

**Arcus - Funding Proposal**  
**WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICA –**  
**CAMEROON CONGO AND REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT**

Proposal Submitted 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Project Summary

This project aims to protect the great apes and other endangered species in seven countries from illegal trade by increasing the level of wildlife law enforcement in the Central African sub-region and deterring potential traders from conducting these illegal activities.

The countries covered by this initiative hold core populations of almost all African great ape sub-species. The most immediate threat for Central African ape populations is illegal hunting for meat, body parts and live infant pets. These activities are all illegal, but in the past these laws have not been properly enforced and hence the trade, and the slaughter, has been commonplace. The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) has worked from 2003 on developing and refining a model for NGO-Government collaboration with the ability to bring about the effective enforcement of these laws. This not only curtails the operations of those illegal wildlife exploiters who are prosecuted, but as awareness spreads it will act as a deterrent and reduce the overall level of illegal hunting and trade. With support from the Arcus Foundation, LAGA succeeded in proving the models' success, shifting Cameroon from a decade old baseline of zero wildlife prosecutions to an enforcement level of one major dealer prosecuted per week. LAGA has started experimenting with other NGOs in transferring the LAGA experience and replicating the model throughout the sub-region. Two encouraging replications have already taken place in the Republic of Congo with John Aspinnall Foundation and WCS's PALF project and in the Central African Republic with the WWF's PALF project. This project will build on these experiences to ensure Cameroon and the Republic of Congo become better bases for the replication and to create a block of 7 countries with effective enforcement and advance from limited national efforts to the establishment of sub-regional wildlife law enforcement needed to combat the international illegal trade.

Arcus Foundation's support is still needed to continue and develop the existing models in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo as their activities expand with their growing effectiveness and growing role they play in the replication.

In order to achieve these goals, the objectives of the project are:

- To identify in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo large-scale dealers in great ape meat and live great apes, and other illegal wildlife products, provide evidence, bring about to their arrest, ensure their prosecution, and that sentences are handed down and served.
- To ignite the replication of the LAGA model for NGO-government collaboration on wildlife law enforcement in 4 more countries in collaboration with partner NGOs.
- To set precedence of landmark first deterring wildlife prosecution of a major wildlife criminal in 4 countries.

- To enable NGO partners to have full ownership functioning sustainable national projects of wildlife law enforcement setting 4 countries on - one arrest per week - enforcement rate, creating a block of 7 countries with functioning enforcement in the region.
- To establish a model for Sub-regional Wildlife Law Enforcement.

The model that would be used to meet these objectives consists of five broad activities – investigations, arrest operations, legal assistance, media promotion and reporting.

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Project Narrative

**1. Statement of Need**

It is widely recognized that the most immediate threat to most populations of great apes in Central Africa is illegal hunting and the associated widespread trade in meat, body parts and live infants. While it is important to promote long term solutions, such as developing alternative incomes and protein sources, to create the conditions to enable great apes survival on the long term, there is a very real risk that by the time such solutions are implemented there will be few or no viable ape populations left to preserve.

Although great apes are protected by national laws and international treaties throughout their range, the enforcement of these laws has historically been very weak if existing at all and has provided little or no deterrent value. In fact, the problem of weak law enforcement (and judiciary ineffectiveness) is one of the most serious underlying causes perpetuating the increase in illegal hunting and unsustainable, illegal exploitation practices, such as uncontrolled logging and mining. Moreover, the problem is not restricted to wildlife, since the main reason for the lack of enforcement and application of the wildlife law throughout the sub-region is the widespread corruption.

LAGA's project in Cameroon has focused on finding ways for an NGO-Government collaboration to fill in the gap in establishing national wildlife law enforcement. The Arcus supported project proved it is possible for a country to shift from a baseline of no wildlife prosecutions at all to effective prosecutions of major illegal dealers at a rate of one a week. It has allowed for the creation of a model which can now be replicated throughout Central Africa. LAGA's mission is to assist and develop the replication of this model in other countries in the region and to address the problem of poor enforcement of wildlife laws at the regional level.

Whilst there are some location-specific projects in the region that address the issue of illegal wildlife trade, LAGA offered the first model for working at the national level with the national government to improve wildlife law enforcement across an entire country. Additionally there is an urgent need to address the problem of wildlife law enforcement at the regional and international level, as many wildlife crimes are carried across national borders.

The experience from Cameroon proved it is possible to provide measurable standards for the effectiveness of law enforcement: the number of major wildlife law violators receiving and serving a

detering punishment. Unfortunately baseline for this indicator is still zero in most countries in the Central and Western African sub-regions highlighting the need behind this project proposal.

LAGA does not wish to open branches in each country, however, but rather collaborate with existing structures; strengthening and supporting them to play a similar role to the one LAGA is undertaking in Cameroon. LAGA's vision 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 legal prosecution of major dealers, fighting head-on the major obstacle to the application of the wildlife law in Africa – corruption.

Following several recommendations from the international community to replicate the model in other countries, LAGA has started experimenting with other NGOs in transferring the LAGA experience and replicating the model throughout the sub-region. Today, the model is being replicated successfully in two neighboring countries, the Republic of Congo (since 2008) and the Central African Republic (since 2009), in collaboration with the relevant Ministries and international NGOs. In the Republic of Congo the John Aspinall Foundation and WCS lead the PALF project and in the Central African Republic WWF leads the PALF project. The experiences from these projects confirm the feasibility to replicate the Cameroon experience across the region and the need to have a sub-regional approach while combating wildlife crimes.

The proposed project attempts to pioneer this much needed sub-regional approach by ensuring the implementation and coordination of the LAGA model in 7 neighboring countries in Central Africa: Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Gabon and Nigeria. Arcus Foundation's support is still needed to continue and develop the existing models in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo as their activities expand with their growing effectiveness and growing role they play in the replication.

The project also addresses many important criteria, including:

- Act as a catalyst for activities in a previously neglected area with potential significant conservation value
- Conduct activities that do not duplicate other ongoing activities
- Conduct activities that will be harmonious with international, national and/or regional conservation priorities
- Include the participation of local people in the project activities
- Promote networking, partnerships and coalitions
- Provide for the development of a demonstration activity that can be replicated
- Implement activities that have the potential to be sustained beyond the life of the grant

## **2. Project Goals and Objectives**

### **GOAL**

To use the LAGA experience to assist governments and NGOs in the Central African sub-region in establishing effective wildlife law enforcement through fighting corruption, increasing enforcement capacity, and producing effective deterrents to the killing of protected species, and through this mechanism combat the illegal wildlife trade and other activities detrimental to the survival of endangered species, and establish effective sub-regional wildlife law enforcement.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To strengthen wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo in identifying large-scale dealers in great ape meat and live great apes, and other illegal wildlife products, provide evidence, bring about to their arrest, ensure their prosecution, and sentences served and create deterrent through the use of the media.
2. To ignite the replication of the LAGA model for NGO-government collaboration on wildlife law enforcement in 4 more countries in collaboration with partner NGOs.
3. To set national precedents by achieving landmark first deterring wildlife prosecution of a major wildlife criminal in each of the 4 countries.
4. To Enable NGO partners in country to have full ownership of functioning sustainable national projects of wildlife law enforcement setting four countries on - one arrest per week - enforcement rate, creating a block of 7 countries with functioning enforcement in the region.
5. To establish a model for sub-regional wildlife law enforcement.

## **3. Project Activities, Methods and Timetable**

### **METHODS – THE LAGA MODEL**

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

The LAGA model for government-NGO collaboration on wildlife law enforcement is set to improve the level of wildlife law enforcement through a concerted and comprehensive approach involving four main stages:

- INVESTIGATIONS – Investigators, undercover agents and informers gather precise information so that dealers in meat and the products of threatened species can be arrested in

the act, producing concrete evidence for the courts. Targeting complicity and involvement of officials in the trade is a priority.

- OPERATIONS – The NGO technically assists the Ministry in charge of wildlife and the forces of law and order to arrest violators and to channel complaint reports to the courts. The NGO closely supervises operations in the field and combat corruption and bribing attempts (witnessed in 85% of LAGA's operations so far).
- LEGAL ASSISTANCE – The NGO activates a legal team which assists in the administrative procedures of prosecuting the legal cases arising from these operations. This follows the process from the police report through the entire courts procedure and on to the monitoring of prisoners serving sentences, fighting corruption and bribing attempts (witnessed in 80% of LAGA's court cases so far).
- MEDIA – The NGO puts reports in national TV news, national radio news and written press concerning the success of the operations and positive court rulings. The media informs the public that the law is actively enforced, thereby achieving education of the public on the change, increased deterrent, and perception of the illegal wildlife trade as a criminal activity.

## ACTIVITIES

1.1 Activating an investigation network to plan operations against major wildlife crimes in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.

- Intelligence operatives are carefully selected, hired and trained in undercover investigation techniques. Investigation activities will be conducted throughout the two countries and will focus on particular illegal wildlife exploitation activities and specific perpetrators. The goal of the investigations is to confirm the identity of large scale illegal wildlife exploiters and to provide sufficient evidence for a successful operation.

1.2 Supervising a trained operations team and assisting it in the conduction of operations, the arrest of wildlife law violators with sufficient evidence and the channeling of complaint reports to the courts in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.

- The project's team is present in the field in all levels of the operation, monitoring activities and paying special attention to identifying obstacles and preventing corruption attempts. It is very important that arrests are planned in the act so that the perpetrators' guilt is not in doubt, and that our agents be protected and their identity concealed so that they can continue to be effective. The project is paying field bonuses to officers contributing to a successful operation. The bonuses are registered and accounted for and are not a part of the salary of the officers which is paid in full by the government. The bonuses system is designed as a disincentive for corruption, and for increasing motivation and encouraging officers to initiate more operations. This system has already proved itself based on the number of bribing attempts tackled and number of operations initiated by officers. Dates and locations of operations are selected by the Director based on the most reliable information available from the Investigations Unit, often intercepting deals arranged by undercover investigators. The selected Special Unit officers travel to the area one or two days before the operation and familiarize themselves with the likely sites for the arrest. The operation is coordinated by the project that communicates directly with the investigators to set up the location

of the arrest. Officers are deployed as necessary to cover all eventualities / alternative arrangements / escape attempts, under the direction of the coordinator. When the target is in sight, the nearest available officers confront them directly and make an arrest with the minimum possible use of force. A complaint report is written and channeled to the courts together with the offender in collaboration with the local Ministry delegation.

- 1.3 Supervising and assisting the writing of complaint reports against subjects arrested in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo, ensuring good governance in court procedures and assisting the legal representation of the cases through legal analysis and advice and support of lawyers' fees, Following up all cases on a daily basis by legal advisers and that all imprisonment sentences are served through weekly jail visits.
- The project's legal advisers assist the agents of the Ministry in charge of wildlife with writing the complaint report to avoid errors, deal with expected weaknesses of the case, and strengthen the legal arguments. The legal advisors start their work on a case before the operation by preparing the legal system for receiving the case and evaluating threats of corruption and governance problems. At this stage they are also insuring the arresting force is acting legally in obtaining arrest or search warrants needed. Next is guiding the arresting officer for specific legal elements needed in the interrogation and the complaint report. The legal advisors are frequently in the field in the time of operation and are often accompanying the arrest and interrogation. They are supervising the transmission of the case to court and communicate with the legal unit of the ministry and the administrative side of the court to insure understanding and identify possible problems
  - Each project's legal unit produces a legal analysis of each case with legal argumentation and aggravating circumstances, a situation-response analysis of how to respond to possible arguments from the accused, and a recommended demand of damages. These files are distributed to all collaborators involved in the legal procedures. The project is involved in appointing a lawyer on the case and provides 25% of his fees. The project instructs the lawyer on prosecution strategy and is present in all hearings where debates are held in order to modify the strategy according to developments in the case. The Governments of Cameroon and Congo do not have public prosecutors and in the past has relied on a representative to appear in court to prosecute wildlife crime cases. The representative is not a lawyer and the lack of professionalism results in many strong cases being lost in court. The project has therefore convinced each Government to invest in hiring a private lawyer for all cases, and pledged to give 25% of the fees for this independent professional, in order to support the government and help demonstrate the effectiveness of the system.
  - Legal advisors are employed full time by the projects to ensure that expertise is permanently available to follow through all prosecutions. The advisors will communicate directly with the courts and prosecution service, providing advice on all relevant legal matters as well as scrutiny to ensure that no corruption attempts are made by the defendant. As part of the projects' comprehensive legal follow-up activities, offenders who are convicted and sentenced to a jail term are visited regularly to ensure that custodial sentences are served in full and to monitor human rights issues whilst they are in custody.

1.4 Producing articles, audio and video pieces on current successful law enforcement activities and putting them in the Cameroonian and Congolese media (written press, radio and TV).

- The projects in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo produce articles with stills photos from operations, edit radio programs with interviews, and edit video footage of operations into newflashes. The media officer is using his well-established contacts with the media to schedule media pieces in all mediums. His modest salary is supplemented by a scale of bonuses for results, insuring he has the interest of pushing as many media pieces as he possibly can every month.
- 2.1 Building relations with 4 governments and willingness to establish enforcement based on the LAGA model
- LAGA replication coordinators will accompany LAGA director to a three week mission in each one of the four countries - Chad, DRC, Gabon, Nigeria. Together with local collaborators identified in each country (see “stakeholders coordination/involvement), the team will hold discussions with relevant government authorities as the Ministers in charge of wildlife, justice and police, the courts, police and gendarmerie, customs, and others, in preparations for the establishment of wildlife law enforcement.
  - In a short time we are expected to reach readiness for the first actions but in fact this is the beginning of a long-term process which aims at creating a network of active collaborators at a high level within the government. Nurturing these relationships requires many personal meetings and establishment of regular communication with the national project. Regular distribution of technical information materials already developed by LAGA – including booklets detailing and explaining Cameroonian wildlife law, CDs containing the full text of wildlife laws, copies of the Wildlife Justice Magazine, and legal articles from other sources – will be used to keep this communication active.
- 2.2 Assisting interested NGOs in building up a wildlife law enforcement project based on the LAGA model ensuring sustainability.
- In each one of the four countries - Chad, DRC, Gabon, Nigeria – LAGA has identified NGOs ready to undertake a national project based on the LAGA model (see “stakeholders coordination/involvement). This was done on the basis of the successful results in The Republic of Congo with John Aspinall Foundation and WCS’s PALF project and in the Central African Republic with the WWF’s PALF project, and with the understanding that LAGA will assist in the setting up of the project, lending replication coordinator to manage the project’s first six months, and continued technical assistance and support. A manual book for the LAGA experience in national law enforcement will be produced and printed to assist NGOs in the replication process.
  - The NGOs to own the national law enforcement projects will participate in all activities (1-4).
- 2.3 Engaging players in the international community in 4 countries to participate in ensuring good governance in the arrest and prosecutions of wildlife criminals.
- During the three weeks mission in each one of the four countries (Chad, DRC, Gabon, Nigeria), LAGA Director, replication coordinator and the partner NGO will undertake a series of meetings with international community representatives. These will include – Embassies, The World Bank,

IMF, UNDP, UNEP, EU among others. The meetings will focus in explaining the role that the international community played in establishing law enforcement in Cameroon, Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, enlisting their support and active involvement in ensuring good governance in the arrest and prosecutions of wildlife criminals.

#### 2.4 Building national capacity in recruiting and training local staff for sustainable enforcement

- During the three weeks mission in each one of the four countries (Chad, DRC, Gabon, Nigeria), LAGA Director, replication coordinator and the partner NGO will start recruitment and testing of local qualified activists to form the first team. These will include – legal advisers, investigators, media officer and a management assistant. The testing period will be combined with intense training of the local staff by the replication coordinator.

#### 2.5 Locating major wildlife dealers as first targets for enforcement authorities

- International investigator is deployed for two one-month missions to assist in 4 countries (Chad, DRC, Gabon, Nigeria). The goal of the investigations is to confirm the identity of large scale illegal wildlife exploiters and to provide sufficient evidence for a successful arrest operation by the national authorities.

#### 2.6 Assisting national authorities exercising two first arrest operations of major wildlife dealers per country and ensuring the opening of first court cases in the application of the national wildlife law

- This activity marks the end of phase I with the duration of 3 weeks for each country. The LAGA team is present in the field in all levels of the operation, monitoring activities and paying special attention to identifying obstacles and preventing corruption attempts. It is very important that arrests are planned in the act so that the perpetrators' guilt is not in doubt, and that our agents be protected and their identity concealed so that they can continue to be effective. Dates and locations of operations are selected by the Director based on the most reliable information available, often intercepting deals arranged by undercover investigators. The selected officers travel to the area one or two days before the operation and familiarize themselves with the likely sites for the arrest. The operation is coordinated by LAGA that communicates directly with the investigators to set up the location of the arrest. Officers are deployed as necessary to cover all eventualities / alternative arrangements / escape attempts, under the direction of the coordinator. When the target is in sight, the nearest available officers confront them directly and make an arrest with the minimum possible use of force. A complaint report is written and channeled to the courts together with the offender in collaboration with the local Ministry station.
- LAGA replication coordinators will assist the ministry's agents with writing the complaint report to avoid errors, deal with expected weaknesses of the case, and strengthen the legal arguments. The work on a case starts before the operation by preparing the legal system for receiving the case and evaluating threats of corruption and governance problems. At this stage he is also insuring the arresting force is acting legally in obtaining arrest or search warrants needed. Next is guiding the arresting officer for specific legal elements needed in the interrogation and the complaint report. The replication coordinators are in the field in the time of operation and are accompanying the arrest and interrogation. They are supervising the transmission of the case to court and communicate with the legal unit of the ministry and the

administrative side of the court to insure understanding and identify possible problems of corruption and combat them.

3. Assisting in the setting up of national NGO-government projects and ensuring landmark first prosecution of major wildlife dealers in 4 countries.

- In Phase II with the duration of 3 months for each country, LAGA's replication coordinator continues the setting up of the national project in collaboration with the partner NGO and works with the NGO on building local capacity of its national wildlife law enforcement project.
- To ensure good governance in court procedure the replication coordinator and his local team will ensure that expertise is permanently available to follow through all prosecutions. He will communicate directly with the courts and prosecution service, providing advice on all relevant legal matters as well as scrutiny to ensure that no corruption attempts are made by the defendant.

4. Completing the setting up of national NGO-government projects in 4 countries and stabilizing them on one arrest per week enforcement rate.

- In Phase III with the duration of 3 months for each country, LAGA's replication coordinator prepares to leave the local collaborator NGO with a functioning project to own and fully take over.
- The replication coordinator leading a local team will monitor all stages in the enforcement and application of wildlife law from field operations to channeling complaints to the administrative side of the legal system, to court trials, and finally to the court verdict and its execution, to set the country on a satisfying enforcement rate.
- The replication coordinator will update regularly its Case Tracking System, giving an overview on wildlife law enforcement performance as well as an insight on constraints in specific cases. It is different from other databases as it is results oriented. The one measurable standard chosen is prosecutions - their number and their profile. To do that LAGA needed to quantify the law enforcement process so that we will have a measurable scale translating how close you are to your product in terms of numbers. An agency that works with this system will automatically be oriented towards delivering the results and will spend much more of its working time on following up cases in court, or on other crucial activities not previously identified. The integrated nature of the database – including links from the overview to individual case details – helps to increase the transparency of the process and is also very practical, since a lawyer that is working on this case can click on the complaint report and work on it directly, or get photos of the investigation evidence from the system.
- National Wildlife Law Enforcement projects will continue by the NGO collaborators with regular investigations, operations, legal follow up and media activities.

5.1 Identifying 12 high level wildlife criminals in 6 countries.

- The Replication work, international law enforcement authorities, The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and other collaborators will assist in identifying high level wildlife criminals as

targets for further investigation. These targets represent the more organized layer of wildlife crime that is more difficult to expose with local investigators alone.

5.2. Activating an Asian professional investigator to prepare pre-identified targets for law enforcement authorities in 6 countries.

- A specialized Asian investigator will be able to penetrate organized wildlife criminal rings and establish the trust needed for enabling an arrest of high level targets. The Environmental Investigation Agency has agreed to lend an experienced investigator and pay for his time. He will be deployed in two missions covering 6 countries – Central Africa Republic, Republic of Congo, Chad, Gabon, DRC and Nigeria. Each one month mission will cover 3 countries.

5.3 Assisting national authorities in 6 countries in the arrest operations of two high level wildlife criminals per country ensuring their legal prosecution.

- Building on the replication work and the with the national projects with the capacity to coordinate arrest operations and legal follow up, LAGA will assist in using the work of the Asian investigator to produce arrests of high level targets. The national projects will continue to follow up the cases and ensure effective prosecutions.
- This activity will materialize the potential that lies in replicating the wildlife law enforcement model in 7 neighboring countries – sub-regional law enforcement. Wildlife Crime is mostly international and can not be combated in a national level. If successful this experience will assist and inspire other international efforts.

**TIMETABLE**

The project duration is one year, the different missions are not yet committed to specific months as their scheduling throughout the year will depend on collaborators in each country. The tablet below gives, therefore, a partial planning timeline.

The enforcement work in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo described in Activities 1.1-1.4 is of all relevant activities throughout the year, it was therefore redundant to be represented in this tablet.

Part	Phase	Duration	Personnel	Activities	Output
<b>Replication</b> (for 4 countries, per country )					
	Phase I	3 weeks	LAGA Director + Replication Coordinators+ Int. Investigator	Activity 1 (2.1-2.6)	First 2 arrests of major wildlife dealers
	Phase II	3 months	Replication coordinator/s	Activity 3	Landmark first effective prosecution of a major wildlife dealer
	Phase III	3 Months	Replication coordinator	Activity 4	Stabilizing the country on a - one arrest per week - enforcement rate
<b>Sub-regional Enforcement</b> (For 6 countries, 3 countries per mission)					
	mission I	1 month	LAGA Director + Asian Investigator	Activity 5	6 arrests of high level wildlife criminals in 3 countries
	Mission II	1 month	LAGA Director + Asian Investigator	Activity 5	6 arrests of high level wildlife criminals in 3 countries

#### **4. Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement**

LAGA is a very collaborative institution working closely with national and international stakeholders on a range of issues relating to the illegal wildlife exploitation. The first collaborators in this project are the specific governments concerned and the partner NGOs to undertake a sustainable wildlife law enforcement project in each country. LAGA has held discussions over the years with the relevant governments, all have asked for LAGA's assistance and were made aware of LAGAs work mainly through CITES meetings and COMIFAC recommendation letters for LAGA replication addressed to the Ministers.

##### Gabon

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- Conservation Justice – the NGO to specialize in wildlife law enforcement in Gabon, was set by Luc Mathot who was in charge of setting up the PALF project in the Republic of Congo, possessing two years experience in the first replication of the LAGA model. The NGO will be functional in Gabon from June 2010.
- WCS – WCS opened an important window of opportunity in Gabon with the creation of the national parks authority. With a new focus on ivory trade and involvement in wildlife law enforcement, the national office has asked for LAGA's involvement and coordination discussions were held to that effect.
- WWF – The new national director of WWF Gabon has expressed interest in WWFs involvement in wildlife law enforcement efforts in collaboration with LAGA. The WWF project in north Gabon has asked for LAGA's assistance for a few years in view of large scale elephant poaching and illegal cross-border trade to Cameroon.
- The Government of Gabon – has expressed interest in wildlife law enforcement.

#### Chad

- SOS Elephant – Is focusing on anti-poaching in the National Park. The director, a jurist by profession asked for LAGAs support in assisting SOS Elephant in replicating the LAGA model in Chad.
- WCS – Has recommended collaborating with LAGA on a LAGA-like project in Chad in a report concerning the Zakouma park elephant poaching problem.
- EU- A project is planned to undertake enforcement responsibility. It has approached LAGA for carrying the model replication based on Congo and CAR examples. A coordination meeting will take place in Chad in April.
- The Government of Chad – Discussed with LAGA their need in assistance in CITES meetings, received a letter from COMIFAC recommending the replication of LAGA.

#### DRC

- Lola Ya Bonobo – The Bonobo sanctuary is engaged for a while with confiscation operations with the Ministry and the Police Forces. The founder Claudine Andre is influential and agreed to assist in the replication of the LAGA model in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo – The Congolese Parks Authority (ICCN) has asked for LAGA's assistance regularly in CITES meetings. Although LAGA has held meetings with government authorities in DRC in 2005 and 2008, we have not yet met the current Minister in charge of wildlife.
- LATF – To compensate on a relative low level of collaboration in DRC, LAGA relies on the director of LATF, a Congolese with extensive experience in developing wildlife law enforcement potential in DRC and good relations with the DRC government.

#### Nigeria

- WCS – The Government of Nigeria requested assistance from WCS in the setting of a national law enforcement project based on the LAGA model. WCS expressed interest in working with LAGA.
- The Government of Nigeria – After a long time of low potential for developing wildlife law enforcement, The Government of Nigeria has submitted a report to CITES in its 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties indicating a new window of opportunity. The report elaborated the

setting up of a special wildlife law enforcement unit, the first confiscations and the rapid improvements of the national legislation. With the direct interest to lift a CITES trade suspension still valid for Nigeria as a non-compliance measure, it seems the unit is eager to show results. LAGA has held several discussions with the Unit's deputy director and legal advisor that expressed great interest in working with LAGA under this project.

#### Central African Republic

- WWF – is already owning a functioning wildlife law enforcement project-RALF- as a replication of LAGA (2009)
- The Government of the Central African Republic – is very collaborative in high level of all relevant Ministers, already signed an endorsement letter for the RALF project.

#### Republic of Congo

- The John Aspinall Foundation – is already owning a functioning wildlife law enforcement project-PALF- as a replication of LAGA (2008).
- WCS – leads the PALF project together with the John Aspinall Foundation and engaged in the functioning wildlife law enforcement project as a replication of LAGA (2008).
- The Government of the Republic of Congo – is very collaborative in high level of all relevant Ministers, already signed an endorsement letter for the PALF project.

The model for collaboration with a government is based on LAGA's collaboration with the government of Cameroon. The MoU between LAGA and the government has been improved in 2008 to increase LAGA's mandate in the fight against corruption and higher levels of wildlife crime. This MoU gave legitimacy for similar projects with other governments in the sub-region and serves as a base for forging good relationship with governments in the replication work. The main government agency involved in each country is the Ministry in charge of wildlife although other government agencies such as the Ministry of Justice are also consulted on various issues and activities. Collaboration with the Ministry in charge of wildlife would be on a weekly and sometimes daily basis, with the ministry's officers as well as police officers represented in arrest operations.

The relationship with the government is so close that LAGA representatives are often placed on delegations (for instance on missions to South Africa or in all CITES meetings from 2004) as government representatives rather than NGO observers. Working closely at the Ministerial level also allows LAGA to help formulate policy and plan future activities

Since its inception, LAGA has relied on building cooperative relationships with its partner/collaborator organizations and entities. For example, as a member of governmental delegations to meetings of CITES, GRASP, and AFLEG (African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance), LAGA is kept aware of the broader problems in bushmeat trade and wildlife law enforcement that impact all of forest Africa. Specific organizations with which LAGA maintains regular communication include:

- **Sanctuaries and The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)** – LAGA has been collaborating with The Pan African sanctuary Alliance and contributed in several PASA meetings. The most extensive experience with PASA members has been with agencies that provide care for animals that have been confiscated in LAGA's operations in Cameroon. The

three shelters are: Mefou National Park (run by the Cameroon Wildlife Aid Fund), Limbe Wildlife Centre (run by Pandrillus), and the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center (run by In Defense of Animals).

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** – LAGA has represented Cameroon as an official member of the governmental delegation in all meetings regarding this vital international treaty for the past six years.
- **Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)** – LAGA is an active partner in GRASP, which is a project of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aimed at preventing the extinction of the world's great apes.
- **The Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF)** - a permanent inter-governmental organization whose main objective is joint co-operation to combat illegal trade in wild fauna and flora; the Lusaka Agreement is a multilateral environmental agreement negotiated under the auspices of UNEP. CITES decisions, GRASP and AFLEG declarations all contain recommendation to the parties to collaborate with LATF. Congo Brazzaville is a member of the agreement while DRC and Nigeria may join in the near future. LATF can play a key role in ensuring continuity and sustainability of the process. LAGA has collaborated with LATF for more than five years and the organization expressed its interest in assisting in the replication project and in the sub-regional enforcement operations.
- **The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)** – Specialized NGO with investigations expertise and information on large scale wildlife trafficking in Central Africa, that has been collaborating with LAGA in the past. Has expressed interest to assist LAGA in this project in expertise, sharing of information and possibly support staff.
- **The Wildlife Alliance** – Headed by Steve Galster (formerly WildAid) that possesses extensive knowledge and expertise on wildlife trafficking in Asia. Expressed interest in collaborating with LAGA in this project to complement sub-regional investigations of wildlife trafficking to Asia so that the sub-regional enforcement can link to the Asian Law Enforcement Network - ASEAN-WAN.
- **Donors** – LAGA has received financial support from: The US Fish and Wildlife Service, International Primate Protection League, the Born Free Foundation, the World Bank, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Animal Welfare Institute, ProWildlife, The Arcus Foundation, The Neu Corporation, UNEP-GRASP and the British High Commission in Cameroon among others

## **5. Anticipated Benefits and Outputs:**

See also the tablet in section 3.

1. In Cameroon and the Republic of Congo, development of a trained and equipped special units for enforcement of wildlife laws and legal prosecution of wildlife crimes nationwide at the rate of once a week for each country, and cracking down of wildlife crime cartels.
2. In four countries, government agencies engaged, international community representatives enlisted, partner NGO started a national wildlife law enforcement project with recruited

personnel and all stakeholders exercised a collaborative arrest of two major wildlife dealers per country.

3. National NGO-government projects are fully functional and landmark first deterring prosecution of major wildlife dealers in 4 countries achieved.
4. National NGO-government projects in 4 countries are stabilizing on one arrest per week enforcement rate and owned by partner NGOs committed for their sustainability.
5. 12 high level wildlife criminals arrested and prosecuted in sub-regional operations, and a model for regional wildlife law enforcement is developed.
6. Enforcement pressure on illegal wildlife trading activities leads to a reduction in volume of such trade, resulting in reduced demand for wild animals and their parts and products, and hence reduced levels of poaching across the region.

## **6. Project Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- The lack of measurable standards is one of the main obstacles for the development of wildlife law enforcement.
- The collaborative program has built-in procedures for determining the success or failure. Our case follow-up reports allow direct auditing. And our product has one primary measurable standard, an objectively verifiable indicator of achievement: the number of wildlife law violators receiving and serving a deterring punishment. This will be integrated to work with each country.
- The results of the project are published on our website on a monthly basis and are opened for public evaluation and monitoring.
- We encourage independent monitors to verify our reports in the field, and do so without prior notification.
- All expenses above \$1 are being documented in the financial report.
- Operations are documented in video. All media coverage is recorded and filed.

## **7. Sustainability:**

The project relies on several major donors.

- For the work in Cameroon - the \$78,174 applied for from Arcus is matched by at least \$114,246 from other donors, many of which may be able to provide longer term funding.
- For the work in Congo - The \$66,138 applied is matched by \$47,316 from other donors, many of which may be able to provide longer term funding.

- For the regional enforcement work - the grant of \$23,200 applied for from the Arcus Foundation is matched by \$54,400 from other donors.

The sustainability of this project's actions is ensured by partner NGOs mentioned in section 4 that expressed their interest in sustaining national wildlife law enforcement projects. Many of LAGA's donors expressed their willingness to support the replicated projects.

## **8. Description of Organization(s) Undertaking the Project:**

The Last Great Ape organization (LAGA) is a non-governmental organization registered in Israel in 2002. Its goal is to fight the commercial poaching with its related trade of protected species. It is a field-based organization designed to establish the effective enforcement of local wildlife law that is critical to the survival of the threatened animals. The Director, Ofir Drori, is an Israeli national, whilst all the other staff are Cameroonian. LAGA operates out of an office in Yaounde and employs around a dozen people on permanent basis to undertake activities from investigation to publicity to legal advocacy. It is funded by a range of international donors including US Fish and Wildlife Service, the World Bank, the British High Commission in Cameroon, the Arcus Foundation, The Rufford Foundation, The Neu Foundation, the Born Free Foundation, World Society for the Protection of Animals, UNEP and others. 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 bushmeat business, the ivory trade and the pet trade.

As a pioneer in NGO involvement in wildlife law enforcement in Africa, LAGA is credited in shifting Cameroon from a decade old baseline of zero wildlife prosecutions to an enforcement rate of one major wildlife dealer arrested and prosecuted per week. It has brought about the first major effective prosecution of a wildlife dealer under the national wildlife law not only in Cameroon but now in The Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic as well.

LAGA has won the Clark Bavin award for outstanding achievement in wildlife law enforcement, and its work with the government of Cameroon won the Interpol Ecomessage award.

## **9 Project Annual Budget Table - Cameroon Congo and Regional Enforcement:**

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

Budget Item	Other Donors	Arcus Attributed	Total Cost
Cameroon Work	114,246	78,174	192,420
Congo Work	47,316	66,138	113,454

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Regional Enforcement	23,200	54,400	77,600
<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	184,762	<b>198,712</b>	383,474

**9.1 Project Annual Budget Table - Cameroon Work:**

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Arcus Attributed</b>	<b>Other Donors</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Special Unit</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
MINFOF Officers		10,909	10,909
Police Officers	10,909		10,909
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Transport		10,909	10,909
Travel Subsistence		5,455	5,455
Communications		5,455	5,455
<b>Investigations</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Investigators	13,091		13,091
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Travel Subsistence	13,091		13,091
Communications	10,909		10,909
Information acquisition		2,836	2,836
Disposables		1,200	1,200
<b>Legal</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Magistrate		2,182	2,182
Legal Advisors		8,727	8,727
Lawyer (consultant)	10,909		10,909
Jail visits		2,182	2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Communication (Advisors)	8,727		8,727
Subsistence (Advisors)		3,927	3,927
Jail visits		2,182	2,182
Legal admin		1,309	1,309
<b>Media</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Media Officer		3,927	3,927
Media Assistant		2,182	2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Media Production& Editing		4,364	4,364
Performance Related Bonus	6,545		6,545
Telephone		3,491	3,491
Local Transport		1,745	1,745
<b>Independent Monitoring</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			

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Secretary (translations etc)		3,273	3,273
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Website Management		900	900
<b>Programme Administration</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Director (expatriate)		18,000	18,000
Assistant Manager (local)		6,545	6,545
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Office Rent		2,727	2,727
Services	1,091		1,091
Consumables	1,091		1,091
Telephone		6,545	6,545
Internet	1,811		1,811
Postage / Couriers		545	545
Accommodation		1,636	1,636
Local Travel Subsistence		1,091	1,091
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$78,174</b>	<b>114,246</b>	<b>192,420</b>

**9.2 Project Annual Budget Table - Republic of Congo Work:**

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Other Donors</b>	<b>Arcus attributed</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Special Unit</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
MEF Officers		5,460	5,460
Police Officers		5,460	5,460
<i>Running Costs</i>			0
Transport	5,460		5,460
			(5,434 litters of gas)
Travel Subsistence	2,706		2,706
Communications	2,730		2,730
<b>Investigations</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Investigators		6,540	6,540
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Travel Subsistence		6,540	6,540
Communications		6,540	6,540
Transport by plane		1,200	1,200
Information acquisition		1,416	1,416
Disposables		1,200	1,200
<b>Legal</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Head Legal team	2,184		2,184
Legal Advisors	4,368		4,368
Lawyers (contribution to fees)	5,448		5,448
Jail visits		1,092	1,092
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Communication (Advisors)	4,368		4,368

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Subsistence (Advisors)	1,968		1,968
Jail visits		1,092	1,092
Transport by plane		1,200	1,200
Legal admin	654		654
<b>Media</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Media Officer	1,962		1,962
Media Assistant	1,092		1,092
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Media Production & Editing	2,184		2,184
Performance Related Bonus	3,270		3,270
Telephone	1,746		1,746
Local Transport		870	870
<b>Animal Rescue</b>			
Primary veterinarian care		300	300
Animal transport		600	600
Animal upkeep expenses for the first year		12000	12000
<b>Reporting &amp; Monitoring</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Secretary		1,638	1,638
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Website Management		450	450
<b>Programme Administration</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>			
Coordinator (expatriate)		9,000	9,000
Assistant Coordinator	3,270		3,270
<i>Running Costs</i>			
Office Rent	1,362		1,362
Services	546		546

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Consumables	546		546
Telephone		3,270	3,270
Internet	906		906
Postage / Couriers		270	270
Local Travel Subsistence	546		546
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,316</b>	<b>66,138</b>	<b>113,454</b>

**9.3 Project Annual Budget Table - Regional Enforcement:**

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

Budget Item	Other Donors	Arcus Attributed	Total Cost
<b>Replication - Gabon, Chad, DRC, Nigeria</b>			
Personnel			
Replication Coordinators	14,400	4,800	19,200
International Flights			
Replication Coordinators	4,800	-	4,800
Director	2,400	-	2,400
Running Costs			
Travel Subsistence coordinators	4,800	-	4,800
Travel Subsistence Director	1,800	-	1,800
Communications	3,300	-	3,300
Sensitization			
Printing Replication Manual	1,600	-	1,600
Sensitization Materials	300	-	300
<b>Replication - Investigation Support</b>			
Personnel			
International Investigator		9,000	9,000
International Flights			
Long distance flights	3,000	-	3,000
Sub-regional flights		1,200	1,200
Running Costs			
Travel Subsistence investigator		1,600	1,600
Communications		600	600
<b>Sub-Regional Enforcement - covering 6 countries</b>			
Personnel			
Asian Investigator	11,000	-	11,000
International Flights			
Long distance flights		3,000	3,000
Sub-regional flights investigator		3,000	3,000
Sub-regional flights director	3,000	-	3,000
Running Costs			
Travel Subsistence investigator	1,600	-	1,600
Travel Subsistence Director	1,200	-	1,200
Communications	1,200	-	1,200
		-	-
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 54,400</b>	<b>\$23,200</b>	<b>77,600</b>

**10.1 Budget Justifications - Cameroon Work:**

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Special Unit</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
MINFOF Officers	Person / Month	182	12 months	5 Officers	10,909
Police Officers	Person / Month	182	12 months	5 Officers	10,909
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Transport	Person / Month	182 (\$227 per mission)	12 months	5 Officers	10,909 (10,868 liters of gas)
Travel Subsistence	Person / Month	41	12 months	11 People	5,455
Communications	Month	455 (955 min.)	12 months	-	5,455
<b>Investigations</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Investigators	Person / Month	218	12 months	5 People	13,091
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Travel Subsistence	Person / Month	218	12 months	5 People	13,091
Communications	Person /Month	182 (382 min.)	12 months	5 People	10,909
Information acquisition	Month	236	12 months	-	2,836
Disposables	Month	100	12 months	-	1,200
<b>Legal</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Magistrate	Person /Month	182	12 months	1 Person	2,182
Legal Advisors	Person /Month	364	12 months	2 People	8,727
Lawyers (contribution to fees)	Person /Month	227	12 months	4 People	10,909
Jail visits	Month	182	12 months	-	2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>					

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Communication (Advisors)	Person /Month	364 (764 min.)	12 months	2 People	8,727
Subsistence (Advisors)	Person /Month	164	12 months	2 People	3,927
Jail visits	Month	182	12 months	-	2,182
Legal admin	Month	109	12 months	-	1,309
<b>Media</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Media Officer	Person /Month	327	12 months	1 Person	3,927
Media Assistant	Person /Month	182	12 months	1 Person	2,182
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Media Production & Editing	Month	364	12 months	-	4,364
Performance Related Bonus	Month	545	12 months	-	6,545
Telephone	Month	291 (611 min.)	12 months	-	3,491
Local Transport	Month	145	12 months	-	1,745
<b>Independent Monitoring</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Secretary (translations etc)	Person /Month	273	12 months	1 Person	3,273
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Website Management	Month	75	12 months	-	900
<b>Programme Administration</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Director (expatriate)	Person /Month	1,500	12 months	1 Person	18,000
Assistant Manager (local)	Person /Month	545	12 months	1 Person	6,545
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Office Rent	Month	227	12 months	-	2,727
Services	Month	91	12 months	-	1,091
Consumables	Month	91	12 months	-	1,091
Telephone	Month	545 (1144 min)	12 months	-	6,545
Internet	Month	151	12 months	-	1,811

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Postage / Couriers	Month	45	12 months	-	545
Accommodation	Month	136	12 months	-	1,636
Local Travel Subsistence	Month	91	12 months	-	1,091
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>192,420</b>

**10.2 Budget Justifications - Republic of Congo Work:**

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Operations</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
MEF Officers	Person / Month				5,460
Police Officers	Person / Month				5,460
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Transport	Person / Month	182 (\$227 per mission)		30	5,460 (5,434 liters of gas)
Travel Subsistence	Person / Month	41		66	2,706
Communications	Month	455 (955 min.)		6	2,730
<b>Investigations</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Investigators	Person / Month	218	12	2.5	6,540
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Travel Subsistence	Person / Month	218	12	2.5	6,540
Communications	Person /Month	182 (382 min.)	12	2.5	6,540
Transport by plane	Flight/month	100	12	1	1,200
Information acquisition	Month	236	6-		1,416
Disposables	Month	100	12-		1,200
<b>Legal</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Head Legal team	Person /Month	364	6	1	2,184
Legal Advisors	Person /Month	364	12	1	4,368
Lawyers (contribution to fees)	Person /Month	227	12	2	5,448
Jail visits	Month	91	12-		1,092
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Communication (Advisors)	Person /Month	364 (764 min.)	12	1	4,368
Subsistence (Advisors)	Person /Month	164	12	1	1,968
Jail visits	Month	91	3		1,092
Transport by plane	Month	100	12	1	1,200
Legal admin	Month	109	6		654
<b>Media</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Media Officer	Person /Month	327	6	1	1,962
Media Assistant	Person /Month	91	12	1	1,092
<i>Running Costs</i>					

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Media Production& Editing	Month	182	12-		2,184
Performance Related Bonus	Month	274.5	12-		3,270
Telephone	Month	145.5 (611 min.)	12-		1,746
Local Transport	Month	145	12-		870
<b>Animal rescue</b>					
Primary veterinarian care	Month	50	6		300
Animal transport	Month	100	6		600
Animal upkeep expenses for the first year (Food, medicine, staff)	Month	1500	8		12000
<b>Reporting &amp; Monitoring</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Secretary	Person /Month	273	6	1	1,638
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Website Management	Month	75	6-		450
<b>Programme Administration</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
Director (expatriate)	Person /Month	1,500	6	1	9,000
Assistant Manager (local)	Person /Month	545	6	1	3,270
<i>Running Costs</i>					
Office Rent	Month	113.5	12-		1,362
Services	Month	45.5	6-		546
Consumables	Month	25.5	12-		546
Telephone	Month	272.5 (1144min)	12-		3,270
Internet	Month	75.5	12-		906
Postage / Couriers	Month	22.5	12-		270
Local Travel Subsistence	Month	45.5	12-		546
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>113,454</b>

**10.3 Budget Justifications - Regional Enforcement:**

(NB: Figures are converted from original calculations in CFA – this may produce some small discrepancies in USD calculations.)

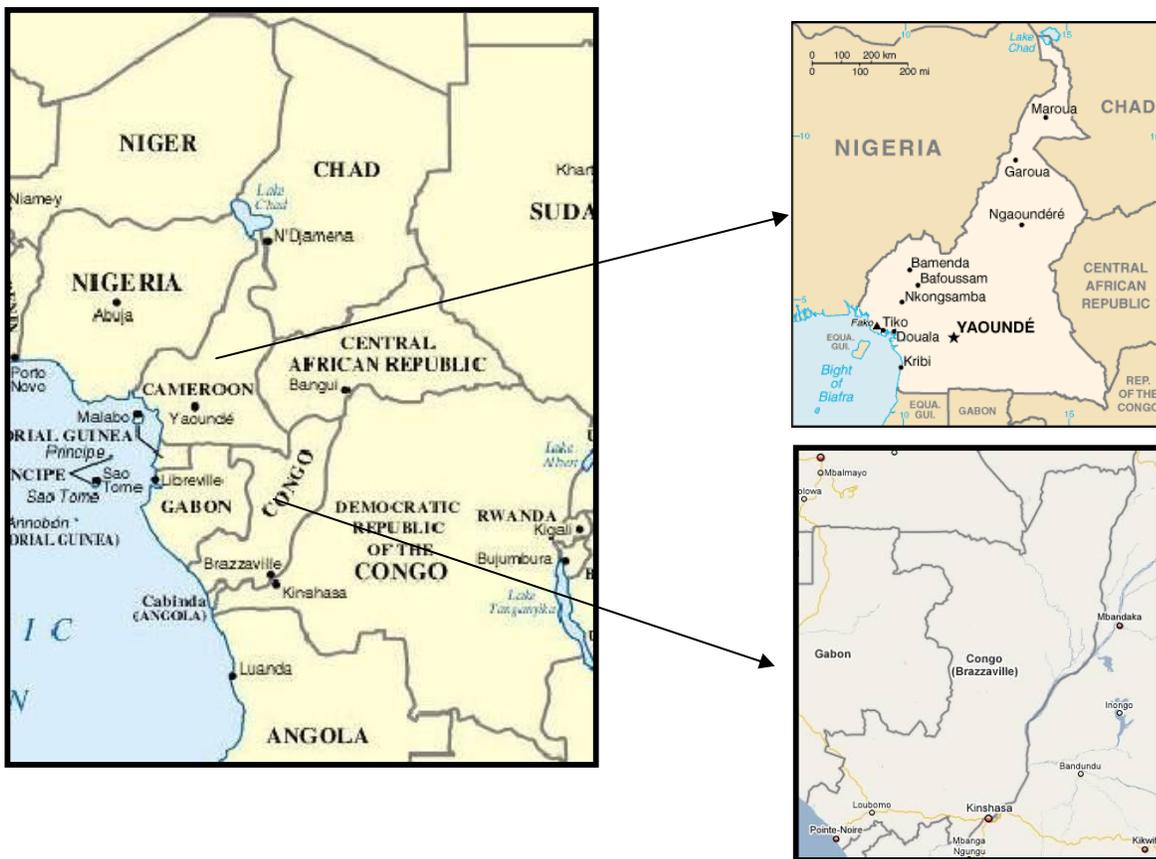
Budget Item	Unit	Unit Price in US\$	Quantity	Total Cost	Subtotal in US\$
<b>Replication - Gabon, Chad, DRC, Nigeria</b>					<b>\$ 38,200</b>
Personnel					19,200
Replication Coordinators	Man / Month	800	24	19,200	
International Flights					7,200
Replication Coordinators	flight	600	8	4,800	
Director	flight	600	4	2,400	
Running Costs					9,900
Travel Subsistence coordinators	Man / Month	600	8	4,800	
Travel Subsistence Director	Man / Month	600	3	1,800	
Communications	Man / Month	300	11	3,300	
Sensitization					1,900
Printing Replication Manual		1,600	1	1,600	
Sensitization Materials		300	1	300	
<b>Replication - Investigation Support</b>					<b>\$ 15,400</b>
Personnel					9,000
International Investigator	Man / Month	4,500	2	9,000	
International Flights					4,200
Long distance flights	flight	1,500	2	3,000	
Sub-regional flights	flight	600	2	1,200	
Running Costs					2,200
Travel Subsistence investigator	Man / Month	800	2	1,600	
Communications	Man / Month	300	2	600	
<b>Sub-Regional Enforcement mission</b>					<b>\$ 24,000</b>
Personnel					11,000
International Investigator	Man / Month	5,500	2	11,000	
International Flights					9,000
Long distance flights	flight	1,500	2	3,000	
Sub-regional flights investigator	flight	600	5	3,000	
Sub-regional flights director	flight	600	5	3,000	
Running Costs					4,000
Travel Subsistence investigator	Man / Month	800	2	1,600	
Travel Subsistence Director	Man / Month	600	2	1,200	
Communications	Man / Month	300	4	1,200	
<b>Total Cost</b>					<b>\$ 77,600</b>

## 11. Governmental Endorsement:

- A letter of endorsement is attached
- In April 2006 an MoU was signed between LAGA and MINFOF concerning this project, In October 2008 the MoU was improved to give LAGA a stronger mandate to fight corruption and target the highest levels of wildlife crime.
- Each of the partner NGOs possesses a convention with the host government. The replication projects in the Republic and Congo and the Central African Republic received a few months after their creation a letter of endorsement specific for law enforcement activities. We expect this to be the case with the projects to be created in the next four countries.

## 12. Map:

Project site is stretched over 7 neighboring countries – Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria.



REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix – Travail – Patrie  
MINISTERE DES FORETS ET DE LA FAUNE  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
DIRECTION DE LA FAUNE  
ET DES AIRES PROTEGEES

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
Peace – Work – Fatherland  
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
AND PROTECTED AREAS

Yaounde, the 13 AVR 2005

No. 320 /L/MINFOF/SG/DFAP

**The Minister**  
To  
**The Director,**  
**US Fish and Wildlife Services**  
**Washington DC –**  
**c/o LAGA, Tel. : 965 18 03**

**Subject : Endorsement letter for an application for funding.**

Dear Sir,

The last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) applied for financial assistance from your administration to enable it to continue with the implementation of the joint anti-poaching control project initiated by this NGO and my ministry.

It should be recalled that the fight against poaching is one of the major priorities of Cameroon's policy for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resources. In fact, since 1999, Cameroon has been working with a national anti-poaching strategy that is updated quite regularly. Due to its complexity, the implementation of this strategy requires many stakeholders be they from the administration, non-governmental organizations or the civil society.

LAGA is one of the organizations which have contributed enormously to the progress that has been recorded in recent years as far as the prosecution of wildlife offences is concerned.

Considering the vital role this organization has to play in the implementation of the above-mentioned strategy, I have the honour to request that you pay particular attention to the application for funding submitted by LAGA.

Accept, sir, my kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,



EGBE ACHUO Hillment