

DRILL INFO

Issue 34, December 2022

**Dear members, dear friends and supporters of the drill,
we wish you all a very happy and healthy 2023!**



photo: Tom Richards

Content	Page
News from Nigeria.....	2
Building a veterinary station in the Afi Mountains, Nigeria	2
News from Cameroon.....	4
Jonathan Stark – A new addition to the Limbe Wildlife Centre.....	4
Malika.....	4
Knowledge exchange between Nigeria and Cameroon.....	5
Annual general member meeting 2022 at the Green Zoo Wuppertal. .	5
An app for species conservation.....	8
The drill (<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>) as an example.....	8
Project week “Save the Drill”, class 6f.....	8
The new year is just around the corner.....	11
SAVE THE DATES 2023...	11
Short drill news.....	11

The end of 2022 is slowly approaching and it was a successful year for us – and respectively the drills in Nigeria and Cameroon.

Thanks to many generous donations and our membership fees, we were able to regularly send money to the drill protection centres in Nigeria and Cameroon and, moreover, pay for some special projects.

This is made possible only through your continuing and generous help and support.

We send our regards and thanks to every donator and supporter!

News from Nigeria

Building a veterinary station in the Afi Mountains, Nigeria

Dr. Heike Weber

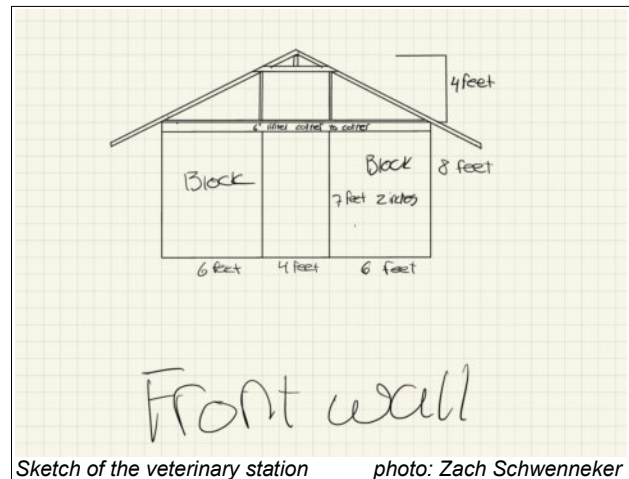
In the last Drill-Info (Issue 33, July 2022) we already briefly hinted at the news: The construction of a new building for veterinary examinations and treatments in the Afi Mountains had started – but there was not much to talk about just yet.

During our annual member meeting in the Green Zoo Wuppertal I was finally able to talk about the building process and the funding. As not everybody could be present at our meeting, I would like to summarise the details.

In the beginning of the year, Zach Schwenneker, project manager at the drill ranch in Nigeria, reached out to us (those who were present at our general meeting in 2019 in Nordhorn had the chance to meet him in person). The young American is incredibly active, hands-on, and full of ideas that he always puts into action. He also sends us information about current projects, fiancé reports, photos and videos on a regular basis. We are very lucky to be working with him and look forward to all future cooperation!

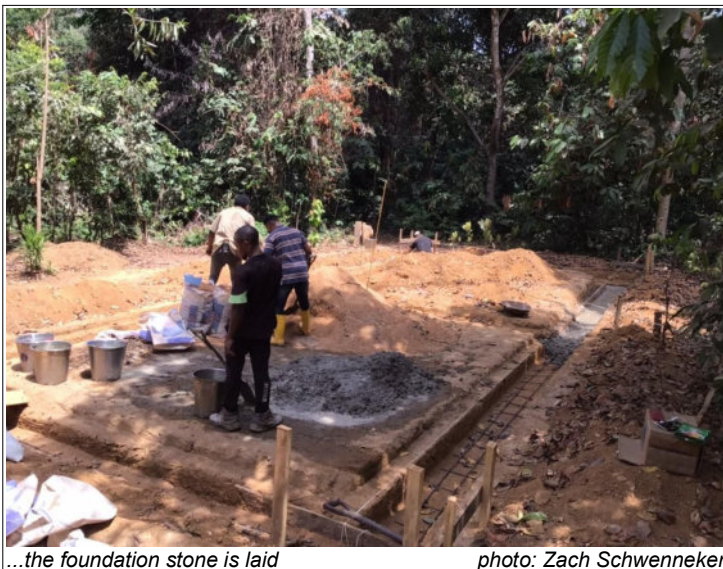
He had sent us plans and drawings for a veterinary station at the drill ranch that would replace the current provisional “station” – a wooden table under a small roof with no further protection from the weather or the possibility to store medication and equipment safely.

Thus, we, the members of the board, were thrilled by the idea to erect a building for veterinary purposes and storage which would also give the ranch the possibility to operate on the animals in a mostly sterile environment – for what a building would be indispensable.



Sketch of the veterinary station

photo: Zach Schwenneker



...the foundation stone is laid

photo: Zach Schwenneker

According to the initial plans, the building was supposed to be 12,2 m long and 4,9m wide with two rooms connected by a door. Zach estimated the costs at 6.000€ and asked if *Save the Drill* could cover the expenses. We immediately agreed and came up with an idea for a sponsor: our first choice was the Zoo Wuppertal. Its manager, Dr. Arne Lawrenz is a fellow veterinarian and incredibly kind and engaged in all things veterinary medicine. Thus, sending him a request for his support felt easy. He was as thrilled as we were and promised to present the plans to the Wuppertaler Zooverein (Wuppertal zoo association) and ask for possible financial support.

This year's general meeting in Wuppertal posed as the perfect opportunity to announce the support. During my presentation, Bruno Hensel, president of the Wuppertaler Zooverein, together with Dr. Arne Lawrenz presented our president, Kathrin Paulsen, with a 3.000€ check for the new veterinary station! We were absolutely delighted about this immense contribution as we had



Helping hands: Volunteers in the Afi Mountains
By the way. If you want to support our projects in Africa for a few months, do not hesitate to reach out to us via our mail, info@rettet-den-drill.de. Crafty and technically gifted people are always needed! photo: Zach Schwenneker

already paid the necessary 6.000€ hoping to find a sponsor to partially cover the costs. This took a load off our mind: 3.000€ were definitely covered!

Zach also sent his regards to all sponsors and members! During the construction, they were able to save 1.000€ that was used for buying a fridge and some furniture for the station. This, once again, shows that we are working with honest and trustworthy people who inform us if there was money left and what it was used for.

I think everybody present was as convinced by the project as the members of the board were initially. So was Bruno Hansel, who congratulated us and promised to present the project to the Gemeinschaft der Zooförderer (GdZ, Association of zoo supporters). As

the president of the association, he promised to seek for further financial support. It did not take long and I received a mail from Mirko Strätz, recording clerk of the GdZ, asking for an appointment to present the cheque to us. After our meeting, Bruno Hensel had presented the project to the members of the GdZ and they agreed to cover the remaining 3.000€! What an outstanding support!

We, *Save the Drill e. V.*, want to thank our sponsors, the Zoo-Verein Wuppertal e.V. and the Gemeinschaft der Zooförderer e.V., for their donations of 3.000€ each, thus covering the costs of 6.000€ for the construction of the veterinary station in their entirety. This is a valuable contribution to the protection of drills in Nigeria. Thank you very much!



Foundation walls and roof are ready
photo: Zach Schwenneker



Presentation of the check at the zoo in Nordhorn (left: Dr. Heike Weber, right: Mirko Strätz; GDZ)
photo: Tierpark Nordhorn

News from Cameroon

Jonathan Stark – A new addition to the Limbe Wildlife Centre

Additionally to Jerry Aylmer, who took over the management of the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) in January of this year, Jonathan Stark from the UK joined the team as Animal Care Manager (ACM) in September. Jonathan has gathered ample experience in working with primates and has previously worked with Jerry on a different project.

As the “right-hand man” at the LWC, his main task is to take care of the animals, i.e. to guarantee their health and enhance and optimise the enclosures. We are incredibly happy that such a competent and experienced colleague is going to support Jerry and are looking forward to the cooperation.

Drills take up 1/3 of the animals living at the LWC, thus it was an easy decision to pay 1/3 of the ACM salary. Moreover, we were able to pay another 217,- euro each month for parts of Jonathan's salary.



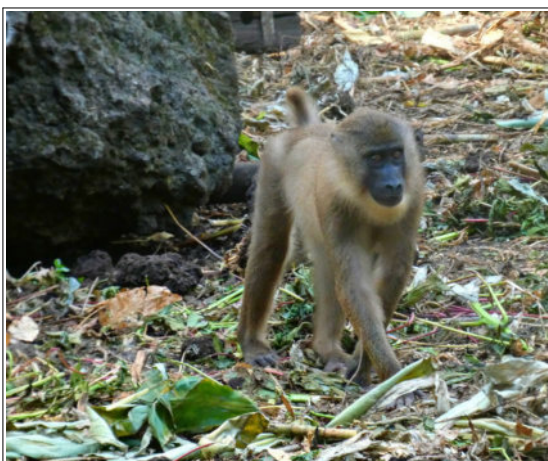
New employee Jonathan Stark at Limbe Wildlife Center.

photo: Limbe Wildlife Center

This would not be possible without your support, hence another big **thank you!**

Malika

One year ago, we first informed you about the drill baby MALIKA. At the age of three months, she was confiscated by the authorities with the support of the LAGA organisation in the south of Cameroon (www.laga-enforcement.org) and taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC). With the fantastic care of our esteemed colleagues, she developed magnificently. She was initially socialised with a young mandrill which was saved from a private keeper.



Malika

photo: Limbe Wildlife Center

After the young mandrill was taken to a new group at the Ape Action Africa rescue centre, MALIKA was brought together with two experienced females (JAFITA and NALA) in the beginning of June. Step by step she got to know the other drills of the group and since the beginning of September she is fully integrated into the group consisting of 67 animals.

The responsible keeper, Alvin Muma, reports:

“...In the beginning, Malika was quite nervous when she first encountered the group. She was not very self-confident and hid behind her foster mother (JAFITA).

Over the past few weeks, she turned into a lively and active female drill, jumps around and climbs on ropes a

lot, plays with other young drills and is very popular within the group. But whenever there is a fight, she runs back to Jafita for protection.”

Knowledge exchange between Nigeria and Cameroon

After a long time, the two Pandrillus rescue centres were finally able again to participate in a keeper exchange between Nigeria and Cameroon. A very experienced keeper from the drill ranch in Nigeria went to work at the LWC from July to October 2022.

Asuquo Ani has worked with drills for over 15 years. He started to work at the drill ranch in Calabar in the south of Nigeria, where all animals that enter the project receive their initial care. After their quarantine, they are integrated into a group step little by little. Since 2018, Asuquo is responsible for two drill groups at drill ranch in the Afi Mountains, one with 20 individuals and the other with over 100 animals, and is a valued member of the drill ranch team.

The exchange was a great opportunity for him to learn from the drill keepers at the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) – Alvin, Elias and Simon – but also pass on some of his experiences.

Asuquo offered his support and help in caring for the 68 drills at the LWC. He was also involved in the process of integrating MALIKA into her new group. “She does not depend on anyone at the moment and integrated well into the group,” he remarks, affirming the success of the socialisation process.

Liza Gadsby writes: *“The LWC would like to send one of its employees to the Afi Mountains to learn from Asuquo and the other members of the drill ranch. The exchange of keepers from both projects is a great opportunity for sharing knowledge, which ultimately helps the drills! This is true for drills in human care as much as for those living in the wild as we get to know about them as well.”*

Annual general member meeting 2022 at the Green Zoo Wuppertal

Dr. Matthias Rinke

After two years of online-meetings, it was a real delight to finally meet again in person! Although the weather decided to go with rain after weeks of sunshine, the atmosphere remained positive and cheerful. After 2006, 2013 and 2017, *Save the Drill's* 18. annual general member meeting took place on the 10th November, 2022 in the classroom of the Wuppertal zoo.

Our president Kathrin Paulsen warmly welcomed approximately 30 attendants and gave her thanks to Steven Zschau, employee of the zoo, for taking care of all the preparations. The zoo's director

Dr. Arne Lawrenz and the president of the Wuppertaler Zooverein Bruno Hensel also welcomed the guests – and they brought a surprise with them: a 3.000 € check! Thank you!

After a detailed introduction of the board members, an overview of the different projects in Nigeria and Cameroon was given. Specifically, reports from the rescue stations in Calabar and the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS) about the current situation, presented by Mrs Paulsen



Annual general member meeting 2022 at the Green Zoo Wuppertal

photo: Hauke Meyer

with impressive footage, need to be named. Due to last year's storms, it was necessary, among other things, to build new fences and secure them and thus the enclosures with modern technology. However, in March 2022 a massive thunderstorm destroyed the solar system which is needed for said security (compare issue 33).

To secure the health of the 700 drills currently living in the Afi Mountains, Zach Schwenneker had



Check presentation

photo: Hauke Meyer

requested to build a veterinary station. The costs were estimated at around 6.000€ and *Save the Drill* had promised to help. Bruno Hensel praised the support and promised to present the project to the Gesellschaft der Zooförderer (GdZ) trying to facilitate another donation of 3.000€. We received the money shortly after. Thus, the entire costs of the veterinary stations are covered by the donations of the GdZ and the Wuppertaler Zooverein.

In Cameroon, a change in management had occurred. Succeeding Peggy Motsch, who will continue to work on other conservation projects, Jerry Aylmer manages the station. An update on the *Green Project*, which employs former poachers and inhabitants of

the areas to collect food for the drills, was also given.

First, Dr. Anne Fallner gave a brief report over the development of numbers of members. Currently, the association has 195 members, 10 of which are institutions, e.g. different German zoos. Dr. Heike Weber continued with the financial information and emphasised that 96% of donations are used for charitable purposes. This is mostly due to the fact that the administrative expenses can be kept very low thanks to the continuing support from the Tierpark Nordhorn. Since 2006, *Save the Drill* has been able to pay the impressive sum of over 450.000€ for the protection and conversation of the drill.

To finish the official part of the meeting, some greetings were exchanged: As a reaction to a video from the employees of the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon, a group photo was taken. Afterwards, hot and cold beverages were offered, provided by the Wuppertal zoo. Sadly, for the unofficial part that started after the short break, only few found their way to the classroom. As in past years, a small merchandise shop offered different products for everyday use, as for example cups, shirts, or linen bags with the drill logo, with the proceeds given to *Save the Drill* entirely. Additionally, the new "Charity calendar" and chocolates with the drill logo were sold. Our regards to our member Clara Philipps for supervising the sale.

The presentations open to the public were started off by Claudia Raczek, who talked about the results of her Bachelor's thesis about the observations of the drill group in the Wuppertal zoo.

Sadly, Mr Olaf Goldbecker, the initiator of the aforementioned "Charity calendar" could not give his presentation in person due to health-related reasons. He was substituted by Heike Weber. The calendar has been published annually for several years (www.charity-kalender.de) and showcases beautiful pictures of Africa's wildlife. The proceeds are donated to different species protection organisations, *Save the Drill* included. So far, 2.800€ have already been collected. After introducing handmade chocolates last year – a sample was given to all attendees at the beginning of the presentation – chocolate coins with the drill logo were newly added this year.



Charity-Kalender 2023

photo: Olaf Goldbecker



Chocolates for species conservation

photo: Hauke Meyer

Kathrin Paulsen gave an overview of the different projects and activities in Cameroon and Nigeria that were supported by our organisation.

Further information was provided by Hauke Meyer who gave a detailed account of technical data and the problems of acquiring a new solar system.

Heike Weber gave some further information on the construction of the veterinary station. The vice president

Marco Dinter presented some information on the development of the rescued drill baby "MALIKA" and on the activities of the *Last Great Ape Organisation* (LAGA) by Ofir Drori. This organisation was substantially involved in confiscating the drill baby from animal trafficker with

the support of authorities. "MALIKA" was taken to the Limbe Wildlife Center and is developing marvelously.

Substituting for Carsten Zehrer (Münchner Tierpark Hellabrunn) who coordinates the drill studbook, Marco Dinter presented the current situation and numbers of drill keeping in European zoos.

Our organisation's recording clerk, Dr. Anne Fallner-Ahrens presented on *Save the Drill's* educational work through the development of a new app that will depict influences on different ecological systems and species. The drill was chosen as the example for the African rainforest.

At the end of a very informative afternoon, our Dutch member Leon Spoor presented a self-produced film about the drill that was greeted with lots of applause.

After a short break, most of the members gathered for a guided tour through the zoo that made its first stop at the drill enclosure. Luckily, the rain had decreased and questions about the layout of the enclosure and diet were actively discussed by the specialists present.

Afterwards, we were taken to the newly constructed "dating" aviary for hyacinth macaws, "Aralandia," and received some information by the zoo's veterinary and newest member of *Save the Drill* Dominik Fischer.

In the evening hours, we met for a merry get-together at the restaurant "Atelier" that went on long after closing hours. All together, it was a very pleasant time in Wuppertal and we are looking forward to seeing everybody again – at the latest in 2023 for the next meeting in Saarbrücken!



Closing of the Annual General Meeting

An app for species conservation

The drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) as an example

Clara Philipps

The constant progress in digitalisation bears ever new and interactive possibilities to teach species and nature conservation.

Under the direction of our board member Dr. Anne Fallner, a research group was formed to develop a new app with the aim to create an interactive experience of changes and interferences that can be observed in our natural environment. The app targets school- and university students, amateur ecologists, professional conservationists and ecologists, etc.

The app shows the effects of biotic and abiotic factors, i.e. factors that are directly influenced by animate beings, and abiotic factors, i.e. factors that are not immediately influenced by animate beings, on different ecological systems and their species. Additionally, ecological and economical processes, the tension between politics and conservation, and effects of the climate change and conservation projects are taken into consideration, as these factors can contribute to changes in the ecosystem(s) as well. We are delighted that the drill was chosen as the example for the African rainforest. Thus, the species finally receives some much deserved (and needed) attention in educational contexts.



The app team

photo: Anne Fallner

In order to create and depict the biotope in question, you enter different components into the app and then choose an exemplary species. By changing the components or adding different events, e.g. deforestation (biotic) or a rise in temperature (abiotic), the possible immediate and long-term effects on different parts of the ecosystem and its species can be observed. Consequently, the learners can see the major impact of seemingly small interferences in nature – true to the motto “just one spark can start a fire.”

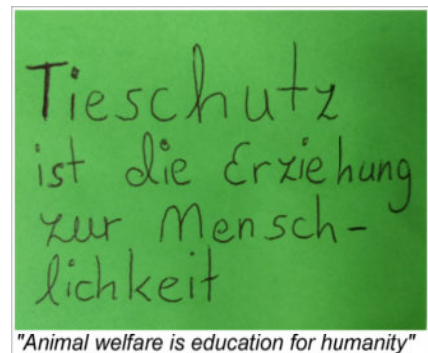
The app will presumably be made available in December 2022 in the Android- and Apple-stores for 1,99€. Parts of the revenues will be donated to *Save the Drill*.

Project week “Save the Drill”, class 6f

Kathrin Paulsen

In early October, the Viktoria-Luise-Gymnasium in Hameln, near Hanover, organised a project week with the general topic “sustainable development.” In around 40 different projects, the students from grade 5-11 talked about questions of sustainability and how they (and their teachers, parents and guests) could get involved and what projects could be implemented into their school’s community.

The class 6f focused on the topic of “biodiversity and species conservation” and focused on the drill and the association *Save the Drill*. The students had developed a variety of fantastic ideas. They designed t-shirts with drills (or similar primates), “save the drill,” “more than conservation” or similar lettering and wore them proudly.



"Animal welfare is education for humanity"



Children of 6f for species conservation
photo: Corinna Wagner

First, they visited the Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover in best autumn weather and took over a sponsorship for one of the drill babies having collected the money needed in advance. They also handed in a collection of old mobile phones for recycling of the contained raw materials. As these materials become scarcer, reusing them can protect primates' natural habitats. Afterwards, we finally went to take a look at the drill enclosure, named after one of the last natural drill habitats in Nigeria, the "Afi Mountains". The group had just recently welcomed two babies which, as well as the social interactions between the (adult) members, were observed with joy and content by the students. A lot of questions were asked about drills in zoos and the work and projects of *Save the Drill*.

What was most impressive was the knowledge the 10 to 12-year-olds had acquired about the shy primates: general information about the species, the continuing destruction of their habitats, the drills being hunted for bushmeat, the work of the rescue stations led by *Pandrilus* in Cameroon and Nigeria, and our organisation.

Throughout the entire project week, the students continued to collect further donations through a waffle-bake-sale (very delicious waffles, indeed!) for *Save the Drill*. The students also designed posters to convey the information they gathered at an information desk.

The week ended on the Friday before the autumn holidays started with a school fair. The students continued to bake and sell waffles as well as our merchandise and talked to other students and parents about the drill and our association – a local radio station even aired a short report!

During the week, the students were able to collect the impressive sum of 836,41€ for *Save the Drill*! What a fantastic contribution! The students of the class 6f put in a lot of effort and lifeblood into their collections, handicraft works, and were further supported by the parents who generously sponsored the waffle- and cookie dough.

We send a massive THANKS to the class 6f from *Save the Drill* and the drills in the rescue stations in Cameroon and Nigeria.



Class 6f at the presentation of the sponsorship certificate

photo: Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover

...and finally, some words of thanks from Liza Gadsby and Peter Jenkins, the founders and directors of the Pandrillus organization, which we would like to share with you:

Dear members of Save the Drill,

today, we want to take the chance to thank you for your support and patience, especially during the past two years! It is very good to know that we are not alone on supporting the drill ranch and the Limbe Wildlife Centre.

Save the Drill made it possible to continue the fight for the survival of the drills in their home countries and find the perfect leaders to carry on our work and legacies – Zach in Nigeria and Jerry in Cameroon.

We really appreciate that Save the Drill knows and understands what is important to us. Your immediate and continuing support helps our organisation to continue.

We are very proud of our 20-year-long partnership with Save the Drill.



A big **THANK YOU** from all of us!!!

Liza Gadsby & Peter Jenkins



....working together (from left to right: Simon Ngah, Asuquo Ani, Alvin Muma), see Knowledge exchange between Nigeria and Cameroon, page 5
photo: Limbe Wildlife Centre

SAVE THE DATES 2023

04th May, 2023

International day of the drill

09th September, 2023

Annual general member meeting at the zoo Saarbrücken

The new year is just around the corner

Our online-shop offers t-shirts, jumpers, aprons and many other things such as bibs and jumpers for the youngest members.

For each article sold, 3 to 10€ are sent to our organisation's account – and, thus, the drill rescue centres in Cameroon and Nigeria.

<https://shop.spreadshirt.de/rettet-den-drill/>

Short drill news

Hannover: On 10th August 2022, 7-year-old DUTSE gave birth to female baby KIANA.

On 21st September, ZARIA welcomed a male baby named CALABAR. Both are their mother's first babies and develop perfectly.

On 29th October, 8-year-old MUBI moved to the zoo in Saarbrücken.

Wuppertal: On 6th November, 8-year-old TRACEUSE had a stillbirth (male).

Special thanks to Ms. Clara Philipps for translation

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.

Contact:

RETTET DEN DRILL e.V.
Hesepfer Weg 140
48531 Nordhorn
Germany
info@rettet-den-drill.de
www.rettet-den-drill.de



Editorial staff: Carsten Zehrer,
Kathrin Paulsen, Hauke Meyer

Donations account:

Kreissparkasse Grafschaft Bentheim
Konto-Nr: 14075956
BLZ: 267 500 01
IBAN Nr: DE95 2675 0001 0014 0759 56
BIC: NOL ADE 21 NOH