

DRILL INFO

Issue 16, August 2013

Dear members and friends of the drill,

Carsten Schulz (BdZ), Kathrin Paulsen (RdD)



this year the Professional Association of zookeeper (BdZ) could proudly celebrate the anniversary of 20 years! This took the opportunity for a big celebration party in the evening at the Frankfurt Zoo. We had a lot of fun, good food and cold drinks and very good discussions with colleagues from other zoos. As "income" of an entertaining game rate around the zoo world the association "Save the Drill" eV get a donation of 250, - EUR handed!

As a long-term member of the BdZ I was able to take this check and thank the Board of Directors hereby not only for this generous donation, but also for the many years of support (morally and financially) of our association!

Kathrin Paulsen

News from Nigeria

Unfortunately the situation still has not improved and the people, who support the drills with great effort since years, still face difficulties.

On the 11th of May this year we received a letter from Liza Gadsby, the leader of the project in Nigeria, in which she described the dramatic situation on-site. As we already mentioned in the last Drill-Info, heavy rainfalls in July 2012 caused a disaster in the Afi Mountains: the mountain face collapsed and vast amounts of mud and rocks was washed into the valleys. Thereby many trees were dragged along. One of the most affected villages is Buanchor, which is laying nearby the Drill Ranch and from which most of the animal food is coming. The village lost its secondary school, some houses, many farms and its primary source of clean water. Also the street which connects the Drill Ranch with the village is heavily damaged. The Drill Ranch fared reasonably well because it is situated on high ground. However, the eldest male drill, Ekki Ikang, drowned in the flood.

"A great deal of our human, financial and material resources were used to restore access to the project and the community", Liza reports. Already in December "Save the Drill" could react to the cry for help and with your support we could provide 3,000€ for restoration. "That was fantastic", said Liza, "but there is still a lot to do".

Not only the geographic landscape of Afi Mountain was changed by the landslides, "the

whole ecology of the area – for both humans and animals - has changed” describes Liza the situation on-site. Normally during the rainy season it would take up to 6 weeks of solid rain before the streams coming off the mountain begin to flow. But this year, every time it rains, the water immediately rushes down the mountain. It seems that the mountain is no longer able to hold water as it once did. This causes concern and not only Liza is asking the questions: “What are the long term effects on the vegetation going to be? What about the persistence of water in the dry season? Will the animals have enough to drink?” Due to these reasons it will be necessary to survey this area again to assess how these transformations in the environment will impact the drills’ access to water and food sources, since many fruiting trees were lost. Therefore the release of the drills will be delayed.

Such a natural disaster is always a great burden for the affected communities. Liza described their effort there: “We helped as much as we could, especially by restoring the road access – the village had been completely cut off. We were also willing to pay a higher price for animal food, knowing that money was needed and food was in short supply.” It is still difficult to get enough food for all the animals at the Drill Ranch and “all these issues have required time to address, to find solutions to, and inevitably they have set back our timetable” Liza reports. It is also a logistical challenge, as now at least two times a week the management at Afi has to drive to two other villages further away to buy animal food. This leads to more fuel and spare parts which are needed for the cars due to the bad condition of the roads.

Another problem for the planned release is the increased hunting pressure in the Afi Mountains, the release site. In 2012 2 wild drills and 1 Cross River gorilla were killed amongst others. “This is very discouraging”, Liza is mourning. Pandrillus is trying to boost the direct protection of the mountain, which is the purview of the state forestry commission. “It is unclear whether the natural disaster, that negatively impacted people’s livelihoods, directly caused hunting to increase, as a source of income for desperate villagers”, says Liza.

The next time will not be easy for Pandrillus and “Save the Drill” will support the reconstructions and the continuation of the project financially in the future!

However, such messages should motivate us furthermore and support our effort for the last drills in Nigeria, which wouldn’t be easy as we always knew.

We decided to transfer another 3,000€ for the Drill Ranch to assure the food for the animals for the next months.

Enclosed you see the picture of some animals from group 3 from Calabar, where twins were born on the 9th of July. This is a very rare event in drills, only 2 other births of twins are documented. One took also place in Calabar, the other one at Hannover Zoo in 2009. Unfortunately only one offspring survived. Group 3 is the so called “education group”, which can be visited for free from the inhabitants of Calabar and is so helping to bring these animals closer to the public. It is well visited, mainly by groups, from nursery school to university, because most visitors avoid the long travel to the Afi Mountains.

Thus, the animals contribute to the education on-site and Liza Gadsby is hoping that also more European zoos will get inspired and get involved in the conservation of this rare and valuable specie.

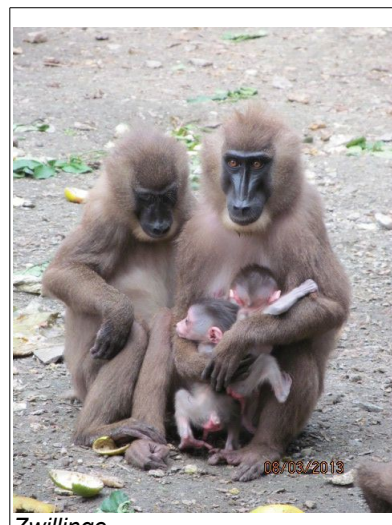
Tanja Wolf

„Attached a photo of the drill Group 3 in Calabar, where the twins are. This is our

'education' group which we keep in town so as give the general public to drills. The site is open every day from 09:00 to 16:30, free of charge. It is a popular spot for all visitors to Calabar and gives us a chance to let people come to appreciate drills and see them up close. Many school groups visit - from nursery schools to university groups. Most visitors do not want to undertake the trip to Afi Mountain so if we did not keep this group in town we would miss an important conservation education opportunity.

Of course, life is not as nice for the drills in Group 3 as it is for all the other groups in the forest! But they are doing an important service for the species. Group 3 is interesting because it proves that a large group of drills (22.26) can be kept in a relatively small enclosure that could be built in a European zoo. We are hoping some zoo will be inspired to make this commitment to drills and we will help!"

Liza Gadsby



News from Cameroon

With your help, save the drill was able to entire the cost of the fresh forage for the drills in the Limbe Wildlife Center for this whole year.

News in brief about the drills:

Munich: in January and May both femalesd, Afi and Kaduna give birthn to a male infant. two male infants
Edinburgh: also the 16 years old Nora give birth to son too in the end of June

We thank the following people for their donation:

Mr. Walter Riedel, Mr. And Mrs. Glashoff, the accociation of zookeepers (BdZ), Mrs. Beate and Mr. Andreas Klauß-Perschke, Mrs. Helga Rieger

We are happy to welcome our new members:

Mrs. Nicole Böwer, Mr. Oliver Langner

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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