

1993 - 2023

LIMBE WILDLIFE CENTRE

30 YEAR REPORT



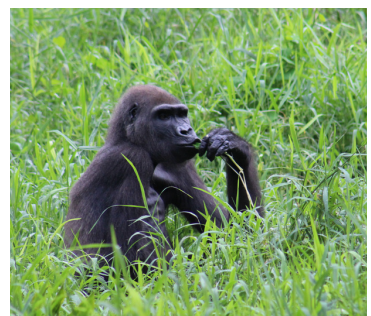
Introduction

The Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC), based in the Limbe Zoological Gardens (LZG) is a partnership between the Government of Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and Pandrillus Cameroon.

The mission of the LWC is to **conserve Cameroonian wildlife by rehabilitating victims of poaching, inspiring people to connect with nature and improving local communities wellbeing.** The LWC was the first sanctuary for wildlife in Cameroon, and it makes a significant impact for conservation in Cameroon through its activities.

Since its inception in 1993, thousands of animals have been rescued, rehabilitated, and released back into the wild. For those who cannot make the journey back to their natural habitat, the LWC provides a safe haven. Over the years, the centre has become a hub for education, community initiatives, wildlife and environmental conservation.

The partnership between the Government of Cameroon and Pandrillus has led to many great successes, and has been incredibly fruitful over 30 years. We hope it will continue for many years to come, and enable the LWC to further develop to improve the wellbeing of animals and the conservation of wildlife.



30 Years of Wildlife Conservation in Cameroon

Since its creation in 1993, the LWC has established itself as a leader in wildlife care and conservation in Cameroon. All those involved can be incredibly proud of what it has achieved in the pursuit of its mission to protect Cameroon's unique wildlife.

Over the last 30 years, the LWC can claim many achievements which contribute to its objectives, including:



Kite release, 2020



Saturday Nature Club, 2000



Community Green Project, 2011

- Thousands of animals released back to the wild (since 2015 numbers include 463 African grey parrots and 154 other animals released).
- Around 50,000 school children have been educated and sensitized to the importance of the conservation of biodiversity.
- 14 different schools currently engaged in the conservation education programme.
- The Green Project, conducted in partnership with the local Batoke community, has helped alleviate poverty (80 million CFA paid into community for green browse since 2015) and reduce the pressure on wildlife around Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP).
- The long-term employment and security of many local staff.
- Over 2.5 billion CFA invested in LWC by Pandrillus in total.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the partnership between the government of Cameroon and Pandrillus.



A founding member of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance



The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), the largest association of wildlife centres in Africa, includes 22 organisations in 13 countries which are securing a future for Africa's primates and their habitat.

PASA is the largest association of wildlife centres in Africa.

- 22 organisations
- 13 countries

In 2000, the increasing number of primate rescue and rehabilitation centres in Africa was collectively caring for hundreds of chimpanzees, gorillas, and other endangered primates.

Many directors and leaders of these sanctuaries realised they were facing similar challenges and could benefit by learning from each other, so they arranged a meeting in Uganda. The directors of the organisations agreed there was a need for improved ongoing communication, and as a result the PASA was formed. Although PASA's headquarters is now in Portland, Oregon, and it is a registered nonprofit in the U.S., it was created by the African wildlife sanctuaries, of which the LWC was one of these founding members.

While PASA's initial functions were networking and communication, the Alliance soon took on additional roles such as strengthening the capacity of member organisations and establishing high standards for their operations. PASA advocates for its member organizations on an international scale, provides them with support, and works closely with them to raise awareness globally about wildlife conservation issues. PASA and its members conduct public education programs, rescue, and rehabilitate wild animals, reintroduce animals to the wild, and work with government agencies to protect natural areas.

Notable achievements

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Pandrillus-Government partnership and public relations  | 2 Animal welfare and population management  | 3 Animal rescue, rehabilitation and release  | 4 Infrastructure and development  | 5 Community conservation, education and outreach  |
| 6 Capacity building, staff empowerment, mentorship, and teamwork  | 7 Communication and visibility  | 8 Visitors and volunteers  | 9 Our institutional partners  | <p>Focus and improvement across these 9 categories have seen the LWC grow, flourish and achieve great things over the past 3 decades.</p> |

Over the past 30 years, the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon has made significant improvements across multiple areas to enhance their conservation efforts. Visually, the LWC is unrecognisable from the way it looked 30 years ago.



1999 - The former entrance and ticket office of the LWC before the construction of the current reception and education building.
© Jane Rassmussen Dewar



1999 - The former "Limbe Zoo" sign has since been taken down and replaced with a "Limbe Wildlife Centre" sign.
© Jane Rassmussen Dewar

Pandrillus-Government partnership and public relations

The Government of Cameroon and Pandrillus have had a fruitful collaboration for 30 years. This partnership has been instrumental in advancing efforts to protect and preserve endangered species. The LWC enables Cameroonian wildlife laws to be reinforced by providing a sanctuary for animals confiscated from the illegal bushmeat and pet trades.

The LWC is an internationally recognised wildlife sanctuary, with partners across the globe who have contributed with their time, skills, and knowledge, as well as generous financial donations to help the LWC develop into the well-established wildlife centre it is today. It has also formed close relationships and partnerships with many of the diplomatic missions based in Cameroon, and national businesses and organisations. LWC is widely respected and recognised in Cameroon by these entities for its efforts to conserve wildlife and promote environmental education. It's reputation as a trustworthy and reliable institution has led to increased levels of high-value donations and partnerships. This has included the Cameroon Development Company (CDC), Cameroon Oil Transportation Company (COTCO), Cameroon Telecommunications (Camtel), and Cimenteries Du Cameroun (CimenCam).

Pandrillus has cultivated strong working relationships with the other sanctuary organisations in Cameroon, such as Ape Action Africa, Sanaga Yong and Tikki Hywood Pangolin Sanctuary. Also, with a variety of local conservation organisations, including the African Marine Mammal Conservation Organisation (AMMCO), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Cameroon, and the Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (PSMNR).



The relationship between MINFOF and Pandrillus ensures the continued success of the LWC. We are pleased to showcase the results of this partnership. Notably, we welcomed His Excellency Jules Doret Ndongo, The Minister of MINFOF, for a visit in 2022, along with MINFOF Regional Delegate Madame Delphine Erem.

Additionally, Pandrillus maintains a strong online presence on behalf of the LWC, with regular updates and reports on its website and social media pages. Through these public relations efforts, we been able to foster strong relationships with sponsors, donors, and supporters, which have helped to sustain its operations and fund key conservation initiatives.

Overall, the LWC is highly regarded for effective conservation programmes, public outreach, and advocacy efforts. The active participation in community events and awareness campaigns has helped to create a strong public image for LWC and boost its reputation as a leading wildlife sanctuary in Cameroon. It is a respected institution that continues to make significant contributions to the preservation of Cameroon's biodiverse ecosystems.



Pandrillus is proud to partner with international organisations such as Pro Wildlife, one of the LWC's longest and most loyal supporters. Photo of Wilson Ateh (centre, LWC) and Anthony Chasser (right, LWC) with Andrea Hoppner the CEO of Pro Wildlife, 2003.

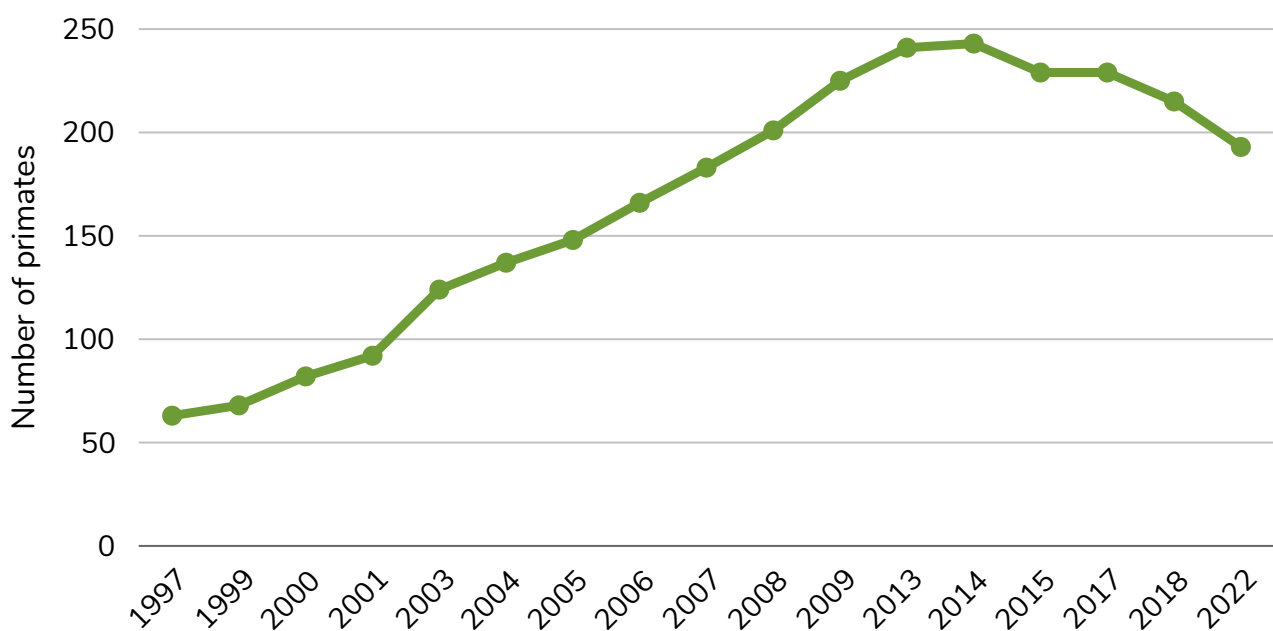
Animal welfare and population management

Welfare of the animals is Pandrillus's priority at LWC, and we strive to always follow international best practice. We believe that all animals deserve to live in an environment that best promotes their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, following the five freedoms: freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury, or disease; freedom to express normal behaviour; and freedom from fear and distress. LWC recognises that careful management of its animal populations is an essential part of the conservation of wildlife and maintenance of high animal welfare standards.

The LWC has developed protocols and strategies to manage the number of animals in their care effectively. This includes careful management to limit breeding, ensuring the population does not exceed the capacity of the centre. It is important to follow scientific evidence, veterinary guidance, and international best practise, such as IUCN guidelines, in the management of animals and animal populations.

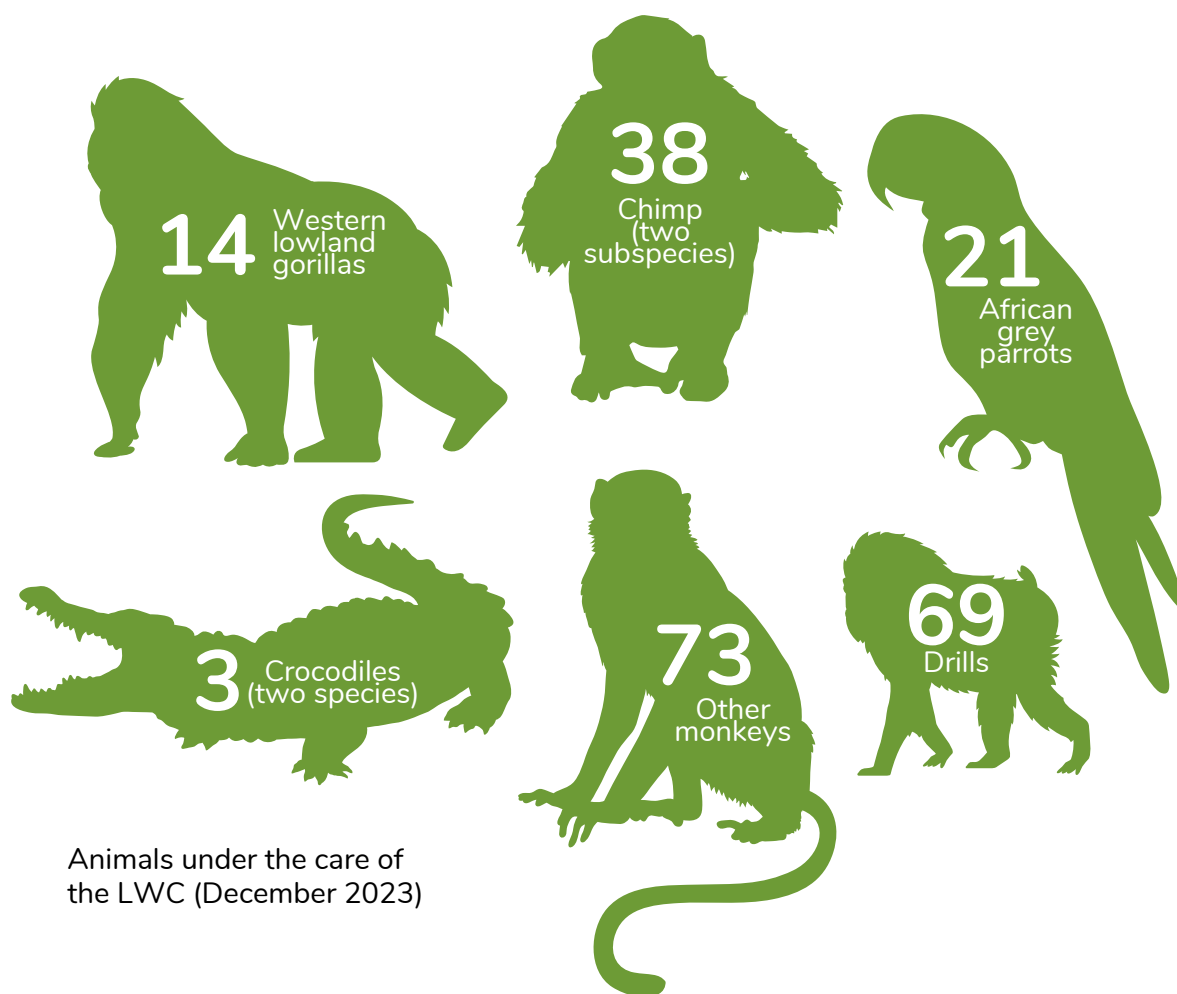
The team of veterinarians and animal care staff at the centre work tirelessly to ensure that the animals are healthy and happy. Regular health checks are conducted to monitor the animals' health, ensuring early detection and prompt treatment of any medical issues. Furthermore, understanding the behaviour, health, and well-being of the animals in our care is imperative to successful conservation efforts. Local and international staff and volunteer experts have conducted numerous research projects and health monitoring programmes to ensure that the animals at LWC receive the best possible care and that their needs are properly catered for. With a focus on data-driven, evidence-based practices, the research has contributed immensely to the management of captive animals and conservation.

In summary, Pandrillus takes a comprehensive approach to ensure that the animals cared for at LWC live healthy, happy, and fulfilled lives.





The collaboration of local and international veterinarians and animal care staff ensure that our rescued animals receive the highest level of care. Pictured are resident veterinarian Dr John Kiyang, international veterinarian (and former Pandrillus Manager) Felix Lankester, and gorilla keepers Bama Alfred and Jonathan Kang, performing a health check on female gorilla Akiba in 2004.



Animals under the care of
the LWC (December 2023)



Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release

The LWC has been at the forefront of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release in Cameroon for the past 30 years. With a commitment to preserving the country's rich biodiversity, the centre has rescued and treated thousands of animals that have been injured, orphaned, or confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade.

Under the care of dedicated veterinarians and caregivers, these animals receive the critical support they need to regain their physical health and behavioural skills before being released back into the wild where possible following IUCN guidelines. The success of the centre's efforts is a testament to years of hard work, community engagement, and advocacy for the protection of wildlife in the region.

Estimates for arrivals of animals since the conception of the LWC in 1993 range in the thousands, most of which have been confiscated by MINFOF wildlife officials. Furthermore, many of the birds, reptiles and small mammals that are bought to the centre have been released, including **over 4,000 African grey parrots**.

Since 2015, the LWC has received 1,293 animals. This includes 42 primates and 538 African grey parrots. Since 2015, the LWC has released 617 animals.



The repatriation of Brighter and Twiggs from Nigeria to Cameroon garnered international attention. It was an impressive collaboration between the governments of Nigeria and Cameroon and was funded by the United Nations Great Ape Survival Project (UN-GRASP) and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2003.

The LWC has played part in many high profile animal rescues. Some of them garnered international attention, such as the Kano Two and Taiping Four.

| Year | Event |
|------|---|
| 2003 | Twiggs and Brighter (western lowland gorillas) known as the “Kano Two” were repatriated from Nigeria after being taken from the wild in Cameroon as infants and sold into the pet trade – they lived for several years with a businessman until they were confiscated by wildlife officials and bought to the LWC. |
| 2007 | Taiping Four (western lowland gorillas) arrive after international operation to return them to their home country after being trafficked to Malaysia. |
| 2007 | 1,220 African grey parrots arrive in two groups after a major confiscation by MINFOF wildlife officials. |
| 2008 | Arrival of African rock python confiscated from the magic man in the market, which became a firm favourite of visitors. |
| 2009 | 503 African grey parrots arrive in one group. |
| 2010 | 1,767 African grey parrots arrive in two groups. |
| 2014 | Chinoise arrives at the LWC after a joint mission between Pandrillus, MINFOF and Last Great Ape Organisation (LAGA) to rescue her from being kept illegally in a Chinese restaurant in Douala. |
| 2018 | Three adult Chimpanzees (Jackie, Utah and Mungo) rescued by LWC were transferred to other high standard sanctuaries: Ape Action Africa (AAA) and Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre (SYCRC) to continue their social rehabilitation in more suitable chimpanzee groups that will improve their animal welfare and chances of a successful rehabilitation. |

Infrastructure and development

The success of the LWC would not have been possible without the critical investment in infrastructure and development. The centre has improved its facilities with modern equipment, expanded its animal enclosures, and established a clinical laboratory and a quarantine facility.

These infrastructural developments in combination with the implementation of new protocols and standards have enhanced the quality of care and welfare provided to the animals. Moreover, creative techniques have been implemented to improve animal enrichment, supporting the behavioural, social, and physical wellbeing of the animals. Further to this, the LWC has developed and improved its educational facilities with the construction of a large education and exhibition hall. Our education hall serves as a hub for school visits and community outreach programmes, allowing us to spread the message of conservation and help instil a sense of responsibility and respect for wildlife.



Major construction projects such as the large gorilla enclosure have been facilitated by Pandrillus Cameroon through international funders (pictured here in 2004, the gorilla enclosure funded by the Arcus Foundation and Pro Wildlife).



Pictured is an example of an old cage which was formerly used to house animals at the Victoria Zoo. The cage is far too small, exposed, with no enrichment or greenery inside. It is now used as an educational tool to sensitise visitors about animal welfare needs.



Wide open enclosures, such as the chimpanzee island, improve our animal's welfare as they have access to lots of space, green areas, climbing structures, natural foraging opportunities and fresh air. This project was designed, fundraised for, constructed, and completed by Pandrillus.



A refurbishment of the climbing structures in the drill enclosure was completed in 2023. The old structures were falling down after many years of use, and only the skeleton of the former climbing structures remained. The drill enclosure now has more layers and complexity within the enclosure, replicating a more natural environment. This project was funded thanks to our partners Save the Drill and the donation of telephone poles from Camtel.



Community conservation, education, and outreach

The LWC recognises that conservation efforts must go beyond the gates of its facility and into the communities where its work takes place. Therefore, community engagement and education have always been a key component of its mission.

The LWC has implemented various outreach initiatives to engage local communities in wildlife conservation, through environmental education and awareness campaigns, livelihood programmes, and partnerships with local organisations. These programmes face many challenges and obstacles, with different cultures and belief systems, and dealing with issues such as illegal poaching, deforestation, and wildlife trafficking. Despite these challenges, our commitment to community conservation and education has a lasting impact, not only in terms of protecting the wildlife in Cameroon, but also in promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life for local people.

The LWCs educators have been reaching between 1,800 and 2,200 children each year – totalling tens of thousands of children that have passed through the environmental education programme.



The annual graduation ceremony recognises the achievements of the children that have partaken in the environmental outreach provided by the LWCs education team. Photo taken in 2023.

The **Saturday Nature Club** has been running for 26 years. It provides free environmental education to children aged between 6 and 16 years. The Saturday Nature Club provides an opportunity for children to learn in a stimulating environment, with access to books, pens, art supplies, toys, and games. During this time, they learn about nature conservation, watch videos, take part in nature-based educational activities, see the animals in rehabilitation and much more. Children are encouraged to come and have fun, make new friends, and learn about conservation.

The community-based Green Project has been providing sustainable alternative incomes for local ex-hunters and their families for over 20 years. Between 2015 and 2022, over **80 million XAF (146,000 USD)** has been invested back into the participating Batoke community in exchange for **746,366kg** of fresh and nutritious green leafy feed for LWC animals.



The alternative livelihoods programme provides a fruitful and sustainable income for ex-hunters, farmers, and their families.

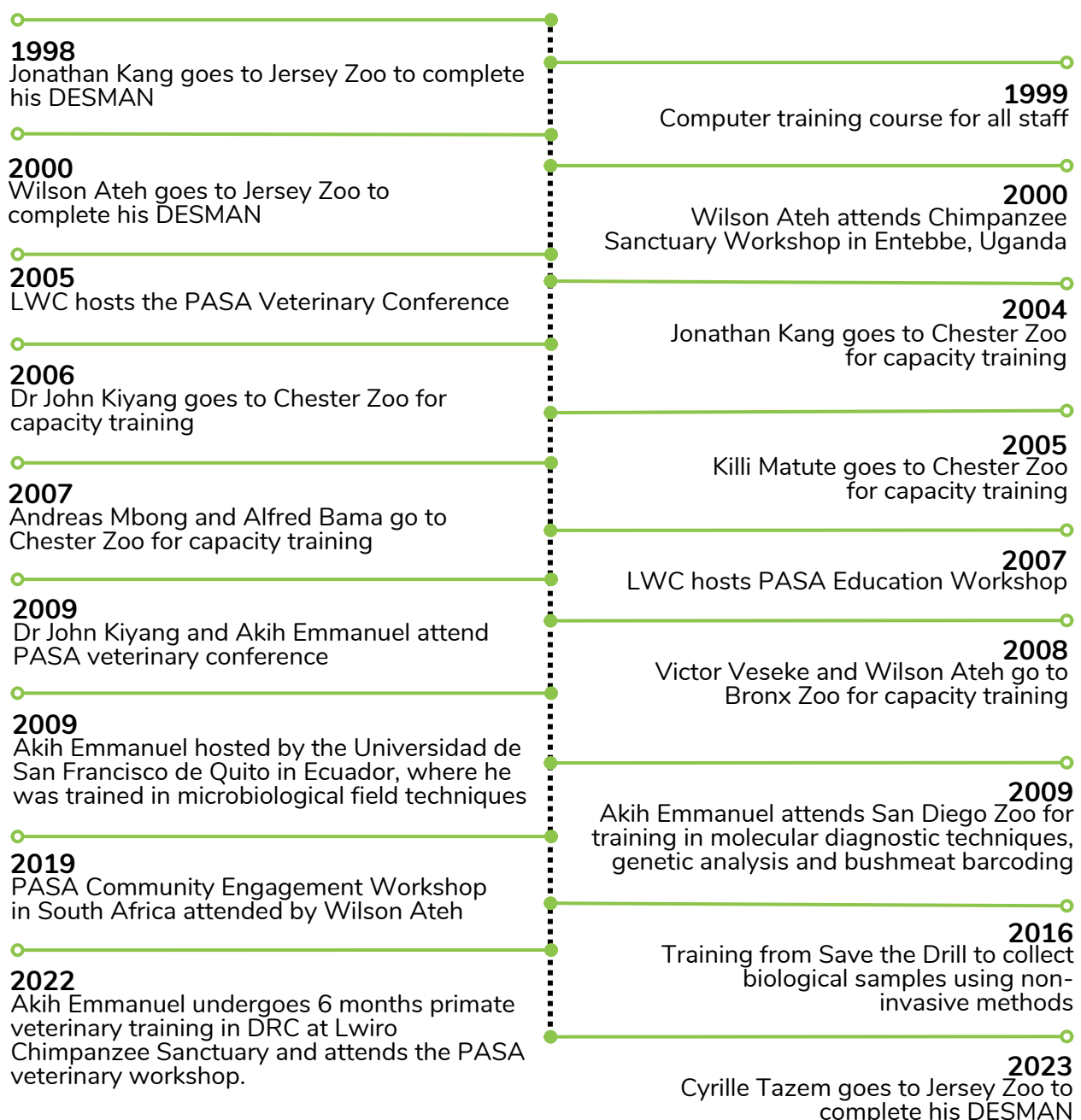
The LWC's Head of Education, Wilson Ateh, has been honoured for his excellent contribution to conservation education. In 2006, he was awarded the **Charles Southwick Contribution to Conservation Education Award**. This award is dedicated to recognizing individuals living in primate habitat countries that have made a significant contribution to formal and informal conservation education in their countries. In 2021, he was awarded the **Siddle Marsden Award** by PASA, which is given annually to the PASA sanctuary staff member that best exemplifies a commitment to primates, a commitment to conservation, and a commitment to excellence.



Capacity building, staff empowerment, mentorship, and teamwork

The LWC recognises that to achieve long-term success, there is a need to invest in the people who work tirelessly to make a difference.

The centre has placed great emphasis on creating a conducive environment for learning, growth, and innovation, encouraging staff development and capacity building. Such initiatives have contributed to the development of a team of skilled and motivated professionals who are now leading efforts to care for and conserve wildlife species in Cameroon. This includes local and international training courses on conservation, animal care and environmental education, to encourage talented and dedicated staff.



*Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate (DESMAN) - three-month international training course at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Communication and visibility

Effective communication strategies, both locally and internationally, have enhanced awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and have garnered support for the LWC's initiatives. Through effective communication and visibility, the LWC has been able to secure the resources necessary to accomplish its conservation goals while raising awareness and promoting education on wildlife conservation. The LWC has been featured nationally and internationally in newspapers, books, television shows, documentaries and more.

Pandrillus has been producing various reports on the activities at the LWC since 1994. These reports play an essential role in advancing the LWCs work by providing vital information to supporters, which helps them to make informed decisions about their support for the centre. It also helps to build trust and accountability between the centre and its supporters, which is essential for the centre's continued success.

The LWC's annual and quarterly reports provide detailed information on its conservation activities, including the rescue, care, and rehabilitation of endangered wildlife species, education programmes and veterinary activities. They also outline the significant achievements of the centre and the milestones it has accomplished during the year.

Furthermore, the reports also ensure that international organisations and individual supporters are well-informed about the various challenges faced by the LWC and highlight the priority financial needs. The report provides a platform for the centre to be transparent about its challenges and highlights areas where further assistance might be required.



Limbe Wildlife Centre



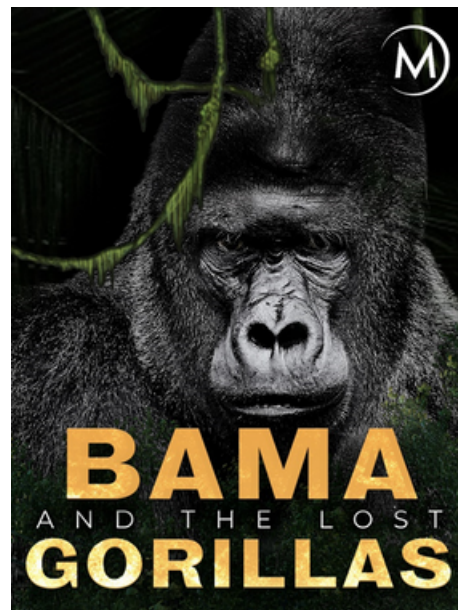
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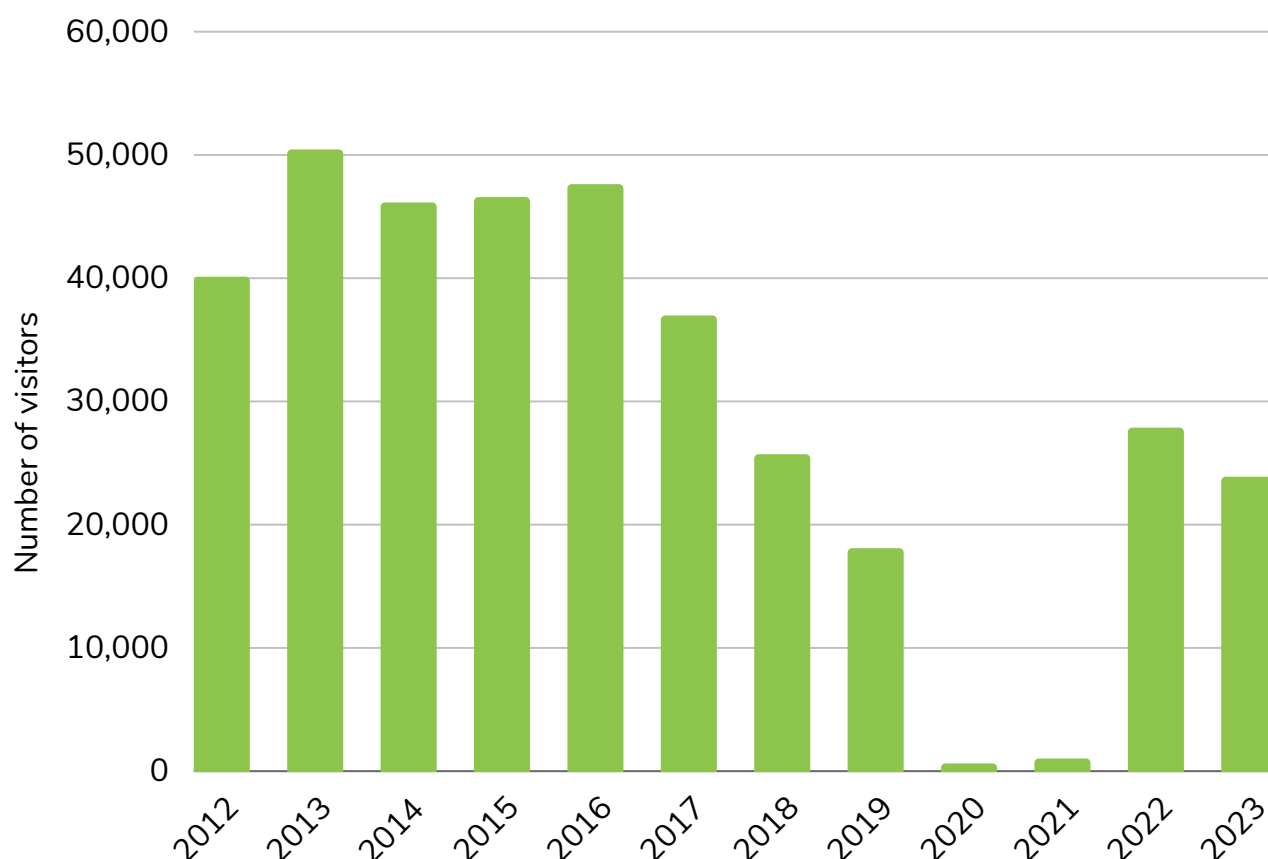
Above: The 2014 documentary "Bama and the Lost Gorillas" featured animal keeper Alfred Bama and female gorilla Nyango.

Right: The Observer reported on the work of the LWC in 1996, bringing international interest to the work of its staff.



Visitors and volunteers

From its conception in 1993, the LWC saw a steady increase in the number of visitors coming to enjoy Cameroon's beautiful wildlife. These numbers were affected in 2017 and then during the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are pleased to report that numbers are on the rise once again. From the beginning of 2015 until August 2023, the LWC welcomed **221,302 visitors, 95% of which were Cameroonian**.



The LWC also welcomes many Cameroonian and international volunteers each year. The volunteer programme plays a vital role in the conservation efforts undertaken to protect Cameroon's natural heritage. The programme serves as an excellent opportunity for Cameroonian volunteers to receive training, develop their skills in wildlife conservation, and contribute to the efforts to safeguard wildlife. It is crucial to mention that the volunteer programme at the LWC has proved to be a stepping stone for individuals who want to pursue a career in animal care and wildlife conservation. Some volunteers have gone on to become full-time Pandrillus employees at LWC, contributing immensely to its growth and development. International volunteers contribute significantly through their diverse skill sets and financial support, enabling the centre to sustain operations and expand its capacity. Furthermore, these volunteers help promote the Limbe Wildlife Centre's mission worldwide, becoming ambassadors for the care and preservation of Cameroon's unique wildlife.





Our institutional partners

We are proud to present our partners, the national and international organisations and businesses that have supported the LWC through their generous financial and in-kind donations. These partners have played a crucial role in the success of our mission to conserve and protect Cameroon's wildlife through rescue, rehabilitation, and education. Together, we have made significant strides in the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking and the preservation of endangered species. We are deeply grateful for the incredible support and collaborative efforts of our partners and look forward to continuing our partnership in the years to come.

24GuteTaten
Abraham Foundation
American Businessmen's Association
American Embassy
American School of Yauonde
Animal Trust Switzerland
Animal Welfare Institute
Arcus Foundation
Association Francophone des Soigneurs-Animaliers (AFSA)
Auckland Zoo
Barbara Delano Foundation
Berhard Trust
Bioviva Foundations
Born Free Foundation
Branfere Zoo
Brevard Zoo
Brigitte Bardot Foundation
British High Commission
Bukima
Busch Garden Zoo
Cameroon Development Company (CDC)
Cameroon Mountains Conservation Foundation (CAMCOF)
Cameroon Oil Transportation Company (COTCO)
Camtel
Centre Pasteur
Chessington World of Adventures
Chester Zoo
Children of Conservation
Cimenteries du Cameroun (CimenCam)
Cleveland Zoo
Clovely Groupe Alcyon
Coca-Cola
Columbus Zoological Park Association
Commercial Bank Cameroun
Computer World
Culture and Animals Foundation
Dash Media
Del Monte Co.
Dewar Wildlife Trust
Disney

DLH NORDISK
Dogs 4 Conservation
Douala International Terminal
Drayton Manor
Ecoflox
Environmental Monitoring Project (EMP)
Erlebnis Zoo - Hannover
Espace Zoologique St. Martin la Plaine
European Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Fondation Ensemble
Fresno Chaffe Zoo
Givskud Zoo
Gorilla Haven
Great Ape Film Institute
Green School
Greenville Zoo
Guinness Cameroun
Harambe Foundation
Harmony Fund
Hellabrunn der Munchner Tierpark
Houston Zoo
Humane Society International (HSI)
Humane Society of Canada
Humane Society of USA
Human-I-Tees Foundation
In Defence of Animals
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
International Primate Protection League (IPPL)
International Zoo Veterinary Group
Jane Goodall Institute
John Ball Zoo
John Hopkins Institute
Jouets Sans Frontière
Kathryn McQuade Foundation
KfW
KLM
Last Great Ape Organisation (LAGA)
Limbe Botanical Gardens
Little Rock Zoo

Los Angeles Zoo
Lush UK
Maersk
Marchig Animal Welfare Trust
Memphis Zoo
Natchez Group
New England Biolabs Foundation
North of England Zoological Society
ODA
Oklahoma City Zoo
Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)
Parrot Wildlife Foundation
Pecten Cameroon
Pipedrive
Pittsburgh Zoo
Port Authority of Douala
Prague Radio
Prague Zoo
Programme for the Sustainable
Management of Natural Resources
(PSMNR)
ProWildlife
Proyecto Gran Simio
Razel
Royal Netherlands Embassy
Rozhlas/Prague Zoo
Sabena
San Diego Wildlife Alliance
Save the Drill (Rettet den Drill)
School of International Training
SONARA
SOS Primates
Spectrum
St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Animal Hospital
Standard Chartered Bank
Stichting Weesaapjes

Studiosus Foundation
Tasima Enterprises
The Wagmore Foundation
Tidewater
Toronto Zoo
Trans Ocean
Trust Africa
UNEP Great Ape Survival Partnership
(GRASP)
UNESCO
Village Noah
Vogelpark Marlow
Wackenhut (now G4S)
Warsaw Zoo
Washington Field School
West Ottawa Schools
Wildlife Care of Ventura County
Wildlife Conservation Society
World of Wildlife
World Parrot Trust
World Society for the Protection of Animals
(WSPA)
World Veterinary Service
Worldwide Animal Rescue (WWAR)
World Wildlife Fund (WWF) - Cameroon
Wuppertal Zoo
Zapier
ZGAP
Zoo Atlanta
Zoo Boissiere
Zoo de la Flèche
Zoo de Lille
Zoo la Palmyre

Next Steps



From humble beginnings in 1993, the LWC is now an internationally renowned wildlife sanctuary. Through the maintenance of our high standards, new partnerships, new projects and continued community education and conservation - we look forward to seeing how different the LWC will look in another 30 years.

The LWC has ambitious plans going forwards...

—> **Improve veterinary and laboratory facilities**


The LWC plans to make significant investment to expand the capabilities of the veterinary and laboratory facilities on-site to benefit the resident animals and potentially serve as a resource for other wildlife sanctuaries in Cameroon.

—> **Expand community initiatives and educational programmes**

The LWC is in a unique position to inspire people to connect with nature and improve the local communities' wellbeing. The LWC plans to expand its outreach into new schools and communities whilst strengthening existing bonds to make a lasting impact for conservation in Cameroon.

—> **Expand into a new field site**

Currently, the LWC covers a 4-hectare site adjacent to the Limbe Botanical Gardens. The plan is to significantly expand, to cover a greater forested area, therefore offering our animals more space and better habitat and allowing us greater capacity to take rescued animals in need.



**We thank you for your continued
support in our efforts to protect
Cameroon's unique wildlife.**

Contact

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