

The Limbe Wildlife Centre

Quarterly newsletter
Q1 - 2024



Who We Are

The **Limbe Wildlife Centre** is a collaborative effort between **Pandrillus** Cameroon and the Government of Cameroon's **Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)**.



MINFOF oversees implementing the national forest policy for ensuring sustainable management and conservation of wildlife and biodiversity over the national territory.. Pandrillus Cameroon is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to protect Cameroonian wildlife in collaboration with the government to uphold wildlife law, inspire a new generation of conservationists and bridge the gap between welfare and conservation.

The LWC is accredited by the **Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)** and a winner of the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award.



A Note From Us to You...

Warmest greetings from the Limbe Wildlife Centre, and it is with great pleasure that we introduce our first quarter report for 2024. As we start the new year, we are excited to share our progress regarding the care and welfare of our rescued animals, our outreach activities, and highlight several significant achievements that would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners and supporters.

In this report, you will find updates on the rescued orphaned primates that came to us at the end of 2023, news of the arrival of a large confiscation of African grey parrots, and updates from our fallen tree appeal. We are also delighted to report on the success of our education outreach programme, which culminated in another inspiring graduation ceremony for our participants. It is always a joy to see these young minds inspired by our message of conservation and wildlife protection.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kristen Bigelow for her tireless efforts in updating and renewing our quarterly newsletter design. We hope you enjoy the new format and look forward to sharing more stories and updates with you throughout the year.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2024, we are filled with optimism and gratitude for your ongoing support. We are committed to continuing our work towards providing the best possible care for our animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and inspiring a new generation of conservationists.



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[2023 ANNUAL REPORT](#)



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Tree falling causes significant damage to chimpanzee island enclosure fence

In the early hours of the 21st of March, a tree fell in our island chimpanzee enclosure. The tree caused severe damage to the electric fence. Fortunately, the chimpanzees were safely inside their night dens when the tree fell - and no chimps or people were hurt during the incident. However, the damage to the fence means that the chimpanzees had to remain inside their night dens until we were able to respond to the disaster.



How you helped

We appealed to you, our wonderful supporters, to help us respond quickly to repair the fence. As always, we were overwhelmed by the displays of kindness and generosity. Thanks to your quick action, we were able to hire a tree surgeon who safely cut the tree and assess the safety of the remaining branches, repair the considerable damage to the fence, which included reinforcing the damaged poles, replacing snapped electrical wires and re-tensioning the remaining electrical wires, and keep our chimpanzees happy whilst they have to remain inside during the repairs - with additional food items and enrichment.



A huge thank you to all 26 individual donors, ProWildlife and Givskud Zoo for helping us get our chimpanzees back outside as quickly as possible!

Ninety-two African grey parrots begin their rehabilitation at LWC



In March, a team from the LWC went to Yaoundé to collect 92 African grey parrots from the Mvog-Betsi Botanical Zoological Garden to begin their rehabilitation at the sanctuary in Limbe. Volunteer veterinarian, Mahesh Bhatt, animal caregiver Emmanuel Aliguena and driver Hamidou Desire made the long trip to Yaoundé to collect the parrots that had been temporarily housed at the zoo.



Wildlife officials from MINFOF supervised the handover, and we are grateful for the Ministry's assistance with this important animal rescue. The parrots will begin their rehabilitation journey, whereby their health is closely monitored as they recover from the physical and psychological traumas they would have suffered due to being cruelly trapped and taken from the wild. Once they can fly again, we will be able to release the parrots following the soft-release methodology. African grey parrots are seed dispersers, and therefore essential to forest health and for regenerating the forest.

How to help

You can help us continue with this essential rescue, rehabilitation, and release programme by...

SPONSORING A PARROT

Creature Feature: Elton

On the 19th of February, the LWC received a small tantalus monkey from Bangem. The baby tantalus had been confiscated from a poacher who had kept him as a pet for a while. He claimed that the mother abandoned the baby when being chased by dogs. Whatever his history may be, he was certainly traumatised by his ordeal upon arrival. He was had with worms and a skin infection, and his depressed behaviour was evidence of his traumatic experience. Through careful monitoring and treatment, the little tantalus has bounced back, and now loves to play and eat his favourite food - **watermelon!** You can sponsor Elton to receive updates about his rehabilitation.



Volunteer Highlight: Rowena

Rowena Facee Schaeffer has been a dedicated supporter and long-term volunteer at since her first visit in 2017. She has contributed as a volunteer caretaker and also spent a month observing a group of rescued gorillas and collaborated with caregivers to enrich the lives of both chimps and gorillas. Beyond her hands-on work, Rowena supports us financially through her own Dutch foundation, the **Go Ape Foundation**. This year, her generous contribution provided a financial boost to our education programme. Thanks to her support, we were also able to host our annual Graduation Ceremony ahead of schedule, bringing joy to 2,000 children who celebrated and received beautiful diplomas - and she joined us for the celebration!

Institutional Partners



Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Population management and animal welfare

Every day the veterinary team works to keep our animals mentally and physically healthy by providing frequent and diverse enrichment, performing quarantine care for new arrivals, and performing necessary health checks. At the centre, we aim prevent captive breeding of our rescues by monitoring and continuously replacing expired contraceptive implants.



The veterinary team performed a vital health check on chimpanzee Carlos, whose health condition is being closely monitored.



Dr Mahesh Bhatt initiated behavioural training with Benito. Benito has a suspected heart abnormality which makes anaesthesia dangerous. Therefore, Dr Mahesh has been training Benito to present his chest for examination with the stethoscope without the need for him to be anaesthetised.

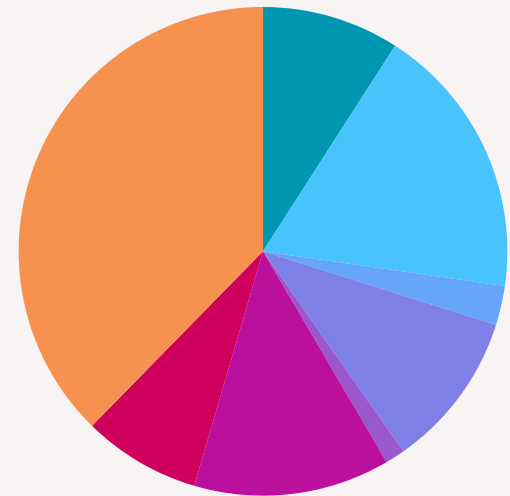


LWCs Animal Care Manager, Jason Miller, who is an expert in reptile care and conservation, assists the veterinary team to treat the wounds on this rescued mud turtle.



Dr Mahesh Bhatt sutures a wound on male drill Nnoko.

- Health checks (7)
- Anesthesia (14)
- Blood samples (2)
- Faecal samples (8)
- Contraceptives (1)
- Laceration repairs (10)
- Minor surgeries (6)
- Drug therapies (29)



Primate veterinary treatments

The veterinary team also conducted 86 African grey parrot health checks, with 129 veterinary treatments (supplements, parasite treatment etc) performed to improve health and wellbeing. There were also 10 veterinary treatments performed on rescued reptiles at the LWC.

Pangolin rescues...

The veterinary team provided emergency veterinary care to a white-bellied pangolin that arrived on **World Pangolin Day (17th of February)**. The pangolin was thin, dehydrated and had a wound on her tail infested with maggots. She sadly passed away later the same day from malnutrition and dehydration after suspected weeks of little to no food/water, and also from infected wounds. This was following a white-bellied pangolin that arrived in January, which was unfortunately dead upon arrival at the Limbe Wildlife Centre.



Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release

We work to reinforce Cameroonian wildlife laws by providing a sanctuary for wildlife seized by authorities. Without this support, wildlife crime would go unpunished because confiscating agencies would have nowhere to place the seized animals. Our primary mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release every wild animal under our care.

Arrivals

- Two white-bellied pangolins
- Six dwarf crocodiles
- One tantalus monkey ([Elton](#))
- Ninety-two African grey parrots
- One Home's hinged back tortoise

Releases

There were no releases this quarter.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT RESCUE AND REHABILITATION](#)



Ekolle, Manjo, and Yabassi will continue their rehabilitation through the gradual introduction to the main drill group.



Etinde, the endangered Preuss monkey that arrived on the 22nd of December 2023 is doing well - she has grown a lot and is becoming more independent from her caregivers everyday.

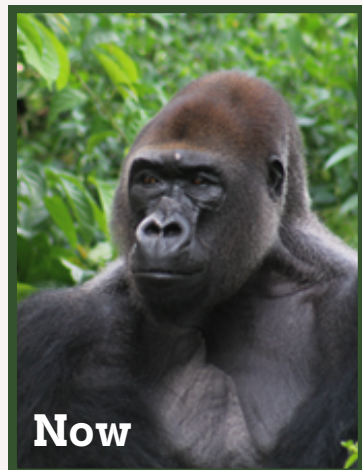


Campoman, the young mandrill rescued in November 2023, was transferred to the main mandrill enclosure to begin his integration into the adult group.

Sponsor one of our rescues...

Rescued monkeys like Elton require round the clock care upon their arrival, with specially assigned care takers and plenty of milk formula. Their ongoing social rehabilitation also requires lots of monitoring until they are finally introduced to their new family group. Your donation helps us to give them everything they need to thrive and ensure they have the best second chance at life.

[SPONSOR A RESCUE TODAY](#)



Rescue throwback

Chella, the eldest western lowland gorilla at LWC, was brought to the center in 1996 at around 2 years old after being discovered clinging to his mother's body in a bush taxi. Initially in a state of depression and malnourishment, he has transformed into a robust silverback who now safeguards his three female companions: Brighter, Twiggs, and Atimbe.

Chella's remarkable progress are all thanks to the unwavering support of many individuals like you.

Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Community conservation, education, and outreach

On the 22nd of March 2024, the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) hosted its annual Graduation Ceremony for all the children who had taken part in the 2024 Conservation Education Outreach Programme across the 14 participating schools in Limbe, Batoke, and Bakingili. The event was held in the Jungle Village of the Limbe Botanical Gardens. This year, from the **14 schools**, our **3 educators** reached **37 classes** and a total of **1,850 children**. [Read more here!](#)



On March the 8th, the women of the LWC attended the annual Women's Day Parade at the Community Fields in Limbe. The event is attended by approximately **2,000** people, including women's groups, businesses, and VIPs. The event provided an excellent opportunity for the LWC to educate the public about environmental protection and the risks of zoonotic diseases as part of our participation in the [Transnational African Zoonoses Awareness Campaign](#).

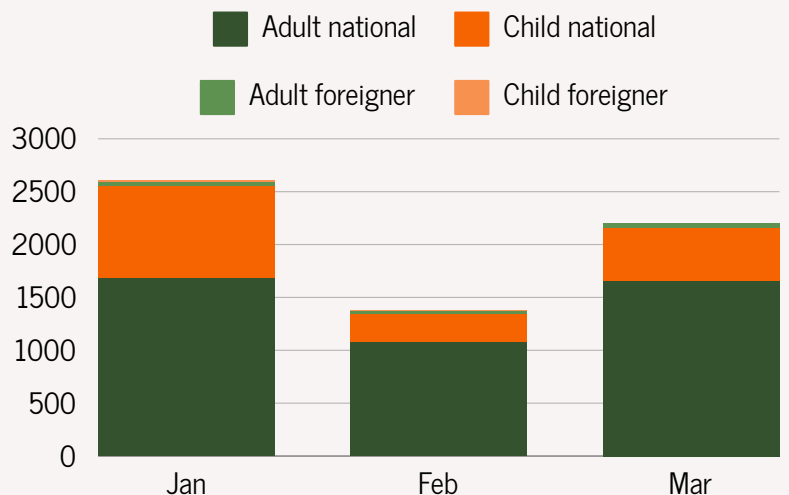
The LWC has teamed up with [ProWildlife](#) and several other African wildlife sanctuaries for the Transnational African Zoonoses Awareness Campaign to raise awareness of the risks of zoonotic disease transmission in all parts of the human population across countries and thus achieve a lasting behavioural change. This quarter we hosted workshops in Caterpillar Fields and Etome village.



Visitors

So far in 2024, we have received **6,189** visitors to the LWC. We continue to see a steady number of visitors coming to the centre to learn about wildlife conservation. This experience, with the help of our trained eco-guides and information displayed at the centre, will hopefully help all visitors to appreciate just how important it is to care for and protect these wonderful creatures and their natural habitat.

6,189 visitors: **73.49%** adults, **26.51%** children
(All entrance fees go to the Government of Cameroon)



Represent The LWC at Home!

Visit our online store and browse our selection of beautiful hats, t-shirts and bags so that you can represent and support the Limbe Wildlife Centre. Everything thing you buy helps to support the LWC and protect Cameroon's unique wildlife.



African grey parrot eco tote bag
\$17

Limbe Wildlife Centre organic classic dad hat
\$22



Abby the Gorilla: Short Sleeve T-shirt
\$25



Limbe Wildlife Centre stickers
\$4



Abby the Gorilla: Women's Relaxed T-Shirt
\$23

Drill Eco Tote Bag
\$17



[Shop for more styles on our website!](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We deeply appreciate the continuous support from each and every one of you. The heartfelt stories shared by many of you in honour of our 30th anniversary towards the end of 2023 have truly touched us. Whether donors, volunteers, or advocates, both new and longstanding, your contributions significantly impact the lives of the rescued animals residing at the Limbe Wildlife Centre. Through the dedication of our amazing team and your unwavering support and generosity, we are able to safeguard Cameroonian wildlife. Thank you once more to all of you.

With gratitude,
The Limbe Wildlife Centre

