

DRILL INFO

Rettet
DEN DRILL
save the drill
...mehr als Artenschutz!

Issue 33, August 2022

Dear members, dear friends of the drill,

Our **18th general assembly for all members** will be held this year on Saturday, **September 10th, beginning at 11am at the Green Zoo Wuppertal**
(Respecting the current hygienic standards then)



Drill Ranch at Afi Mountain

photo: Zack Schwenneker

Thanks to your continuous and diversified support, we were able to support the Drill Ranch in Nigeria again this year with 2.000,- Euro per month (up to and including June).

Your commitment is impressive!

The Pandrillus rescue centers have asked us for further support. We will also be able to give them a positive answer.

Thanks to you as sponsors and partners, we can additionally finance the following projects (partly through individual sponsors):

Cameroon:

- Financing of the Green Project (via **Munich's Hellabrunn Zoo**).
- Assumption of the annual salary for the drill keeper Alvin Muma at the Limbe Wildlife Center

Nigeria:

- Repair of the solar system (destroyed by lightning)
- new veterinary station in the Afi Mountains

A big thank you to all donors!

We now hope, together with you, to be a reliable partner for the drills in the sanctuaries in Africa for the rest of the year and are grateful for any further donations.

News from Nigeria



Drills in Calabar

photo: Kathrin Paulsen

In Nigeria, all animals that arrive at Pandrillus (the sanctuary for drills) are first brought to Calabar. In this city, in the south of Nigeria, the organization Pandrillus was founded almost 30 years ago by Liza Gadsby and her partner Peter Jenkins. There, they have the possibility of an initial veterinary examination and compliance with quarantine regulations. A small group of drills can also be found there. However, these animals have lived alone in private households or e.g. at hotel receptions for such a long time

that a possible release into the wild is out of the question for them. They are too accustomed to humans, have no shyness and would very likely enter villages or raid fields.

But since the Drill Ranch in Calabar is always open for visitors, many people, especially children, get to know the animals over there.



Electric fences photo: Kathrin Paulsen

Most of them see primates for the first time in their lives. Guided tours are offered for every visitor. Every staff member is always happy to tell something about the drills, to explain the importance of species and environmental protection in Nigeria and to introduce the Pandrillus organization. Also school classes are among the regular visitors. This is because the Pandrillus employees are aware that the

future of their country is also in the children's hands.

About 300 km further north, hidden in the secondary rainforests of Nigeria, lies the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS), one of the last habitats of the drills in Nigeria. The two other areas in Nigeria are Cross River National Park and Mbe National Park a little further south.

Right next to the AMWS is another drill ranch owned by Pandrillus. There are almost 700 drills living on over 20 acres at the moment. Many of them were born on the ranch. They live in sometimes very large social groups. The largest group has more than 200 animals. The long-term plan is to release the animals there into the adjacent wildlife reserve - in part to boost the natural population in the region. The total population in the natural habitat in Nigeria and Cameroon is estimated at only about 2.500 animals.

All the enclosures of the sanctuary are surrounded by electric fences powered by solar energy.

Solar system

In March of this year, a severe thunderstorm struck the Drill Ranch camp in the Afi Mountains. No animals or people were injured, but the entire solar system was catastrophically damaged by a violent lightning strike in close proximity.

Liza Gadsby, director and founder of Pandrillus wrote to us about this:



Quarantine in Calabar photo: Kathrin Paulsen



The whole solar system was broken photo: Zack Schwenneker

URGENT!!!!

Drill Ranch NEEDS your help!

Last week, a massive thunderstorm rocked Drill Ranch Afi Mountain - all animals & staff okay, but a lightning strike hit our power station and exploded our energizers -



The new system

photo: Zack Schwenneker

the solar panels are fine. Two Speed-Rite 6000 energizers control current to 6 drill enclosure fences, and they exploded into 100s of pieces! The LCD screen of the solar charge controller, which regulates battery charging, stopped functioning so we cannot easily monitor power output. The inverter supplying electricity to camp was also damaged but still manageable. The solar charge controller/inverter can be replaced locally but the fence energizers must be imported: they are **ESSENTIAL** to fence function and securing the drills. We must replace the 2 energizers and

purchase a 3rd one for back-up. Lightning diverters were in place at the time of the strike but failed; we have since emplaced additional safeguards to help ensure this doesn't happen again.

We don't do this often but we're asking you, our wonderful Drill Ranch family, friends and supporters, to help buy this costly equipment. Directors Liza & Peter return to Nigeria soon and can bring the essential energizers.

You can donate for this equipment at:

<https://www.pandrillus.org/contact/donate/>

As we say here at Drill Ranch: "No donation is too small.... or too big!"

And within a short time we have received enough support from you to finance the entire repair and were also able to fund the purchase of new equipment needed.

Many thanks for this to every single donor!

At the end of May, the moment had come. All the necessary equipment was

available in the USA and the journey back to Nigeria could begin. Arriving safely in Calabar, the equipment then had to survive the nearly seven-hour drive to Afi.

Everything worked out well: by mid-June, the entire facility was repaired and fully functional again.

From the many donations, it was even possible to build another solar system for the Drill Ranch in Calabar - most welcome!



Photovoltaic in Calabar

photo: Zack Schwenneker



Liza Gadsby, Peter Jenkins and the new equipment on the way to Nigeia

photo: Pandrillus

Veterinary station in the Afi Mountains

On the Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains a veterinary station will be built under the direction of the local manager Zack Schwenneker.

The costs of at least 6.000,- Euro will be completely covered by us or sponsors. Also for this: A big thank you!

You will learn more about this in our next Drill-Info and at our annual general assembly.



Under construction: the new Vet station

photo: Zack Schwenneker

News

Calabar: On June 23rd, a young female drill was confiscated by police from a local bar where she had been living for over a year. Along with Pandrillus staff, she was taken to the Drill Ranch. "Princess", as she was named, is approximately 2 - 2.5 years old. The first health check including a negative tuberculosis test showed good blood values and overall good physical condition.

We will continue to report about her!



"Princess"

photo: Zack Schwenneker

News from Cameroon

New Management at Limbe Wildlife Center

In addition to the Drill Ranch in Calabar and in the Afi Mountains in Nigeria, the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC) was also founded in 1993 in southern Cameroon by Liza Gadsby and Peter Jenkins. As at the ranch in the Afi Mountains, a responsible manager is employed there by Pandrillus.

On January 1st this year, the long-time director Peggy Motsch left the Limbe Wildlife Center in southern Cameroon to take on new tasks in species conservation. We will miss the good, honest and personal cooperation with her very much. We wish her all the best for the future and continued success in her work for the protection of primates!

She wrote:

„... I wish to thank you all for your trust in Pandrillus and for the personal relationship we have built over the past 6 years. It has been a great experience and I thank you for that too. LWC is more than just a project; we like to call it a family and I am glad I have been part of it!“

Jerry Aylmer

was born near Oxford, England, is 48 years old and has now been the manager responsible for the drill recovery center in Cameroon since the beginning of this year.

And this is how he introduced himself to us:

"My background is originally engineering and the commercial energy business, where I worked in the UK. I hope that the problem solving, negotiation and relationship-building skills needed there will prove useful in this new role. Having decided my values and my personal ambitions were more aligned to protecting the wonderful natural world, I took a little time out to travel, make some films and become a scuba dive master, before taking an MSc in Conservation Science to start on my new path. Experiences as an eco-tourism project manager in Malaysia, carrying out endangered species fieldwork with Durrell in Mauritius, and last year on the Business and Nature team with Fauna & Flora International in Cambridge, UK, have led me to the most exciting life challenge yet, here in Limbe!

It is a privilege to have the opportunity to carry on the fantastic work achieved by Peggy and the team here, and working with the incredible support of Save the Drill to care for our large drill community at LWC, always exploring ways to provide better lives and potentially re-releases for our animals.



Jerry Aylmer

I look forward to collaborating with you, and with your much appreciated support taking LWC from strength to strength."



Jerry and the drills at LWC

photo: LWC

We, the board, are already in close contact with Jerry and are very much looking forward to working with him.



Green Project

A very important project at the LWC is the Green Project. In this project, former poachers collect fodder plants for the drills in the LWC.

This project was initially launched under the name Aframomum Project, with a handful of former hunters. For these men it was a chance for a legal and secured regular income for their families. They now have a permanent job in the field of species conservation and since then they are no longer dependent on going hunting.

For a few years, women have also been employed. In total, more

than 87 people from the Limbe region participated in this project on a permanent basis throughout the past year. In addition, another 51 people have worked temporarily and benefited from the LWC's species conservation work. Thus, from May 2021 to May 2022, 70 women and 17 men earned the equivalent of about 137 euros per month on average.



Storage of the plants at LWC

photo: LWC



Woman harvesting fodder plants

photo: LWC

This year, we were able to finance the Green Project with 5000,- Euro thanks to the kind support of the **Munich Zoo Hellabrunn**.

At this point: **A warm thank you!**

Thanks to this work, which is independently organized by the community, the animals of the LWC are provided with high quality feed from the secondary rainforest of the region.

These are, on the one hand, wild plants:

Aframomum sp. (family Zingebareceae), also called "wild ginger," is a plant widely found in lowland rainforests and mountainous regions. The leaves have significant antiparasitic, antifungal, antibacterial and antiviral qualities. Therefore, it helps maintain the gastrointestinal balance of the Drills. Drills love to eat this wild plant, it is offered to them daily.

In 2017, trumpetwood (*Cecropia peltata*, family Moraceae) was included in the project. This species, native to Central and South America, is invasive in Cameroon. It displaces native plants so that species richness is reduced. Therefore, a harvest of this plant is very valuable for the original stock in the forests.

In addition, there are so-called crop by-products:

These are the leaves of cassava, papaya and potato plants. These are not suitable for human consumption and thus provide the villagers with an additional income without any major further labor or land burdens. And for the animals in the LWC it is another very tasty and highly desired fodder crop.



photo:LWC

Besides Jerry, Laura Prail, also from the UK, has started working at the LWC this year. Among other things, she takes care of the contact with sponsors, drafts applications, such as the one we received for the Green Project, and provides us with advice and support as sponsors.

She asked us if we would fund the annual salary of the keeper who takes care of the drills there at the place.

Salary of the drill keeper Alvin Muma

Alvin Muma has been working at the LWC for seven years and has been responsible for the drill group for four years. He can tell all the animals apart and knows the family relationships in the group.

Thanks to many donations, we were able to cover his salary again this year. His average monthly income is the equivalent of 186 euros.

The Limbe Wildlife Center is home to over 250 primates of 14 species. Most of these animals were confiscated by the authorities and accommodated there. As the drills in Nigeria, they

are often victims of illegal hunting for bushmeat. The adult animals are hunted for their meat. This hunt is often commissioned work with mafia-like structures.

The meat is then offered on local or international markets. Hunting as well as trading the meat is prohibited by law in both countries.



Alvin Muma and Jerry with the drills

photo: LWC



"Malika"

photo: LWC

Currently there are 66 drills, 41 males and 25 females, living at LWC. One of them is little Malika, who we already introduced in our last Drill-Info. She is now about 10 months old. The first time, she lived together with a mandrill of about the same age, who was also confiscated. A few weeks ago, however, this young was successfully integrated into a group of mandrills at the sanctuary of the organization Ape Action Africa (about 350 km from Limbe). Malika is now being acclimatized together with other drills in careful, small steps.

They are mainly two adult females, Jafita and Nala, who were already successfully used as surrogate mothers for the little Mbigou (see Drill-Info 29) in May 2020.

Stories about drills

Third International Day of the Drill attracts attention

Raul is the star with the public, Bakut is very sociable even with subadult males, and Liza has given birth to nine healthy offspring. These three drills are part of the European zoo population. And like probably every drill, there are some stories to be told about them.

Telling stories, getting people involved, inspiring them to take action - that's what International Day of the Drill is all about. On May 4th, 2022, zoos, conservation NGOs, private individuals and Save the Drill association once again celebrated this



"Liza"

photo: Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover

awareness day. With contributions in the social media, appeals for donations and special activities in the zoos, attention was drawn to the threat of the drill. For this reason, we started the Day of the Drill in 2020. We chose the date to mark a milestone in drill conservation - the establishment of the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary in Nigeria, now home to probably about 20% of the world's remaining drills.

About 650 drills have found a home at the Drill Ranch in the

Afi Mountains. Many were born here; others came for example from illegal animal husbandry or should be sold on markets. The animals at the Drill Ranch often have faced terrible fates in their past. But there are also stories of hope that we can tell here, of monkeys whose injuries have healed and who now live again in functioning social groups.

Raul, Bakut, Liza and the other drills in European zoos have the important task of serving as ambassadors for their conspecifics in Africa. That's why we've put them in the spotlight for this year's Day of the Drill. In a countdown before the actual day of action, we published short portraits of the three and many other drill personalities on our social media. These were animals that live in our member zoos. Short texts introduced them and their role in the group to show: Every drill is unique. Of course, this is just as true for the animals that live in the Afi Mountains and are supported by Save the Drill. A good reason to support the conservation of this monkey species.

The social media posts of our association joined a larger number of contributions especially for the Day of the Drill. Many drill-holding zoos contributed in this way or another. Some higher-level umbrella organizations such as the European and World Associations of Zoos (EAZA and WAZA) and the Pan African Sanctuary

Alliance also promoted the day. Each one has their own story of why they support us and the Drill. And together, we are succeeding in bringing "Africa's forgotten monkey" into the public eye.

Work uniforms shipped to Africa

After a couple of years, we were again able to ship former work uniforms from Hannover Zoo to Africa.



Selection of the shirts photo: Kathrin Paulsen

This was made possible with the help of the parent organization of African sanctuaries (PASA). Members from Great Britain and Spain agreed to take up to 24 kg of working shirts to a congress in Kenya. So we sent 3 packages with a total of 125 working shirts first within Europe. These were then taken to Kenya for a veterinary workshop. There, the shirts were distributed to the staff

of over 20 participating organizations.

Also Zack Schwenneker from the Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains / Nigeria as well as the Akih Emmanuel from the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon arrived there and could take over a large part of the shirts.

The package and postage costs were covered by **Hannover Zoo**. Therefore at this point once again: **Thank you very much!**



Drillkeeper in Afi with the new uniforms

photo: Zack Schwenneker

But a big thank you also goes to the vets **Ainare Idoiaga**, **Yedra Feltre Rambaud** and **Jessica Ann Quinlan**, who took the packages to Kenya as their own luggage.



Handover of shirts in Kenya

photo: Jessica Ann Quinlan

We are back

After more than two years, information booths and lectures could finally take place again this spring.

The first market days took place in April at the Hannover Zoo in beautiful spring weather. On this weekend alone, more than 850,- Euro were collected through the use of the wheel of fortune and the sale of merchandising items.



In the zoo of Saarbrücken there was a species conservation day to celebrate, which was completely in the name of the drill. There, as well, more than 800,- Euro could be collected. In addition, many new members were recruited, so that our number of members now counts more than 200.

A warm welcome to all new members and a big thank you to all contributors!

Brief news about the drill

- On June 29th 5 year old "Ekona", moved from Saarbrücken to Fota Wildlife Park in Ireland to found a breeding group with two females.
- Nzuri traveled from Osnabrück to Kessingland "Africa Alive!" in GB on June 13th.

Special thanks to Ms. Yvonne Riedelt for translation

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