

DRILL INFO

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

Issue 20, December 2015

Dear Members and Drill Friends,

In our second Drill-Info issue for 2015 you can read about the long-planned release of drills in the Afi Mountains in Nigeria. Also included is a report about the annual general meeting held in September in the Osnabrueck Zoo with information from the treasurer and about reorganisation within the association.

We hope you enjoy reading the new Info and wish you a very and healthy start to the new year.

Your

Editorial Team.

News from Nigeria – Drill Release – an “Experiment”

In south-western Nigeria, the drills’ natural habitat on the outskirts of the Afi Mountains, 420 drills live in 7 large natural enclosures with a total of 18 hectares. The largest group, “Group One”, is made up of 176 animals with a natural group structure i.e. several adult males, many females and their offspring. Many of these animals were confiscated from illegally held private households.



Image: Marc Heinzelmann

Others are so-called “bushmeat orphans” – often tiny babies given to Pandrillus after their families were shot for their meat. After being medically checked, they were introduced into social breeding groups.

The drills from Pandrillus make up about 20% of the world's drill population and are therefore a very important population. Preparations to release some of these animals into the adjacent nature reserve have been going on for many years. (See Drill Info Nr. 19) Finally the time has arrived for release. Following is a report from Liza Gadsby received in an email to "Save the Drill":

"On the day we planned to release the group (02 May 15), we had made a plan to open the side of the fence closest to the Afi Mountain. A wide trail had been lightly cleared to the boundary of the sanctuary (only 500 m distance) and beyond. This was so the group could move easily behind the keepers, who would be leading them with the normal wheelbarrow of their food. We had people out of sight on either side of the trail so that they could encourage any drills who left the trail to go back to the right direction. Inside the enclosure were a few people to move the drills toward the fence opening. There was the major film crew and also a small student film crew - a lot of people all together!

Like the famous quotation from Field Marshall von Moltke, "no plan survives contact with the enemy"! We had plans but of course, we cannot read the drills' minds! They did follow their keepers for some distance but then 2 things happened: first, some of the drills began to wander off the trail because they were more interested in the insects, etc., in the leaf litter of the forest, untouched by drills - unlike their enclosure!

Second, of the 5 collared males, the 2 lesser ranking ones went out first and their support base followed them - about 35-40 drills altogether. The remaining males were behind with the main group moving to the fence opening, then they saw that the other 2 males were gone and, it



Image: Marc Heinzelmann

seemed like they decided, "let them go!", now we have less competition and so let's stay here and keep the rest of the females to ourselves! I cannot read their minds, but to me, this made sense of what was happening. So the main males stayed at the fence opening and decided not to pass. When we saw that the drills already out were beginning to drift off the trail, we decided to close the fence and keep the rest inside. This was a good decision and, fortunately, the way we opened the fence made it easy for the 'fence crew' to close it again in

a few minutes. Now, we just had to try and track the drills who had gone out - and that proved difficult!

Maybe because they were not being led by the top males, they split up, and our cordon of people watching along the release trail did not work, the drills slipped thru them. About half of the drills that were out decided they wanted to stay with the main group and leaped over the fence from trees outside, or ran back in before we closed the fence. Over the next few days, the <20 drills that were still out, came back in small groups or alone and jumped thru the fence. One male with a collar, Akpama, ventured north, out of the sanctuary, and into people's farms.

We all spent a lot of time tracking him, and the few who had been with him at the beginning! This was a good exercise in that we got to really use the VHF and UHF functions of the collars, and it also made us realize that the GPS-GSM functions will really be needed when we do the full release.

The villagers were cooperative, and we had some long meetings with them and hired some of the young men to help us. It worried me a lot that this would become a big problem but it did not. In the

end, after one week, all the drills were back in, no damage was done, and we learned a lot for the next time. At the same time, my good "friend" and colleague, the country director for WCS, Andrew Dunn, had launched a campaign to discredit what we were doing! This included complaining to our government collaborator, Forestry Commission, who then said, suddenly, we should not do a release!

I was furious because the government people were not aware that the permissions had been given almost 8 years ago, because they were not in those positions then and they do not read the old files. I have since that time, written to them in detail, explaining why the complaints from Andrew were not valid and I think this will be okay, but I have given the situation some time to cool down and then I will communicate again with the government and see if they accepted what I had given them, which included a lot of supporting documentation.

So, the 'failed' release was a disappointment to all, but perhaps it's better we wait - again! We need to send the collars back to Sweden and have the SIM card changed - at least they have agreed this is possible. What is making me mad at them is that they said we have to change the batteries and the drop-off mechanism to do this, which, as you know, we just paid to have done in March! These Swedish people are amazing. The radio transmissions from the collars did work (even if we did not have the GPS-GSM data) and that helped us locate the remaining drills. So, because of the government's objections, and WCS's complaints - which went to many people, we are taking the position that what we did in May was only an "experimental release". This way we hope to avoid problems and I hope Rettet den Drill can understand the political need to take this position about it, and describe what happened as an experiment. In the end, that is what it was and we all learned a lot."

Liza Gadsby, 28. Juli 2015

Because of political unrest in southern Nigeria, it is wise not to upset the public authorities. Obviously, it was a huge setback and at the moment it seems as if the whole project to release drills back into the wild has failed. No-one could foresee political events or the animals' actions but we can definitely say that all the preparations were good and well-planned and that the radio collars were important and functioned correctly. The community's reaction was also positive – some people were employed due to the "experiment". It became apparent that more staff is needed to ensure the success of the project. When the situation there has been clarified and the authorities acknowledge that all documents and permits are in order, the Pandrillus employees will once again try to realise their plan to secure the survival of drills in the wild. To do this, continuous support is still need. Save the Drill!

Kathrin Paulsen

New Management in Limbe Wildlife Centre

Since last November, two French people, Guillaume Le Flohic and Peggy Motch have become the new managers in Limbe Wildlife Centre. We will report more on them in the next issue.

We wish them all the best in their new field of work.

11. Annual meeting at Zoo Osnabrueck: a plea for the drill

From all over Germany 30 out of 106 members joined the annual meeting at the 26th of September 2015. This year the meeting had taken place at Zoo Osnabrueck. All members had free entrance to the zoo and on top the zoo supported the catering for the day. The official part of the meeting started without any difficulties, first, with the activities of the board member and thereafter with the cash report. The latter will be described elsewhere in detail. Three changes had taken place during the election of the board. Verena Behringer resigned as second chairperson, but still will be assessor, and therefore, can contribute to the work of the board. On the other hand, Dr. Andrea Wagner who was assessor before is now assigned as the second chairperson. Due to time constraints assessor Petra Blasch dropped out. Her position was not filled anymore. All other members of the board and assessors were elected again. The new member board is composed of:

- 1. chairperson: Kathrin Paulsen
- 2. chairperson: Dr. Andrea Wagner
- Recording clerk: Dr. Anne Fallner-Ahrends (absent due to physical health)
- Treasurer: Dr. Heike Weber
- Assessor: Carsten Zehrer, Tanja Wolf and Verena Behringer

The member board acknowledged the confidence of the members in their work and also for the well going vote procedure.

Afterwards, Kathrin Paulsen appreciated again the work of the board and assessors and thanked them all for their commitment.

In the future, working groups on special topics will be established, due to the more intense workload. Every member is invited to actively join one of the groups of own interested. The board hopes that the workload will then be more distributed and that the expert knowledge of each member will be put forth. The work of the different working groups will be separately report.

At 1pm, after lunch, the talks started also open for the public.



Kathrin Paulsen presented especially for new members and guests the work of "Save the Drill" and explained the structure of the club. She introduced with impressive pictures the rare drill in all his facets and gave detailed information about drill biology. Afterwards, Matthias Schmitz, zoo keeper at Zoo Wuppertal, told about his "Adventures in Cameroon". He volunteered for many weeks at the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC), and thereby met intensively the drills and all the other animals in the rescue station. With his remarkable pictures and his informative and descriptive narrative, Matthias Schmitz was able to give the listeners an understanding of animals, landscape and culture of Cameroon.

Dr. Andrea Wagner talked about the actual situation at LWC. She introduced the new management and showed pictures of the changes in the drill enclosure. For example, desperately needed shadow areas were built with the money donated from members of save the drill. At least, she showed a short movie about the Aframomum project. Aframomum is a substantial food plant for the drills. At the LWC this plant is gathered by former poachers and fed to the drills in the rescue station. The Zoo Osnabrueck decided spontaneously to finance the Aframomum project in 2016.

About news was also the talk from Dr. Heike Weber, but she presented the news from Nigeria. This year a big drill group should be first time released into the Afi mountain area. How this adventure in detailed went, a report is somewhere else in the drill info.

The EEP drill studbook keeper Carsten Zehrer from animal park Hellabrunn (Munich) presented the actual drill holdings in zoos in Europe. Fortunately, the numbers of individuals are slightly increasing. In the US only some drills are kept and from official hearing there is no interest to take any efforts in the breeding program.

The host, Prof. Dr. Michael Böer, zoological director of the Zoo Osnabrueck introduced the Global Management Survival Program (GMSP) to the audience. This program includes also the zoos functioning as a Noah's ark. He encouraged the establishment of a GMSP for the drill and offered his support. In this context it is important to know that since his old times in Hannover Prof. Dr. Böer is closely tied to the drills and was significantly involved in the establishment of the first studbook for these species.

The last two talks were from and about the Zoo Osnabrueck. The curator, Tobias Klumpe, showed examples of mixed exhibits in the zoo. He explained colourfully and convincingly the advantages of such keeping conditions. He described successful keepings, but also the complications and failures.

In the last talk of the meeting Wolfgang Festl, head keeper of Takamanda (Zoo Osnabrueck), presented how the mixed exhibit of African forest buffalo, Diana monkey, and drill in Zoo Osnabrueck is going. This is the first time, for such co-housing. The enclosure is 1.600qm and causes optimism. A final evaluation could only be made after years, when maybe Diana monkeys and drills will have bred.

During the nice sunshine, the members were invited to make their own impressions of the enclosure. To the pleasure of all, the species showed exactly the behaviours described in Wolfgang Festl talk.

The comfortable conclusion of the interesting and informative meeting had taken place at the close by hotel „Zur Huxmühle“.

Changes within the association's internal structure

At the last committee meeting on 21.09.2015 in Rhede Weidenbrueck, the steering committee unanimously decided not to expand the present extended committee, but rather develop working groups. This is to enable all members to become more involved in the workings of the association. Not only can incurring tasks be distributed between more shoulders but also new ideas can be addressed.

Every working group has a designated contact person, who has direct contact with the steering committee and also coordinates the group and the costs.

Following groups have been established so far:

Merchandising MWG

Contact: Verena Behringer

What products are available?

Pricing, motive design, product selection....

Public Relations PRWG

Contact: Kathrin Roeper (SC: Heike Weber, Anne Fallner)

Info stands, Ideas, lectures. How can we make Save the Drill more public, acquire new members/sponsors?

Translation TWG

Contact: Anne Fallner

Drill Info translation, correcting correspondence in English.

Research RWG

Contact: Kathrin Paulsen

How and where can we find new sponsors and are these institutions trustworthy or does their maxim contradict with wildlife conservation (e.g. "greenwashing" chemical or cosmetic companies).

Everyone is welcome to become part of a WG or suggest a new one. All of you who would like to become more active for drill conservation can please contact: info@rettet-den-drill.de.

We are looking forward to a successful collaboration!

Financial Report 2014 – Annual statement

The financial report for 2014 was presented at this year's annual general meeting.

The cash audit was completed by Dr. Antje Herrmanns and Carlo Rinke and our treasurer Dr. Heike Weber as well as the whole steering committee was unanimously granted discharge by the association members.

Account Balance 01.01.2014	9.006,84 €
Earnings Membership 3.585,00 € Donations 8.775,06 € Miscellaneous 3.066,50 €	15.426,56 €
Expenses Bank fees 234,06 € Miscellaneous 19.786,78 € (- permanent post 59,98 €)	20.080,82 €
Account Balance 31.12.2014	4.352,58 €

Current Balance 03.08.2015

Balance 01.01.2015	4.352,58 €
Membership	3.090,00 €
Donations	6.246,73 €
Miscellaneous	556,81 €
Bank fees	- 46,87 €
Miscellaneous	- 6.152,87 €
(permanent post)	59,98 €
Account Balance 03.08.2015	8.106,36 €

Funding to Africa 2014

8.857€ to Cameroon (LWC)
9.200€ to Nigeria (Afi Camp & Drill
Ranch Calabar)

Dribbling for Drills

After more than 10 years we finally did it again!

At this year's Zoo Soccer Tournament, the Hannover Adventure Zoo team won.

Every year several European zoos arrange a soccer tournament. After playing and the awards ceremony, the players meet up to "eat, drink and be merry". The tombola is an integral part of the evening, where you can win big prizes for small money. The proceeds from this year's tombola to the sum of 550€ went to "Save the Drill". We are looking to next year's match where we will defend our title!

Nadja Neubauer



Image: Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover

Running for Drills

To celebrate Hannover Adventure Zoo's 150th Anniversary, the first Zoo-Run was launched. 500 adults and almost 200 children took part in the 1,5km run through Hannover Adventure Zoo on June 25.

A share of the starting fee went to "Save the Drill", which enabled us to once again finance the "Aframomum Project" in the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon.

With our colourful stand, we were able to inform a lot of people before the race about the plight of drills and our efforts to protect them.



At the end of the day both directors of Hannover Adventure Zoo presented "Save the Drill" a cheque for 1500€.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for that!

We thank the following people for their donation:

Herrn Walter Riedel
Berufsverband der Zootierpfleger (BDZ)
Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover
Familie Glashoff
Familie Dr. Veh
Teilnehmer des 29. Zoofußballturniers
Frau Sabine Jähnke
Teilnehmer der 11. JHV im Zoo Osnabrück
Herrn Roland Wolf
Tierpark Hellabrunn, München
Frau Sigrid Benkel

We are happy to welcome our new members:

Albert Jimenez, (Zoo Valencia)
Hans-Jürgen Schröder
Zoo Saarbrücken
Dr. Claudia von Behren
Jonas Homburg
Zoo Osnabrück

We would like to thank you for this!

News about Drills in brief:

Munich: on 24.06.15, the 11 year-old female “Kaduna” gave birth to a healthy male named “Pinto”.

Frankfurt: the zoo transferred their complete drill group to the Czech Zoo Dvur Kralove.


Osnabrueck: the 3 and 4 year-old males “Moaba” and “Nzuri” from Barcelona were successfully integrated into the group. The group is now made up of 3,4 individuals.

Hanover: the 2 year-old “Motumba” died on 28.07.15. His mother, 7 year-old “Katara” was successfully introduced into the Osnabrueck group.

On 21.09.15 a male was born to 23 year-old mother “Liza”.

The current zoo population: 35 males, 45 females in 17 Institutions of which only eight have successful breeding groups.

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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