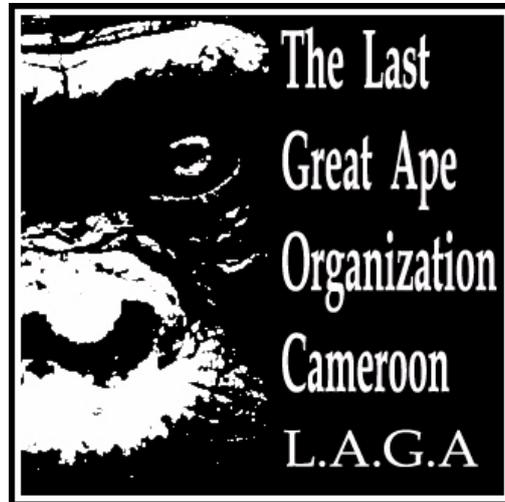


LAST GREAT APE ORGANISATION, CAMEROON (LAGA)

ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2006



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Very good progress was made over this period on all aspects of LAGA's collaboration with the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF), with tangible achievements not only in the fields of investigation, arrest and prosecution but also in media exposure, government relations and international activities.

This year for every 8 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 87% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest. Every single day a media piece was put on national news and recorded. This year saw the maximum sentence of 3 years imprisonment laid down by the courts of Cameroon, and this was given to military personnel, previously thought to be above civil law.

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



THE WORLD BANK



OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Investigations

- A total of 210 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were conducted in this period in all of Cameroon's 10 provinces.
- Successful unprecedented investigation on 3.9 tons ivory seized in Hong Kong.
- Structural change and new organizational diagram.
- Beginning of Internet investigations.

Operations

- Operations were carried out in 8 provinces resulting in 43 court cases – rate of one for every 8 days.
- The rate of imprisonment for these cases rose to 87 %.

Legal

- 43 new cases were brought to court and represented (many of the cases begun during the period have not yet reached this stage but are still ongoing).
- A programme was developed and initiated to make the legal representation of wildlife cases by the Ministry financially sustainable without external assistance.
- Maximum sentence of 3 years imprisonment is laid down by the courts of Cameroon, to a military personnel.
- New record in damages awarded to the Ministry in charge of Wildlife for a wildlife crime case - around \$35,000.

Media

- A total of 365 media pieces were produced in national media (television, radio and press).- a rate of one media piece a day.
- Wildlife Justice Magazine – a bilingual, journal of stories about the progress of wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon for the professional audience– was launched in March 2006, with 1,000 copies printed and distributed. Three other editions were produced and distributed to make a total of four editions over the course of year.

Strategic Highlights

- Over the course of this period, four live chimpanzees were confiscated from known dealers and re-homed to PASA sanctuaries in Cameroon.
- Operations were conducted exposing the international ivory trade with Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Guinea, and the Far East.
- Four operations were conducted involving the illegal trade in lion skins, exposing international trade.
- Other high profile investigations and operations involved drug smuggling (in conjunction with live ape trading) and the murder of an eco-guard.

Government Relations

- In March 2006 an MoU was signed with the government of Cameroon defining LAGA's law enforcement mandate and certifying their ongoing relationship.
- LAGA participated in the CITES 54th Standing Committee as a member of the Cameroon delegation, and not as an NGO observer.

CONTENTS

This report refers to activities from January till December 2006. In this period the organisation 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), strategic overview of and the impact of our operations on wildlife crime in Cameroon, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, in the international arena, and in non-enforcement initiatives LAGA has undertaken.

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Further documents also available:

- Annual financial statement 2006
- Monthly financial reports January - December
- Monthly activity reports January – December
- Media archive – excel database interlinked to 365 recorded media pieces
- Photo archive for media use

For copies please email lastgreatape@yahoo.com

NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Investigations

LAGA's investigation unit has carried 210 investigation missions in all of Cameroon's 10 provinces during this time. The department has experienced structural reorganization and a drastic improvement in its professional level.

Following the appointment of the chief investigator as head of the investigation unit, he was made responsible for the reconstruction and development of the unit. In January the newly appointed head of the investigation unit took important steps within this role by designing and implementing new control tables, working program, and procedures.

Two investigators were recruited and four were dismissed within this period. To address the problem of lack of investigators in November a job offer advert for the recruitment of field investigators was placed. In December interviews were conducted and 4 applicants were retained for a second test in the field. The staffing difficulties of the investigation unit are expected to be solved only in the beginning of 2007.

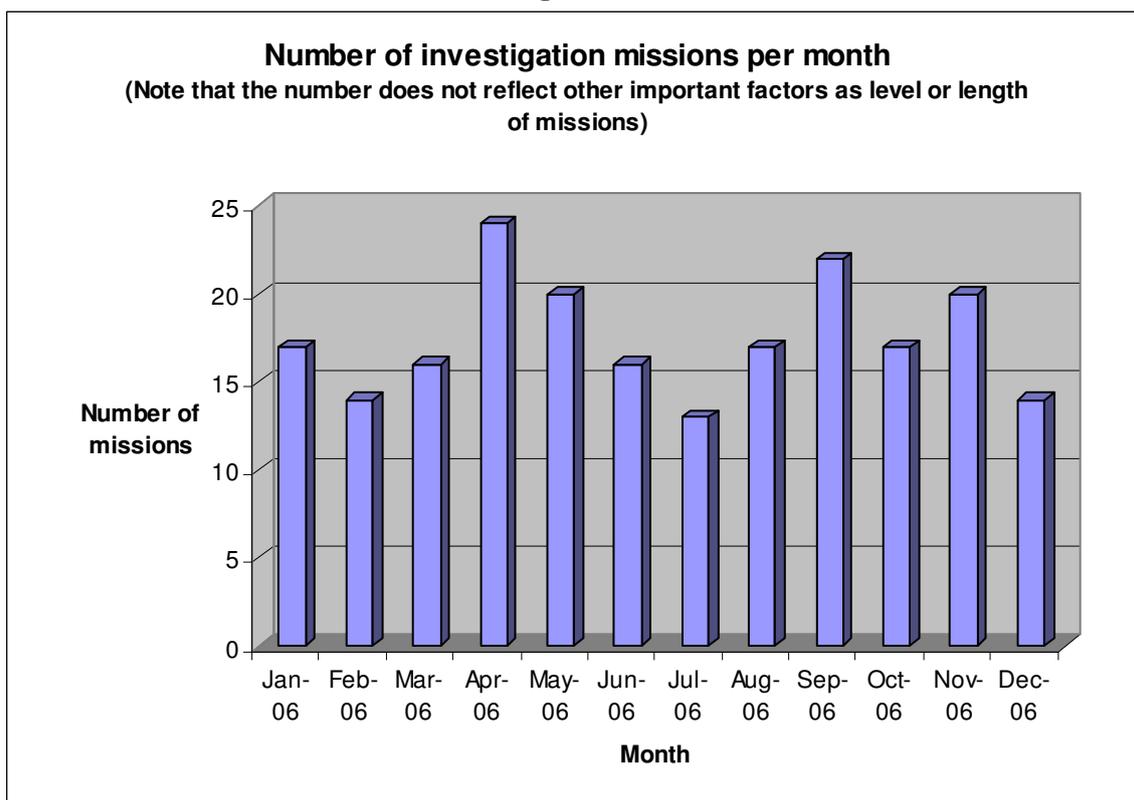
In November a new Organigram, field report form, diagram of procedures, and new procedures inside the investigation unit were put in place. A new database was developed for evaluation of field missions. A new post was created for a chief investigator focusing on international investigation and Internet trade. Internet wildlife fraud has been identified as a fast growing alarming problem in Cameroon.

In the beginning of 2006, the unit showed a high level of professionalism and an increase in the scope of its impact by undertaking two investigations relating to wildlife trade but involving additional offences not under wildlife law concerning the drugs trade and a killer of an eco-guard. In May and June the investigations unit handled what is thought to be the largest ivory trafficking operation in history in an unprecedented investigation in collaboration with Gendarmerie of three different provinces, Judicial Police, INTERPOL NCB, Service of trafficking of drugs, Customs, Police frontier, Immigration Police, MINFOF, General Attorney of Littoral Province. It resulted in pressing charges against three foreign nationals.

The technical capacity of the unit has been built with 2 new digital audio recorders and a new sophisticated hidden video camera.

In international collaboration LAGA is exercising forensic science DNA testing for both elephant ivory and lions products in international trafficking investigations. This joins an apes DNA exercise conducted to the request of Cameroon for the Taiping Four gorillas.

Figure 1.1



2. Operations

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out operations in 8 provinces resulting in 43 court cases - one for every 8 days of the year. Operations became more sophisticated over the period and the rate of imprisonment rose to 87% of the cases.

The Operation unit has improved its techniques to match changes in modus operandi and more challenging targets – more international, more wealthy and more well-connected than last year. The arrests involving the 3.9 tons Hong Kong seizure and the charges pressed are a good example where these challenges were met.

Almost half of the operations targeted major ivory dealers with both raw tusks as well as worked ivory. Next, about a third, targeted dealers of live apes. Operations involving seizures of live apes have been limited to match shelters capacity. 14 % of the operations targeted dealers in lions skins and parts in the north of the country that has been identified as a major trafficking junction. The rest of the operations concentrated in protected bushmeat dealers in leopard skins and organized facilities trading various protected species.

In this period LAGA carried reconstruction and transferred ivory into the National Ivory Storage Room in the zoo as well as creating a computerized database for it. The importance is of control over seized ivory ensuring good governance.

Figure 2.1

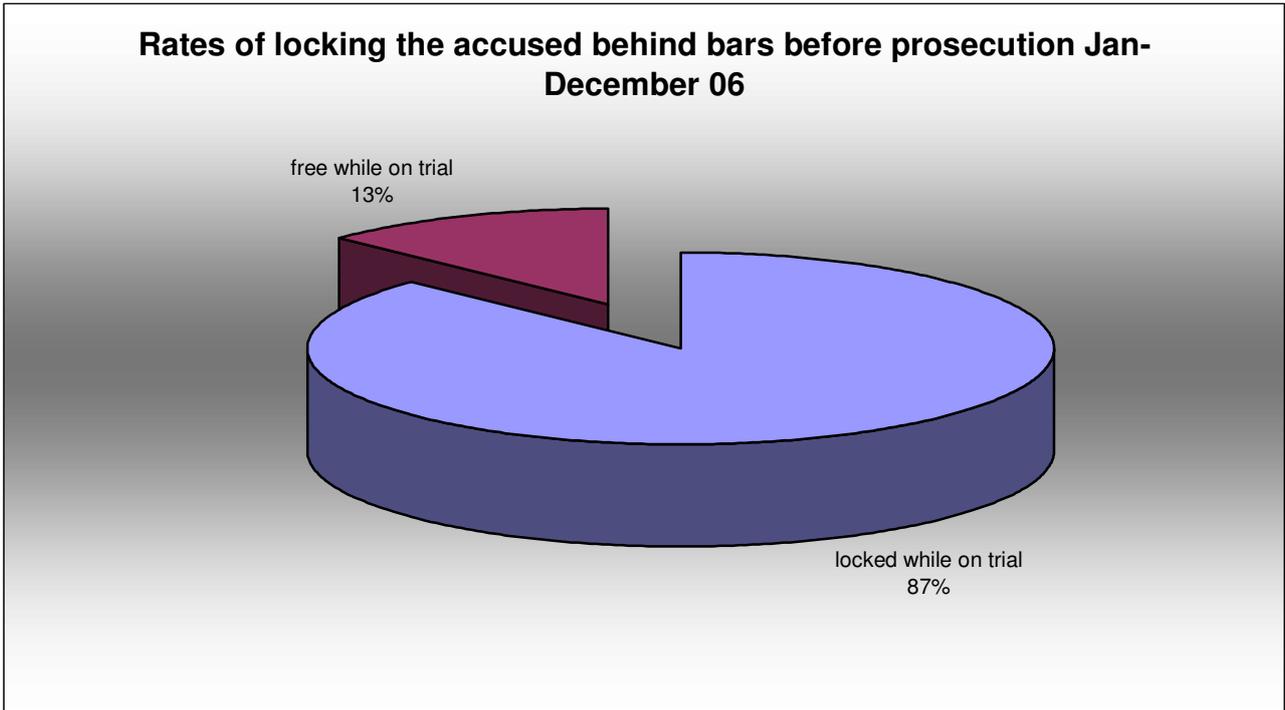
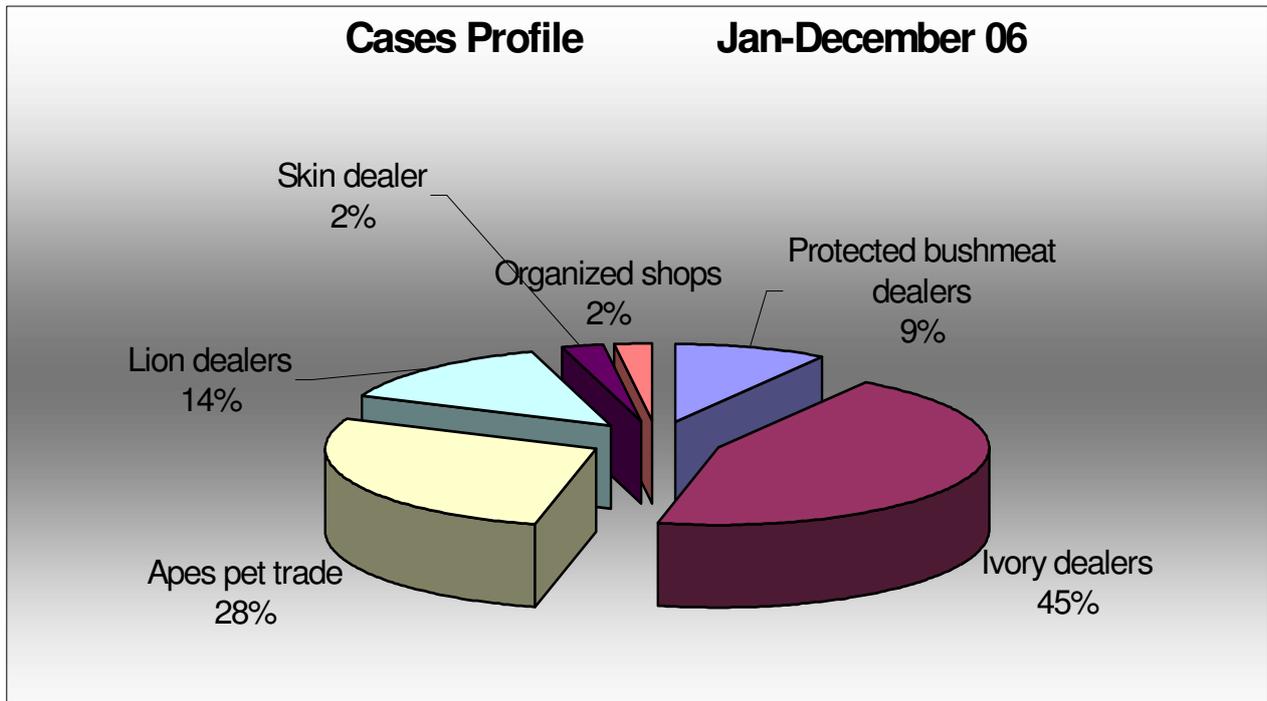


Figure 2.2



3. Legal

43 court cases were initiated, and were followed up and represented. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet arrived at prosecution stage, as most subjects are imprisoned throughout the process and as the sentences being handed down are becoming more severe the process of bringing the case to trial becomes more time consuming.

The legal unit built up relations in 4 new provinces and strengthened existing communication with the courts and collaboration on strengthening court procedures for wildlife law cases.

Last year LAGA identified a major obstacle to the progress of wildlife law enforcement - the prohibitive expense for the Ministry of paying lawyers' fees. As a key part of the goal of creating a self-sustaining wildlife law enforcement system in Cameroon, LAGA has address this situation directly. Methods were discussed with the Minister to ensure that the legal representation of Wildlife cases could be financially sustainable rather than a burden on the Ministry's budget by:

1. Increasing awarded damages for wildlife cases,
2. Reducing lawyers' charges while improving their performance,
3. Recovering awarded damages more effectively.

Agreement was reached for finalizing negotiations with lawyers in different provinces, and starting the process of execution of damages. In January, the first execution of fines and damages was paid, and lawyers' bonuses were started with 2 lawyers. In February, unprecedented damages were awarded for a wildlife case- 2.4 million CFA (\$4,445), and a reliable system for collection of payment was set in place. By March the process had been completed as the MoU agreement with the Government formalized this program and included references to the financial arrangements with lawyers as an appendix of the contract.

August was an excellent month for legal achievements with a record of 8 prosecutions. It was the first time a full maximum imprisonment sentence of 3 years was laid down. It is also the first time a military personnel was prosecuted successfully on a wildlife offence. On top of all of these August saw a new record in damages awarded to the Ministry in charge of Wildlife - around \$35,000. These legal achievements are a dividend of a long process.

In February the Legal Unit developed a new computerized system to control its schedule. This consists of creating a schedule of assignments for each active court case and automatic alerts for any assignment not accomplished on time. This has improved the level of efficiency of the department.

In November LAGA's Head of Legal Unit - Marius Talla - moved to France to follow a Phd Program. He is still assisting LAGA from outside of Cameroon. Before moving on, Marius trained a candidate for the Legal Unit. Marius's contribution to shaping LAGA has been tremendous. The LAGA family wishes him the best as he continues in his professional path.

The same month saw internal work in re-construction of the legal unit of LAGA - a new organizational diagram, a new case procedure, new procedures inside the legal unit, and improvements to the database system were all put in place.

Recruitment for the new structure of the legal department started with four candidates volunteering.

4. Media

A recorded total of 365 media pieces was produced and pushed into media, including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press. Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations and prosecutions, the ‘Taiping Four’ gorilla smuggling case, apes and health, CITES legislation and its implications, the UNEP/UNESCO GRASP project, traditional values / cultures and wildlife law enforcement, and links between wildlife crime and the illegal drugs trade, meeting the target of at least one media piece per day for the whole year. The production and pushing of media pieces has been on a constant range throughout the year with more on arrest and prosecution of wildlife law offenders and the participation of different stakeholders as guests in these media pieces. Guests featured in these articles included: His Excellency the Former Prime Minister, Achidi Achou, the Honourable Ministers of MINFOF and MINEP, the Secretary General, Ministry directors and sub directors, Magistrates, lawyers, local Chiefs, Members of Parliament, provincial delegates, police commissioners, diplomats, and NGOs.

The capacity, professionalism and matching results in this department have been growing steadily. Following the recruitment of a media assistant to build capacity of the media department, a program of intensified media campaigning was approved, and following this came a rapid growth in output in 2006 with more talk shows, more diversified stakeholders as guests and of higher level in hierarchy. The department has been organised in to systems and procedures forming a new organizational diagram for better management, results and documentation. It is also working towards getting a balance in the French and English languages used in the production of the media pieces. The department is working toward diversifying its relations with other NGOs and diplomatic bodies for broader collaboration in wildlife law enforcement media coverage.

In March LAGA launched the first edition of a bilingual bi-monthly journal on Wildlife Law Enforcement. For the first issue 1000 copies were printed and actively distributed to all major professional stakeholders. The journal, called *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. Three other editions were further produced as the year went by focusing on wildlife crime, the fight against illegal ivory trade and the great apes. Interviews from government officials, diplomats, and research works and statistics from CITES, Born Free, IFAW and other conservation bodies were included in these editions.

LAGA’s work was documented by foreign TV crews, Cicada Productions, working on a series documenting Wildlife Law Enforcement, and an Israeli TV crew that arrived to Cameroon with Galit Zangwill to film an episode in a Prime Time Series on Israelis abroad. This has been accompanied by written press coverage.

Figure 4.1

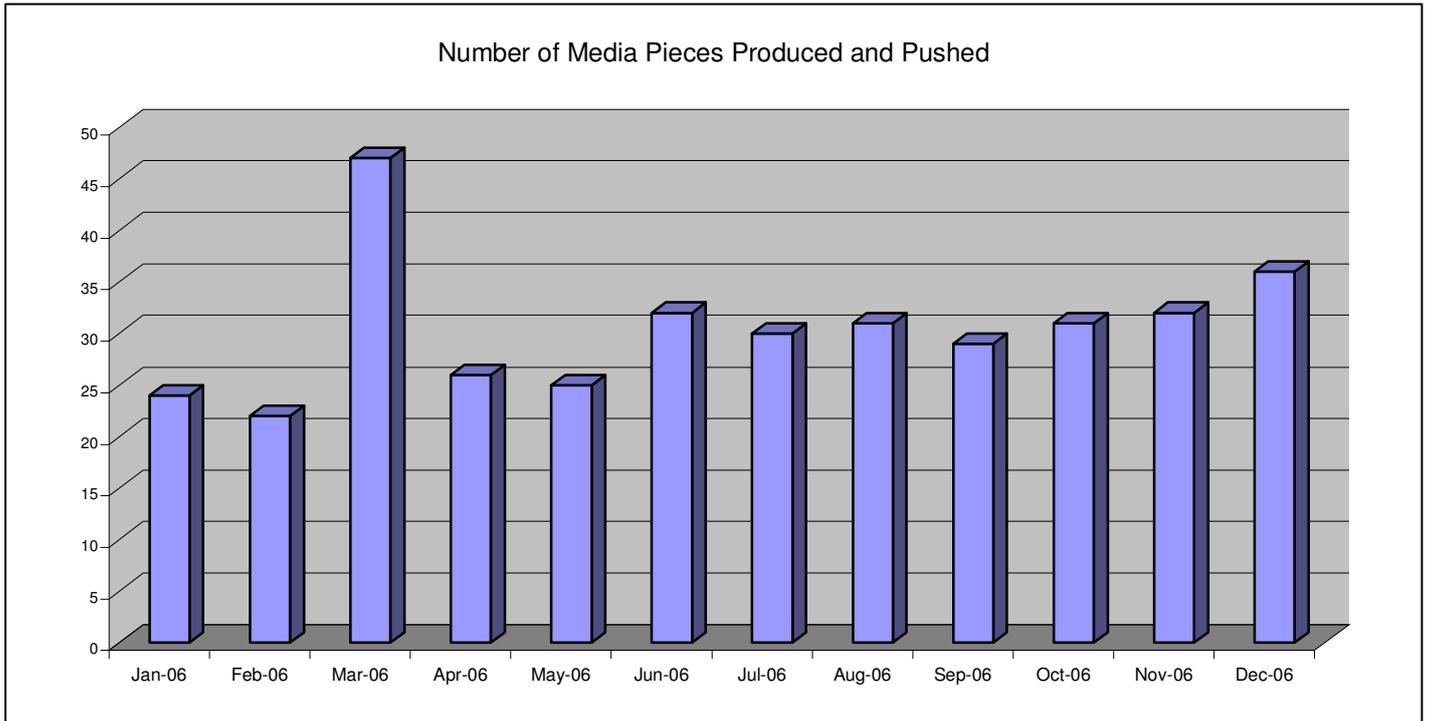
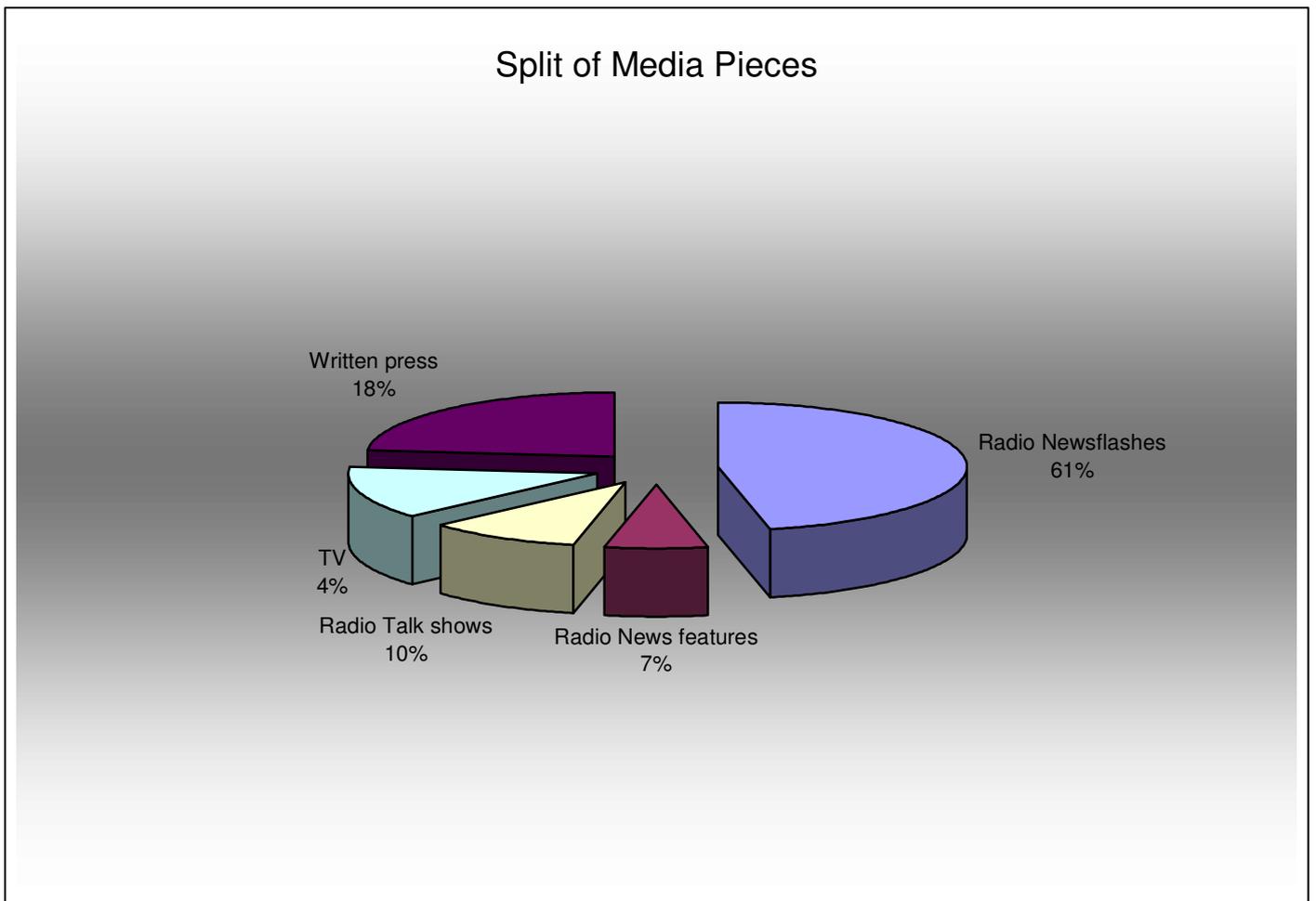


Figure 4.2



5. 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 lion parts, including special attention to international ivory trading routes.

5.1 Apes

The Taiping Four affair exposes a different angle in combating illegal trade in apes - the political fight against the international players of the trade. The Taiping Four are four gorillas that were smuggled from Cameroon to Nigeria to the Taiping Zoo in Malaysia, which paid 1.6 million dollars in this illegal deal. After the discovery of this affair by the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) Cameroon has been demanding the return of the gorillas in accordance with CITES guidelines. In October, following a series of inter-ministerial meetings and correspondence with the South African government the Cameroon government sent a negotiations mission to South Africa. The mission, sent by the Prime Minister's office, included the sub-directors from MINFOF, MINEP, and Ministry of External relations, the High Commissioner of Cameroon in South Africa and the Director of LAGA. The Cameroon delegation took a strong stand in demanding the gorillas to be repatriated, and backed their stand with an extensive technical demonstration. The work on this issue has been constant throughout the period of this report. The gorillas were expected back in Cameroon by this year ending which was postponed for early next year 2007 while preparations are ongoing for their return.

In January LAGA-MINFOF has carried out an operation linking the trade in apes with the drugs trade in the Centre Province. Four large sacks of marijuana, weighing about 50Kg, were seized along with a young chimpanzee. Another kind of drug was also caught in possession of the dealer, which he admitted was cocaine. The drugs and wildlife dealer has been employing at least 4 poachers and has been trading other protected primates regularly.

In March 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.

In June an operation was carried against a shop in Yaounde identified as conducting a large scale trade from its basement in various protected species including apes, elephants and crocodiles, in a systematic manner. Catalogue numbers were given to items described as Elephant skull, Chimpanzee bone, Gorilla skull (probably a mandrill skull misidentified), Aardvark hand, stuffed Turaco birds, and many other Class A animals. The owner Mrs. C. Fouda is a daughter of the first mayor of Yaounde, a sister to a former minister and a very wealthy and well connected individual. This case presents a challenge to the fight against corruption LAGA is undertaking.

In the same month an operation took place against an Ape dealer in Kopongo Littoral Province. The operation was not fully successful, as while the chimp was rescued and the complaint report channelled, the offender managed to escape. An arrest warrant was issued and LAGA will ensure the offender gets arrested.

In September, an American trafficking wildlife at an international level was arrested illegally possessing a live mandrill, live baboon and nine others protected monkeys in Yaounde. He used to send animals to the USA through Douala and in the past had a chimpanzee in his house. He also has a hand gun with a fake authorisation permit. At the timing of writing this report he is not behind bars, as the complaint report has not yet been transmitted to court. He resisted arrest violently, threatening to use his gun. The American Embassy was kept informed and present during the operation. The live animals are being cared for by CWAF.

Also in September other ape operations included one in a train station hidden storage room, involving the hand of a chimpanzee. This operation is a part of LAGA work as an Independent Monitor of Wildlife Crime in a contract by the World Bank on the project focusing on bushmeat transportation in Camrail – the national train. This operation aims at exposing the new ways dealers are using to still carry on their illegal activities. The raided hidden storage room contains 6 refrigerators serving at least 3 different dealers in protected species.

In October two ape dealers were arrested trying to sell a baby chimp. The dealers, well aware of their illegal act and the risk of arrest, made extensive efforts to conceal the animal, moving on a motorcycle in the cover of the night and using many methods trying to confuse our forces. They were trying to use the complicity of a police station to release them in any case of arrest. Arresting them despite all their efforts involved undercover work and proved a climb in the professional level of the operation unit.

In October, LAGA participated in and presented a paper at the CITES Great Ape Task Force meeting in Nairobi. The meeting focused on trying to bring focal points in different range countries to work on the trade in great apes. The presentation by LAGA on great apes trade and action consisted of issues involving cases in Cameroon as well as many other countries in the region. Cameroon was considered as the only country so far carrying out intensive operations against trade in great apes. The occasion was used to hold several meetings with organisations including GRASP, INTERPOL, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the Kenya CITES MA.

5.2 Ivory

5.2.1 International investigation on 3.9 tonnes seizure

May month was dominated by the incident of 3.9 tones of ivory seized in Hong Kong. It was used for a successful unprecedented investigation and operations in Cameroon as well as political achievements engaging further the Government of Cameroon and the international community.

Information arriving from Hong Kong CITES Management Authority to Cameroon's MA on the seizure of 3.9 tons of ivory initiated an investigation led by MINFOF in collaboration with customs authorities and the forces of law and order in collaboration with LAGA. At this stage the investigation revealed the time and place of the illegal act and gathered enough evidence to forward 3 main suspects for prosecution both on customs charges as well as wildlife charges. The investigation also revealed two additional containers with false compartments. Traces of ivory were found in both.

The seizure in Hong Kong represents more than 300 killed elephants. Assuming the false compartment is fully charged before each journey, the evidence collected from the additional two containers alone makes this a smuggling affair of around 12 tons of ivory or 900 killed elephants. To put this in proportions, the largest ivory seizure in history only comes to half of the figure above. This activity was probably done over time as the recycling of the containers shows. It appears that

the magnitude of this ivory trafficking scheme is unprecedented. On one hand, one can argue that increased enforcement in China, Hong Kong and Cameroon is evident and clear in terms of seizures and court sentences and the fact that ivory trade is getting more centralized and operates in new innovative modus operandi is a normal response to an increased enforcement. On the other hand, one can argue that despite all enforcement efforts, illegal ivory trade is simply on the increase.

From CoP 13, at every CITES meeting Cameroon has constantly alerted parties that the markets of China represent a threat to its elephant population, and that large amounts of ivory are illegally trafficked from Douala, in containers, to China. During CoP 13 LAGA, on the Cameroon delegation, was involved in initiating a side meeting with the Chinese delegation and delegations of Central and Western Africa on this matter. The smugglers are professional and the concealing methods they were using are new to the customs authorities. The equipment used for detecting the ivory in Hong Kong is not available for export inspections in Cameroon. Cameroon suspects the ivory in this shipment was gathered from different neighbouring countries. Cameroon is seeking a DNA test to verify this for the benefit of mapping wildlife trade in the sub-region and playing a positive role in fighting it.

Trying to build a full picture from a single incident is a matter of statistical analysis that is beyond this report. Yet, there are still basic observations that can put this investigation in a larger context. The seizure in Hong Kong represents more than 300 killed elephants. Assuming the false compartment is fully charged before each journey, the evidence collected from the additional two containers alone makes this a smuggling affair of around 12 tons of ivory or 900 killed elephants. This activity was probably done over time as the recycling of the containers shows. It appears that the magnitude of this ivory trafficking scheme is unprecedented. On one hand, one can argue that increased enforcement in China, Hong Kong and Cameroon is evident and clear in terms of seizures and court sentences and the fact that ivory trade is getting more centralized and operates in new innovative modus operandi – a normal response to an increased enforcement. On the other hand, one can argue that despite all enforcement efforts, illegal ivory trade is simply on the increase.

A full confidential report concerning this investigation is shared with relevant authorities, a non-confidential version of it will be circulated soon.

5.2.2 The Chinese link

In May an ivory dealer has been arrested on board a Chinese ship at the Douala Port in possession of sample ivory products on sale. The dealer was using the regular method of arriving on the ship with sample ivory products attractive to potential Chinese buyers and inviting them to make illegal deals at safer corners in the city of Douala. This is the second arrest on a Chinese ship.

5.2.3 The Guinean link

In February LAGA-MINFOF collaboration carried out two operations against Guinean ivory trade connections. The two were in Douala and were a follow up on foreigners involved in international ivory trade. Last year LAGA-MINFOF brought about the arrest of a big trader in Douala of Guinean nationality. He used to buy tusks from all over the country and employ carvers manufacturing models for the Asian market. He served a jail term and later left Cameroon. Now these operations arrested three more Guineans operating in a similar way in two different places with 68 Kg of ivory.

5.3 Lions

In June efforts, mainly sponsored by the Born Free Foundation, concerning illegal trade in lions were concretised in an important operation discovering illegal trade in lion products under the cover of the legal trade of a safari company. A long-time worker in Hunting Safari companies has been

arrested undertaking trade in lion parts in Garoua, North Province. The dealer is noted to have been using the legal activities of these companies to cover illegal trade in products of protected wildlife species, notably lions and leopards. This is the second arrest in the North province involving lion trade, and it comes a few months after Cameroon hosted an international conference on African lion conservation strategy initiated by the secretariat of CITES in response to the declining population of the world's lions. Lion conservation is thus undergoing a political process in reaction to concerns about serious threats to the species. During the lion conservation conference held in Douala, Cameroon identified trade in lion skins as a major cause of in the declining of lion population in Central and West Africa, and strongly insisted on the effective application of the wildlife laws as the only solution to the crisis. In July the efforts resulted in the first prosecution of a lion parts trader (1 year imprisonment). This carries some political importance recognizing that international illegal trade in lion trophies is indeed active.

In November month, lion operations continued with 2 lion skins operations in the Far North, in which 4 dealers were arrested. This also provided evidence of cross border trafficking involving Nigeria and Chad. This was the first time LAGA extended its operations to the Far North, an important trafficking junction to Nigeria, as it is a remote and isolated province.

Samples have been sent for DNA analysis to try to shed light on possible international illegal trade in lion products.

5.4 Trade in leopard skins

In September a Congolese man (from DRC) was arrested in a leopard skins operation in Douala with MINFOF Littoral delegation. This is important in starting to map trade in leopard and lion skins. The skins are coming from Congo by to Cameroon and the arrested dealer is in charge of selling them in Douala.

5.5 Wildlife Crime Connection to Other Forms of Crime

In the beginning of 2006 LAGA's investigation unit broadened the scope of its activities by initiating wildlife-related investigations involving crimes outside wildlife law.

In January there was an operation involving drugs and apes in Bafia, Centre Province. Four large sacks of marijuana, weighing about 50Kg were seized with a young chimpanzee. Another kind of drug was also caught in possession of the dealer which he admitted was cocaine. The drugs and wildlife dealer had been employing at least 4 poachers and had been trading other protected primates regularly. The dealer was successfully incarcerated despite corruption attempts. This operation was appreciated by the local police who admitted that this has been the largest marijuana seizure in that division.

In January a poacher in South West Cameroon killed an unarmed ecoguard from a one meter range – a very disturbing crime. After a two week investigation by the forces of law and order came to a dead end, LAGA's one week investigation discovered that a known poacher and ivory dealer had been hiding the killer and an accomplice. By the time we brought the Ministry team and the forces of law and order to the location, the two had apparently escaped to a house of the killer's brother, in another town. On February 20th in a LAGA collaborative operation the subject was arrested. With him were seized one elephant tail and a letter he wrote that implicates him as connected to the killing. Interrogation continued and we moved the subject around the country. By the end of the month, the location of the killer had not been determined. However, the subject confessed that he has killed more than 280 elephants from 1977 till now. The man also confessed that he was the one writing and signing the implicating letter (on the letter was a title - "Read and burn in fire").

Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites 2006



6. Relations with the Government

The fostering of LAGA's relationship with the Government of Cameroon is of high importance in the sensitive domain of law enforcement, as building legitimacy for the concept of a Wildlife Law Enforcement NGO is LAGA's objective No. 3.

In March, an agreement was 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 Government's commitment in this process. The event was intensively covered by the media and included such high level guests as representatives of the British High Commission, the US Embassy, the World Bank, the Ministry of Justice and many others.

In August one of the operations carried great political importance: it involved the support of a former Prime Minister. The Former Prime Minister arrived personally in the field and assisted with the operation involving a chimpanzee, leading the authorities to confiscate a baboon that was held in his "Rock Farm". This event was used in the media to demonstrate the increased importance of the wildlife law enforcement process.

September presented the challenge of continuity through changes in Government, as a new Minister of Wildlife and Forestry was appointed. LAGA pushed to be one of the first to meet with the new minister and assured full collaboration and continuity. This is the forth Minister in charge of Wildlife LAGA is working with.

This year showed more operations initiated by the MINFOF Delegations asking for the assistance of LAGA. This stands to prove that LAGA's work does lead to institutional capacity building rather than Government dependency on the NGO.

One of the important challenges of LAGA is to carry its lessons to a wide range of professional circles. Much work was done on this issue in October with a presentation at the Limbe Wildlife Center Enforcement Workshop in front of 30 Wildlife officers, and continued in November in an invitation from the National Gendarmerie school officials to prepare for training workshop on wildlife law enforcement for Senior Gendarme Officers at the Command Training school in Yaoundé. These initiatives will continue on a regular basis.

7. International Arena

LAGA is based in a sub-region that has been identified as one of those most harmed by the international illegal wildlife trade. LAGA is a unique experience whose added value lies in its potential for duplication and a larger impact beyond Cameroon. This is in line with LAGA's objective to serve as a model in the search for a paradigm shift in wildlife law enforcement.

In January, LAGA started the first active case outside Cameroon, involving a bonobo international smuggling affair by expatriates. LAGA has appointed a lawyer and works with the Ministry in charge of wildlife in DRC.

In January, the UNEP manual for the parties on implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements was released, with the case study of the Government of Cameroon and LAGA included as a unique and positive approach that should serve a lesson to other parties.

In April LAGA was selected by the British High Commission in Cameroon as the best project of the ending financial year.

In May the incident of 3.9 tones of ivory seized in Hong Kong was used for political achievements engaging further the Government of Cameroon and the international community. With regards to the international community, the US Ambassador, British High Commissioner and World Bank forest advisor all played a role concerning this case after LAGA's communication.

In July, LAGA met with Steve Galster, founder and director of WildAid, active NGO on issues of wildlife law enforcement in Asia, to exchange information and learn from his experience in the ASEAN initiative.

October highlighted LAGA's role in the sub region:

LAGA participated in the CITES 54th Standing Committee as a member of the Cameroon delegation, and not as an NGO observer. Cameroon is a regional representative in the Standing Committee. Cameroon was praised by the CITES secretariat for its role in Wildlife Law Enforcement. Cameroon was in the heart of major policy issues as trade in elephant ivory and played a positive role especially in the MIKE/ETIS Working Subgroup. The occasion was used to hold many meetings to reach understanding on the international ivory investigation of the 3.9 tones. LAGA also participated in and made a presentation to the CITES Great Ape Task Force meeting in Nairobi. The meeting focused on trying to bring focal points in different range countries to work on the trade in great apes. LAGA's presentation on great apes trade and action consisted of issues involving cases in Cameroon as well as many other countries in the region. Cameroon was considered as the only country so far carrying out intensive operations against trade in great apes. The occasion was used to hold several meetings, among which with GRASP, Interpol Wildlife Officer the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and Kenya CITES MA.

8. Other Initiatives Taken

8.1 Apes and Ecotourism Potential

In February, LAGA organized a meeting on ape ecotourism potential in Cameroon as a follow up to the Kinshasa GRASP meeting. The meeting was held in the US embassy and has put together a wide spectrum of stakeholders for developing ecotourism in Cameroon – three Ministries, NGOs, donors, and national and international commercial operators. An international guest – Praveen Moman, Director of Volcano Safaris – gave an account of mountain gorilla safaris and the lessons learnt. The views expressed gave a comprehensive insight of the challenges ahead. The meeting has been described as a good starting point and as new wind blown into an old and slow process.

8.2 Ape shelters

LAGA played a positive role in solving the problem linked to the association of Papaya France and the Pongo Songo shelter that has been identified as an animal welfare and illegal trade problem. This issue has been followed by LAGA for the past two years and working together with PASA and the three existing apes shelters in Cameroon is reaching closer to a solution.

Annex 1 - Case Tracking System - January-December 2006

Case num.	date of		Province	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	countries involved	Status
	operation									
1	30/01/06		Central	Bafia	Bityeki	dealing with live chimp +drugs	pet trade	Drug dealer arrested with 50 kg Marijuana, activates 5 poachers		locked while on trial
2	19/12/05			Roissy	Markova Yuliya	dealing with a bonobo	pet trade	DRC, international ukrainian ape dealer	D,R,C, France	free while on trial
3	19/12/05			Roissy	Ondonda Zhilber	dealing with bonobo	pet trade	DRC, international ape dealer, Russian passport	D,R,C, France	free while on trial
4	20/02/06		south west	nguti	Eyong James	dealing with elephants products + murder	Ivory dealers	Killed 270 elephants, accomplice of murder of an ecoguard		locked while on trial
5	01/03/06		Littoral	Douala	camara Mohamed	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	ivoirian connection to ivory trade	Ivory Coast, C,A,R	locked while on trial
6	01/03/06		Littoral	Douala	Keita Nounke	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	Guinean connection to ivory trade	Guinée	locked while on trial
7	01/03/06		Littoral	Douala	Sanoh Ibrahim	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	Guinean connection to ivory trade		locked while on trial
8	03/03/06		Central	yaoundé	Emene Wilfried	Selling young chimpanzee	pet trade	ape dealer traficking between East and Yaounde		locked while on trial
9	24/03/06		South	Kribi	Ahanda Abomo	detention of a live drill	Pet trade	negligence of NP project		locked while on trial
10	24/03/06		South	Kribi	Eyanga jean calvin	detention of a live drill	Pet trade	negligence of NP project		free while on trial
11	24/03/06		South	Kribi	Angoulla Angoulla	Trade in crocodiles	bushmeat dealer	worker of logging company		locked while on trial
12	28/04/06		North-west	Bamenda	Adamou babouga	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	request for a transaction with MINFOF, ivory kg more than 5kg (class B)		locked while on trial
13	04/05/06		North-west	Bamenda	Njung Bonshe	dealing with chimpanzee meat	bushmeat dealer	irregular hunter		bailed on custody
14	09/05/06			China, macao	Teng Tonny	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	Asian, 3.9 tonnes affair	China	fugitive under chase
15	09/05/06			China, macao	Teng Andrew	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	Asian, 3.9 tonnes affair	China	fugitive under chase
16	09/05/06			China, macao	Teng Nora	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	Asian, 3.9 tonnes affair	China	fugitive under chase
17	06/05/06		West	Foumban	Jikombe Daouda	dealing with ivory	ivory dealers	Wealthy High personality spends half time in France		locked while on trial
18	11/06/06		West	Foumban	Goumbe Inoussa	dealing with ivory	ivory dealers	Foumban		locked while on trial

<u>Case num.</u>	<u>date of operation</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>countries involved</u>	<u>Status</u>
19	29/05/06	Littoral	Douala	Makan Samuel	dealing with ivory	ivory dealers	repeated offender, arrest on a ship, international trade	Spain	locked while on trial
20	11/06/06	north	Garoua	souleyman ali	dealing with lion	Lion trade	Laundrying illegal trade in the cover of a hunting safari		locked while on trial
21	29/06/06	Littoral	Edéa	tonye Nicolas	selling live chimpanzee	pet trade	Edéa		fugitive under chase
22	29/06/06	Littoral	Edéa	boulong	selling live chimpanzee	pet trade	Edea		fugitive under chase
23	26/06/06	Central	Yaoundé	Cathérine fouda	Protected animals	International dealer in protected animals	Underground large shop, international trafick, Daughter of first mayor of		free while on trial
24	19/07/06	Central	Yaoundé	Njouonkou Ismaïla	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	dealer from artisan yaounde		free while on trial
25	19/07/06	Central	Yaoundé	Njitué	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	dealer from artisan yaounde		free while on trial
26	17/08/06	North-west	Bamenda	Abong Emmanuel	dealing ivory and tiger skin	Ivory dealers	laundrying illegal trade in the cover of an art workshop		locked while on trial
27	17/08/06	North-west	Bamenda	Begah Joseph	dealing ivory and tiger skin	Ivory dealers	laundrying illegal trade in the cover of an art workshop		locked while on trial
28	17/08/06	North-west	Bamenda	Awoloh Raymond	dealing ivory and tiger skin	Ivory dealers	laundrying illegal trade in the cover of an art workshop		locked while on trial
29	19/09/06	Littoral	Douala	Kabongo Tshisungu	dealing with leopard skins	skin trade	congolese connection to skin trade, skins transported by route from congo to douala	D,R,C,	locked while on trial
30	25/09/06	Littoral	Douala	Zily Dongo	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	member of a big network of illegal ivory and skins trade,		locked while on trial
31	22/09/06	Central	Yaoundé	Fonseca Thasen Jay	dealing with live primates	pet trade	american dealer, violent, resisted arrest, detainign a gun with a fake authorisation permit,		not yet in court

32	23/10/06	Central	Yaoundé	Tchade gwem	dealing with live chimpanzee	pet trade	ape dealer trafficking between Eseka and Yaounde		free while on trial
33	23/10/06	Central	Yaoundé	Gwem deubomé	dealing with live chimpanzee	pet trade	ape dealer trafficking between Eseka and Yaounde		free while on trial
34	23/10/06	Littoral	Douala	Tembi Eback	dealing with ivory in a drinking bar	Ivory dealers	fresh ivory tusks retail seller		locked while on trial
35	24/10/06	Littoral	Douala	Ngo Nji	dealing with elephant meat at a drinking bar	Ivory dealers	fresh ivory tusks retail seller and elephant bushmeat		locked while on trial
36	08/11/06	Central	Yaoundé	Ngwa Ela	dealing with live chimpanzee and killing gorillas	pet trade	wealthy high personality former logger,		not yet in court
37	04/12/06	Extreme North	Maroua	<u>Nassourou Hamadou</u>	dealing with lion skin	Lion trade	network of lions dealer, admitted to be operating in the borders of Cameroon with Nigeria and Tchad, centre artisanat of Maroua is actually the focal point of illegal lions trade	Tchad, Nigeria	locked while on trial
38	04/12/06	Extreme North	Maroua	<u>Oumarou Mama</u>	dealing with lion skin	Lion trade	network of lions dealer, admitted to be operating in the borders of Cameroon with Nigeria and Tchad, centre artisanat of Maroua is actually the focal point of illegal lions trade	Tchad, Nigeria	locked while on trial
39	04/12/06	Extreme North	Maroua	Mustache	dealing with lion	Lion trade	network of lions	Tchad, Nigeria	free while on trial

39	04/12/06	Extreme North	Maroua	<u>Moustapha Oumarou</u>	dealing with lion skin	Lion trade	network of lions dealer, admitted to be operating in the borders of cameroon with Nigeria and Tchad, centre artisannat of maroua is actually the focal point of illegal lions trade	Tchad, Nigeria	free while on trial
40	04/12/06	Extreme North	Maroua	<u>Haridou Adamou</u>	dealing with lion skin	skin trade	network of lions dealer, admitted to be operating in the borders of cameroon with Nigeria and Tchad, centre artisannat of maroua is actually the focal point of illegal lions trade	Tchad, Nigeria	free while on trial
41	04/12/06	Extreme North	Maroua	<u>Bashirou Sheou</u>	dealing with lion skin	skin trade	network of lions dealer, admitted to be operating in the borders of cameroon with Nigeria and Tchad, centre artisannat of maroua is actually the focal point of illegal lions trade	Tchad, Nigeria	fugitive under chase
42	03/12/06	south	Djoum	<u>Konglo Etoum</u>	dealing with ivory	Ivory dealers	he is a media man, this is the third time this suspect is involved in ivory trade and other protcted species product like		fugitive under chase
43	03/12/06	south	Djoum	<u>Messanga Megong Bernard</u>	killing the protected animals, illegal kipping the firarm	poacher	killing animals during the closing shooting season in a forbiden area		fugitive under chase