

# The Limbe Wildlife Centre

Quarterly newsletter  
Q1 - 2025



© Reni Jantek





## Who We Are

The **Limbe Wildlife Centre** is a collaborative effort between **Pandillus** 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. Pandillus 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 come to the end of the first quarter of 2025, we are filled with gratitude and optimism for the strides we are making in wildlife rehabilitation and conservation in Cameroon. Our dedicated team has been hard at work, achieving remarkable milestones—including the successful release of 28 African grey parrots back into their natural habitat, and the a successful beach clean-up event which removed over 200kg of trash from Limbe's Down Beach.

This newsletter provides an exciting overview of our activities, from the arrival of new residents, to the release of rehabilitated wildlife, to our impactful educational initiatives aimed at nurturing future conservationists. We also marked International Women's Day by celebrating the incredible contributions of the women at the LWC. These dedicated individuals play vital roles, from animal caretakers to educators. As we reflect on these achievements, we also acknowledge the challenges we face and the ongoing need for vigilance against wildlife crime. We are dedicated to combat wildlife crime and improve the wellbeing of victims of the illegal bushmeat and pet trades in Cameroon. With the arrival of new residents, including Madala and Boti, we are reminded of the responsibility we bear to protect these animals and provide them with the opportunity to thrive.

Together, we are making a difference. Your support is essential in propelling our mission forward, and we are grateful for your unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation.



[SUPPORT US WITH A DONATION](#)

[2024 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

Follow us to  
keep in touch!





# Whats inside this Quarterly Report?

**Page 1.**  
Urgent  
Updates



**Page 3.**  
Behind the Scenes:  
Population  
management and  
animal welfare



**Page 5.**  
Behind the Scenes:  
Community  
outreach and  
education



**Page 7.**  
Shop our merch!



**Page 2.**  
Quarterly  
Features



**Page 4.**  
Behind the  
Scenes: Wildlife  
rescue,  
rehabilitation,  
and release



**Page 6.**  
Behind the  
Scenes:  
Infrastructure  
and development



Never miss an update from the  
Limbe Wildlife Centre!

[SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER](#)

**VOLUNTEER**



**DONATE**



**SPONSOR  
AN ORPHAN**





## Rafe's Screen Free Year

We are thrilled to share an inspiring story with you about an extraordinary young boy named Rafe Lankester. Rafe is the son of former LWC manager, Felix Lankester (2004-2009). At just 11 years old, Rafe has taken on an ambitious challenge: he is going screen-free for an entire year to raise funds for the Limbe Wildlife Centre!

Starting on February 2, 2025, Rafe pledged to put away all screens - including social media, video games, and even television. This decision came after a transformative holiday experience where he discovered the joys of life beyond screens. Rafe is turning this personal challenge into a powerful fundraiser for the rescued wildlife at the LWC.

**Rafe's goal is to raise \$1,000 to help provide essential care for these incredible animals. With your support, his efforts could make a real difference!**

Rafe is a remarkable young advocate for wildlife conservation, and we are so proud of his determination to go off screens to help others.

If you'd like to support Rafe and his incredible mission, you can [visit his fundraising page here](#). Together, we can help him reach his personal and fundraising goals!

**DONATE!**



## 28 African grey parrots find freedom



Last quarter, we shared our preparations for releasing our first flocks of parrots from our 2024 rescue efforts. We're thrilled to announce that the Limbe Wildlife Centre has achieved a significant milestone with our first successful parrot release of 2025!

On February 1st, we transferred **28 African grey parrots** to a release aviary (rebuilt with funding from [World Parrot Trust](#) in 2024), allowing them two weeks to acclimate to their new environment. When we opened the aviary doors on February 15th, the parrots were understandably cautious, with only one making its initial flight while our team watched from a distance. However, by the very next day, all 28 parrots had bravely taken to the skies!

We have even more exciting plans for the year ahead, as **we rescued 102 parrots last year** alone. The newly released parrots have been returning to visit those still in rehabilitation, and we eagerly anticipate selecting the next flock for release in the coming quarter.



We are grateful to our supporters and partners who make these remarkable releases possible—our work truly wouldn't be achievable without your invaluable support. Stay tuned for further updates on these incredible birds as they embark on their journey back to the wild!

### Our AGP partners!



WORLD PARROT TRUST



## Creature Feature: Madala

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, we were informed that there was a young monkey at a nearby military base. The patas had been bought all the way from Maroua, a journey that would have taken several days. He had a rope tied around his waist and was tied to the back of a truck, but was apparently healthy and had a huge appetite.

He is adjusting to his new environment and doing well. He has been named Madala, meaning "old man", because even though he is young, he looks very wise! We look forward to updating you on his journey to join our resident patas group of 6.



## Volunteer Highlight: Bradley

Bradley came to the LWC in February to devote his time to primate conservation, merging his work with the National Park Service in Alaska and his passion for African wildlife. After traveling through Africa as a tourist for years, he wanted to get more involved in helping wildlife. He was fascinated by the diverse primates at the LWC, from the colourful faces of the mandrills and their fascinating grimaces to the playful and vocal chimpanzee, but he especially loved the lowland gorillas. He said, "We are so close to losing them, and all gorilla species need our help." Bradley said he is grateful for the guidance from the staff, especially Bama, and he cherishes the memory of giving the gorillas their morning tea. "It really takes a community to care for and ensure the future of these species," he said.

## Institutional Partners





# Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

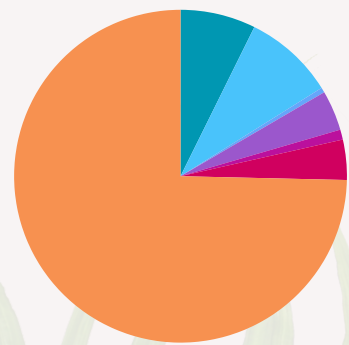
## Population management and animal welfare

Every day, our dedicated veterinary team prioritizes the mental and physical well-being of our animals through frequent and varied enrichment activities, comprehensive quarantine care for new arrivals, and essential health checks. This quarter, we conducted **15 health assessments** on primates as part of our quarantine procedures and routine veterinary monitoring. These checks help identify any underlying health issues before they escalate into more serious problems. To support responsible population management, we actively work to prevent captive breeding among our rescued primates. This quarter, **we fitted eight contraceptive implants** to ensure effective population control. In January, all our primates underwent deworming as part of our regular health schedule, adhering to PASA Veterinary Standards to promote their overall well-being.

A major focus this quarter was conducting health checks on our African grey parrots prior to their transfer to the post-release aviary. Our veterinary team carefully inspected each parrot to confirm their health and readiness for release. This involved assessing their body and feather condition, as well as administering a final dose of supplements and anti-parasitic treatment to ensure they are fully prepared for their second chance at life back out in the forest, where they belong.



- Health checks (15)
- Anaesthesia (18)
- Blood samples (1)
- Contraceptives (8)
- Laceration repairs (2)
- Minor surgeries (8)
- Drug therapies (153)



## Enrichment

Our enrichment coordinator Reni has worked hard to renew our enrichment programme. This initiative focuses on providing daily enrichment for animals, helping to reduce stress and encourage natural behaviours. Reni has created a comprehensive Enrichment Handbook for our volunteers and staff, ensuring a varied supply of enrichment for our primates and parrots. Enrichment is crucial for the psychological and physical well-being of our animals and an essential part of our animal welfare efforts. Check out chimpanzee Jack "fishing" for honey in one of our concrete termite mounds as a great example of our enrichment activities!



## Primate veterinary treatments

The veterinary team also conducted 43 African grey parrot health checks, and performed 48 veterinary treatments (providing supplements, giving parasite treatment etc) to improve their health and wellbeing in preparation for release. There were also 43 veterinary treatments performed on rescued reptiles at the LWC.

## Ongoing introductions

With the completion of the work to split the patas and tantalus enclosure to create two separate spaces at the end of 2024, the introduction of the new male patas, Missole (arrived June 2024), has begun. The patas monkey introduction has faced some challenges so far. Missole has been chased by some of the more dominant females, usually as a result of misunderstandings, so the introduction is progressing slower than planned but is overall positive. We look forward to updating our supporters on the progress of this introduction, especially now we have our younger new arrival Madala to prepare for integration too!



Leonie and Frida



# 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

- Three West African Nile monitors
- Two Home's hinged tortoises
- One West African mud turtle
- One patas monkey
- Two mona monkeys

### Releases

- Three West African Nile monitors
- Two Home's hinged tortoises
- One West African mud turtle
- Twenty eight African grey parrots

**LEARN MORE ABOUT RESCUE AND REHABILITATION**

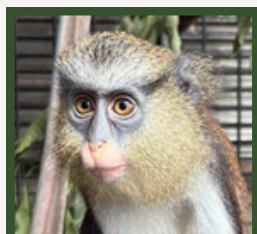
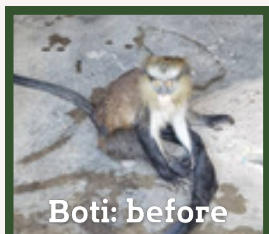
In February, we released three monitor lizards back into the wild. Though they're not an endangered species, their health and wellbeing are just as crucial. These lizards were confiscated at a checkpoint in Kumba, where they were found with their legs tied behind their backs—a common and cruel method used by poachers to control them. They were likely destined to be sold for bushmeat. Thankfully, a MINFOF wildlife official brought them to us to be taken care of.

After a thorough examination, our vet team found them to be in good health, with some swelling from the tight ropes but no permanent injuries. We provided them with a quiet space for observation, and after a few days, they were ready for their freedom! We released them at the Nachtigal Crater Lake at Cape Debundscha, alongside one critically endangered Home's hinged tortoise, where we hope they thrive in their natural habitat.



## #NameAMangabey success!

Throughout February, we appealed to you to help us choose a name for one of our rescued red-capped mangabeys. We are happy to announce that this little one has been named **Theo**! Congratulations to Craig who suggested the perfect name for our brave survivor. Thank you to all those that suggested a name and made a generous donation to support the care and ongoing rehabilitation of Theo, and our partners at **Barcelona Zoo** for supporting this campaign. We are so excited to continue to update all of you on his progress in the coming months.



In March, we welcomed Boti and Madala, two monkeys poached from the wild, and forced to live under distressing conditions with ropes tied around their waists. They are currently adjusting well in quarantine as they acclimate to their new environment.

We also received another young mona monkey. Unfortunately, he arrived in very poor condition due to inadequate care as a pet. Suffering from severe malnutrition and a respiratory infection, he sadly passed away shortly after arrival. This heart-wrenching situation highlights the critical message that primates should not be kept as pets. They are highly intelligent and social animals with complex nutritional and social needs that only experienced caregivers can fulfil. Ultimately, primates belong in their natural habitats, where they can thrive in the wild.



# Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

## Community outreach and education

READ ABOUT IT IN THE NEWS!

On March 29th, our education team organized a beach clean-up event with local school children to raise awareness about reducing plastic pollution and protecting the environment. We welcomed **174 enthusiastic children** to Limbe's central beach, Down Beach, where they worked together to remove an impressive **221.82 kg of trash** from both the water and the shoreline. Each participant received a football shirt emblazoned with "I am a Wildlife Warrior" to remind them of the importance of their actions. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners—[Go Ape Foundation](#), [For Earth's Sake](#), [Jeanne d'Arc Foundation \(JAF\)](#), and [GIVSKUD Zoo](#)—for making this impactful event possible.



Looking ahead, our education team is preparing for one of our most significant annual events: the graduation ceremony. Scheduled for **April 25, 2025**, in the beautiful Limbe Botanical Gardens, this event will be a joyous celebration filled with music, dancing, education, and prizes for the children. The goal of this event is to inspire these young conservationists to continue their journey as ambassadors for wildlife and environmental protection. We look forward to sharing the success of this event in our next newsletter. If you would like to support the graduation, you can [donate here](#). For more information on our educational outreach initiatives, please visit our website to access our [2023/24 Annual Education Report](#).

## International Women's Day

For International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the women of the Limbe Wildlife Centre went to the Limbe Community Fields to join the annual parade and showcase our commitment to wildlife conservation and protection! The women of the LWC have made significant contributions to wildlife conservation and have championed wildlife protection in Cameroon through their various roles as animal caretakers, accountants, cleaners, receptionists and volunteers. In line with our commitment, the women carried messages related to conservation and encouraging people to protect and advocate for wildlife by saying NO to eating bushmeat.



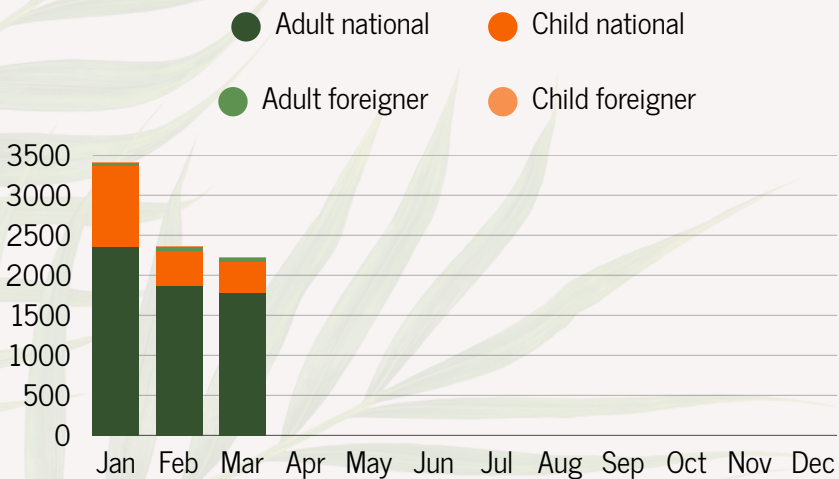
## Visitors

In the first quarter of 2025, we received a total of **8,016** visitors, **98%** of which were Cameroonian. This is a 130% increase on 2024 visitors during the same period. We hope this success continues so we can beat last years visitor number of **23,241**!

Visitors in January, February and March:

**8,016** visitors: **77%** adults, **23%** children

(All entrance fees go to the Government of Cameroon)





# Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

## Infrastructure and development

This quarter, our construction team have been very busy working on a new drill enclosure. Drills are social primates that thrive in dynamic and complex environments. Some of our individuals are unable to be fully integrated into our main drill group, compromising their well-being. Recognising the urgency of this issue, we designed a purpose-built enclosure for these individuals. Thanks to the generous support of [Save the Drill](#), this idea is becoming reality. The construction team has successfully built the structure, attached the mesh, and constructed the night den cages. While there are still a few finishing touches to complete, such as the installation of the roof and climbing structures, we anticipate moving the selected drills into their new home very soon. This new enclosure will drastically improve their individual welfare, allowing them to flourish both physically and socially in a secure setting.

We are incredibly grateful to Save the Drill for their vital funding of this important project. Their support is making a profound difference in the lives of our rescued drills, ensuring they receive the enrichment and care necessary for their well-being. We have a shared commitment to enhance the welfare and conservation of the endangered drill. We look forward to sharing more about the impact of this new enclosure.



Construction worker, Leo, welding the strong mesh imported from Nigeria onto the frame.



The enclosure is 4m high, providing plenty of space for the drills to explore and play.

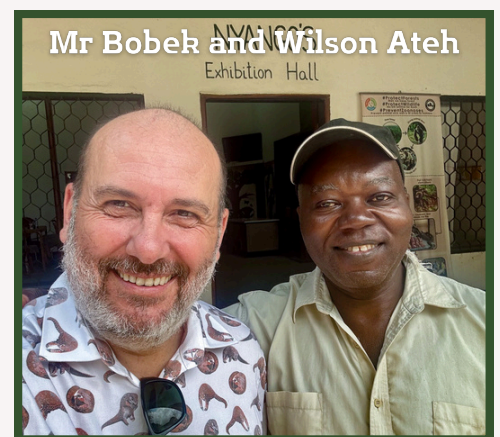
## In other news...

On January 16, 2025, our team was alerted to a dead male forest elephant found near Idenau. Led by our head veterinarian, Dr. John Kiyang, and including representatives from the MINFOF, we quickly assessed the situation. The elephant was discovered in a palm plantation, and our examination revealed possible gastrointestinal issues, requiring further laboratory tests for a definitive cause of death. Unfortunately, despite our warnings that the carcass was not safe for human consumption due to potential health risks, some community members decided to divide the elephant for food after our team left. This incident highlights the importance of educating our communities about wildlife conservation and the risks associated with interacting with wild animals, especially carcasses where the cause of death is not known.

On January 24, we welcomed Mr. Miroslav Bobek, the Director of Prague Zoo, along with his team for a visit. Prague Zoo has been a valued long-term collaborator with us, and this visit provided an excellent opportunity for a much-anticipated catch-up with our Head of Education, Mr Wilson Ateh. We learnt more about [Prague Zoo's "Wandering Bus" initiative](#), which brings vital environmental and nature conservation education to underserved rural communities in Cameroon. We are grateful for our lasting friendship and collaboration with such a remarkable organization, and we look forward to continuing our work together to make a positive impact in our communities.



Forest elephants are critically endangered





# 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

Limbe Wildlife Centre organic classic dad hat  
£18

Limbe Wildlife Centre t-shirt  
£20

**NEW!**

Limbe Wildlife Centre Eco tote bag  
£18

**NEW!**

Limbe Wildlife Centre stickers  
£4

Abbey the Gorilla t-shirt  
£20

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

Prices are in GBP, but you can purchase your merch from anywhere!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As we continue our journey to protect wildlife in Cameroon, we invite you to be a part of our mission. Your involvement—whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading awareness—helps us provide a sanctuary for vulnerable wildlife and educate future generations about the importance of protecting our environment. We look forward to keeping you updated on our ongoing projects, especially the upcoming graduation ceremony for our young conservationists and the completion of the new drill enclosure.

With gratitude,  
The Limbe Wildlife Centre

