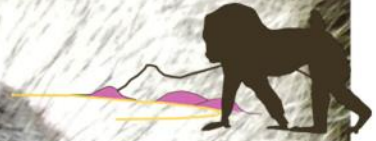


Limbe

Wildlife Centre

CAMEROON



FEB 2021

Chimo, male drill

www.limbewildlife.org



Limbe Wildlife Centre: February 2021

Published in March 2021

Limbe Wildlife Centre, P.O. Box 878, Limbe, Republic of Cameroon



Limbe Wildlife Centre is a collaborative effort between the Pandrillus Foundation and the Republic of Cameroon, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, MINFOF

Pandrillus Foundation is a non-profit making NGO specialized in the protection, rehabilitation and reintroduction of primates, as well as management and sustainable financing of conservation projects in Africa

Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife is in charge of implementing the national forest policy for ensuring sustainable management and conservation of wildlife and biodiversity over the national territory as enacted by forestry law No. 01/94 of 20 February which regulates all forestry, wildlife and fisheries activities



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ALL OUR REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE

Accreditations & Awards



In February 2018, the Limbe Wildlife Centre has had its **accreditation** with the **Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)** renewed for another five years. PASA is the largest association of wildlife centres and sanctuaries in Africa, founded by the Limbe Wildlife Centre, along with 6 other primate sanctuaries. Today, PASA includes 23 organizations in 13 countries which demonstrate exceptional commitment and the **highest standards of animal welfare** and **conservation practices**, to securing a future for Africa's primates and their habitat.



In April 2018, the Limbe Wildlife Centre was voted **Best Volunteer Abroad Project** and chosen to feature in the **Tutorful's Wildlife Conservation** editorial along with other prestigious organisations **making a notable difference in wildlife conservation worldwide**. The LWC gives people the chance to volunteer and assist experienced caregivers with the daily caregiving activities, offering the opportunity for volunteers to the experience of making a meaningful contribution to primate conservation (and all the satisfaction this provides).



In August 2019, the Limbe Wildlife Centre received a **2019 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award** at the **Conference of the Parties** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**) in Geneva, Switzerland, in recognition of the remarkable efforts the LWC has made to help combat wildlife crime.

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Vallarine Aforlica, head of construction,
fixing the Gorilla tree basket

Foreword



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | PROJECT MANAGER

The most challenging year

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thus far, the year 2021 has proved to be as challenging as the last. We have already faced the resurgence of Covid-19 across Cameroon, threatening our finances, our staff, their families and our rescued animals. We then suffered the loss of Akiba in very emotionally difficult conditions.

Unfortunately, February has brought us an even greater trial. Our Drill population has suffered a devastating outbreak of a respiratory disease. Though its precise nature is yet unknown, it has proven to be SARS-Cov2-negative. We can state with absolute certainty that the disease in question was not Covid-19.

In less than 4 days, 10 individuals showed symptoms of respiratory disease. Despite our immediate intervention, isolation of the individual in our recently renovated Quarantine and Isolation Section and provision of intensive care, 8 (80%) of them died within a couple of hours/days. The remaining 2 Drills recovered after a couple of days, solely thanks to the dedication of all our veterinary and animal care staff. Despite limited capacities and resources, our quick reaction and fast decision-making effectively prevented a potential catastrophe.

We alerted the Government to the situation immediately. Faced with the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the Government could not provide us with any significant



support and we proceeded as best we could with little assistance. Despite this, we have managed to isolate the Drill section (comprised of 74 individuals) from the rest of the centre with speed and efficiency. So far, we have contained the epidemic and no more Drills have showed symptoms of the disease. However, this crisis has hit us after an incredibly difficult year and a series of major issues, only adding to the vulnerability of our project. We desperately need more support. This outbreak has left us with a deficit of 10,000 USD, a stressed and exhausted staff and many questions to answer.

Despite this incredibly difficult time, we have managed to continue the running of our other projects. This includes our flagship project to rehabilitate and release endangered African grey parrots: the 5th flock has been released and we will transfer the 6th to the soft release aviary for a planned release in March. The integration of two adult male chimpanzees into the Mainland group is also progressing very well. The preparation for the splitting of the gorillas, which was delayed because of Akiba's condition, has resumed and is in progress. The Art4Nature project is also ongoing, and we should have produced the first 4 videos before the end of March

(provided, of course, no more major issues arise).

I wish to thank Dr Luis Flores, from the Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro (CRPL) in DRC, for making himself immediately available during our medical crisis and for sharing both his considerable expertise and his moral support. We would not have contained the epidemic without his invaluable advice. Luis was also instrumental in mentoring our team while trying our best to save Akiba. Beyond the individual lies the wonderful organisation CRPL, another PASA member based in Eastern DRC. Thank you also to Ape Action for their help and assistance.

Our strength as an organisation dedicated to animal welfare and conservation lies in the connections with other projects. The support and advice we share, both giving and receiving, is absolutely invaluable. These connections mean that we do not feel alone during such unprecedented series of crises. This, at least, provides us with a sense of satisfaction in the continuing stellar work of others and a sense of hope for the future.

Thank you, as ever, for your unfailing support.

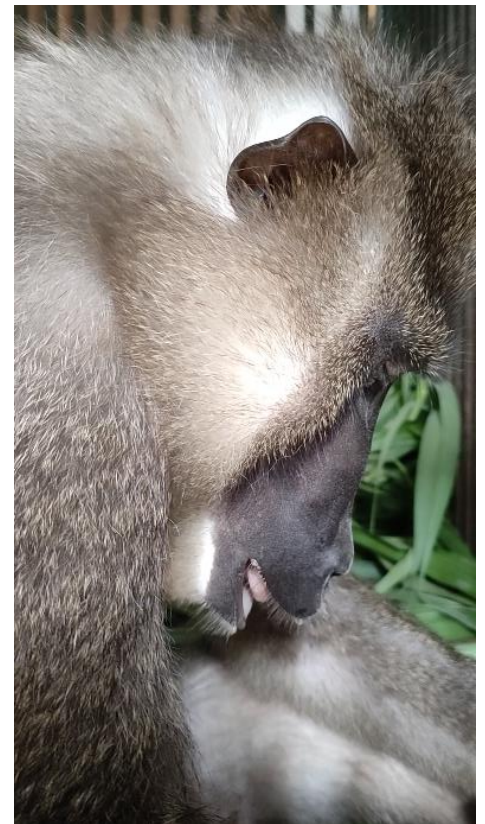
Limbe, 28 February 2021

Peggy Motsch
The Manager



Drill non-COVID-19 respiratory disease outbreak

On the 19th of February 2021, early in the morning, two Drills were found dead in their enclosure. They were carefully removed to proceed to their post-mortem examination. However, only an hour later, another individual was observed having difficulty breathing and walking. Within the next three days, a further ten Drills exhibited similar acute respiratory symptoms. All required intensive care. Despite round-the-clock work from our team, **eight of our Drills died**. Since 22nd February, our team have successfully contained the outbreak. Following the strictest precautions, however, the Drill section and clinic will remain quarantined until at least the 6th April. Due to the current pandemic, the LWC has been closed to the public since March 2020. This crisis has deepened the financial difficulties we face as a direct result of COVID-19. Already running at a loss, we are now left with **a deficit of a further 10,000 USD**. Despite our acute situation and direct requests for help, the Government of Cameroon have not provided any financial support. We are now in **urgent need** of further financial support to continue caring for the 273 individuals currently in rehabilitation at the LWC. Our stocks of veterinary supplies, medicines and consumables are running low and desperately need restocking. In short, if there is any hope for **our much-needed conservation work** to continue, **we need your help**.



DONATE \$5 OR MORE TODAY TO [SUPPORT OUR VETERINARY DEPARTMENT](#)

Our priority financial needs



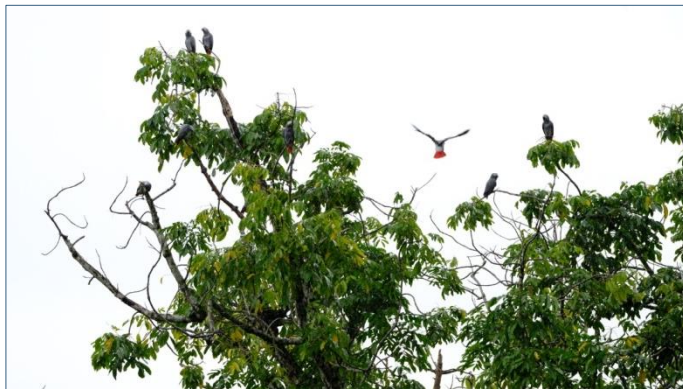
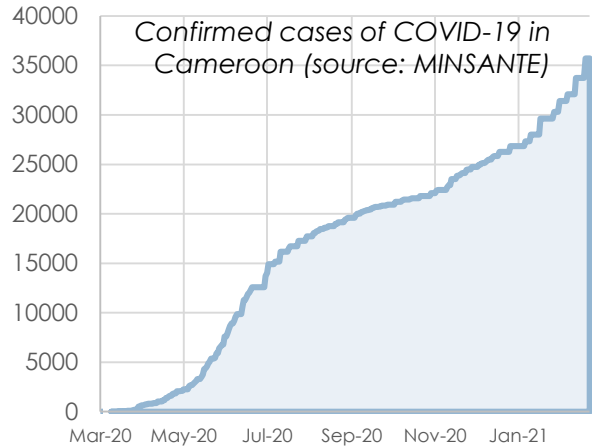
1. Help us protect our rescued animals during COVID-19!

We must boost the immunity of 15 critically endangered gorillas, 43 endangered chimps, and 75 endangered Drills and upgrade biosecurity measures vs. COVID-19.

COVID-19 updates in Cameroon

The number of confirmed cases approaches **40,000**, with a **very worrying increase** of the number of new cases detected throughout February (+20%).

DONATE NOW TO PROTECT THEM FROM COVID-19!



2. Help us free 80 parrots back to the wild in 2021!

We are leading the National rehabilitation and release programme for the endangered African grey parrot. 152 birds were released in 2020-2021. **80 must still be released this year!**

RELEASE PARROTS NOW!

3. Splitting the large gorilla enclosure



Maintenance was sponsored!! Now, to enable our gorillas to enjoy an **enriched outdoor** every day, take part in this **amazing project** and help us divide and re-enrich the largest enclosure with **climbing structures** and **shelter** to rest, hide and play. **Goal: €25,000**

RE-ENRICH THE GORILLAS ENCLOSURE HERE!

Contact info@limbewildlife.org to know more

February 2021 Highlights



- **EMERGENCY: Drill non-COVID-19 respiratory disease outbreak took 8 individuals away**
- **Released the 5th flock of 27 fully rehabilitated African grey parrots back into the wild**



LWC'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Green Project



Zipporah Akala coordinates close to 150 rural people engaged in sustainable livelihoods supported by the Limbe Wildlife Centre

The Green Project is a long-term community-based project that generates new alternative incomes for the village of Batoke, while providing high-value foods such as Aframomum (ie wild ginger) that enhances the diet, health, and well-being of the primates at the Limbe Wildlife Centre. The project mainstreams gender inclusion and rural women empowerment.

"6 years ago, I took over from my husband, Daniel, who was himself coordinator of the Green project and my role is now to make sure that enough browse arrives at the Centre. I coordinate with the women of Batoke who cultivate potatoes and cassava. We are close to 100 women and a dozen men to wake up at dawn 3 days per week to harvest the crop leaves, Aframomum and others. We also help control the spread of invasive the Trumpet tree.



Joining the Project helped us a lot! I can pay the school fees of my four children, pay the doctor bills, guarantee my family meals every single day and we even improved our house with cement floor.

I want to say a huge thank to the Centre. I cannot express how much the Green Project helps me, my family, all of us in Batoke."

ZIPPORAH AKALA



Achievements February 2021 & Objectives March 2021

1. Pandrillus-GoC Partnership & Public Relations

Funders

- None

March 2021 objectives

- Validate internal rules and regulations (pending)
- Review the proposal of the national strategy to rehabilitate and release the African grey parrots (pending)

2. Population management & Animal welfare

Funders



Ongoing activities

- Maintained frequency and diversity of enrichments in each section

Specific activities

- Agile Mangabey:** Water pressure cleaning of Pepito's enclosures and re-enriched with wood shavings **(Image 1-3)**
- Chimpanzee:** Started the process of the integration of Papa and Nanga in the Mainland enclosure: introduced to the group through the mesh
- Mona monkey:** Water pressure cleaning of Sonara's enclosures and re-enriched with wood shavings **(Image 4)**



□ **Vet cares** (February 2021):

- **Drill respiratory disease outbreak:** 10 symptomatic individuals out 74 (13.5% of the group), including 2 females and 8 males, of which 80% where sub- or young adults; 8 individuals died (80.0% mortality rate on symptomatic individuals) and 2 males (young adult Najeme and subadult Nnoko) fully recovered. The same day the first two cases were detected (19th Feb), we quarantined the section as well as the vet clinic to prevent the spreading of the unknown pathogen responsible for the outbreak. The quarantine will remain for 6 weeks after the last case was detected on 22nd Feb (**Images 5-8**)
- **Primates:** 120 individuals treated; 12 anaesthesia performed; 57 individuals sampled (10 blood samples for haematology analysis, 10 blood samples for biochemistry analysis, 47 faecal samples for coprology analysis, 0 pus swab for microbiology analysis); 4 contraception; 0 identification with a microchip; 0 laceration repair; 77 drug therapies: 29% dietary supplements, 22% antiparasitic, 21% antibiotics, 13% anti-inflammatories 5% painkillers and 8% fluids therapy and 3% fungicides; 4 health checks (3 chimpanzees, 1 Patas monkey); 8 deaths (Drill respiratory outbreak: Jabari (Adult female), Chipo (Young adult Male), Queue Tordue (Subadult adult Male), Jube (Subadult adult Male), Chaussiko (Subadult male), Alex (Subadult male), Akon (Subadult male), Irene (Juvenile female)) (**Images 9-12**)
- **African grey parrots:** 0 general health checks; 0 health checks before release; 0 transferrals to the soft-release aviary, 0 transferrals to the rehabilitation aviary; 0 individuals received intensive care treatment with 3rd generation antibiotic treatment and special diet; 1 death



Image 1. Yvette SOKOUDJOU adding the wood shaving in the Agile mangabey enclosure.



Image 2. Agile mangabey enclosure with wood shaving and new branches.



Image 3. Limbe camp (adult male Agile mangabey) foraging in the wood shaving.



Image 4. Wood shaving and enrichments added to the Mona monkeys (Sonara Group).



Image 5. As soon as the respiratory outbreak was detected in the drill group, a fence was promptly set up at to isolate the section.



Image 6. New bleach footbaths were built at each quarantine and vet clinic access points to prevent the propagation of the infection.



Image 7. The browse are now deposited and distributed near second gate, far away from the drill enclosure.



Image 8. Virucidal disinfectant has been sprayed on drill enclosure surroundings by our veterinarian Dr John Kiyang.



Image 9. Female Patas monkey Lydia was captured with a net inside a satellite cage and restrained manually for a couple of minutes to allow our vet team to implant her with a subcutaneous contraceptive.



Image 10. With no anaesthesia needed, Lydia was immediately back in the savannah dwelling enclosure, enjoying the leafy branch freshly added as enrichment with the other guenons.



Image 11. Young adult Queue-Tordue was brought to the clinic for emergency intervention, the vet team doing its best to ease its breathing, boost his immune system and control the infection.



Image 12. Nasal swabs were done on all drill affected by the epidemic. All Covid-19 antigenic-tests revealed negative and PCR is ongoing. All sick animals were isolated and monitored.

March 2021 objectives

- Continue with the ongoing activities
- **African grey parrots:** Continue to provide special care for the last individuals with difficulties improving their body conditions
- **Vet cares:** General health checks: African grey parrots (30); Health check before release: African grey parrots (30); Contraception: Drills (3).



3. Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release programme

Funders



Arrival & quarantine

- Rescued 1 Yellow-beak kite (**Image 13-14**)



Image 13. A child knocked at the door of the Centre on a Thursday evening, to hand over this Yellow-Beak Kite chick, probably fallen from its nest. It weighted 380g, was in good health and estimated 2 weeks old.



Image 14. After 2 weeks of daily care, the kite named Kisskiss is now over 500g, with fully growing feathers and appetite.

Behavioural rehabilitation

- None

Social rehabilitation

- **African grey parrot:** Continued to maintain the care and enrichment to the 85 African grey parrots in the large aviary
- **Drill:** Continued integration process of juvenile male drill Mbigou with 6 females in a satellite cage of the Drill enclosure



Release (ecological & environmental rehabilitation)

Released the 5th flock of 27 fully rehabilitated African grey parrots back into the wild (Images 15-18)



Image 15. Emmanuel AKIH spread some anti-parasitic on strategic body points of the 28 parrots that Killi MATUTE carefully caught one by one with a small net.



Image 16. Once treated, the parrots are left in peace for another two weeks in the soft-release aviary. The treatment guarantees that they leave with no lice to damage their feathers.



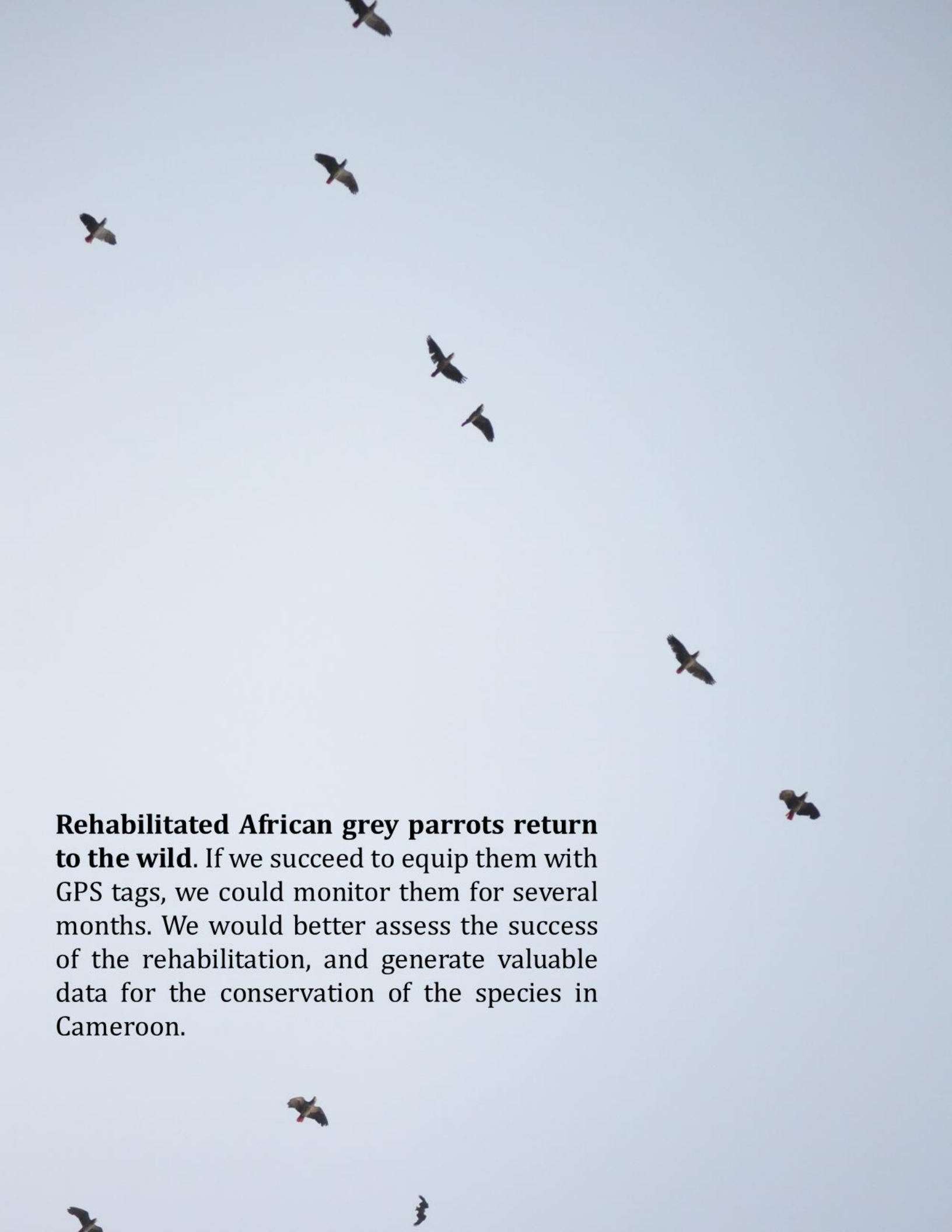
Image 17. On the release day, Head keeper Killi MATUTE delicately opens the hatch to let the parrots the choice to leave the soft-release aviary.



Image 18. Four days after their release, 18 parrots were observed lingering around the release site, and sometimes spending the night safe inside their soft release aviary.

March 2021 objectives:

- **African Grey Parrots:** Continue the rehabilitation process and transfer the 6th flock into the soft-release site
- **Drill:** Continue the social rehabilitation of juvenile male Mbigou into the drill group



Rehabilitated African grey parrots return to the wild. If we succeed to equip them with GPS tags, we could monitor them for several months. We would better assess the success of the rehabilitation, and generate valuable data for the conservation of the species in Cameroon.



4. Infrastructures and development | Material & Equipment

Funders



Ongoing activities

- **Vet clinic:** Creating 3 new footbaths to strengthen precautionary measures during the outbreak of the drills **(Images 19-20)**
- **Western lowland gorilla:** Maintained silverback Chella's group Night den and damaged roof **(Image 21-28)**



Image 19. Construction worker Richard NDANJI creating a footbath at the main entrance of the vet clinic.



Image 20. Footbath built behind the vet clinic, to access the quarantine.



Image 21. View of the damaged roof above Western lowland gorilla Chella night den.



Image 22. View of finish roof repairs of Western lowland gorilla Chella night den.



Image 23 (a&b). View of some damaged pipe in Western lowland gorilla Chella night den. The salty sea breeze and constant humidity are strong degrading factors for all the metal structures.



Image 24 (a&b). It is important to undertake regular maintenance on metal structure and sliding doors, before it represent a risk to break or injure animals and staff.



Image 25 (a&b). Construction worker Leonard GEH is cutting off damaged metal pipe and rod in front of Western lowland gorilla Chella night den to replace them.



Image 26 (a&b). Construction workers Richard NDANJI and Kum FERNANDEZ applying the first layer of anti-corrosion paint on Western lowland gorilla Chella night den. Team work allows for faster progress and limits the days when the gorillas cannot go out.



Image 27 (a&b). Removal and replacement of pipe and rod in Western lowland gorilla Chella night den.



Image 28 (a&b). Construction worker Jacob TEBO applies the second layer of anti-rusting painting as a finishing touch for Western lowland gorilla Chella night den.

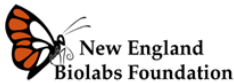


March 2021 objectives

- Finish the maintenance of the western lowland gorilla enclosure
- Start the first phase of the splitting of the western lowland gorilla enclosure

5. Community Conservation, Environmental education & Ecotourism

Funders



- **School outreach programme:** Continued the 2020-2021 programme: 6 schools, 22 classes and 908 school.children; monthly efforts: 41 men.hours
- **Saturday Nature Club:** Postponed the 2020-2021 Nature Club
- **Art4Nature:** Continued to produce a series of animated videos, billboards, posters, and radio podcasts to promote forest ecosystem preservation.
- **Green project:** 48 community members benefited from the Community-based Green Economy; 15 ex-hunter members sustainably harvesting wild herbaceous plants: 1,800 kg of *Aframomum* stems and 226 kg of *Costus* stems; 33 women members harvesting crop by-product: 754 kg of cassava leaves, 3,913 kg of papaya leaves, 2,294 kg of potato leaves, 177 kg of invasive Trumpet wood shoots, corresponding to 40 trees hand-cut; 878,265 FCFA (€1,341) paid directly to the local community association this month; 1,784,595 FCFA (€2,724) contributed to alleviate local poverty in 2021

March 2021 objectives

- Continue with ongoing programs



6. Wildlife conservation research & Health monitoring

Ongoing activities

- **Recovery monitoring of the rescued endangered African grey parrots:** Continued to collect data during health checks and through direct observation
- **Monitoring the soft-release of endangered African grey parrot:** Continued the collection of daily data on the parrot movement and use of the environment
- **Establishing Haematological Reference Values for the endangered Drill:** Continued to build the dataset of haematological data extracted from 18 years of analysis (2002-2019), corresponding to 199 samples, and including a total of 21 haematological parameters.
- **Behavioural monitoring of the endangered Chimpanzees:** Started the Mainland group cohesion and individual welfare before, during and after social integration of Papa & Nanga (adult males) **(Image 29)**

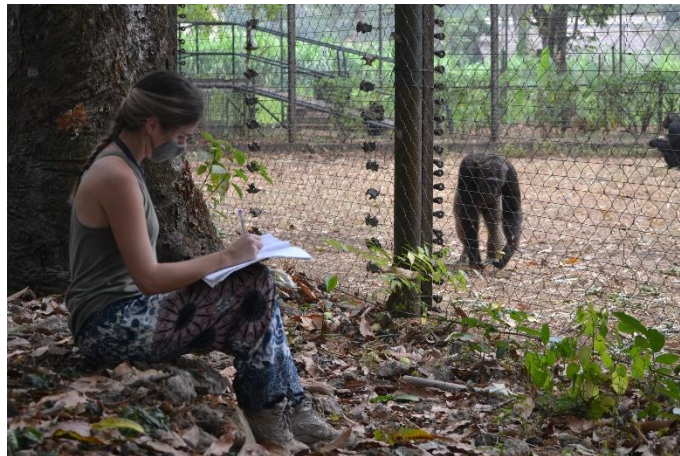


Image 29. Kristen BIGELOW, a long term volunteer, performs a daily monitoring and data collection before, during and after the reintroduction process of Papa & Nanga into the Chimp Mainland group.

March 2021 objectives

- Continue with the above ongoing activities



7. Capacity building, staff empowerment & Mentorship

- None

March 2021 objectives

- Continue with the above ongoing activities
- Staff workshop:** Presentation of the project to splitting gorilla enclosure by Vallarine AFORLICA, Head of Construction (postponed).

8. Communication & Visibility

- Digital communication** (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter): In February, our social media platforms reached a great amount of people, with our Facebook page alone reaching 1,166,994 people, as well as a growth in followers with an increase of almost 500 new people. Our audience on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube are still steadily growing each month, and an overall increase of 2% across all platforms.

March 2021 objectives:

- Continue advocating the missions of the LWC within the Central African Conservation Landscape in Cameroon



9. Revenues generated

□ **Entrance fees (February 2021):** FCFA 0 (0 visitors; 0% children, 0% Cameroonians) due to the closure of the Limbe Wildlife Centre to visitors

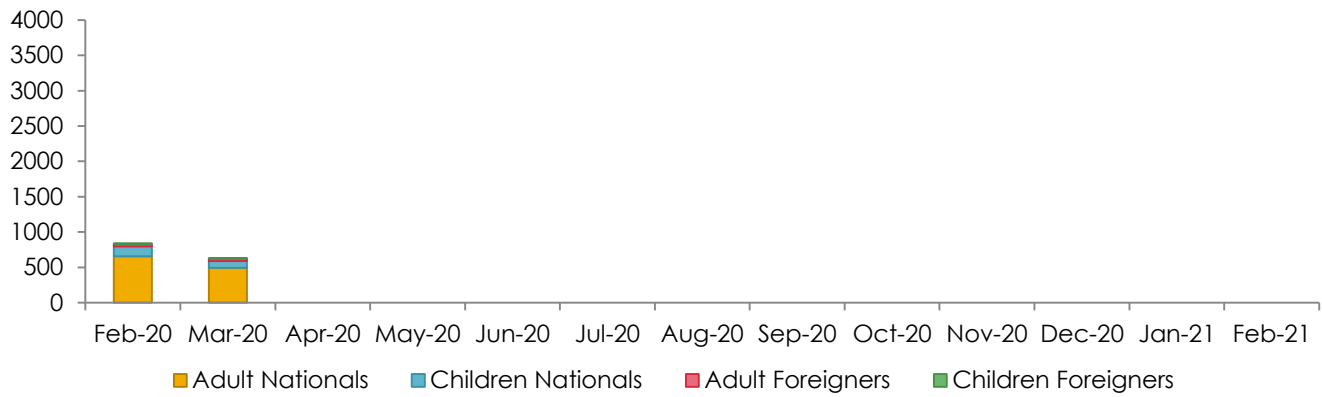


Figure 1. Visitor statistics February 2020 - February 2021

A dirt path lined with tall palm trees leading to a building in the distance. The path is flanked by dense tropical vegetation, including various species of palm trees with large, feathery fronds. The trees are tall and slender, with some leaning slightly. The path is unpaved and appears to be a main thoroughfare. In the background, a building with a red roof is visible through the trees. The sky is clear and blue.

Entrance of the Limbe
Botanical Garden

www.limbewildlife.org