



Limbe

Wildlife Centre

CAMEROON

AUG 2020



DISABLED CHIMPANZEE

Our deepest sorrow as emblematic
Ghaa passed away

AFRICAN GREY PARROTS

Releasing another 29 parrots back into the wild!

INTERNATIONAL

British Actor Peter Egan becomes our Ambassador!



www.limbe-wildlife.org



Limbe Wildlife Centre: **August 2020**

Published in September 2020

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 August which regulates all forestry, wildlife and fisheries activities



peggy@limbewildlife.org



+237 681 991 590



limbewildlife.org



[limbewildlifecentre](https://www.facebook.com/limbewildlifecentre)



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ALL OUR REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE

Accreditations & Awards



In December 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 August 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 September 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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Chinoise and protective Papaya from the Mainland Chimp group



Endangered African grey parrots released over the Limbe Botanical Garden

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | PROJECT MANAGER

Sorrow, Excitement and Hope

Dear Friends and Supporters,

With our work continuing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the month of August was marked by **3 major events** bringing a mixture of sorrow, excitement and hope.

Firstly, we are extremely sad to announce that one of our most emblematic individuals, **Ghaa**, a disabled chimpanzee who never fully recovered the multiple injuries subsequent to the poaching of his mother, unexpectedly died this month (p. 11). Without prior sign or symptoms, Ghaa was found lying on the night den he shared with females Mayos and Ngambe. Our vet team could only confirm that Ghaa already passed away. The necessary post-mortem only showed **internal bleeding** due to a broken blood vessel after a dislocation of bones, likely a complication of his condition.

Ghaa was a Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee - the most endangered sub-species. He arrived at the LWC in 2006 when he was just 1 year old as a victim of the bushmeat trade. While his mother was shot by poachers, he received irreversible and severely disabling injuries. With the dedicated care of the LWC staff he had grown into a strong chimpanzee and had been for many years a fantastic and caring surrogate father to the new orphans that come into the nursery. He was very gentle and kind with the new babies, teaching them the rules of chimpanzee society that were essential to their successful transfer in the bigger groups. For the past few years, Ghaa formed a group with 2 disabled adult females Mayos and Ngambe. In recent months, his enclosure was entirely **rebuilt**, specifically designed to meet the needs and capacities of these three friends. Ghaa has been receiving support from all over the world



and we are extremely grateful to all donors who helped us take care of him for all these years.

As it often the case, our sorrow comes at a time otherwise marked by great excitement, as we have recently joined forces with **British actor and animal rights activist, Peter Egan!** Mr Egan is now the Limbe Wildlife Centre's very first **ambassador**, and we couldn't be more thrilled (**video**)! We are deeply honored by his trust and commitment in supporting our missions to conserve **Cameroonian wildlife** by rehabilitating victims of poaching, inspiring people to connect with nature and improving local communities' wellbeing (p. 9).

In the meantime, the Limbe Wildlife Centre successfully released another flock of 29 endangered African grey parrots, bringing the number of individuals released since the new soft-release protocol was set up to a total of 58 (p. 13-14). We also received 8 new African greys confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade (p. 10 & 13). Together with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and the Zoological Society of London, the rescue was made and the traffickers were arrested and prosecuted! As the prosecution moves forward, the collaboration between the MINFOF, ZSL, LWC and other stakeholders continues with the goal of improving the understanding of parrot trafficking in Cameroon and ensuring the seized birds are prepared for rehabilitation in

an environment where their safety and future are guaranteed. The parrots are currently receiving medical care and checkups before their rehabilitation journey back to the wild begins.

The **composting area** is almost ready (p. 15-16)! The construction team near completion of the roof made of traditional raffia palm mats and a protective wall to prevent flooding. To their credit, this was alongside continued **maintenance** of the drill and gorilla infrastructure and opening of the **grassed strip** left fallow in the mandrill enclosure (15-18). The organic waste collected from the animal enclosure will be used to produce organic compost for our local communities and increase our **food security**.

Despite these great and encouraging successes, we are unfortunately still facing a very difficult financial situation, an inevitable result of the loss of funds subsequent to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis. We still need to secure a minimum of **USD 5,000 per month** to help continue with our day-to-day care to the animals, support our staff and the local community, and keep on with our most exciting project.

Stay safe and healthy,

Thank you for your unfailing support

Our priority financial needs

We need 5,000 USD per month!



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.

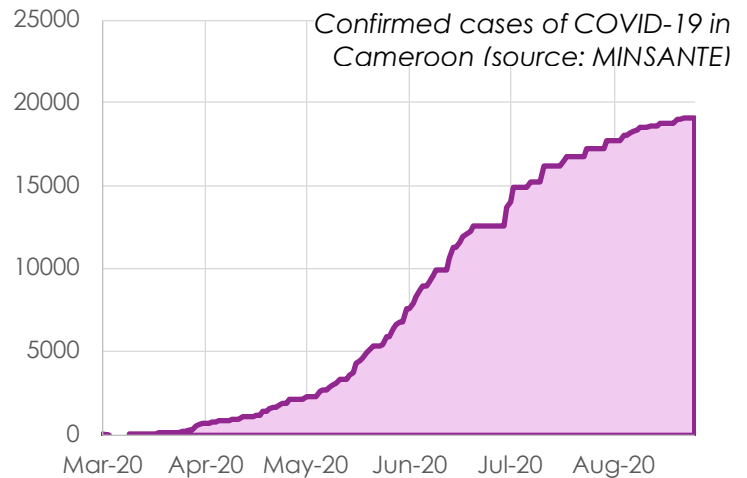
COVID-19 updates in Cameroon

The number of confirmed cases exceeds **19,000**, with a slight reduction in the number of new cases detected.

Help us protect our primate!

Donate on **Paypal** or on our

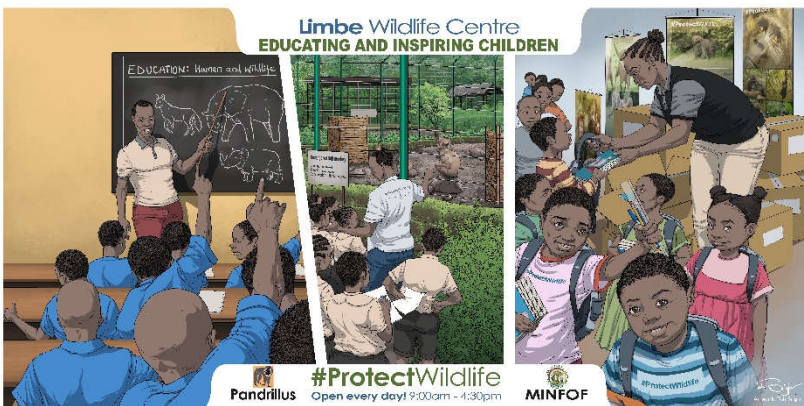
GoFundMe Fundraising campaigns



2. Help us free 100 parrots back to the wild!

We are leading the National rehabilitation and release programme for the endangered African grey parrot.

The 58 first individuals have been released!



3. Sponsor 1 of the 4 large-sized artistic creations!

Art-4-Nature is a concept developed by **Toh Bright** and the LWC to inspire people to protect nature.

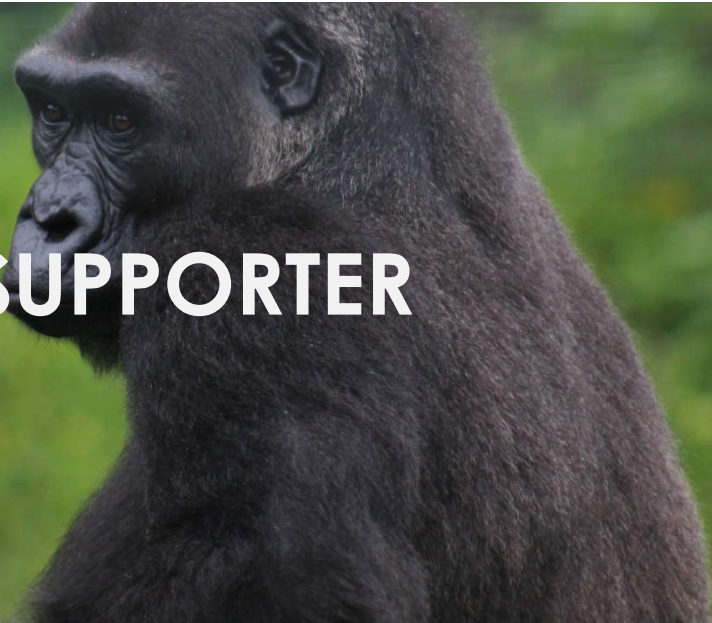
Contact info@limbewildlife.org to know more

August 2020 Highlights

- 
- ❑ **MINFOF-ZSL-LWC joint operation to rescue 8 endangered African grey parrots in South**
 - ❑ **Mandrill: Opened access to the densely grassed strip left fallow**
 - ❑ **Transferred 29 individuals from the large rehabilitation aviary to the soft-release site in the Limbe Botanical Garden**
 - ❑ **Art 4 Nature: completed the 4 original creative artworks by Toh Bright**
 - ❑ **Organised the first live visit of the Limbe Wildlife Centre on social media**
 - ❑ **Media coverage: 2 reports made**

LWC'S SPECIAL SUPPORTER

PETER EGAN



In August, the LWC has gone to new heights with its supporters and took a very exciting new step. We have engaged and started collaborations with our very first ambassador, **Mr Peter Egan!** This journey is much appreciated by the LWC team and our rescues, and we look forward to all the new supporters, friends and most importantly, Mr Egan, who are becoming part of the LWC family. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for helping us raise awareness, funds, and helping us grow our network to increase the help to save and help our rescues, and many of Cameroon's emblematic species!

Peter Egan was born on September 28, 1946, in London, England. He is an actor, known for *The Wedding Date*

(2005), *Chariots of Fire* (1981) and *Lillie* (1978). Peter is a long-time animal lover and vegan. Starting in 2010, he began to campaign publicly on behalf of animal rights and animal welfare.

Peter Egan's support is very much appreciated and we are extremely grateful to him to be our spokesperson to help us make the **Giving Day for Apes**, coming up in September to October 2020, a great success!



Achievements August 2020 & Objectives September 2020

1. Pandrillus-GoC Partnership & Public Relations

Funders



□ MINFOF-ZSL-LWC joint operation to rescue 8 endangered African grey parrots in South Region (Images 1-4)



Image 1. The African grey parrots were craved into a wooden box and aimed to be smuggled (photo credit: ZSL)



Image 2. The stress resulting from the very poor conditions of keeping dramatically affect the African grey parrots and their rehabilitation (photo credit: ZSL).



Image 3. Upon arrival at the Limbe Wildlife Centre, the African grey parrots were handled by our team of experts and their body condition checked.



Image 4. Each bird was marked with a ring and checked quickly to detect any serious injuries requiring treatment.

**September 2020 objectives:**

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

2. Population management & Animal welfare**Funders****Ongoing activities**

- Maintained frequency and diversity of enrichments in each section

Specific activities

- **Drill:** Reintroduced subgroup of Jomio (adult male) with Ossing and their (“accidental”) offspring Emilia back into group (**Image 5**)

- **Mandrill: Opened access to the densely grassed strip left fallow and rotate (Image 6)**

- **Vet cares** (August 2020):

- 71 Primate individuals treated; 4 anaesthesia performed; 35 individual sampled (3 blood samples for haematology analysis, 2 blood samples for biochemistry analysis, 33 faecal samples for coprology analysis, 2 pus swabs for microbiology analysis); 1 contraception; 0 identification with a microchip; 0 major surgeries; 102 drug therapies (of which 49% to treat 4 individuals with resistant bacteria abscessation): 78% dietary supplements, 18% antibiotics, 2% painkillers and anti-inflammatories, 1% arthritis supplements, 1% others; 0 health check; 1 death (**Chimpanzee:** 1, adult male *Ghaa*, internal bleeding due to a broken blood



vessel after a dislocation of bone)

○ **African grey parrots:** 13 general health checks; 33 health checks before release; 29 transferrals to the soft-release aviary, 8 transferrals to the rehabilitation aviary; 2 individuals received intensive care treatment with 3rd generation antibiotic treatment and special diet; 3 deaths (**Images 7-8**)



Image 5. Jomio (left) with female Ossing and Emilia went back into their group.

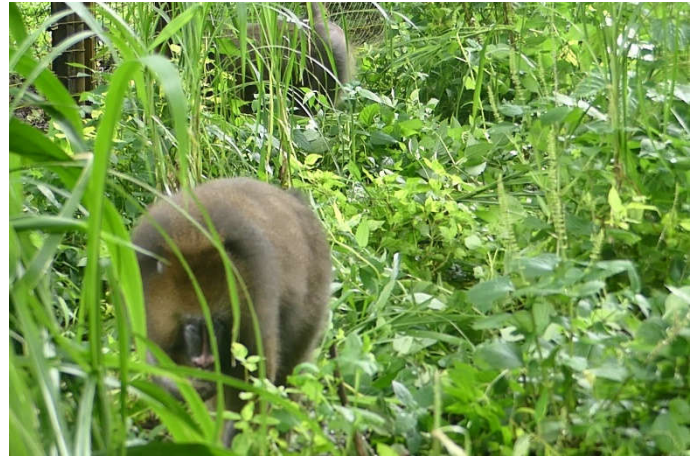


Image 6. Nicola, the oldest female of the Mandrill Group (24 yo) foraging in the densely grassed strip in the enclosure.



Image 7. African grey parrot treatment with Ivomec for external parasites.



Image 8. Praziquantel is given as a treatment against internal parasites during health checks.



September 2020 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:** 3rd quarantine health check: **Drill** (Mbigou, juvenile male); General health checks: **African grey parrots (8)**; Contraception: **Drills (5)**

3. Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release programme

Funders



Arrival & quarantine

- Rescued 8 endangered African grey parrots
- Rescued 1 Barn owl
- Rescued 1 Black-hinged terrapin

Behavioural rehabilitation

- None

Social rehabilitation

- **African grey parrot:** Continued to maintain the care and enrichment to the 170 African grey parrots in the large aviary before releasing them back to the wild
- **Drill:** Continued the social rehabilitation of the juvenile male Drill Mbigou with adult female Jafita



Release (ecological & environmental rehabilitation)

□ Transferred 29 individuals from the large rehabilitation aviary to the soft-release site in the Limbe Botanical Garden (Images 9-12)



Image 9. Killi Matute transfers the second flock to the soft-release aviary in the Limbe Botanical Garden.



Image 10. A week after the transfer, the hatch was opened and the bravest birds flew away.



Image 11. The hatch is made to enable the parrots to flight in and out the cage easily.



Image 12. One of the released birds spotted above the Limbe Botanical Garden. Direct observation and vocalisation records are our current way of doing post-release monitoring. In the future, we hope to develop remote GPS tracking to gather more information that will be valuable for the conservation of the species.

September 2020 objectives:

□ **African Grey Parrots:** Continue the rehabilitation process of the rescued individuals



- **Drill:** Transfer juvenile Mbigou and his surrogate mother Jafita in a satellite cage of the Drill enclosure (delayed)

4. Infrastructures and development | Material & Equipment

Funders



ARROT RESOURCE CENTRE



- Continued the preparation of the composting area (**Images 13-18**)
- **Shifted the fallow strip in the Mandrill enclosure (Images 19-20)**
- Started maintenance of the Drill satellite cages (**Images 21-26**)
- Cleaned and maintained 2 large billboards to display the first 4 artwork of the Art 4 Nature project (**Images 27-30**)
- Maintained 1 sliding door at the gorilla Chella's group (**Images 31-32**)



Image 13. Protective wall to prevent flooding of the composting area during the rainy season.



Image 14. Elevated wooden path installation.



Image 15. Elevated wooden path installation to be used by the animal care staff to dispose of animal organic matter collected from the night dens.



Image 16. Ramp concreting.



Image 17. Side view of install wooden path.



Image 18. Continuation of traditional Raphia palm mat roofing.

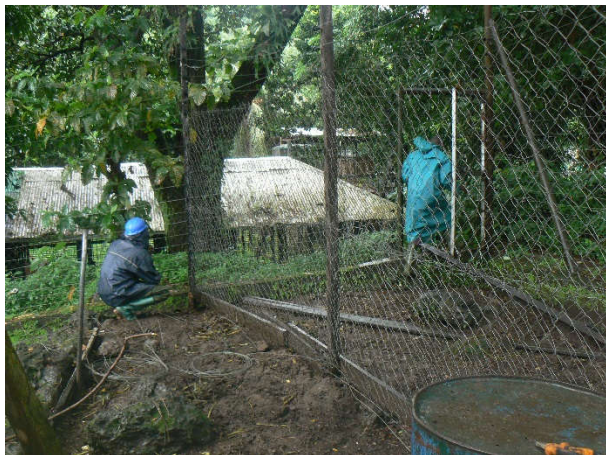


Image 19. Setting up electric fence to a different position in the Mandrill enclosure.



Image 20. The previous position that has been open to the Mandrills for foraging.



Image 21. View of damage sliding door (upper Drill satellite).



Image 22. Replacement of door rail and door maintenance (upper Drill satellite cage).



Image 23. Concreting of the top foundation and floor.



Image 24. Second layer painting in one of the three the drill satellite cages.

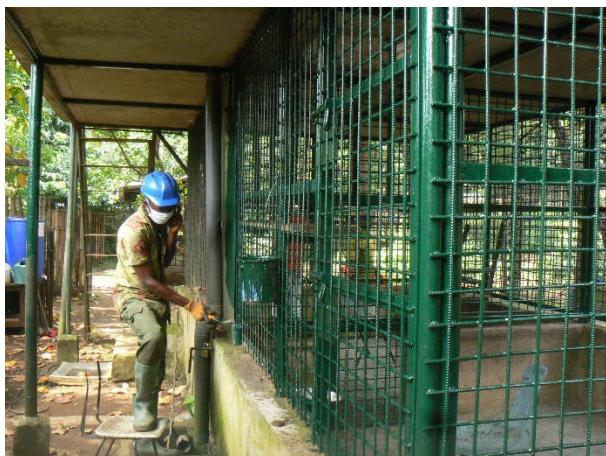


Image 25. Second layer painting of the two-level satellite cage of the Drill enclosure.



Image 26. Two-level satellite cage maintained in the Drill enclosure.



Image 27. Cleaning of the large billboard for the Art 4 Nature project.



Image 28. Cleaning and wire brushing.



Image 29. Welding work of some damage area in the billboards.



Image 30. View of finish maintenance work of one of the two large two-sided billboards.

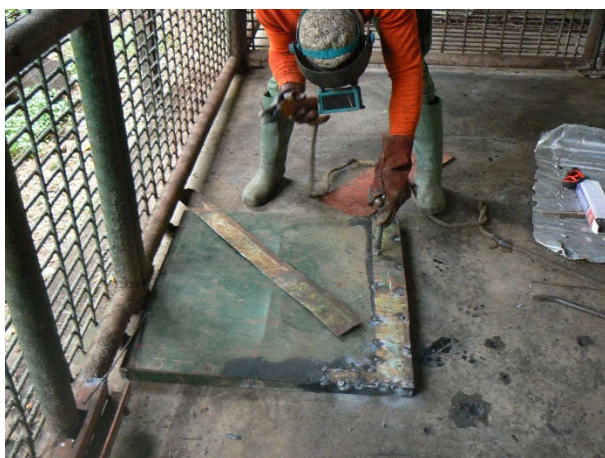


Image 31. The sliding door in Chella's group was seriously damaged and required urgent maintenance.



Image 32. Gorilla Chella's group sliding door was fully maintained.

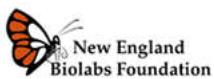


September 2020 objectives:

- Complete building of the composting area within the farm
- Complete the maintenance of the Drill satellite cages
- Started the maintenance of the chimpanzee night dens' platforms

5. Community Conservation, Environmental education & Ecotourism

Funders



BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, OUR **EDUCATION PROGRAMMES** WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITIES, AND VISITORS HAVE BEEN **SUSPENDED**

- **School outreach programme:** Suspended the 2019-2020 programme
- **Saturday Nature Club:** Suspended the 2019-2020 Nature Club
- **Art 4 Nature: completed the 4 original creative artworks by Toh Bright (Image 33)**
- **Community-based Green Economy:** 15 ex-hunter members sustainably harvesting wild herbaceous plants: 799.5 kg of *Aframomum* stems and 413 kg of *Costus* stems; 37 women members harvesting crop by-product: 940 kg of cassava leaves, 3,238 kg of papaya leaves, 2,113 kg of potato leaves, 232 kg of invasive Trumpet wood shoots, corresponding to 52 trees hand-cut; 869,110 FCFA (€1,327) paid directly to the local community association this month; 6,925,645 5 FCFA (€10,574) contributed to alleviate local poverty in 2020



Image 33. The 4 original artworks from Toh Bright will serve to launch the Art 4 Nature campaign as a new concept to promote wildlife protection and engage Cameroonian cictizen.

September 2020 objectives:

- Continue with ongoing programs
- Install 4 large billboards and unveil the 4 original artworks made by Toh Bright in Limbe (delayed)

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
- **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.

- **Monitoring the soft-release of endangered African grey parrot:** Started to collect daily data on the parrot movement and use of environment

Activity achievement

- MSc student Isabel Misori Mandela successfully published her thesis in Applied Ecology and Wildlife Management from the University of Dschang: *Assessment of the group cohesion and individual welfare after social integration of a captive subadult chimpanzee Chinoise in the Limbe Wildlife Centre, Southwest region Cameroon*

Data analysis

- None

September 2020 objectives:

- Continue with the above ongoing activities
- Start analysing the behavioural data on Chimpanzees

7. Capacity building, staff empowerment & Mentorship

- None

September 2020 objectives:

- Continue with the above ongoing activities



8. Communication & Visibility

□ **Digital communication** (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter): The social media analytics for the month of August have shown a significant increase due to the announcement of our partnership with new ambassador, Peter Egan. Twitter has shown the bigger growth with an increased reach of 78.6%, and an increased following of 4%. The remaining three platforms have all shown a steady increase of followers, with Facebook reaching 15,097!

□ **Live visit of the Limbe Wildlife Centre:** organised the first live show with Manager Peggy Motsch and Head of African grey parrot rehabilitation Killi Matute to highlight the care provided to the endangered African grey parrots to special guests and donors (**Image 34**)



Image 34. Peggy Motsch and Killi Matute presented the daily operations led at the Limbe Wildlife Centre and especially in the rehabilitation aviary live with several special guests.

□ **Media coverage: 2 reports made**

- **Newspaper:** *Limbe Wildlife Centre establishes soft-release programme to save the endangered African grey parrot*, The Star, 3 August 2020
- **Interview: What Does The Giraffe Say?** With Peggy Motsch, Manager of the Limbe Wildlife Centre, 17 August 2020 (see the [interview here](#))



THE STAR NEWS/FOREIGN NEWS

Fighting extinction of the African Grey Parrots: Limbe Wildlife Centre establishes Soft-Release progra to save the endangered African Grey Parrot

By Guillaume Laflohic

The African grey parrot, one of the most emblematic wildlife species in the world, is unquestionably under the constant pressure of their shrinking habitat and as the pet trade's long-term victims. As a result of their wild population decline, the species was reclassified from vulnerable to endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2017.

The sixth mass extinction, the contemporary human-led biological annihilation, is happening faster than anyone anticipated and is affecting and will irreversibly affect all our lives. All over the world, human unsustainable actions, including forest encroachment and poaching, dooms our planet's wildlife and threaten human wellbeing.

The Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) was established in 1993 to ensure the survival of Cameroon's rich wildlife through rescue, rehabilitation and release programmes. The LWC has since become the first and only project in Cameroon dedicated to the survival of the endangered African grey parrots. With the 2019 rescue of 380 parrots, the LWC enhanced all facilities and procedures to pave the way for the national rehabilitation and release programme.

Through this programme, confiscated African grey parrots will receive rehabilitation care at the LWC until they are healthy enough to be relocated to national protected areas. Relocation to protected areas serves many purposes including reinforcement of



African Gray Parrot

local wild populations and aligns with national conservation strategies and international recommendation from both CITES and IUCN.

What is the Soft Release Programme

The inauguration of this programme commences with the soft-release of 100 African grey parrots starting in July 2020. It consists of the following three components:

Firstly, the LWC will test a customized soft-release aviary in the Limbe Botanical Garden for effectiveness before replication on a national scale. Each released flock, consisting of 25 parrots, will continue to have access to food and shelter as long as necessary while adapting to their new surroundings and freedom.

Secondly, 10 individuals will be fitted with GPS harnesses, for the first time ever, to facilitate post-release monitoring. This will enable recording of their space use and measure survivorship, but

also to the collection of extremely valuable data of wild populations to better understand their ecology and prioritize in-situ conservation actions.

The third component of the success of this programme is societal acceptance and support. Utilizing traditional and social media, the LWC will conduct a "STOP ILLEGAL PET TRADE: #ProtectWildlife!" public engagement campaign. Local events include the creation of a large art installation by artist Toh Bright, an award-winning 25-year-old Anglophone Cameroonian visual artist and writer. The artwork will be displayed in Limbe and promote Art-4-Nature, a concept developed by the LWC and Toh Bright to encourage rethinking the link between human wellbe-

ing and preserving nature.

It is important to note that in carrying out this programme, LWC aligns with the Government priorities in respect of the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) strategic plan. In addition to effectively supporting the fight against parrot trafficking in Cameroon, they are helping to restore wild populations of African grey parrots and the ecosystems shared with rural communities. The representative of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOP), Conservator MBELEN A RIM Serge underlines: "The African grey parrot is one of the most emblematic species of Cameroon biodiversity and strictly protected by our wildlife laws. The soft-release

programme represents a first step in following the CITES recommendations from the Government partners, especially in implementing the management of parrots from trade. The LWC will ensure the fight against parrot trafficking in Cameroon is sustainable."

Amidst the pandemic, the LWC is seeking more partners to successfully implement the three components of the programme.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the survival and conservation of African grey parrots should contact the Limbe Wildlife Centre at www.limbewildlife.org.

Stephen Tataw first African player to play in the Far East

By Solomon Agberem

Former Indomitable Lions skipper Stephen Tataw has passed away after a brief illness in Yaounde.

Stephen Tataw 57, died in the nation's political capital-Yaounde according to a statement issued by the Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) president Saidou Mbombo Njoya on Friday July 31, 2020.

The former defender and Captain was known for leading the Indomitable Lions to a first World Cup outing in 1990 where they got to quarter-finals



Stephen Tataw: rest in peace but lost out to England 3-2 after prolongation. The Indomitable

Lions of Cameroon first African skipper, has since been Senegal in 2002 and 2010.

Stephen Tataw's career with the national team began before moving to Japan in 1991. He was the first African player to have signed a contract with a Far East club. He was not as prolific as he is today.

Galaxy Note Edge

West Africa calls for unity in Mali. resignation of 31

September 2020 objectives:

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



9. Revenues generated

□ **Entrance fees (August 2020):** FCFA 0 (0 visitors; 0% children, 0% Cameroonians) due to the closure of the Limbe Wildlife Centre to visitors

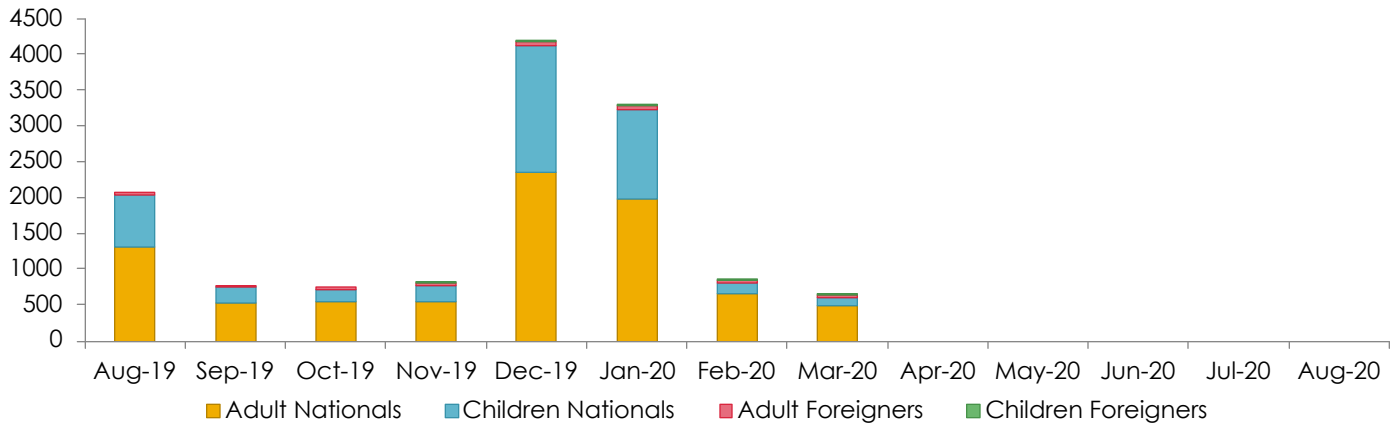


Figure 1. Visitor statistics August 2019- August 2020



www.limbewildlife.org