

DRILL INFO

Number 6, July 2008

Dear Members and Friends of the Drills,

in this issue we'd like to inform you about the visit last January from Simone de Vries to Nordhorn, Germany. Simone is the Assistant Manager of the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC) in Cameroon.

We are happy to welcome the Biopark Valencia, Spain, as a new member. They currently hold 2,2 Drills in a large mixed enclosure together with two species of Guenons, plus Sitatungas and Pygmy Hippos.

Frankfurt Zoo, Germany, is also now exhibiting Drills.
More information about this you will find inside this issue.

Enjoy reading your Drill Info,
Your Drill Info team

Support for the Limbe Wildlife Centre

*Written by: Simone de Vries
Assistant Manager of the LWC*

In November 2007 Heike Weber, veterinary at the Nordhorn Zoo, visited the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon. The LWC is a cooperation between the Government of Cameroon and Pandrillus, an NGO that is supported by 'Rettet den Drill'. At that time we came up with the idea for me to come to Germany to do a presentation about the centre. As I spend Christmas and new years with my family in the Netherlands, it was easy to come to Germany for a day.

On January 9th I traveled to Nordhorn Zoo. A group of around 20 people had come to listen to my presentation. The group consisted of members of Rettet den Drill, keepers of Nordhorn Zoo and other interested people.

My presentation was about the animal rescue work that we do at the Limbe Wildlife Centre. We take care of around 185 primates, all victims of the commercial trade in bush meat and pets. Most animals that come to the LWC are orphans, whose parents have been killed for the meat. Young primates are normally kept alive because they are worth more sold as pets. Some owners come to their senses when the animals grow up and they donate their animal to the LWC. Just as often the animals are confiscated by the authorities. At the LWC the primates get to live in groups again of their own species. The ultimate goal is to release them back to wild.

Drills form the biggest group in the LWC. At this moment we house 49 drills in one big group and two more that have recently been brought in and still live in quarantine. Drills have become so rare in the wild that



Ndokbagengue is the latest arrival in the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC). She is about two months old and her arm got hurt when her mother was killed by hunters

breeding them might be of vital importance for their species' survival. The LWC has the second largest captive breeding group in the world, the largest being at the other Pandrillus project Drill Ranch in Nigeria.

The situation in the wild for this species is not fully known, but numbers are estimated to be between 3,000 and 10,000, with drills living in small areas of Nigeria, Cameroon and Bioko. Their total range measures only 40,000 km² and they suffer greatly from habitat loss and poaching. It is hoped, however, that one day drills from both the breeding groups at the LWC and Drill Ranch can be returned to the wild should suitable forested field sites be found.

The LWC is also home to 49 chimpanzees, 16 gorillas and many species of monkeys. The only way we can take care of these animals is through donations of organisations like 'Rettet den Drill'. I was therefore

delighted to find out that our German friends had prepared for us an incredible amount of veterinary equipment, keeper cloths, a transport box, etc. As I had traveled to Nordhorn by train it was in fact quite hard to bring everything home with me. On top of that there was an amount of money, that we will spend on medication for our primates. We are very grateful for all these wonderful gifts and would like to thank everybody that has contributed to it. Nordhorn Zoo, Hannover Zoo and all the members of 'Rettet den Drill':



Simone de Vries received a donation package from Dr. Heike Weber and Kathrin Paulsen.

Thank you very much!

Simone gave an account about her important work in an impressive presentation and returned with a lot of donations (incl. veterinary goods amounting to 300 €) to Cameroon in February. Beside the refunding of her railway ticket "Save the Drill" gave Simone more than 200 € donated by our members and friends of the Drill on her way back to Limbe.

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„Save the Drill“ donates 2,500€ to Pandrillus, Nigeria

In the beginning of May, „Rettet Den Drill“ (Save the Drill) received an urgent request from Nigeria asking for financial support. Pandrillus, based in Calabar, asked us for financial funds to support their Veterinary surgeon Ainare Idoyaga.

Ainare has been working on the Project since 2007 as a non paid volunteer; in the meantime her own financial savings are exhausted, but she still needs to cover costs in her own country, Spain (Insurance, Pension, etc). Since she is highly involved with all medical aspects concerning Pandrillus we - “Save the Drill” was approached to help! Ainare is needed for all medical examinations - for example not only on confiscated animals but all animals held at the Drill ranch. She is currently doing medical tests on the first Drill group which is planned to be released back into the Afi Mountains in Nigeria still in 2008 or at the latest 2009. This will be the first release program for Drills into their natural habitat.

„Save the Drill“ donated a check symbolically to “Pandrillus” for the sum of 2,500€ on the 25 of May, 2008.

We would like to thank the “Friends of the Hannover Zoo” who carried out a spontaneous collection of funds, Mr Roland Wolf and his fellow Organ players and many other individuals for their generous donations!

“Save the Drill” was able to help Pandrillus and Ainare for the next six months this time, however our aims should be long term, a possibility would be to sponsor Ainare financially on a permanent basis in Nigeria and for this we will need your continuing support.

Frankfurt Zoo now exhibits Drills!

*Text: Verena Behringer, Carsten Knott
Photos: Jutta Hof, Verena Behringer*

The sandy path leads by what's going to be the new outside enclosure and there it is - the entrance to “Borgori-woods”, the new primate house of the Zoological gardens Frankfurt. The tropical climate is the first what welcomes the visitors as they enter. To the right is the first planted enclosure surrounded with artificial rockwork and here are the new group of four Drills to be found.

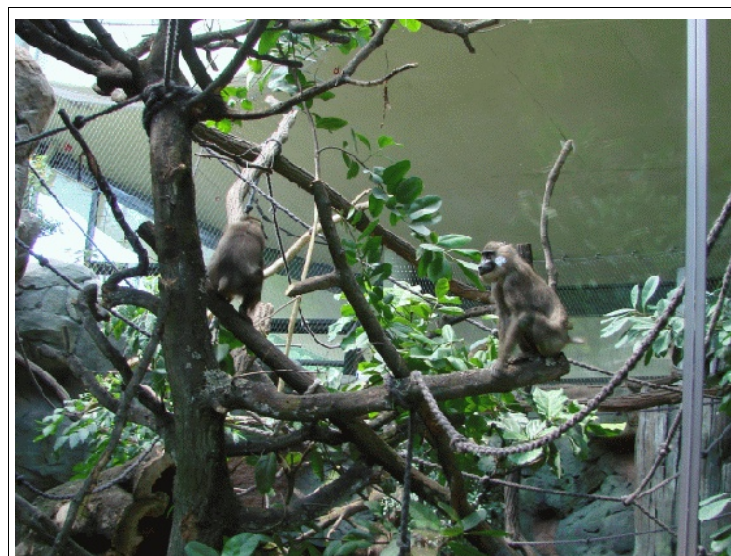
The Drills were the last Primates of which were moved in to their new quarters in the “Borgori-woods” before the official opening on the 12th of June, 2008. The Primates were moved previously between the 13th and 15th May into their new domain. The first Drill which arrived on the 21st of May from the Zoo in Saarbrücken was the male “Tschepo”, born on the 22.08.2002. For the purpose of transport he was anaesthetised and first woken up in the Borgori separation/sleeping dens.

The young Drill man was accompanied from a student from Mainz University whose job was to observe the transport and when possible take and collect samples of faeces for the German Primate Centre in Göttingen, “Tschepo” waited until the 24th of May before obliging!

“Tschepo” habituated all four available sleeping dens on his own until the 28th of May where then three further Drills arrived from the Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover, also accompanied with a another student from the University of Mainz. The trio were the male “Ricardo” (born 21.11.2005) and the two females “Dori” (born 21.04.2004) and “Kebale” (born 04.12.2005) all three were placed into the neighbouring dens from “Tschepo”. Since all three Drills were wide awake on arrival, and they waste very little time before



Ainare Idoyaga



The new inside enclosure at Frankfurt Zoo Photo: Jutta Hof

investigated their new home. Sight contact to “Tschepo” was possible through a protected bared slide between the boxes. During the next eight days the Drills were observed from both students alternating and further faeces samples were taken for the German Primate Centre in Goettingen. From the very first beginning there were no problems instigating the daily feeding and separation procedure, all animals showed no signs of shyness.

The three Hannover Drills showed very little interest in “Tschepo” who was disgruntled by this fact, Contact calls were only to be heard from “Dori” at this stage, later “Ricardo” joined in.

On the 6th of June, the separating slides were finally opened between the Drills allowing direct contact. After a short bout of displaying through “Tschepo” - which after one hour subsided to a playful game. The group were allowed to stay together overnight without any incidents. On the following day the quartet were given access to the inside enclosures - 50m² plus 20m², without any delay

the artificial rockwork was stormed and all leaves and bark stripped from the green foliage which was growing there, after the total loss of a *Ficus lyrata*, the Palm trees were next to suffer followed by the grass which was badly damaged. The four Drills saw for the very first time one western lowland Gorilla at the official public opening day of the "Borgori-wood" after the group of Gorillas enter their inside enclosure. Especially "Tschepo" showed much interest and was fascinated by the big black monkey! How will he react when they meet for the first time - face to face.....

The latest news from Frankfurt are following soon!

News in Short:

Saarbrücken: On the 8th of May, the 34 year old „Sonja“ had to be destroyed by euthanasia.

Wuppertal: At the end of last year the 23 year old male "Mylus" was also put to sleep by euthanasia, unfortunately since then the also 23year old female "Heike" is kept separated behind the scenes due to the fact her son's are sexually mature.

2008 Annual General Meeting

We'd like to invite all members to this year's AGM. It will take place at the Tierpark Hagenbeck, Hamburg on the 11th of October 2008.

We hope for a large participation — and of course we also welcome non-members.

We would like to thank the following persons for there generous donations:

"Friends of Hannover Zoo", Mrs. Mechthild Erdmann-Busch, Mr. Dintelmann, Mr. Roland Wolf, Mrs. Ingrid Lohse, Mr. Georg Sewig, Mr. Berno Rinke, Mrs. Dr. Lottelore Ebeling, Mr. Dr. Veh.

Mr Roland Wolf and all the members of the Organ group who collected 283,10 Euro at the Garden festival in Nordhorn.

Thank you!

We are happy to welcome our new members:

Bioparc Valencia
Ursula Glasshof
Matthias Wolandt

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