

DRILL INFO

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

Issue 15, January 2013

Dear Members and Friends of the Drill,

Apologies for the delay in this new issue of the Drill Info!

Events in Cameroon and Nigeria were exceptionally challenging in the last few weeks.

In Nigeria, heavy rainfall destroyed large areas of the Drill Ranch - to rebuild will take a lot of time and money.

From Cameroon Dr. Ainare Indoiaga asked us recently for urgent financial help: A new battery for the electric fence around the drill enclosure is more than necessary in Limbe Wildlife Center.

Due to your membership and donations it is possible for us to provide fast and effective help to the drills in Africa this year.

Many thanks for that!

Please read what has happened in the last six months to the drills:

Good things come to those who wait!

How the work clothes from the Erlebnis Zoo Hannover reached the Drill-Ranch in Nigeria after years.

The story started in 2007. In June 2007 Kathrin Paulsen first leader of Save the Drill and primate keeper at Hanover Zoo was asked by Dr. Heiner Engel, zoological director Hanover Zoo, if Save the Drill would be interested in the old working clothes of the zoo for the drill projects in Africa. The zoo was changing the layout and all keepers were getting new uniforms. Of course, she agreed, but at this time nobody from Save the Drill had an idea of how and when to organize a transfer to Nigeria. With short notice a storage place was needed in Germany. The animal park in Nordhorn, managed by Thomas Berling at the time, kindly offered to help.



Old layoute Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover

A transport box for horses (made for two adult individuals) was fully packed with cardboard boxes from Hannover and driven to Nordhorn. On arrival volunteers packed the boxes into the cellar where they were stored. Time went by and Save the Drill searched for options to ship the clothes to Nigeria. It became more complicated than expected. In 2012 a solution was offered. Max Pescher (Pescher GmbH & Co KG from Wuppertal) who was working in Nigeria offered to carry

the clothes for free in a container on a ship. After a lot of correspondence via email and phone, the transport routes, people involved and time tables were set and everything was ready to go. The first step was to open, sort, count the clothes and store them again in transport boxes. This work was mostly done by Tom tenTusscher and Franz Frieling from the animal park in Nordhorn. The new boxes were a donation by Timmer ETS GmbH from Nordhorn. In total, 28 cardboard boxes



Handling, cutting and stacking in animal practice in animal park Nordhorn

with a weight of 844 kg were prepared. This included 133 waistcoats, 134 cagoules, 162 fleece pullovers, 168 t-shirts, 367 pairs of trousers and 732 shirts. The next morning all the clothes were



Loading for the journey

picked up by a forwarding company and brought to the company DÜRO Hartsteinwerken GmbH & Co (Herr Weydmann) to Taben-Rodt. The trip started via containership to Africa. Everybody wondered if the boxes would arrive in Nigeria at all. Jonas Ehling (Crushed Rock Industries Nigeria Ltd.) received everything and forwarded it. After receipt of the message that all clothes arrived at the Drill-Ranch in Calabar, Nigeria everybody breathed a sigh of relief.

Alison Batty (Drill-Ranch, Pandrillus) sent photos from employees of the drill ranch who were all very happy with the new working clothes. They are so proud of and happy about the gifts from Germany. They thank all

the people involved. Save the Drill can only add a thank you in return. This project would be a mission impossible without the help, the donations, the input and the organization of many helpful people and companies. All of this was a great help to the people working with drills in Nigeria and Cameroon. Besides the enormous practical and financial support the psychological aspect should not be neglected. We are a team, working together for the protection and preservation of the drill – one of the most endangered monkey species in Africa. The members and employees as well as the committee of Save the Drill say: Thank you very much!

Dr. Heike Weber (Save the Drill & animal park Nordhorn)

Unfortunately not the best news from Nigeria:

At the end of the year 2011 it was decided to



Employees of Pandrillus

release the drills into the wild on March 30th in 2012. All arrangements were made (e.g. veterinary check of the drills) and all necessary persons were ready (field assistants, coordinator and team manager). Then the last equipment checks were run (e.g. collars). It was at this point the problems



Employees of Pandrillus working in the new clothes in the drill release enclosure in Afi Mountains, Nigeria.

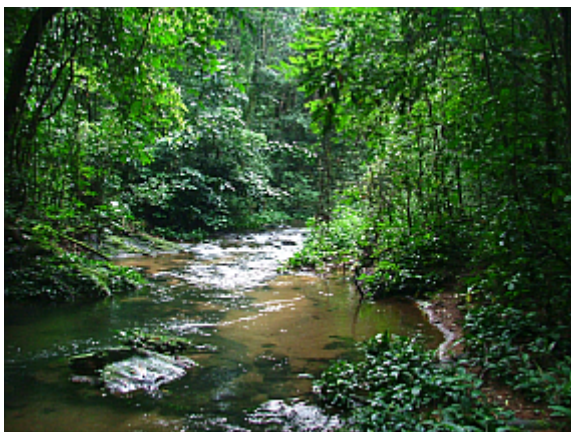
started. For the release of the drills five collars were available. One of them was financed by the animal park Hellabrunn, Munich / Save the Drill. In the beginning they all worked fine, but by the end of February one collar was no longer working and the downloader machine had also stopped functioning. Both parts were sent back to the equipment manufacturer in Sweden. At the beginning of March a second collar was not working anymore and was also sent back to the company. On the one hand side it was positive to know such problems before the drills were released but on the other hand returning them took a while and the whole project was delayed. Last but not least one machine for the collar exploded which was maybe due to the high humidity. This could also

explain why collars were not working so well anymore. The shipment back from Sweden to Nigeria was also time-consuming. A direct shipment was unthinkable; therefore collars were passed from one person to another and reached Peter Jenkins from the Drill Ranch at a conference in Kenya at the end of May. During this time unexpected things happened within the staff: The project coordinator, Amanda Rogers became pregnant and went back to the US for better medical care. In the middle of April the field team leader Dan Ryen (Seattle, USA) was seriously ill and had also to leave the team and Nigeria. Both had to be replaced. In August not all problems were solved and Liza had broken her arm and could only work restrictedly. Unfortunately, this was not the worst: Poaching increased in the region of the drill release area and there was record-breaking rainfall in February and June. Thus some streets were impassable, bridges broken away and surrounding ranches were destroyed.

All these disasters are the reasons why the drills are not yet released into the Afi Mountains. Of course Save the Drill will still support PANDRILLUS and we hope that the next year will be much easier and the drills will find their way into the wild.

Recently we got a distress call from the Drill-Ranch in Nigeria. They described the disastrous situation, a consequence of the massive rainfalls, over floating large areas and rationale for the delay of the drill release.

The same environment before ...



... and after December 2012.



Liza Gadsby and her team in the AFI Mountains are asking for financial help to rebuilt streets and

bridges and the infrastructure (all food for the animals is brought by the locals to the Drill Ranch). Furthermore, the drill enclosure was destroyed and has to be repaired. The call for help you can read on our homepage:

www.save-the-drill.org

Save the Drill spontaneously sent €3.000 to the Drill-Ranch – thanks for your support.

In the next info edition we will continue to inform you of the situation.

Save the drill - more than conservation of a species:

In our last drill info bulletin (No 14 of July 2012)

I reported on my second visit to Cameroon.

Today I want to introduce another project of the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon co-funded by Save the Drill:

The Aframomun project

Aframomun is an herbaceous plant which is native to West Africa.

It can grow to 1.5 meters high and has year-round seed capsules. The seeds are zesty-tasting and are often used to flavor food. This plant is cultivated in many areas.

Aframomun grows in the secondary rainforest and for many species it's a valuable forage crop. For the remaining drills in this region it is actually the preferred staple food plant.

Drills are specialized forest floor residents who mainly eat fruits, seeds and plants, especially the ginger and arrowroot plants. These include inter alia valuable vegetable protein, which is important for the daily nutritional needs. These plants also contain substances which prevent the multiplication of viruses, fungi and bacteria in the intestinal flora.

Also contains these plant substances that prevent the multiplication of viruses, fungi and bacteria in the intestinal flora.



Aframomun melegueta

In Cameroon in the Limbe Wildlife Center this valuable plant is fed every day to the drills.



Wealthy food

It grows everywhere in the region, therefore it is not necessary to destroy a forest for its cultivation. Furthermore, this plant has a rhizome (like asparagus). It re-grows quite fast when it is capped at a certain point on the stem with a sharp knife.

But, who best knows the region where this wild plant can be found and harvested?

For years there were hunters who roamed the forest in search of monkey meat or young animals, which they sold at markets or to private citizens. So, these former hunters were hired for conservation!

Now that they receive regular and

adequate income for their families it is no longer necessary for them to hunt - hunting is often a dangerous and unprofitable pursuit due to the decline of species of monkey.

Currently the plant is harvested three times a week in the area around Batoke, about 30 km from Limbe, at the foot of Mount Cameroon.

Since the government in February 2010 - with the consent of the traditional chiefs of the surrounding towns - founded the Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP) there is great hope for the drills in the southwest of Cameroon! This now protected, original habitat of the drills in Cameroon covers an area of over 58 000 hectares and is one of the few possible areas where one day the drills of the Limbe Wildlife Center could again live in freedom.

By significantly reducing hunting pressure on the animals with the introduction of alternative sources of income, a very important step has been taken to maintain and to protect the habitat of the drills in Cameroon.

Save the Drill can finance the entire share of the Aframomun project for one year!

So not only have the drills of the LWC been provided with a high-quality food source but their future habitat is also being protected.

Thanks for that!

Kathrin Paulsen



Daniel at work

Save the Drill at the „Affenpflegertreffen“

Traditionally Save the Drill was again present at the biannual meeting of the association for monkey and ape keepers. The meeting took place from October 5th to 7th at the Dresden zoo.

It was planned that the chairperson of the board, Kathrin Paulsen, would talk about her experiences at the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon. Unfortunately she couldn't join us so she was represented by Tanja Wolf. With the money from the association and the personal commitment of Kathrin, the drill enclosure, the drill tower and the separation cages were rebuilt. We've already reported about it in the last edition.

The meeting was also used to promote Save the Drill. With the sale of t-shirts, mugs, stickers and several donations, €254 was raised.

We also hope that we obtained many new members. On the evening of the 6th an auction took place. Many keepers brought souvenirs from their home zoos, but there was also an assortment of books, paintings and so on. The auction proceeds were divided in equal parts and given to the Gashaka Primate Project, the Tangkoko Education Programme and Save the Drill. Through this event an additional €400 was collected for the drill. We would like to thank the organiser of the auction Carsten Knott, who might be familiar to many of you as a long lasting member of the association. We are happy about the strong interest from the keepers, who were very enthusiastic for the drills. With their help a lot of money was collected which is really needed to help the drills in Cameroon and Nigeria.

Tanja Wolf

8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Hellabrunn, Munich

On 25th of August 2012 the 8th AGM was held in the conservation center of the Hellabrunn Zoo in Munich.

In beautiful sunny weather that Saturday morning a lot of people had already walked through the zoo. The spacious enclosures of the primates are an especially popular destination for families.

The newly arrived Drills (1, 2) were fairly calm in their new home, the Orangutan House, even though it was crowded with people.

Right on time at 1pm the AGM was opened by Kathrin Paulsen in the conservation center right next to the drill and orangutan enclosures. The members of the board introduced themselves to the other members, some of whom had traveled a long way, and then read their activity profiles. Thereafter, the treasurer's report, which had been approved in advance by Carlo Rinke and Dr. Antje Hermann, was read. Total new revenue of over € 5,000 and expenditures of about € 3000 were recorded. Save the Drill will continue to take over the running costs for the data transmission of the telemetry collars which are used in the reintroduction of the drills in the Afi Mountains. In this context, it should be mentioned that the Hellabrunn Zoo has sponsored the cost of a telemetry collar worth € 2300.

Following the unanimous approval of the board members a report on developments in 2011/2012 was given. Currently Save the drill has 83 members.

After the formal points we took a break and were treated with delicious food and beverages. Then there followed a series of very interesting talks, which were held open for all visitors to the zoo. Some visitors crept quietly into the rear rows of seats and listened spellbound to the speakers. Carsten Zehrer was the first to report about the EEP for the drill, the drill global inventory and then specifically on the drills in the Munich Zoo.

Kathrin Paulsen told us about her exciting and interesting trip to Cameroon. She attended the Limbe Wildlife Center in March 2012, and helped with the restoration of the drill enclosure and the look-out tower. She also illustrated the everyday life in Limbe with many pictures.

Afterwards, Dr. Heike Weber reported about the current situation of the drills in Nigeria and about the problems with which Pandrillus is struggling. This is concerning the illegal logging in the protected areas of the Afi Mountains.

But then we got to tell some good news: the work clothes donated in 2007 by the Hanover Zoo were finally sent to Nigeria in multiple packages. This was made possible from intensive work from Dr. Heike Weber, her father and her colleagues.

Dr. Verena Behringer then introduced the audience into the realm of the Internet. She searched for drills in scientific publications with the conclusion that there are far too few scientific reports on the drill (with the exception of its more famous cousin, the mandrill). The latest report is by Ting et al, 2012.

The final lecture was held again by Kathrin Paulsen. She showed insight into projects in Cameroon, such as the Aframomun project, where former hunters were successfully retrained to become farmers and harvesters. Also in this context, a small future outlook for the drills in Cameroon was made: Reintroduction of the drills to Mount Cameroon. The future looks bright!

After this successful AGM we stretched our legs we visited the drills in their new home in the Orangutan House, including a look behind the scenes.

The day was rounded up by a dinner we had together at a restaurant in Thalkirchen and we were all accompanied by a strong summer rain into the night.

On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock Carsten Zehrer took all interested members on a guided tour through the Hellabrunn Zoo. We discovered that there is more to see in this beautiful zoo than we could cope with in one day, even under the accompaniment of such a competent guide.

Finally, we have to thank the Hellabrunn Zoo, especially Carsten Zehrer, for the warm service, great entertainment and free admission.

The Hellabrunn Zoo is definitely worth a (long) trip!

On a personal note, I hope that a few more members will find their way to the next AGM, because besides the formal part of the AGM there is so much news and interesting things to see and hear about. On this occasion we had the opportunity to meet and talk to some really nice people and to share new ideas with them. This is essential especially on such an important issue like conservation.

So on to Hanover on 7th September 2013!

Dr. Andrea Wagner

Support for Drills In Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon

The drills in Cameroon also currently need our financial help:

Just before Christmas we received an urgent request from Dr. Ainare Indoiaga, the head of the rescue center in southwest Cameroon.

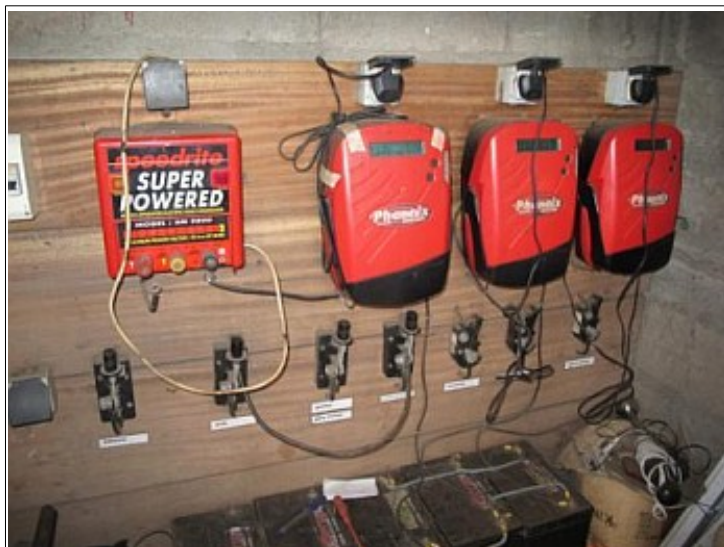
The drill enclosure, where there are currently more than 80 drills, is secured with an electric fence.

During the last rainy season, several lightning strikes on the ground and in the public power grid destroyed the now rather dated controls of the electric fence. The temporary solution is currently installed as a safety precaution and must be replaced urgently. The increasing number of power outages in Cameroon is otherwise not manageable.

Also the wood piles and their concrete borders are badly damaged from the passage of time and weather.

Save the Drill transferred € 3000 in the beginning of 2013 to the Limbe Wildlife Center.

This helps to continue to give the drills in Cameroon a future!



Electric fence controller

News in brief about the drills:

Hanover: on October 12, 4 young drill males left Hannover Zoo to go to Pretoria Zoo, South Africa

Barcelona: on November 3, the 17 year old „Inga“ gave birth to a male offspring. The group now consists of 8 animals.

Hanover: on October 31, the 8 year old male „N'Guru“ was transferred from Wuppertal to Hannover

Saarbrücken: in September the 14 year old „Antonia“ gave birth to a female offspring. The group now consists of 7 animals.

We thank the following donators:

Mr. Walter Riedel, Mr. Dr. Veh, Mrs. Andrea Müller, Mrs. Angela Krüger, the visitors of the Affenpflegertreffen in Dresden“, the visitors of the Zootage in Nordhorn, the visitors of the Zoo Hellabrunn München at the Zootag, Mr. Roland Wolf, Mr. Thomas Klingemann, Mr. Frank Dieter Busch as well as the Friends of the Zoo Hanover

We are happy to welcome our new members:

Mr. Roul Cabrera Porcel, Barcelona; Mr. Lukas Dammroff, München; Mrs. Gerdi Engelhardt, München; Mr. Holger Wientjes, Hamm; Mrs. Uschi Otto, Hannover

We say farewell to following long term Members Mrs. Renate Rieger and Mrs. Helga Weißenfels who, sadly, both died recently. We will remember them in thankful memory.

We want to thank TIERPARK NORDHORN for the support of their association through transfer- and mail costs. We also want to thank VisionConnect GmbH for their regular support of our homepage and for their provision of the transfer volume.

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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

Last but not least we want to thank Róisín Murtagh for correcting the translation!