



DRILL INFO

Issue 32, December 2021

Dear Members, dear friends of the drill,
We wish you a reflective and above all a healthy Christmas season and a good start into the New Year!

News from Cameroon

New arrival at the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon:

At the sanctuary for primates in the south of Cameroon, a very young female drill was handed in on the evening of November 5th, around 10 pm. She is just 3 months old.



"Malika"

Photo: Peggy Motsch

She was found in Yabassi, a small town about 170 km northwest of Limbe, where she was

confiscated from middlemen. They wanted to bring the animal into the illegal pet trade, where she would have been resold.

Fortunately, the little one is in good health condition, although exhausted and somewhat dehydrated, but physical injuries were not visible. She will now spend the mandatory quarantine period of 3 months together with a young male mandrill that was also confiscated. This is a standard precautionary measure for all new arrivals and is intended to prevent possible infection of the group into which they will then be introduced. After this time, the first step is to look for a "surrogate mother" in the drill group and gently acclimate the little one in small steps to the whole group of currently 67 drills. This process can then take up to a year.

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The colleagues from Limbe Wildlife Center had asked the board of Save the Drill to choose a name for the animal. We were happy to share this task with our members and friends of the drill. We proposed five names and after 658 people voted, the name Malika (the princess) for the little drill has been chosen by a large majority of you.

If staff of the organization LAGA wouldn't have tracked her down in Yabassi, she might have been sold via other traders to private persons or hotel owners who would have put her on display for tourists.

In any case, she would have grown up without a direct social group and without any conspecifics, certainly malnourished and her life expectancy would have been more than uncertain.



Malika with the illegal wildlife traders Photo: LAGA

But what is LAGA, with whose help this little drill was rescued and delivered to Limbe Wildlife Center?

The educator and photojournalist, Ofir Drori, who was born in Israel in 1976, came to Cameroon in 2002. In a secluded small town, he noticed a very young chimpanzee - a survivor of the meat trade.

He writes:.....

"In a remote small town with extensive ape trade, I was led to an infant survivor of the bushmeat trade - a baby chimp, tied up abused and sick, in a dirty room. His eyes were like those of human babies, but nobody seemed to notice. It was horrible and I knew that if I do nothing, he would die. When the local authorities refused to act, I bluffed the poachers into handing over the captive chimp. I untied him from his ropes and hugged him. In seconds he was transformed to a baby and he clung to my chest like it was an island of safety. He would have died before reaching the third

year of his life; now he got the chance to reach 50, the chance to outlive me. I named him Future, because that is what I wanted to give him and what I want to give his species.

My deep love for Africa turned me into an activist. My values of respect and peace between people and with nature turned me into a passionate fighter for nature.

I believe that defending wildlife from extinction is our moral obligation, and a cause worth dedicating one's life to. One that would take much dedication, devotion, and innovation to fulfill."

Thus, Ofir founded the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) in 2002.

The goal of this non-governmental organization (NGO), which is registered in Israel, is to combat commercial poaching and the associated trade of protected species.

The director, Ofir, is an Israeli citizen, while all other staff are Cameroonians.

LAGA operates from an office in the capital, Yaounde. It employs about a dozen permanent staff members who work on everything from investigations to arrests to legal follow-up to court cases. LAGA is the first NGO specialized in the sector of law enforcement in Africa.

By fighting corruption, prosecutions in wildlife trading were already achieved in the first months after LAGA was founded. This was done by the then still a very small group of local activists. Today, LAGA is involved in active investigations at the international level in other parts of Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Chad, Gabon, South Africa, etc.), Europe (France, Belgium, Spain, Ukraine) and Asia (Taiwan, China, Philippines).

Investigators are carefully selected, recruited and trained in undercover investigation techniques.



Malika during the handover to the authorities
Photo: LAGA

The goal is to confirm the identity of large-scale illegal wildlife dealers and provide sufficient evidence for a successful operation.

Because before justice can be served, the culprits must be identified and apprehended. The investigation division is responsible for identifying those who trade protected wildlife species and wildlife products both nationally and internationally as well as through the internet.

The organization covers the entire territory of Cameroon, from the most secluded villages to small towns and large cities. Besides the Limbe Wildlife Center, it works together with the Mefou National Park (operated by Ape Action Africa) and the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center (operated by In Defense of Animals). These then take care of animals confiscated during LAGA operations.

However, the most important partner of the project is the government of Cameroon, with whom LAGA signed an agreement in October 2010 confirming the cooperation in these activities. The government agency involved is the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), but also other government agencies such as, of course, the Ministry of Justice. The collaboration with MINFOF takes place on a weekly and sometimes daily basis, with both MINFOF officials and police officers in the special enforcement unit. It is envisioned that over time MINFOF will take more and more direct

control of the activities developed under this project until LAGA is able to fully withdraw from the project and the activities will be continued solely by the Cameroonian government.

Since 2006, one major illegal wildlife trafficker has been arrested each week, with approximately

87% of them serving jail time from the time of arrest without bail being granted.

LAGA investigators work around the clock to track down traffickers throughout the country.

According to LAGA staff, 3 wildlife traffickers or smugglers were arrested during the confiscation of the small drill in Yabassi. These wanted to resell the animal to special customers working for the illegal animal trade (including illegal zoos).

According to the law they now face 1-3 years imprisonment or a fine of approx. 4.500 up to 15.000 Euro.

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Without the tireless investigations of the LAGA staff, often at the risk of their own lives for the preservation of protected wildlife, the little drill would certainly not have survived the next few months! We have the greatest respect for the employees of LAGA and say in the name of the drill:

THANK YOU!



Malika at the LWC

Photo: Peggy Motsch

News from Nigeria

Material for fences in the Afis is short

At the moment, 620 Drills live in 6 groups on the Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains. Until they can be released into the adjacent wildlife sanctuary one day, they live there semi-wild in large social groups. The enclosures, which are up to 7 hectares in size and close to nature, are fenced in and each has a small enclosure in which individual animals can withdraw, but can also be separated for a short time for possible treatment purposes. Especially when integrating new animals that have been confiscated by the authorities, such separation enclosures are very important.

Also due to the often humid climate, these, as well as the enclosure fencing, need to be repaired or replaced on a regular basis.



Material for recycling

Photo: Zack Schwenneker

Zack Schwenneker, manager of Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains writes:



Old fence.in recycling...

Photo: Zack Schwenneker

"We are having a hard time finding any quality 3 mm steel mesh at the moment. The mesh we have been using is old mesh that we have recycled from other satellites and our bird cage. It is not ideal but the need for satellites is too important.

Enclosure costs were galvanized pipe to fabricate a new satellite cage for drill enclosures at Afi. This is half what we need, and once the remaining pipe is bought, all materials will be shipped to Afi where project welder Nasiru will fabricate the satellite on

site. It is becoming more difficult to find quality materials, especially the wire mesh, so we will re-purpose old wire mesh - more recycling!"

Land-Rover finally ready to drive again

Endlich konnte aus einem alten Wagen, der seit mehreren Jahren in Calabar außer Betrieb ist, der Motor aus – und in einen anderen Land-Rover eingebaut werden. Dem Mechaniker wurden dafür ca. 320,- Euro gezahlt.

Nun ist der "Kombi"-Wagen einsatzbereit und kann auf der Drill Ranch in den Afi Mountains eingesetzt werden. Dort wird dringend ein zuverlässiger Wagen benötigt, um Futter, aber auch Baumaterialien für die Drillgehege zu beschaffen.



The "new" Land-Rover

Photo: Zack Schwenneker

Annual general assembly of Save the Drill e.V. on September 4th, 2021

Christian Wagner

On Saturday, September 4th, 2021, 33 members of Save the Drill gathered for the annual general assembly, which was again held online this year.

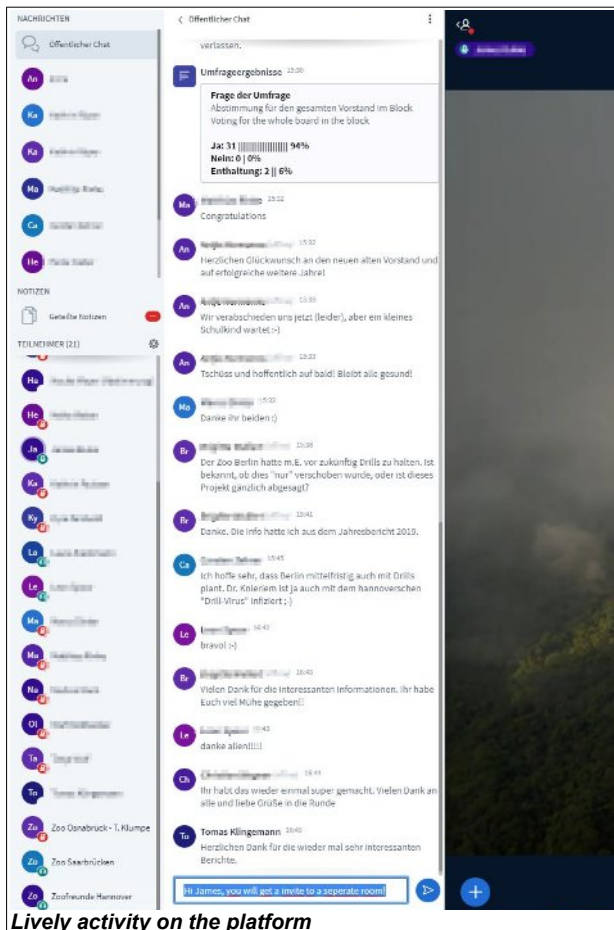
Even though everyone would have been happy to have the meeting take place as a "real" meeting with personal contact, the virtual meeting made it possible for James Bukie from Nigeria to participate without any problems, which would certainly not have been possible with a personal meeting. So everything is always good for something!

After the opening of the meeting by the first chairwoman Kathrin Paulsen, the technical framework of the online platform was first briefly explained to everyone. Many thanks to Hauke Meyer, who ensured that everything ran smoothly from the technical point of view again this year.

The introduction of the association and the general information about the drill was followed by the introduction of the individual board members.

Anne Fallner-Ahrens then presented the membership development in 2020. Currently, 178

individual members and nine institutions (8 zoos and the Zoofreunde Hannover e.V.) are registered as members of Save the Drill e.V.. The member state stagnates thereby at present, which can be led back presumably to Corona, since no events could take place to draw attention to the association and recruit members.



Lively activity on the platform

The presentation of the charity calendar 2022 by Olaf Goldbecker was followed by current information from Hauke Meyer about the webshop of Save the Drill with a link to the homepage. Depending on the product, 3.00 to 10.00 EUR from sales through the webshop go to Save the Drill.

Finally, under agenda item 7, Heike Weber gave the financial report for the past year. The income in 2020 amounted to 65,051.04 EUR whereby the donations with 55,442.28 EUR made up the majority.

Membership fees, on the other hand, contributed a comparatively small amount of 8,028.00 EUR. The expenses in 2020 amounted to 53,112.28 EUR which were sent to Nigeria and 17,860.00 EUR for projects in Cameroon.

After the cash auditors' report, both the treasurer and the entire board of directors were officially discharged by the assembly.

entire board was finally re-elected.

Under the election leadership of Hauke Meyer, the

Carsten Zehrer gave a current overview of the status of the EEP before Marco Dinter reported on the second International "Day of the Drill" on May 4th, 2020. Due to Corona, this day had to run online via Instagram and Facebook again in 2020.

In the end, Kathrin Paulsen gave short presentations on the current situation in Nigeria and

Cameroon. Of course, the Drill Ranch in Nigeria and the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon are also struggling with the consequences of the pandemic. Both institutions lack income due to missing visitors and the working and general conditions for the local staff are more than challenging. The individual commitment of the local staff cannot be overestimated!

The veterinary report given by Heike Weber from Cameroon was also very alarming. In February 2021, eight drills died there within a few days after acute disease! Despite intensive examinations and dissection of the deceased animals the cause for the deaths could not be found. More details can be found in DRILL INFO No. 31.

After the diverting and very informative annual general assembly, the participants also had the opportunity to watch the film "Drills on Bioko".

Even though the meeting went smoothly online and was technically excellent, everyone hopes to be able to meet again in person next year. At this point, a big thank you to the board members of Save the Drill for their dedicated work for the drill and the really successful meeting, even under pandemic-related difficult conditions. Please keep up the good work!

Produktvorschau

Charity -Kalender:
<http://charity-kalender.de/en/>

Webshop:
rettet-den-drill.myspreadshop.de

Mehr anzeigen

Dates 2022

04. May

International day of the drill

10. September

The annual general meeting of members will again be "live". We will meet at Zoo Wuppertal!

More detailed information and the invitation will be sent to all members in due time.



*"Kemyo" at Osnabrück Zoo has developed well
Photo: Zoo Osnabrück (H. Waltermann)*

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