

The Limbe Wildlife Centre

Quarterly newsletter
Q4 - 2024

Environmental Science
Roles of LWC in
Conservation



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...

Dear friends and supporters...

As we welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter, we are excited to share the progress and achievements that have unfolded at the Limbe Wildlife Centre over the past quarter.

This quarter has been particularly noteworthy as our dedicated team has undertaken significant infrastructure projects, including the division of the "savannah-dwelling primate enclosure." This initiative not only enhances the living conditions for our resident patas monkeys but also exemplifies our commitment to species-specific care and welfare. Our construction team has worked tirelessly, demonstrating their crucial role in maintaining the centre's facilities and ensuring that we can focus on our mission amidst the challenges we face.

In addition to construction updates, you will find highlights from our animal care programmes, educational outreach initiatives, and inspiring stories of the animals we rescue and rehabilitate. These stories remind us of the impact we can have with your continued support.

Thank you for your generous donations during our Giving Day for Apes and Giving Tuesday campaigns, and your support throughout 2024. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of wildlife and contribute to the conservation efforts that are so vital to preserving our planet's biodiversity.



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[2023 ANNUAL REPORT](#)



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Never miss an update from the
Limbe Wildlife Centre!

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER



A generous gift from the World Veterinary Service

We are thrilled to announce that the Limbe Wildlife Centre has received a generous donation from World Veterinary Service (WVS) — a fully equipped anesthetic machine! This crucial piece of equipment is instrumental in generating and mixing medical gases and anesthetic agents, enabling our veterinary team to safely induce and maintain anesthesia during essential procedures for our animals.



WVS has been an invaluable partner for many years, providing vital veterinary supplies including medications, bandages, and surgical materials. The recent donation of the anaesthetic machine posed a unique logistical challenge due to its size, but thanks to the dedicated efforts of our team, we successfully navigated these hurdles to safely integrate it into our veterinary clinic. With the continued support from WVS and our generous donors, we are able to maintain the highest standards of care and welfare for the rescued animals in our sanctuary.

"Dear WVS team, we remain indebted to your care and readiness to always stepping in, in a timely fashion to meet our priority needs. Accept our heartfelt appreciation." - **Dr John Kiyang, Head Veterinarian**



Giving Day for Apes and Giving Tuesday success!



Each year, we participate in [Giving Day for Apes](#), a significant global fundraising event aimed at raising awareness and funds specifically for ape conservation and welfare, organized by the [Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries \(GFAS\)](#). This year, the Limbe Wildlife Centre had an extraordinary showing, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of **132 donors**, raising a remarkable **\$6,430** for the care of our 50 rescued gorillas and chimpanzees. Additionally, we were fortunate to win two golden tickets (gifts for randomly selected donations), resulting in an extra **\$1,000** for their care!

Your generosity didn't stop there...

Our fundraising efforts continued on [Giving Tuesday](#) as well, where we focused on enhancing our enrichment program, vital for the psychological and physical well-being of our rescued primates. With the support of **22 donors**, we raised **\$1,327** for this important initiative!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Celebrity Ambassadors, Rick Wakeman and Peter Egan, along with our Social Media Ambassadors. Your passionate support and personal messages resonated deeply with many and helped us welcome a host of new supporters into the Limbe Wildlife Centre family.



Together, we can make a lasting impact.

Creature Feature: Monkey

On December 20th, a tantalus monkey was brought to the LWC by his owner after being kept as a pet in a small cage in a back garden for five years. The monkey arrived with old injuries, is underweight, and has skin problems, but despite all of this he is friendly and has a very good appetite. The monkey came to us with the name "Monkey," but we believe his sweet personality deserves a proper name...more updates to come! We continue to remind people that primates do not make good pets, and belong in the wild, however, we are here to give them a second chance at a good life living with other members of their own species.



Volunteer Highlight: Kavita



Meet Kavita, a vet nurse from the UK who specialises in domestic pet care. Her decision to volunteer at the LWC provided her with a unique opportunity to expand her knowledge in wildlife husbandry and medicine! Over the course of her four-week stay, Kavita primarily worked alongside our veterinary team. One of her contributions was her assistance in utilising our new anaesthetic machine, which proved to be incredibly helpful for the veterinary staff as they adapted to this important equipment. We are grateful for Kavita's support and dedication during her short time at the LWC.

"Limbe Wildlife Centre as a whole has been so welcoming and friendly, and exploring Limbe in our own time was lovely. I can't wait to come back!"
– Kavita

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.



Recent health checks have confirmed that the two arrivals from July and September are thriving. Both red-capped mangabeys are regaining weight and adapting well to their new environment. Notably, the younger mangabey, seized from villagers in Idenau, presented with a severe foot deformity. Our vet team believes the issue may stem from an untreated snare wound, resulting in reduced mobility. Despite this, our dedicated team will provide ongoing daily monitoring and care, ensuring the young mangabey's quality of life remains unaffected.

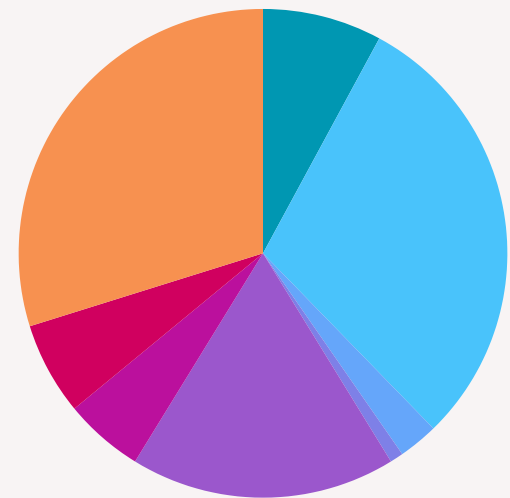


This glimpse into the daily life of our veterinary team highlights their dedication to animal care and welfare. The numerous initiatives and medical interventions demonstrate their commitment to ensuring the best possible quality of life for our rescued animals.

In recent weeks, our veterinary team has been working at full capacity, attending to various medical needs across our resident animals. Some notable cases include:

- Conducting health checks on Balinga and Batek, silverback western lowland gorillas.
- Treating a urinary tract infection in Mbu, a female chimpanzee.
- Providing specialised care and attention to some of our older residents.
- Various surgeries, such as repairing lacerations after a fight in the putty nosed monkey group and removing a skin cancer lump from one of our adult male drills, Duru.

- Health checks (9)
- Anaesthesia (34)
- Blood samples (3)
- Microchips fitted (1)
- Contraceptives (20)
- Laceration repairs (6)
- Minor surgeries (7)
- Drug therapies (34)



Primate veterinary treatments

The veterinary team also conducted 22 African grey parrot health checks, with 19 veterinary treatments (supplements, parasite treatment etc) performed to improve health and wellbeing. There were also 4 veterinary treatments performed on rescued reptiles at the LWC.

Thank you to SONARA

We extend our gratitude to SONARA, the national refining company of Cameroon, for their generous support in enhancing the lives of our rescued animals. In December, a team from SONARA built a new platform and hammock for our western lowland gorillas and installed mesh to enhance the security of some of our enclosures. Through these initiatives, SONARA has demonstrated its commitment to corporate social responsibility and has made a tangible impact on our mission to provide a second chance to victims of the illegal wildlife trade. Thank you, SONARA, for your support!



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

- Eight African forest turtles
- One west African Nile monitor
- One west African black turtle
- One dwarf crocodile
- One tantalus monkey
- Five African grey parrots



[LEARN MORE ABOUT RESCUE AND REHABILITATION](#)



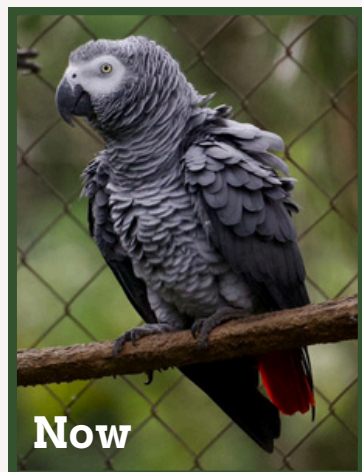
Releases

- One west African Nile monitor
- One dwarf crocodile
- One African forest turtle

Upon arriving at the LWC, rescued animals have often endured significant physical and emotional trauma due to their capture and mistreatment in captivity. Their transport conditions are frequently inadequate—many animals arrive in confined spaces like small boxes or bags, causing additional stress and potential injury. For instance, this quarter, we received five African grey parrots packed into a cramped wooden box (above, left) and several mud turtles transported in a net bag (above, right). Fortunately, upon their arrival, these animals are immediately freed from such harsh conditions and provided with a secure space that includes hiding places, food, water, and fresh branches and leaves. This environment plays a crucial role in reducing stress and facilitating their rehabilitation process.

A success story for our rescued drills

We are excited to share that Yabassi, Ekolle and Manjo have joined our drill group! The three young drills arrived in November 2023, and after a careful introduction, the three rescued drills were released into their new home to forage, play and socialise with other drills. We are very happy to share this positive story, which wouldn't have been possible without the support of our donors and Save the Drill. Thank you so much!



Preparations for release...

As the year draws to a close, we are thrilled to anticipate an exciting new chapter for many of the African grey parrots in our care. In March, we welcomed a significant group of parrots rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Our dedicated team of veterinarians and caretakers has worked tirelessly to support their social and physical rehabilitation. Now, we are pleased to report that many of these parrots are ready for release, with the first release scheduled for early 2025. We look forward to providing you with updates next year!

Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Capacity building and staff empowerment

In September, our Head of Education, Wilson Ateh, traveled to South Africa to attend the PASA Community Engagement Workshop (see below). This workshop focused on best practices in community engagement and addressed important ethical considerations, including power dynamics. In October, Wilson shared valuable insights with the team through an informative presentation. To recognise his commitment to animal welfare and conservation, we were delighted to present Killi Matute, our Head of Quarantine, with a Certificate of Appreciation from PASA at the end of the session (see right).



Christmas at LWC!

The holiday season is always a magical time at the LWC! Our Saturday Nature Club Christmas Party welcomed **146 school children**, who enjoyed games, a delicious lunch, and festive gifts. On Christmas Day, we were honoured by a special visit from Santa Claus, who entertained our visitors as they celebrated the holiday while learning about wildlife and conservation. A heartfelt thank you to all our supporters who contributed to the Christmas spirit by making generous donations during this festive season.



Additionally, volunteer consultant veterinarian Dr. Stephanie Stapleton engaged with LWC staff regarding Mpox, a pressing biosecurity concern for the centre. Dr. Stephanie emphasised the importance of stringent hygiene protocols and the potential impact of Mpox on the health of our animals and staff. Given the evolving status of Mpox in Cameroon, it is crucial for our team to closely monitor the situation and share timely, relevant information to maintain a safe environment at the LWC.

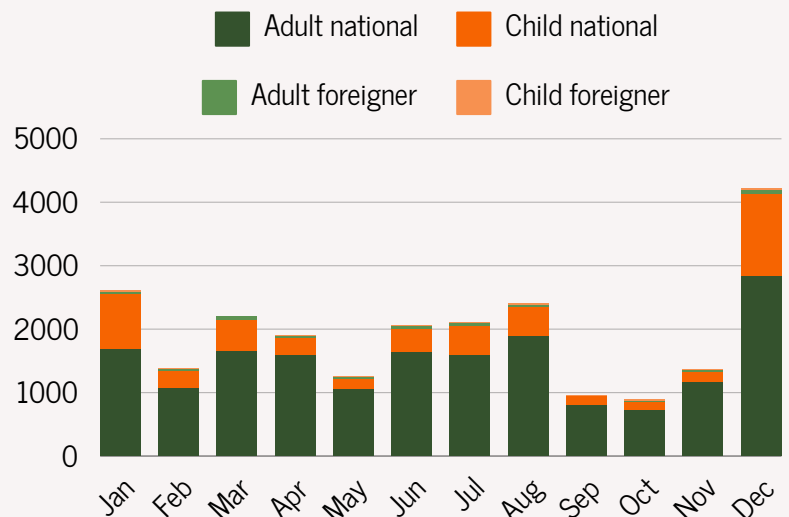
Visitors

In 2024, we received a total of **23,341** visitors, **98%** of which were Cameroonian. Our busiest day of the year is always Christmas day, and throughout the month of December we received **4,220** visitors! We are grateful to be able to continue to educate people and inspire them to connect with nature through visits and guided tours.

Visitors in October, November and December:

6,472 visitors: 75% adults, 25% children

(All entrance fees go to the Government of Cameroon)



Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Infrastructure and development

Our construction team had a productive quarter, focusing on several key projects, with the most significant being the division of the "savannah-dwelling primate enclosure." This initiative aims to enhance the welfare of our resident patas monkeys at the Limbe Wildlife Centre by creating two separate enclosures for the patas and tantalus monkey populations. One of the primary motivations for this project is to improve the welfare of the patas monkeys, who have been frequently outcompeted and bullied by the larger tantalus group. By establishing distinct habitats, we aim to provide a safer and more enriching environment for both species. Additionally, this separation will facilitate the integration of our male patas monkey, Missole, into a group of five female patas, which we are excited to implement at the start of 2025. Moreover, the enclosure has undergone much-needed maintenance due to the extreme weather conditions in Cameroon, including heat and high humidity, which had caused some wear and damage, particularly with holes developing in the roof. Our construction team worked diligently to address these issues, ensuring the enclosure is safe and secure for its inhabitants. We are grateful for their hard work, which will allow us to confidently move forward with Missole's introduction and enhance the overall quality of life for our monkeys.



Building the partition inside.



Making repairs to the roof.



Building a new satellite cage.

In addition to significant projects like partitioning the "savannah-dwelling primate enclosure," our construction team is consistently engaged in a variety of essential maintenance tasks. Their ongoing efforts are crucial in ensuring that the Limbe Wildlife Centre operates smoothly on a daily basis. From repairing pipes and climbing structures to conducting inspections and repairs of infrastructure, their work helps maintain a safe and functional environment for both our animals and staff. The dedication and expertise of our construction team play a vital role in upholding the quality of our facilities and supporting the overall mission of the LWC.



Repairing the pipe that drains the chimpanzee island pool to ensure it is fully functional for the dry season. [Watch Eve enjoying the pool here!](#)



Mesh was added to the outside of the olive baboon enclosure to improve the security and to allow our adult male, Kuma, to enjoy the outside enclosure.



Making repairs to our drill climbing structures, which often are broken by the adult male drills displaying their strength to the rest of the group.

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.



Limbe Wildlife Centre mug
\$10

NEW!

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

Limbe Wildlife Centre organic classic dad hat
\$22



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

Thank you for your continued support and trust in our work to protect Cameroon's unique wildlife. Every contribution, whether it be time, resources, or advocacy, plays a vital role in our mission.

Together, we can create a brighter future for the animals we serve and the ecosystems they inhabit. For more ways to get involved or stay updated on our ongoing projects, please visit our website or follow us on social media. Your engagement makes all the difference!

With gratitude,
The Limbe Wildlife Centre

