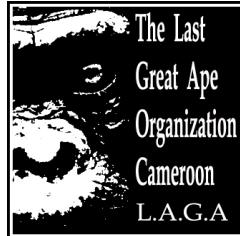


# THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2012



## Executive Summary

Tangible achievements were over this period on all aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF including field investigation, arrests, prosecutions, media exposure, government relations, international and replication activities. There was more focus on the fight against corruption, wildlife trade especially networks of ivory traffickers and dealers in primates.

For every 7.2 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 94% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest and corruption was observed and fought in more than 80% of the cases. Operations focused on ivory trade which also uncovered trafficking in human parts. 51 new cases were brought to court, 28 cases prosecuted, 54 dealers convicted and more than \$267,000 to be paid as damages to MINFOF. An International Investigator used to get more information about the Bouba Ndjida poachers and media exposure was at a rate of 1 media piece per day. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *Wildlife Justice Magazine* published and the Central African Wildlife Law Enforcement Newsletter was produced and distributed electronically. The convention of LAGA with the Government was renewed and signed by the Minister MINFOF.

During this period, LAGA won 3 awards - the Marsh Christian Trust Award, The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal given by Prince Philip and the Condé Nast Traveller Environmental Award. Regional wildlife law enforcement became more effective with good operations and prosecutions. Replication concretized in Guinea-Conakry with good operations and TALFF – Togo was launched. The LAGA Director was invited again by ILEA; invited to South Sudan to train wildlife officers, the police and judiciary and he also gave a presentation in Uganda on corruption during a GAPIN conference. Operation Hope (GAPIN II) of the WCO was successfully launched in Gabon with arrests.

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

A collage of logos from various organizations. At the top left is the U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service logo with the text "Conserving The Nature of America". To its right is the Arcus Foundation logo. Below these are logos for Future for Nature Foundation, PRO WILDLIFE, The Rufford Foundation, BORN FREE, MARSH CHRISTIAN TRUST, defra (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs), IFAW, and JOE FRANKLIN CHARITABLE TRUST. The IPPL (International Primate Protection League) logo is also present in the bottom right corner.

## **OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Investigations**

- A total of 320 investigation missions (of varying lengths) were carried out in 10 Regions.
- High level Investigations carried out on Bouba Ndjida elephant massacre.
- An International Investigator used to get more information about the Bouba Ndjida poachers
- Investigations hotline was produced and distributed.

### **Operations**

- Operations were carried out in 7 Regions against 51 suspects resulting in 51 court cases – a rate of one major dealer every 7.2 days.
- The rate of imprisonment for suspects apprehended reached 94%.
- Operations during this period focused on ivory trade which also uncovered trafficking in human parts

### **Legal**

- 51 new cases were brought to court and represented.
- 28 cases were prosecuted, 54 dealers convicted and more than \$267,000 (133, 500,000 FCFA) to be paid as damages to MINFOF.
- Very good prosecutions obtained notably 30 months of imprisonment of 2 ivory dealers.

### **Media**

- A total of 367 media pieces were produced and pushed into national media (television, radio and press) - a rate of one media piece per day.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *Wildlife Justice Magazine* published under the theme African Traditions and Wildlife Conservation.
- The Central African Wildlife Law Enforcement Newsletter was produced and distributed electronically.

### **Strategic Highlights**

- The strategic focus over this period was on elephant products that brought out trade in human parts.
- Special focus was on the massacre of elephants in the Bouba Ndjida National Park with special missions carried out in Cameroon, Chad and CAR.
- Investigation information shows ivory from Congo and Gabon through Cameroon to Nigeria.
- The fight against corruption and wildlife crime was intensified.

### **Government and External Relations**

- LAGA won 3 awards: The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal, Condé Nast Traveler Environmental Award and the Marsh Christian Trust Award.
- Several meetings were held with the Minister – MINFOF, Diplomatic Community, National and International NGOs to discuss corruption in the NGO projects, wildlife law enforcement etc.
- The convention of LAGA with the Government was renewed and signed by the Minister MINFOF.
- LAGA held very important meetings with the Secretary General at the Presidency of the Republic on wildlife law enforcement.
- LAGA Director was invited to South Sudan to train wildlife officers, the police and judiciary.
- LAGA Director gave a presentation in Uganda on corruption during a GAPIN conference.
- The LAGA Director was invited again by ILEA to continue with the training of wildlife officers on the corruption and ethics parts that was built in 2011.

### **Management**

- The Annual and Financial Reports for 2011 printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. Electronic versions available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org).
- Departments effectively put in place plans to reconstruct and on measures to cut costs while maintaining the good results.
- LAGA carried out changes in personnel in line with the objective of being more cost effective with matching performance.

### **Replication of LAGA Activities**

- Good operations carried in regional enforcement projects – LAGA, PALF, RALF, GALF and AALF.
- Replication concretized in Guinea-Conakry with good operations.
- The LAGA Director and Coordinator of Conservation Justice – Gabon travelled to Togo to launch the start replication project in that country named TALFF.
- Operation Hope (GAPIN II) of the WCO was successfully launched in Gabon with arrests.
- 2 AALF jurists and 1 PALF investigator trained in LAGA in regional exchange program.

## **CONTENTS**

This report refers to activities from January till December 2012. The organization experienced a major climb in the political level and operational levels. This report includes: the activities in each department (Investigations, Operations, Legal, and Media), strategic overview of our operations and their impact on wildlife crime, progress in relations with the Cameroonian Government, the international arena, and in management.

<b>Section Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
- Executive Summary.....	1
- Overview of Achievements.....	2
- Contents & List of Figures.....	3
- Narrative Report .....	4
1 Investigation .....	4
2 Operations .....	5
3 Legal .....	9
4 Media .....	12
5 Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact.....	15
6 Relations with the Government .....	22
7 International Arena.....	23
8 Management .....	26
9 Replication.....	27
Annex 1 - List of Cases initiated in 2012.....	38
Annex 2 – The Year in Pictures .....	43

### **Figure Title Page**

1.1 Number of investigation missions per month .....	5
2.1 Rate of locking accused behind bars before prosecution.....	8
2.2 Cases profile.....	9
4.1 Number of media pieces produced and pushed.....	14
4.2 Split of media pieces.....	14
Overview of international trade in Cameroon and operation sites .....	21

### **Further documents also available:**

- Annual financial statement 2012
- Monthly financial and activity reports January - December
- Media archive – excel database interlinked to recorded media pieces
- Photo archive for media use

For copies please email [ofir@laga-enforcement.org](mailto:ofir@laga-enforcement.org)

## **NARRATIVE REPORT**

### **1. Investigations**

LAGA's investigation unit carried out 320 investigation missions in all the 10 Regions of Cameroon. The department continued with structural reorganization culminating in high improvement in its professional output. Field testing and high screening of new investigators; training of Investigators on operations procedure and Investigators all continued to actively assist and help in controlling some operations in the field.

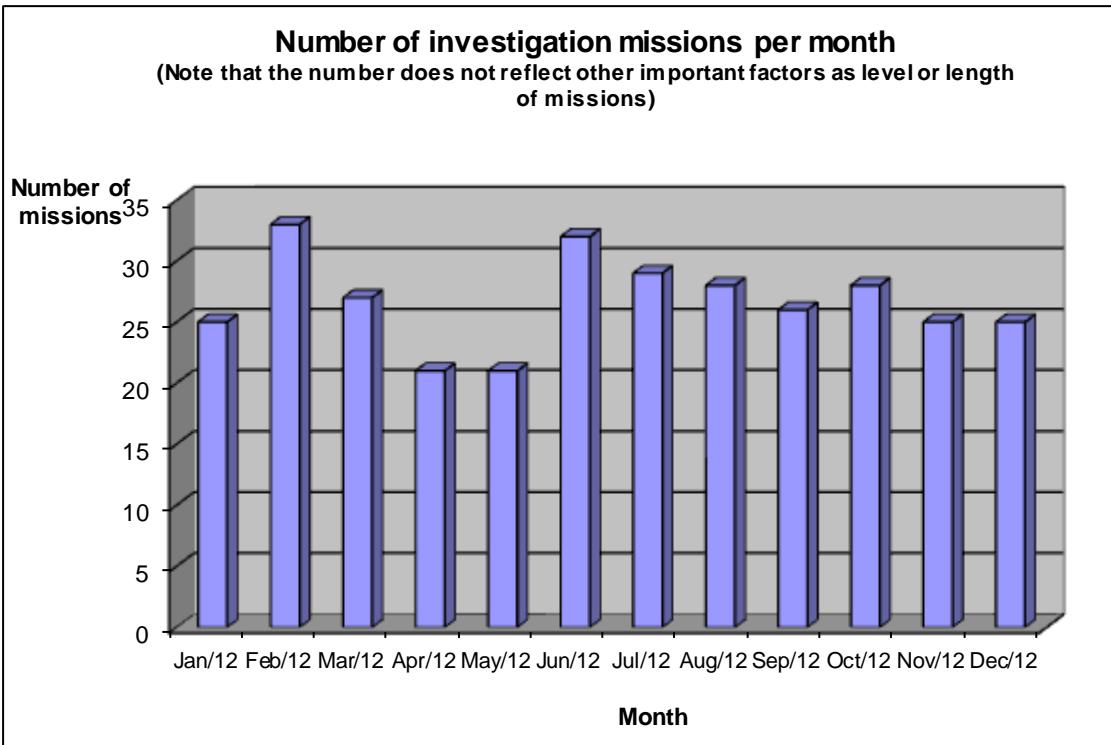
This year, high level investigations were carried out with regards to the hundreds of elephants killed by international poachers in the Bouba Ndjida National Park in the Northern Region of Cameroon; an International Investigator was used to get more information about the Bouba Ndjida poachers and other missions were carried out with other projects in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR). Also, there was a special investigation focus on trade in live primates especially chimps, gorillas and mandrills and meat of gorillas and protected monkeys; networks involved in ivory trade and Internet Investigations targeting wildlife dealers who trade over the Internet. These investigations led to the identification and arrest of dealers in live primates and parts of primates, leopard skins, elephant tusks and other wildlife products. Attention also shifted to the Northern part of the country after a long time without focused missions.

As part of a new strategy to get credible information and to make the Investigation missions more effective, a hotline was established and a flyer was produced in both French and English. These are being distributed to a specific set of informants like those working in the airports, call box operators, security guards etc. Mechanisms have been put in place to track distribution and for it to be more effective.

The strategy involving the recruitment of informants in the main wildlife trade hotspots in Cameroon continued with good information resulting into operations in the East and South. This exercise was also carried out in other Regions of Cameroon notably Adamawa, North and Far North Regions. The Unit also 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 foreigners.

During this period an Investigator from PALF – Congo ended a 4 weeks training in Yaounde under the regional exchange program. Training and exchange of project personnel in regional enforcement will continue with the other projects for further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement. The Department continued in-depth involvement in investigations and operations procedures in the replication projects especially PALF – Congo and AALF – Gabon.

2 Investigator were let go because of lack of produced operations. It is hoped that they will continue to undertake Investigations on their own and will be given a bonus in case of a successful operation.



## **2. Operations**

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out 51 operations in 7 Regions resulting in 51 court cases – one for every 7.2 days of the year. Trade of influence and corruption was observed in the field and combatted and the rate of imprisonment over this period reached 94% of the cases with the individuals behind bars while awaiting trial. Operations during this period focused on ivory trade which also uncovered trafficking in human parts; trade in live primates, meat and parts of primates especially gorilla limbs and skin as well as meat of other protected wildlife species (bushmeat); and trade in leopard skins.

In January, a dealer in primate skulls was arrested in Tinto – South West with chimp and mandrill skulls. This was as a result of good information given by a newly recruited informant as part of a new strategy of getting more credible information.

In February, a regular dealer in elephant products was arrested in Yaounde – Center with elephant tails. He travelled all the way from Djoum – South, a hotspot area for trade in ivory and other elephant trophies. He claimed that highly placed officials in Djoum are involved in ivory trade with many accomplices found in the Cameroon army.

March saw the bursting of ivory networks in the East Region. 7 dealers were arrested in 3 different operations in the East Region all involved in dealing in ivory and other elephant products. 1 was arrested in Mindourou with elephant meat; a network busted in Messok with 4 dealers arrested and also found in possession of 3 packets of marijuana and 2

hunting rifles; 2 well known dealers arrested in Yokadouma with 12 elephant tusks after killing 6 elephants. One of the dealers is a recidivist who had been arrested before in Abong Mbang and after being granted bail, he went straight back to poaching elephants.

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

In May, the Delegation of MINFOF Mamfe – South West Region arrested an international trafficker while attempting to illegally enter with 8 ostriches into Cameroon from Nigeria with no official documents or permits. High level government officials of the South West Region were trying to intimidate MINFOF officials for their release and it is alleged that the birds were ordered by a multi-millionaire in the North West Region. LAGA assisted MINFOF to open a case file against the dealer in the Court of First Instance – Mamfe, as well as to protect MINFOF officials from legal harassment.

In June, 2 operations were carried out against 3 dealers. In Yaounde, a regular dealer from Akonolinga was arrested with elephant products including tails and jaws. He proposed 2 million FCFA to the arresting team for his release, an act that was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field. In Bazou – West, 2 well known dealers were arrested with a live baby chimp while trying to illegally trade in it. They initially resisted arrest, instigating a crowd to intimidate the operations team. The baby chimp was rescued and transported to Yaounde for upkeep and proper treatment in the Mfou wildlife reserve.

In another operation, a major ivory dealer was arrested with 6 elephant tusks and elephant meat in Djoum - South, a hotspot for ivory trafficking. He had 2 guns and ammunition on him. The operation was initiated by MINFOF - National Brigade with LAGA responsible in coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.

In July, 3 operations were carried out against 4 dealers - 2 major dealers arrested for trying to trade in a live mandrill in Ambam - South. A military man was arrested with 2 elephant tusks and teeth while trying to illegally trade in them in Douala - Littoral. Another well-known ivory trafficker was arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Yaounde – Center. He travelled all the way from Sangmelima - South with the ivory for his client in Yaounde. He proposed 500.000 FCFA (about \$1000) to the arresting team for his release, an act that was immediately squelched by the LAGA team in place.

In another operation, 2 well known, well connected and wealthy ivory traffickers were arrested for trafficking 24 elephant tusks in Sangmelima – South which they hid in their car. Investigation information shows that they get ivory from Congo and Gabon with buyers as far as Nigeria. LAGA has been tracking them for the past 3 years.

The month of August saw 3 operations against 5 dealers - 2 of the operations took place in Yaounde. A long time ivory dealer arrested with 35kg of ivory in the Briqueterie neighbourhood in Yaounde, an area very difficult to penetrate because of violence and noted for harbouring major ivory dealers. He attempted to bribe the arresting officers with 500,000 FCFA so that the case could not be forwarded to the court; an act stopped by the LAGA team in the field. Still in Yaounde, 2 dealers, a man and his female partner arrested with a large fresh leopard skin while attempting to illegally trade in it. In another operation in Mindourou – East, 2 major dealers who had been on the run for months when initially suspected to be in possession of meat of protected wildlife species arrested with meat of wildlife including chimp parts. They were in possession of 2 guns and ammunition used in killing the animals. The operation was initiated by the MINFOF team and the arrest coordinated with the LAGA team in Yaounde.

September month was marked by the uncovering of an alarming black market trade in human body parts and elephant meat in an operation that saw the arrest of 5 people in Djoum - a small town in the South Region of the country. A network of traffickers in human parts and elephant meat was busted, 5 suspects, mostly young men 2 of whom are University of Yaounde 2 students were arrested in 2 different operations in Djoum with elephant meat and human parts; most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it. Reports coming in from Djoum say the products – the human body parts and the elephant meat were being ferried to Yaounde by the traffickers to serve as constitutive elements for some occultist practice by an important personality in the capital city. As in many of such practices, human body parts, baby parts etc. are frequently used by unsuspecting people for black magic and witchcraft. It should be noted that this operation was the initiative of wildlife officials who are in a renewed alert mode to track wildlife criminals with LAGA assisting in the writing of the complaint report and participating in the second operation that led to 2 more arrests following 3 initially arrested by MINFOF officials in Djoum. Investigations are still on going to get those at the top of the chain who are the actual pushers of this trade in human parts and protected wildlife. This opens up a vast and new domain of crime in the country. It equally shows to what extend the trafficking of wildlife species can go with human parts becoming a trade item on the same level as wildlife species parts.

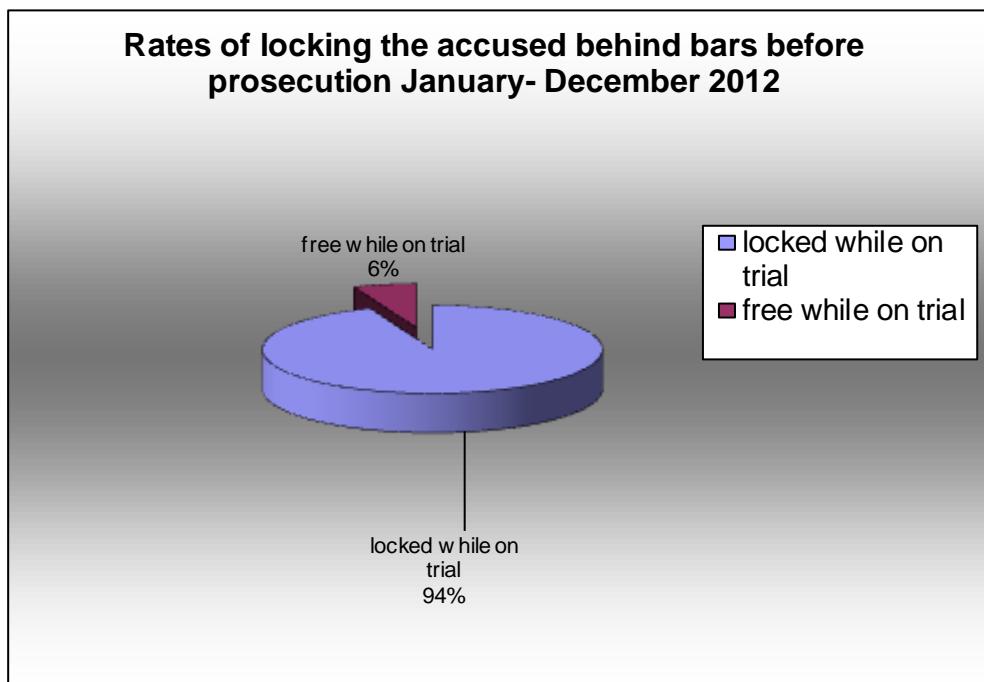
In 2 other operations, 2 female dealers were arrested with gorilla parts and meat of protected wildlife in 2 different operations. One of them was arrested in Yaounde - Center while trying to trade in gorilla parts including a fresh gorilla skull as well as gorilla meat. She has a network of suppliers in Messamena - East from where she bought a full dead gorilla. The other was arrested with 4 bags of bush meat including protected wildlife species. She was transporting the meat through one travelling agency from Lomie - East to Yaounde - Center to supply a ready market. She attempted to bribe the arresting team for her release.

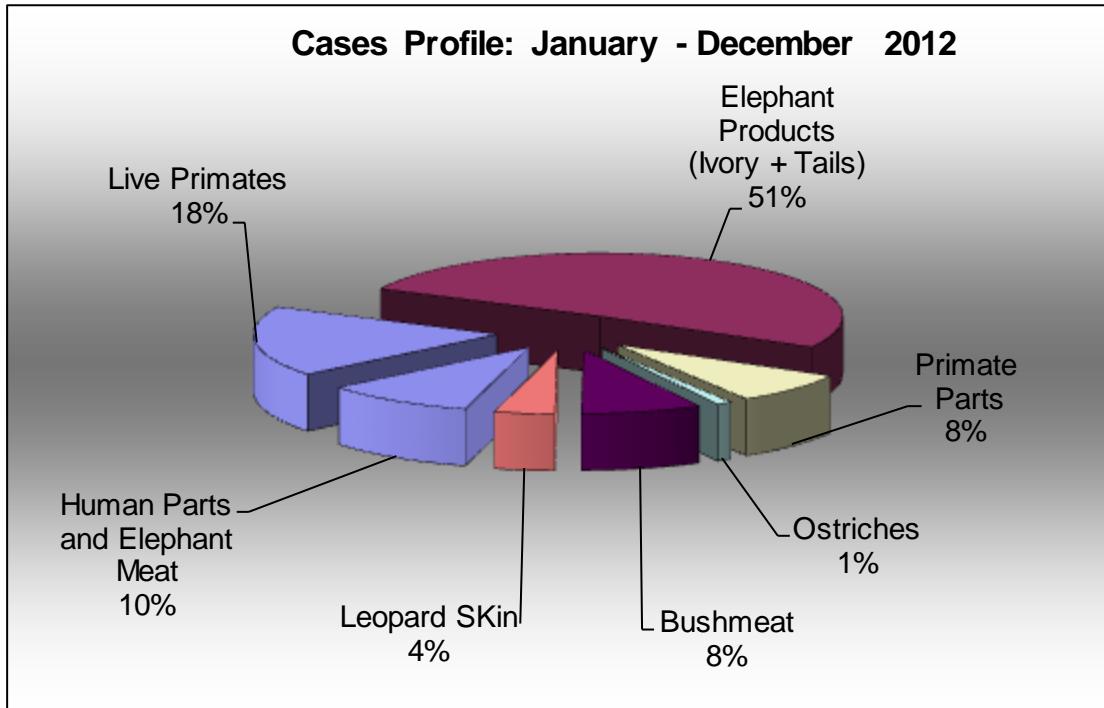
In October, a major dealer was arrested with a live primate while attempting to trade in it in Ebolowa - South. He has been keeping this one for almost a year and had sold many others before claiming that he has made a lot of money from trade in wildlife species.

November month was marked by the rescue of 4 primates in 3 different operations, 2 of the operations taking place on the same day and in the same town of Tonga – West. One of them is a retired sub-officer of the Cameroon Gendarmerie arrested with a live drill. He uses his connections to trade in protected wildlife species. The other was arrested with a chimp and a mangabey. He has a network of suppliers in the West and Center Regions. In the other operation, 2 dealers were arrested in Yaounde arriving from Ngoumou – Center with a live primate while illegally trying to trade in it. They keep live animals in Ngoumou and supply customers in Yaounde.

In December, 4 operations arresting 4 dealers including 1 female were carried out. The female dealer arrested with 4 gorilla limbs - 2 feet and 2 hands in Yaounde while illegally trying to trade in them. Much traffic of influence was observed while she was being kept at the police station with a military man and a relative purported to be a lawyer trying to negotiate for her release. Certainly as a result of this, the female dealer was not taken to the State Counsel because the MINFOF officials refused to sign the remand warrant and to convey the case to court.

In other operations, a major dealer, also a well-known business man with good connections with the authorities in Djoum arrested with 5 elephant tails. The tails were hidden in an inner room in his shop which he uses as cover for his trade in protected wildlife products. A civil servant based in Meyomessala arrested with 2 elephant tusks that he hid in his car. He also resisted arrest and tried to use his friendship with the Gendarmerie Brigade of Meyomessala to stop the normal legal procedure. This was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field and he was later conveyed to Sangmelima to be locked up. Another major dealer arrested with a gorilla skin while trying to trade in it. Blatant corruption is observed in this case because the dealer was allowed to leave the police station in Bafut and was reported that he escaped. Investigations are underway to arrest him again.





### **3. Legal**

51 court cases were initiated, followed up and represented. Most of the cases initiated within this period have not yet reached the prosecution stage, and most subjects are imprisoned throughout the process instead of being allowed to move freely and conduct further criminal acts.

During this period, 28 cases were prosecuted with 54 dealers convicted and more than \$267,000 (133, 500,000 FCFA) to be paid as damages to MINFOF. There were very good prosecutions obtained notably 30 months of imprisonment of 2 ivory dealers in Yokadouma - East and 2 years imprisonment of an Internet Wildlife dealer in Muyuka – South West, 2 years imprisonment for a major dealer in elephant tusks in Sangmelima – South and 17 dealers sentenced in the month of April alone. This was all obtained despite traffic of influence, bribery attempts and corruption.

In January, 7 dealers sentenced in Abong-Mbang and Yokadouma in the East Region. The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang sentenced a dealer in meat of protected wildlife arrested in Lomie – East to 1 year of prison term and \$10,000 as fine suspended sentence for 3 years. The same court sentenced 2 dealers (a man and his wife) to 2 years of prison and to pay \$6,000 as fine suspended for 3 years. They were also arrested in Lomie for dealing in the meat of protected wildlife species. The Court of First Instance of Yokadouma sentenced 4 ivory traffickers to 1 month of prison each and to pay \$10,000 as damages and fine. They were arrested in Yokadouma for illegally keeping and trafficking of 44 elephant tusks. Appeals have been lodged against all these prosecutions

and there is strong suspicion of bribery and corruption for which an investigation has been opened.

In February, the court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang sentenced a dealer in gorilla parts and other protected wildlife products to 1 year of prison and \$8.000 as fine and damages suspended during 3 years. He was arrested in Lomie for illegal detaining of products of totally protected species including gorilla limbs and live primates.

In March, the Court of First Instance of Bafoussam - West sentenced a dealer in primates to 1 year suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay \$4.000 as damages.

Outstanding prosecutions obtained in April with a total of 17 dealers sentenced and more than 60 million FCFA (\$120,000) to be paid to MINFOF as damages; 4 of dealers sentenced to 30 months imprisonment each in Yokadouma – East for killing of elephants and trying to illegally trade in ivory and trafficking in African Grey parrots and their parts. A total of 15 dealers sentenced in Yokadouma: 2 dealers sentenced to 3 months and 6 months respectively, 2 others who are recidivists sentenced to 30 months of prison term each, they were arrested inside Lobeke National Park for illegal capturing and killing of about 1000 African grey parrots. 3 others sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment; they were arrested in Salapoumbe for killing of elephants and illegally trying to trade in the elephant products. A network of 5 dealers were sentenced to 18 months of prison each, they were arrested inside the Boumba-Beck National Park for illegal killing of 6 elephants and trying to trade in their products; and 3 more sentenced to 10 months of prison term each. 1 dealer of live primates (mandrill) sentenced to 6 months of prison in Ambam – South; and 1 dealer of primate parts (chimp and mandrill skulls) sentenced in Mamfe – South West.

6 dealers were sentenced in May. The Court of First Instance of Muyuka – South West Region sentenced an Internet wildlife dealer to 2 years imprisonment. He was arrested with his accomplice following a report to LAGA and international collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service while attempting to sell rhino horns over the Internet using a falsified CITES permit and other official documents. 2 dealers in ivory were sentenced to 1 year in prison each one of them being a woman running an NGO and laundering trade behind it; and 3 other dealers to 4 months imprisonment by the Court of First Instance Abong Mbang – East.

In July, 3 cases were sentenced against 5 dealers. The Court of First Instance of Abong Mbang – East sentenced a major dealer to 2 years imprisonment and his 2 accomplices to 5 months imprisonment each; they are to pay jointly 3.029.000 FCFA (about \$6000) as damages and fines. They were arrested in Messok - East for killing of elephants. In another case in Abong Mbang, a dealer in elephant tails was sentenced to 5 months of prison term and to pay a sum 2.780.000 FCFA (about \$5600) as damages and fines. The Court of First Instance of Djoum - South sentenced another dealer to 1 year imprisonment and to pay a sum 3.178.000 FCFA (about \$6300) as damages and fines; he was arrested in Mintom - South with 8 elephant tails.

2 cases were prosecuted in August sentencing 4 dealers with an 18 months imprisonment term obtained against a major ivory trafficker. The Court of First Instance of Ambam - South sentenced 2 dealers to 5 months of imprisonment suspended during 3 years and to pay jointly 350.000 FCFA (about \$700) as damages to MINFOF. They were arrested in Ambam for illegally trying to traffic a life Mandrill. The Court of First Instance of Abong Mbang - East sentenced 1 ivory trafficker to 8 months of prison and his partner who drives the trade to 18 months of prison and to pay a sum of 12.000.000 FCFA (about \$24,000) as damages. They were arrested in Messok for illegal killing of elephants and trying to trade in their parts.

In September, 5 dealers were sentenced. The Court of First Instance of Sangmelima sentenced 2 ivory traffickers to 2 months of prison each and to pay jointly a sum of 13.850.000 FCFA (about \$28,000) as damages to MINFOF. They were arrested in Zoetele - South for illegally trying to traffic 23 elephant tusks. The Court of First Instance of Djoum - South sentenced another ivory dealer to 3 months of prison and to pay a sum of 3.000.000 FCFA (about \$6000) as damages. He was arrested in Djoum for illegally killing elephants and trying to trade in 6 elephant tusks. The Court of First Instance of Bangangte - West sentenced 2 dealers to 3 months of prison each and to pay a sum of 150.000 FCFA (about \$300) as damages. They were arrested in Bazou for illegal detention and trying to traffic a life chimp.

In November, the Court of First Instance of Douala-Ndokoti sentenced 1 dealer to 6 months of prison suspended sentence during 3 years and to pay a sum of 2.000.000 FCFA (\$4000) as damages. He was arrested in Douala for illegal detention of 2 elephant tusks.

7 dealers were sentenced in December. The Court of First Instance of Douala - Bonanjo sentenced 3 Ghanaians to 1 year of prison term each and to pay a sum of 4.190.000 FCFA as damages. They were arrested in Douala for illegal exportation of 300 African Grey parrots. The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang sentenced 2 chimp dealers 4 months of prison each and to pay a sum of 450.000 FCFA as damages. Still in Abong Mbang 2 ivory dealers were sentenced, 1 receiving 1 year imprisonment and the other sentenced to 8 months imprisonment suspended for 3 years, and to pay jointly a sum of 2.350.000 FCFA damages.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training session continued to be held in the regional headquarters in Cameroon. During this period, 2 Jurists from PALF – Republic of Congo were trained in Yaounde under the regional exchange program. This is a continuation of training and exchange of project personnel in regional enforcement to further improve output and make investigations, operations, legal follow-up and media coverage more effective. Others that had been trained before include the Coordinator of RALF – CAR (Central African Republic), Jurist – PALF Congo, and Jurist - AALF Gabon.

A regional law library that was created continues to put into value what has been done before based on the LAGA model and how to proceed from there. This library with the documents therein could help in the creation of other structures in other parts of Africa and the world at large by motivated individuals.

#### **4. Media**

A total of 367 media pieces was produced and pushed into national media, including numerous articles in all media – radio, television and written press, a rate of one media piece per day. January month saw a low number of media pieces because of low produced operations and resumption of work later in the month, and the low number of media pieces in December is because the target had been met.

The capacity, professionalism, and matching results in this department have been growing steadily. A program of intensified media campaigning continued with efficient wildlife sensitization/awareness messages, which involved many stakeholders as guests.

Subjects were on a broad range of wildlife law enforcement issues including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions, the fight against corruption, replication activities etc. These were on – Tinto ape skulls dealer arrest, arrest of crocodile dealer in Douala; pangolin dealer arrest in Lomie, Interpol meeting in Thailand, Bouba Ndjida story of 200 elephants killed; Yaounde arrest of dealer in elephant parts, judgment of Yokadouma ivory dealers, Djoum arrest of elephant traffickers and INTERPOL steps in to fight against the killing of elephants; 7 wildlife traffickers arrested in Guinea Conakry, 3 elephant parts and ivory traffickers arrest in Lomie; 6 traffickers arrested in Guinea, Muyuka Internet wildlife dealer sentenced, Mintom arrest of elephant trafficker – hearing, Mindourou judgment of elephant trafficker, Messok judgment of elephant trafficker, Yokadouma judgment of ivory and African grey parrot traffickers; Chimp rescued and 2 traffickers arrested in Bazou, Court hearing for elephant trafficker arrested in East, Yaounde elephant products dealer arrest, Gabon burn its ivory stockpile, arrest of mandrill in Ambam, court hearing of dealer in 7 elephant tails in Ambam, military officer arrested with ivory in Douala, big ivory trafficker arrested in Yaounde, publication of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Wildlife Justice, prosecution of Mintom ivory dealer, world elephant day, Yaounde wildlife trafficker arrest with over 35 kg of ivory, Yaounde leopard skin dealer arrest, judgment on two elephants killer in Messok , Abong Mbang court appearance of gorilla trafficker, Yaounde and Abong Mbang arrest of 2 women with gorilla skull and other gorilla parts, 3 ivory traffickers sentenced in South, 5 wildlife traffickers arrested with human parts and elephant meat in Djoum, Bazou chimp dealer court judgment, notorious elephant trafficker arrested in Congo, examining the plight of rhino, illegal wildlife trade and its sinister consequences, Mvila arrest of wildlife dealer with an agile mangabey, review of the massacre of elephants in the Bouba Ndjidda national park, LAGA receives the Duke of Edinburgh conservation award, a Bafut chief hand over baboon to wildlife authority, military officer arrested for illegal wildlife trade in Congo, Thailand national sentence to 40 years in South African, Tonga ape arrest of a retired gendarme and Djoum arrest of 5 tail elephant dealer amongst others.

Guests included: National Coordinator of the Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE), LAGA Director, Climate Change and Prosperity Officer of the British High Commission, Head of Interpol's Environment Crime Programme, the Traditional Ruler of Bafut and craftsmen, Manyu Divisional Delegate – MINFOF, LAGA Deputy Director and Head of Legal Unit, LAGA Head of Communication Unit, Program Officer of US Fish and Wildlife Service, North West Delegate – MINFOF, LAGA Head

of Investigation Unit, a Cameroon environmental journalist, Director of conservation at WWF Cameroon, Officials of MINFOF at the department of wildlife and protected areas, Cameroon Coordinator of the National Syndicate for Rural Workers, Fako Divisional Chief of Section for Wildlife – MINFOF, Resident Veterinary Doctor at the Limbe Wildlife Centre, Ape Action Africa Head of Education Program, MINFOF official of North West regional control post, Traditional Ruler of Nsem village – Bafut, Barrister Njimi – MINFOF Lawyer, Former US Communication Officer etc.

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *Wildlife Justice Magazine* has been published under the theme African Traditions and Wildlife Conservation. *Wildlife Justice Magazine* is a specialized journal that treats issues of wildlife conservation and more particularly wildlife law enforcement. This edition gives an in depth analysis of African traditions as they were built to function in harmony with nature comparing the Western use of wildlife and the traditions of the Africans. The Magazine is being distributed to wildlife conservation and enforcement professionals including judges, lawyers, prosecutors, jurists, policemen and gendarmes, conservationists, researchers, police makers and government officials amongst others.

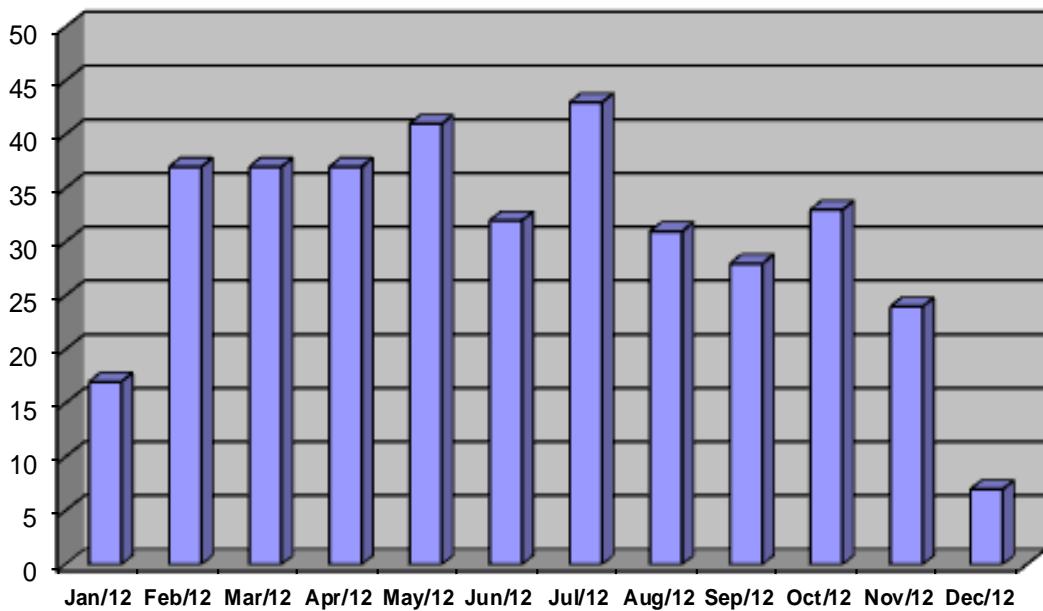
The Central African Wildlife Law Enforcement Newsletter was produced and distributed electronically to over 1000 people; it seeks to expand the scope of readers on issues of wildlife law enforcement in the sub-region and beyond. The newsletter that is expected to be published each month shall concisely give a picture of the activities of the various projects working on wildlife law enforcement within the sub-region and in Guinea Conakry replicating the Cameroon's wildlife law enforcement model and it is expected to harness reports of the various projects into one piece for easy reading and reference.

LAGA Website Analysis January - December 2012:

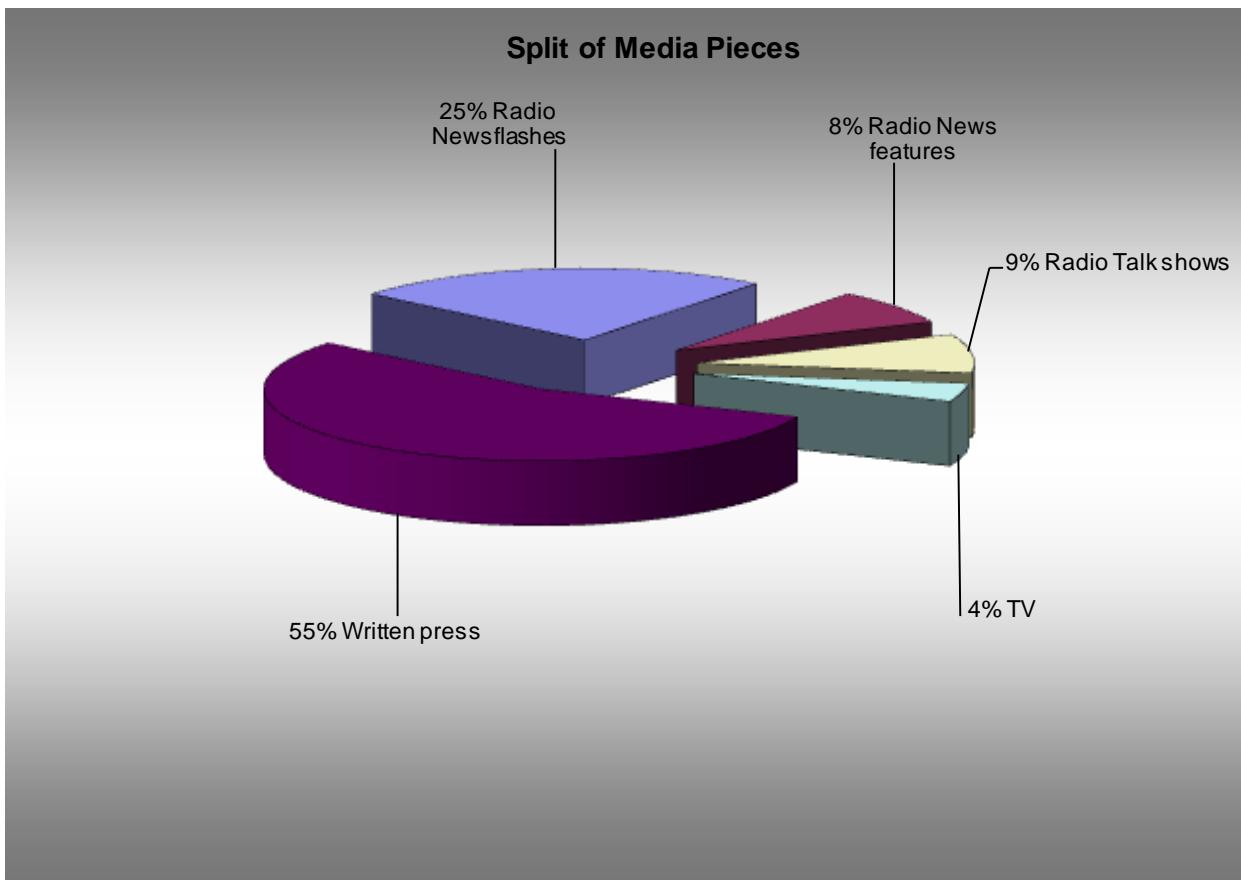
<b>Page Views</b>	<b>12,563</b>
<b>You Tube Views</b>	<b>81,102</b>
<b>Channel Views</b>	<b>4,958</b>

It should be noted that the LAGA website ([www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org)) was entirely created from scratch and is maintained by the LAGA family.

### Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed



### Split of Media Pieces



## **5. Strategic Overview of Wildlife Crime in Cameroon and Operations' Impact**

In addition to the number of operations and their effectiveness, there is another indicator 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 with that of replication sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on elephant products that brought out trade in human parts, live primate and products of primates including gorilla skin and limbs, leopard skin, meat of protected wildlife species (bushmeat), ostriches, corruption and wildlife crime which is another focal area that LAGA is combating.

### **8.1 Human parts and Elephant meat**

September month was marked by the uncovering of an alarming black market trade in human body parts and elephant meat in an operation that saw the arrest of 5 people in Djoum - a small town in the South Region of the country.

A network of traffickers in human parts and elephant meat was busted in Djoum, 5 suspects, mostly young men 2 of whom are University of Yaounde 2 students were arrested in 2 different operations in Djoum with elephant meat and human parts; most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it. Reports coming in from Djoum say the products – the human body parts and the elephant meat were being ferried to Yaounde by the traffickers to serve as constitutive elements for some occultist practice by an important personality in the capital city. As in many of such practices, human body parts, baby parts etc. are frequently used by unsuspecting people for black magic and witchcraft. It should be noted that this operation was the initiative of wildlife officials who are in a renewed alert mode to track wildlife criminals with LAGA assisting in the writing of the complaint report and participating in the second operation that led to 2 more arrests following 3 initially arrested by MINFOF officials in Djoum. Investigations are still on going to get those at the top of the chain who are the actual pushers of this trade in human parts and protected wildlife. This opens up a vast and new domain of crime in the country. It equally shows to what extend the trafficking of wildlife species can go with human parts becoming a trade item on the same level as wildlife species parts.

### **8.2 Other Elephant Products - Ivory and Tails**

During this period, networks involving ivory dealers and other elephant products were busted mostly in the East, South and Center Regions. Special missions were carried out in Cameroon, Chad and CAR pertaining to the elephants massacred in the Bouba Ndjida National Park. Most of these dealers are very wealthy and well connected, one of them a military man; all these added value to the nature of arrests carried out.

In February, a regular dealer in elephant products was arrested in Yaounde – Center with elephant tails. He travelled all the way from Djoum – South, a hotspot area for trade in ivory and other elephant trophies. He claimed that highly placed officials in Djoum are

involved in ivory trade with many accomplices found in the Cameroon army. More investigations are ongoing to target and arrest the high level dealers.

In March, 7 dealers were arrested in 3 different operations in the East Region all involved in dealing in ivory and other elephant products. 1 was arrested in Mindourou with elephant meat; a network busted in Messok with 4 dealers arrested and also found in possession of 3 packets of marijuana and 2 hunting rifles; 2 well known dealers arrested in Yokadouma with 12 elephant tusks after killing 6 elephants. One of the dealers is a recidivist who had been arrested before in Abong Mbang and after being granted bail, he went straight back to poaching elephants. The operations were initiated by MINFOF and LAGA was responsible in controlling the adherence to strict legal procedure and on time follow-up of the court cases.

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

In Yaounde – Center, a regular dealer from Akonolinga was arrested with elephant products including tails and jaws in June. He proposed 2 million FCFA to the arresting team for his release, an act that was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field. In another operation, a major ivory dealer was arrested with 6 elephant tusks and elephant meat in Djoum - South, a hotspot for ivory trafficking. He had 2 guns and ammunition on him. The operation was initiated by MINFOF - National Brigade with LAGA responsible in coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.

In July, a military man was arrested with 2 elephant tusks and teeth while trying to illegally trade in them in Douala - Littoral. Because of his job, it is suspected that he uses this means to trade in ivory internationally; this is still being investigated. Another well-known ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Yaounde – Center. He travelled all the way from Sangmelima - South with the ivory for his client in Yaounde. He proposed 500.000 FCFA (about \$1000) to the arresting team for his release, an act that was immediately squelched by the LAGA team in place.

In another operation, 2 well known, well connected and wealthy ivory traffickers were arrested for trafficking 24 elephant tusks in Sangmelima – South which they hid in their car. Investigation information shows that he gets ivory from Congo and Gabon and has buyers as far as Nigeria. LAGA has been tracking him for the past 3 years. The operation was initiated by MINFOF with LAGA coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.

In August, a long time ivory dealer arrested with 35 kg of ivory in the Briqueterie neighbourhood in Yaounde, an area very difficult to penetrate because of violence and

noted for harbouring major ivory dealers. He attempted to bribe the arresting officers with 500,000 FCFA so that the case could not be forwarded to the court; an act stopped by the LAGA team in the field.

December month saw the arrest of another major dealer, also a well-known business man with good connections with the authorities in Djoum arrested with 5 elephant tails. The tails were hidden in an inner room in his shop which he uses as cover for his trade in protected wildlife products. He initially resisted arrest, was violent and attacked one of the arresting officers. A civil servant based in Meyomessala arrested with 2 elephant tusks that he hid in his car. He also resisted arrest and tried to use his friendship with the Gendarmerie Brigade of Meyomessala to stop the normal legal procedure. This was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field and he was later conveyed to Sangmelima to be locked up.

### **8.3 Live Primates and Primate Products**

Operations were carried out against dealers in live primates who sell them as pets, and those dealing in meat and parts of primates. This period also saw the rescue of 7 live primates including chimps, mandrills, and mangabeys amongst others.

In January, following more information from another informant, a dealer in primate parts was arrested in Tinto – South West Region with chimp and mandrill skulls. He has been in this trade for long and investigations are still ongoing to get more skulls that he is alleged to have hidden.

In June, 2 well known dealers were arrested with a live baby chimp while trying to illegally trade in it in Bazou - West. They initially resisted arrest, instigating a crowd to intimidate the operations team; fortunately, the team used diplomacy, convinced the crowd on the necessity of getting the statements of offence of the dealers who were thereafter transported to Bangangte. The baby chimp was rescued and transported to Yaounde for upkeep and proper treatment in the Mfou wildlife reserve.

In July, 2 major dealers arrested for trying to trade in a live mandrill in Ambam - South. They initially resisted arrest, arguing and fighting with the operations team. They claim to have sold many live primates before and that they have been in the trade for long.

In September, a female dealer was arrested in Yaounde - Center while trying to trade in gorilla parts including a fresh gorilla skull as well as gorilla meat. She has a network of suppliers in Messamena - East from where she bought a full dead gorilla.

In October, a major dealer was arrested with a live primate while attempting to trade in it in Ebolowa - South. He has been keeping this one for almost a year and had sold many others before claiming that he has made a lot of money from trade in wildlife species.

3 operations this November led to the arrest of 4 dealers. 2 of the operations were carried out one after another on the same day in Tonga – West arresting 2 dealers in live primates. One of them is a retired sub-officer of the Cameroon Gendarmerie arrested with

a live drill. He uses his connections to trade in protected wildlife species. The other was arrested with a chimp and a mangabey. He has a network of suppliers in the West and Center Regions.

In the other operation, 2 dealers were arrested in Yaounde arriving from Ngoumou – Center with a live primate while illegally trying to trade in it. They keep live animals in Ngoumou and supply customers in Yaounde. The animals were all rescued and taken to the Mvog-Betsi Zoo in Yaounde for proper care.

In December, a female dealer arrested with 4 gorilla limbs - 2 feet and 2 hands in Yaounde while illegally trying to trade in them. Much traffic of influence was observed while she was being kept at the police station with a military man and a relative purported to be a lawyer trying to negotiate for her release. Certainly as a result of this, the female dealer was not taken to the State Counsel because the MINFOF officials refused to sign the remand warrant and to convey the case to court. Another major dealer arrested with a gorilla skin while trying to trade in it. Blatant corruption is observed in this case because the dealer was allowed to leave the police station in Bafut and was reported that he escaped. Investigations are underway to arrest him again.

#### **8.4 Leopard Skin**

In August in Yaounde, 2 dealers, a man and his female partner arrested with a large fresh leopard skin while attempting to illegally trade in it. They initially resisted arrest, fighting in the car and the woman biting the hand of one of the arresting officers while being conveyed to the police station.

#### **8.5 Bushmeat**

In August in an operation in Mindourou – East, 2 major dealers who had been on the run for months when initially suspected to be in possession of meat of protected wildlife species arrested with meat of wildlife including chimp parts. They were in possession of 2 guns and ammunition used in killing the animals. The operation was initiated by the MINFOF team and the arrest coordinated with the LAGA team in Yaounde. LAGA was also responsible in supervising the writing of the complaint report and the conveyance of the case with the suspects to the court in Abong Mbang - East Region.

September month saw the arrest of another female dealer was arrested with 4 bags of bush meat including protected wildlife species. She was transporting the meat through one travelling agency from Lomie - East to Yaounde - Center to supply a ready market. She attempted to bribe the arresting team for her release.

#### **8.6 Ostriches**

In May, the Delegation of MINFOF Mamfe – South West Region arrested an international trafficker while attempting to illegally enter with 8 ostriches into Cameroon from Nigeria with no official documents or permits. High level government officials of the South West Region were trying to intimidate MINFOF officials for their release and it is alleged that the birds were ordered by a multi-millionaire in the North West Region.

LAGA assisted MINFOF to open a case file against the dealer in the Court of First Instance – Mamfe.

## **8.7 Corruption and Wildlife Crime**

Bribing attempts are documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and 80% of all court cases within the legal system. But LAGA is not an observer of corruption; it was created to fight corruption, redirecting the positive pressures existing within the system, usually wasted in large conference, to specific corruption attempts and the field realities that form corruption. Corruption is also observed and combated in the regional enforcement activities. These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA.

This ongoing fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. After the arrest of an international trafficker while attempting to illegally enter with 8 ostriches into Cameroon from Nigeria with no official documents or permits; high level government officials of the South West Region were trying to intimidate MINFOF officials for the release of the trafficker and the birds, it is alleged that the birds were ordered by a multi-millionaire in the North West Region who is using his connections with the high government officials.

Attempts and suspicions of bribery were also observed during some of our arrest operations and legal procedure. This was very vivid in January following the arrest of a female dealer in Lomie - East with a giant pangolin and meat of other wildlife species; it is suspected that she corrupted some Gendarme officers because she was allowed to escape after passing some time in their custody.

In the December when a female dealer arrested with 4 gorilla limbs - 2 feet and 2 hands in Yaounde was not taken to the State Counsel because of much traffic of influence. A military man and a relative purported to be a lawyer were trying to negotiate for her release and certainly as a result of this, the female dealer was not taken to the State Counsel because the MINFOF officials refused to sign the remand warrant and to convey the case to court. Blatant corruption was observed in the case of a major dealer arrested with a gorilla skin when he was allowed to leave the police station in Bafut and was reported that he escaped.

In some cases, money is directly offered to the arresting team so that the case will not be forwarded to the courts. This was seen in February following the arrest of a dealer in Yaounde – Center with elephant tails after he had travelled from Djoum – South; while taking down his statement of offence, his brother and his mother proposed 250.000 Frs. to MINFOF officials so that the case should not be forwarded to the court. He was caught on tape saying that highly placed officials in Djoum are involved in ivory trade with many accomplices found in the Cameroon army.

In April, 2 ivory traffickers were arrested in Lomie – East with 8 elephant tusks, they attempted to bribe the arresting team with 3 million FCFA (about \$6000) for their release, an act that was combated by the LAGA team in the field.

A regular dealer from Akonolinga arrested in Yaounde in June with elephant products including tails and jaws proposed 2 million FCFA to the arresting team for his release, an act that was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field.

In July, a well-known ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Yaounde – Center who had travelled all the way from Sangmelima - South proposed 500.000 FCFA (about \$1000) to the arresting team for his release. 500,000 FCFA were also offered by another long time dealer in ivory arrested in August in the Briqueterie neighbourhood in Yaounde, an area very difficult to penetrate because of violence and noted for harbouring major ivory dealers. Bribing attempt was also witnessed in September when a female dealer arrested with 4 bags of bush meat including protected wildlife species tried to bribe the arresting team for her release.

In some cases, the dealers use their profession and the advantages that go with the profession to launder illegal wildlife trade. Some examples are clear like in the case of a military man arrested in Douala who uses his uniform to cover his illegal activities; a civil servant based in Meyomessala arrested with 2 elephant tusks who tried to use his friendship with the Gendarmerie Brigade of Meyomessala to stop the normal legal procedure; a retired sub-officer of the Cameroon Gendarmerie arrested with a live drill in Tonga – West who uses his connections to trade in protected wildlife species.

In April following the arrest of a dealer known to traffic ivory and other elephant products with 5 elephant tails in Lomie, his father who happens to be a military officer initially tried to intimidate the operations team and later on attempted to bribe the arresting officers for the release of his son to no avail. These issues were vigorously fought against by the LAGA team in the field.

Some use their connections and friendship with high officials to try to extricate themselves from court procedure. This was the case of 2 well known, well connected and wealthy ivory traffickers arrested for trafficking 24 elephant tusks in Sangmelima – South when they tried to call on some MINFOF authority to intervene on their behalf to no avail. December month saw the arrest of another major dealer, also a well-known business man with good connections with the authorities in Djoum arrested with 5 elephant tails who tried to call on his friends for his release.

Bribery attempts, suspicion of corruption and wrong court procedures and prosecutions were observed in many other cases. In January, 7 dealers sentenced in Abong-Mbang and Yokadouma in the East Region received very light penalties; appeals have been lodged against all these prosecutions and there is strong suspicion of bribery and corruption for which an investigation has been opened.

These bribery attempts are vigorously fought against and vehemently condemned by LAGA and its field collaborators especially the arresting officers and the lawyers representing the MINFOF.

## Overview of International Wildlife Traffic in Cameroon and Operations' Sites 2012



## **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. During this year, LAGA held many meetings with highly placed government authorities within and outside of Cameroon, meetings with traditional rulers, cooperated with local NGOs, and participated in conferences.

This period was rich in meetings with the Minister MINFOF and other MINFOF officials on issues related to a broad range of wildlife law enforcement activities including all of LAGA-MINFOF operations, prosecutions and fighting corruption. LAGA Director and his Deputy met with the new Minister of Forestry and Wildlife for acquaintance and continuation of work between MINFOF and LAGA.

LAGA Director held very important meetings with the Secretary General at the Presidency of the Republic on wildlife law enforcement in the country and the Bouba Ndjidda situation.

There was also a meeting with the Anti-Corruption Inspector in the Presidency concerning collaboration in the fight against corruption; with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife concerning difficulties brought from certain officials on the LAGA-MINFOF collaboration.

The convention of LAGA with the Government was renewed and signed by the new Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.

The LAGA Director and Deputy Director participated in Regional Wildlife Trafficking meeting in Gabon. Still in Gabon, the Regional Law Enforcement Network held a meeting - PALF, AALF and LAGA - in order to outline a strategy for the next few months.

In October, the traditional ruler of Nsem in Bafut Subdivision of the North West Region, His Royal Highness Chief Mbonifor I has handed over a live baboon to wildlife officials of the North West Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife as his contribution to the conservation efforts. He had been keeping the baboon for the past 9 years and when he got information that the law prohibits the possession of protected species; he immediately invited the wildlife officials to come and take the animal. The baboon is now receiving care from specialists at the Limbe Wildlife Centre that participated in the rescue operation. The Last Great Ape Organisation – LAGA provided technical assistance during the operation.

## **7. International Arena**

During this period, LAGA won 3 awards: The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal given by Prince Philip – the husband of Queen Elizabeth. The award was received by the LAGA Director and given the media coverage including BBC; he used it to pass the need of wildlife law enforcement message across and the total engagement of the LAGA family in this fight. The award came with a Rolex watch but since this status symbol represents all that is against LAGA values regarding the materialistic society and its spiritual poverty, the \$5000 watch is being auctioned at eBay and the money raised will be used to finance LAGA arrest operations.

Also as a result of LAGA's achievements, the LAGA Director received the Condé Nast Traveler Environmental Award given to one recipient every year. He is the 23rd recipient. The award is given to those who go to extraordinary lengths to protect the environment and better the lives of their communities. It is the seventh in connection to LAGA's work. LAGA also won the Marsh Christian Trust Award after being nominated by WSPA. The Award seeks to recognize unsung heroes who aim to improve the world, giving their time unselfishly. These awards are all in connection to LAGA's work, and is hoped to give more credibility to and acceptance of LAGA's message and help in its long term quest to affect conservation in a meaningful way.

Many meetings were held with the Diplomatic community – with the US Ambassador, British High Commissioner, French Embassy's SCAC program, with US Embassy political officer etc. Discussions were focused on wildlife law enforcement challenges, corruption, transparency and access to information amongst others. LAGA Director participated in a meeting initiated by Citizen Governance Initiative to form an NGO caucus for the Access to Information in Cameroon.

Several meetings were held with other International and national organizations – with two evaluation teams – one of the World Bank and one by Global Witness – on rethinking the approach to forest governance in Cameroon, the fight against corruption and access to information. Other meetings were with ZSL Cameroon and ZSL Equatorial Guinea, WWF-CARPO, Ape Action Africa, In Defense of Animals, the Born Free team in Horsham – UK, with FAO representative in Cameroon, RELUFA, CHOC project forest sector, WCS Regional Policy Director, TRAFFIC Director for Central Africa, Transparency International, CRS, CED and RELUFA, COSADER etc. Issues discussed centered on wildlife law enforcement, corruption, transparency and accountability, replication of LAGA activities, bushmeat initiative, corruption and extractive industry, integrating anti-corruption methods to donor policies, conservation challenges, using LAGA methods for the service of the fight against child trafficking, land grabbing problems; the disenablement environment to civil society and monitoring the shrinking space for Civil Society Organizations amongst others.

LAGA Director met with Dirk Byler of US Fish and Wildlife Service on wildlife law enforcement challenges; with Paul Bour on possibilities for a regional anti-poaching task force; meeting in London with journalists interested in mobilizing people around the world for elephants and to influence CITES to get better protection of elephants and burn all ivory stock; with WCS and WWF regional directors on promoting wildlife law

enforcement in the region; meeting with Interpol officer Guinea Conakry, on his visit in Yaounde, on continued enforcement in Guinea.

LAGA Director participated in a WWF international move to focus on wildlife law enforcement against the ivory trade in a meeting with WWF CARPO and gave a presentation on tackling ivory syndicates. He also participated in a meeting concerning the study on African Grey Parrots and the issue of reopening the trade in that species; with GCI to discuss on the fight against corruption and access to information. The Head of Investigations Department and the Head of Legal Department held a meeting with Interpol in Yaounde to discuss on collaboration pertaining to cyber wildlife crime Investigations.

The LAGA Director was invited again by ILEA (International Law Enforcement Academy) to continue with the training of wildlife officers on the corruption and ethics parts that was built in 2011. There will be a follow-up on this as the Director of ILEA proposed that this program should also be taught outside of wildlife. The group was of wildlife officers, police, customs and judiciary from Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, Kenya and Botswana. He was also invited to give a presentation about establishing wildlife law enforcement in Central Africa in the IPPL conference in the US. He gave a presentation in front of a large audience of IPPL supporters. He used the opportunity of the tour to promote his new book to deliver two presentations on wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption. The first was in the World Bank headquarters and the second in Forest Service and included FWS, DOJ, and State Department.

The LAGA Director was invited to South Sudan to train wildlife officers, the police and judiciary. He gave 9 different presentations to 50 people on Intelligence led enforcement model, Sources of information, Undercover investigation principles, Classification of information, Cooperation and Enforcement arrest operations, Interrogation and establishing a case file, Fighting corruption and wildlife law enforcement, and case studies on Guinea – Conakry and Criminal ivory syndicates.

In September, LAGA Director gave a presentation in Uganda on corruption during a GAPIN conference. GAPIN is the World Customs Organization's initiative for fighting wildlife crime, a "green Customs" initiative with an officer working full time for this. More than a dozen African countries were represented. The person in the entire WCO (World Custom Organization) in charge of Ethics is interested in integrating LAGA further into WCO and talked about the ethics sub-committee of WCO.

LAGA Deputy Director travelled to Chad and his mission was focused on the massacre of hundreds of elephants in the Bouba Ndjida National park in Cameroon located near the Chadian border. This mission revealed that the Chadian authorities do not also have a sense of responsibility and it is a pity and quite regrettable because this delay in replication is not only negatively impacting on regional wildlife law enforcement, but it could be seen from the Bouba Ndjida issue whereby concrete action could have been undertaken from the Chadian side.

LAGA Director travelled to Thailand and attended an Interpol meeting. His intervention was more on corruption and the fact enforcement should be measured in terms of prosecutions and not seizures. Many participants knew already about LAGA from previous meetings and Deputy Director's work; many showed a lot of interest in LAGA's work especially the Thai Police and Thai Judges. Everyone was very supportive saying LAGA is the only one that actually manages to get things done. In addition to the meeting, he sought out and created contact with more collaborators and build investigations ties so that LAGA can get a constant flow of information from Asia to make arrests in Africa and vice versa.

He also travelled to Guinea – Conakry to initiate replication activities there. His mission confirmed the fact that Guinea Conakry which has been of great concern for several years is a wildlife trafficking hotspot; the high scale of corruption and complicity; the astronomical scale of the illegal trade in ivory with huge quantities openly displayed; more than 250 leopard skins and more than 70 lion skins openly sold; Guinean Government documenting past shipments in chimps etc. He also held several meetings with high level government officials, CITES Management Authority (MA), and NGOs.

LAGA Director travelled again to Guinea – Conakry and concretized the replication of LAGA activities there with a sting arrest operation. 7 major traffickers were arrested while trying to sell more than 60 Kg of ivory and 10 leopard skins. Luc Mathot left Gabon to assist in investigations and recruitment of local team and the replication will be assured by Charlotte Houpline of Wara Conservation Project with the support of USFS.

LAGA Director continued with a special mission on the Bouba Ndjida massacre. These poachers have been seen in south east corner of Chad and this can be the last chance of intercepting them. Prior to that, they have been spotted in north east CAR moving west, and projecting their route, the Chadian authorities were alerted that the poachers may move south of Am Timan towards Sudan. As the armed group is about to cross the border into Sudan in the forthcoming days, follow up investigation in North Sudan remains the last hope for effective action against this group, that is very likely to return and threaten both elephants as well as cross border security for Chad, CAR and Cameroon. Information has been shared between four governments on movements of Sudanese poachers on the border of CAR – Chad towards Sudan.

In November, LAGA Director attended the GRASP conference in Paris – France. Many NGOs and Governments were present and they all showed great appreciation to LAGA. LAGA was at the center of attention because they all talked about enforcement being the number one solution and so many people referred to LAGA when they spoke. LAGA Director also made a very strong presentation right after the Secretary General of CITES which prompted someone when questions were answered in a panel to ask the Secretary General how come LAGA does so much and CITES so little. More NGOs want to replicate LAGA.

The LAGA Director and Coordinator of Conservation Justice – Gabon travelled to Togo to start the ground work for a replication project in that country named TALFF (Togo Application des Lois sur la Faune et la Flore). The project aims to protect chimpanzees in

addition to other threatened species in Togo and its region from illegal hunting and wildlife trade by increasing the level of wildlife law enforcement nationwide and deterring potential ape and elephant poachers and wildlife traffickers from conducting these activities.

Presentations were given on activism to students of America school; on activism to international university students; on NGOs-Governments collaboration on regional wildlife law enforcement in the Central Africa sub region and also worked on the drafting of 2012-2016 action plan by including law enforcement activities during the Cross River Gorilla Action Planning Workshop in Limbe – South West Region.

LAGA Director made a presentation to a group of 60 Peace Corps volunteers on activism and bringing about a change in Africa; participated in the US Embassy consultation with Civil Society; participated in WWF strategy meetings on the wildlife crime campaign; participated in meetings on access to information and the TAIGO award for media, citizens and NGOs fighting for access to information.

A Jurist was sent to Chad to evaluate and initiate court cases against dealers arrested; discuss with local authorities for the legal follow-up of cases initiated; to recruit a lawyer as well. 2 cases were effectively sent to court against 7 dealers in Amtiman. A lawyer was recruited in N'djamena and discussions held with authorities, Ecoguards of Zakouma national park and NGOs.

## **8. Management**

The year 2012 ended with excellent results - all the departments meeting up with the set targets. Work on the reconstruction of LAGA continued as well as work on action plans for departments. The Annual Activity and Financial Reports for 2011 were printed and distributed to all the stakeholders. The electronic versions are available on line on the LAGA website [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org). This is a result of teamwork involving all the departments in LAGA – Investigations, Legal, Media, Operations and Management.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training sessions continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon 2 Jurists arrived from AALF Gabon and an Investigator from PALF – Republic of Congo arrived to be trained under the regional exchange program. Training and exchange of project personnel in regional enforcement will continue with the other projects in the forthcoming months. Others that had been trained before include the Coordinator of RALF – CAR, Jurist – PALF Congo, Investigator – PALF Congo, Jurists - AALF Gabon and Investigator AALF - Gabon.

The series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development introduced by the LAGA Director continued during this period. This is a part of a new project aimed to strengthen the capacity, unity and values of the LAGA family. The weekly meeting sessions also continued. Other meetings and the agendas are initiated by any LAGA family member at any time. These meetings

are geared towards identifying problems and proposing solutions to these problems and other existing ones so as to ascertain the smooth running of the organization, and to take initiatives in the development of the family members and the organization at large by carrying out specific assignments. During this period, there were series of meetings to discuss about finance, donors, and the bonus system among others.

Several volunteers were tried in the Legal and Investigations Department with 1 retained in the Investigations Department. He was judged to have met up with the standards set by LAGA. Conversely due to lack of produced results, 3 volunteers were let go, 2 from the Legal Department and another from the Investigations Department. This came after a long period of evaluation of and the conclusion was that they failed to step up to the next level in terms of performance and output. It is hoped that they will stay in touch with the LAGA family, and participate in some LAGA events.

The LAGA family is not only about work but also in assisting one another during joyful and sad events, as well as coming together as a unit out of the working environment so as to permit members to know one another and their various families much better. This period saw the Alain Ononino, LAGA's Deputy Director getting married. The LAGA family comprising of a strong delegation actively took part in the marriage and the newly wedded couple was assisted materially, morally and financially showing that the family as a unit is always there not only for work but for happy and sad moments.

The LAGA family took off some time from work and had a 2 day trip at the sea resort town of Limbe – South West, and a 1 day trip to the Mefou National Park - Center. It should be noted that the trip was not only about having a good time, but to commune together, get to know one another out of the working environment, and meet spouses and children of LAGA family members.

This period also saw the LAGA Director having a 1 month visit to Israel for medical reasons. This meant the LAGA family running LAGA without the director and the excellent results in all fronts proved the growing capacity and independence of its departments.

In December, the LAGA family members went for a 3 weeks holiday that started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 with a special lunch and Christmas bonuses for good produced results.

## **9. Replication of LAGA Activities**

### **9.1. – General**

LAGA's goal from 2003 has been to create a new model for NGO – Government collaboration establishing wildlife law enforcement. Our hope was that by bringing about results with an innovative approach, we will be able to change the existing system and trigger a paradigm shift in the way NGOs tackle wildlife crime. The model is essentially shifting away from targeting small-time poachers in the forest and focusing in

prosecution of major dealers, fighting head the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – Corruption. Following several awards and recommendations from the international community to replicate the model in other countries, LAGA has started working with other NGOs transferring the LAGA experience and model throughout the sub-region. The LAGA model is currently operating in 6 countries – Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Central African Republic (CAR), Gabon, Guinea – Conakry and Togo. Much groundwork has been covered in Chad and Nigeria and the operational part of the replication will start forthwith. The replication of the LAGA model is also geared taking cross section lessons outside of wildlife conservation; these include the fight against corruption, fostering activism, fight against child trafficking etc. <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/tabid/166/Default.aspx>

In the Replication of LAGA activities and Regional Law Enforcement, March month was marked by the concretization of replication in Guinea- Conakry. LAGA Director travelled to Guinea – Conakry and concretized the replication of LAGA activities there with a sting arrest operation. 7 major traffickers were arrested while trying to sell more than 80 Kg of ivory and 10 leopard skins. Luc Mathot left Gabon to assist in investigations and recruitment of local team and the replication will be assured by Charlotte Houpline of Wara Conservation Project with the support of USFS.

Also significant during this period was the launching of replication activities in Togo in November. The LAGA Director and Coordinator of Conservation Justice – Gabon travelled to Togo to start the ground work for a replication project in that country named TALFF (Togo Application des Lois sur la Faune et la Flore); and the launching of Operation Hope (GAPIN II) in Gabon; and the shooting of a Jurist with AALF who is presently doing fine.

Special mission carried out in Chad and in the CAR by RALF concerning the Bouba Ndjida elephant massacre were supervised by LAGA. These missions in the South East of Chad and North East of CAR were focused on getting more information and tracking the poachers alleged to come from Sudan who killed more than 300 elephants. Missions in Chad were carried out by a local Chadian Investigator and an International Investigator. In CAR, missions were carried out by RALF Coordinator and other informants contacted and recruited locally in the Northern part of CAR.

LAGA Director was invited again by ILEA to continue with the training of wildlife officers on the corruption and ethics parts that was built in 2011. There will be a follow-up on this as the Director of ILEA proposed that this program should also be taught outside of wildlife. The group was of wildlife officers, police, customs and judiciary from Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, Kenya and Botswana.

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

LAGA Director gave a presentation in Uganda on corruption during a GAPIN conference. GAPIN is the World Customs Organization's initiative for fighting wildlife crime, a "green Customs" initiative. At the end of the conference, it was agreed that concrete operations termed Operation Hope (GAPIN II) will be launched in the sub-region. This was effectively launched in Gabon and Operation Hope was carried out: Several confiscations were done including ivory (27 bracelets, 2 collars, 8 hankos, 2 combs, and 12 pendants), 6 leopard teeth, a bag of pangolin shells, 31 hippocampus and more than 40 kg of shark fins.

The first edition of the Central African Wildlife Law Enforcement Newsletter was produced and distributed electronically to over 1000 people. The newsletter that is expected to be published each month shall concisely give a picture of the activities of the various projects working on wildlife law enforcement within the sub-region and in Guinea Conakry; and it is expected to harness reports of the various projects into one piece for easy reading and reference.

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training session continue to be held in Yaounde – Cameroon and trips made to other projects in the sub-region. Also, the regional law library that was created continues to put into value what has been done before based on the LAGA model and how to proceed from there. This library with the documents therein could help in the creation of other structures in other parts of Africa and the world at large by motivated individuals.

This period also saw effective arrests in Cameroon, Gabon, Congo and CAR and many cases resulted in good prosecutions. But the most important theme common to all four countries was complicity and involvement of local authorities in the trade as seen in some of the court decisions in all the countries.

On a daily basis all LAGA Departments assist in the various activities of the replication projects (PALF – Congo, AALF – Gabon and RALF – Central African Republic etc.) on all managerial and financial issues especially reports; Investigations and Operations planification and supervision; legal follow-up of all court cases; and publishing and pushing through all the media pieces with all the necessary information posted on the various project websites.

## **9.2. Gabon**

AALF participated in the HOPE operation initiated by the World Customs Organization from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of October in the Libreville airport. Several ivory confiscations have been achieved on Chinese citizens during this operation. Several fishing products seizures facilitated by AALF were carried out at the airport thanks to training and collaboration with customs, fishing direction and security department of the airport. It concerns 164 kg of shark fins, one hundred hippocampus, and pangolin scales.

Other operations were carried with ivory and leopard skin traffickers were arrested during this period. 3 of the traffickers are among the more important and active of the country. More than 130 kg of ivory have been seized during these operations, with a maximum of 40 kg seized in Libreville during one operation. AALF also supported the judicial on 27

others cases for which operations (arrests) were initiated by authorities with AALF support. An unprecedeted feline skins operation carried out by AALF, MEF and B2 against a wildlife dealer with 6 leopard skins, 2 elephant tails, and 17 other feline skins while trying to illegally trade in them.

Very significant prosecution was obtained - the Prefect of Mitzig was eventually sentenced to 12 months in prison. He is to serve 7 months in prison and 5 months suspended; he also has to pay a fine of 300,000 FCFA (\$600) and 500,000 FCFA (\$1000) as damages. The 2 poachers sponsored by the Prefect were each sentenced to 10 months in prison, 8 months to be served in prison and 2 months suspended. These sentences are a clear message to authorities that they will not be allowed to continue illegal trade in wildlife with impunity and that trade of influence and corruption cannot deter the enforcement of wildlife law in Gabon.

In December, a Jurist with AALF was shot in the leg during an operation in which the poachers were armed. He is doing fine and his morale is very high; he is willing to go back to Oyem where he was shot. This was as a result of lack of adherence to procedure of operations and lack of support from the police and gendarmes who did not come on time during the arrest operation. This event shows the continuous risks taken by activists to put in place proper wildlife law enforcement activities and the fight against corruption.

New Antenna opened in Tchibanga: support from the legal adviser to MEF and ANPN staff. AALF participated in a training session organized by French Gendarmes in Libreville. OPJ and magistrates were trained on legal procedures with regards to law enforcement. AALF also participated in an audit organized by OAB (Organisation Africaine du Bois) in four logging companies in Woleu-Ntem to help set up effective management levels in these logging companies. AALF effectively started a law enforcement program in the forest sector in Gabon.

During this period, 2 Jurists arrived from AALF Gabon to be trained in Yaounde – Cameroon under the regional exchange program. Others that had been trained before include the Coordinator of RALF – CAR, Jurist – PALF Congo, Investigator – PALF Congo, Jurists - AALF Gabon and Investigator AALF - Gabon.

LAGA assists AALF in getting the information pertaining to the burning of ivory in Gabon to the media. AALF - Gabon was one of the organizations that fought for the realization of this moment. President Ali Bongo of Gabon set fire on the country's entire ivory stockpile of over 4000kg worth some millions of dollars amidst a huge number of onlookers including top government officials and the international community. LAGA and AALF worked on joint investigations in the South of Cameroon.

For more information on AALF, go to <http://www.conservation-justice.org>

### **9.3. The Republic of Congo**

Dealers were arrested and channeled to court with the assistance of the PALF Project These cases were centered on wildlife crimes, corrupt officials relating to wildlife cases

and criminals involved with illegal arms relating to wildlife cases. Prison sentences were obtained

A dealer in chimp was arrested on River Congo on the way to Kinshasa, the captain and crew member of the boat transporting the chimp also arrested. Because of this arrest, the PALF team was threatened by the owner of the boat who tried to exploit his high level contacts in the government in order to corrupt and influence the legal proceedings. He claims to be the driver of the President of Congo; drove to the court supposedly with a vehicle from the Presidency, and tried to set the suspects free, an act that was combated by the PALF team and the forces of law and order. He went to the Presidency to request that the dossier be removed from court; the Presidency requested a meeting with PALF to clarify the details of the case and refused to throw out the case. The case is still on trial.

A military person - a Sergeant in the Congolese army was arrested in Dolisie for organizing the killing of elephant and trafficking the ivory. He is a major dealer with a network of hunters who kill the animals for him, supplying him with ivory.

During this period, the inauguration of the Ouezzo Prison took place and poachers transferred to Ouezzo Prison; this came after PALF Coordinator gave a presentation during a workshop for the TRIDOM landscape on wildlife law enforcement and corruption. Also, the Supreme Court renewed the of support for PALF

Naftali Honig, PALF Coordinator attended the CITES CoP in Geneva – Switzerland as part of the Congolese Delegation. They made numerous interventions, notably being particularly vocal on the importance of francophone elephant range being more involved in the decision making mechanism for ivory sales. They also attended meetings in the margins relevant to the African Elephants Specialists Group.

An ecoguard arrested in Sangha in Northern Congo. Killing of elephants and trading in their products. In a joint operation, MDDEF / Gendarmerie Nationale, with support from African Parks Network and PALF, two suspects were arrested; one of whom recently deserted his post as an Ecoguard. Northern Odzala-Kokoua National Park is still under threat. These suspects admitted to being involved with a recent elephant killing in the national park and the transport of an assault rifle. A man involved in traffic of an AK-47 for elephant poaching arrested in Sangha.

In December, A dealer in meat of protected animal species arrested following a bus search by PALF, Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Gendarmerie and African Parks. Hundreds of kilograms of bushmeat, fresh and smoked, stored in a series of hidden compartments throughout the bus were seized including fresh mandrill carcasses. Attempted bribery, verbal threats and traffic of influence were commonplace and occasionally the Ecoguards are faced with serious aggression.

2 Jurists from PALF and one PALF investigator – Republic of Congo were trained in Yaounde under the regional exchange program. This is a continuation of training and exchange of project personnel in regional enforcement to further improve output and make investigations, operations, legal follow-up and media coverage more effective.

LAGA assisted PALF in planning and coordinating missions. LAGA and PALF worked on joint investigations in the South of Cameroon. In February, LAGA assisted PALF in planning missions, coordinating and participating in 2 operations arresting 5 dealers in hippo teeth and chimp skin. LAGA also helped PALF and RALF in the legal follow-up of the cases as a result of the arrest operations.

For more information on PALF, go to the new website <http://www.palf-enforcement.org>

#### **9.4. Central African Republic – CAR**

Replication activities in CAR slowed down this year with less operations carried out. A few operations were all the same carried out and the project is however still encouraged to get back on track and carry out real arrest operations as opposed to meetings and seizures.

A dealer in crocodile skins was arrested at Sibut, about 200km from Bangui with crocodile skins. This comes after a long period of no arrest operations and hopefully, more concrete actions will continue.

On the plan of action for 2012 - 2013, RALF carried out special missions in Ombella M'poko, Nana-Mambere and Mambere-Kadei and held meetings with politico-administrative authorities, the judiciary and forces of law and order to strengthen collaboration with them on the application of wildlife law in their various areas of competence. A meeting was held with the Director of Judicial affairs in the Ministry in charge of wildlife on procedures in closing the artisanal market in Bangui where products of protected wildlife species are being sold.

A working session was held with the LAGA Deputy Director in Bangui on the difficulties facing the project, on capacity building and how to orient activities towards arrest operations. RALF held a meeting with officials of the Ministry in charge of wildlife on review and putting up an effective code for the protection of endangered wildlife species in CAR.

LAGA Departments assisted RALF – Central African Republic on activity and financial reports; use of the LAGA Manual especially on Investigations and Operations planification and supervision; legal follow-up of all court cases; and follow-up in publishing and pushing through all the media pieces with all the necessary information posted on the RALF webpage. With very few operations, RALF is called upon to focus more on field operations as opposed to meetings and other administrative work.

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

Go to <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/RALF/tbid/165/Default.aspx> for more information.

#### **9.5. Chad**

Special mission continued in Chad concerning the Bouba Ndjida elephant massacre and supervised by LAGA. The mission in the South East of Chad was focused on getting

more information and tracking the poachers alleged to come from Sudan who killed more than 300 elephants.

In May, a Jurist was sent to Chad to evaluate and initiate court cases against dealers arrested; discuss with local authorities for the legal follow-up of cases initiated; to recruit a lawyer as well. 2 cases were effectively sent to court against 7 dealers in Amtiman. A lawyer was recruited in N'djamena and discussions held with authorities, Ecoguards of Zakouma national park and NGOs.

In July following information that 40 elephants were massacred in the Chari Barguirmi area in Chad, LAGA tried to harness information so as to put up a good strategy in getting what exactly happened, effective ways in searching and arresting the poachers as well as working with the conservators in the Northern part of Cameroon to prepare for any eventuality in case the poachers cross over from Chad. Unfortunately, it is difficult to have the right measure of control given that effective replication activities are still to kick-off in Chad. This problem highlights the immediate need for the start of replication of LAGA activities in that country so as to directly intervene in such cases.

In December, LAGA Deputy Director traveled to Chad to continue to push for the implementation of a wildlife law enforcement replication project in that country. In this framework, some meetings were held with officials of the US embassy in Chad as well as with local conservation NGOs (APROCOFF and APN), and some top governmental officials including the Technical Adviser of the Prime Minister in charge of environmental issues and the Deputy Director of wildlife.

In July following information that 40 elephants were massacred in the Chari Barguirmi area in Chad, LAGA tried to harness information so as to put up a good strategy in getting what exactly happened, effective ways in searching and arresting the poachers as well as working with the conservators in the Northern part of Cameroon to prepare for any eventuality in case the poachers cross over from Chad. Unfortunately, it is difficult to have the right measure of control given that effective replication activities are still to kick-off in Chad. This problem highlights the immediate need for the start of replication of LAGA activities in that country so as to directly intervene in such cases.

In December, LAGA Deputy Director traveled to Chad to continue to push for the implementation of a wildlife law enforcement replication project in that country. In this framework, some meetings were held with officials of the US embassy in Chad as well as with local conservation NGOs (APROCOFF and APN), and some top governmental officials including the Technical Adviser of the Prime Minister in charge of environmental issues and the Deputy Director of wildlife.

## **9.6. Nigeria**

Replication did not advance very much in Nigeria this year because of security issues.

## **9.7. Guinea – Conakry**

In February, LAGA Director travelled to Guinea – Conakry to initiate replication activities there. His mission confirmed the fact that Guinea which has been of great concern for several years is a wildlife trafficking hotspot; the high scale of corruption and complicity; the astronomical scale of the illegal trade in ivory with huge quantities openly displayed; more than 250 leopard skins and more than 70 lion skins openly sold; Guinean Government documenting past shipments in chimps etc. He held meetings with high level government officials, CITES Management Authority and NGOs.

In March, Guinea had its first ever arrests of wildlife traffickers, and the beginning of its application of its wildlife law. 7 major traffickers were arrested after having been identified and recorded explaining their international illegal activity, their methods of evading law enforcement authorities around the world, and their vast international networks. They were arrested in a sting operation trying to sell more than 60 Kg of ivory and 10 leopard skins. The operation was taken by the Interpol team by the order of the Director of Police, a team sent by the Minister of Environment, assisted by the state counsel who was personally present in the operation. One of the agents participating in the operation said in the press conference - "this is the first time we have this since independence".

This operation followed after an initial mission undertaken the previous by the LAGA Director and it marks the launching of replication in Guinea. This could have never happened without the direct involvement of the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Justice and the Minister delegate of Security, Director of National Police and Head of Interpol NCB. The recordings of the traffickers are very interesting exposing new modus operandi, networks with representatives in China and Europe, sales in the US, containers etc. As sources to all of Central Africa via Nigeria and Abidjan we had two suspects talking of Zimbabwe and Burundi as sources of ivory. This is very worrying if confirmed as it implies illegal sales of government stock.

This continued in May when the newest LAGA's replication and member of our Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Network –GALF Guinea Conakry carried out a new wave of arrests. 6 major dealers were arrested with more than 800 items, mostly ivory, from hankos and figurines to raw tusks. The operation has been coordinated with Interpol and the head of Police, the Ministry of Environment Water and Forests, and the Ministry of Justice at the highest levels.

This came about following Naftali Honig's (PALF Congo Coordinator) successful mission to assist Charlotte Houpline (GALF Coordinator) to ensure our law enforcement efforts are sustainable. To give an insight to the influence and bribing-power such big dealers have in an impoverished country like Guinea:

- According to investigations, one single ivory sculpture was valued at \$55,000.
- More than \$30,000 in foreign currency cash was found on site (mostly 100\$ notes and Euros).

Investigations in Guinea Conakry and identification of major dealers continued including a military officer of Presidency Office working at the airport who may be involved in the

chimpanzee traffic between Guinea and China. Follow-up of cases in court also continued regarding cases that resulted from operations in the first semester after the concretization of replication in that country.

During the second semester, it was realized that the slowdown of activities in Guinea was actually due to underestimated health problems of the GALF Coordinator, Charlotte Houpline. LAGA assisted in a health evacuation of Charlotte as she is on wheel chair, half her body paralyzed. She is in hospital with multiple serious problems that will take months to start showing improvement. A new action plan was revised to rebuild the GALF program started with recruitment of a new interim coordinator planned for December, training of GALF staff in Gabon and Cameroon planned for January, and restart of arrests in February.

LAGA met with Interpol Conakry in Yaounde on the new action plan.

### **9.8. Togo**

This year was also marked the launching of replication activities in Togo. The LAGA Director and Coordinator of Conservation Justice – Gabon travelled to Togo in November to start the ground work for a replication project in that country named TALFF (Togo Application des Lois sur la Faune et la Flore). The replication assessment mission in Togo is mainly due to leads on major ivory trafficking with more than a hundred kg of ivory on display, but also other several of our investigations pointing to Togo on shark fins trade, and apes. In September a Togolese was arrested in Hanoi with rhino horn and ivory tusks. Togo has the only deep sea port in West Africa and one of the busiest airports around. It also has the biggest black magic market of Africa.

### **9.9. East and Southern Africa**

LAGA Director was invited again by ILEA (International Law Enforcement Academy) to continue with the training of wildlife officers on the corruption and ethics parts that was built in 2011. There will be a follow-up on this as the Director of ILEA proposed that this program should also be taught outside of wildlife. The group was of wildlife officers, police, customs and judiciary from Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, Kenya and Botswana.

The LAGA Director was invited to South Sudan by WCS to train wildlife officers, the police and judiciary. He also participated in the World Customs Organization's (WCO) training in Uganda on corruption during a GAPIN conference. GAPIN is the World Customs Organization's initiative for fighting wildlife crime, a "green Customs" initiative. More than a dozen African countries were represented. The person in the entire WCO (World Custom Organization) in charge of Ethics is interested in integrating LAGA further into WCO and talked about the ethics sub-committee of WCO.

### **9.10. Fostering Activism**

During this period, LAGA continued to foster activism internally and externally. The NGO is not a technical institute in charge of mere execution of Program. The NGO should foster activism and act in the spirit of fighting for a cause and undertake a secondary goal to produce activist, leaders and bring a positive change to their country

beyond the service of the NGO. The NGO should instill specified values in its members. Staff is recruited not according to merely skills but examined in their values and potentials to become independent activists. The rarest quality of personnel is honesty and the desire to bring a change in one's country. Any recruit has to pass a period of volunteering where these aspects (values) are thoroughly examined. The post in the NGO should not be regarded as a job but as a mission and therefore demanding exceptional devotion, commitment, sacrifice, initiatives, self-discipline, fitting a fight for a cause. At any point of time, when a member of the organization does not prove these qualities, he/she will be removed. LAGA members are encouraged to carry any external activities connected to a cause and some NGO's time will be given to do so.

Fostering Community Activism is a field that is largely ignored in education work in the developing world context. Guidelines and lesson plans in educating communities in anything from healthcare, to agriculture; but teaching skills for individuals is different from developing a community. Community activism relates to the social capital of a community – the shared norms or values that promote social cooperation, instantiated in actual social relationships. Transfer of skills is therefore not all that is needed in order to develop a community. We need to instill a spirit of community service valuing the public interest. When we refer to "Strengthening a Community", "Developing Community Leadership", "Mobilizing a Community" - we do not refer to mere transfer of skills. We do not refer to human capital but to social capital.

Creating Independent Activists is one aspect that LAGA uses to foster activism. The NGO members are encouraged to develop their own projects on the various development issues of their country and are given NGO time and management time to do develop the project in the vision of turning it in to an independent NGO/paper/book. The function of leadership is not producing more followers but to produce more leaders.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tqid/77/Default.aspx>

Presentations were given to Peace Corps volunteers on fostering community activism for the development of an educational manual for fostering activism to transform rural communities in Cameroon.

This year, 3 books were written by some LAGA family members. The Director of LAGA, Ofir Drori published a book titled The Last Great Ape – A Journey Through Africa and a Fight for the Heart of the Continent. It is a story of the fight against extinction and the tragedy of endangered worlds, not just of animals but of people struggling to hold onto their culture. The book reveals the intense beauty and strife that exist side by side in Africa, and Ofir makes the case that activism and dedication to a cause are still relevant in a cynical modern world. This dramatic story is one of courage and hope and, most importantly, a search for meaning.

Books were also published by Sone Nkoke Christopher and Alain Bernard Ononino. Sone's book is titled Cameroon's Wildlife – Endangered Animal Species, a handbook that captures the splendour of Cameroon, its socio-cultural and touristic attractions; national parks and sanctuaries which serve as important habitats for endangered wildlife

and most importantly, the identification of Class A animals and the laws aimed at protecting them.

Alain's book is titled 'Lois et Procédures en Matière Faunique' (Laws and Procedures Governing the Wildlife Sector in Cameroon) is a compilation of relevant provisions of all the laws and regulations governing the wildlife sector, an analysis of administrative and legal procedures to be followed as far as wildlife matters are concerned and how to fight corruption and related offences in the wildlife sector.

The series of thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates for the LAGA Team on corruption and development introduced by the LAGA Director continued during this period. Every week, the NGO is carrying educational activities where members are encouraged to debate issues of development, activism and encourage critical thinking of the realities of the country and the ways to bring change. For that, the organization is having a library of films and presentations prepared by the NGO members. Some of the issues discussed during this period were on the Participation of Women in Politics in Cameroon, The emancipation of a woman and her accession to post of responsibility, Surviving progress, Emerging Trends in land-use conflicts in Cameroon, Migration in Cameroon etc.

## ANNEX 1- CASE TRACKING SYSTEM – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2012

<u>Case num.</u>	<u>Date of operation</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case name</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Profile</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Countries involved</u>	<u>Status</u>
1	24-01-12	South West	Tinto - Mamfe	Bessong Robert Egbe	Dealing in primate parts	Trade in Skulls	Following more information from another informant, a dealer in primate parts was arrested in Tinto – South West Region with chimp and mandrill skulls. He has been in this trade for long and investigations are still ongoing to get more skulls that he is alleged to have hidden.		Locked while on trial
2	28-02-12	Center	Yaounde	Ekovae Mbita Simon	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant Tails	A regular dealer in elephant products was arrested in Yaounde – Center with elephant tails. He travelled all the way from Djoum – South, a hotspot area for trade in ivory and other elephant trophies. He was caught on tape saying that highly placed officials in Djoum are involved in ivory trade with many accomplices found in the Cameroon army. More investigations are ongoing to penetrate the network, target and arrest the high level dealers.		Locked while on trial
3	23-03-12	East	Abong Mbang	Eko Simon	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant Meat	A dealer in elephant products arrested with more than 10 large chunks of elephant meat in Ebola - Mindaurou. He is known to be a regular dealer in elephant products including ivory. The operation was carried out with MINFOF agents from the East Regional delegation.		Locked while on trial
4	23-03-12	East	Messok-Lomie	Ndamono Felix	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	The leader of a network of dealers of elephant products arrested in Messok - Lomie with 3 other members of his network. They were arrested for the killing of elephants and illegally trading in their products and trophies. During the arrest, they were in possession of 3 packets of marijuana and 2 hunting rifles. The operation was initiated by MINFOF and LAGA was responsible in controlling the legal procedure, assuring the dealers were taken to the court and followed-up the court cases in Abong Mbang - East.		Locked while on trial
5	23-03-12	East	Messok-Lomie	Okala Gervais	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	A member of the Messok network arrested for killing and trading in elephant products. He is said to be the main hunter responsible for killing the elephants.		Locked while on trial
6	23-03-12	East	Messok-Lomie	Nguele Jean	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	Another member of the Messok network responsible for the drying of the elephant meat, transportation and searching for clients for the meat, ivory and other elephant trophies.		Locked while on trial
7	23-03-12	East	Messok-Lomie	Metsie Atsenkel Symphorien	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	Still another member of the Messok network also involved in the drying of the meat, and transportation of the meat , ivory and other elephant trophies		Locked while on trial
8	24-03-12	East	Yokadouma	Ndassa Abdou Ramani	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A recidivist arrested in Yokadouma with 12 elephant tusks after killing 6 elephants. He had been arrested before in Abong Mbang and after being granted bail, he went straight back to poaching elephants. The operation was initiated by MINFOF and LAGA was responsible in controlling the legal procedure, assuring the dealers were taken to the court and followed-up the court cases in Yokadouma.		Locked while on trial
9	24-03-12	East	Yokadouma	Nkah Arsene Theirry Auguste	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A partner of Ndassa Abdou Ramani with whom he was arrested in Yokadouma. They were arrested for the killing of 6 elephants and illegally trying to traffick 12 elephant tusks.		Locked while on trial
10	24-03-12	East	Yokadouma	Angoula Laurent	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	Another partner of Ndassa Abdou arrested for killing 6 elephants. He is known to be mainly responsible for selling the elephant meat.		Locked while on trial
11	01-04-12	East	Salapoumbe	Bialsang Jean-Bosco	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	A regular dealer in elephant products arrested with 2 others for killing elephants in a protected area and illegally trying to trade in the elephant products. Also arrested with a gun and ammunition used in killing the elephants. The operation was initiated by MINFOF with LAGA coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.		Locked while on trial

12	01-04-12	East	Salapoumbe	Yondo Jean-Paul	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	Another dealer arrested for killing elephants in a protected area and illegally trying to trade in the elephant products. Also arrested with a gun and ammunition used in killing the elephants. The operation was initiated by MINFOF with LAGA coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.		Locked while on trial
13	01-04-12	East	Salapoumbe	Ameudi Beautrice	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	Still another dealer in elephant products arrested with 2 others for killing elephants in a protected area and illegally trying to trade in the elephant products.		Locked while on trial
14	15-04-12	East	Lomie	Pa'a Boba	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant tails	Dealer known to traffic ivory and other elephant products. Arrested while trying to sell 5 elephant tails in Lomie. Initially resisted arrest and conducted himself violently while at the Gendarmerie brigade of Lomie		Locked while on trial
15	16-04-12	East	Messok	Abdou Kadiri	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	A regular dealer in ivory arrested in PALLISCO timber concession for killing an elephant and trying to trade in its parts. He has a network of hunters whom he supplies with arms and ammunition. He was arrested with one of his poachers.		Locked while on trial
16	16-04-12	East	Messok	Natte Jean	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	A well known poacher of Baka origin arrested with Abdou Kadiri for killing an elephant and trying to trade in its parts. He is the main person who hunts to supply ivory and other elephant products to Kadiri.		Locked while on trial
17	17-04-12	East	Lomie	Ali Ahmed	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A major ivory trafficker heading a network that supplies ivory from the East to the Northern part of Cameroon. He and his partner were arrested in Lomie with 8 elephant tusks. He attempted to bribe the arresting team with 1 million FCFA (about \$2000) for his release, an act that was combated by the LAGA team in the field.		Locked while on trial
18	17-04-12	East	Lomie	Dairou	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A partner of Ali Ahmed arrested in Lomie with 8 elephant tusks. He assists in packaging and transportation of the ivory. They were arrested on their way from Yokadouma to the Northern part of Cameroon.		Locked while on trial
19	28-04-12	South	Mintom	Maya Samuel	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	Another major dealer arrested in Mintom with 8 elephant tails while trying to illegally trade in them. He claims to have steady customers in Djoum and Sangmelima, some of whom are high government officials. This claim is being investigated to permit the arrest of the said officials.		Locked while on trial
20	16-05-12	South West	Mamfe	Mohamadou Habibou	Dealing in live Ostriches	Pet trade	An International wildlife trafficker arrested in Mamfe by the Delegation of MINFOF Mamfe – South West Region while attempting to illegally enter with 8 ostriches into Cameroon from Nigeria with no official documents or permits. High level government officials of the South West Region were trying to intimidate MINFOF officials for their release and it is alleged that the birds were ordered by a multi-millionaire in the North West Region. LAGA assisted MINFOF to open a case file against the dealer in the Court of First Instance – Mamfe.	Nigeria	Free while on trial
21	06-06-12	Center	Yaounde	Ze Michel Nazaire	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant products	A regular dealer arrested with elephant products including tails and jaws in Yaounde. He is based in Akonolinga - Center Region and has been supplying elephant products including ivory in Yaounde to other dealers. He claims to be in the business for a long time, getting his products from the East Region. He proposed 2 million FCFA to the arresting team for his release, an act that was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field.		Locked while on trial
22	09-06-12	South	Djoum	Mbia Obounou David	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A major ivory dealer arrested with 6 elephant tusks and elephant meat in Djoum - South, a hotspot for ivory trafficking. He had 2 guns and ammunition on him. The operation was initiated by MINFOF - National Brigade with LAGA coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.		Locked while on trial

23	14-06-12	West	Bazou	Nyngui Beka Octave	Dealing in a live chimp	Pet trade	A well known dealer arrested with a live baby chimp while trying to illegally trade it in Bazou. He and his accomplice initially resisted arrest, instigating a crowd to intimidate the operations team; fortunately, the team used diplomacy, convinced the crowd on the necessity of getting the statements of offence of the dealers who were thereafter transported to Bangangte. The baby chimp was rescued and transported to Yaounde for upkeep and proper treatment in the Mfou sanctuary.		Locked while on trial
24	14-06-12	West	Bazou	Bandou Tangmi Bernard	Dealing in a live chimp	Pet trade	Another regular and the accomplice of Beka Octave arrested in Bazou with a live chimp while trying to illegally trade in it. He also resisted arrest and instigated crowd trouble. They were successfully conveyed to Bangangte for legal procedure and to be locked up. The chimp was rescued and taken to Yaounde.		Locked while on trial
25	05-07-12	South	Ambam	Ovono Zollo Armand	Dealing in a live mandrill	Pet trade	A major dealer arrested for trying to trade in a live mandrill. He initially resisted arrest and fighting with the operations team. He later denounced his accomplice who was also arrested		Locked while on trial
26	05-07-12	South	Ambam	Moungueti Mazou	Dealing in a live mandrill	Pet trade	Another major dealer and the accomplice of Zollo Armand arrested for illegal trafficking of live primates including a live mandrill. He claims to have sold many live primates before and that he has been in the trade for long.		Locked while on trial
27	06-07-12	South	Sangmelima	Belinga Parfait	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A well known, well connected and wealthy ivory trafficker arrested for trafficking 24 elephant tusks which he hid in his car. He had told a LAGA investigator that he gets ivory from Congo and Gabon and has buyers as far as Nigeria. LAGA has been tracking him for the past 3 years. The operation was initiated by MINFOF with LAGA coordinating, controlling legal procedure and follow-up in court.	Gabon, Congo, Nigeria	Locked while on trial
28	06-07-12	South	Sangmelima	Nyassa	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	Brother and accomplice of Belinga Parfait arrested while trafficking 24 elephant tusks. He is responsible for gathering ivory from poachers and searching for new clients.	Gabon, Congo, Nigeria	Locked while on trial
29	11-07-12	Littoral	Douala	Tamba Raymond	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A sailor arrested with 2 elephant tusks elephant teeth while trying to illegally trade in them in Douala. He was arrested with the products in his car which he uses to trade. Because of his job, it is suspected that he uses this means to trade in ivory internationally; this is still being investigated.		Locked while on trial
30	12-07-12	Center	Yaounde	Bingono Ango Salomon	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	Another well known ivory trafficker arrested with 6 elephant tusks in Yaounde while trying to illegally trade in them in a well known hotel. He travelled all the way from Sangmelima - South with the ivory for his client in Yaounde. He proposed 500.000 FCFA bribe to the arresting officers for his release, an act that was immediately squelched by the LAGA team in place.		Locked while on trial
31	17-08-12	Center	Yaounde	Takamchouang Emmanuel	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A long time ivory dealer arrested with 35 kg of ivory in the Briquerie neighbourhood in Yaounde. This area is very difficult to penetrate because of violence and is noted for harbouring major ivory dealers. He claims to have a partner who brought the ivory from Mbalm in the East near the Republic of Congo. He attempted to bribe the arresting officers with 500,000 FCFA so that the case could not be forwarded to the courts; an act stopped by the LAGA team in the field.		Locked while on trial
32	21-08-12	East	Mindourou	Sanang Achille	Dealing in bushmeat	Trade in bushmeat	A major dealer who had been on the run for months when initially suspected to be in possession of meat of protected wildlife species. Arrested with meat of wildlife including chimp parts and meat of yellow backed duiker. He is the main person in charge of hunting and was also arrested with 2 guns and ammunition together with his partner. The operation was initiated by MINFOF team and the arrest coordinated with the LAGA team in Yaounde. LAGA was also responsible in supervising the writing of the complaint report and the conveyance of the case with the suspects to the court in Abong Mbang - East Region.		Locked while on trial

33	21-08-12	East	Mindourou	Endoumzou Francois	Dealing in bushmeat	Trade in bushmeat	Partner of Sanang Achille arrested with meat of protected wildlife species including chimp parts and meat of yellow backed duiker. He is responsible for the transportation of the meat and getting them to clients.		Locked while on trial
34	22-08-12	Center	Yaounde	Elang Anyegue	Dealing in Leopard skin	Skin Trade	A dealer in leopard skins arrested with a large fresh leopard skin while attempting to illegally trade it in Yaounde. He is in charge of searching for clients for the skins while his partner. He was arrested with his female partner. They initially resisted arrest and fought in the car while being taken to the police station.		Locked while on trial
35	22-08-12	Center	Yaounde	Atsoawo Ze Marie	Dealing in Leopard skin	Skin Trade	Partner of Elang arrested while trying to illegally sell a leopard skin in Yaounde. She has a network of suppliers, keeps the skins in her house in Yaounde and sends out Elang to look for clients. She resisted arrest and bit the hand of one of the arresting officers while being taken to the police station.		Locked while on trial
36	08-09-12	East	Abong Mbang	Mefeu Majolie	Dealing in bushmeat	Trade in bushmeat	A female dealer arrested with 4 bags of bush meat including protected wildlife species. She was transporting the meat through one travelling agency from Lomie - East to Yaounde - Center and was arrested on the way. She attempted to bribe the arresting team for her release.		Locked while on trial
37	11-09-12	Center	Yaounde	Yonga Isabelle	Dealing in primate parts	Trade in gorilla parts	Another female dealer arrested in Yaounde while trying to trade in gorilla parts including a fresh skull as well as gorilla meat. She has a network of suppliers in Messamena - East from where she bought a full dead gorilla. She has been in the business for a long time and has a ready market in Yaounde.		Locked while on trial
38	22-09-12	South	Djoum	Eyen-yeng Maxime	Dealing in elephant products and human parts	Trade in elephant products and human parts	The leader of a network of traffickers in human parts and elephant meat busted in Djoum; a student in the University of Yaounde II - Soa. Most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it. The human body parts and the elephant meat were being ferried to Yaounde by the traffickers to serve as constitutive elements for some occultist practice by an important personality in the capital city. As in many of such practices, human body parts, baby parts etc are frequently used by unsuspecting people for black magic and witchcraft. The operations was the initiative of wildlife officials who are in a renewed alert mode to track wildlife criminals . This opens up a vast and new domain of crime in the country. It equally shows to what extend the trafficking of wildlife species can go with human parts becoming a trade item on the same level as wildlife species parts.		Locked while on trial
39	22-09-12	South	Djoum	Ada Zibi Gilles Savrel	Dealing in elephant products and human parts	Trade in elephant products and human parts	Co-leader of a network of traffickers in human parts and elephant meat busted in Djoum; also a student in the University of Yaounde II - Soa. Most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it. The operation was initiated by MINFOF with LAGA being involved in the arrest of 2 others, the writing of the PV and channelling the case to court in Djoum.		Locked while on trial
40	22-09-12	South	Djoum	Ndoum Zo'o Cyrille	Dealing in elephant products and human parts	Trade in elephant products and human parts	Another member of the network of traffickers in elephant meat and human parts dismantled in Djoum - South. Most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it. The human body parts and the elephant meat were being ferried to Yaounde by the traffickers to serve as constitutive elements for some occultist practice by an important personality in the capital city.		Locked while on trial
41	22-09-12	South	Djoum	Mengue Ndongo Philippe	Dealing in elephant products and human parts	Trade in elephant products and human parts	A member of the network of traffickers in elephant meat and human parts dismantled in Djoum - South. He is a student in Government High School - Djoum and was the one riding the motorcycle used in transporting the elephant meat and the human body parts. When first stopped at the control post by the wildlife officers, he passed the control and was later apprehended with the others at the second control post after being alerted by the first control post.		Locked while on trial

42	22-09-12	South	Djoum	Andang Emmanuel	Dealing in elephant products and human parts	Trade in elephant products and human parts	Another member of the network of traffickers in elephant meat and human parts dismantled in Djoum - South. Most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it. The human body parts and the elephant meat were being ferried to Yaounde by the traffickers to serve as constitutive elements for some occultist practice by an important personality in the capital city.		Locked while on trial
43	24-10-12	South	Ebolowa	Bikouth Joseph	Dealing in live primate	Pet trade	A major arrested with a live primate while attempting to trade in it in Ebolowa. He has been keeping this one for almost a year and had sold many others before claiming that he has made a lot of money from trade in wildlife species.		Locked while on trial
44	06-11-12	Center	Yaounde	Armand Awono	Dealing in a live primate	Pet trade	A dealer and his accomplice arrested with a live primate in Yaounde. He was arriving from Ngoumou - Center where he gets the animals and supplies them in Yaounde. He is aware of the illegality of his trade and claims to be friends with wildlife and enforcement authorities so to conveniently carryout his illegal trade in wildlife.		Locked while on trial
45	06-11-12	Center	Yaounde	Samuel Ngimba	Dealing in live primate	Pet trade	The accomplice of Armand residing in Yaounde. He seeks for buyers of wildlife supplied by Armand from Ngoumou. They were arrested together while trying to illegally trade in a live primate in Yaounde. The animal was rescued and taken to the Mvog Betsi Zoo for proper upkeep.		Locked while on trial
46	28-11-12	West	Tonga	Nje Dieudonne	Dealing in live primate	Pet trade	A retired sub-officer of the Cameroon Gendarmerie arrested with a live drill in Tonga while trying to illegally trade in it. He uses his position as a well known gendarme with a lot of connections to trade in protected wildlife species. The drill was rescued and taken to Yaounde for proper upkeep.		Locked while on trial
47	28-11-12	West	Tonga	Atchoumou Prosper	Dealing in live primate	Pet trade	Another dealer in live primates arrested with a chimp and a mangabey in Tonga. He has a network of suppliers in the West and Center Regions and supplies the animals in the Yaounde including foreigners. He claims to have been trading in live protected animals for a very long time.		Locked while on trial
48	02-12-12	Center	Yaounde	Esthere Onguene	Dealing in gorilla parts	Trade in gorilla parts	A female dealer arrested with 4 gorilla limbs - 2 feet and 2 hands in Yaounde while illegally trying to trade in them. The gorilla parts were brought from the Eastern Region of Cameroon. Much traffic of influence was observed while she was being kept at the police station with a military man and a relative purported to be a lawyer trying to negotiate for her release. Certainly because of this, the female dealer was not taken to the State Counsel because the MINFOF officials refused to sign the remand warrant and to convey the case to court.		Free while on trial
49	07-12-12	South	Djoum	Moubarack	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Elephant Tails	A major dealer, also a well-known business man with good connections with the authorities in Djoum arrested with 5 elephant tails. The tails were hidden in an inner room in his shop which he uses as cover for his trade in protected wildlife products. He initially resisted arrest, was violent and attacked one of the arresting officers.		Locked while on trial
50	15-12-12	South	Meyomessala	Ava Joseph	Dealing in Elephant Products	Trade in Ivory	A civil servant based in Meyomessala arrested with 2 elephant tusks that he hid in his car. He is known to have been doing illegal ivory trade for a long time and used his good connections with high government authorities to continue in the trade with impunity. He also resisted arrest and tried to use his friendship with the Gendarmerie Brigade of Meyomessala to stop the normal legal procedure. This was immediately combated by the LAGA team in the field and he was later conveyed to Sangmelima to be locked up.		Locked while on trial
51	31-12-12	North West	Befang - Bafut	Wuah Moses	Dealing in gorilla products	Trade in Gorilla skin	Another major dealer arrested with a gorilla skin while trying to trade in it. Blatant corruption is observed in this case because the dealer was allowed to leave the police station in Bafut and was reported that he escaped. A warrant of arrest has been issued for his arrest and investigations are ongoing to locate him.		Fugitive under chase

## ANNEX 2 - The Year in Pictures – Some major events



Prince Philip (left) and Ofir Drori (LAGA Director) during the award of The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal at Buckingham Palace – England. LAGA won 2 other awards - Condé Nast Traveler Environmental Award and the Marsh Christian Trust Award.



Connecting with nature - a cross section of LAGA family members during a one day trip to the Mefou National Park - Center, taking some time off from work. Another trip had been carried out in the sea resort city of Limbe – South West Region.



The traditional ruler of Nsem - Bafut Subdivision of the North West Region (in traditional attire) and MINFOF officials during the handing over of a baboon (in cage) as his contribution to the conservation efforts.

# CENTRAL AFRICAN WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

Newsletter N° 01/27.08.2012

Hello and Welcome,  
We forward to you the first edition of the Central African Wildlife Law Enforcement Network Newsletter which shall regularly brief you on the activities of organisations under this framework and on regional wildlife law enforcement.  
In this maiden edition of the newsletter we forward to you the first semester report of LAGA  
We wish you nice reading

---

[LAGA's First Semester Report January - June 2012](#)

Two baby chimp dealers arrested in Bazou Cameroon

LAGA-Camereroon  
AALF-Gabon  
PALF-Congo  
RALF-CAR  
GALF-Guinea Conakry

A section of the central African wildlife law enforcement newsletter produced & distributed electronically.

It seeks to expand the scope of readers on issues concerning wildlife law enforcement in the sub-region and beyond. The newsletter is expected to be published each month



One of the suspects (left) arrested in Djoum with elephant meat and human parts (above). He is carrying the traveling bag in which they were transporting the human parts including the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it. Reports coming in from Djoum say the products – the human body parts and the elephant meat were being ferried to Yaounde by the traffickers to serve as constitutive elements for some occultist practice by an important personality in the capital city.

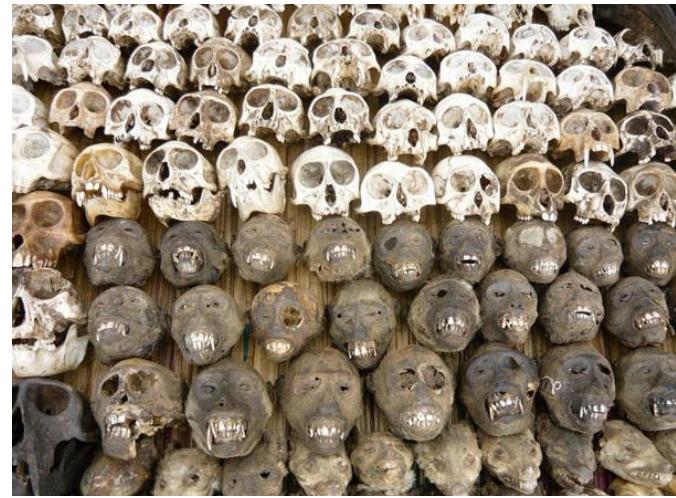


The uncovering of an alarming black market trade in human body parts and elephant meat in an operation that saw the arrest of 5 people in Djoum - South Region by wildlife authorities received wide media coverage both nationally and internationally. The "Popoli" Newspaper, a satirical that is one of the most read newspaper in Cameroon made it its front page cover like many other newspaper.

Most notable among this discovery was the head of a human being that still had some hairs on it.



Cash in Dollars and Euros, ivory items and raw ivory seized following the arrest of 6 dealers in Guinea – Conakry by GALF, a new member of our Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Network of following a new wave arrest operations.



Ape skulls openly displayed in a market in Togo. This image amongst others shows the magnitude of trade in apes and other threatened wildlife species that country triggered the launching enforcement activities so as to fight it.



2 well known ivory traffickers arrested in Lomie - East with 8 elephant tusks. Many others were arrested in spite of their connections and wealth.



Military man arrested elephant tusks and teeth in Douala Littoral. He uses his job to launder illegal wildlife trade like many others arrested in different operations.



Dealer in elephant products arrested in Ebola - Mindourou - East. He was also arrested with arms (guns, machetes), ammunitions and animal snares.



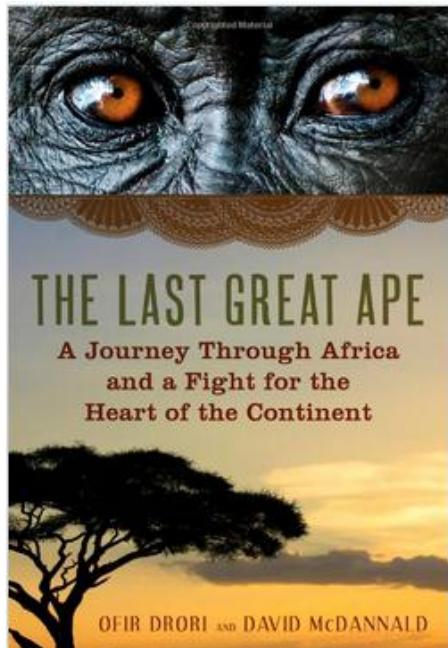
4 gorilla limbs that a female dealer was illegally trying to trade in. She was arrested in Yaounde – Center. Much trade of influence was observed in this case while the dealer was detained at the police station pending normal legal procedure.



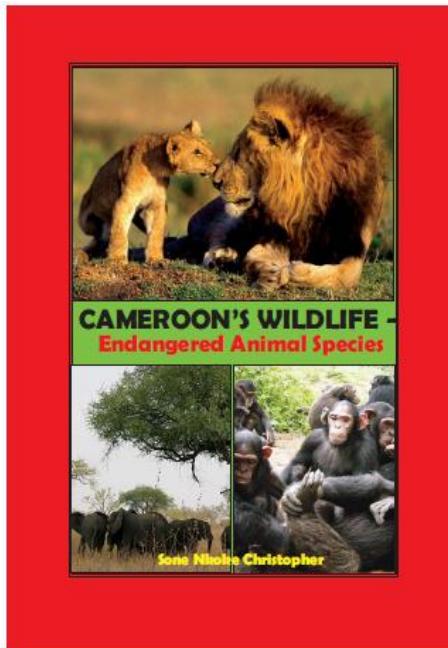
Internet wildlife dealer sentenced to 2 years imprisonment by the Court of First Instance, Muyuka – South West Region. A total of 28 cases were prosecuted with 54 dealers convicted despite the trade of influence, bribery attempts and corruption observed and combated in 80% of the cases



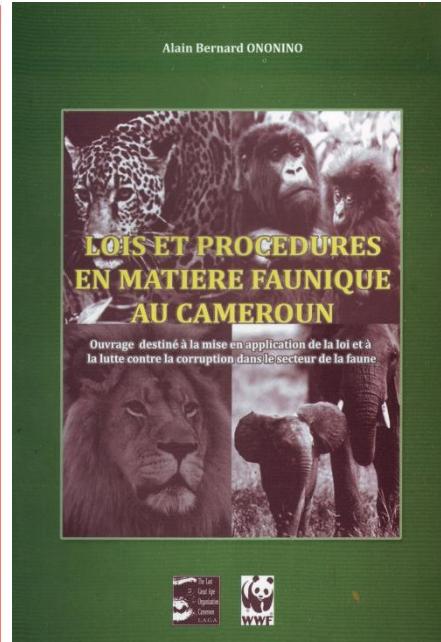
The 3 live primates (from left to right – chimp, drill and mangabey) rescued following the 2 operations that took place within hours in the small town of Tonga – Western Region. A total of 7 primates were rescued in different operations this year.



The Last Great Ape – A Journey Through Africa and a Fight for the Heart of the Continent by Ofir Drori. The book's aim is to connect the general public with activism.



Cameroon's Wildlife – Endangered Animal Species written by Sone Nkoke Christopher is on protected wildlife, where they can be located and the country's diversity



'Lois et Procédures en Matière Faunique' by Alain Bernard Ononino is on Laws and Procedures Governing the Wildlife Sector in Cameroon.

**SAVE OUR ENDANGERED ANIMALS**

For Good and concrete information on illegal wilflife trade, contact us and your identity will remain secret

**71 68 70 70**

Receive a bonus of at least 50,000 FCFA for good, useable and discreet information

**71 68 70 70**

By LAGA - The Last Great Ape Organization

Hotline established and flyers produced as part of a new strategy to get credible information and to make the Investigation missions more effective. Both English and French versions are being distributed to potential informant.