



DRILL INFO

Issue 13, December 2011

Dear members, dear friends of the Drill,

With this issue we want to wish all our readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year 2012!

Your editorial team

Financing of the reconstruction of the Drill enclosure at the LWC / Cameroon

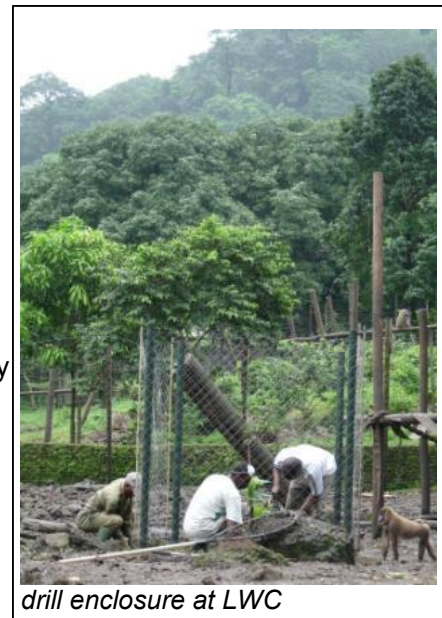
In the beginning of June an urgent call for help from Cameroon reached "Save the Drill".

The drill enclosures, holding more than 70 confiscated or "bushmeat-orphaned" drills, was in danger of collapsing. It was necessary to reconstruct the enclosure, which also required new climbing structures and vegetation.

"Save the Drill" could cover the costs and the work started already in September.

We will inform you with more details about the progress in the next issue!

Kathrin Paulsen



drill enclosure at LWC

Annual Meeting at the Zoo Hannover on 27th August *from Dr. Antje Hermanns*

The seventh annual general meeting of members was held this year on the 27th of August.

Although the weather was not great, the nice atmosphere in the winter garden of the Zoo Hannover and the excellent service allowed the members forget about the starting rain.

The meeting began on time at 11 am with a warm welcome from Kathrin Paulsen, who also thanked the organisers for their help. Mr. Müller-Schilling, the zoo representative delivered the introductory words and invited everyone to a look behind the scenes of the newly opened "Yukon Bay".

Afterwards the members of the executive committee introduced themselves with short activity profiles. New members got a good overview of the responsibilities of the committee.

Dr. Anne Fallner-Ahrends then presented the cash report.

A new income of approximately 6,500€ was reported. Expenditures included the radio collars for Pandrillus in Nigeria. The cash balance on the day of the meeting was app. 13,500€.

Beforehand the cash audition was presented by Carlo Rinke and Dr. Antje Hermanns. The account auditors reported that the cash in hand had been calculated correctly and they proposed to discharge the committee. The application was accepted concordantly.

After these official points Mr. M. Wolandt, with a slide show, transported the audience in their imagination to Nigeria - home of the drills. Mr. Wolandt, who has recently lived in Nigeria for a long period with his family, fascinated the audience with wonderful pictures and many interesting

anecdotes. He showed what it means to live in a country so different from Europe. Corruption is the order of the day and the country suffers from a lack of medical care and is politically unstable. He also highlighted the positive aspects of the Nigerian people and their culture.

Kathrin Paulsen accompanied this description with an update on the drills in Nigeria.

The first series of talks was completed with a talk given by Dr. Verena Behringer, who explained the pending project which will monitor the released drills using radio collars. She demonstrated this with interesting photographs and data.

After a break the meeting continued with two reports from Carsten Zehrer, who presented data on the population of drills living in zoos. Afterwards he gave an overview of the development of the members in the association. Actually there are 93 members.

Point six on the agenda was the election of the executive committee. The complete committee ran again for office. In addition, Dennis Höller was nominated for election to the extended committee next to Carsten Zehrer. The committee was elected concordantly and the candidates accepted. Thus the old committee was confirmed and will now receive additional help from the new assessor Dennis Höller.

At this point, congratulations were given to the new committee members for their re-election. We wished the new crew continuing success in their work and Dennis Höller lots of good luck with his new responsibilities!

Then chairwoman Kathrin Paulsen shared with us news from Cameroon, where the Limbe Wildlife Center fulfils similar duties as Pandrillus in Nigeria. The main problem she discussed was the outdoor enclosure, which needs restoration.

Ainare Idoiaga, a veterinarian who has cared for the drills in Nigeria for many years, now works at the Center management. Her report originally called attention to the serious problems with the enclosures. The pictures she sent showed in detail the broken-down condition of the surrounding fencing, and how they are missing adequate climbing structures and underground spaces. Ainare Idoiaga sent us a detailed budget and asked for financial help for the necessary repairs. It was proposed to provide the money and the decision was approved by the members.

At 2:30 pm. the guided tour to "Yukon Bay" from Mr. Müller-Schilling began.

The first stop was the drill enclosure. We visited the animals inside the house as well as a senior group of two animals housed separately. A number of anecdotes and useful information was shared. Mr. Müller-Schilling then took the participants in two separate groups behind the scenes of "Yukon Bay". In these small groups it was possible for him to answer all of the questions and to describe the special features of the houses. It was a nice end to the 7th annual meeting.

We want to thank the Hannover Zoo and all of the hard-working organisers for offering the room and board, the free entrance, and the wonderful guided tour and service!

As has been the case every year we had a wonderful time at the event and we are looking forward to the 8th meeting, presumably on the **25th of August 2012 at the Munich/Hellabrunn Zoo.**

Until then, "Save the Drill!" wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year 2012!!!

Peter Engel has departed from the executive committee

We would like to thank Mr. Peter Engel for his helpful work in the extended committee.

After 2 years in the office, he had to step down for personal reasons during this election year. The position has been filled by Dennis Höller.

We wish Dennis Holler all success in his new office.

Bioko Island: An island under threat (Part 3) from Tanja Wolf

Today we present the third and final part of our series about Bioko Island. In the last two parts we gave you an insight into its wildlife and the threats they face.

Bioko has the highest density of endangered primate species in Africa, among them the Bioko-Drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus poensis*), an endemic subspecies of the mainland drill. The biggest problem is the commercial hunting of the animals, which are then sold as bushmeat in the markets of the capital city of Malabo, where bushmeat is a luxury food. We now present to you the “Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP).

The BBPP initiative began in the 1980s, when Dr. Gail Hearn from Drexel University, Philadelphia, accompanied the famous primatologist Dr. Thomas Butynski to Bioko. During this time many primate species were living there and the two recognized that the Gran Caldera, a huge volcanic crater, had the second-highest primate density on the African continent.

In the 1990s Dr. Hearn returned to Bioko Island to conduct censuses of primates living in the Gran Caldera. At that time, only one path was available to enter the volcanic crater, which is covered with thick vegetation. After an arduous two-day ascent up the narrow Rio Tudela river canyon, the researchers were able to document that a decline has occurred in most primate species. The hunting was mainly concentrated at the northern end of the island at that time.

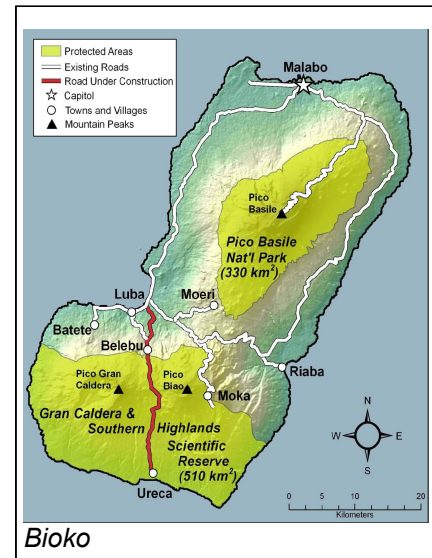
Since 1997, daily surveys of the Malabo bushmeat market, the largest market on the island and the destination for most animals killed by hunters, have been conducted. In the meantime, information on the carcasses of over 80,000 dead animals, from monkeys to duikers and pythons, have been tallied. Using this information, researchers have been able to track the hunting patterns around the island.

During the 1998 census, it became clear that hunters had over-hunted Pico Basile and were shifting their focus to the Gran Caldera and Bioko's Southern Highlands. Dr. Hearn and her colleague, Dr. Wayne Morra, became concerned that their census trails might offer hunters easy access to Gran Caldera's abundant wildlife. They made the decision to hire a local team of guards to deter hunters from entering the Caldera. In a matter of weeks, Hearn and Morra switched their focus from studying Bioko's primates to simply protecting them. The Bioko Primate Protection Program (BPPP) was born.

Shortly after, a Spanish conservation group left the island, leaving behind several teams of beach monitors who had been protecting nesting sea turtles from hunters. BPPP took over the sea turtle program and it became the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program.

In 1999 a collaboration with the Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (UNGE) started. The two schools conduct faculty field studies and facilitates the exchange of students in order to better understand Bioko's natural heritage. Since 1996 they continue to conduct the annual three-week census of primates in the Caldera. Although economically sustainable educational programs have been established, research programs and conservation activities best demonstrate the great value of living healthy wildlife communities. Approximately 50 local people from the Gran Caldera and the South of the island were hired by the organisation to deter hunting and to collect data on the drills and the other primates living there. A wildlife research centre was established in the town of Moka in order to host visiting research scientist and ecotourists. The centre also includes a wildlife sanctuary. The Bioko Drill is now under protection and the future survival of this subspecies is a possibility!

More information: www.bioko.org



More than a hundred drills will be reintroduced – “Save the Drill” is present

from Dr Verena Behringer

After years of preparation by PANDRILLUS, a group of drills will soon be released into the wild in the Afi Mountains to reclaim their natural habitat.

To help answer questions about the dispersal-patterns into their new home range, five males, who are expected to take over a harem, will be equipped with radio collars. These collars were paid for by, among others, “Save the Drill” and the Munich Zoo. As the company from which the collars were bought and which will also organise the data transfer is located in Sweden, the best plan is for “Save the Drill” to cover the running costs for the transfer. It is easier to transfer money within Europe than from Nigeria to Sweden.

Each collar weighs approx. 240g and includes a so called GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) system: Inside the collars is a modem which sends text messages, so called sms (short message service), which allows researchers to pinpoint the animals' locations. In such a transmission up to eight GPS (Global positioning system) points can be sent. For the signal transmission, the previously-established local mobile network can be used. In the cases where the drills are located outside of reception, the modem will save the messages and send them on the next possible occasion. How many messages the collars send per day is selectable and will be decided by PANDRILLUS. The messages will be sent to a server in Sweden, where they will be converted into an email, which will then be sent to Nigeria. The data transfer from all five collars will be paid for by “Save the Drill”.

The collars must still be tested for functionality at the drill ranch, to avoid any unpleasant surprises during the release. The data received from these collars will allow us to answer many questions about drill behaviour during the reintroduction. It will not be necessary to disturb the animals in their new habitat, as direct observation through researchers will be unnecessary. Also, continuous data collection will be allowed. With this financial support, “Save the Drill” will be able to engage in the reintroduction of the group, which will definitely contribute to the survival of the drill population.

Short news about the drills:

Hannover: on September 12th the almost 40 year old female “Tschita” had to be euthanized.

Saarbrücken: on September 22nd the 20 year old „Sue“ was transferred from Hannover to Saarbrücken.

Barcelona: on October 3rd a male drill was born. The mother is the 6 year old “Inga”, the father is the 15 year old “Biko”. The group now consist now of 6 animals.

We thank the following donators:

Walter Riedel, Dr. Veh

We are happy to welcome our new members:

Dr. Armin Weigl, Elke Marquardt

We want to thank TIERPARK NORDHORN for the support of their association through transfer- and mail costs. We also want to thank VisionConnect GmbH for their regular support of our homepage and for their provision of the transfer volume.

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Last not least we want to thank

Dr. Anne Fallner Ahrens and Dr. Cleve Hicks for the translation work!