

DRILL INFO



issue 26, July 2019

News from Cameroon

Kathrin Paulsen

In this edition of the „drill info“ we have a lot of news from Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC) in Cameroon.

Most notably is that LWC received the WAZA grant. Kathrin Röper, advisor of species conservation from Hannover Zoo will report about it.

Due to this grant the “Protected Wildlife Campaign” was founded: 20 big posters were placed along the streets to Limbe showing animals that are already extinct in Cameroon such as the cheetah, the rhino or wild dogs. But also threatened species (cross river gorillas, pangolins and forest elephants) are shown on the posters. A clear reference to the beauty of wildlife and the need to protect biodiversity is repeated in simple terms. Thus nature’s fragility and the diversity of species are presented to the inhabitants and create a feeling of responsibility for the environmental protection

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THREATENED BY BUSHMEAT TRADE

Drill Monkey



#ProtectWildlife

large information boards indicate threatened animals ↑

(photo: Guillaume Le Flohic)

On May 17th, the "Endangered Species Day" government officials inaugurated the posters in a significant ceremony. The radio, regional newspapers and also TV channels reported about this event.

Guillaume Le Flohic, manager of LWC writes :

"Cameroon may be well known as a major hot spot for biodiversity, but its reputation for protecting its wildlife does not yet match up. It is a country where wildlife faces a multitude of challenges. The illegal bushmeat trade is rife, national parks remain unprotected, hunters and animal traders are rarely prosecuted, illegal logging and deforestation for industrial agricultural are wiping out pristine forests and where corruption is out of control. The current socio-political crisis also adds an extra layer of complication to an already challenging situation. But amidst this darkness, there may be a ray of light, as Endangered Species Day 2019 signalled a step in the right direction for wildlife protection in Cameroon.



opening of the panels with a party (photo: Guillaume Le Flohic)

On 17 May 2019, the first campaign was launched in the coastal city of Limbe, in the South-West region to protect wildlife. The campaign was supported by the most senior government official in Limbe – Mr Emmanuel Engamba Ledoux, the Senior Divisional Officer for Fako. This endorsement could indicate a real change in attitudes, behaviours and practical solutions to wildlife protection in Cameroon.

Cameroon is home to some of the planet's most endangered, diverse and unique wildlife. Limbe and its surrounding areas, from the volcanic Mount Cameroon to the Atlantic ocean, harbours one of the last remaining retreats for many species, including: the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee and drill monkey, the highly threatened forest elephant, and the most trafficked animal in the world – the pangolin, but also several species of marine turtles and the magnificent humpback whale. But populations are in decline because of various human activities and soon Cameroon's emblematic wildlife could disappear forever unless together, we take action.

We launched the campaign in partnership with local group the Da Nzimbistic Cultural Centre and with the Divisional Delegation of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. Other collaborators in the campaign include the African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (AMMCO), the Limbe City Council, the UNESCO and the Program for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (PSMNR-SWR), under the patronage of the Senior Divisional Officer for Fako. This is the first campaign of this kind in Limbe and possibly in Cameroon, where various partners and authorities came together to do one thing - to engage citizens in the urgent need to protect wildlife.

The campaign aims to bring about a sense of ownership, pride and responsibility amongst Cameroonians, including politicians and local citizens, to become ambassadors for wildlife and for

their natural and cultural heritage. The launch of the campaign was marked by the inauguration of a series of billboards in Limbe. This will be the first stage of a campaign which calls on all Cameroonians to join together and to be aware, be proud, and be responsible under the slogan 'Together, we must Protect Wildlife'.

Save the Drill was able to co-finance this project with 1,000 Euros and is therefore present throughout Limbe on the posters with our logo. Also the “green project” (previously “Aframomum project”) which has been co-financed by Save the Drill for years will now start its 10th year.



(photo: Peggy Motsch)

Once again - thanks to the many membership fees and donations - we can finance the entire feed for the almost 80 Drills in the LWC for the whole year 2019 with 4,000 Euros.

But this project isn't only about the feed for the animals, it also gives work to the people on site – to people who used to work as poachers. They know the rainforests very well, recognize the plants, they can crop sustainably, draw fair wages on a regular basis and don't need to poach anymore.

Also many of their wives are involved in the project, they grow forage plants for the animals of LWC in their yard.

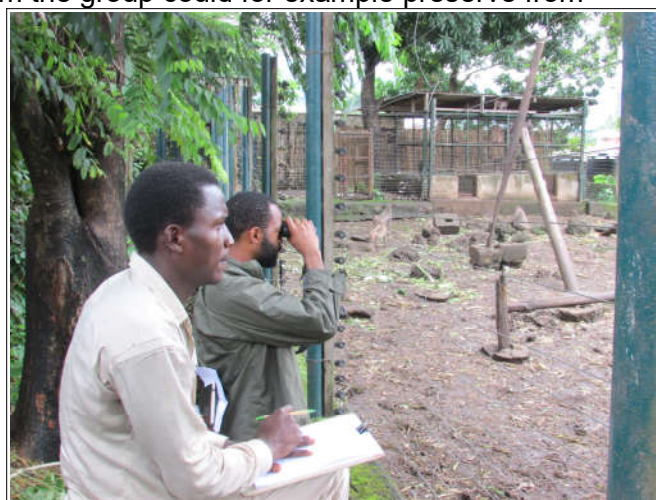
Only in April 2019, 15 former poachers cropped about 800 kilograms Aframomum and about 650 kilograms Costus (ginger). Also 37 women were able to add a constant income for their families.

Of course the enclosure is very important to the animals in the rescue center. In the past years it happened sometimes that especially young adult males “escaped”. The space in Limbe is limited since the station is located directly in the city. Unfortunately an extension won't be possible. In the past years there has already been a lot of progress in the enclosures. Still there need to be more platforms, ropes and screen fences installed and the enclosure needs to be escape-proof. Save the Drill will help here with 2,500 Euros as well.

A further project that we can support thanks to the generous donation of 4,500 Euros from Munich Animal Park will be the monitoring of the drill group. All of the 78 animals have been identified in this scientific study of the group's social structure. Hence the whole group can be managed more professionally, social conflicts can be recognized sooner and critical situations avoided. The temporarily separation of certain individuals from the group could for example preserve from injuries. Of course this only is possible if all individuals are recognized and designated to their families. Considering the large number of animals, this process takes a lot of time (view drill info 25).

Now, two keepers can do this task for another year paid by Munich Animal Park. Once again: thank you so much!

In the meantime there are investigations of Cameroon Mountain to find a matching place for new big enclosures for drills of LWC – alike the ones in the Afi Mountains in Nigeria. This is a first and very important step to prepare the drills of LWC for life in the wild.



Armel and Alvin monitoring the drills at LWC (photo: Peggy Motsch)

World Zoo Association supports "Family Nature Club" in Cameroon - Money blessing for the Drills

Kathrin Röper (Consultant for species conservation and zoo education at Hannover Zoo)

In the summer of 2018, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) again put the "Nature Connect Grant" out for tender. Funding was available for 20 projects, made possible by the generous support of the Disney Conservation Fund and the expertise of the International Zoo Educators Association (IZE). Also in this 3rd application round the families were in the center. The aim is to strengthen the closeness to nature of children and their parents and to work together for the protection of nature and species. The colleagues of the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) in Cameroon have been carrying out various environmental education projects on site for 25 years. A further project could be realised with the support of \$10,000 from the WAZA Nature Connect Grant. On a Friday about a year ago I received an email from Cameroon shortly before I was getting off work. The colleagues from the Limbe Wildlife Centre had prepared an application for the Nature Connect Grant at short notice and needed our support. An application was only possible as a member of the World Zoo Association - Hannover Adventure Zoo could support the project as a partner.



from left: Kathrin Röper (Consultant for species conservation and zoo education at Hannover Zoo), Peggy Motsch (Manager at LWC, Cameroon), Kathrin Paulsen (chair from save the drill), Klaus Brunsing (zoological director at Hannover Zoo)

However, the deadline was already the next day. To the chagrin of some of my fellow men (at this point a thankful greeting to our chairwoman Kathrin Paulsen) I also belong to those people who often push deadlines to the end. I was pleased to be able to help with this short-term request. After the approval of the Zoological Director and the press officer of the Hannover Adventure Zoo, who fortunately were still in the house late in the afternoon, I began to revise the application. The



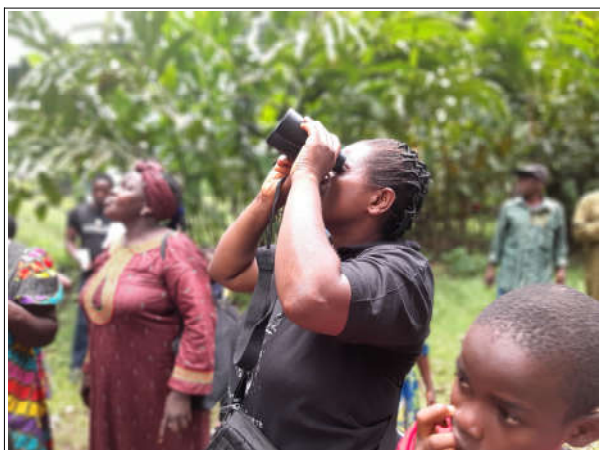
family nature club (photo: Laura Craddock, LWC)

planned project should of course take place on site in Cameroon for the local population in the habitat of the drills and the experienced colleagues of LWC would carry out the project. Cooperation with local environmental education organizations was expressly requested by the WAZA. Thanks to the years of close cooperation between Save the Drill, LWC and Hannover Adventure Zoo, it was not difficult for us to integrate the zoo into the project. Within a few hours I was able to hand in the application - and then the waiting began. After a few weeks we received the good news: It had actually worked. WAZA liked our application and would support the project in Cameroon with \$10,000! In fall 2018 the "Family Nature Club" started.

The "Green Project" has been a partnership between the LWC and the town of Batoke, about 20 minutes away, for already 10 years. Former poachers work for LWC and thus receive an alternative source of income.

This very successful cooperation could now serve as a basis for the planned environmental education project. On eight dates, 75 families will be sensitized to nature conservation and species protection in the forests of the neighboring Mount Cameroon National Park through in-situ and ex-situ activities. At the first appointment, the focus was on getting to know each other. On the

following dates the families got to know the flora and fauna of their region better. For example, some children had never seen a drill before, which could now be made possible for them in the



family nature club (photo: Laura Craddock, LWC)

LWC. Visits to the Botanical Garden and the rainforest followed. Then it was about the influence of the population on this sensitive ecosystem, through their own lifestyle, poaching and pollution. This included, for example, the collection of waste in the surrounding nature as well as a subsequent up-cycling handicraft action. All events should appeal to the whole family and contribute to a common nature experience. At the end of the project there will be a big party for all participants. The entire project is accompanied by an evaluation. Through regular surveys, the desired increase in knowledge is to be determined and, of course, whether the goal will ultimately be achieved: greater closeness to nature on the part of the

families. At the moment the project is still running, the first results are promising and the families take part in the meetings with enthusiasm. The final report about the Family Nature Club will be published in the next Drill-Info!

Uniform-transport for Pandrillus

Kathrin Paulsen

Hannover Zoo generously donated again lots of old staff uniforms to Pandrillus for the stations in Nigeria and Cameroon. Right now there are three europallet packed with boxes in the storage of Hannover Zoo waiting for the transport. This time, the load especially consists of high-quality work-shirts and supplies, safety rubber boots, poloshirts,



helping hands for Africa: Uwe Ratmann and Thomas Piekarsky (photo: Kathrin Paulsen)

trousers and lots more. Part

of it was packed by our members. However a special thank you goes to Michaela Bothe who sorted the clothes, folded them, ordered them by sizes, packed and labeled the boxes. Since fall 2016 she is in charge of the clothes depot at Hannover Zoo where new employees receive their uniforms and all clothes that are not in use are stored.

Already in 2013, after a long term engagement, we successfully transported gratuitously a big amount of clothes to Nigeria through different companies and helpers (view Drill-Info 15). Until today Nigerian staff proudly wears those high-quality uniforms.

Once more we are desperately looking for people, companies, carriers or contacts who enable the next transport of the europallets to Cameroon and Nigeria! Every contact may be important and helpful!

Please send us an e-mail to info@rettet-den-drill.de



Michaela Bothe and the clothing donations (photo: Kathrin Paulsen)

.... And: There are already work uniforms from Wuppertal Zoo at Animal park Nordhorn, but they will follow another path:

Finally – The first package of work-uniforms from Wuppertal Zoo is on its way to Cameroon

Dr. Heike Weber

Already in 2017 we received a couple of bags with work-uniforms that weren't needed anymore from Wuppertal Zoo as a donation for the drill projects in Africa. Ever since the uniforms have been stored at Nordhorn Animal Park in the feed kitchen's attic.

In May, the committed veterinary student Isabelle Zickler from Vienna came to me for an internship. Besides her veterinary tasks, she found time to look through and sort the Wuppertal uniforms. The result: 95 jackets and five pairs of trousers –stacked and arranged by sizes as you can see on the picture.

We just sent the first package with nine jackets and four pairs of trousers to Mrs. Valentina van Dijk in the Netherlands. She is head of the organization "World of Wildlife" that is

supporting the work of "Limbe Wildlife Center" (LWC) in Cameroon. World of Wildlife is a non-profit organisation that tries to acquire money and sponsors and to find volunteers for LWC. The main focus is on the care and organisation of the volunteers who are allowed to work there for some time in return for payment and thus support the LWC.



Ralf Nolten (zookeeper) and Isabella Zickler during the examination of a goat (photo: Dr. Heike Weber)



ready sorted clothes (photo: Dr. Heike Weber)

World of Wildlife was founded in the Netherlands, a country where it is very popular to volunteer during vacation time, after graduation of school or university or between two jobs. Here in Germany it is not as popular as in the Netherlands but yet on a good way. Although people want to support organizations for animal welfare, nature and species conservation. They want to support animals, nature, species protection or other organizations. But not only financially, but also with their own manpower. This work effort often leads to intense

encounters and experiences that have a lasting effect. People who took part in such a voluntary service tend to rather support the projects they worked for on a permanent basis and more generously.

But back to the Wuppertal Zoo uniforms: Valentina will hand them out to volunteers who will fly to Cameroon so they will arrive at Limbe Wildlife Center within the next months. The employees in Africa are always very excited about work uniforms from Germany. Although we would wish to have a large transport of all the clothes at once to Nigera and Cameroon, it just simply is too complicated to organize. We still keep trying to make it possible one day. Until then we will keep sending small amounts of uniforms with volunteers to Africa through World of Wildlife.



photo: Cyril Ruso

News from Nigeria

Peter Jenkins, Co-Director Pandrillus

Drill groups

Drill Ranch continued to maintain confiscated drills and their offspring, which numbered 643 as of February 2019 in 7 social groups. Six of our groups live in large, natural habitat, electric-fenced enclosures at the Afi Mountain site. Group 3, the remaining group in the Calabar (urban) location, continues to serve an important purpose for education - the project receives far more visitors in town than the remote field location. These visitors are >95% Nigerian and come from across Nigeria - including ordinary citizens, civil servants and people from influential political and business positions, nationwide. This is an important and unique opportunity for wildlife conservation education.

There are currently no drills in quarantine.

Contraception by implant of captive bred females has been a priority for Drill Ranch for several years. A single rod of 75 mg levonorgestrel (Jadelle), purchased locally, is used.

From the peak birth year of 2014 with 81 live births, a steady effort at contraceptive implants has reduced the birth rate over 5 years by 44%.

Drill reintroduction

Since inception, a fundamental goal of the project has been to release captive bred drill monkeys back to the wild. In 2015, Drill Ranch undertook an experimental release. We learned numerous lessons from the release (which was aborted as soon as it began) that have led us to reconsider our approach for future release attempts. We are still rethinking how we might address the problems, which include: i) continuing loss of habitat and hunting at the release site; ii) non-performance of the telemetry equipment that Pandrillus and Rettet den Drill invested in heavily; and iii) unpredicted behavior of the drill group at the time of release. The current situation with our state government partners has, unfortunately, not improved and this influences protection within the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary release site, as well as cooperation on the ground with communities and other NGOs.

In late 2018, two-thirds of Group 6 (39/61 drills) left their enclosure but, unlike the self-releases of Group 4, they have remained elusive. This is a more difficult time of year for drills in the wild with scarcity of water and fewer fruiting trees. We are paying a small team of



(photo: Alexandra Lucassen)



Eco guides with a destroyed trap (photo: Liza Gadsby)

Buanchor community "eco-guards" on per diem basis to search for them, and monitor hunting and trapping activity around Drill Ranch. Fortunately, there have been no reports of crop-raiding from local farmers and the community has been largely cooperative. The community is also very pleased that we are employing their eco-guards.

Other primates

Other primates maintained at Drill Ranch include 29 chimpanzees. All but 2 of our chimpanzees belong to the most endangered subspecies *P. t. ellioti*, the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee.

Since the closure of the guenon and mangabey project Cercopan in 2016, we have cared for their group of Sclater's guenons *Cercopithecus sclateri*, a strict Nigerian endemic. This species does not occur at Afi Mountain, and is therefore housed at our Calabar facility where they provide an excellent education opportunity for our many local visitors. It is always a delight for Nigerians to learn that there is a monkey species found only in Nigeria in the whole world - and only a very small part of Nigeria. The monkeys present a unique teaching opportunity to inspire pride in Nigeria. This is the only known group of captive Sclater's guenons in the world in wildlife.

Drill Ranch also accepted a small group (4) of red-eared guenons *C. erythrotis*, a species that naturally occurs at Afi, and are occasionally seen around our camp. Unfortunately, their enclosure was crushed and destroyed when the massive achi tree fell in July 2018. All the animals escaped without injury.

Only one male has remained around camp. A female red-eared guenon was received in Calabar as an infant and completed quarantine with an adolescent male mona monkey *C.* The two young guenons were transferred to Afi in September and were successfully released to live semi-wild around the camp. The mona monkey has been seen moving with one of the wild mona groups that pass through camp daily. It is nice for visitors to get a close-up look at these lovely primates living semi-free. At present, these 3 guenons are provided food, as needed, and water in the dry season. We hope they will fully join wild groups of conspecifics in future.

Other animals - non-primates

Drill Ranch also accepts non-primate species that we can rehabilitate for release back to the wild. In 2018, the following animals were received, rehabilitated or reared as needed, and successfully released:

- African civet cat (*Civettictis civetta*)
- Monitor lizard (*Varanus niloticus*)
- Hinge-backed terrapin (*Pelusios castanoides*)
- W. African black terrapin (*Pelusios niger*)

These animals were received and remain in Calabar for rehabilitation:

- Lizard buzzard (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*), adult, primary feathers cut

Project infrastructure work

2018 was a year for Drill Ranch to catch up on infrastructure improvements.

At Afi we completed construction of the long-awaited staff quarters! The building has 3 secure rooms with separate entrances, and a large covered porch. It will be able to accommodate 6 staff members.

The building needs new furniture and we hope to find a local craftsman to build them. It is presently being used by staff and replaces the 2 structures that were destroyed by the 4-11 storm in 2017. We have selected a site for a second, smaller management staff quarters. Ground was broken on the new veterinary building, another structure destroyed in "4-11".

In Calabar, we completely reconstructed the workshop/garage - another project that was long

overdue. Two vehicles can be parked inside and there is a secure room for storage of tools, spare parts and other equipment, plus a second workbench.

We also remodeled the staff room and toilet, where staff leave their belongings and street clothes during their working shift.

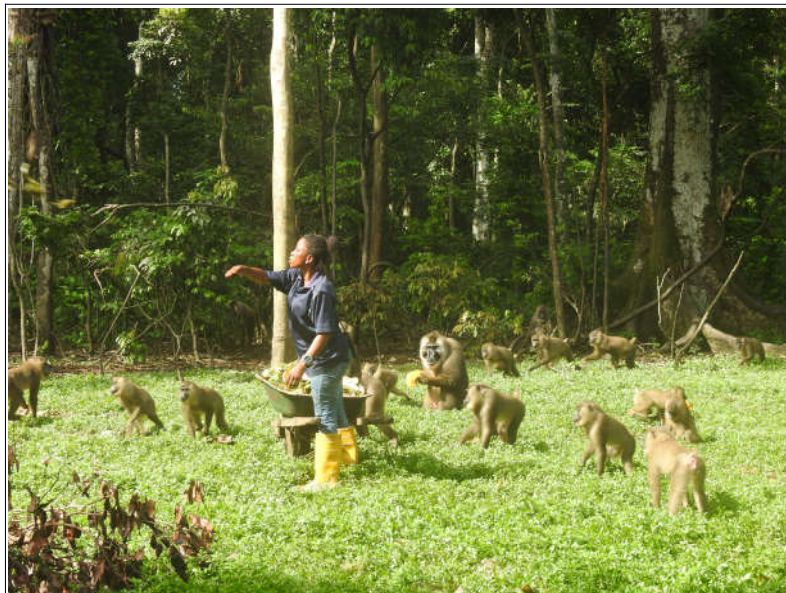
Staffing

Drill Ranch continues to be one of the largest private employers in Boki LGA, Cross River State, Nigeria. The number of staff on salary is currently 27. We are currently short of drill keepers and are actively recruiting. New keepers have been hired as trainees in Calabar - new keepers learn skills at Calabar about animal handling that are difficult to learn at Afi where they have less supervision.

Nsikan has been functioning as Afi assistant manager with good results - he is respected by staff and is willing and able to perform a variety of management duties. Long-term Calabar assistant



nearly ready: the new accommodation in Afi (photo: Peter Jenkins)



Helen Osang while feeding the drills in Afi (photo: Chris Ryan)

manager Irene Edem resigned, and a new management level staff Raphael Asiba is training at both Calabar and Afi sites. Staff salaries coupled with animal food purchases provide our host village of Buanchor with over \$65,000 annually making us one of the main drivers of the economy in the area. Two other villages also benefit from selling us animal food. Most staff were given a cost of living raise in February 2019.

Ecotourism

Revenue from visitors' overnight accommodation continues to be important to the project. Actual revenue from Afi and Calabar was only 4% of total income but

increased over last year, rebounding from the low after the Ebola outbreak a few years ago. It is encouraging that a greater proportion of our overnight guests at Afi are Nigerians - this is a significant indicator of increasing interest in their natural environment and wildlife.

Goals & needs for 2019

Drill Ranch needs to increase income generated in Nigeria. In years past, Drill Ranch had state government support and we are unlikely to get this again soon as the governor was re-elected in 2018. However, we should be able to generate private corporate sponsorship in the country, as we have had in the past - from multinational oil companies, etc. This would require extensive travel and time spent in Lagos and Abuja to make essential contacts.

Another goal is to re-establish relationships with federal government agencies that may be able to help the project in various ways. This includes the Federal Ministry of the Environment, where the CITES desk is held. With the untimely death of the head of CITES, we must forge a relationship with the new person and re-open the discussion about acquiring permits for the future loan of drills

for cooperative captive breeding program with the Drill EEP.

Pandrillus also plans to continue to strengthen relationships with other NGO partners involved in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary; these relationships have weakened in recent years. We would like to raise dedicated funds for protection at the sanctuary to contribute to the foot patrol protection by wildlife rangers, as threats are increasing.

Nigeria – Pandrillus – Voluntary service

Alexandra Lucassen and Christian Meyer zu Natrup

We, Alexandra Lucassen (31 years old, living in Hannover, 10th semester veterinary medicine) and Christian Meyer zu Natrup (23 years old, living in Hannover, 10th semester veterinary medicine) love to travel foreign countries. We both have already travelled a lot, Alexandra mainly to Asia and Christian to Africa. Therefore we were sure that we wanted to spend our practical year of our studies abroad. We have always been interested in wild animals. This is why we will also do an internship at a German zoo during the practical year.

We became aware of Nigeria and the "Pandrillus" project through numerous, targeted researches on the Internet as well as through the new theme world Afi Mountain and information boards at Hannover Zoo.

In a detailed exchange of emails with the head of the project, Liza Gadsby, we got the contact information of Heike Weber and the German organization Save the Drill (in summer 2018). Thereupon we



In the Afi Mountains (photo: Christian Meyer zu Natrup)

came as guests to the general assembly at Hannover Zoo and got to know the organization. A long and intense conversation about the project and Nigeria with Kathrin Paulsen and Heike Weber encouraged us to do the practical year over there. We think that the drill is a beautiful and graceful species thus still much unknown. Their behavior and intelligence which they show inside the group is extremely fascinating. It was a great experience to work with these animals.

We spent one month in Nigeria from November 7th until December 6th 2018. From this time we were two weeks in the station at the city of Calabar in the south east of Nigeria and the other two weeks at the Afi Mountains.

When we arrived in Calabar we were cordially welcomed by the staff. The following days we had the chance to talk to the staff and get an impression of the circumstances and the program's structure. The veterinary station is well equipped and made a good impression on us. Also we noticed that the documentation is well taken care of so that a good structure could be recognized.

We both used the time in Calabar to prepare for our tasks in the Afi Mountains such as medical check-ups, dewormings and so on. In the meantime we also had the chance to get to know local attractions such as the weekly farmer's markets.

A couple of days later, a truck took us to the Afi Mountains – a pretty adventurous journey! For hours we drove through lush landscape past villages that were getting smaller and smaller until the road ended and turned into a gravel road. Many people, especially children, greeted us in the villages. Since there isn't a lot of tourism in Nigeria, we were kind of a little attraction. The trip was an adventure itself and left many exciting impressions behind.

When we arrived at the station in the Afi Mountains, the staff welcomed us cordially, showed us around and explained the routines. In the following days we did check-ups and dewormed the

animals systematically. In the meantime we had the chance to discover the unique nature of the Afi Mountains with its flora and fauna.



examination of a chimpanzee in Afi (photo: Alexandra Lucassen)

The time there was amazing. We had many great encounters with different people and we both have the feeling that the people, especially the project manager Liza and Peter, were happy that we as veterinary students came to support the project. We were encouraged that our help and work were necessary and really supportive. From Hannover Zoo we received deworming medicine for the drills in the Afi Mountains as a donation. This was Alfamectin as powder (ingredient Ivermectin).

After we had checked all drills systematically on worms (by fecal analyses) we could deworm the animals. Therefore we processed the medicine (powder) with banana, honey, corn- and soy powder (baby food) to mush and formed small balls out of it

that were distributed individually to the drills. The keepers on site know every drill and therefore the medication dose for each individual could be chosen precisely. In conclusion the animals were dewormed orally. The treatment is very important because the animals are exposed to great stress from parasites and worms although the exhibits are big and correspond to their natural habitat. But inside their habitat the animals have certain favorite places where they stay preferably. Of course in these places there is a risk for the spreading of parasites. We worked against the germ pressure with this deworming program.

Looking back we find that the project "Pandillus" does a great job on species conservation and under all circumstances should be supported strengthened because the habitat especially of the apes is getting smaller and smaller. We also had the chance to meet many interesting people who welcomed us all cordially.

The project was a great experience that shows again how important the work for biodiversity conservation is and how important it is to work together for this goal.



zoo veterinarian Victor Molnar hands over the donation for Alexandra and Christian to save the drill (photo: Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover)

Visit of Peggy Motsch from Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC, Cameroon)

At Hannover Zoo...

Kathrin Röper (Consultant for species conservation and zoo education at Hannover Zoo)

In fall 2018 the new environmental education project „Family Nature Club“ of Limbe Wildlife Center received a \$10,000 grant of WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) with the help of Hannover Zoo. Therefore, Peggy Motsch, assistant leadership of LWC, visited Hannover Zoo while she was on a homecoming visit in France. Peggy got to know the current group of drills as well as the new natural enclosure in the theme world Afi Mountain that was opened in summer 2017 where drills and brazza monkeys live together.

Peggy reported about the current difficult political situation on Cameroon and of course about the progress of "Family Nature Club". On the agenda there was also a visit at Osnabrück Zoo where

drills live together with Diana monkeys and African forest buffalos. After a short board meeting with Kathrin Paulsen, Inga Graber and Heike Weber, the short trip was unfortunately already over. Peggy left with a lot more luggage than she had arrived with. Because Hannover Adventure Zoo had again sorted out uniforms and rain boots – what a wonderful Christmas gift for the LWC staff!

...and at Osnabrück Zoo

Dr. Heike Weber

Peggy Motsch – of course I had heard and read her name several times before. In 2015, Liza Gadsby and Peter Jenkins showed us her CV when Peggy and her life partner Guillaume le Flohic applied for the job as managers of Limbe Wildlife Center and ended up being chosen. But now to actually be facing Peggy and to be able to talk to her in person, that was quite another view. Therefore I was very excited when Kathrin Paulsen (chair woman Save the Drill) who has already met Peggy during her stay in Cameroon, announced us her visit in Germany.

It was quite helter-skelter since there were many different appointments on the agenda – especially at Hannover Zoo. But in the end Kathrin managed to organize a board meeting and to bring along Peggy at Osnabrück Zoo December 1st 2018.



from left: Inga Graber (second Chair of save the drill), Hans Jürgen Schröder (Zoo Osnabrück), Peggy Motsch (LWC, Cameroon), Kathrin Paulsen (Chair of save the drill), Dr. Heike Weber (Treasure of save the drill); (photo: Dr. Heike Weber)

Hence, Inga Gaber (second chair woman) and I (treasurer Save the Drill) got to meet and talk to Peggy.

The first item on the agenda after the big “hello” was of course the visit of the drills at Osnabrück Zoo. The drill keepers – especially Wolfgang Festl – as well as zoo inspector Hans-Jürgen Schröder showed and explained us the animals, their social structure and the inside and outside exhibits. Thank you for doing that!

It was very interesting for us to exchange experiences about the integration of new animals in already existing drill groups. This is a situation that happens quite often at LWC and rather rarely in German zoos and therefore always represents a difficult situation. How do you integrate new animals without fights with serious bite injuries or even deaths? Does LWC have any advices and tricks? How do you recognize the real social structure of the group? Do we interpret what we see correctly or at least similarly? Or does everyone – from experiences and knowledge – have a different estimation when it comes to judging and interpreting an observed behavior?

During the conversation it also became clear that the housing conditions are of course very different. On the one hand because of climate conditions but on the other hand especially because of the size of the group. While at Osnabrück Zoo there lives a group of 3,4 (3 males and 4 females), the group at LWC consists of about 100 animals on a comparable area size. Of course the introduction of new animals is a lot different at LWC than in German zoos.

The catch and squeeze cage of the inside exhibit was very interesting to Peggy. It gives the possibility to catch and separate single individuals as long as they use the aisle regularly. A very useful installation that Peggy maybe wants to build at LWC, too.

The second important point on the agenda was the board meeting, where one of the main topics was also “further support for the LWC”. Very openly Peggy talked about the problems that her and Guillaume are having in Cameroon: as well politically as especially financially. Since only Guillaume is permanently employed at Pandrillus and financed by “Pro Wildlife” with 1.000€/month, the income of Peggy is missing for the family (they have two small children). So far she only

receives 300€ per month from "Great Ape", which is obviously not enough. We have therefore decided to finance the part of her working time that she spent on the drills for December 2018 and the year 2019. From the discussions we heard that approximately one third of her working time is dedicated to drills. Thus we have come purely mathematically with an assumed basic salary of 1,000€/month on 330€/month "drill salary". That multiplied by thirteen (Dec 2018 + 12 months 2019 = 13 months) results in 4.290€, which we transferred to her before Christmas. Peggy's joy was huge and you could literally see a load/worry falling off her.



Wolfgang Festl shows Peggy Motsch the passage with the built-in catch cage (photo: Dr. Heike Weber)

The discussions with Peggy have made it clear to us where problems lie, where "Save the Drill" can perhaps help even more, but also what has already happened, has been improved and how much this team in the LWC is committed. Not only but especially also for the drills. With how many new great ideas, what enthusiasm and how much heart and soul Peggy and Guillaume work down there in Cameroon under often difficult, poor and financially bad circumstances. Not to lose your motivation and still write great monthly reports, send photos and look for new sponsors - that already includes a lot. Hats off to so much power and effort!

And of course we will continue to support this work - thanks to YOUR memberships and donations - as best we can!

We, the board of "Save the Drill", would like to take this opportunity to thank the Osnabrück Zoo once again for providing us with a room, drinks and food free of charge for the meeting and the board meeting!

News about the Drill in a few words

Spain:

Cordoba: February 17th two year old „Kofi“ from Kessingland, England, arrived at the zoo in north Spain to join the male group

Ireland:

Fota Wildlife Park: New husbandry: since the beginning of the year two animals from Stuttgart ("Bubi", 28 years and "Julian", 22 years) as well as nine year old "Ineke" from Barcelona and the two females "Lewa", four years und "Banni", two years from Bristol build a new group

Germany:

Stuttgart: Stuttgart Wilhelma Zoo gave up the husbandry of drills by giving their last two animals to Ireland.

Hanover: At the beginning of the year four year old female drill „Ganja“ died

Munich: June 5th another female baby was born. Hence the number of animals increased to 13.

England:

Kessingland Africa alive: May 1st the first baby of the group was born.

Porth Lympne: on January 18th and May 3rd two female babies were born

Visit of Guillaume Le Flohic from Limbe Wildlife Center at Munich Animal Park Hellabrunn

Kathrin Paulsen

The manager of the LWC in Cameroon, Guillaume Le Flohic, also arrived in Germany for a visit. Like his wife Peggy Motsch in January, Guillaume was on a short family trip home in France this year. After he announced a visit to Munich, I spontaneously had the idea to spend a long weekend with my husband there.

Of course, a meeting with Carsten Zehrer, the working stud book keeper for the drills (and board member of Save the Drill), was organized immediately in the Munich Animal Park Hellabrunn. On June 14th we all arrived there and had interesting and important discussions. Not only about the EEP, possibilities for improving genetic diversity, but also husbandry conditions and living and working in Cameroon were topics of discussion. We were particularly impressed by the species protection centre in Munich Zoo. Large display boards show the threat to the drills, the destruction of the habitat and the hunting of these animals. The visitor is also given the opportunity to learn a lot about the work of the zoo and our work from the association on well designed and very informative signs.

Also directly in front of the two large indoor facilities of the now 13-person drill group (since the beginning of June there is also a new, female young to be seen in it) information about the drills is conveyed very vividly - no visitor to the zoo should miss this!

The very pleasant personal meeting is also a cornerstone for an important international cooperation between the EEP and the rescue center in Cameroon.



from left: Carsten Zehrer (Curator and EP coordinator for drills), Guillaume Le Flohic (Manager of the LWC; Cameroon), Kathrin Paulsen (chair of save the drill) (photo: Hauke Meyer)

Last but not least I would like to thank the Munich Animal Park Hellabrunn for the accommodation and food at zoo cost!

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Contact: RETTET DEN DRILL e.V. Hesepfer Weg 140 48531 Nordhorn Germany info@rettet-den-drill.de www.rettet-den-drill.de	 ...mehr als Artenschutz! Editorial staff: Carsten Zehrer, Kathrin Paulsen, Inga Graber, 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
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