

The Last Great Ape Organization – LA GA

September 2010 Report



Highlights

- **5 arrest operations** against **12 dealers**; **2 of the operations within 2 days.**
- **LAGA participates in the** Conference of the Interpol Wildlife Working group in **Lyon – France** where he made a presentation on the collaboration between NGO and Government in the fight against wildlife crime.
- **1 week training, capacity building and restructuring** carried out in Investigations Department geared at producing better results and to follow the right procedures.

General

This month 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 is a Secondary School teacher who 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 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.

A major dealer in live primates was arrested in Kribi – 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 relative, an accomplice and the 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 and 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.

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 crime. The presentation was welcomed and appreciated. He also had the opportunity to contact other organizations on how to work together in wildlife law enforcement.

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, training and restructuring exercise also focused on evaluation and new expectations all led to encouraging results. More to that, special attention was given to the Department by the Director with a trip to the Mfou Wildlife Reserve and special lunch. This helped in the observation and identification of protected primates. New phones were also bought for all 4 investigators for field use.

Investigations

- **31 investigation missions** of varying lengths were carried out in **6 Regions** of Cameroon- North West, South, West, East, Littoral and Center.
- 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.
- Special attention was given to the Department by the Director with a trip to the Mfou Wildlife Reserve and special lunch. This helped in the observation and identification of protected primates. New phones were also bought for all 4 investigators for field use.
- Investigations led to arrest operations in Ambam - South, Kribi - South and Dschang - West.
- Investigations are still ongoing pertaining to a target who is illegally keeping a chimp in the Western Region of Cameroon.
- Internet Investigations are still ongoing concerning an accomplice of an Internet Wildlife trafficker who was arrested in Bamenda – North West Region. He is engaged in the falsification of government documents and CITES Permit.

Operations

5 operations were carried out this month against **12 subjects**.

- **15/09/10 – 2 regular dealers** in shells of forest tortoises were arrested in Ambam – South with **7 forest tortoise shells**. One of the dealers is a Secondary School teacher who 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.
- **16/09/10 - 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, giant pangolin, yellow-backed duiker and water chevrotain 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.
- **21/09/10 – 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.
- **24/09/10 - A major dealer in live primates was arrested in Kribi – 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 sister, an accomplice and the 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 and check-up and upkeep.

- **30/09/10 – 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.

Legal

- LAGA Legal Department carried out **14 missions** out of Yaounde- Centre Region: 1 in Douala (Littoral), 1 in Mamfe (South West), 2 in Abong-Mbang (East), 4 in Sangmelima, 3 in Ambam, 2 in Kribi (South) and 1 in Dschang (West).
- There are **13 dealers behind bars during this month**: 2 in the East Region, 5 in the South West Region, 6 in South Region and 1 in West Region
- **22 cases** were followed up by the Legal Department this month.
- **19 cases** are scheduled and being trailed in the court this month.

Media front

- **41 media pieces** were produced and pushed through to radio and written press including: 12 written press materials, 7 in English and 5 in French, and 29 radio news flashes 15 in French and 14 in English.
- Guests include: Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.
- Subjects focused on wildlife law enforcement including; Ambam dealer arrest of 7 tortoise and turtle, Meyomessala dealer arrest of parts of chimp, giant pangolin and bush pig, Kribi arrest of dealer in Mandrill, and Dschang arrest of dealer in Mandrill.
- 21 media pieces in English, 20 in French making a percentage of 51.2% in English and 48.8% in French.

External Relations and Policy

- 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 Director took part in a training section of investigators in a CHOC project to fight corruption in the transport sector.
- LAGA Director held a meeting with US Embassy and discussed the following: wildlife law enforcement, APT-AID principles and the challenges of the upcoming election in this regard.
- British High Commission received Ofir in an audience, top on the agenda; the fight against corruption and the challenges of the upcoming election, APT-AID Principles, wildlife enforcement and replication of LAGA's model in Gabon.
- Meeting between LAGA Director and volunteers of the Association, WPE and Eco-Cameroon to discuss on environmental education in Cameroon.
- LAGA Director held meeting with Nick Cocayne – Ex CWFV volunteer to discuss the situation in the zoos and animal welfare in Cameroon.
- The Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas held meeting with LAGA Director concerning the problem of Pongo Songo, a mission to Douala of the Brigade, and other issues of wildlife law enforcement.
- Meeting between LAGA Director and Hilaire Kamga, a civil rights activist.
- David Hoyle, WWF Director of project Cameroon and LAGA Director discussed on situation on animal trafficking in the South East.
- Meeting between Peace Corps and LAGA Director, discussion focused on using LAGA's experience for fostering activism among Peace Corps volunteers and rural communities.

- LAGA Director held meeting with the widow of Mongo Beti – Odile (President of an NGO called SURVIE) to discuss on the fight against corruption and the challenges of the upcoming election.
- Meeting between the Charge d’Etude No 1 at the General Delegation of National Security and LAGA Head of Media and External Relations on the MoU of LAGA and the General Delegation of National Security.

Management

- Two LAGA staff from Operation and Legal Departments took part in the burial ceremony of Ngum Francis in Oku. The former Head of the anti-poaching Unit at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.
- 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.
- Special attention was given to the Department by the Director with a trip to the Mfou Wildlife Reserve and special lunch. This helped in the observation and identification of protected primates. New phones were also bought for all 4 investigators for field use.
- 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.

Activism Front

Education activities were carried out on the following:

1) Writing a scientific paper

The presentation provides some guidelines on writing a paper for a seminar or workshop and for publication in a newspaper. It states the technique and methodology to follow when writing any paper in order to come out with an enriched write up.

Presented by Vincent – LAGA Head of media and external relations

Question

How scientific is a scientific paper?

How can we know that a write up is scientific?

Is there any difference between a biological write up and an article in a newspaper?

2) TED - Social networks

The social network Nicholas makes reference to is the relationship between human beings which is beyond the online varieties. That is the relationship people have with one another - between siblings, workers, neighbours etc. Nicholas assembles biological, social, psychological and mathematical rules to come out with a methodology of how social network operates and governs our life. And how through such networks people can take advantage to justify or improve the world either by fixing it or understanding it. As such it could be possible with the used of social network to prevent the burst out of an epidemic or dictate its origin.

Presented by Nicholas Christakis

Question

- 1) How can we use the central people in social network to prevent an epidemic?
- 2) How can the world through social network be a better place?
- 3) How real is the methodology of Nicholas applicable in our context Cameroon?

Finance

LAGA Expenditure by budget line for September 2010

Amount CFA	Budget line		Amount USD
2,011,345	investigations	33 inv, 6 Regions	\$4,047
760,100	Operations	5 Operation against 12 subjects	\$1,529
3,523,150	legal	follow up 22 cases 13 locked subjects	\$7,089
2,015,130	Media	41 media pieces	\$4,055
1,999,716	Policy & External Relations	Congo/CAR/USA/UK/France/Ethiopia/Kenya/Tanzania	\$4,024
919,600	Management	Coordination	\$1,850
1,510,970	Office		\$3,040
12,740,011	TOTAL EXPENDITURE SEPTEMBER		\$25,634

LAGA Expenditure by donor for September 2010

AmountCFA	Donor	Amount USD
5,072,850	FWS	\$10,206.9
1,924,716	FWS-Replication	\$3,872.7
1,919,415	BornFree Foundation	\$3,862.0
918,100	World Parrot Trust	\$1,847.3
2,904,930	Rufford Foundation	\$5,844.9
12,740,011	TOTAL	\$25,633.8

THIS MONTH IN PICTURES



A female dealer arrested in Meyomessala – South with packaged bushmeat about to be supplied to customers in the main city of Yaounde. Meat of chimps, giant pangolin, yellow-backed duiker and water chevrotain were amongst the consignment seized. The operation was carried out with ECOFAC - Meyomessala. The animals were killed in the Dja Reserve.



One of the regular dealers in shells of forest tortoises arrested in Ambam – South with 7 forest tortoise shells. 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.



Mandrill rescued following the arrest of a major dealer in live in Kribi – South. He resisted arrest, was not cooperating with the arresting team from the onset. His sister, an accomplice and the 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.



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.

Links of this month

2 successful operations against 2 dealers in live mandrills in 1 week– Cameroon National Television Broadcast – Hello Talk Show Program. 2 operations were carried out within 1 week in 2 different parts of Cameroon resulting in the arrest of 2 dealers in illegal possession of a live mandrill each in Kribi – South and Dschang - West.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITivYih364o>