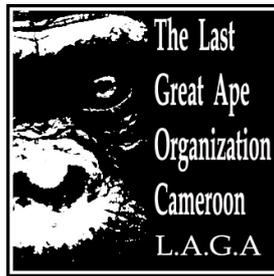


# THE LAST GREAT APE ORGANIZATION, CAMEROON LAGA

ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2010



## Executive Summary

Significant progress was made over this period on some aspects of LAGA's collaboration with MINFOF, with tangible achievements not only in the fields of investigation, arrest and prosecution but also in media exposure, government relations and international activities. This year was very significant in that LAGA was successful in replicating its activities in Gabon (AALF), and there was progress in the Central African Republic (RALF) and the Republic of Congo (PALF) through LAGA missions and operations, and training of Jurists from PALF, AALF and RALF.

This year for every 7 days a major wildlife dealer was arrested, 82% stayed behind bars from the day of arrest and corruption was observed and fought in many of the cases. For every single day a media piece was put on national news and recorded. Good prosecutions were obtained with 26 dealers convicted and a record of about \$190 000 to be paid as damages; 2 ivory dealers involved in 1 ton ivory trafficking sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and to pay a record sum of over \$116,500 as damages.

This period saw the seizure of more than 2000 African Grey parrots, LAGA's intervention in hitting main actors and exposing the illegal trade in sea turtle shells, primates, arrest of cyber wildlife dealers, and some illegal wildlife trade networks busted. In the replication of LAGA Activities, 4 arrest operations were carried out in 4 different countries with the arrest of a total of 21 major dealers within 5 days in concretized Regional Law Enforcement. Replication was launched Gabon and Conservation Justice arrested 16 ivory dealers in 3 operations with 105Kg ivory. The first edition of the LAGA Manual was produced and printed; and the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Wildlife Justice was published with focus on Replication and Regional Law Enforcement.

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



## **OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Investigations**

- A total of 244 investigation missions were conducted in 9 Regions of Cameroon.
- There was more focus on parrot trafficking, trade in primates, ivory, sea turtles and Internet Investigations.
- 1 restructuring of the department was carried out and brought an increase in results.

### **Operations**

- Operations were carried out in 7 Regions against 51 individuals resulting in 51 court cases – a rate of one major dealer every 7 days.
- The rate of imprisonment for suspects apprehended reached to 82%.
- More focus was on ivory, primates, sea turtle shells, African grey parrots and leopard skins.

### **Legal**

- 51 new cases were brought to court and represented.
- 19 cases prosecuted with 26 dealers convicted during this period with a record total of about \$190,000 to be paid as damages to MINFOF.
- 2 ivory dealers involved in 1 ton ivory trafficking sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and to pay a record sum of over \$116,500 as fines and damages.
- A trial procedure was opened in Douala – Littoral Region against 3 international ivory traffickers involved in the trafficking of 3.9 tons of ivory that was seized in Hong Kong in May 2006.

### **Media**

- A total of 366 media pieces were produced and pushed into national media (television, radio and press) - a rate of one media piece per day.
- Over 7000 visits to the LAGA website and You Tube channel reached 59,000 views this year.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Wildlife Justice was published. It focuses on Replication and Regional Law Enforcement.

### **Strategic Highlights**

- Crackdown in the trade and trafficking of ivory, primates and African Grey parrots continued.
- LAGA intervention in hitting main actors and exposing the illegal trade in sea turtle shells in the Kribi and Campo areas where several projects claimed to work on the protection of sea turtles for years.
- Fighting corruption and bribing attempts documented in 85% of our field arrest operations, and 80% of all court cases within the legal system.

### **Government Relations**

- LAGA signs new MoU with MINFOF for 2 years.
- LAGA meets with the General Delegate for National Security to get collaboration.
- LAGA received high recognition in the fight against corruption with its effort lauded in a US organized African anti-corruption units seminar and a presentation given by the LAGA Director.
- LAGA presented in the Conference of the Interpol Wildlife Working group in Lyon - France.

### **Management**

- Weekly meetings and thought provoking sessions of presentations and debates introduced by the LAGA Director with LAGA family members taking on more responsibilities continued.
- LAGA participates in the 15<sup>th</sup> CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Doha – Qatar.
- LAGA presents in the conference of the Interpol Environmental working group in Ivory Coast.
- 1 Investigator dismissed for giving conflicting reports and not being effective in giving accurate information and low return of produced operations.

### **Replication of LAGA Activities**

- Operations carried out against 8 subjects in the Central African Republic (CAR) during phase 3.
- 4 arrest operations carried out in 4 different countries with the arrest of a total of 21 major dealers within 5 days in concretized Regional Law Enforcement.
- LAGA Model was successfully established in Gabon - Conservation Justice arrests 16 ivory dealers in 3 operations with 105Kg ivory.
- LAGA trains 3 Jurists from RALF (RCA), PALF (Congo – Brazzaville) and AALF (Gabon) projects.
- Director of LAGA was sponsored by WSPA to visit WAG – Malawi and SLCS - Zambia, and gave some recommendations using LAGA's experience; and contacts initiated in Nigeria for replication.

## CONTENTS

This report refers to activities from January till December 2010. 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.

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

- Annual financial statement 2010
- 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 244 investigation missions in 9 Regions of Cameroon. The department continued with structural reorganization culminating in high improvement in its professional output. Field testing and screening of new investigators continued within this period. This high screening is primordial in selecting those who place high value on LAGA's mission, ready to participate and contribute massively in the realization of the goals unconditionally as opposed to those seeking for financial compensation as the main motivational factor.

During this period, there was a special investigation focus on International trafficking of parrots, wildlife trade especially trade in primates, elephant tusks, sea turtle shells, animal skins, Internet wildlife trade etc. These investigations led to the identification and arrest of international parrot traffickers, dealers in turtle shells, dealers in primates, elephant tusks, other products such as leopard skins and python skins, and wildlife dealers who trade over the Internet.

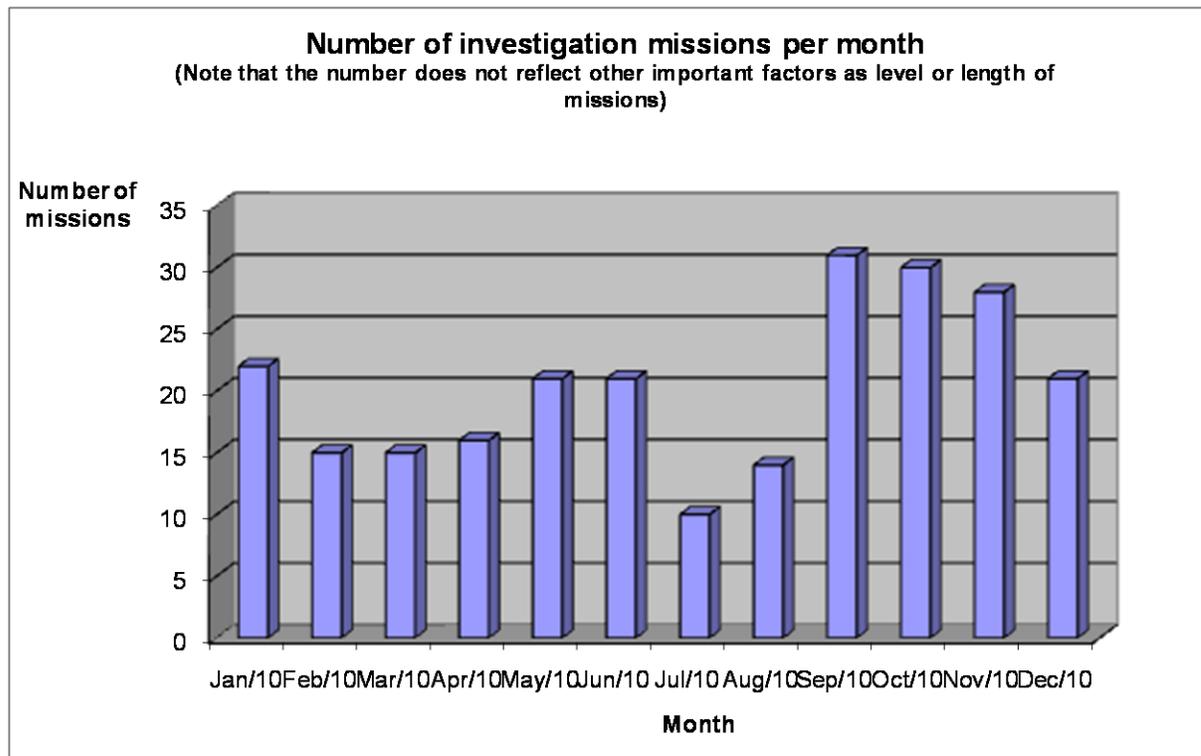
Since the beginning of 2009, the unit has shown a high level of professionalism and an increase in the scope of its impact by undertaking investigations relating to wildlife trade but involving additional offences not under wildlife law (including the illegal adoption of children and illegal immigration), as well as international trafficking with special focus on foreigners and timber companies.

In September, a 1 week reconstruction of the department was carried out involving all the Investigators on Investigations procedure, Operations procedure, Discipline, Security, Planning of Missions, Identification of protected species and wildlife products, Use and Control of Equipment, Fact sheet of products and their prices, using the Organic System of the Department etc. This capacity building, training and restructuring exercise also focused on evaluation and new expectations all led to encouraging results. Special attention was given to the Department by the Director with a trip to the Mfou - Center Wildlife Reserve and special lunch. This helped in the observation and identification of protected primates. New phones were also bought for investigators for field use.

The strategy involving the recruitment of informants in the main wildlife trade hotspots in Cameroon continued. Informants were recruited in Buea - South West Region; Douala - Littoral Region, Bamenda - North West Region, Bafoussam – West and Bertoua - East. This exercise will be carried out in all the Regions of Cameroon. This will permit real time information on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

In December, 1 Investigator was dismissed this month for giving conflicting reports and not being effective in giving accurate information and low return of produced operations. Generally there is zero tolerance in lying and any Investigator caught doing that is immediately dismissed despite any good results furnished. Active search for lies is always done and efforts made at uncovering it even with the best investigators.

The months of February, March, April, July and August witnessed a low number of missions because of cash flow problems.



## **2. Operations**

LAGA and the Government of Cameroon carried out 51 operations in 7 Regions resulting in 51 court cases – one for every 7 days of the year. Operations became more sophisticated over the period and the rate of imprisonment of the accused individuals while awaiting trial was 82% of the cases. Operations during this period focused on ivory trade; trade in live primates and meat of primates especially chimps; trade in sea turtle and forest tortoise shells; international trafficking in African grey parrots, Internet wildlife trade, python and leopard skins. Almost 1/3 of the operations were on ivory trade followed by trafficking of African grey parrots, sea turtle shells, and trade in primates and their products (bush meat).

In January, an operation was started against 4 international illegal traffickers of African Grey parrots. 2 of the traffickers are well known in Cameroon with 2 other accomplices one of whom is a Nigerian national. The traffickers are well connected to a big export network with accomplices in the Democratic Republic of Congo from where falsified government documents and CITES Permits used for the illegal exportation are issued. From all indications, they also have accomplices in the control posts at the airport through which the parrots pass without any proper control; and Ethiopian Airlines used for the transportation of the parrots seems to facilitate these illegal deals. The Airlines

chose to move shipment without the required documents and we assume that it is not because of lack of knowledge pertaining to the requisite documents used for wildlife exportation. More than 1000 African Grey parrots were seized at the Douala International airport ready to be exported to Bahrain and Kuwait with the collaboration of the Douala Judicial Police. This seizure furthermore validated information we had before about the organized chain of complicity in the parrot trade and how white-collar criminals thrive on this complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor. The parrots will be progressively released into the wild by the Limbe Wildlife Center where they were taken.

Still in January, a principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Buea – South West Region. He was arrested for falsifying government documents and CITES Permits that he used to lure a victim in the Netherlands to pay for a capuchin monkey which he did not have. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated.

In February, 3 international parrot traffickers all of Ghanaian nationality was arrested in Douala – Littoral while trying to transport more than 300 parrots out of the country. The operation for their arrest started in 2009 and they are a part of a network of parrot traffickers in Douala, linked to some of the biggest wildlife traffickers. After their arrest, they stated in their statements of offence that the parrots were being taken to 2 main traffickers who were the main actors in the seizure of the more than 1000 parrots in Douala in January 2010 destined for Bahrain and Kuwait. The operation was carried out in collaboration with the Littoral Legion of Gendarmerie – Douala and ODPHE – an NGO engaged in wildlife conservation. This operation proves that trafficking of African Grey parrots is as strong as before because of lack of prosecutions pertaining to the first cases. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting the same actors again and exposing the continuation of the illegal wildlife trafficking. The trade that continues with impunity especially through the Douala International Airport shows the involvement of the concerned control authorities. LAGA had earlier informed the Minister on the implication of the MINFOF Chief of post of the Douala International Airport in the trafficking of parrots following the many operations carried out there, and was later removed from his post at the airport. Many irregularities were observed during the handling and transfer of the parrots 300 parrots seized. Out of the more than 300 parrots, only 51 reached the MINFOF Regional Delegation – Littoral from the Gendarmerie Brigade and only 27 reached the Limbe Wildlife Center from the MINFOF Delegation. Though some parrots died because of poor handling and transportation conditions by the dealers, more investigations are being carried out so as to pin-point these irregularities and acts of corruption that possibly took place.

In March, 2 dealers were arrested in Kribi – South Region with 14 sea turtle shells. They have been in this illegal business for long and were carrying out their illegal activities openly and with impunity because of the lack of any concrete action to repel this illegal trade. This operation proves that illegal trade in sea turtle shells has been ongoing for long and very strong in that area. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting main actors and exposing this illegal trade. The LAGA Director have been using

in some of his presentations for a long time the example of Kribi and Campo where several projects claimed to work on the protection of sea turtles for years with strong contrast to the open sale of sea turtle shells. This contrast, a symptom for a larger failure can be seen in the sign in the photograph (this month in pictures), one of many decorating the area around where sea turtle products were openly sold for a long time. One of the hopes is that this serves as a message that we demand more from conservation, than publicity and workshops.

Another operation was carried out in March during which a well known dealer and trafficker in ivory was arrested in Abong Mbang - East region with elephant tusks of less than 5 kg. The operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Abong Mbang.

The month of April was marked by a continuation of the crackdown in the illegal trade of sea turtles in Kribi – South region. A dealer was arrested in Kribi – South Region with 2 sea turtle shells. He has been in this illegal business for long and was carrying out this illegal activity openly and with impunity because of the lack of any concrete action to repel this illegal trade. This operation, following that of March when 2 dealers were arrested with 14 sea turtle shells concretizes the fact that illegal trade in sea turtle shells has been ongoing for long and very strong in that area. This problem necessitated LAGA’s intervention in hitting main actors and exposing the silence of the local authorities and projects in the area.

2 operations against 2 major dealers were carried out in the month of May. A dealer with a network of suppliers of python skins in Nkambe and buyers in Bafoussam - West Region was arrested in Nkambe – North West Region while trying to illegally traffic and trade in 50 python skins. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Nkambe.

Another dealer belonging to a network of parrot traffickers with a permanent market in Douala – Littoral was arrested in Kribi for illegally trying to traffic and trade in African Grey parrots. He has other accomplices amongst whom is a Ghanaian; his connection to other Ghanaian parrot traffickers who had been arrested before is being investigated. The MINFOF officials of the Ocean Regional Delegation - Kribi especially the Delegate himself acted unprocedurally. First, they took the offender from the Gendarmerie Brigade where he was kept in custody, released him and refused to sign the complaint report for a warrant for his re-arrest. The operation was carried out with the NGO – Center for Environment and Development (CED) which was also the source of information. This operation, following those of March and April when 3 dealers were arrested with 16 sea turtle shells concretizes the fact that illegal trade in wildlife species and products has been ongoing for long and very strong in that area. This problem necessitated LAGA’s intervention in hitting main actors and exposing the silence of the local authorities and projects in the area.

The month of June was marked by good operations – 5 operations against 6 dealers and 4 of the operations were carried out within 1 week. There was a special focus on primates especially gorillas and chimps. 2 well known poachers/dealers were arrested for killing a chimp and trading in its meat in Yabassi – Littoral Region after being denounced by the

villagers themselves because of the high level of poaching that was being carried out by the dealers. The chimp was killed in the Ebo Reserve. They have a ready market in the main cities of Edea and Douala in the Littoral Region. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Delegation - Yabassi. In another operation, repeated offender was arrested with a full freshly killed gorilla in Lomie – East Region. The gorilla was killed in the Dja reserve where he mostly does poaching. He then sells the meat to main dealers in Lomie and Abong Mbang who in turn sell in the main city of Yaounde - Center. Still on primates, a principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Bamenda – North West Region. He was arrested for falsifying government documents and CITES Permits that he used to lure a victim in Canada to pay for a chimp which he did not have. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. He had already received \$150 from another victim in USA and had started with other victims in Ukraine and Spain.

2 other operations were carried out in June - a major dealer was arrested with 10 hippo teeth initially presenting them as ivory in Yaounde – Center Region. He has suppliers of products of protected animal species especially ivory in Douala. During his arrest, he tried to bribe the arresting officials, offering them 200.000 Frs. (about \$400) for his release. Irregularities were observed during and after the writing of the complaint report - the MINFOF officials from the MINFOF Central Regional Delegation and the National Anti-Poaching Unit refused to sign the complaint report thereby highlighting suspicion of corruption. The official from the National Anti-Poaching unit later signed the complaint report after much pressure from LAGA. In another operation, an ivory dealer with connections to other main dealers in Douala - Littoral Region was arrested in Fouban – West Region. He has been in the trade for a long time and claims to have suppliers from the Northern part of Cameroon and sells in Douala where he has accomplices. He was arrested with 4 worked tusks and 1 civet skin.

In July a well known and repeated offender with connections to other main dealers in Yaounde - Center Region was arrested in Lomie – East Region with 2 elephant tusks. He has been in the trade for a long time and is a recidivist who had been arrested before for the killing of an elephant. This operation was carried out with MINFOF – Lomie.

The month of August was marked by 2 good operations – 4 arrests in 1 day in 2 different parts of Cameroon; in the same month, LAGA found itself in the worse cash-flow crisis it experienced for years. It pleaded with Born Free-US for financial support to save it from a total stand still. LAGA operates with clear measurable objectives that need to be achieved on a monthly cycle and a month with no arrest is a disaster that should be avoided. Luckily Born Free –US came to our help to try to save the month and made efforts for the funds to arrive Cameroon through a speedy transfer. This assistance helped us get 4 wildlife dealers arrested in an exceptional effort. Right after, the initial cash flow problem was resolved. In Limbe – South West Region, 2 dealers were arrested with 13 turtle shells (one of them had 7 and the other 6 shells). The 2 dealers also act as tourist guides in the Bakingili area in Limbe – taking people to view the lava from Mount Cameroon, while at the same time carrying out illegal wildlife trade. The 2 dealers arrested called the Mayor of the town to come and intervene on their behalf. On arriving

at the MINFOF office, the Mayor upon seeing the turtle shells and after an explanation for the reason of the arrest of the dealers, declared openly and for all the parties concerned to hear that he has “NO HAND” in the matter and that the dealers should be sanctioned according to the provisions of the law.

In Sangmelima – South Region, 1 female dealer with the accomplice were arrested with 1 large fresh leopard skin. They are highly involved in illegal trade of protected bushmeat and other wildlife products; have a network of suppliers at Djoum - South and sell the products in the major cities of Sangmelima and Yaounde.

September was marked by good operations – 5 operations against 12 dealers and 2 of the operations were carried out within 2 days and 3 live mandrills rescued. 2 regular dealers in shells of forest tortoises were arrested in Ambam – South with 7 forest tortoise shells. One of the dealers initially resisted arrest. They have been in this illegal business for long with a ready market in Ambam and Kye-Ossi with most buyers coming from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. 2 other well known dealers in protected bushmeat were arrested in Meyomessala – South for illegally trading in meat of protected wildlife species and for the illegal detention of a live mandrill. One of dealers is a woman who kept the meat in a deep-freezer in her home and supplied customers in the city of Yaounde – Center. Meat of chimps and giant pangolin were amongst the consignment seized. The other dealer also had a live mandrill which was seized. She has a ready market in the city of Yaounde. The operation was carried out with ECOFAC - Meyomessala. The animals were killed in the Dja Reserve. In another operation, a network of 5 dealers/poachers in elephant products was busted in Abong Mbang – East. They were arrested for killing of elephants and dealing in their products. They were also in illegal possession of arms and ammunition. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation of Abong Mbang.

In Kribi - South, a major dealer was arrested with a live mandrill. He is a worker in a Hotel in Kribi where he keeps the animals and sells to mainly foreigners. He resisted arrest, was not cooperating with the arresting team from the onset. His alleged relative, an accomplice and a proprietor of the Hotel disturbed the operations procedure and arrest of the dealer and was very violent, insisting that the dealer should not follow the arresting team to the MINFOF Delegation – Kribi. The live mandrill was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center for check-up and upkeep. Another dealer in live primates was arrested in Dschang – West Region with a live mandrill. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvog Betsi Zoo in Yaounde for check-up and upkeep.

In October 3 regular dealers involved in the illegal trade of ivory arrested in Yaounde – Center. One of the dealers is of Egyptian nationality working with a construction company in Cameroon. Through the company, he is able to get ivory which he gives to his accomplices to either sell directly or get clients for the products. More investigations are being carried out on his international involvement in the illegal ivory trade. They were arrested with 4 carved elephant tusks.

The month of November was marked by concrete regional wildlife enforcement with very good operations in Cameroon, Gabon, C.A.R and Republic of Congo and a total of 21 major dealers arrested. The vision of carrying out regional enforcement through the aforementioned organizations was concretized when operations were simultaneously

carried out within 5 days in Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

***Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement***

26/11- Cameroon- 2 operations arresting 3 dealers with 17 turtle shells

26/11- Gabon- Conservation Justice arresting 16 ivory dealers in 3 operations with 105Kg ivory

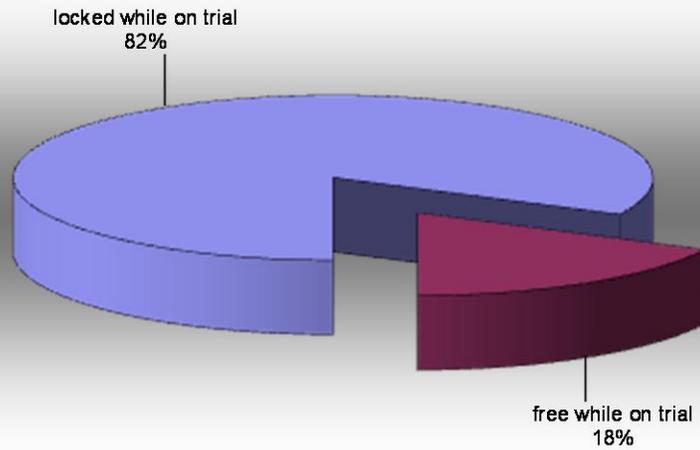
29/11- C.A.R- RALF arresting dealer with 2 lion skins, 2 tusks, 7 leopard skins

30/11- Congo Brazzaville – PALF arresting dealer with 30 Kg ivory

In other operations in Cameroon, a regular dealer who owns an artifact shop and is also a carver was arrested in Bafang – West with a traditional bag made out of a leopard skin while trying to illegally trade in it. He hides behind this shop to launder the illegal trade in products of protected wildlife species. Another regular dealer who mainly sells in Yaounde but gets products from the Eastern Region was arrested with 4 elephant tusks while trying to illegally trade in them. In another operation, a long time dealer in primates was arrested while trying to illegally sell 2 live baboons. He admits to have raised and sold many primates before. Before the operation, he was seen with 4 live baboons but already 2 were seized after the operation; he had already sold 2. In 2 separate operations in Limbe and Bimbia-Limbe in the South West Region, 3 dealers were arrested with a total of 17 sea turtle shells. In the first operation in Limbe, the 2 dealers arrested were of Nigerian nationality, they were arrested while trying to illegally trade in 7 sea turtle shells. In the second operation, the dealer was arrested with 10 sea turtle shells.

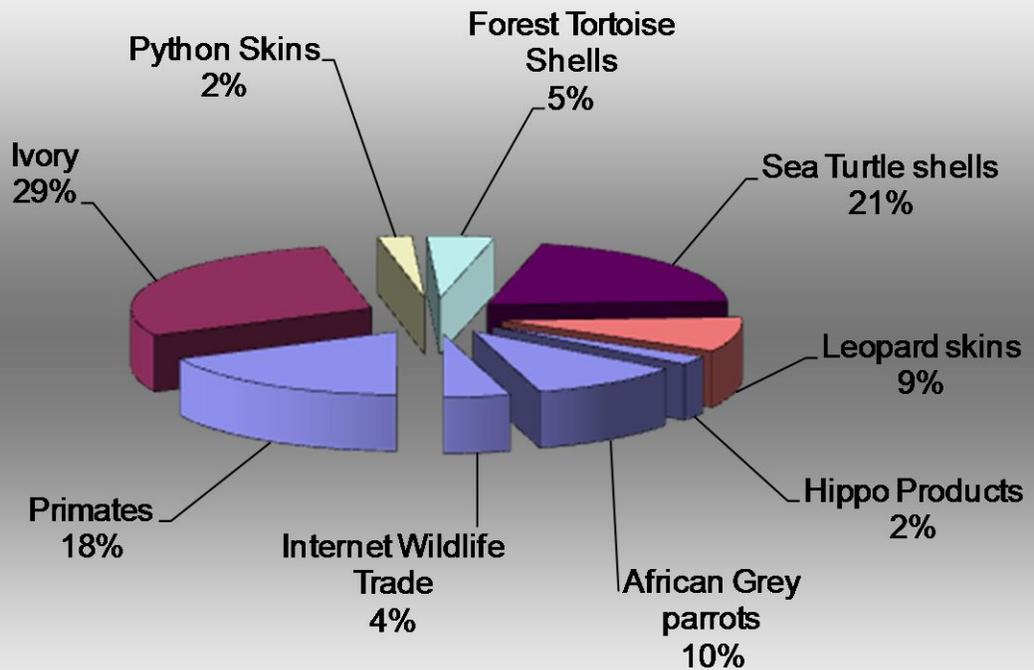
December month was marked by 3 operations against 5 major wildlife traffickers with a network of international traffickers in African Grey parrots busted in Buea – South West Region. A big network of international traffickers in live African Grey parrots was busted in Buea – South West Region. They normally send the parrots to Nigeria through Idenau - South West Region. 3 members of the network were arrested with about 700 live African Grey parrots. They attempted to bribe the Legion Commander in charge of Gendarmerie in Buea - South West Region with an amount of 5 Million Frs. CFA (about \$10 000). It is suspected that they however succeeded to bribe some elements of the Gendarmerie Brigade in Buea, where they were kept after arrest. Investigations that started on the suspicion of corruption evolved into something bigger and a court case has been established against the suspected gendarme officers. One of the arrested traffickers was allowed to escape from the Gendarmerie Brigade thereby giving credence to the bribing suspicion. 1 Million Frs. CFA (about \$2000) cash was found on one of the arrested traffickers and 1.5 Million Frs.CFA (About \$3000) was allegedly found in the home of one of the gendarme suspects. 3 gendarme officers are actually behind bars and with court cases established against them. In 2 other operations, a well known dealer in leopard skin with supplies from the Western Region of Cameroon was arrested with a large leopard skin while trying to illegally trade in it in Douala - Littoral. He resisted arrest and fought with the arresting officers in the vehicle that was used in transporting him. And a regular dealer in elephant products who hides behind bike riding to illegally trade in wildlife products was arrested in Muyuka – South West Region with 2 elephant tusks. After the arrest, he tried to negotiate and bribe the arresting officers with a sum of 200000 Frs. CFA (about \$400) which LAGA fought against.

### Rates of locking the accused behind bars before prosecution Jan-Dec 10



### Cases Profile

### Jan-Dec 10



### **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. The sentences being handed down are becoming more severe although the process of bringing the case to trial is becoming more time consuming due to corruption. Despite that, outstanding prosecutions were achieved this year, 19 cases were prosecuted with 26 dealers sentenced. Over \$185,000 was to be paid as damages MINFOF. There was a very good prosecution pertaining to 2 ivory dealers involved in 1 ton ivory trafficking, they were sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and to pay a record sum of over \$116,500 as fines and damages. Other good prosecutions were obtained in Abong Mbang – East where a dealer was sentenced to 9 months of prison term for killing a gorilla and trying to trade in its parts; in Ambam - South where a dealer was sentenced to 8 months of prison for trading in shells of forest tortoises, and in Sangmelima with the sentence of a female wildlife dealer to 8 months imprisonment for dealing in leopard skins. Corruption and trade of influence was observed in many of the cases though we think it will be more because most of the cases are still ongoing.

In January, 3 cases were sentenced against 4 wildlife dealers. The Court of First Instance of Bamenda – North West Region sentenced 2 Internet wildlife dealers who were arrested trying to sell a chimp over the Internet to a client in USA using falsified government documents and CITES Permit; and 2 sentenced by the Court of First Instance of Djoum – South who were arrested in Djoum for illegal killing and trading in protected wildlife species.

In February, the Court of First Instance of Yaounde – Administrative Centre sentenced an ivory dealer to 8 months imprisonment and to pay over \$2312 as fine and damages to MINFOF. He was arrested in Yaounde with 1 raw elephant tusk, carved elephant tusk and 29 worked pieces of ivory.

An outstanding prosecution was achieved in March. The Court of First Instance of Bonanjo-Douala – Littoral sentenced 2 ivory dealers to 1 year of imprisonment and to pay over \$116,500 as damages and fine. They were arrested in Douala for illegal dealing in and ready to export 1 ton of ivory representing more than 150 killed elephants. LAGA played a pivotal role in establishing a case file against the traffickers. The illegal ivory trade is rooted in corruption. Fighting corruption is therefore necessary in stopping illegal ivory trade; through effective wildlife law enforcement and prosecuting the heads of the criminal ivory trafficking cartels.

Still in March, 2 dealers were arrested in Kribi – South Region with 14 sea turtle shells. They have been in this illegal business for long and were carrying out their illegal activities openly and with impunity because of the lack of any concrete action to repel this illegal trade. This operation proves that illegal trade in sea turtle shells has been ongoing for long and very strong in that area. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting main actors and exposing this illegal trade. The LAGA Director have been using in some of his presentations for a long time the example of Kribi and Campo where several projects claimed to work on the protection of sea turtles for years

with strong contrast to the open sale of sea turtle shells. This contrast, a symptom for a larger failure can be seen in the sign in the photograph (this month in pictures), one of many decorating the area around where sea turtle products were openly sold for a long time. One of the hopes is that this serves as a message that we demand more from conservation, than publicity and workshops.

In April, the Court of First Instance of Bafoussam – West Region sentenced 2 dealers in protected wildlife products to 1 month of imprisonment and to pay over \$2500 as fines and damages each. They were arrested in Bafoussam for illegally trading in 2 leopard skins. In another case, the Court of First Instance of Kribi - South Region sentenced 2 main dealers to 1 year of prison suspended sentence during three years and to pay over \$1056 as fines and damages. They were arrested in Kribi for illegally trading in 14 sea turtle shells.

In May, the Court of First Instance of Bamenda – North West Region sentenced a female dealer to pay over \$340 as damages and fines. She will be retained in jail for 3 months in default of payment of the damages and fines. She was arrested in Bamenda for illegal detaining of parts of a totally protected animal. In June, the Court of First Instance of Nkambe – North West sentenced Sulle Taku to 1 month imprisonment and to pay \$240 as fines and damages. He will be retained in jail for 9 months in default of payment. He was arrested in Nkambe for illegal detention and trade of 50 python skins.

July was marked by the prosecution of 3 international parrot traffickers of Ghanaian nationality in Douala – Littoral Region. The Court of First Instance of Bonanjo - Douala – Littoral sentenced 3 parrot dealers of Ghanaian nationality to 2 year of prison suspended sentence during three years and to pay \$9400 each as damages. They were arrested in Douala for illegally trading in African grey parrots. The operation for their arrest started in 2009 and they were a part of a network of parrot traffickers in Douala, linked to some of the biggest wildlife traffickers. After their arrest, they stated in their statements of offence that the parrots were being taken to 2 regular traffickers who were the main actors in the seizure of the more than 1000 parrots in Douala in January 2010. An appeal was registered against the ruling by the court of first instance of Administrative Center – Yaounde in the matter against a dealer arrested with illegally trying to trade in a live mandrill and an elephant foot.

In August, the Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang - East sentenced a dealer to 6 months of prison suspended sentence during three years and to pay \$2575 as damages. He was arrested in Abong-Mbang for illegally detaining and trying to illegally trade in 2 elephant tusks.

4 dealers were sentenced October with a good prosecution obtained in Abong Mbang – East. The Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang sentenced one dealer to 9 months of prison and to pay \$3504 as damages and fines. He was arrested in Lomie - East for the killing of 1 gorilla and trying to trade in its parts. The Court of First Instance of Ambam - South sentenced 2 dealers – one of them to 3 months of prison suspended sentence during 3 years and another to 8 months of prison. Each has to pay \$2153 as damages and fines. They were arrested in Ambam for illegal trying to trade in 7 forest tortoise shells. In

another case, the Court of First Instance of Dschang - West convicted a dealer to 10 days of prison and to pay \$500 as damages and fines. He was arrested in Dschang for illegally detaining a live mandrill; an appeal was registered against this ruling.

Still in October, a trial procedure was opened in Douala – Littoral Region against 3 international ivory traffickers involved in the trafficking of 3.9 tons of ivory that was seized in Hong Kong in May 2006. 3 international high profile dealers from Asian were at the center of this illegal trafficking, and with the assistance of LAGA, a court case was opened against them in 2007 but due to complexity of the facts (profile of dealers, quantity and type of products seized) the State Counsel decided to open judicial investigations, and in October, the examining Magistrate closed the judicial investigations and decided to send the matter to court for trial. In the meanwhile the trial procedure will start according to the decision of examining magistrate even in the absence of the accused. It should be noted that the 3.9 tons of ivory seized in Hong Kong represents more than 300 killed elephants. Cameroon received the Interpol Ecomessage award for the investigation it carried out together with LAGA on this large scale ivory trafficking.

In November, the Court of First Instance of Yaounde – Ekounou - Center sentenced a dealer to pay \$648 as damages and fine. He was arrested in Yaounde for illegally trying to trade in 10 hippopotamus teeth. Another appeal was registered against this ruling.

In December, the Court of First instance of Sangmelima- South sentenced a female wildlife dealer to 8 months imprisonment and to pay over \$ 1800 as fine and damages. Her accomplice was sentenced to pay about \$700 as fine and damages. They were arrested in Sangmelima for illegal trade of 1 leopard skin.

135 missions were done out of the Center Region for follow-up, new cases and the creation of relations with judiciary authorities. There were relations opening with Provincial Attorney Generals and State Attorneys all with positive cooperative outcomes and expressions of their readiness and commitment to work with LAGA in Cameroon. Other missions were on the replication of LAGA activities and wildlife law enforcement.

#### **4. Media**

A total of 366 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. There were few media pieces in May and August due to lack of produced operations and cash problems faced by LAGA, and more in June, September, October, and November because of high number of produced operations.

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 and prosecutions amongst which are - 1 ton ivory seizure in Douala, Ministerial decision on bush meat market, seizure of more than 1000 parrots in Douala, replication of LAGA activities in the sub-region; 15<sup>th</sup> CITES conference Qatar; dealers arrested for killing a chimp in Yabassi, arrest and sentencing of gorilla killer in Lomie; Meyomessala dealers arrest of parts of chimp, giant pangolin and live drill; Kribi arrest of dealer in live mandrill; Dschang arrest of dealer and sentencing for dealing in a live mandrill; Yaounde ivory dealer arrest with 4 elephant tusks; Bafang arrest of leopard skin dealer; Baboon dealer arrested in Bafoussam; arrest of two Nigerians with sea turtle shells in Limbe; 3 dealers arrested with 700 parrots in Buea; 4 countries simultaneously clamped down on wildlife traffickers in the sub region - Cameroon- 2 operations arresting 3 dealers with 17 turtle shells; Gabon- Conservation Justice arresting 16 ivory dealers in 3 operations with 105Kg ivory; C.A.R- RALF arresting dealer with 2 lion skins, 2 tusks, 7 leopard skins, and Congo Brazzaville – PALF arresting dealer with 30 Kg ivory amongst others.

Guests included: MINFOF Minister, Information officer at the US Embassy, South West Regional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife, Director of LAGA, Director of WCS - Cameroon, Coordinator of TRAFFIC, Focal point CARPE, the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, LAGA Head of Legal Unit, Great Ape Officer of World Wide Fund, MINFOF Lawyer, Director of Wildlife and protected areas and Sub Director MINFOF in charge of the promotion of wildlife, MINFOF Dja and Lobo Divisional Delegate, the Legion Commander of the Gendarmerie – South West Region, Coordinator in charge of LAGA Cameroon Replication model and the traditional ruler of Bali – North West Region.

The distribution of the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of Wildlife Justice Magazine continued, and it is probably the most important under the theme Wildlife Crime and the Fight against Corruption. This theme brings together different aspects of the harms of corruption and its relation to wildlife crime, national and international academic research of corruption and the environment, the effect of corruption on the legal system, Diplomats discussed policies in the fight against corruption and its relations to wildlife conservation. Various government officials discussed both the obstacles of corruption on their tasks, as well as the ways they have developed to fight it back. Other articles gathered several experts digging into the causes and harms of corruption, its environmental impact and the role of civil society in the fight against corruption. This 6<sup>th</sup> edition is available on the LAGA

website. Wildlife Justice is a publication for the professional audience in charge of the application of the wildlife law. It is actively distributed free of charge to professionals – those who are in charge of the law enforcement process – police stations, gendarmes, agents of the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, courts and custom officers. It is also provided to policy makers, media houses, higher institutions of learning and conservation organizations based in Cameroon.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Wildlife Justice was published and this edition focuses on Replication and Regional Law Enforcement. It looks at the impact of transnational wildlife trade and on ways governments should be working together to combat this trade. It extensively shows how government and NGOs can work in collaboration to apply wildlife law enforcement using the LAGA model that is actually spreading to other countries of the sub-region with the goal of creating a coordinated sub-regional response to trans-border wildlife crime. Wildlife Justice is a thematic journal that focuses on wildlife law enforcement and conservation issues.

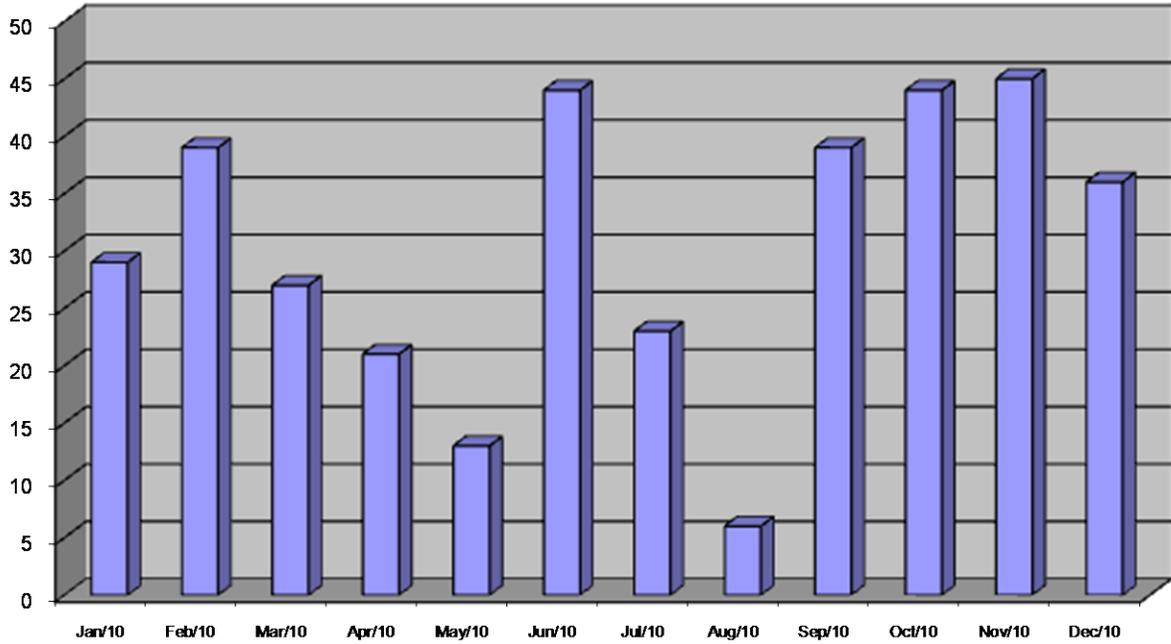
Other international media organs covered the work of LAGA. Confronting Corruption – LAGA Director winning the battle against corruption in conservation by refusing to ignore it, written by Conservation Magazine. The subject remains somewhat taboo—possibly because some in conservation view it as a necessary evil while others say it is too big a beast to fight, much less clearly understand. While corruption affects all societies, the incidence is highest in developing nations—which, as fate would have it, contain much of the world’s biodiversity. Countries with unstable governments are most vulnerable, but the world’s richest, most stable countries are not immune. <http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2010/12/confronting-corruption/>

The Guardian wrote: Central Africa - four-nation 'sting' operation busts wildlife smuggling ring – Conservationists hail breakthrough in regional co-operation to fight illegal traffic in ivory, parrots, skins and live animals. Sting operations by wildlife activists in central Africa have broken up highly organised smuggling rings sending endangered species abroad, leading to the arrest of key dealers and the recovery of hundreds of kilos of ivory, turtle shells and animal skins. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/dec/12/africa-wildlife-ivory-smuggling>

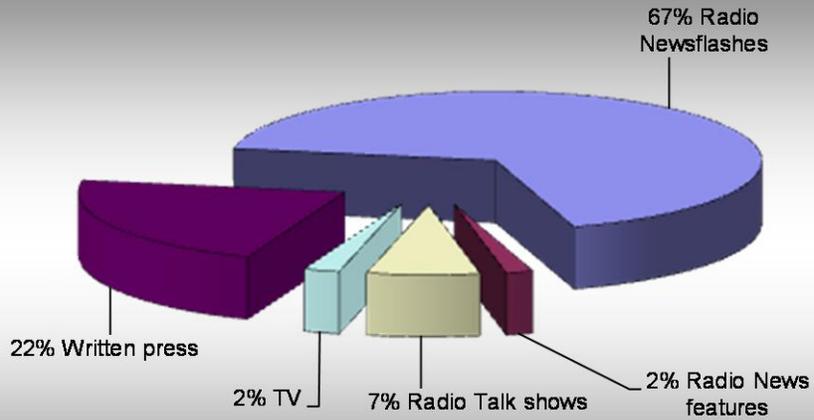
This year, LAGA continued with full-time website analysis:

There were about 7,000 views on the LAGA website for 2010 and page views stood at about 18,000. Views of LAGA videos on YouTube were over 59,000, and about 3,000 channel views.

Number of Media Pieces Produced and Pushed



Split of Media Pieces



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

Beyond the number of operations and their effectiveness there is an even more important factor in evaluating LAGA's work – the strategic value of the operations in reducing the level of illegal wildlife trade. In this regard LAGA is choosing diversified operations, which carry an added value to expose and map the different angles of wildlife crime in Cameroon. Consequently, LAGA-MINFOF's work sheds light on the nature of illegal wildlife trade in the entire sub-region. The strategic focus over this period was on great apes and other threatened primates, ivory, African grey parrots, feline skin trade, Internet wildlife trade, sea turtle shells, forest tortoise shells, python skins, Corruption and Wildlife Crime.

### **5.1. Apes & other threatened primates**

A total of 7 operations were carried out against 8 suspects dealing in great apes resulting in 8 court cases. 5 live primates were rescued and sent to specialized structures for up keeping. A good prosecution was obtained in October where the Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang – East Region sentenced one dealer to 9 months of prison and to pay \$3504 as damages and fines. He was arrested in Lomie - East for the killing of 1 gorilla and trying to trade in its parts.

In June, there was a special focus on primates especially gorillas and chimps. 2 well known poachers/dealers were arrested for killing a chimp and trading in its meat in Yabassi – Littoral Region after being denounced by the villagers themselves because of the high level of poaching that was being carried out by the dealers. The chimp was killed in the Ebo Reserve. They have a ready market in the main cities of Edea and Douala in the Littoral Region. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Delegation - Yabassi.

In another operation, repeated offender was arrested with a full freshly killed gorilla in Lomie – East Region. The gorilla was killed in the Dja reserve where he mostly does poaching. He then sells the meat to main dealers in Lomie and Abong Mbang who in turn sell in the main city of Yaounde - Center.

Still on primates, a principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Bamenda – North West Region. He was arrested for falsifying government documents and CITES Permits that he used to lure a victim in Canada to pay for a chimp which he did not have. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. He had already received \$150 from another victim in USA and had started with other victims in Ukraine and Spain.

September was marked by good operations – 5 operations against 12 dealers and 2 of the operations were carried out within 2 days and 3 live mandrills rescued. 2 well known dealers in protected bushmeat were arrested in Meyomessala – South for illegally trading in meat of protected wildlife species and for the illegal detention of a live mandrill. One of dealers is a woman who kept the meat in a deep-freezer in her home and supplied customers in the city of Yaounde – Center. Meat of chimps and other primates were amongst the consignment seized. The other dealer also had a live mandrill which was

seized. The operation was carried out with ECOFAC - Meyomessala. The animals were killed in the Dja Reserve.

In Kribi - South, a major dealer was arrested South with a live mandrill. He is a worker in a Hotel in Kribi where he keeps the animals and sells to mainly foreigners. He resisted arrest, was not cooperating with the arresting team from the onset. His alleged relative, an accomplice and a proprietor of the Hotel disturbed the operations procedure and arrest of the dealer and was very violent, insisting that the dealer should not follow the arresting team to the MINFOF Delegation – Kribi. The live mandrill was rescued and sent to the Limbe Wildlife Center for check-up and upkeep. Another dealer in live primates was arrested in Dschang – West Region with a live mandrill. He claims to have had other primates before, especially chimps that he raised and sold for more profits. The mandrill was rescued and taken to the Mvog Betsi Zoo in Yaounde for check-up and upkeep.

In another operation in November, a long time dealer in primates was arrested while trying to illegally sell 2 live baboons in Bafoussam - West. He had been keeping the animals for years while waiting for them to grow sufficiently so that he could trade in them. He claims to have raised and sold many primates before. Before the operation, 4 live baboons were seen with him, but he had already sold 2 when the operation took place.

In October, the Court of First Instance of Abong-Mbang – East Region sentenced one dealer to 9 months of prison and to pay \$3504 as damages and fines. He was arrested in Lomie - East for the killing of 1 gorilla and trying to trade in its parts. His relative, also a Court Registrar in Abong Mbang tried to negotiate several times for the release of the suspect.

## **5.2 Ivory and other Elephant Products**

This year was marked by a special focus on trade in Ivory and other elephant products. Operations were carried out to crack down on national and international ivory trade in the Central African sub-region. In Cameroon, 13 cases were opened against 13 illegal ivory dealers and traffickers.

In March, an operation was carried out during which a well known dealer and trafficker in ivory was arrested in Abong Mbang - East region with elephant tusks of less than 5 kg. The operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Abong Mbang.

In June, an ivory dealer with connections to other main dealers in Douala - Littoral Region was arrested in Fouban – West Region with 4 worked tusks and 1 civet skin.

In July a well known and repeated offender with connections to other main dealers in Yaounde - Center Region was arrested in Lomie – East Region with 2 elephant tusks. He has been in the trade for a long time and is a recidivist who had been arrested before for the killing of an elephant. This operation was carried out with MINFOF – Lomie. In another operation in September, a network of 5 dealers/poachers in elephant products was busted in Abong Mbang – East. They were arrested for killing of elephants and dealing in

their products. They were also in illegal possession of arms and ammunition. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation of Abong Mbang.

In October 3 regular dealers involved in the illegal trade of ivory arrested in Yaounde – Center. One of the dealers is of Egyptian nationality working with a construction company in Cameroon. Through the company, he is able to get ivory which he gives to his accomplices to either sell directly or get clients for the products. More investigations are being carried out on his international involvement in the illegal ivory trade. They were arrested with 4 carved elephant tusks.

Another regular ivory dealer who mainly sells in Yaounde but gets products from the Eastern Region was arrested in November with 4 elephant tusks all less than 5 kg while trying to illegally trade in them in Yaounde - Center. And in December, a well known dealer in elephant products who hides behind bike riding to illegally trade in wildlife products was arrested in Muyuka – South West Region with 2 elephant tusks both weighing less than 5 kg. He claims that he got the ivory from a supplier in Bamenda - North West Region. Investigations are still ongoing to get the said supplier. After the arrest, he tried to negotiate and bribe the arresting officers with a sum of 200000 Frs. CFA (about \$400) which LAGA fought against.

### **5.3 African Grey Parrots**

The seizure of about 2000 African Grey parrots during this period once more validated information we had before about the organized chain of complicity in the parrot trade and how white-collar criminals thrive on this complicity gaining a legitimate cover and eliminating the risk factor. The parrots will be progressively released into the wild by the Limbe Wildlife Center where they were taken.

In January, an operation was started against 4 international illegal traffickers of African Grey parrots. 2 of the traffickers are well known in Cameroon with 2 other accomplices one of whom is a Nigerian national. The traffickers are well connected to a big export network with accomplices in the Democratic Republic of Congo from where falsified government documents and CITES Permits used for the illegal exportation are issued. From all indications, they also have accomplices in the control posts at the airport through which the parrots pass without any proper control; and Ethiopian Airlines used for the transportation of the parrots seems to facilitate these illegal deals. The Airlines chose to move shipment without the required documents and we assume that it is not because of lack of knowledge pertaining to the requisite documents used for wildlife exportation. More than 1000 African Grey parrots were seized at the Douala International airport ready to be exported to Bahrain and Kuwait with the collaboration of the Douala Judicial Police.

In February, 3 international parrot traffickers all of Ghanaian nationality was arrested in Douala – Littoral while trying to transport more than 300 parrots out of the country. The operation for their arrest started in 2009 and they are a part of a network of parrot traffickers in Douala, linked to some of the biggest wildlife traffickers. After their arrest, they stated in their statements of offence that the parrots were being taken to 2 main traffickers who were the main actors in the seizure of the more than 1000 parrots in

Douala in January 2010 destined for Bahrain and Kuwait. The operation was carried out in collaboration with the Littoral Legion of Gendarmerie – Douala and ODPHE – an NGO engaged in wildlife conservation. This operation proves that trafficking of African Grey parrots is as strong as before because of lack of prosecutions pertaining to the first cases. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting the same actors again and exposing the continuation of the illegal wildlife trafficking. The trade that continues with impunity especially through the Douala International Airport shows the involvement of the concerned control authorities. LAGA had earlier informed the Minister on the implication of the MINFOF Chief of post of the Douala International Airport in the trafficking of parrots following the many operations carried out there; he was later removed from his post at the airport. Many irregularities were observed during the handling and transfer of the parrots 300 parrots seized. Out of the more than 300 parrots, only 51 reached the MINFOF Regional Delegation – Littoral from the Gendarmerie Brigade and only 27 reached the Limbe Wildlife Center from the MINFOF Delegation. Though some parrots died because of poor handling and transportation conditions by the dealers, more investigations are being carried out so as to pin-point these irregularities and acts of corruption that possibly took place.

Another dealer belonging to a network of parrot traffickers with a permanent market in Douala – Littoral was arrested in Kribi in May for illegally trying to traffic and trade in African Grey parrots. He has other accomplices amongst whom is a Ghanaian; his connection to other Ghanaian parrot traffickers who had been arrested before is being investigated. The MINFOF officials of the Ocean Regional Delegation - Kribi especially the Delegate himself acted unprocedurally. First, they took the offender from the Gendarmerie Brigade where he was kept in custody, released him and refused to sign the complaint report for a warrant for his re-arrest. The operation was carried out with the NGO – Center for Environment and Development (CED), also the source of the information. This operation, following those of March and April when 3 dealers were arrested with 16 sea turtle shells concretizes the fact that illegal trade in wildlife species and products has been ongoing for long and very strong in that area. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting main actors and exposing the silence of the local authorities and projects in the area.

In December, a big network of international traffickers in live African Grey parrots was busted in Buea – South West Region. They normally send the parrots to Nigeria through Idenau - South West Region. 3 members of the network were arrested with about 700 live African Grey parrots. They attempted to bribe the Legion Commander in charge of Gendarmerie in Buea - South West Region with an amount of 5 Million Frs. CFA (about \$10 000). It is suspected that they however succeeded to bribe some elements of the Gendarmerie Brigade in Buea, where they were kept after arrest. Investigations that started on the suspicion of corruption evolved into something bigger and a court case has been established against the suspected gendarme officers. One of the arrested traffickers was allowed to escape from the Gendarmerie Brigade thereby giving credence to the bribing suspicion. 1 Million Frs. CFA (about \$2000) cash was found on one of the arrested traffickers and 1.5 Million Frs.CFA (About \$3000) was allegedly found in the home of one of the gendarme suspects.

## 5.4 Sea Turtle Shells

In March, 2 dealers were arrested in Kribi – South Region with 14 sea turtle shells. They have been in this illegal business for long and were carrying out their illegal activities openly and with impunity because of the lack of any concrete action to repel this illegal trade. This operation proves that illegal trade in sea turtle shells has been ongoing for long and very strong in that area. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting main actors and exposing this illegal trade. The LAGA Director have been using in some of his presentations for a long time the example of Kribi and Campo where several projects claimed to work on the protection of sea turtles for years with strong contrast to the open sale of sea turtle shells. This contrast, a symptom for a larger failure can be seen in the sign in the photograph (this month in pictures), one of many decorating the area around where sea turtle products were openly sold for a long time. One of the hopes is that this serves as a message that we demand more from conservation, than publicity and workshops.

The month of April was marked by a continuation of the crackdown in the illegal trade of sea turtles in Kribi – South region. A dealer was arrested in Kribi – South Region with 2 sea turtle shells. He has been in this illegal business for long and was carrying out this illegal activity openly and with impunity because of the lack of any concrete action to repel this illegal trade. This operation, following that of March when 2 dealers were arrested with 14 sea turtle shells concretizes the fact that illegal trade in sea turtle shells has been ongoing for long and very strong in that area. This problem necessitated LAGA's intervention in hitting main actors and exposing the silence of the local authorities and projects in the area.

The month of August was marked by 2 good operations – 4 arrests in 1 day in 2 different parts of Cameroon; in the same month, LAGA found itself in the worse cash-flow crisis it experienced for years. It pleaded with Born Free-US for financial support to save it from a total stand still. LAGA operates with clear measurable objectives that need to be achieved on a monthly cycle and a month with no arrest is a disaster that should be avoided. Luckily Born Free –US came to our help to try to save the month and made efforts for the funds to arrive Cameroon through a speedy transfer. This assistance helped us get 4 wildlife dealers arrested in an exceptional effort. Right after, the initial cash flow problem was resolved. In Limbe – South West Region, 2 dealers were arrested with 13 turtle shells (one of them had 7 and the other 6 shells). The 2 dealers also act as tourist guides in the Bakingili area in Limbe – taking people to view the lava from Mount Cameroon, while at the same time carrying out illegal wildlife trade. The 2 dealers arrested called the Mayor of the town to come and intervene on their behalf. On arriving at the MINFOF office, the Mayor upon seeing the turtle shells and after an explanation for the reason of the arrest of the dealers, declared openly and for all the parties concerned to hear that he has “NO HAND” in the matter and that the dealers should be sanctioned according to the provisions of the law.

In November in 2 separate operations in Limbe and Bimbia-Limbe in the South West Region, 3 dealers were arrested with a total of 17 sea turtle shells. In the first operation in Limbe, the 2 dealers arrested were of Nigerian nationality, they were arrested while trying to illegally trade in 7 sea turtle shells. In the second operation, the dealer was

arrested with 10 sea turtle shells in Bimbia - Limbe. One of the arrested Nigerians was responsible for the decoration and painting of the shells.

### **5.5 Forest Tortoise Shells**

The trade in forest tortoise shells was not known to us but following the operation in August whereby 2 regular dealers in shells of forest tortoises were arrested in Ambam – South with 7 forest tortoise shells, we realized that it is a new area which requires more attention especially as it is international from what we have seen. One of the dealers initially resisted arrest. They have been in this illegal business for long with a ready market in Ambam and Kye-Ossi with most buyers coming from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

### **5.6 Internet Wildlife Trade**

As far as we know, LAGA was instrumental in bringing forward the first cyber-crime court cases in Cameroon and also showing the link between fraud and real trade. This year LAGA was able to conduct operations against 2 internet wildlife dealers in Buea – South West and Bamenda – North West Regions respectively. Studying the worrying growth of Internet wildlife fraud in Cameroon in the last three years we noticed the link between wildlife and other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams.

In January following a report to LAGA and international collaboration with a victim in the Netherlands, a principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Buea – South West Region. He was arrested for falsifying government documents and CITES Permits that he used to lure a victim in the Netherlands to pay for a capuchin monkey which he did not have. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated.

In June, a principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Bamenda – North West Region. He was arrested for falsifying government documents and CITES Permits that he used to lure a victim in Canada to pay for a chimp which he did not have. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. He had already received \$150 from another victim in USA and had started with other victims in Ukraine and Spain.

### **5.7 Leopard Skins**

Operations were carried out against dealers clamping down on leopard skins trade in some sensitive regions. 4 dealers were arrested and 3 leopard skins seized. The focused operations were effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspots for leopard skin trade. In August in Sangmelima – South Region, 1 female dealer with her accomplice were arrested with 1 large fresh leopard skin. They are highly involved in illegal trade of protected bushmeat and other wildlife products; have a network of suppliers at Djoum - South and sell the products in the major cities of Sangmelima and Yaounde.

In November, a regular dealer who owns an artifact shop and is also a carver was arrested in Bafang – West with a traditional bag made out of a leopard skin while trying to illegally trade in it. He hides behind this shop to launder the illegal trade in products of protected wildlife species. And in December, a well known dealer in leopard skin with supplies from the Western Region of Cameroon was arrested with a large leopard skin while trying to illegally trade in it in Douala - Littoral. He resisted arrest and fought with the arresting officers in the vehicle that was used in transporting him.

### **5.8 Python Skins**

Trade in python skin is another new area we started to study this year how well organized it is. An operation was carried out against a dealer clamping down on python skins trade in the sensitive region of the North West. The focused operation was effective in media sensitization sending the message of a strong concentrated strike in the specific locations that are hotspot for python skin trade.

A dealer with a network of suppliers of python skins in Nkambe and buyers in Bafoussam - West Region was arrested in Nkambe – North West Region while trying to illegally traffic and trade in 50 python skins. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Nkambe.

### **5.9 Hippo Products**

In CAR, investigations showed that trade in hippo teeth is replacing trade in ivory, this has not been observed in Cameroon but it is not conclusive. In June, a major dealer was arrested with 10 hippo teeth initially presenting them as ivory in Yaounde – Center Region. He has suppliers of products of protected animal species especially ivory in Douala. During his arrest, he tried to bribe the arresting officials, offering them 200.000 Frs. (about \$400) for his release. Irregularities were observed during and after the writing of the complaint report - the officials from the MINFOF Central Regional Delegation and the National Anti-Poaching Unit refused to sign the complaint report thereby highlighting suspicion of corruption. The official from the National Anti-Poaching unit later signed the complaint report after much pressure from LAGA.

### **5.10 Corruption and Wildlife Crime**

LAGA took a decade-long baseline of zero prosecutions under the existing wildlife law - a shocking baseline shared with almost all Central and Western African countries with sharp contrast to the amount of public funds poured into conservation - as a symptom of failure of the aid business, and its inability to tackle the first obstacle to development - corruption.

LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. 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. The project is considered

to have moved Cameroon from the decade long zero wildlife prosecution baseline to a one per week rate of a major wildlife dealer arrest and prosecution, and achieved legitimacy for an NGO to fight corruption within a governmental process.

This ongoing fight is being manifested in some results either directly or indirectly. In June, a senior public official (SDO) that admitted to the possession of elephant meat last year in one of our cases and avoided prosecution so far was sent to early retirement. We have fought for justice to take place, so far, as involvement of local authorities in illegal activities makes much of the corruption in the forest sector. Bear in mind that till not so far ago the prefect boasted of awaiting a promotion to a governor position, and while threatening our legal adviser, his wife shouted – “it is not for this that my husband will lose his job”. So this “early retirement” was definitely unexpected. What made this case more interesting for us is the fact that conservation NGOs regularly paid the SDO to participate in meetings, using public funds to fill his pockets as he makes speeches about the great work of these NGOs. We will continue to push for his prosecution as well as use this case to fight against the per diem system that at time can amount to a bribing scheme

Attempts and suspicions of bribery were observed during some other arrest operations. This was vivid in the December operation that resulted in the bursting of a network of international parrot traffickers in Buea – South West Region whereby the arrested offenders attempted to bribe the Legion Commander in charge of Gendarmerie in Buea - South West Region with an amount of 5 Million Frs. CFA (about \$10 000). It is suspected that they however succeeded to bribe some elements of the Gendarmerie Brigade in Buea, where they were kept after arrest. Investigations that started on the suspicion of corruption evolved into something bigger and a court case has been established against the suspected gendarme officers. One of the arrested traffickers was allowed to escape from the Gendarmerie Brigade thereby giving credence to the bribing suspicion. 1 Million Frs. CFA (about \$2000) cash was found on one of the arrested traffickers and 1.5 Million Frs.CFA (about \$3000) was allegedly found in the home of one of the gendarme suspects.

Still in December, a dealer in elephant products who was arrested in Muyuka – South West Region with 2 elephant tusks both weighing less than 5 kg tried to negotiate and bribe the arresting officers with a sum of 200000 Frs. CFA (about \$400) which LAGA fought against.

Bribery attempts and suspicion of corruption were observed in many other cases. The Regional delegate of social affairs for the South West who is also the Uncle of a renowned Internet wildlife dealer arrested in Buea in January approached the delegation for negotiations but was turned down.

Reports from a Legal adviser indicate that during the writing of the complaint report, 2 dealers arrested with 14 sea turtle shells in Kribi – South tried to negotiate with the team, offering money for their release.

The forwarding of the offence statement from the delegation to the state counsel suffered a long delay in the case of an ivory dealer arrested with 4 worked elephant tusks in

Foumban – West which according to the MINFOF lawyer is a clear indication of an attempt to illegally bury the case file by the regional delegation.

In the case of a dealer in gorilla parts arrested in Abong Mbang – East in June, the relative who is also a Court Registrar in Abong Mbang tried to negotiate with the State Counsel for the release of the suspect. In another case in June, a dealer arrested with hippo teeth attempted to bribe the arresting officers with about \$500.

In Sangmelima – South, a leopard skin dealer who also happens to be a woman offered one of the arresting police officers the sum of about \$200 and offered sex favours. She also approached a MINFOF official to settle the matter financially. The same lady proposed any amount of money to a LAGA Legal Adviser upon request so as to settle the case out of court.

Another lady dealer arrested for dealing in chimp meat in Meyomessala – South attempted to negotiate with the MINFOF officials and LAGA Legal Adviser for her release. She also meet unsuccessful the Director of LAGA with the chief of protocol of MINFOF to negotiate. The Director of LAGA promised that he will make sure she received the maximum sentence. There is high suspicion that she bribed at the level of the court because she was released under unknown conditions and before the second hearing.

In Dschang – West, a dealer arrested with a live mandrill in tried to negotiate with the LAGA Legal Adviser and one of the arresting police officers. During the first hearing of the matter, the judge oriented the accused in his defense, a situation which was decried by the lawyer. The sentence meted out to the dealer was very minimal and an appeal was immediately done. This case is a clear indication of suspicion of bribery.

The transfer of 2 live baboons rescued during an operation in Bafoussam – West from the West Regional Delegation to the Mvog Betsi Zoo in Yaounde suffered a huge delay and obstacle. In fact, the rescued animals were given back to the arrested dealer, an event which is totally unprocedural. This situation has raised suspicions of bribery at the level of the Regional Delegation.

In November, 2 Nigerians were arrested while dealing in 7 sea turtle shells and their employer who is a police commissioner has tried unsuccessful negotiating with MINFOF officials for the release of the accused. The commissioner also met the State Counsel several times to negotiate for the release of the dealers.

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.



## **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 year was rich in meetings with the issues related to – the signing of a new MoU for the next 2 years, implementation of MINFOF decision organizing market for the sales of bush meat, the involvement of the SDO of Boumba and Ngoko in trafficking of ivory and other elephant products, corruption in the Douala Airport and a proposed removal of its Chief of Post, Pongo Songo problem, the finalization of the tablets of lawyers, problems of collaboration with the Delegate of South Region and missions to Douala to work on parrot trafficking.

LAGA also met with other government officials – with the head of follow up unit in the Ministry of Justice concerning legal threats against LAGA; with the Director General of National Security to talk on wildlife law enforcement and the need to further formalize collaboration with the Police Forces; other senior officials of the General Delegation for National Security to discuss on the MoU between LAGA and the Delegation.

## **7. International Arena**

LAGA participated in many conferences this year. The Head of the Legal Department participated in the conference of the Interpol Environmental working group in Ivory Coast. He gave a presentation on the collaboration between NGO and Government in the fight against wildlife crime and international wildlife trade, as well as the replication of LAGA activities in the Central African Sub-region. The presentation was welcomed and highly appreciated.

In September Head of Legal Department participated in the Conference of the Interpol Wildlife Working group in Lyon - France. He gave a presentation on the collaboration between NGO and Government in the fight against wildlife criminality. The presentation was welcomed and appreciated. He also had the opportunity to contact other organizations on how to work together in wildlife law enforcement.

LAGA participates in the 15<sup>th</sup> CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Doha – Qatar. The meeting was used to push for wildlife law enforcement in different forums, and many side meetings with countries to replicate the LAGA model; NGOs, other state agencies to collaborate on international law enforcement, researchers and donors.

Many meetings were held with the Diplomatic community – the US embassy, British High Commission, Dutch Embassy, French Embassy, the Israeli Embassy, the European

Union, the German Embassy, American Peace Corp etc. Issues discussed were on legal threat against LAGA, wildlife law enforcement, fight against corruption in general and corruption in the environment sector, investment in the forest sector, the procedure against the SDO of Yokadouma – East Region who is implicated in the trafficking of elephant products as a part of a LAGA operation, the signing of APT-AID principles, the application of proclamation 7750, collaboration on education modules for activism based on the LAGA model, replication of LAGA activities, fostering community activism, uniting Civil Society in Cameroon etc.

Several meetings were held with other International organizations – with CARPE Focal Point to discuss on wildlife enforcement and CARPE small grants programme; with Dirck Bayler of US Fish and Wildlife Services on wildlife enforcement, the financial support to LAGA and its replication in the sub region; the World Bank Cameroon on corruption in the forest sector, wildlife law enforcement, APT-AID principles and new strategy for investment in conservation projects, and involvement of government officials in trafficking; and with a World Bank Governance Officer on corruption in the forest sector, transparency and accountability in NGO projects; with CHOC to discuss on corruption in the forest sector, the involvement of government officials in wildlife trafficking and the APT – AID principles; with the Peace Corps on using LAGA’s experience for fostering activism among Peace Corps volunteers and rural communities; with the Manager of CORUD – the Centre for Communication in Rural Development and LAGA Head of Media and External Relations held meeting to discuss on future research work on corruption and bush meat trade; with Franck Chantreau of Jeunes Animaux Confisqués au Katanga based in DRC. Top on the agenda; replication of LAGA model in the Katanga province of DRC in June 2010 under JACK (his organisation). Other meetings were held with a trainee from GTZ on conservation, corruption and wildlife law enforcement; with Transparency International on using the LAGA’s experience to improve the fight against corruption in Cameroon and using lessons from AC for TI Hotline; with Danwatch, a consumer NGO from Denmark held meeting with the Director of LAGA and discussed on link between wildlife crime and logging, FSC certificate etc.

A meeting between LAGA Director and WWF - discussions centered on the SDO of Boumba and Ngoko involvement in elephant trafficking, the use of forensic audit as a measure against corruption in project and other measures against corruption in WWF projects.

LAGA also met with individuals– with Terry Hathaway of International Rivers and LAGA Director met and discussed on the following; environment - Lom-Pangar dam, possible conflict of interest concerning Cameroon’s electricity suppliers and EU funding for the dam project; with Shannon Randolph, a PHD student/researcher working on bush meat trade met with LAGA Director to discuss on corruption in NGO project, she also gave a presentation on her research work on bushmeat markets in Yaounde to LAGA’s Staff; with David Quommen - contributing writer of National Geographic magazine on transmission of diseases by apes, involvement of LAGA in early alert system for outbreaks, sciences publication involved in LAGA and the bushmeat trade; with Kay Farmer on Publications on professional literature on LAGA and lesson learnt for conservation; with Dan Stiles a wildlife researcher: discussion centered on ivory trade study done in the

year 2000 and current IUCN study on elephant meat and ivory trade, using LAGA's data to analyse scope and magnitude of ivory trade and social analysis of trade networks.

LAGA also held meetings with organizations at the national level – with volunteers of Wild Planet Eco-project to discuss on the continuity of the environmental educational activities of their organ after the death of its founding Director, late Wolfgang Heilmann; with Marian Namzaoui, a CED volunteer and discussed the following; corruption and conservation, APT-AID principles, wildlife conservation and engaging committees in denouncing wildlife crime; with COMISUD to discuss issues on wildlife law enforcement.

Other meetings were held with Dan Stiles, a researcher on trade in bush meat to discuss about ivory trade study done in the year 2000 and current IUCN study on elephant meat and ivory trade, using LAGA's data to analyse scope and magnitude of ivory trade and social analysis of trade networks; with Nick Cocayne – Ex CWAF volunteer to discuss the situation in the zoos and animal welfare in Cameroon; with the widow of Mongo Beti – Odile (President of an NGO - SURVIE) to discuss on the fight against corruption and the challenges of the upcoming election; with Ushahidi Founder in Nairobi on the use of technology to promote democracy in Cameroon.

LAGA received high recognition in the fight against corruption during this period, LAGA Director was invited to present LAGA's work in the US organized African anti-corruption seminar in Douala that included judiciary and anti corruption commissions from several countries. As the only NGO in the seminar LAGA's experience has been examined in fighting corruption in the judiciary and calling upon national anti-corruption bodies in Africa to develop partnerships with civil society and mechanisms to maintain their institutions free of corruption. LAGA's work has been lauded.

The Head of the Legal Department went on a special mission to the Central African Republic (CAR) to assist the coordinator of RALF in that country while replicating LAGA activities with WWF-CAR, and transferring Cameroon government's globally acclaimed wildlife law enforcement experience to the CAR wildlife law enforcement authorities. He was charged with the assessment of the level of execution of the replication exercise; assessment of activities in the various departments (Investigations, Legal, Media, External Relations); the recruitment of Legal Advisers and Investigators; and meetings with the Judicial, Administrative and Diplomatic authorities. All these objectives were met and the replication activities are ongoing smoothly with good results. He also participated in the conference of the Interpol Environmental working group in Ivory Coast. He gave a presentation on the collaboration between NGO and Government in the fight against wildlife crime and international wildlife trade, as well as the replication of LAGA activities in the Central African Sub-region. The presentation was welcomed and highly appreciated.

Many presentations were also done – LAGA Director did a presentation on corruption, wildlife crime and the need for WWF to undertake responsibilities of wildlife enforcement based on the LAGA model to Country Directors and some project managers of WWF CARPO. Emphasis was also made on the disconnection between the core values

of WWF and the realities in the field. He also presented a paper at the US Embassy on corruption in NGO sector and the APT – AID principles to a group of 50 NGOs; at the PASA management meeting of all Africa Sanctuaries on wildlife law enforcement including suggestions for a harmonized form for receiving apes to encourage wildlife law enforcement. Additional discussions were held on specific enforcement issues in Congo, DRC, Guinea Conakry and Uganda. Teri of International Rivers met with LAGA to give presentation that focus on unveils truth about electricity, its prices and its consumers and the Lom-Pangar Dam to be built.

Presentation by Alain – Head of Legal Department on "NGO-government collaboration on wildlife law enforcement: Lessons for a better involvement of WWF in Central Africa": The aim of this paper was to present the scope of wildlife crime in Cameroon and in Central Africa as a whole, to show the necessity of collaboration between NGOs and governments on law enforcement at national and regional levels with the case study of LAGA in Cameroon and to present PALF, RALF and AALF projects as results of the replication of LAGA model in Congo, CAR and Gabon respectively. WWF involvement in the replication process was also highlighted with various results and challenges as well as orientations were given on what WWF can practically do in the future with existing replication projects and in countries where it does not yet exist. He also gave a presentation to Transparency International - "Fighting corruption in the judiciary: Case study of an unusual partnership": this paper intends to present how LAGA through his collaboration with the Cameroonian government fights corruption as the main obstacle in the law enforcement and application process.

The Head of Legal Unit LAGA gave a presentation in Douala (on the theme wildlife enforcement in TNS (Tri National Sangha) to talk on the collaboration between NGO and Governments in the fight against wildlife crime and corruption through the effective enforcement of wildlife law in the Central Africa sub region.

The Director of LAGA carried out anti-corruption training for a project intending to study corruption in the transport sector. The training included – corruption and the Cameroonian legislation, principles of investigation, classification of data.

## **8. Management**

Work on organizing LAGA's management structure and developing departmental action plans continued while expanding recruitment in three LAGA departments (Investigations, Legal, and Media). This year continued with the capitalizing of the LAGA experience in the write ups of manuals and essays analyzing work strategy and results analysis in order to disseminate later on, LAGA's lessons on wildlife law enforcement and the fight against corruption.

The inculcation of LAGA values continued through interactions with current workers and through the implementation of LAGA's recruitment policy: "LAGA is more of a family than an NGO—a very small group of people who stand up for each other." Close

friendships are formed by sharing the hardship of the struggle against wildlife crime and the constant tension that accompanies LAGA's mission—workers become a family fighting together for one goal. This is much more than an anecdote, this is a management approach, though one that is more developed in the competitive private sector: develop the inner motivation of your staff by appealing to their psychological need to belong, and make them stakeholders in the success or failure of your organization.

In January, LAGA family resumed work after 3 weeks Christmas holiday and activities immediately kicked off in all the departments resulting into the arrest of an Internet wildlife dealer and the initiation of operations against 4 renowned international traffickers of African Grey parrots and other wildlife species. Work started in the absence of the LAGA Director and the excellent results in all fronts was more proof of the growing capacity and independence of the departments.

Still in January, the LAGA Director introduced weekly meeting sessions to take place at least once a week. Other meetings and the agendas can be 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.

LAGA experienced cash flow problems in February, March, April, June July and August that slowed down the work and results of the LAGA's departments. Despite this problem, successful operations were carried out against targeted suspects showing the commitment of LAGA staff to function with limited financial resources.

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. 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: World financial crisis – An opportunity for Cameroon; Avatar – A film on humanity and nature; Bamako – International Financial Institutions and local activist demanding good governance pertaining to their projects; Assessment of the international solidarity in front of natural disaster, the case of earthquake in Haiti; Sunset in Beijing, the explanation of the Beijing summit on the Rights of Women; Lord of war – a film demonstrating the mafia and dangerous involvement of individual and high officials of the army into arms trading in order to make fast money; Trade in small arms (deadly trade) - how small and light arms are being trafficked in Africa and to raise awareness due to the devastating effects of this trade on humans, the environment, the economy and the political and social destabilization in Africa; Amendment of the law on the creation, organization and functioning of ELECAM; Electricity power supply in Cameroon - unveiling the truth

about electricity, its prices and its consumers and the Lom-Pangar Dam to be built; Capitalism and the love story - Michael Moore in this film says we need a new economic order and that order can only be democracy after exposing the ills of the capitalist society in the US as we see it today; the electoral process in Cameroon - problems and irregularities and the question on the existence of an Anglophone problem in Cameroon; the trafficking of women and young girls for sexual exploitation with the complicity of officials of the forces of law and order; some guidelines on writing a paper for a seminar or workshop and for publication in a newspaper; the relationship between human beings; women's rights enshrined in Cameroon's constitution, and international conventions ratified by Cameroon – making a comparison with the actual laws that till now discriminates women; the battle of one woman against traditional inheritance law; the historical background, aim and evolution of children's parliament in Cameroon 10 years after its introduction; non-violent protest against WTO by the civil society, economist, and environmentalist; the analysis of the speech made by President Paul Biya (Republic of Cameroon) in the 65<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly that took place in September 2010 in New York; the route of HIV-AIDS in apes with some Belgian researchers claiming that HIV-AIDS originated from Congo in Africa and later spread to the West; the experiences and objective in moving on bikes across Africa by Dean and Eric from the UK; the notion of paying a favor not back, but forward--repaying good deeds not with payback, but with new good deeds done to new people. A manual on Fostering Community Activism was written and printed. More details are available at <http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Activism/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

In September, a 1 week training session was carried out involving all the Investigators on Investigations procedure, Operations procedure, Discipline, Security, Planning of Missions, Identification of protected species and wildlife products, Use and Control of Equipment, Fact sheet of products and their prices, using the Organic System of the Department etc. This capacity building and training exercise has led to encouraging results.

During this period, LAGA lost friends and relatives of some LAGA family members. In July, LAGA lost a friend and collaborator – Wolfgang of German nationality who was highly involved in environmental educational activities. He died in Kribi – South, and LAGA fully participated in his burial in Kribi and later organized a tribute for him at his residence in Yaounde – Center. In August, Eric of the Media and External Relations Department lost his wife due to illness and the LAGA family comprising of a delegation of 8 members assisted in the burial of the deceased in Nkambe – North West Region. And in September, 2 LAGA staff took part in the burial ceremony of Ngum Francis (the former Head of the anti-poaching Unit at MINFOF) in Oku – North West Region.

In December, 1 Investigator was dismissed this month for giving conflicting reports and not being effective in giving accurate information and low return of produced operations. Generally there is zero tolerance in lying and any Investigator caught doing that is immediately dismissed despite any good results furnished. Active search for lies is always done and efforts made at uncovering it even with the best investigators.

## **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. LAGA started working with a new budget proposal for sub-regional replication work. The LAGA model is currently operating in 4 countries – Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) and the Central African Republic (CAR) and Gabon.

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>

This vision of regional wildlife law enforcement was concretized in the month of November with very good operations in Cameroon, Gabon, C.A.R and Republic of Congo and a total of 21 major dealers arrested. Experience from Cameroon has proven that enforcing existing wildlife laws and providing measurable standards for the effectiveness of the enforcement, that is the number of major wildlife law violators receiving and serving a deterring punishment, is possible. Unfortunately baseline for this indicator is still zero in most countries in the Central and Western African Sub-regions highlighting the need for the extension of the LAGA model. The model has already been set up under the PALF project in Congo Brazzaville and the RALF project in Central Africa Republic with arrests and prosecutions carried out. In Gabon, the AALF project is responsible for replication under the NGO Conservation Justice. The vision of carrying out regional enforcement through the aforementioned organizations was concretized this month when operations were simultaneously carried out within 5 days in Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

#### ***Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement***

26/11- Cameroon- 2 operations arresting 3 dealers with 17 turtle shells

26/11-Gabon- Conservation Justice arresting 16 ivory dealers in 3 operations with 105Kg ivory

29/11-C.A.R- RALF arresting dealer with 2 lion skins, 2 tusks, 7 leopard skins

30/11-Congo B – PALF arresting dealer with 30 Kg ivory

For further improvement and more operations in regional enforcement, training sessions were held in Yaounde – Cameroon and trips made to other projects in the sub-region. 3 jurists traveled to Cameroon for training sessions under the supervision of the Head of LAGA Legal Department. Hubert, the coordinator of RALF project in CAR (Central African Republic), Gervais from the AALF Project in Gabon and Leslie from the PALF

Project in Congo were all trained on activities of each LAGA department: Investigations, Legal, Operations, Communication and Management. They were also trained on values and results with the aim of getting skills and receiving tools and materials in order to improve on the effectiveness of the projects' activities and improve on the projects' results. They had specific training sessions with various members of LAGA staff in various issues including the collect and exploitation of information, how to make field operations, the establishment of wildlife complaint reports, how to build a good and strong court case and how to follow up procedures in court with assessment of each party involved (magistrates, suspect, lawyers) and identification of practices of corruption and other irregularities until final decision is given, how to execute court decisions and how to publicize results of wildlife law enforcement in media. They attended court hearings and participated in some operations with Gervais (AALF) assisting in the arrest of an ivory dealer in Muyuka – South West Region.

The first edition of the LAGA Manual was completed and printed. This manual valorizes LAGA's work with all procedures and evaluation factors well spelled out from all Departments. The manual is intended to serve as a blueprint for not only the replication of LAGA activities, but for other organizations that intend to take up wildlife law enforcement and other conservation activities. Experience from Cameroon has proven that enforcing existing wildlife laws and providing measurable standards for the effectiveness of the enforcement, that is the number of major wildlife law violators receiving and serving a deterring punishment, is possible. The LAGA is the first specialized Law Enforcement NGO in the sub-region. It focuses on threatened species, and mainly on the dealers, the primary generators of the illegal bush meat business, the ivory trade and the pet trade.

In September Head of Legal Department participated in the Conference of the Interpol Wildlife Working group in Lyon - France. He gave a presentation on the collaboration between NGO and Government in the fight against wildlife criminality. The presentation was welcomed and appreciated. He also had the opportunity to contact other organizations on how to work together in wildlife law enforcement.

He gave another presentation on "NGO-government collaboration on wildlife law enforcement: Lessons for a better involvement of WWF in Central Africa": The aim of this paper was to present the scope of wildlife crime in Cameroon and in Central Africa as a whole, to show the necessity of collaboration between NGOs and governments on law enforcement at national and regional levels with the case study of LAGA in Cameroon and to present PALF, RALF and AALF projects as results of the replication of LAGA model in Congo, CAR and Gabon respectively. WWF involvement in the replication process was also highlighted with various results and challenges as well as orientations given on what WWF can practically do in the future with existing replication projects and in countries where it does not yet exist.

A regional law library was created 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.

## **9.2. Gabon**

In November, as part of the LAGA replication and the vision of Regional enforcement, the Director of LAGA travelled for a one week mission to assist Luc Mathot, leader of Conservation Justice in kick-starting law enforcement in Gabon. This resulted to the arrest of dealers with 105kg ivory including 9 Senegalese and 2 Cameroonians.

Given the repeated failures of the usual strategies for conservation in Central Africa and elsewhere in the world, additional actions must be undertaken. The greatest difficulty encountered by organizations for the protection of nature in developing countries is the lack of enforcement by wildlife authorities, mainly because of poverty and corruption. While the long-term measures to raise awareness or develop income and alternative sources of protein are recommended, the risk is high than when solutions will be realized, the currently threatened species have already disappeared. The effective application of the law may reduce the immediate threat and enhance the possibility of a long-term survival of these species. Through a survey program, operation, monitoring, legal and media, some NGOs and projects have already implemented a practical methodology to develop effective enforcement of law and combat illegal hunting and trade.

*Conservation Justice* was created by Luc M, an activist who launched the PALF project in the Republic of Congo with the support of LAGA. The objective was to establish the LAGA Model in the sub-region by the creation of independent bodies headed by motivated and competent people. Accompanying measures were also conducted through awareness and support of any potential partner to participate in the enforcement of wildlife; that is how Conservation Justice came into existence.

<http://www.conservation-justice.org>

Gervais Ngonga, a Jurist from the AALF Project in Gabon traveled to Cameroon for a training session. He was trained on activities of each LAGA department: Investigations, Legal, Operations, Communication and Management. He attended court hearings and participated in an operation assisting in the arrest of an ivory dealer in Muyuka – South West Region.

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

LAGA's first replication was in the Republic of Congo. A new PALF Coordinator – Naftali Honig was trained and put in place in the Brazzaville to continue with the replication of the LAGA Model. PALF works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Forest Economy to lay the foundation for its implementation and in view of replicating the Cameroonian model. PALF equally has as objective the fight against corruption in the wildlife sector and beyond because this constitutes the main handicap for the effective application of wildlife law in the Republic of Congo.

<http://www.palf-enforcement.org>

In November, Leslie Ndinga, a Jurist from the PALF Project traveled to Cameroon and was trained on activities of each LAGA department: Investigations, Legal, Operations, Communication and Management. They were also trained on values and results with the aim of getting skills and receiving tools and materials in order to improve on the

effectiveness of the projects' activities and improve on the projects' results. She also attended court sessions.

In addition to other good operations, in November in regional enforcement, PALF arrested a dealer with 30 Kg ivory.

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

RALF is a WWF Project that was put in place with the collaboration of LAGA in order to remedy the situation of the non-application of the wildlife law in that country. The programme for the reinforcement of the application of wildlife law- RALF was created in a bit to reproduce and inculcate into the Central African authorities in charge of the application of wildlife law, the Cameroonian model of the effective application of wildlife law which has been strongly acclaimed by the international community. RALF works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry, Hunting and Fishery, WWF and embassies to lay the foundation for its implementation and in view of replicating the Cameroonian model.

The activities in CAR were in Phase 3 covering the period between January and March 2010. Focus of the operations was on apes and of the 8 dealers arrested, 5 were dealing in apes resulting in the rescue of 3 live chimpanzees. This was carried out by the NGO RALF (re-enforcement of the application of wildlife law) with the Ministry in charge of wildlife.

In March, 3 operations were carried out against 5 dealers and 3 chimps were rescued. On the 10<sup>th</sup> an operation was carried out against two dealers including a military officer. The chimpanzee seized belonged to a Corporal of the National Armed Forces and they were arrested while trying to illegally trade in the chimp. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same month, another operation was carried out against a police officer accompanied by his accomplice who also happened to be a worker with the wildlife administration. They were also trying to sell a live chimpanzee. Finally on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, an operation was carried out against a chimpanzee dealer.

Other operations were carried out during this phase 3 of the replication of LAGA activities in CAR. In January, 2 operations were carried out against 2 dealers. The first operation carried out against a big government official of the Central African Republic. He was arrested for the illegal detention of 5 crocodiles following the execution of the search warrant issued by the State Counsel of the High Court of Bangui. The second dealer was arrested in front of a restaurant when he came to deliver 2 crocodiles. In February, another operation was carried out against a dealer in leopard skins.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Replication/RALF/tabid/165/Default.aspx>

In October, Hubert Yamande, the Coordinator of RALF - CAR traveled to Cameroon to carry out a one month training session on LAGA activities, values and results with the aim of getting skills and receiving tools and materials in order to improve on the effectiveness of RALF activities and save the project's drop in results after LAGA pulled out. Under the supervision of the Head of Legal Department, he is trained on activities of each LAGA's department: Investigations, Legal, Operations, Communication and

Management. Hubert also attended one court hearing in Abong Mbang - East and received some training in how to make financial and activities reports.

Less than 2 weeks after his training in Cameroon, Hubert in November in regional wildlife law enforcement carried out an operation arresting a dealer with 2 lion skins, 2 tusks, and 7 leopard skins. The dealer was tracked down in a truck and was about to take the products to another country.

### **9.5. Nigeria**

In December, the Head of Legal Department travelled to Nigeria in order to meet the authorities of National Environmental Standard Regulation and Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and discussed about the replication of wildlife law enforcement in Nigeria and to set the foundations.

### **9.6. East and Southern Africa**

The Cameroon experience in wildlife law enforcement is attracting a lot of attention from different countries across Africa, not just immediate neighbours in Central Africa but countries as far as East and South Africa like Zambia, Malawi and Uganda where conservationists want to know more about how they can increase collaboration with LAGA and the government of Cameroon with a rich experience in wildlife law enforcement.

In these regions, most conservation efforts until now are concentrated on anti-poaching around protected areas or national parks. In these protected areas a lot of emphases are placed on eco-guards or scouts who are totally oblivious to the problems that happen outside protected areas. The result is that most big wildlife traffickers hide in the towns around and feel protected because most of conservation energy is spent within national parks. They sought to know how to work better with government authorities for investigations and arrest of wildlife traffickers outside national parks, targeting bigger ones who have until now been protected. Corruption was identified as an obstacle in obtaining major prosecutions.

In October, the Director of LAGA was sponsored by WSPA to visit the Wildlife Action Group Project (WAG) in Malawi, and the South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS) Project in Zambia, and give some recommendations using LAGA's experience pertaining to wildlife law enforcement, arrest operations against major dealers and the fight against corruption that is still a major obstacle in prosecuting cases. He also met with the judiciary, police officials and other government authorities. The same problems of insufficient prosecutions were discussed with both government authorities and non-governmental organizations. It was gathered that both small and big wildlife traffickers were being arrested but the big ones were always finding their way out, avoiding the legal procedures.

In October, Barrister Vincent Opyene – Coordinator, Bushmeat Free Eastern Africa Network Programme - Uganda, at the same time as lawyer representing wildlife cases for the Ugandan government visited LAGA – Cameroon for a 1 week working session. He

stated that his mission to Cameroon was to learn the LAGA model of wildlife law enforcement, the fight against corruption and legal follow-up of court cases.

### **9.7. Fostering Activism**

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.

LAGA met with the Peace Corps on using LAGA's experience for collaboration among Peace Corps volunteers, integrating activism in their programs and in rural communities. A manual on Fostering Community Activism was presented.

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/tabid/77/Default.aspx>

2 NGOs have been created by LAGA members – one is known as Action for Citizen and Community Development (ACCOD). ACCOD aims at working with grass root communities, through education and information dissemination programmes, geared towards its principal mission which is building informed and participatory citizens necessary for a democracy, as well as development to grow. It identifies as a problem the rigidly top down approach to enhancing and improving democratic culture in African

countries carried out by big organizations and institutions and feels the strategy should be reversed as the population is almost invariably the right energy driver for democratic change.

The other NGO known as SCATI (Stop Child Abuses and Trafficking Initiatives) aims at putting into synergy individuals and organizations with specific technical skills in one or several precise domains of action (health, community empowerment, law enforcement, policy making, social work, social mobilization etc.) enabling them to act in favour of the eradication of the causes, the factors and the consequences of child abuses and trafficking; by throwing or at facilitating any initiatives which contribute to put an end to the practices of the traffic of the children on the Cameroonian territory . The first project drafted aims at putting in place a platform of organizations which will work together to fight child trafficking from the denunciation of traffickers to the judgment through the withdrawal of victims and their coverage at different level.

### **9.8. Child Trafficking**

As part of LAGA lessons given outside of wildlife law enforcement, LAGA Director gave a presentation in Catholic Relief Service (CRS) on how to use LAGA's model to combat child trafficking and to solve the problem of lack of prosecution of child traffickers by fighting corruption.

Projects are being created to obtain major prosecutions by fighting corruption. One such project was created by a LAGA family member known as SCATI (Stop Child Abuses and Trafficking Initiatives) aims at putting into synergy individuals and organizations with specific technical skills in one or several precise domains of action (health, community empowerment, law enforcement, policy making, social work, social mobilization etc.) enabling them to act in favour of the eradication of the causes, the factors and the consequences of child abuses and trafficking; by throwing or at facilitating any initiatives which contribute to put an end to the practices of the traffic of the children on the Cameroonian territory . The first project drafted aims at putting in place a platform of organizations which will work together to fight child trafficking from the denunciation of traffickers to the judgment through the withdrawal of victims and their coverage at different level.

### **9.9. Fight against corruption**

The ideas of LAGA were presented in different forums. The Head of LAGA Legal Department gave a presentation to Transparency International - "Fighting corruption in the judiciary: Case study of an unusual partnership": this paper intends to present how LAGA through his collaboration with the Cameroonian government fights corruption as the main obstacle in the law enforcement and application process.

The AC (Anti-Corruption) hotline created on the base of the LAGA experience served as a lesson for the Transparency International hotline.

LAGA took a decade-long baseline of zero prosecutions under the existing wildlife law - a shocking baseline shared with almost all Central and Western African countries with sharp contrast to the amount of public funds poured into conservation - as a symptom of

failure of the aid business, and its inability to tackle the first obstacle to development - corruption.

LAGA was an experiment field for methods of fighting corruption within a law enforcement and application process. 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. The project is considered to have moved Cameroon from the decade long zero wildlife prosecution baseline to a one per week rate of a major wildlife dealer arrest and prosecution, and achieved legitimacy for an NGO to fight corruption within a governmental process.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Corruption/tabid/180/Default.aspx>

The fight against corruption has gained international recognition and some international media wrote about in. “*Confronting Corruption – LAGA Director winning the battle against corruption in conservation by refusing to ignore it*” was written by Conservation Magazine. Discussing the influence of corruption on conservation is a bit like bringing up religion or politics with a new neighbor. The subject remains somewhat taboo—possibly because some in conservation view it as a necessary evil while others say it is too big a beast to fight, much less clearly understand. While corruption affects all societies, the incidence is highest in developing nations—which, as fate would have it, contain much of the world’s biodiversity. Countries with unstable governments are most vulnerable, but the world’s richest, most stable countries are not immune.

<http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2010/12/confronting-corruption/>

## ANNEX 1- CASE TRACKING SYSTEM – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2010

Case num.	Date of operation	Region	Location	Case name	Offence	Profile	Remarks	countries	
								involved	Status
1	29/01/10	South West	Buea	Besongah Korade Embesoh	Internet Fraud, Falsifying Government Documents and CITES Permits	Internet Wildlife Trade	A principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Buea – South West Region. He was arrested for falsifying government documents and CITES Permits that he used to lure a victim in the Netherlands to pay for a capuchin monkey which he did not have. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated.	Netherlands	Locked while on trial
2	31/01/10	Littoral	Douala	Mustapha Dale	Dealing with life African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents	International Wildlife Trafficking	A Nigerian national and a member of a big wildlife trafficking network involved in the exportation of more than 1000 parrots seized in Douala International Airport. They have accomplices in the Democratic Republic of Congo from where falsified government documents and CITES Permits used for the illegal exportation are issued. From all indications, they also have accomplices in the control posts at the airport through which the parrots pass without any proper control; and Ethiopian Airlines used for the transportation of the parrots seems to facilitate these illegal deals. The Airlines chose to move shipment without the required documents and we assume that it is not because of lack of knowledge pertaining to the requisite documents used for wildlife exportation. The parrots were destined for Bahrain and Kuwait and were seized with the collaboration of the Douala Judicial Police.	Bahrain, Kuwait	Fugitive under chase.
3	31/01/10	Littoral	Douala	Tchinda Ngu Denis Wilson	Dealing with life African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents	International Wildlife Trafficking	A well known trafficker and a member of a big wildlife trafficking network involved in the exportation of more than 1000 parrots seized in Douala International Airport. He claims to be the Manager of a structure known as Kamerun Aquarium involved in wildlife trafficking. They have accomplices in the Democratic Republic of Congo from where falsified government documents and CITES Permits used for the illegal exportation are issued. From all indications, they also have accomplices in the control posts at the airport through which the parrots pass without any proper control; and Ethiopian Airlines used for the transportation of the parrots seems to facilitate these illegal deals. The Airlines chose to move shipment without the required documents and we assume that it is not because of lack of knowledge pertaining to the requisite documents used for wildlife exportation. The parrots were destined for Bahrain and Kuwait and were seized with the collaboration of the Douala Judicial Police.	Bahrain, Kuwait	Fugitive under chase.
4	31/01/10	Littoral	Douala	E. L. Nyem	Dealing with life African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents	International Wildlife Trafficking	Another member of the big wildlife trafficking network involved in the exportation of more than 1000 parrots seized in Douala International Airport. On the documents seen, he is the Export Manager of Kamerun Aquarium with direct connections to the accomplices in the Democratic Republic of Congo from where falsified government documents and CITES Permits used for the illegal exportation are issued. From all indications, they also have accomplices in the control posts at the airport through which the parrots pass without any proper control; and Ethiopian Airlines used for the transportation of the parrots seems to facilitate these illegal deals. The Airlines chose to move shipment without the required documents and we assume that it is not because of lack of knowledge pertaining to the requisite documents used for wildlife exportation. The parrots were destined for Bahrain and Kuwait and were seized with the collaboration of the Douala Judicial Police.	Bahrain, Kuwait	Fugitive under chase.

5	31/01/10	Littoral	Douala	Gilbert	Dealing with life African Grey parrots, falsifying government documents	International Wildlife Trafficking	A member of the big wildlife trafficking network involved in the exportation of more than 1000 parrots seized in Douala International Airport. He is the Declaring Agent for Kamerun Aquarium facilitating the contacts with the control posts and Ethiopian Airlines. From all indications, they also have accomplices in the control posts at the airport through which the parrots pass without any proper control; and Ethiopian Airlines used for the transportation of the parrots seems to facilitate these illegal deals. The Airlines chose to move shipment without the required documents and we assume that it is not because of lack of knowledge pertaining to the requisite documents used for wildlife exportation. The parrots were destined for Bahrain and Kuwait and were seized with the collaboration of the Douala Judicial Police.	Bahrain, Kuwait	Fugitive under chase.
6	25/02/10	Littoral	Douala	Amiah Awudu	Dealing with African Grey Parrots.	International Wildlife Trafficking	A Ghanaian involved in the trafficking of more than 300 parrots in Douala - Littoral. Operation for his arrest started in 2009 as part of a network of parrot traffickers in Douala. He is linked to some of the biggest wildlife traffickers - Sackey Eugene; and during his arrest, he stated in his statement of offence that the parrots were being taken to E.L. Nyem and Tchinda Ngu Denis Wilson of Kamerun Aquarium who were the main actors in the seizure of the more than 1000 parrots in Douala in January 2010 destined for Bahrain and Kuwait. He was arrested with 2 other members of his network by the elements of the Littoral Legion of Gendarmerie - Douala with the collaboration of another NGO known as ODPHE.	Ghana	Locked while on trial
7	25/02/10	Littoral	Douala	Yeboa Eric	Dealing with African Grey Parrots.	International Wildlife Trafficking	Another Ghanaian involved in the trafficking of more than 300 parrots in Douala. During his arrest, he stated in his statement of offence that the parrots were being taken to E.L. Nyem and Tchinda Ngu Denis Wilson of Kamerun Aquarium for exportation. Nyem and Ngu were the main actors concerning the seizure of the more than 1000 parrots in Douala in January 2010 destined for Bahrain and Kuwait. He was arrested by the elements of the Littoral Legion of Gendarmerie - Douala with the collaboration of another NGO known as ODPHE.	Ghana	Locked while on trial
8	25/02/10	Littoral	Douala	Osei Solomon	Dealing with African Grey Parrots.	International Wildlife Trafficking	Another Ghanaian involved in the trafficking of more than 300 parrots in Douala. During his arrest, he stated in his statement of offence that the parrots were being taken to E.L. Nyem and Tchinda Ngu Denis Wilson of Kamerun Aquarium for exportation. Nyem and Ngu were the main actors concerning the seizure of the more than 1000 parrots in Douala in January 2010 destined for Bahrain and Kuwait. He was arrested by the elements of the Littoral Legion of Gendarmerie - Douala with the collaboration of another NGO known as ODPHE.	Ghana	Locked while on trial
9	19/03/10	South	Kribi	Toure Dzedani	Dealing with sea turtle shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	A Malian national who has been dealing in sea turtle shells for a long time. He had also dealt in other protected wildlife species in Limbe - South West Region before moving to Kribi. He has a chain of suppliers especially fishermen in Kribi and Campo areas. He was arrested with 9 sea turtle shells that he was trying to trade in under the cover of a shop with artifacts.	Mali	Locked while on trial
10	19/03/10	South	Kribi	Dedowa Koufou	Dealing with sea turtle shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	Another dealer in shells of sea turtles. He was arrested with 5 shells of sea turtles that he was laundering under the cover of a shop. He also has a group of fishermen who supply him with the shells from Campo and Kribi.		Locked while on trial

11	30/03/10	East	Abong Mbang	Kenfack Etienne Maurias	Dealing with Ivory	Ivory trade	A well known dealer and trafficker in ivory in the East. He was arrested with elephant tusks of less than 5 kg. The operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Abong Mbang		Locked while on trial
12	14/04/10	South	Kribi	Tchouonto Emmanuel	Dealing with sea turtle shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	A dealer in shells of sea turtles. He was arrested with 2 shells of sea turtles that he was laundering under the cover of a shop. He has been in the illegal business for long and has a son who goes out to give orders for the products from fishermen and other middlemen based in the Kribi and Campo areas.		Locked while on trial
13	04-05-10	North West	Nkambe	Sule Taku	Dealing with python skins	Trade in python skins	A dealer with a network of suppliers of python skins in Nkambe and buyers in Bafoussam - West Region was arrested in Nkambe - North West Region while trying to illegally traffic and trade in 50 python skins. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Nkambe.		Locked while on trial
14	30/05/10	South	Kribi	Kouh Mongo Gabriel	Dealing with parrots	Pet trade	A parrot capturer belonging to a network of parrot traffickers with a permanent market in Douala - Littoral. He has other accomplices amongst whom is a Ghanaian; his connection to other Ghanaian parrot traffickers who had been arrested before is being investigated. The MINFOF officials of the Ocean Regional Delegation - Kribi especially the Delegate himself acted unprocedurally. First, they took the offender from the Gendarmerie Brigade where he was kept in custody, released him and refused to sign the complaint report for a warrant for his arrest. The operation was carried out with the NGO - Cameroon Environment and Development (CED).	Ghana	Locked while on trial
15	05-06-10	Center	Yaounde	Biyouba Alleluia	Dealing with hippo teeth	Trade in hippo teeth	A major dealer arrested with 10 hippo teeth initially presenting them as ivory. He has suppliers of products of protected animal species especially ivory in Douala. During his arrest, he tried to bribe the arresting officials, offering them 200.000 frs (About \$400) for his release. And after writing the complaint report, the MINFOF officials from the MINFOF Central Regional Delegation and the National Anti-Poaching Unit refused to sign the complaint report thereby highlighting suspicion of corruption. The official from the National Anti-Poaching unit later signed the complaint report after much pressure from LAGA.		Locked while on trial
16	06-06-10	Littoral	Yabassi	Malock Lovet Martin	Dealing in chimp meat	Trade in bush meat	A well known hunter arrested for killing a chimp and trading in its meat. The chimp was killed in the Ebo Reserve. He has a ready market in the main cities of Edea and Douala in the Littoral Region. He carried out this act with an accomplice. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Delagation - Yabassi.		Locked while on trial
17	06-06-10	Littoral	Yabassi	Makongo Joseph	Dealing in chimp meat	Trade in bush meat	Another renowned hunter and an accomplice of Malock Lovet Martin. He was responsible for the transportation and safe-keeping of the chimp meat.		Locked while on trial
18	07-06-10	West	Foumban	Ngede Mama	Dealing with ivory	Ivory trade	An ivory dealer with connections to other main dealers in Douala - Littoral Region. He has been in the trade for a long time and claims to have suppliers from the Northern part of Cameroon and sells in Douala where he has accomplices. He was arrested with 4 worked tusks and 1 civet skin.		Locked while on trial
19	11-06-10	North West	Bamenda	Akamagha Gerald Achu	Internet Fraud, Falsifying Government Documents and CITES Permits	Internet Wildlife Trade	A principal Internet wildlife dealer engaged in fraud and illegal wildlife trade over the Internet was arrested in Bamenda - North West Region. He was arrested for falsifying government documents and CITES Permits that he used to lure a victim in Canada to pay for a chimp which he did not have. His connection to other forms of fraud including illegal immigration and adoption scams is still being investigated. He had already received \$150 from another victim in USA and had started with other victims in Ukraine and Spain.	Canada, Unkrajine, Spain	Locked while on trial

20	24/06/10	East	Lomie	Ekokoh Arsene	Dealing in gorilla meat	Trade in bush meat	A repeated offender arrested with a freshly killed gorilla in Lomie - East. The gorilla was killed in the Dja reserve where he mostly does poaching. He then sells the meat to main dealers in Lomie and Abong Mbang who in turn sell in the main city of Yaounde - Center.		Locked while on trial
21	20/07/10	East	Lomie	Barkindo Gadji	Dealing in elephant tusks	Ivory trade	A well known and repeated offender with connections to other main dealers in Yaounde - Center Region was arrested in Lomie - East Region with 2 elephant tusks. He has been in the trade for a long time and is a recidivist who had been arrested before for the killing of an elephant. This operation was carried out with MINFOF - Lomie.		Locked while on trial
22	27/08/10	South West	Limbe	Mbah Humphrey	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	A long time dealer who declared he has been in the illegal trade for more than 10 years, also acting as a photographer and tourist guard which made it easy for him to get clients especially foreigners. He was arrested with his partner and out of the 13 turtle shells seized, he owned 7. After their arrest, he called for the Mayor of Limbe to intervene on his behalf but the Mayor refused, stating that they are involved in illegal deals and should be punished according to the provisions of the law. Humphrey even advised the arresting officers to set up a check point in the area of arrest so as to track down and arrest more dealers.		Locked while on trial
23	27/08/10	South West	Limbe	Mbah Wang Nicolas	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	Another dealer and partner of Mbah Humphrey who has also been in the illegal business for more than 10 years. He was the owner of 6 of the 13 sea turtle shells seized. He is also a tourist guard at the foot of Mount Cameroon making it easy for him to have a market for his illegal products. Together with his partner, they tried to make the Mayor of Limbe to intervene on their behalf but the Mayor refused.		Locked while on trial
24	27/08/10	South	Sangmelima	Bisso Regine Bouquet	Dealing in Leopard Skin	Skin Trade	A major dealer in protected bushmeat and products of protected wildlife species. Has a network of suppliers at Djoum - South and sells in the major cities of Sangmelima and Yaounde. She was arrested with her accomplice with a large fresh leopard skin. The partner goes out to look for the products and she looks for clients to whom she sells.		Locked while on trial
25	27/08/10	South	Sangmelima	Ntiomkol Zam	Dealing in Leopard Skin	Skin Trade	A partner of Madam Regine who combs the Southern Region of Cameroon looking for protected wildlife products and suppliers. He later takes the products to Madam Regine who sells them. He was arrested with a large fresh leopard skin in Sangmelima - South.		Locked while on trial
26	15/09/10	South	Ambam	Engwang Mengue	Dealing in Forest Tortoise Shells	Trade in Tortoise Shells	A dealer in shells of forest tortoises. He is a member of a network of dealers in these products and was arrested with 4 forest tortoise shells. He has been in the illegal business for long with a ready market in Ambam and Kye-Ossi with most buyers from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.	Gabon, Equatorial Guinea	Locked while on trial
27	15/09/10	South	Ambam	Ela Alo'o Christian	Dealing in Forest Tortoise Shells	Trade in Tortoise Shells	Another member of a network of dealers in forest tortoise shells who supply buyers from Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. He is also a civil servant - a secondary school teacher in Biyi who initially resisted arrest but was later persuaded to cooperate with the arresting team.	Gabon, Equatorial Guinea	Locked while on trial
28	16/09/10	South	Meyomessala	Foumane Medjo Georgette	Dealing in protected wildlife species	Bushmeat trade	A regular bushmeat dealer with a house near the Dja Reserve and a deep freezer in which she keeps the killed animals. She initially refused access for the operating team claiming she had no keys but later on opened the door when the team threatened to break it open. She was arrested with meat of chimps, giant pangolin, yellow-backed duiker and Water Chevrotain. She has a ready market in the city of Yaounde. The operation was carried out with ECOFAC - Meyomessala.		Locked while on trial
29	16/09/10	South	Meyomessala	Emane Mathieu	Dealing with protected wildlife species	Bushmeat and pet trade	A well known hunter arrested with a live mandrill and a huge consignment of meat of protected wildlife species including the giant pangolin and yellow-backed duiker. He also has a ready market in Sangmelima - South Region. The operation was carried out with ECOFAC - Meyomessala.		Locked while on trial

30	21/09/10	East	Abong Mbang	Ntima Victorien	Dealing with elephant products	Trade in elephant products	A well known poacher and repeated offender belonging to a network of elephant meat and ivory. He does the killing and passes on the products to other members of the chain. He was arrested for the killing of elephants in Abong Mbang. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Abong Mbang.		Locked while on trial
31	21/09/10	East	Abong Mbang	Mende Belos	Dealing with elephant products	Trade in elephant products	A member of the Abong Mbang network responsible for the killing of elephants in that zone. He is the link between Ntima the poacher and those who buy the meat and ivory. They supply these products right up to Yaounde. The operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Abong Mbang.		Locked while on trial
32	21/09/10	East	Abong Mbang	Ambassa Herve	Dealing with elephant products	Trade in elephant products	Another member of the Abong Mbang network. His role is to get ammunition for Ntima and also participates in looking for clients for products of the killed elephants. This operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Abong Mbang.		Locked while on trial
33	21/09/10	East	Abong Mbang	Ambol Guy	Dealing with elephant products	Trade in elephant products	Also a member of the Abong Mbang network responsible for the killing of elephants in that zone. He is the owner of the gun used in the killing of the elephants, also helps in the transportation of the elephant products. The operation was carried out with MINFOF Divisional Delegation - Abong Mbang.		Fugitive under chase.
34	21/09/10	East	Abong Mbang	Imbessele Pierre	Dealing with elephant products	Trade in elephant products	The Traditional ruler of the village wherein all the members of the network reside. He gives the go-ahead for any hunting activity to take place, and he is in direct contact with all the members of the network. He gets a good share of the products of the elephants killed as well as the money gotten from the sale of the elephant products especially ivory.		Free while on trial
35	24/09/10	South	Kribi	Sam Ekoh Clement	Dealing in a live mandrill	Pet trade	A worker in the Hotel Les Gites who deals in live primates to sell to foreigners. He resisted arrest, refusing to follow the arresting team to the MINFOF Delegation in Kribi for questioning. He later on arrived the Delegation after much pressure from his sister and accomplice. He accepted in the Complaint Report (PV) that he usually buys the primates when small and raises them so that they could be sold at a higher price. He was arrested for the illegal detention of a live mandrill.		Locked while on trial
36	30/09/10	West	Dschang	Ngoune Tsefack Berge	Dealing in a live mandrill	Pet trade	A motor-mechanic and owner of a garage in Dschang was arrested for illegally trying to trade in a live mandrill. He claims to have had other animals before especially chimps and also raises them for more profits.		Locked while on trial
37	03-10-10	Center	Yaounde	Mohamed Darwish Zaki	Dealing in elephant products	Ivory trade	An Egyptian working with a construction company in Cameroon. Through this, he is able to get ivory which he gives to his accomplices to either sell or get clients for the products. More investigations are being carried out on his international involvement in the illegal ivory trade. He gave 4 carved tusks to his accomplices to sell.	Egypt	Free while on trial
38	03-10-10	Center	Yaounde	Nkeha Georges Raoul	Dealing in elephant products	Ivory trade	An accomplice of Mohamed (the Egyptian). He is directly in contact with Mohamed and keeps the ivory. He also seeks for clients and is directly involved in the illegal sale of the ivory. He is charged with the supervision of the carving of the tusks and thereafter keeps the finished products.		Locked while on trial
39	03-10-10	Center	Yaounde	Mefire Roland Renne	Dealing in elephant products	Ivory trade	Another accomplice of Mohamed and a trader of artifacts. Through this, he looks for clients for ivory supplied by Mohamed. He is in direct contact with Nkeha Raoul and participates in the illegal trade of the ivory.		Locked while on trial

40	05-11-10	West	Bafang	Ntantang Daniel Gwe	Dealing in Leopard Skin	Skin Trade	A regular dealer who owns an artefact shop and is also a carver, he hides behind this shop to launder the illegal trade in products of protected wildlife species. He was arrested with a traditional bag made out of a leopard skin while trying to illegally trade in it.		Locked while on trial
41	10-11-10	Center	Yaounde	Bikele Paul	Dealing in elephant products	Ivory trade	Another regular dealer who mainly sells in Yaounde but gets products from the Eastern Region. He was arrested with 4 elephant tusks all less than 5 kg while trying to illegally trade in them. Some of the tusks still bore blood of the killed elephants; and he brought the tusks from Messamena - East Region.		Locked while on trial
42	16/11/10	West	Bafoussam	Djomou Etienne Roussel	Dealing in live primates	Pet trade	A long time dealer in primates who was arrested while trying to illegally sell 2 live baboons. He had been keeping the animals for years while waiting for them to grow sufficiently so that he could trade in them. He claims to have raised and sold many primates before.		Locked while on trial
43	26/11/10	South West	Limbe	Omolere Michael Ogbaro	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	A dealer and fisherman of Nigerian nationality belonging to a network of dealers in sea turtle shells. He normally kept the shells at his home and was also responsible for decorating and painting them. He and his accomplice were arrested while trying to illegally trade in 7 sea turtle shells. They resisted arrest and were fighting with the arresting officers.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
44	26/11/10	South West	Limbe	Wango Joseph Ngochu	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	Another dealer/fisherman and the accomplice of Omolere. He was charged to seek for clients and negotiate the prices. He and his accomplice resisted arrest and were fighting with the arresting officers to no avail.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
45	26/11/10	South West	Limbe	Hanson Ngu Tah	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	A dealer at the same time a bike rider who uses his bike to illegally transport and trade in products of protected wildlife. He was arrested with 10 shells while trying to illegally trade in them. He claims to have regular suppliers in Bimbia - Limbe.		Locked while on trial
46	26/11/10	South West	Limbe	Ekema George	Dealing in Sea Turtle Shells	Trade in sea turtle shells	An accomplice of Hanson Ngu Tah involved in the illegal trade of 10 sea turtle shells. He gathers and keeps products at the level of Bimbia - Limbe before passing them on to Hanson for sale.		Furtigive under chase.
47	07-12-10	South West	Buea	Tamfu Rene	Dealing in live African Grey Parrots	International Wildlife Trafficking	Member of a big network of international traffickers in live African Grey parrots. They normally send the parrots to Nigeria through Idenau - South West Region. He is responsible in organizing the transportation of the parrots. They were arrested with about 1000 live African Grey parrots. They attempted to bribe the Legion Commander in charge of gendarmerie in Buea - South West Region with an amount of 5 Million Frs.CFA (About \$10000). It is suspected that they however succeeded to bribe some elements of the Gendarmerie Brigade in Buea, where they were kept after arrest. Investigations are still ongoing and a court case has been established against the suspected gendarme officers.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial
48	07-12-10	South West	Buea	Njie Luma Samuel	Dealing in live African Grey Parrots	International Wildlife Trafficking	Another member of a big network of international traffickers in live African Grey parrots. They normally send the parrots to Nigeria through Idenau - South West Region. He is responsible for the buying of the parrots. They were arrested with about 1000 live African Grey parrots. They attempted to bribe the Legion Commander in charge of gendarmerie in Buea - South West Region with an amount of 5 Million Frs.CFA (About \$10000). It is suspected that they however succeeded to bribe some elements of the Gendarmerie Brigade in Buea, where they were kept after arrest. Investigations are still ongoing and a court case has been established against the suspected gendarme officers.	Nigeria	Locked while on trial

49	07-12-10	South West	Buea	Bangha Johdom Guillaum	Dealing in live African Grey Parrots	International Wildlife Trafficking	Another member of a big network of international traffickers in live African Grey parrots. They normally send the parrots to Nigeria through Idenau - South West Region. He assisted in organizing the transportation of the parrots. They were arrested with about 1000 live African Grey parrots. They attempted to bribe the Legion Commander in charge of gendarmerie in Buea - South West Region with an amount of 5 Million Frs.CFA (About \$10000). It is suspected that they however succeeded to bribe some elements of the Gendarmerie Brigade in Buea, where they were kept after arrest. Investigations are still ongoing and a court case has been established against the suspected gendarme officers. He succeeded in escaping from the Gendarmerie Brigade thereby giving credence to the bribing suspicion.	Nigeria	Fugitive under chase.
50	10-12-10	Littoral	Douala	Nkoutengang Aboubakar	Dealing in leopard skin	Skin Trade	A well known dealer in leopard skin with supplies from the Western Region of Cameroon. He was arrested with a large leopard skin while trying to illegally trade in it in Douala. He resisted arrest and fought with the arresting officers in the vehicle that was used in transporting him.		Locked while on trial
51	15-12-10	South West	Muyuka	Tewidikum Emmanuekl	Dealing in elephant tusks	Ivory trade	A regular dealer in elephant products who hides behind bike riding to illegally trade in wildlife products. He was arrested in Muyuka with 2 elephant tusks both weighing less than 5 kg. He claims that he got the ivory from a supplier in Bamenda - North West Region. Investigations are still ongoing to get the said supplier. After the arrest, he tried to negotiate and bribe the arresting officers with a sum of 200000 Frs. CFA (About \$400)		Locked while on trial