

# DRILL INFO

**Issue 30, December 2020**

**Dear members, dear friends of the drill,**

**we wish you a merry and above all a healthy Christmas time!**

Despite the Corona pandemic and the resulting consequences for all of us, we can finally report on some positive events from the drills in Nigeria and Cameroon. A lot has happened there, but unfortunately there are also small or larger setbacks to report from time to time. Despite the still significantly higher costs (e.g. due to stricter hygiene standards), things are progressing steadily in the rescue centers of the Pandrillus organization.

## News from Nigeria



Young drill female in the Afis (Photo: Zack Schwenneker)

The last months have been very challenging for the Drill sanctuaries in Nigeria: The Drill Ranch in Calabar as well as the one in the Afi Mountains are still closed for visitors.

Liza Gadsby,  
Founder and  
director of Pandrillus:

*"Normally, we receive hundreds of students monthly, of all ages. Each individual is a chance to influence and inspire Nigerians on the importance of their wildlife heritage. It is a huge loss locally and has a negative effect on staff. Our keepers are very proud of their work and they've lost this opportunity to share their knowledge and experience with the public. Drill Ranch never charges admission, but most visitors make a donation and we have lost this, too. Every small donation helps, and the loss is noticeable....We thank all our staff who remained dedicated to the project during these unique times for 3 months, at great personal cost, but to benefit the animals, has been encouraging! "*

But sadly, during this time, two long-term and very experienced staff members left the project: senior drill keeper Gabriel Oshie, who worked at Drill Ranch in the Afis for 18 years, and senior chimpanzee keeper James Owan, who worked for Pandrillus for more than twelve years. Neither wanted to or could live away from their families for so long during those times.

Therefore, after three months, it was decided that the employees could go home to their families in the evening. During the day, however, they still receive free meals from the project. This catering means additional costs of about 336,- euros / month.

Of course stricter hygiene regulations still apply.

This also includes that the drill keepers are now only allowed to enter the enclosures in a case of

Content	Page
News from Nigeria.....	1
Cameroon News.....	4
A scientist's "brown gold" - high genetic variability in the drill EEP.....	6
"Can you hear me?".....	9
Christmas is just around the corner:.....	12
Dates 2021.....	12
News around the drill in a nutshell .....	12

emergency. This is very regrettable, as many important behavioral observations in the drill groups are now no longer possible. Work inside the enclosure must also be reduced to the bare minimum.

Not only donations on site, but also the incomes of the visitors for the accommodation in the Afi Mountains are missing. In very good months, a total of up to 500,- euros could be raised additionally.

In June, we received the news that Peter Jenkins, founder and co-director of Pandrillus, had become seriously ill. He showed symptoms that looked like an infection with the Corona virus, he was in very bad shape. So he was transported from the Afi Mountains to Calabar to see a doctor. A Corona test could not be obtained and all examinations did not give a clear diagnosis. Attempts to treat malaria did not work, he had to lie down most of the time because he was very weak and had a high fever.

He stayed there for more than five weeks until Liza Gadsby managed from the USA - in the middle of the almost worldwide lockdown and travel ban - to have her partner brought to Lagos with a South African security escort (which took 16 hours and required crossing three closed country borders). From there, an eleven hour flight that was organized by the American Embassy to fly out American federal citizens, left for Atlanta. Liza also managed to organize another flight to Oregon. On July 9th, the news finally came:

*„Peter is here! He made it.“*

At home in Portland, Peter slept a lot, ate well and recovered fairly during the first few weeks. Since doctor's appointments were hard to get, no exact diagnosis is known to date. But he is doing so much better that Liza and he plan to travel back to Nigeria to Drill Ranch as soon as possible.

In the meantime, dried foods such as soy, beans or rice that were stored in March, in case the markets were closed, have been fed there to prevent spoilage. New feed had to be purchased. This is difficult since the closure of the federal land borders in Nigeria, the transport costs have increased significantly and some feed, but also eggs, flour or vegetables are sometimes hard to get.

In April, the rainy season began again in Nigeria that lasts until November. This sometimes means days of steady rain. Rainfall of up to 2.750 mm is measured in the region around Calabar during this time. For comparison: In the entire year 2019, a good 730 mm of rain fell in Germany.



*Employees of the Drill Ranch in new rain coats in front of the Achi tree (Photo: Zack Schwenneker)*

An urgently needed string trimmer worth 513,- euros was purchased to keep the grass around the enclosure fences short. And raincoats and rubber boots worth 342,- euros were purchased for the entire staff. In the Afis, a new feed store had to be built, sturdily roofed with zinc sheets and thus rainproof. This is because most of the purchased bananas that are fed to the 575 drills there - more than 800 kg daily! - are still green. They need to be stored for some time to ripen before they can be fed. The total cost of the storage system constructed by Peter Jenkins was around 700,- euros.

New poles were also needed to attach insulators for the electric fences around the enclosures.

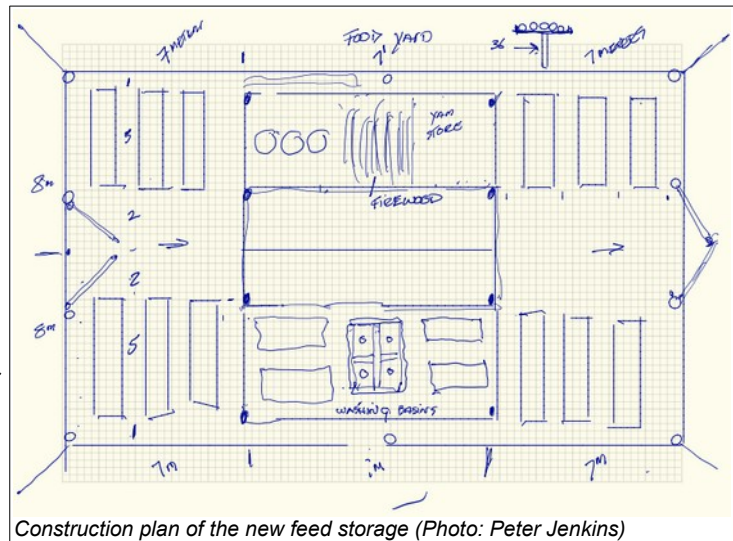
For all this work, the wood of the Achi tree, which had been the landmark of the ranch and fell in a storm in 2018, could be used. The tree had been lying across the Drill Ranch entrance area since it fell, but sagged this June, missing the garage by just a few inches and blocked the entire access

road to the camp. As upsetting as the fall of the ranch's landmark was - there is now enough very good wood for all the work that needs to be done and is still to come.

Part of it will also be transported to Calabar, where the veterinary clinic urgently needs to be renovated. Especially the roof has to be renewed there. Here, costs in the amount of 382,- euros will be incurred once again. In addition, the enclosure for the drills that live in Calabar must also be renovated. Stable wood that will last for many years is very important here.

To cut the old giant tree in the Afis, Peter Otu, from the neighboring village of Buanchor, was hired. He received his salary for the number of usable pieces of sawn wood. Together with some parts for the chain saw (new chain, fuel, chain saw bar..)

as well as the wages of an employee of the ranch, who helped him with the work, costs of about 180,- Euro resulted. The money Peter Otu earned from the sawing enabled him to finally finish the roof for his new house, that he had been working on for the last few years.



Construction plan of the new feed storage (Photo: Peter Jenkins)



The fallen Achi tree is sawn up (Photo: Zack Schwenneker)

In addition, 25 bags of cement were donated to the village of Buanchor in May to build a bridge over the Kala River. This will also make it easier for Drill Ranch employees to reach their home village.

The people who robbed the Drill Ranch in January of this year (see Drill-Info 28) came from this community. Although those who

were responsible were never held accountable, the overall situation on site has greatly calmed down. This renewed involvement of the population through job creation as well as participation in the construction of the necessary bridge will certainly contribute to a positive relationship in the future.

We were able to cover a large part of the total costs described above from Save the Drill. And this year we will again succeed in covering on average almost one third of all staff and feed costs.

To all our donors and members once again: A big thank you!!!

The work on the defective vehicles could be resumed in September. The country borders that were closed due to the pandemic had trapped the mechanics in the capital Abuja for the past few months. But now they were finally able to enter Calabar with the spare parts they needed. In the next few weeks, the engine overhaul will be completed and the Range Rover can be driven to Afi. These repairs could be financed with donations from the Hannover Adventure Zoo as well as the Zoofreunde Hannover.

Also at this point once again: Thank you very much!

In Nigeria, two new employees were hired for the Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains: Iwara Otu first spent a month in Calabar to be trained by senior drill caretaker Asuquo Ani. He now supports Emmanuel Okon in the care of the largest drill group in the Afis, group 1 with over 170 animals.



Also - and this is truly very good news! - Isaac Oyegbami, a Nigerian, was recruited to the management team in July. The 29-year-old already has a remarkable resume: he completed his training as a master in environmental management at various universities (including the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Osun State University, Osogbo). He has a certificate in database management and participated in many trainings, e.g. in Ghana and Uganda. He not only has knowledge in animal husbandry in zoological gardens (Abeokuta, Zoo Park), but also has experience in the field, and published various papers.



Zack Schwenneker, left, and Isaac Oyegbami (Photo: Pieter van Heeren)

Isaak has been working with Zack Schwenneker at the Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains since July and is a very big help and support to him.

So now there is a Nigerian working in the management of the Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains!

## Cameroon News

At the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC), the sanctuary for drills in southern Cameroon, the rainy season has hit hard, slowing or postponing many activities. A collapsed wall that was supposed to protect the center from the Limbe River, which flows into the Gulf of Guinea a few hundred meters away, is currently demanding the full attention of the staff.

On November 5, this protective wall collapsed over a distance of 10 meters. Since 2018, the center's management has been pointing out the increasingly visible damage to the wall to the government, but there has always been no response from those responsible. Now, repair costs in a very large amount (a total of about 20 000,- euros) must be expected. Because a "domino effect" is to be feared: Further parts of the bridge will be torn down with each passing day by the river, which is also rising steadily in the current rainy season. The Limbe municipality must actually pay for these costs, but there is a fear that the enclosures will be flooded. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to at least provide temporary waterproofing as soon as possible, so that the enclosures remain protected.



Photo: Peggy Motsch

More donations are urgently needed for this!

But also other, regular expenses are also incurred: In recent months, necessary maintenance and repair work has been made on the drill enclosure. Thick, stable ropes were installed in the enclosure to encourage the animals to strengthen their sense of balance, as they would in the wild. Some sliders of the separation enclosures and a roof also had to be renewed.

These costs in the amount of 4200,- euro could be taken over completely by Save the Drill.

Over 200 primates in 13 species live in the LWC. Direct "neighbors" of the Drills are currently 10 Mandrills (*Mandrillus sphinx*) and, a little further away, 8 Anubis Baboons (*Papio anubis*). An urgently needed visual cover of bamboo to the neighboring enclosures is planned to reduce stress situations. Because it happens again and again that the adult males of the different species "goad each other". This then spreads to the



The defective roof was replaced (Photo: Peggy Motsch)

entire group. An already finished visual cover between other enclosures has shown how positively an investment of this kind affects the entire group dynamics.



Renovation work on the drill enclosure (Photo: Peggy Motsch)

Fortunately, we can also cover the expected costs of 2200,- euro.

This year, thanks to the Munich Zoo Hellabrunn, we were also able to take over the entire annual salary for the keeper Muma Alvin Ndiangang who has been responsible for the 75 drills (37 males and 38 females) for several years.

For this here once again: Many thanks to Munich!



Soy for the drills (Photo: Peggy Motsch)

As in Nigeria, animals in Cameroon have been fed much more substantial diets since the outbreak of the pandemic. There is more frequent use of animal protein, for example in the form of chicken eggs. But soy is also used in the monkeys' diet. Vitamins are regularly added to the feed to strengthen the immune system. This is because the virus could also be transmitted to monkeys and great apes. A possible infection of the drills with the Corona virus would have unpredictable consequences for the population of all animals in the LWC.

But as before, fodder plants harvested by the "Green Project" (former Aframomum Project) and self-organized by the Center are also purchased.

15 men and up to 50 women work in this project. They harvest about 1500 kg of plants per month from the forests and up to 8000 kg from the leaves planted by the women in their fields (cassava, papaya, manioc...).

On average, the community members receive a total salary of about 1400,- euros per month. Many jobs have been created. Most of the men involved in this project are former hunters. In the past, they hunted the drills and often sold this meat on the worldwide illegal market. Injured young animals were offered as pets. This is also illegal, like hunting, in Cameroon and Nigeria, so arrest or sensitive fines are to be feared constantly.

The men have now been given a job in species conservation and they are no longer going hunting.

According to our motto "Save the Drill - more than species conservation" we take over the costs proportionally for the drills since 2011!

Even if today it is not at all foreseeable how the corona situation in Cameroon will develop, the management of the LWC now uses the time to prepare the team for a reopening.

On site, eight employees (3 women and 5 men) have been trained as "Eco-Guides" in recent months. In several workshops as well as trainings they have gained theoretical knowledge about the animals, their environment as well as nature and species conservation. But also the history of the LWC as well as professional and respectful interaction with the visitors has not been missed out.



Photo: Peggy Motsch





The LWC's "Eco-Guide Team" (Photo: Peggy Motsch)

Guillaume Le Flohic, manager of LWC:

*"We are confident that all eight of them will guide tourists with enthusiasm, professionalism and respectfully and explain to them the history, missions and objectives of the Limbe Wildlife Centre".*

The mouth-nose protection masks collected by Save the Drill are a help. After a call to our members and friends to sew masks for the staff (and their families), we received over 640 masks at the end of May: colorful, plain, flowered, some

purchased, striped, dotted... After a 7-week journey, these arrived at the LWC along with 2 donated thermometers. Once again to all hardworking sewers: Thank you very much!

But also a big thank you to the monetary donations that reached us in this context. This made it possible to cover the entire postage costs.

Peggy Motsch, managerin of LWC:

*"This generous gift from Save the Drill has brought great joy and safety to our staff from COVID 19. I thank them all!♥"*

*This year was a great success for the Drills at the LWC, Complete renovation of all Satellites cages and the Drill Tree, improvement of all the Keepers door for Safety and new overhang to avoid escape. We want to thank Save the Drill and all their generous donors for their support without them nothing will be possible. You are not just donors to the Limbe Wildlife Centre: by donating, you become a guardian of the entire project, and are even more pivotal in this time of extreme difficulties because of the pandemic crisis. A thousand times: Thank you all!"*



Morning temperature measurement (Photo: Peggy Motsch)

## A scientist's "brown gold" - high genetic variability in the drill EEP

Marco Dinter

Last year, on our assembly in Nordhorn, I presented the outline of my master thesis (Genetic basis for captive breeding management of drills (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) in Europe). Using modern methods of genetics, I planned to examine the European Endangered Species Program (EEP) of the drill. The EEP is coordinated by Carsten Zehrer, board member of Save the Drill and deputy head of the zoology department of Munich zoo. Carsten's work consists of forming breeding groups of drills, based on pedigree data and the demography of the population. The aim is to maintain the genetic variability of the European drills as high as possible. This is no easy task, especially as pedigree data about the animals are sometimes incomplete. In the wild, the drill is divided into two subspecies. The mainland drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus leucophaeus*) and the island subspecies on Bioko (*Mandrillus*

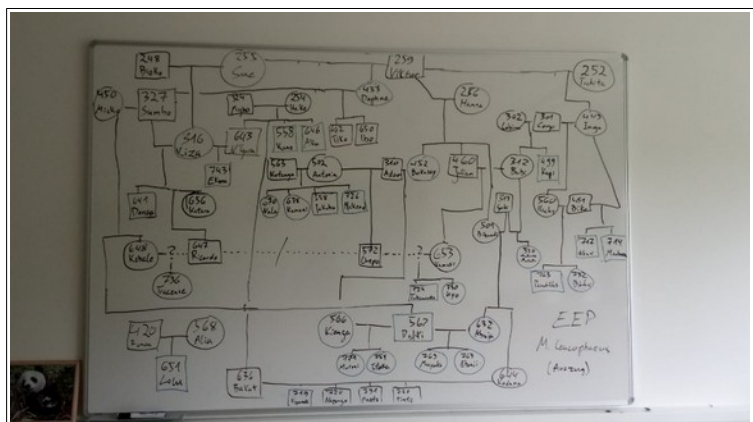


Diagram of the drill population in the EEP (Photo: Marco Dinter)

leucophaeus poensis). Only two out of the nine founder animals, of which all drills in Europe descent from, have a documented country of origin. For the rest, usually “Western Africa” or even “Africa” is only noted.

Having uncertain data about the animal’s origin, it is not fully excluded that the subspecies have mixed in zoos. This is something the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) strives to avoid. Hence, it is of high interest, where the founder animals originate. To resolve this was one of the goals of my master thesis.

Besides, I aimed to examine the genealogical relationships within the drill EEP a bit more. All drills born in Europe descent from only nine founder animals – which is not a lot. It is important to have a keen eye on which animal is allowed to breed with each other, to avoid inbreeding issues. Inbreeding is the reproduction of closely related individuals and can lead to numerous problems in the offspring: high preweaning mortality, predisposition for diseases, physical deformation, ... If the inbreeding values in a population grow too strong, the whole population can collapse. Besides, the genetic variability gets lost if inbreeding rates become too high. Certain variants of genes will no longer exist within the EEP population. The animals would converge more and more genetically, with each generation. This leads to a lower adaptability. Besides, we try to “depict” the variability of the wild population of drills in zoos as well.

To avoid inbreeding, the EEP coordinator calculates the so called “inbreeding coefficient” using specific computer programs. This index lays between 0 (no inbreeding) and 1 (“Houston, we have a problem.”) and is calculated per individuum. It is based on the pedigree. Here, inaccuracies can occur, with uncertain paternities, gaps in the pedigree, mistakes on data entry or founder animals, which were closer related than we think. Hence, I aimed to determine the inbreeding coefficient on a genetic basis, to see how variable European drills still are genetically.

The first thing I needed was DNA samples of the animals. The DNA contains all the genetic information of an individual and can tell us a lot about it. It consists of four different molecules usually abbreviated to A, T, C and G. These “letters” are combined in different ways to form a certain code. Small changes within it are the reason for one person having a longer nose, the second ginger hair and the third knobbly knees. All information about the processes within the body is saved here. For many parts of the DNA, we don’t even know the purpose for, yet. As it is so important, every cell within the body contains DNA, as a manual for the cell’s tasks, basically. The problem: It is not that easy to get a handful of cells from a drill. The easiest way to isolate DNA is



Waiting for poo (Photo: Jasmin Gietz)

from blood or tissue. As this would demand for painful and dangerous procedure, it is legally and morally impossible. Hence, primatologists often use a body substance which is way easier to acquire: poop!



“brown gold” (Photo: Kathrin Paulsen)

Each drill dropping contain a few body cells of the producing individual. Hence, you “only” need to observe who pooped where, collect the feces and isolate the DNA out of it. With Carstens help, I contacted all drill-keeping zoos in Europe and asked them to send me this “brown gold” of primatologists. Not long, and one package of monkey feces after the other arrived at the German Primate Center, where I wrote my thesis. Luckily, they are used to that... Ten zoos in total collected samples for me. Among those were all drill-keeping members of Save the Drill. On this occasion I want to thank you again for this –

especially the keepers who took the time to wait for each animal do their business and collect the results!

I managed to isolate DNA of 33 animals, which is about one third of the EEP population. To

examine where the founder animals originated from, mitochondria are of great importance. One or the other might remember it from biology classes in school: the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell, where sugar is converted into energy. And they have a peculiarity: While most of our DNA descends from both parents and is located in the nucleus of the cell, mitochondria have their own DNA. And it is only inherited from the mother's side! An animal which lives in a European zoo today hence has the same mitochondrial DNA as its mother, its grandmother, its great-grandmother, and so on. Based on pedigrees, one can trace back who descends in a direct line from the female founders. „Kano“, for example, the dominant male in Wuppertal zoo, carries the same mitochondrial as the female „Katharina“, his grandmother. She most likely was born in the wild. In this manner, I can compare Katharina's DNA with the DNA of wild-born drills, without having samples of her. For my reference samples of wild-born drills, the exact place of origin is noted. If the sequence of the mitochondrial DNA is the same or very similar, the tested founder animal and the wild-born animal usually were born in the same region. Katharina's birth region seems to have been the southern border area of Nigeria and Cameroon, where the Korup National Park is located. Unfortunately, the corresponding DNA sequences of the other founders were not as distinct. Of some founders, there is no female lineage existing anymore. Hence, it is impossible to do more research in their cases. Katharina's origin is the only one I could determine precisely.

Afterwards, I examined another part of the drills' DNA, as well. The so-called microsatellites have areas within their sequence, where one combination of letters is repeated over and over again. In this example, it is the sequence "TAC":

Start of the microsatellite [...]AACTTACTACTACTACTACTACTACTATT[...] End of the microsatellite

The amount of repetitions varies due to mutation. Hence, some animals have at this certain spot of the DNA seven, others eight repetitions:

Start of the microsatellite [...]AACTTACTACTACTACTACTACTACTACTATT[...] End of the microsatellite

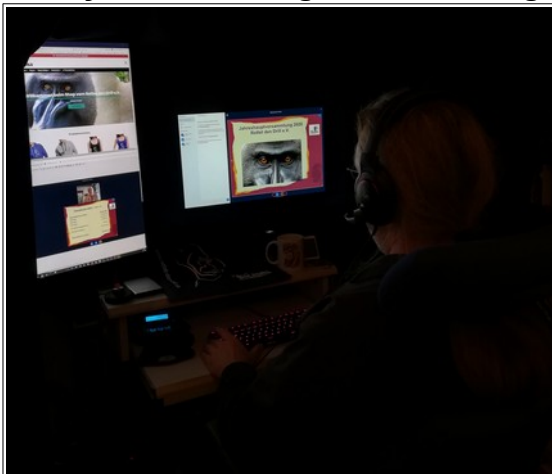
This comes in handy, as parents pass on their sequence to their children. So, a high consensus for many microsatellites (there is plenty of those areas in the DNA) indicates a close relationship. For each of the EEP drills I examined 41 of such microsatellites. With special computer programs I could calculate different key figures for the drill population. The results both surprised and delighted me: The drills of the EEP still have a high genetic variability. Since the introduction of founder animals from Africa, not many gene variants have gone missing. Which is amazing, as we try to not let zoo population and wild population drift apart. Besides, the genetic-based inbreeding values for the population are quite low. It looks like the population was well managed in the past by keeping a good eye on which animals are allowed to breed. The population is genetically healthy.

Of course, these are very pleasant results. One should not forget, though, that I only examined one third of the population. The results would be way more convincing, if I could include all animals into the study. I hope we are able to receive more samples in the future which we could include in our database. Such a database could be a valuable support for EEP management decisions.



## "Can you hear me?"

### This year's annual general meeting under Corona conditions



*Kathrin Röper*

The all-present corona virus has kept us all very busy over the past few months - and will probably continue to do so, unfortunately. Nevertheless, it is important for every association to hold its regular annual general meeting, because members want to be informed about current projects and the board needs to disclose its annual work.

Since the founding of the association in 2004 and steadily growing membership, the annual general meetings have also become more and more popular. The planning in advance went on as usual, but at some point it was foreseeable that a real meeting in Berlin 2020 would unfortunately not work out - instead it would take place online. One could notice a certain

*Hauke - Voice from the off*

nervousness of the board members in the announcing emails before this first online annual general meeting.

Absolutely understandable, since we all know the various problems and mishaps that can occur at such an online meeting with many different people. Therefore, a big thank you as well as a big praise to Hauke. As usual at the annual general meetings, he took over the technical management and - I can say that beforehand - it went perfectly.

Saturday, September 5th at 2 pm was the time. In order to get into the right mood at least a little bit in my living room at home, it was clear which T-shirt and which mug would be used. At the usual annual general meetings, one always lets one's gaze wander around the room shortly before the start. Some people you know very well, others you think you recognize their faces but you just can't remember their names, and still others are complete strangers. It was very similar for me at the online version of the annual general meeting - only this time it wasn't faces I could read, but lots of names. Thanks to the private messages, it was also possible to greet each other right away and chat a bit before things got started.

The board had structured the meeting very similarly to how it usually is. At the beginning, the dear



*Anne reports about the membership developments*

greeting from Berlin (combined with the invitation for 2021) and of course the introduction of the entire board were very nice. Andrea had unfortunately noticed microphone problems in advance, but (like a true YouTube pro) she held up labeled signs for her introduction, which worked great!

The board has once again done a lot in the last year, so there were a lot of "proof photos" of the activities of the board members and active club members, as well as reports about news on homepage, Facebook and Instagram. Legally very

important for an association is of course also the discharge of the board and the treasurer, this could also be done online without any problems, so all formalities were met.

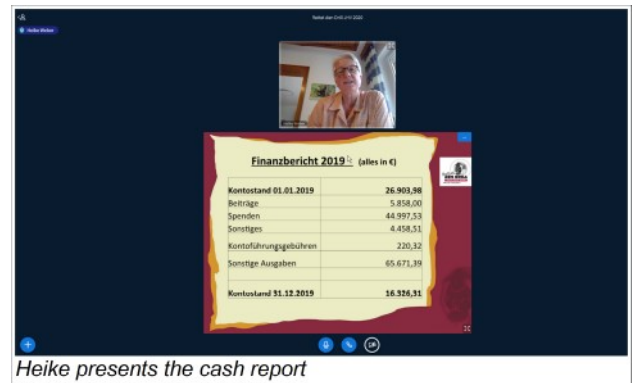
Here are some important statistics that reflect the impressive work of the association, which was again very active in 2019: Last year, nearly 45,000,- euros in donations were collected! Membership fees accounted for 11% of the income, merchandising products generated 8%, and the large remainder came from donations, either from zoos, generous individuals, or from donations at various info days.

Every donation, no matter how small, helps!!!

Anne reported on membership growth: we are now 190 „drill rescuers“. Especially pleasing was the news that the number of members has more than doubled in the last 5 years - thus showing how much all the work pays off! This is mainly due to the many action days and the active recruitment of members.

Heike took over the cash report as every year: Only 6% was needed for printing new flyers, postage costs and alike. 24% of the mentioned donations went to the projects in Cameroon.

From this, the sign project (Protect Wildlife signs on roads to make people aware of endangered species), the Drill Monitoring Program (drill group analysis), the Green Project (cultivation of food crops), and the Mount Cameroon Habitat Project (explore reintroduction area) were partially funded, and remodeling work in the drill enclosure was paid for.



Finanzbericht 2019 (alles in €)

Kontostand 01.01.2019	26.903,98
Beiträge	5.858,00
Spenden	44.997,53
Sonstiges	4.458,51
Kontoführungsgelühren	220,32
Sonstige Ausgaben	65.671,39
Kontostand 31.12.2019	16.356,91

Heike presents the cash report

70% of the donations went to the projects in Nigeria. As always, mainly salaries and feed costs were covered by this money. The association tries to raise 3,000 euros per month for Nigeria, which was achieved again in 2019 despite lower donations. Furthermore, two cars worth 5,000 euros each could be financed. Whereby the purchase of the cars has caused great problems.

Since the association was founded 16 years ago, it has already been possible to support the work in Africa with almost 335,000 euros. An important and above all reliable part of the donations are the membership fees. There were small changes here last year: Trainees/pupils/students pay 18 euros annually, full members 40 euros and zoos or other institutions 150 euros.

Thank you for everyone's support!

Afterwards our chairwoman Kathrin reported among other things about the charity calendar in favor of Save the Drill and the many other possibilities to support the work. Hauke presented the new online store, which offers a great new variety through "print on demand". The selection of T-shirts and sweaters is huge, even cooking aprons and baby clothes are included. Depending on the order value, 3-10 euros go to the association. The huge advantage of this new online shop is the large selection of colors, sizes and products. So often we had to pass at our information booths, because unfortunately we could not fulfill all wishes.



Afterwards our 2nd chairman Marco reported (representing Carsten) about the drill development in the zoos: 48 males and 55 females can currently be visited in 18 zoos in Germany, France, Spain, Czech Republic, Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. In addition, Marco reported on the first International Day of Drill, which took place for the first time in 2020 - but also differently than planned, primarily as a social media event. All drill-keeping zoos, WAZA, EAZA, PASA, the German (BDZ), but also the international association of zoo keepers (ICZ), as well as other institutions and private individuals participated. And, of course, the Drill sanctuaries in

Nigeria and Cameroon! By the way, the selected day, May 4th, is the day of the foundation of the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary - one of the most important retreats of the drills in Nigeria.

Kathrin then provided some key data on the projects supported in Cameroon. The Limbe Wildlife Center is currently home to 247 animals of 15 species - mainly primates, but also gray parrots, antelopes and reptiles - including 75 drills in one (!) large social group on an area of about 1000 m². The animals are being prepared for release into the wild at Mount Cameroon, an area which



can be seen from Limbe in good weather. Every year, about 50,000 visitors come to the sanctuary - but due to the pandemic, the area had to be closed to the public from mid-March. Then from Cameroon came the urgent request for everyday masks - after a few weeks the association was able to send more than 600 pieces as well as two fever thermometers, the postage costs could also be financed by additional donations. The management then reported great joy about the many individual masks, which were also distributed within the families. Nigeria also received additional support from the association for the purchase of masks and disinfectants on site.

Heike reported on the terrible events since the end of last year and how the situation has continued to develop. Special mention should be made of the ongoing support from many sides, including many petitions to those responsible on the ground. The association will continue to report. The so important species protection work on site will of course be further supported.

Overall, the annual general meeting was thus marked by individual fates and success stories, both animal and human. We got a very broad and deep insight into the work, according to the motto of the association "...more than species protection". After two hours, the meeting was officially closed. For this, the entire board turned on the cameras and everyone happily (and a little bit relieved) waved goodbye. This was followed by many open messages from the attendees with much praise for the board - and from Hauke the news that three orders have already been placed in the new online shop! In the end there was a drill video to watch.

So that was it, the annual general meeting of Save the Drill 2020. Too bad, because actually now the social part would have started... A guided tour through the Berlin Zoo, a nice evening in nice company... But we are just looking forward to that for next year.

## Dates 2021

### May 4::

International Day of the Drill

### September 4:

Annual general meeting of the members at Berlin Zoo

## Christmas is just around the corner:

At our online shop you can order tshirts, sweatshirts, but also masks, aprons and many other things like bibs or rompers for the very little ones. For each sold article between 3 and 10 euros go to our association account - and thus directly to the rescue centers for drills in Cameroon and Nigeria.

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

## News around the drill in a nutshell

**Munich:** In June and in September two youngs were born.

**Bristol:** after giving away the 7-year-old "Rouke" to Barcelona, Bristol gave up the drill husbandry.

**Hannover:** On July 24th little "Badjou" was born. Mother is the 25-year-old "Daphne", father is the 14-year-old "Lolu". This makes Daphne one of the oldest known drill females to give birth to a healthy young animal.

**Pretoria:** On August 14th, 8-year-old "Ibo" passed away.

**Port Lympne:** on March 27th, a healthy male cub was born. Mother of the little "Ekori" is the 12-year-old "Khari", father the 16-year-old "Nebosja". On November 19th, another cub was born there. Mother of the still nameless male is the 13-year-old "Yola", the father also "Nebosja".

**Dvur Kralove:** Also in the zoo in the Czech Republic a healthy young was born.



Youngest offspring in Port Lympne (Photo: Jamie Robertson)

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