

# DRILL INFO

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

**Issue 23, June 2017**

## **Please remark:**

Our next Annual General Meeting will take place on:

**26. August in the Zoological Gardens Wuppertal**

## **Drills in Nigeria**

Last year a dramatic cry for help reached us. The government revoked all financial support for the sanctuary for drills in Calabar. In addition to that an important private sponsor died. Funding from a few other private sponsors ran out and the people in authority Liza Gadsby and Peter Jenkins had no idea how to keep going.

To help them, "Save the Drill" started a huge call for donations.

As soon as we began sending money over to the sanctuary the next setback happened in April. A devastating storm destroyed nearly all fences of the enclosures in the Afi Mountains. Luckily no humans were injured during the storm but sadly some drills were killed by falling trees.

In cooperation with PASA and EAZA a trust was created to provide instant help. Through that money the most severe damage was repaired. Zoological Gardens, Animal Husbandries and many private sponsors reacted with generous funding immediately and made sure that the work for the drills could go on.

To everyone who help we would like to say thank you. This would have not been possible without you.

*(PASA: Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, a coalition of African sanctuaries for primates*

*EAZA: European Association of Zoos and Aquaria)*



*Drills at the Afi Mountains*



# Donations Appeal for the Drills in Nigeria

*Dr. Heike Weber*

Our appeal for the drills this February was very successful!

Many zoos and zoo associations forwarded the appeal to their members; it also appeared in the newsletter of the VdZ association of German zoological gardens. Very many small and a few larger donations were made to the bank account of the 'Save the Drill' charitable association – so much, and so much more promised, that we can maintain the Nigerian rescue centres in Calabar and Afi through till the end of 2017! We passed the good news to Liza Gadsby after three confirmations of larger donations reached us:

1. One donor, who didn't wish to be named, let us know that she would be transferring 20,000 € for the drills in Nigeria! This is the most generous single donation that the association has ever received, and we are (also on behalf of the drills) immeasurably happy and grateful!
2. Hannover Adventure Zoo is currently building a new drill enclosure. Along with a new aviary and the existing grounds for gorillas and chimpanzees it will be part of the new 'Afi Mountain' theme world. Zoo staff in the zoology, conservation, education, press and marketing departments are in regular and lively contact with our association and Liza Gadsby in Nigeria about the plans for the educational and exhibit areas in Hanover. Deeply affected by the situation in Nigeria, in 2017 the zoo directorate donated the considerable sum of 15,000 € for the rescue centres in Afi.
3. Above and beyond this, we've been notified of the first donation left in a will; an animal lover who was dying of cancer, although not a member of Save the Drill, was particularly fond of the monkeys; along with another association she has left 10,000 € to 'Save the Drill' in her last will and testament! This money will, of course, go to help the drills – and not only those in Nigeria but also in the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC) in Cameroon, 50% of whose costs are met by the 'Pandrillus' organization.



*Afi Mountain staff*

Liza Gadsby and her team responded to our assurance of funding through to the end of the year:

*Dear "Save the Drill"!*

*Your email was the most important one that I have received in a very long time.*

*THANK YOU so much!*

*Liza*

The association board will carry on its work of attracting donations and new members, giving talks and interviews, and writing articles for newspapers and magazines – and every member is called upon to help!

For although we shall be funding essential running costs by transferring 3,500 – 5,000 € a month to Nigeria (depending on further donations) and thereby keep the rescue centre going, we're still looking for a long-term solution.

Regular support from major donors or companies must be found, and of course the cancelled government funding must be reinstated.

And so we hope that our – and especially YOUR financial support is a 'stop-gap' measure on the way to new, long-term, constant financial security for this essential work.

## **Our warmest thanks and appreciation to all donors so far:**

(in chronological order of donation)

**Christine Kueviakoe-Deter**  
**Stephanie Henrich (Kollegiaten des Oberstufen-**  
**Kollegs Bielefeld)**  
**Zoo Wuppertal**  
**Barbara Klotz**  
**Münchner Tierpark Hellabrunn**  
**Matthias und Kirsten Wolandt**  
**Gudrun Bartosch**  
**Dr. Matthias Rinke**  
**Zoofreunde Hannover**  
**Paul-Gerhard und Brigitta Veh**  
**Walter Riedel,**  
**Sigrid Benkel,**  
**Kathrin Röper**

**Dr. Stefan Cramer**  
**Marion Hindel**  
**Roland Wolf**  
**Dr. Simone Hagenmeyer**  
**Opel Zoo Kronberg**  
**Manuela Kupfer**  
**Erlebnis Zoo Hannover**  
**Karin Wagner**  
**Karsten Schultz**  
**Korinna Simon-Schultz,**  
**David Pruss**  
**Ursula Otto**  
**Tierpark Nordhorn**

## **Violent storms lay waste the Drill Ranch in Nigeria**

*Inga Graber*

1 On 11th April 2017, just after 6 o'clock in the evening, a storm gathered over the Drill Ranch in the Afi Mountains of Nigeria, and afterwards nothing was the same – in the space of 20 minutes the storm destroyed the ranch. Liza Gadsby, founder of the Pandrillus organization, who also runs the Drill Ranch, later described the storm as a strong downwind with heavy rain that fell almost perpendicularly and even snapped giant primeval forest trees like matchsticks. Miraculously no people were hurt, but the drills were not so lucky; four animals died, among them the mother drill Mojita and her two-year-old daughter. Ranch staff found them arm in arm on the ground. Along with these two, a male animal was struck by falling trees.



*Mojita and her daughter*

Above and beyond these losses, damage to the buildings and grounds was severe: two staff houses, the Drill Ranch veterinary facilities and a wooden barn were smashed by falling trees. Road access to the ranch was blocked for days, and the drill and chimpanzee enclosures were also seriously damaged. The staff had only just gone home for the day, but all of them came straight back and began clearing away the debris that very night. Liza and the Pandrillus team worked 24 hours straight just to gather the chimpanzees together and carry out the most urgent makeshift repairs. Damage to the drill enclosures was even worse; it took nine days to clear away the worst of the destruction.





*Root ball of a fallen tree*

Photographs record the damage and show its extent: mighty primeval forest trees look as if they've just been knocked over, their roots sticking out several meters against the skyline. Buildings are buried under fallen trees – it's nothing short of a miracle that nobody was injured. But just as things were gradually getting back to normal at the Drill Ranch another storm struck: again at around 6 pm, again lasting just a few minutes and again wreaking serious damage – more violent downwinds that flattened the newly erected fences and a felled trees. Liza later described on Facebook how she had to

crawl under piles of branches and leaves to get out of her hut. Then she heard a cry for help from her staff: "The chimpanzees are out!" Ten days after the first storm, the Ranch staff had to do it all again: saw up tree trunks, drag wood out of the way, collect the animals and put up broken fences. In the second storm, too, nobody was hurt, but this time, too, another drill was struck by a falling tree; a young female was so badly mangled that she couldn't be identified.

Even though the initial shock has gradually subsided at Pandrillus, Liza writes, looking back on the worst moments in the 25-year history of her work for the forgotten monkeys of Africa:

"The whole team worked flat out again, and managed to clear the tracks at least in just a few hours, because the US ambassador Stuart Symington had told us he'd be visiting on the following morning. He was appalled, and called on the Nigerians to increase their commitment to protect the country's unique flora and fauna – a call that was answered by a group of young Nigerians; actually they'd only intended to stay at the Ranch overnight before setting off hiking in the Afi Mountains. When they saw the destruction they straightaway joined in the clearing-up work. Now the most serious damage has been repaired and we have to re-establish the camp. Makeshift repairs to the fences must be replaced, the devastated buildings rebuilt from scratch."

First estimates put the cost of rebuilding at around 20,000 dollars. As soon as news of the damage came in Munich Zoo transferred 8,000 euro for emergency aid to the 'Save the Drill' association, which works closely with Pandrillus and the Drill Ranch.



*Fallen tree on the vet shed*



Heidelberg Zoo, too, has donated 1,500 euro for reconstruction work, and the International Primate Protection League and PASA have started appeals for funds to re-establish the Ranch. There have also been donations from other Zoos such as Parkenzoo Eskilstuna in Sweden, and from individuals.

Carsten Zehrer, Curator at Munich's Tierpark Hellabrunn and coordinator of the European breeding programme EEP and keeper of the international drill studbook, reports:

*"Both the European conservation breeding program for the drill and the Old World Monkeys Taxon Advisory Group to EAZA sent out a call for donations, which drew pleasingly fast and generous responses. Thank you very much for that!"*

### **So far we have received donations from:**

(in chronological order of donation)

**Tiergarten Heidelberg  
Münchner Tiergarten Hellabrunn  
Michael Andreas Bieber  
Andrea Müller**

**Parken Zoo Eskilstuna  
Angelika Ross  
Claudia von Behren**

## **US Ambassador's visit at the Drill Ranch in Nigeria**

*Zachary Schwenneker*

The press release by the US ambassador, held at Drill Ranch, was part of a weekend tour by US Diplomats celebrating Earth Day in Cross River. Their visits included a trip to the Obudu Cattle Ranch, a meeting with WCS, a night time stay at Drill Ranch Afi Mountain, and then the press conference at Drill Ranch Calabar. The visit by the US ambassador to Cross River stemmed from the World Wildlife Day conference in Lagos held in early March in which Liza Gadsby was a keynote speaker. There she met diplomats from the US Consulate including the US Consul General, F. John Bray. A few weeks later we were contacted by diplomats from the Consulate who expressed interest in having a tour of Cross River State celebrating "Earth Day" including a night stay at Afi mountain and a press release that following Monday in Calabar.

So preparations began for the visit. We had everything under control until 11 April 2017, the night of the big storm. Their visit was scheduled for the 22 of April and with all of the damage we were unsure we would be prepared in time. Luckily, none of our cabins or the main shed were destroyed in the storm. Had that happened we would have had to call off the visit to Afi. Final preparations were being completed on 21 April 2017 when another storm hit, blocking the road and causing more damage to Drill Ranch. Staff members worked throughout the night to clear the road, and were tacking down the final planks on our bridges as their vehicles were passing by. They finally arrived! That evening their was good discussion about conservation in Nigeria and all of us were impressed by the passion and knowledge of the ambassador towards conservation and environmental education. The next



*From left to right: Liza Gadsby (Pandillus); Dr. Joseph Onoja ( Director of Programmes NCF = Nigerian Coconservation Foundation); Stuart Symington (US ambassador in Nigeria); Caroline Olori (Deputy Conservator of Cross River National Park) in the rear: David Pius, Bassey Otu (animal keeper*

morning the convoy was set to leave, however we had a last minute surprise for the ambassador. In November 2016, Drill Ranch acquired an infant monitor lizard. We had been caring for him since that time and although he was missing a foot, we knew he was ready to be released. Finally catching a break, a stream had just began to flow the night before and we knew this was the time to release him. At 7:15 am, the

ambassador, along with our senior keeper, Asuquo, drove down to that stream and took part in the release of our lizard. The joy and satisfaction of releasing an animal back to the wild was upon all of us. In perfect fashion, the lizard swam across the small stream, climbed the bank, turned around for one last goodbye and then was off. It was an extremely memorable moment for all of us.

The convoy left after the release, heading down to Calabar for the press conference on Monday. Along with them came Liza in our own truck, who was once again a keynote speaker at the event. The press conference began at 11 am on the 24th of April 2017. The ambassador arrived, took a tour of the compound and then took a seat at the table with the other keynote speakers. The keynote speakers included the US ambassador to Nigeria, Stuart Symington, Liza Gadsby Co-Director of Drill Ranch, Caroline Olori Deputy Conservator of Cross River National Park, and Dr. Joseph Onoja Director of Programmes at the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. Each speaker gave a 5-minute speech with the overarching message being environmental and climate literacy within Nigeria. Addressing the media, the ambassador urged all Nigerians to take responsibility of their country and to be proud of what unique wildlife and environment Nigeria has. This is a message that we here at Drill Ranch are continuously trying to push to all Nigerians. This is the only way that conservation will be truly successful. We were all very pleased at the passion and knowledge the ambassador showed towards conservation, and wish to continue working with him on issues facing conservation in the future.

*(Zachary is a 24 year old American who has been volunteering at Drill Ranch for a long time. He graduated from Michigan State University with an undergraduate degree in Zoology in December of 2014.)*

## The situation in Cameroon

*Kathrin Paulsen*

The only sanctuary for drills (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) is the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC), which lies in the southwest of Cameroon, directly on the shore of the Atlantic.

Cameroon was transferred to the League of Nations due to the Versailles Treaty, having previously been a German province up until after World War I. The country was then split between Britain (20%) and France (80%). Since then, the north of Cameroon has used French as its official language while the Southwest uses English.

Even today, some English schools and courts, based on British common law exist in the west of the republic. However, since December 2016, the south of the country has been stuck in political crisis.

In October, anti-government protests arose in Bamenda (the largest city in the English part of Cameroon). The protests were against the government's plans to employ more French speaking teachers, driving the education system and legal

system further into the control of the Francophile majority. English speaking teachers and lawyers are still fighting for their jobs, and for the approval of English as an official language in their country.

Demonstrations have been met with violence by the government. In December, thousands of people protested publicly and in Buea (the capital of the Southwest region) students even went on strike. A total of eight people were killed in the military actions, in efforts to end the protest.

In consequence to this the public initiated a general strike:

On the 16th of November 2016, the schools were closed and all public services were shut down.



*Joffy and Jomio*

As a reaction to the protest the internet was disconnected for multiple weeks by the government. The whole West between Limbe in the south, and Bamenda in the north had no communication.



During that time an enormous amount of economic damage took place. The work at the Limbe Wildlife Center was also hit by the crisis. The Manager Guillaume Le Flohic tells us how it has effected the sanctuary here:

*"Regarding how much the crisis here has affected us, it is difficult to say really, except that it definitely reduced our opportunity to raise funds. Also, it gave us little visibility on the rest of the year, and several activities had to be postponed. More significantly, our education program has been close to zero impact, as no kids went to schools since November 16. It is actually a disaster for the youth in our region. Only few schools continued to teach and then parents were afraid. There were few aggression on pupils when the situation was the worst.*

*At last, lack of communication prevented us, in particular me, to develop the LWC, and make further progress in increasing our area of intervention, create more partnerships and advocate within Cameroon, to big agencies or companies."*

(We will keep you informed about the situation for the drills in Cameroon in our next issues!)

## **Activities**

### **Market Days at Hannover Adventure Zoo**

*Uschi Otto*

Although the days before had been wet, the weekend dawned bright and friendly, the sun smiled from a cloudless sky, and the 12,000 market days visitors were also in sunny mood.

In the midst of the market bustle: our Drill stand, with a wheel of fortune that kids and grown-ups alike were keen to turn.

Saturday morning began with a welcome and a glass of sparkling (non-alcoholic?) wine. The atmosphere was terrific, the program full of variety: regional trades and craftspeople presenting their wares and often inviting passers-by to sample them. Farmer Meyer and his maid Magda welcomed them all with a hug and a smacking kiss. Live music on stage and all over the farm, and our wheel of fortune kept time with the jazz when the children weren't setting the tempo. The adults were often more interested in the drills' natural habitat, the Drill Ranch and the work of our association – and so quite a few euros found their way into the collecting box; at the end of the day we counted 364.50 euro for the drills.



*Our wheel of fortune at work*

### **Cooperation with the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations**

*Dr. Heike Weber*

The annual general assembly of the "Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations" (ZGAP) was held in Hoyerswerda in eastern Germany on the 22th of April 2017.

Maybe some of you have heard about this non-profit organization that working hard to protect rare animals. They are focusing their efforts especially on those animals that are less known and popular than elephants, rhinos et cetera.

That creates a connection between "Save the Drill" and the "ZGAP" because the drill is not only unpopular but also endangered.

In the past the drill was part of the ZGAP-list of supported animals and in the beginning of the "Campaign

Save the Drill" under the direction of Roland Wolf the "ZGAP" helped with accounting and money transfer. The contact still is very close not only because Kathrin Paulsen and me are part of the "ZGAP" ourselves.

This year I got the chance to give a presentation about the distress in Nigeria and talk about the funding the need. My presentation was very special because normally only campaigns that are directly funded by the "ZGAP" are presented. I was very happy about the chance to introduce our projects and show some pictures about the current situation in Nigeria. There was a lot of feedback from listeners and the directorate asked me to keep the organization current. Later that evening we discussed different possibilities for a long-term cooperation. The drill is a lesser known animal and is therefore a fitting animal to support. We will keep the discussion going and will inform you as soon as there is anything new. In the meantime, we want to call your attention on their website: <http://www.zgap.de>

## News of the drill:

**Hanover:** On 13th February, the 3 year old "Tsumba" passed away

**Saarbrücken:** This March, the 36 year old "Sue" passed away

## We welcome the following new members:

Marco Dinter  
Dr. Matthias Rinke

**Many thanks for the translation to: Michael Hale and Nico Brüning**

### Dates:

- Summer Festival at Hannover Zoo on **19 and 20 August**
- Annual member meeting on **26 August** at Wuppertal Zoo
- Monkeys day on **27 August** at Wuppertal Zoo
- Market days in Hanover Zoo on **16 and 17 September**

### Talks:

- **9. August:** Kathrin Paulsen: "Rettet den Drill" im Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover

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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Kreissparkasse Grafschaft Bentheim  
Konto-Nr: 14075956  
BLZ: 267 500 01  
**IBAN Nr: DE95 2675 0001 0014 0759 56**  
**BIC: NOL ADE 21 NOH**