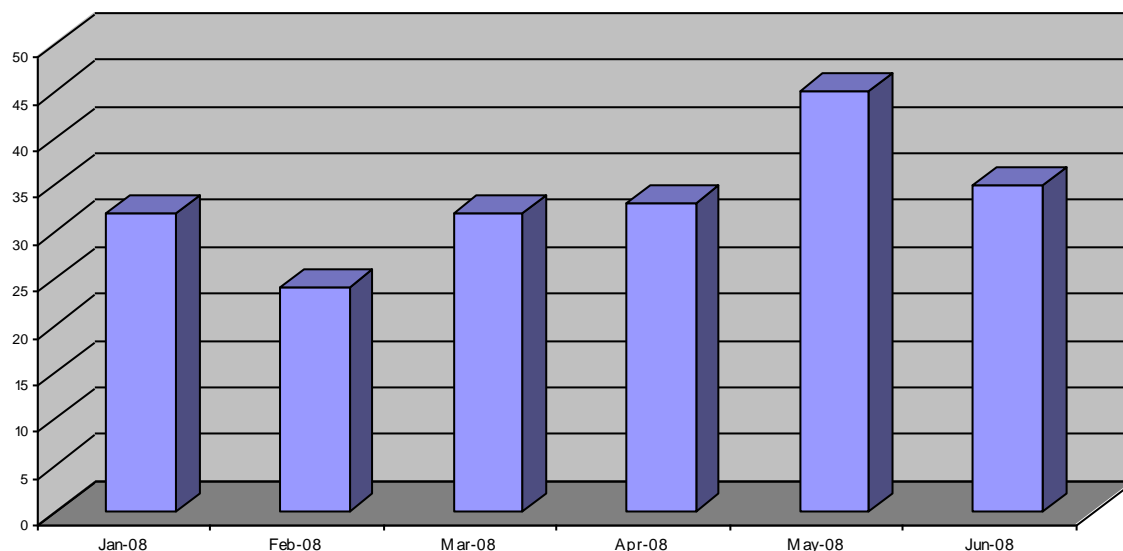
In May, Le Point, a world renowned Magazine published an article on the goals, team and activities of LAGA with a special focus on the LAGA director and his crusade against wildlife dealers. It also focused on the unprecedented arrest of an international ivory trafficker in Brazzaville-Congo.

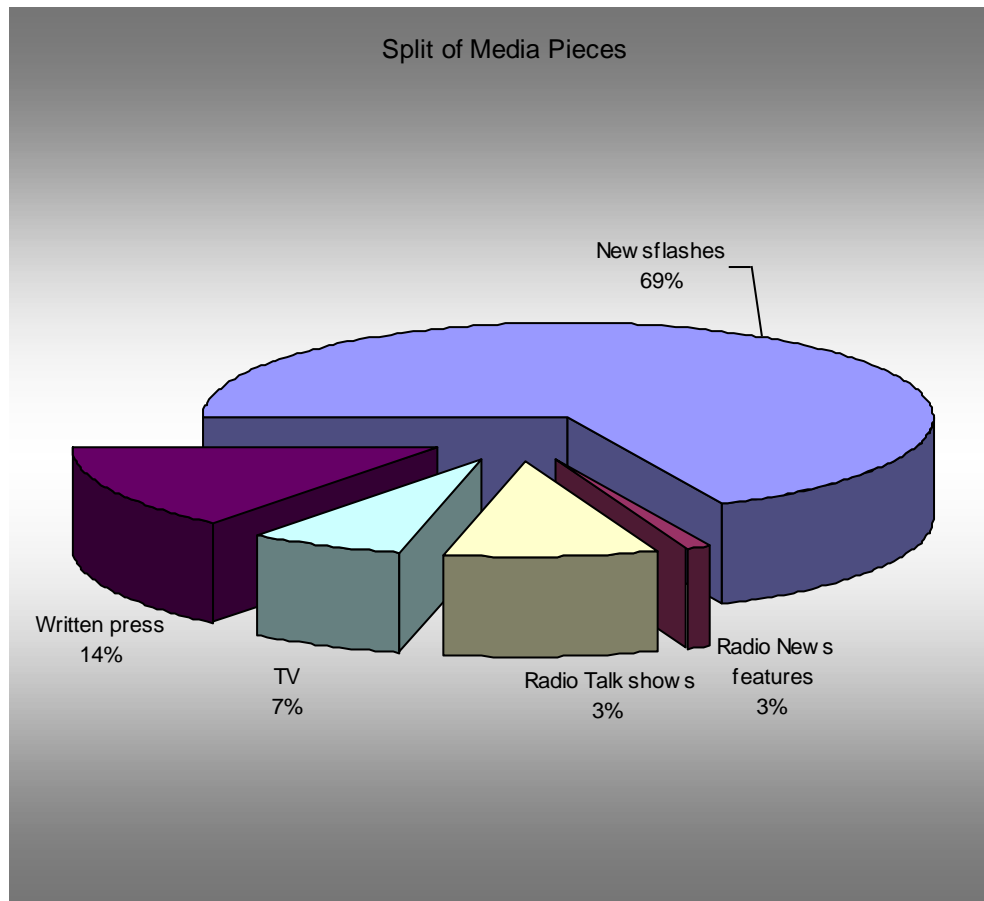
LAGA participated in the High Value Conservation Concept workshop developed by the Forest Stewardship Council and its applicability in the wildlife sector. LAGA helped give the event a press coverage having acknowledged it as a forum where wildlife conservation was being brought into focus in the designation of protected areas.

The distribution of Wildlife Justice Magazine continued. Wildlife Justice is a publication for the professional audience in charge of the application of the wildlife law. It is actively distributed free of charge to professionals – those who are in charge of the law enforcement process – police stations, gendarmes, agents of the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, courts and custom officers. It is also provided to policy makers, media houses, higher institutions of learning and conservation organizations based in Cameroon. The Head of Media and External Relations met with the Divisional Officer of Eyumujock Sub Division, Manyu Division to hand documents on wildlife law enforcement for distribution to local village chiefs.

Online sensitization resulted in over 500 visits to the LAGA website per month during this period. It should be noted that the LAGA website (www.laga-enforcement.org) was entirely created from scratch and is maintained by the LAGA family. Recent statistics for the month of June put you tube views to more than 20.000.

Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed





5. Management

Work on the reconstruction of LAGA continued as well as work on action plans for departments while stretching recruitment processes in three LAGA departments (Investigations, Legal and Media). New recruits in investigation unit received training in writing field reports and the proper use of equipment.

In January, month, the Head of Legal Department, Horline Njike participated in a conference in U.S.A. on The Administration of Justice for 2 weeks. Civil Law, Administrative Law, and Criminal law were at the centre of many conferences held in different states and within different institutional bodies. She met with one of the highest personalities in the Judiciary System in U.S.A. a Supreme Court Judge, Justice Brian in Washington. The role of civil society, training of judiciary officials, human rights and cultural issues were also discussed. This is a continuation of more involvement of LAGA workers in International seminars and conferences for more capacity building.

The Annual Report for 2007 was printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. An electronic version is available on line on the LAGA website www.laga-enforcement.org. This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

February was marked by a week of transporters' strike that resulted into civil strife and unrest for most of the month. In Yaounde, the office was opened and work continued despite the barricades erected on roads and insecurity, showing a real dedication to the achievement of LAGA goals.

February also saw the LAGA Development Office Assistant Akwen Cynthia continuing her studies in Britain assisted by the LAGA family. The challenge will be to continue engaging her in activism while she is in the UK. This was Marius Talla who was in France doing his PhD on wildlife law while doing missions for LAGA and is now back with LAGA. This is a continuation of capacity building of LAGA members for more effective output. She represented LAGA in the PAW Partnership Open seminar with discussions on wildlife crime and wildlife law enforcement in the United Kingdom.

2 volunteers joined the LAGA family during this period, one to assist the Management Department with administrative, financial and managerial duties; and the other in the media department.

LAGA's vision of replicating its model to other countries in the sub-region has already started to be realized. This month the transfer of experience has concretized in tangible results. As LAGA is replicating its experience the most valuable resource becomes trained and experienced personnel that could assist in disseminating LAGA's working methods. Searching for local human resources in Congo started in several fields – media, investigations, operations, legal, lawyers, etc. LAGA will soon move one of its legal advisers to Congo.

The successful experimental pilot project on effective wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon is currently being replicated in Congo Brazzaville at the request of the government of that country LAGA carried out a mission in the Republic of Congo in order to follow-up the potential in developing Wildlife Law Enforcement beyond Cameroon. LAGA used recommendations of replication of the model by different bodies including COMIFAC and CARPE. The mission was very successful and was geared at igniting law enforcement through precedence and creating a structure to sustain effective law enforcement. It was carried out at 3 levels:

1. Political – meetings were held with Ministries, Embassies, International bodies, the Judiciary, Police, Gendarmerie, Lawyers, NGO's, Investigators etc.
2. Structural – Leave behind a structure to continue with the efforts and pushed by LAGA.
3. Operational – A big operation was carried out.

April was a test to the LAGA family running LAGA without the LAGA director. The excellent results in all fronts proved the growing capacity and independence of its departments. 4 operations against 8 targets were carried out, one busting a big network in Mamfe – South West dealing in large-scale ivory, trophies and elephant meat, another arresting a wildlife dealer in Ngaoundere – Adamawa for illegally trading in leopard skins and trophies of other endangered animal specie, and one at Ngoyla – East Province for killing and trading in a leopard skin.

In May, an agent in the Investigations Department was relieved of his functions following numerous digressive behaviour from the LAGA values. He was removed after several warnings and many chances given to redeem himself. LAGA also started an evaluation of its telephone expenses system identified as a major expense in LAGA activities spread over the country's different provinces.

The month of June was marked by the LAGA family working normally despite the financial problems that were faced by the organization and the non-payment of salaries.

6. External Relations and Policy.

During this period, LAGA had many meeting sessions with highly placed government and diplomatic authorities in Cameroon, outside of Cameroon, local and international NGOs, and participated in international conferences.

This period was rich in meetings with the Minister MINFOF on issues related to structural reforms on wildlife law enforcement, the fight against corruption, follow-up of the two parrot cases, revision of MoU, and approval of future operations against ape trade. There was focus on fighting high-level corruption inside the Ministry. It tightened the support of the Minister to LAGA and ended as a positive case study in the fight against corruption. The Minister used these as an opportunity to encourage LAGA on its wildlife law enforcement work and fight against corruption. He sent a circular out on wildlife law enforcement to the different provincial delegates. The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife complemented LAGA's achievements in media Sensitisation.

LAGA met with other MINFOF officials - the Technical Adviser No 1 discuss issues related to the forwarding of ivory samples for DNA test in laboratories abroad. Focus was on the signing of CITES Permits for the export of samples collected from ivory seized in Yaounde purported to have arrived from a neighbouring country; the Director of wildlife and protected areas to discuss about the Greek logger case, parrot case, MoU and the lack of collaboration of the delegate of Nanga Eboko, Centre Province; the Director of LAGA held a meeting with the Inspector General in the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss about MoU; with the South West Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife to explore ways of combating wildlife crimes in general and Internet scamming in particular.

Many meetings were held with the Diplomatic corps; with US embassy on wildlife law enforcement, fight against corruption, ivory cases in the US and recent parrot cases in Douala; with Greek Ambassador concerning the plan for chimp operation in Nanga Eboko against a Greek logger. With the British High Commission 1st Secretary on fight against corruption, recent parrot cases and the replication of LAGA experience to other sectors; LAGA met with Dutch Embassy to discuss on corruption in big NGOs, with Israeli Ambassador to discuss on the fight against corruption and update of LAGA activities. LAGA met with the Consulate of the Congo Embassy concerning LAGA work and results in Congo, collaboration with Congolese government and creating channels of communication with the embassy. The Consulate was very satisfied and congratulated LAGA for its assistance to the Congolese government. Meeting held with Congo EU Head of programmes, a jurist with the interest of fighting corruption in the court and the key actor for the transfer of LAGA's experience in Congo on the fight against corruption and wildlife cases development.

Several meetings were held with other International and national organizations. LAGA held a meeting with the Focal Point of CARPE in preparation of the visit of the US Environment Officer for West and Central Africa. The meeting paved the way for the visiting Director's audience with the Director of LAGA. LAGA assisted in giving elaborate press coverage to this effect. LAGA met with the WWF Regional Director in preparation for a visit by the WWF Director who expressed a desire to see the LAGA Director while in Cameroon. The meeting focused on corruption in WWF and actions to be taken. A worker of WWF was implicated in a case of illegal exportation of African Grey parrots from the forests in the South East Cameroon. LAGA held meetings with other senior managers of WWF. These meetings were with 2 lawyers who requested audience with the Director of LAGA, the WWF Regional Director, the technical Director of WWF Cameroon programme office accompanied by another senior official of WWF to discuss about corruption in the organization and how to tackle it with the assistance of LAGA. Meeting held between the Director of LAGA and WWF International Director of Project Management concerning the fight

against corruption. LAGA met with CED (Centre for Environment and Development) on issues of corruption inside NGOs.

LAGA had meeting with INTERPOL on the follow-up of wildlife cases of last year, the improvement of working collaboration between LAGA and INTERPOL and the future creation of sub-regional INTERPOL bureau. The Director of LAGA held a meeting in Lyon - France at the International Interpol Headquarters with Interpol on International wildlife trafficking. Other issues discussed were corruption in NGO projects and setting up of Central Africa branch.

LAGA was invited to serve at the CARPE small grant committee. This was a good platform of cautioning against corruption in development projects, lack of measurable standards and accountability issues and held a meeting with CARPE to discuss on the replication of LAGA to other countries.

LAGA participated in the PAW Partnership Open seminar with discussions on wildlife crime and wildlife law enforcement in the United Kingdom. Feed back sheets concerning the seminar were filled and sent to the PAW partnership office in Bristol, UK. Participation of LAGA at a rally in Bambili, Mezam Division of the North West province to disseminate information on wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon.

The Director of LAGA held meeting with Colonel of gendarmerie Inspector no 2, on collaboration of gendarmerie in wildlife enforcement. Meeting with Project Grand Singe to discuss on poaching problem and trade in their area of work. Meeting between LAGA Director and Director of information (CRTV-Radio) to discuss on threats on media from Greek logger lawyers.

The successful experimental pilot project on effective wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon is currently being replicated in Congo Brazzaville at the request of the government of that country. In an unprecedented operation in Congo Brazzaville, a big and notorious ivory businessman has been arrested in Brazzaville. Meetings held in Congo are included in the annex describing the Congo work.

Meeting between LAGA and the UNDP Anti-corruption programme CHOC to discuss on using LAGA's experience in the fight against corruption. LAGA participated as a member in the Regional CARPE Small Grant Selection Committee and pushed for the fight against corruption within the NGO sector. LAGA also addressed the problems of lack of transparency in the handling of public funds.

Presentation of wildlife law enforcement paper by the Head of Legal Unit of LAGA at a meeting of the Committee members of the Anti-poaching Unit of MINFOF, presided over by Minister Elvis Ngolle Ngolle. LAGA took part in a National Committee meeting to study and ameliorate the pre-project of the anti-corruption laws. This was made up of The Focal Point of the Services of the Prime Ministry, The Principal Technical Adviser of the "CHOC" project, anti-corruption leaders, representatives of the civil society, and representatives of the business world.

7. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact

Beyond the number of operations and their effectiveness there is an even more important factor in evaluating LAGA's work – the strategic value of the operations in reducing the level of illegal wildlife trade. In this regard LAGA is choosing diversified operations, which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon. Consequently, LAGA-MINFOF work sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on great apes, ivory and leopard parts, including special attention on international illegal trafficking of wildlife and products, and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet.

7.1 Primates

This period was marked by a special focus in Nanga Eboko – Centre Province regarding trade in great apes. A manager in a logging company Pangiotis Marelis of Greek nationality was arrested and put behind bars for illegally dealing with 2 chimps, 5 parrots and a DeBrazza's monkey. He was also caught with a hunting rifle with no sufficient permit. There are investigations being carried out on his connection to other chimps supplied in Douala. The operation comes at a time when the government and the International community are renewing pressure on logging companies to meet their legal responsibilities by controlling their facilities and workers against illegal hunting and related trade.

A live chimpanzee was rescued from a high personality, The Senior Divisional Officer of Upper Sanaga Division - Nanga Eboko in the Centre of Cameroon. Nanga Eboko has been an area of great concern for trade in great apes for a while now and has been noted as one of the major road junctions for wildlife trafficking in the country. Highly placed official figures hold apes in their houses as if they are above the law while trade through the town intensified.

A retired military officer was arrested in Abong Mbang in the East Province for illegally trading in gorilla meat. The dealer was caught with a consignment of meat from an industrial refrigerator for sale including the legs and heads of gorillas. He attempted to corrupt the arresting officers and has connections to a member of parliament from the area who also attempted to corrupt the arresting officers and the State Counsel without success. He was sentenced for 9 months imprisonment.

7.2 Ivory

International investigation on 3.9 tonnes seizure still echoed this year with other routes discovered between Chad through Cameroon to Nigeria with involvement of Chinese. Investigations were carried out in The Republic of Congo regarding cross-boarder ivory and bush meat trafficking

LAGA carried out a special mission in April in the Republic of Congo in order to follow-up the potential in developing Wildlife Law Enforcement beyond Cameroon. LAGA used recommendations of replication of the model by different bodies including COMIFAC and CARPE. The mission was very successful and was geared at igniting law enforcement through precedence and creating a structure to sustain effective law enforcement. It was carried out at 3 levels:

1. Political – meetings were held with Ministries, Embassies, International bodies, The Judiciary, Police, Gendarmerie, Lawyers, NGO's etc.
2. Structural – Planning a structure to continue with the efforts and pushed by LAGA.
3. Operational – A big operation was carried out.

A principal ivory business veteran was arrested in Brazzaville the Republic of Congo – he is trading ivory for many decades, with contacts in DRC, China, Japan, West Africa. He is well known but was for a long while untouchable, both connected to Ministers as well as being the father of an important rebel leader. He has been employing West African carvers, as well as inviting carvers

from Kinshasa, he has several workshops and has his own display room in his secured compound. He is also said to wed a Japanese wife. Hundreds of ivory items amounting to a gross estimate of 40 kg were seized. Many of the items were carved as chopsticks (sold for 20\$ a pair) and hankos (name seals) for the Asian market. On the day of operation a Chinese client was recorded discussing business with the criminal. Also 3 leopard skins, and many carving equipment that was not attached to tables were seized. He was locked while the international community is being mobilized to balance the effect of corruption and keep him behind bars.

Still in April a big network of 5 suspects dealing in large-scale ivory, trophies and elephant meat was busted in Mamfe – South West Province. They were involved in the killing of 3 elephants in Mamfe and were arrested with arms and ammunition used in killing the elephants. Amongst the suspects is a former custom officer who uses his connections and money to finance their activities, and a village chief giving them immunity. They resisted arrest, were very aggressive and attacked one of the arresting officers - the MINFOF Divisional Delegate, Mamfe.

In March 2 dealers were arrested in Lomie – East Province with 2 tusks and meat of endangered wildlife species including elephant, gorilla and giant pangolin. They were also arrested with 3 guns and ammunition, which they use to kill the animals for their meat and trophies. One of the dealers threatened to kill the arresting officers with his gun and machete.

LAGA made a full presentation at the Central African Head of Police Conference on the fight against wildlife crime and the involvement of the police in this fight. LAGA participated in the high level meeting of Heads of Police and Interpol of Central Africa and was represented by the Head of Legal Department, Horline Njike, the youngest participant. She was given the chance to do a full presentation on ivory trafficking during this event. Her work with the Interpol on the big ivory case got LAGA to participate in this Conference.

7.3 Leopards

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in sensitive provinces. The focused operation was effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for leopard skin trade.

A total of 11 dealers illegally trading in leopard skins were arrested and all put behind bars. Operations in the West Province were geared at busting networks thereby clamping down on trade in this particular protected species in this part of Cameroon. More operations were carried out in other parts of Cameroon particularly in the North West, Adamawa, East and Littoral Provinces

7.4 Internet Fraud

Operations were on track and included focused arrests as clamp down on illegal wildlife trade over the Internet after studying the worrying growth of this type of fraud and numerous contacts from victims and international collaborators. A well-known scammer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Buea, South West Province in April. He was arrested trying to sell a chimp over the Internet to a client in Belgium using falsified government documents and CITES Permits. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. The link between Internet wildlife fraud and other forms of fraud had been discovered before and discussed with the Prime Minister of Cameroon. During the last meeting of the United Nations' Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora – CITES, governments were called upon to increase efforts in combating illegal internet wildlife trade and fraud.

In May, another well-known scammer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Buea, South West Province following a report to us and international collaboration with a victim in Malaysia. He was arrested trying to sell tortoises over the Internet to an importer in Malaysia using falsified government documents and CITES Permits. He has a Cameroonian accomplice based in China who fully operates and promotes the illegal commercialization of wildlife over the Internet. He also has accomplices in Spain and England who claim to be his satisfied customers. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated.

7.5 International Connections

Beyond the number of diversified operations and their effectiveness which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon, LAGA seeks to shed more light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region in particular and the world at large involving foreigners, operations out of Cameroon or victims of Internet fraud internationally.

During this period, a Greek national was arrested for trading in apes in Cameroon, Internet fraud touched victims in Malaysia, Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands and Israel showing the growth of this type of fraud and trade; an International ivory trafficker was arrested in the Republic of Congo during an unprecedented operation in that country. More focus will be on International and Internet Investigations during the second half of the year.