

# The Last Great Ape Organization - LAGA

## December 2008 Report



### Highlights

- **An operation** carried out in Bandjoun – West Region. **A dealer arrested** trying to illegally trade in leopard skin.
- **Head of Legal Department was made acting Director with signatory powers.**

### General

This month was marked by the arrest of a well-known dealer in the Western Region during the absence of LAGA Director.

A well-known dealer in products of protected wildlife species was arrested trying to trade in a very big leopard skin in Bandjoun – Western region. He owns a motorbike that he uses to carry out the illegal trade and claims to have many suppliers in the Northern Region of Cameroon and well connected to other dealers in the West Region.

The Head of LAGA Legal Department Horline Njike was made acting Director with signatory powers when LAGA Director travelled to U.S.A. LAGA members once more prove their independence in the absence of the LAGA Director with a successful operation in Bandjoun – West Region.

LAGA family went on holidays from the 19<sup>th</sup> of December for 3 weeks that was kicked off with a special lunch.

### Investigations

- **14 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in 4 Regions (formerly known as Provinces but changed by a Presidential Decree) including - South West, West, Littoral and Center.
- **Field Investigations led to a successful operation** after targeting a dealer at Bandjoun – West Region.
- Collaboration was established with U.S.A concerning Internet wildlife trade.
- Field tests continue for new candidates with encouraging results.

### Operations

**An operation** was carried out this month with MINFOF against **one subject**.

- **10/12/08** – A well-known dealer in products of protected wildlife species was arrested trying to trade in a very big leopard skin in Bandjoun – Western region. He owns a motorbike that he uses to carry out the illegal trade and claims to have many suppliers in the Northern Region of Cameroon and well connected to other dealers in the West Region.

### Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **12 missions** out of the Central Region: 1 in Bertoua (East), 1 in Buea (South West), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 2 in Ntui (Center), 4 in Bafoussam (West), 3 in Douala (Littoral).
- There are **8 dealers behind bars during this month**: 1 in East Region, 2 in the West Region, 1 in South West Region, and 4 in Central Region.
- **22 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **21 cases** are scheduled and being tried in the court this month.

## **Media front**

- **33 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio, TV and written press including: 3 written press materials (2 in English and 1 in French), 5 radio talk shows (4 in English and 1 in French), 24 radio news flashes (19 in English, 5 in French), 1 TV news feature (in English).
- **Guests include:** Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, The Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, The Minister in charge of wildlife of Uganda, Consultant of the Great Ape Survival Project, the Fon (Traditional ruler) of Bali Nyonga, Director of “In Defence of Animals” – Africa, the Director of Garoua Wildlife School, Sub Director of Wildlife and Protected areas.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Arrest of Ape dealer in Ntui, Bandjoun arrest of leopard skin dealer, Publication of MINFOF newsletter.
- 26 media pieces in English, 7 in French making a percentage 78.1% in English and 21.2% in French; this will have to be improved next month.
- Online sensitisation stood at **272 visits** to the LAGA website in the month of August.

## **External Relations and Policy**

- The Director of LAGA held meeting with the Focal Point CARPE to discuss issues related to fighting corruption in NGOs.
- Meeting between the LAGA Head of Department Media and External Relations and the Head of the Communication Unit of MINFOF, who expressed appreciation of the collaboration between the Media and External Relations Department and his unit in accessing the public and private media in reach out with MINFOF /LAGA wildlife law enforcement operations. Hope was expressed that such collaboration would be intensified.
- LAGA Head of Department of Media and External Relations held a meeting with the Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for the North West Region on the SABOGA (Savannah Botanic Garden) keeping of monkeys.
- Meeting between LAGA Director, LAGA Head of Media and External Relations Department and His Royal Highness, Dr. Ganyonga III, Fon of Bali, soliciting the Fon’s assistance to have other traditional authorities in the North-West Region to jump into the bandwagon of wildlife law enforcement crusade.
- Meeting between LAGA and Chief of Control Brigade and Head of Anti-poaching Unit at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to discuss collaboration with LAGA in strengthening wildlife law enforcement.
- LAGA met with the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas to evaluate Cameroon’s participation at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of parties to the Gorilla Agreement and the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- Meeting with Mrs Fosi Mary – Technical Adviser of the Minister of Environment and Nature Protection- as an elite from Bafut and senior government officials to prepare for a meeting with the traditional rulers in Bafut and the Managers of the Savannah Botanic Garden (SABOGA) for the release of animals kept in captivity in the Garden.
- Meeting held between LAGA Head of Department of Media and External Relations with the Fons of Bali and Bafut to discuss issues related to their engagement in wildlife protection.

## **Management**

- The Head of LAGA Legal Department Horline Njike was made acting Director with signatory powers when LAGA Director travelled to U.S.A. LAGA members once more prove their independence in the absence of the LAGA Director with a successful operation in Bandjoun – West region.
- LAGA family went on holidays from the 19<sup>th</sup> of December that was kicked off with a special lunch.

## **Finance**

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

| <b>Amount CFA</b> | <b>Budget line</b>                     | <b>Details</b>                       | <b>Amount USD</b> |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>719,050</b>    | <b>Investigations</b>                  | 16 inv, 4 provinces                  | \$1,498           |
| <b>468,000</b>    | <b>Operations</b>                      | 1 Operation                          | \$975             |
| <b>1,973,925</b>  | <b>legal</b>                           | follow up 22 cases 8 locked subjects | \$4,112           |
| <b>1,406,910</b>  | <b>Media</b>                           | 33 media pieces                      | \$2,931           |
| <b>246,003</b>    | <b>Policy &amp; External Relations</b> | Congo Replication/Italy              | \$513             |
| <b>477,400</b>    | <b>Management</b>                      | Coordination                         | \$995             |
| <b>1,424,260</b>  | <b>Office</b>                          |                                      | \$2,967           |
| <b>6,715,548</b>  | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE DECEMBER</b>      |                                      | <b>\$13,991</b>   |

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

| <b>Amount CFA</b> | <b>Donor</b>       | <b>Amount USD</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 935,545           | Born Free          | \$1,949.1         |
| 1,926,705         | FWS                | \$4,014.0         |
| 2,065,650         | Rufford Foundation | \$4,303.4         |
| 1,420,445         | Arcus              | \$2,959.3         |
| 367,203           | SFS France         | \$765.0           |
| 6,715,548         | <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>\$13,990.7</b> |

## THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



**A well-known dealer in products of protected wildlife species arrested trying to trade in a very big leopard skin in Bandjoun – Western Region. He is also a motorbike rider who claims to have many suppliers in the Northern Region of Cameroon and well connected to other dealers in the West Region.**

### **Links of this month**

**A wildlife dealer 's cruelty to animals in Bertoua – East Region – Cameroon National Television Broadcast – Tam-Tam Weekend.** It was within the framework of the new wildlife strategy put in place by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife placing more emphasis on fighting wildlife crimes and corruption in the sector that a wildlife dealer in apes was arrested in Bertoua in the East Province. He was arrested trying to illegally sell a live baby chimp to which the dealer was very cruel and on which many wounds were inflicted.

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