

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS



SOME OF THE TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO GORILLA CONSERVATION...

- Environmental education
- Scientific research
- Land use planning
- Alternative livelihoods
- Alternative protein sources
- Anti-poaching

WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR WILD GORILLAS TODAY?

Environmental
Education

Absolutely
necessary for the
long run...

...but for many
species, we
cannot wait even
one generation!

Scientific
Research

Helps us grasp
the scope of the
problem...

...but again...we
see how dire the
situation is...we
need action!

Anti-poaching

The classic first
step in fighting
illegal wildlife
hunting...

...but there are so
many poachers!
Are we targeting
the right group?

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Anti-poaching

First step

So many!

INVESTIGATION + OPERATION

Let's never forget to separate two categories of poachers:

1. Subsistence hunters
2. Commercial bushmeat hunters/traffickers

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Time is of the essence, so law enforcement needs to be implemented now
- Law enforcement cannot be left incomplete
 - As essential as arresting wildlife criminals is, the difference between incomplete and complete application of the law is too vast to ignore
- Wildlife crimes are organized chains
 - Not necessarily in parks
 - Arresting criminals higher up the chain will have an **exponential effect** on illegal poaching

Organized bushmeat traffic



THREE (3) GORILLAS
EIGHT (8) RED RIVER HOGS
FIFTY-TWO (52) GUENONS
TWO (2) BLUE DUIKERS
ONE (1) PETER'S DUIKER
TWO (2) PYTHONS



Killed with an AK-47

CORRUPTION LAWLESSNESS



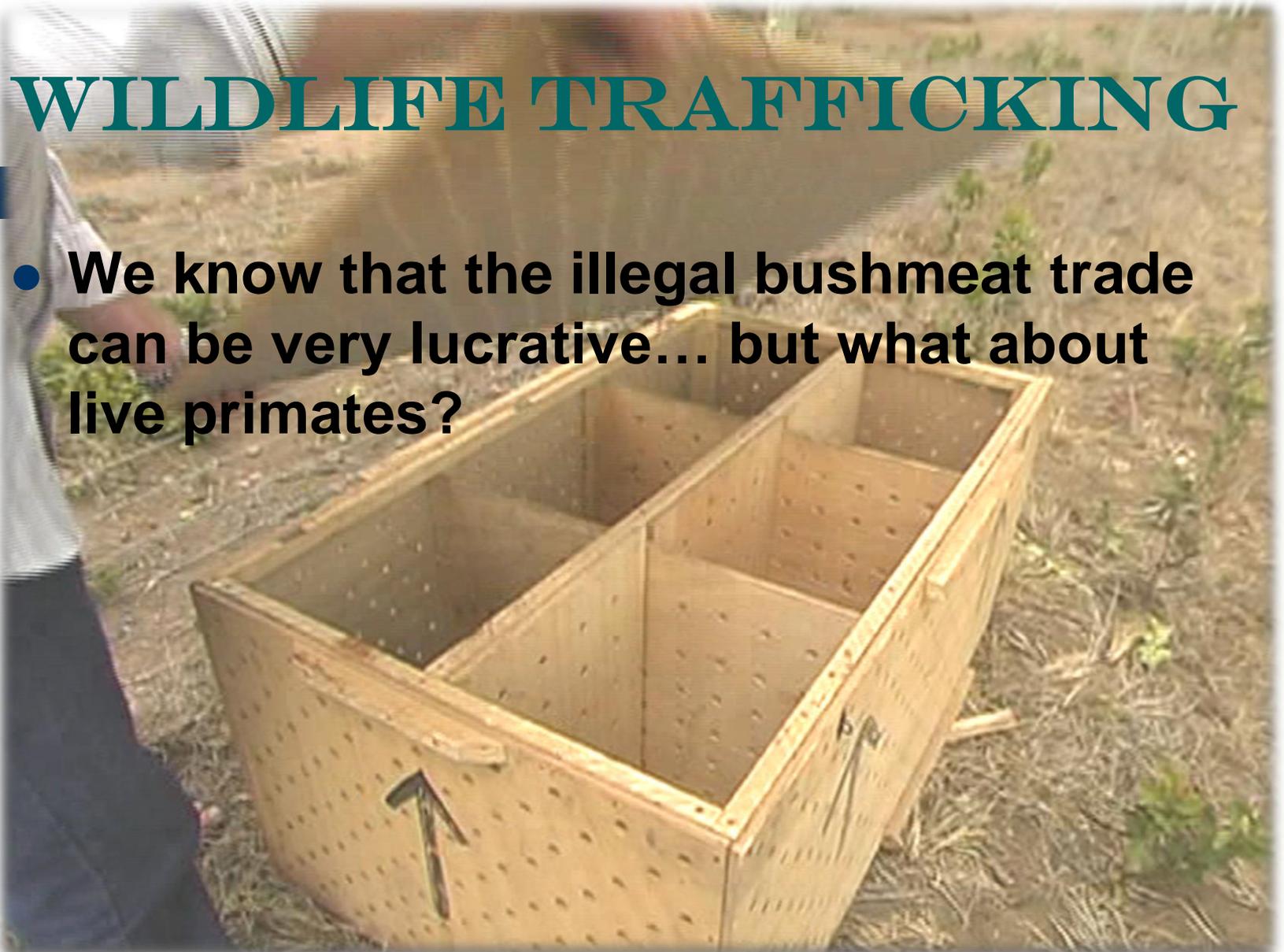
- The weapon was given to the criminal by a police officer
- The criminal was freed by an authority in the Ouesso court, who subsequently “lost” the file

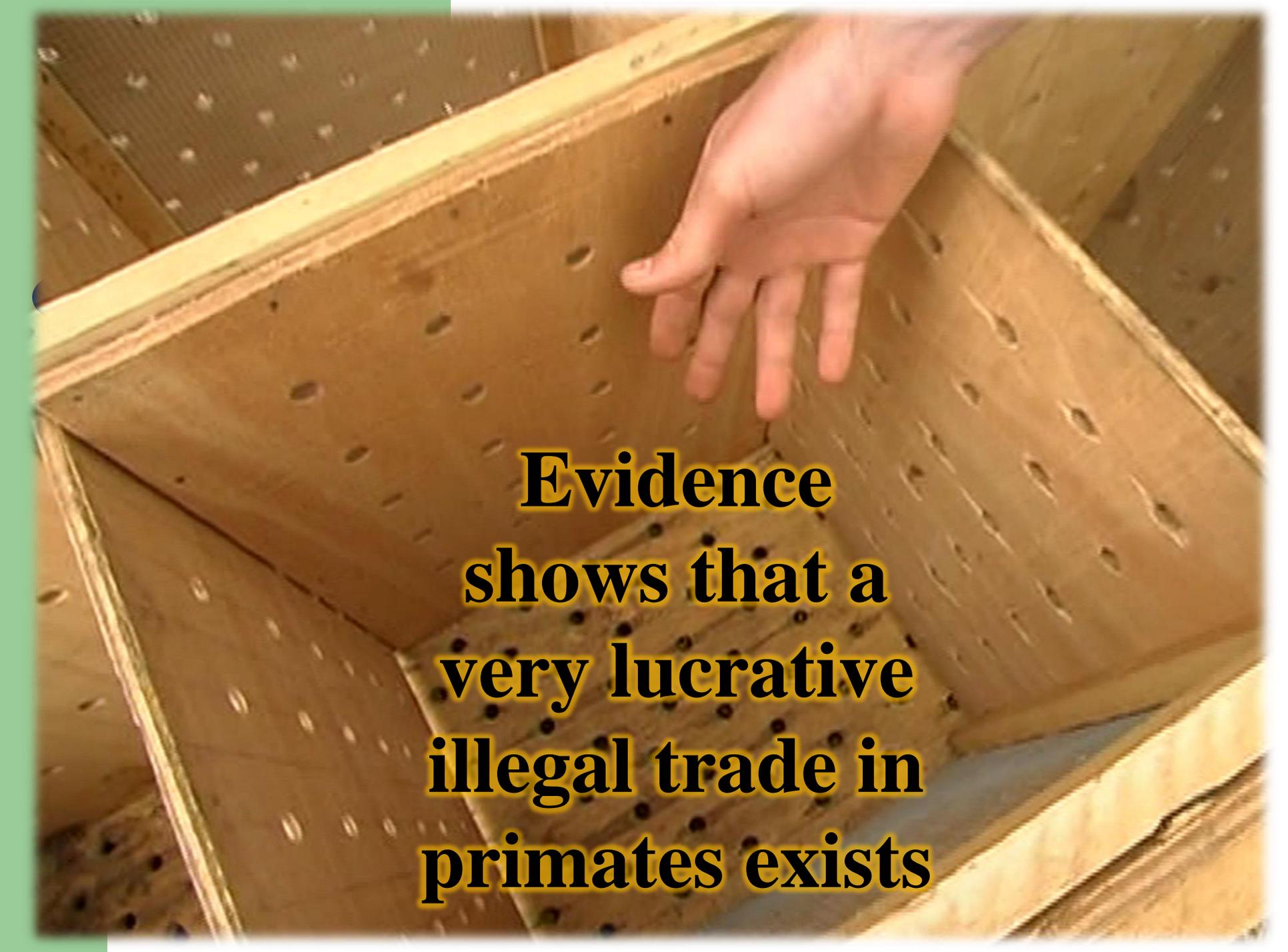
HIDDEN RECORDING CAMEROON

- **15'08" ---These smaller procurers (substitutes of the state attorney) will then bring part of what they have gained from the cases to the Higher Procurer. Whenever any of the smaller procurer has a problem that concerns his brother, he will go to the higher procurer and tell him to give him that case to handle. But at the end, he must give part of the profits from the case to the higher Procurer.---**

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

- We know that the illegal bushmeat trade can be very lucrative... but what about live primates?



A close-up photograph of a person's hand reaching into a wooden crate. The crate is made of plywood and has numerous small, circular holes drilled into its interior walls. The hand is positioned near the top edge of the crate, with fingers slightly spread. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the wood and the hand.

**Evidence
shows that a
very lucrative
illegal trade in
primates exists**

DRC – Bonobo Smuggling Affair

REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO
MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE,
DE LA PECHE ET DE L'ELEVAGE

VILLE DE KINSHASA
SERVICE VETERINAIRE
(Police sanitaire)
QUARANTAINE ANIMALE ET VEGETALE
POSTE DE : COORD. URBAINE

N° 012 20/0050 A VISA /2005

CERTIFICAT VETERINAIRE D'ORIGINE ET DE SANTE
(Décret du 28 juillet 1978, Décret n° 034027 du 10 septembre 2003 et Décret n° 044015 du 16 juillet 2004)

Je soussigné SERGE MUKENDU Inspecteur Vétérinaire du
Gouvernement à KINSHASA / GORRE

Certifie que l'(es) animal(aux) dont le signalement suit :

Nom LOU CO
Espèce CHIMPANZE PYGMEE ASIEN
Race PAN-PANISCLUS
Sexe FEMELLE
Age 27 MOIS
Robe POILS NOIR REU BRUN
Taille 50 CM / 3 KG

Marques particulières : BOE BRUN
Appartenant à Monsieur (Madame) GILBERT ONDENDA
Adresse AV. USOKO NO 32 C / KINSHASA
Expédié (s) de KINSHASA / RDC (lieu et pays d'expédition)
Via AGRO - NDJELI (lieu de transit)
à MOSCOU / RUSSIE (lieu et pays de destination)

- est (sont) exempt(s) de symptômes de maladie contagieuse ou transmissible
 - provient(ient) d'une région dans laquelle plus aucun cas de rage n'a été constaté depuis au moins 60 jours.
 - a (ont) subi la (les) vaccination(s) requise(s) le
 - provient(ient) d'une région exempte de maladie contagieuse ou transmissible

Delivré à Kinshasa, le

Le Cachet du service  L'inspecteur Vétérinaire Officiel
SERGE MUKENDU
Te. Vétérinaire n° 243
03/08/06

- Dealers -A Ukrainian and a Congolese with a Russian Passport.
- On December 2005- Boarding an Air France flight from Kinshasa with a final destination Russia.
- In a hand bag inside the plane transported a baby Bonobo.
- This was well known to air france, the two presented a permit from Ministry of Agriculture - Certificate of veterinary origin and health, and allowed to take it on board.
- Their passports show they have been frequent on the Moscow-Kinshasa line suggests this was not their first time.

DRC – Bonobo Smuggling Affair

France –

- Following an intervention by an activist, Customs authorities in the Roissy airport held the subjects with the Bonobo.
- The Bonobo has been confiscated but the subjects released and allowed to continue their journey to Russia.

THE CASE OF HEBA CAMEROON-NIGERIA-EGYPT



THE CASE OF HEBA CAMEROON-NIGERIA-EGYPT

- Three decades
- Hundreds of chimps
- Dozens of gorillas
- Around forty apes per year
- 5,000 -20,000 \$ for a chimp

TAIPING FOUR

CAMEROON – NIGERIA - MALAYSIA



Cameroon -Nigeria - Malaysia – The Taiping Four Affair

Information from the Nigerian Federal Investigation Committee:

- Originated in Cameroon
- Through Ibadan Nigeria
- To the Taiping zoo in Malaysia
- **1.6 Million Dollars!**

(vii) Karriah Mohd. Sharif, the Director of Malaysia Wildlife Dept. showed his country from the scandal, but acknowledged the possibility that the gorilla could have been illegally obtained in Nigeria.

(viii) The gorillas were offered to the Taiping Zoo for the price of \$1.6 million by the seller.

(ix) International postcard campaign to Cameroon, Nigeria and Malaysia on the

Cameroon -Nigeria - Malaysia – The Taiping Four Affair

- Huge incentive drives the international trade in great apes
- Zoos can play a negative role in the illegal trade in apes through uncontrolled use of dealers.

THE CASE OF PHILIPPE AWUNGANYI

- January 2009
- Advertising primate skulls for sale
- Collaboration with US authorities



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- A photograph of a man standing behind a collection of animal skulls and horns. The man is wearing a white t-shirt and yellow shorts. The skulls and horns are arranged on the ground in front of him. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.
- Selling Primate Skulls - 22 consignments of primate skulls sent to the U.S.A.
 - Had been doing Internet Wildlife Trade for 2 years
 - Admitted to have gained more than 20,000 USD

INTERNET

- Some internet trade is fraud
- But there is **real internet-based wildlife crime** which is affecting supply and demand

ILLEGAL PRIMATE DEALING

- Apes trade is a symptom of the failure of law enforcement...
- Bushmeat traffic is astoundingly high too and runs largely on the same principles
- Although protected primates as bushmeat are sold on a more national level, **lack of law enforcement becomes a major impediment to sustainable development**
- (Afterall, that is why there are laws on bushmeat!)

The Crisis

- **Weak or nonexistent law enforcement** means that organized bushmeat hunting can take place
- Again, we are **not** talking about villagers hunting to feed the family...we are talking about commercialization



GABON



Largest
seizure
involving
apes in
Africa.



SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

- What are the standards by which we are measuring ourselves?

- Quantity of meat seized?

Sold back into the markets (yes, even protected species)

- Number of weapons seized?

Why are military weapons in circulation in the first place?!

- **Is this enough of a deterrent?**

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Each gorilla case is important!
- **Each case needs lots of attention!**
- These cases need to be followed closely by a whole team of legal experts...

- **When that team is not there, cases fail, law is not applied and criminals walk free**

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Anti-poaching needs application of wildlife law as an **essential partnership or even better, an integral part of the program!**
- Otherwise Ecoguards will find the poachers and dealers they've arrested wandering around free and unconcerned
- And poachers are the small targets...we also need deeper investigations into the **traffic...it is organized, it is powerful, and the demand for illegal wildlife products is high!**

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

- RULE OF LAW
- FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION
- These are key phrases that are the goals of developing nations individually, as well as the international community at large
- We must **insist** that countries follow through on promises to achieve these goals in **all sectors** including **application of wildlife law**

WE CAN WORK FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

- The Minister of Justice in Republic of Congo took on an active role in a very important case in January 2011, insisting that the case of a Chinese ivory trafficker be treated very seriously
- Together with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, we rooted out a corrupt official in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment and the ministry took serious action against this official

WE CAN WORK FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

- We have launched a case against a corrupt sub-prefect who was facilitating bushmeat trade (specifically chimpanzee, mandrill, and chevrotain meat in the instance we recorded) in collaboration with the National Commission for the Fight against Corruption, Embezzlement and Fraud
- The Supreme Court has ordered all prosecutors and prison directors to work with PALF on wildlife cases

WE CAN WORK FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

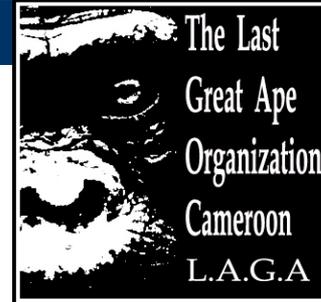
- In Cameroon, things have gone even further:
- A Secretary General has been fired.
- A magistrate has been fired after LAGA recorded criminals explaining how he could be paid off.

THE MODEL

- Investigations
- Operations
- Legal
- Communications
- Management

THE ACTIVE PROJECTS

- LAGA – Last Great Ape Organization
 - Since 2003
- PALF – Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune sauvage
 - Since 2008
- RALF – Renforcement à l'Application de la Loi Faunique
 - Since 2009
- AALF – Appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune
 - Since 2010



COMING SOON...

- **Chad**
- **Nigeria**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**
- **So, there will need to be hosts...**



Thank you!
Merci!



www.palf-enforcement.org