

# The Last Great Ape Organization - LAGA

## January 2008 Report



### Highlights

- A retired **military officer** is arrested for **trading in gorilla meat**.
- **MINFOF Minister's** new year's wishes **singles out LAGA** and **fight against corruption**.
- LAGA makes a full presentation at the **Central African Head of police Conference** on the **fight against wildlife crime** and the involvement of the police in this fight.

### General

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

LAGA participated in the **New Year wishes to Minister** of Forestry and Wildlife who in his New Year speech was **strong against corruption** and **singled out LAGA** in his congratulations to NGOs working in **collaboration with his ministry**.

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

### Investigations

- **14 investigations** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 provinces** including - North West, South West, West, East, South and Center.
- Investigations led to a **successful operation** in Abong Mbang, **East Province**. A dealer was arrested trying to sell **gorilla parts** (head and limbs) and he was put behind bars.
- A new investigator was sent to for a **field test** with a **positive feedback**. He **identified a dealer**, maintained contact with her and saw 3 leopard skins. An operation is planned as a follow-up on the acquired information.
- More contacts were made and collaboration acquired with 2 informers in Douala in connection to the **international trafficking** of a **live hippo** that was sent to the Lahore Zoo in **Pakistan**.

### Operations

An operation was carried out concerning illegal killing and detaining of a gorilla.

- 15/01/08 – A retired military officer has been arrested in Abong Mbang in the East province trading in gorilla parts. He is now behind bars. The operation took place with the MINFOF Divisional Delegation. The dealer was arrested with gorilla products. The dealer was caught with a consignment of meat from an industrial refrigerator for sale including the legs and heads of gorillas. He attempted to corrupt the arresting officers and has connections to a member of parliament from the area who also **attempted to corrupt the arresting officers** and the State Counsel without success.

## Legal

- There are **7 dealers behind bars during this month**: 2 in the Littoral Province; 1 in the Central province, 2 in the West province, 1 in the South West Province and 1 in East Province.
- **26 cases** were followed-up by the Legal Department this month (active cases in courts).
- **13 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in court this month.
- 1 case is scheduled and being tried in the Court of Appeal Garoua this month (Hassana)
- 7 cases waiting for the process of appeal to reach the court. 4 in the West, 2 in the Littoral and 1 in the South Province (Djoum). The court of first instance has not completed the file needed for the transmission to the Attorney General
- LAGA Legal Department carried out **11 missions** out of the Center Province: 5 in Douala, 1 in Bafang, 1 in Bafoussam, 2 in Abong Mbang, 1 in Mamfe, 1 in Bamenda to follow up operations and cases before the courts.
- **One operation was carried out concerning illegal killing and detaining of a gorilla.** The operation took place in Abong Mbang with the MINFOF divisional delegation. The dealer was arrested with gorilla products. The suspect has admitted to being the author of the killing of this gorilla and the State counsel decided to keep him in jail while waiting for trial.
- The head of the legal department work with the Interpol on the big ivory case and got us to participate in the high level meeting of heads of Police and Interpol of Central Africa. One thing leads to another and she got the chance to do a full presentation on ivory trafficking during this event.

## Media front

- **32 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, television and written press including: 5 written press materials (4 in English, 1 in French), 25 radio news flashes (13 in English, 12 in French), 2 TV news features (all in English). 19 media pieces in English, 13 in French making a percentage of 59.4% in English and 40.6% in French.
- Guests include: Minister MINFOF, MINFOF Provincial Delegate North West Province, MINFOF Lawyer Barrister Mbuan and a Traditional Ruler - the Fon of Bali.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; 5<sup>th</sup> edition of wildlife justice now in circulation, Arrest of three elephant dealers in Mamfe, Ecoguard murderer sentenced to 25 years imprisonment-Bangem, Elephant dealers in court-Mamfe, Female dealer in wildlife protected sentenced in Bamenda, Intensification of wildlife enforcement in Cameroon: The role of traditional rulers, Leopard skin dealer arrest, Retired military officer arrested for trading in gorilla meat-Abong Mbang.

## External Relations and Policy

- LAGA makes a full presentation at the Central African Head of Police Conference on the fight against wildlife crime and the involvement of the police in this fight. LAGA participated in the high level meeting of Heads of Police and Interpol of Central Africa and was represented by the Head of Legal Department, Horline Njike. She was given the chance to do a full presentation on ivory trafficking during this event. Her work with Interpol on the big ivory case got LAGA to participate in this Conference.
- LAGA met with the Technical Adviser No 1 in MINFOF to discuss issues related to the forwarding of ivory samples for DNA test in laboratories abroad. Focus was on the signing of CITES Permits for the export of samples collected from ivory seized in Yaounde purported to have arrived from a neighbouring country.
- LAGA held a meeting with the Focal Point of CARPE in preparation of the visit of the US Environment Officer for West and Central Africa. The meeting paved the way for the

visiting Director's audience with the Director of LAGA. LAGA assisted in giving elaborate press coverage to this effect.

- LAGA participated in the High Value Conservation Concept workshop developed by the Forest Stewardship Council and its applicability in the wildlife sector. LAGA helped give the event a press coverage having acknowledged it as a forum where wildlife conservation was being brought into focus in the designation of protected areas.
- LAGA met with the WWF Regional Director in preparation for a visit by the WWF Director who expressed a desire to see the LAGA Director while in Cameroon. The meeting focused on corruption in WWF and actions to be taken. A worker of WWF was implicated in a case of illegal exportation of African Grey parrots from the forests in the South East Cameroon.

## **Management**

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

## **Finance**

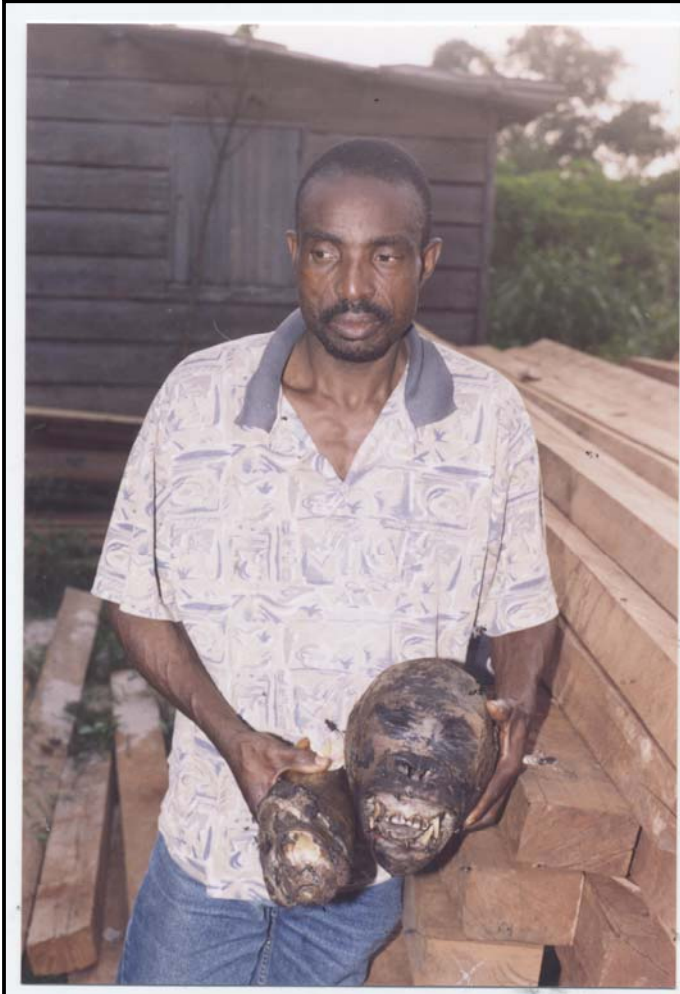
### **LAGA Expenditure by budget line for January 08**

<b>Amount CFA</b>	<b>Budget line</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount USD</b>
<b>1,970,411</b>	<b>Investigations</b>	14 inv, 6 provinces	\$4,428
<b>500,000</b>	<b>Operations</b>	1 Operation - gorilla head	\$1,124
<b>2,555,500</b>	<b>Legal</b>	Follow up 26 cases 7 locked subjects	\$5,743
<b>1,754,200</b>	<b>Media</b>	32 media pieces	\$3,942
<b>239,722</b>	<b>Policy / External</b>	UK/France/USA/Bahrain	\$539
<b>922,600</b>	<b>Management</b>	Coordination	\$2,073
<b>855,787</b>	<b>Office</b>		\$1,923
<b>8,798,220</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE JANUARY</b>		<b>\$19,771</b>

### **LAGA Expenditure by donor for January 08**

<b>AmountCFA</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount USD</b>
0	Born Free	\$0.0
1,634,200	BHC	\$3,672.4
2,272,168	FWS	\$5,106.0
0	UNEP-Congo	\$0.0
412,704	UNEP-General	\$927.4
2,554,816	Rufford Foundation	\$5,741.2
250,000	Parrot Trust	\$561.8
315,300	IPPL	\$708.5
990,432	WSPA	\$2,225.7
368,600	SFA France	\$828.3
<b>8,798,220</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,771</b>

## THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



**Retired Military officer arrested trading in gorilla head and leg from an industrial refrigerator in Abong-Mbang East Province Cameroon. He attempted to corrupt the arresting officers. The dealer is being detained by the Forces of Law and Order working in collaboration with the MINFOF Delegation in Abong-Mbang - East Province.**



... et scientifique dans les que centrale »...  
 ue les questions débattues plus importantes que l'am- sult le problème de la crimi- sous-région d'Afrique cen- plus en plus préoccupante formes aussi diverses que

trale est devenue le lieu où bandes armées, encore app- s de routes », des bandits in, des passeurs de drogue.

**Peace**

afternoon, therefore, most Ca- once again zap through the m- provided by their cable opera-

ervention of the Minister of is lauchable. It is an indication ment cares and listens to the sition. Understandably why it ue and a peaceful demouement ee the first match of the Indos- evening. The unsolvable sor- problem notwithstanding, the n of cable broadcasting in the . The issue has therefore not has simply been deferred to sday, February 19, a week af- Africa Cup of Nations.

observed in cable distribution sught to light the irregularities sector in Cameroon. Like an ad to be incised someday, so had to be addressed sooner or ened earlier this week is just beg. The fight between Canal de distributors, who subscribe id illegally redistribute the , has been dragging for four anybody can become a cable detrimient of those who leave in the sector. And the business he pinned images are distribu- for as low as PCFA 3,000 a gement on the issue was only few months ago. The million- e, who is actually supposed to an images in Cameroon? The- records straight and save Ca- embarrasments. And hope- sulation would be arrived at of February 19.

la organica, militares et autres criminales económicos. Bien que saluée par plus d'un, la mondialisation ne manque pas

**Cross-border Crime Preoccupies Judicial Police Directors**

The directors recommended actions against crime and insecurity to be discussed by Central African Police Chiefs.

*Judicial Police Directors and experts in Yaounde yesterday.*

**T**he Directors of Judicial Police from the eight-member countries of the Central Africa Police Chiefs Committee (CAPCC), yesterday in Yaounde during their 6th session, examined and recommended pertinent actions on ways of fighting crime and insecurity, as well as ensuring the effectiveness of Police interventions in the Central African Sub-region. Their meeting was part of the preparations for the 9th session of the Central Africa Police Chiefs Committee meeting, slated for tomorrow, 24 January in Yaounde.

When the Police Chiefs meet, they will examine recommendations forwarded by the Judicial Police Directors. The Directors at the 6th session, scrutinised the situation of cross-border crime and the state of the Police, and judicial cooperation in Central Africa; trafficking in ivory, as well as the situation of national central file records in criminal matters. They also examined the state of the Police technical and scientific services in Central Africa and the level of the implementation of the convention on the creation of the Specialised Training Centre for Criminal Investigation for Central Africa based in Yaounde.

It is true that seeking ways of curbing insecurity in Central Africa, is the general preoccupation of the Police Chiefs of the sub-re-

gion and subsequently Ministers in charge of Security who will also meet in Yaounde on Friday, 25 January. Cross-border crime in particular needs special attention. The situation of insecurity and cross-border crime in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is preoccupying. The Inspector General at the General Directorate of Judicial Police in charge of Courts in DRC, Antoine Camille Bayou Nsala told Cameroon Tribune in Yaounde that, "cross-border crime has reached a great magnitude in our country due to its vast surface area of 2,344,860 square kilometres and borders with nine countries". He said the Democratic Republic of Congo has been in civil war for ten years and as such, "become a theatre of all forms of crime". The war situation, according to Mr Bayou Nsala, has favoured the entry of traffickers in diamond, gold and arms from different directions, "making it difficult for us to organise repression against crime within the country and at the sub-regional level". The Democratic Republic of Congo, therefore counts on fora such as CAPCC where it can present its difficulties for collective solutions. This is because as Bayou Nsala said, "due to our geo-strategic nature, our country risks being a haven of criminals".

**Emmanuel KEMDEMER**

AMERON TRIBUNE 3

**LAGA participated at the Central African Head of police conference on the fight against wildlife crime and the involvement of the police in this fight. LAGA was represented by the Head of Legal Department, Horline Njike, the youngest participant, indicated by the white arrow in the picture above.**

### **Links of the month**

- Successful MINFOF- LAGA operation against a retired military officer trading in gorilla meat from an industrial refrigerator. Trade in live or parts of protected animal species like elephants and apes is illegal according to Cameroon wildlife law with a prison term of up to 3 years.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebnl-SptC9M>

- Gorilla meat trade operation – Cameroon National Television Broadcast. The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife Prof. Elvis Ngolle Ngolle talks about the gorilla operation in Abong Mbang – East Province and the importance of wildlife protection during the National Television programme – Tam Tam Weekend. The operation was against a retired military officer trading in gorilla meat from an industrial refrigerator.

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