

The Limbe Wildlife Centre

Quarterly newsletter
Q2 - 2025

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...

We begin this report with heartfelt thanks to our supporters, partners, and dedicated team, whose continued commitment has made this past quarter a success.

From April to June, we witnessed incredible progress in our mission to protect Cameroonian wildlife by rehabilitating victims of the illegal wildlife trade and other injured, orphaned or displaced animals, inspiring people to connect with nature and improving local communities' wellbeing.

This quarter, we welcomed many rescued animals into our care, each now safe and receiving the attention they need. We also celebrated the successful release of rehabilitated crocodiles, tortoises and another flock of 28 African Grey parrots back into their natural habitats.

One of the most exciting achievements was the smooth integration of the gorillas Abbie, Tinu and Balinga into an established group, a significant step forward in their rehabilitation journey. All animals in quarantine underwent thorough TB screening, with all results thankfully coming back negative, ensuring continued health and safety across the facility.

In addition, construction on our new drill enclosure made excellent progress and phase 1 is now completed - full story below!

These achievements reflect the strength of collaboration and the impact of consistent, compassionate work. Thank you for being part of this journey.

With Gratitude,

The Limbe Wildlife Centre



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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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keep in touch!



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Never miss an update from the
Limbe Wildlife Centre!

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VOLUNTEER



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AN ORPHAN**



Farewell and Thank You Laura!

After three action-packed and impactful years with LWC, we bid a fond farewell to Laura, our Fundraising and Communications Manager. Laura's journey with us began as a dedicated fundraising volunteer, and her commitment, creativity, and passion quickly became evident. It wasn't long before she officially joined the team, bringing a fresh energy and a thoughtful approach to her work.

Since stepping up to the Fundraising and Communications Manager role, and also acting as deputy Project Manager, Laura made a lasting impression, doing a wonderful job strengthening our relationships with supporters, elevating our messaging, and helping to grow LWC's reach and impact. Whether through compelling campaigns, donor engagement, or her behind-the-scenes coordination, Laura has played a vital role in advancing our mission.

Beyond her professional contributions, Laura has been an ideal, kind and generous colleague, always ready to lend a hand or offer a word of encouragement. All the animals, staff and management at LWC will greatly miss her.

We thank Laura immensely for her time, heart, and dedication to LWC. She leaves with our deep appreciation and very best wishes for the her next exciting chapter in her career and life story. We know she'll continue to achieve amazing things!

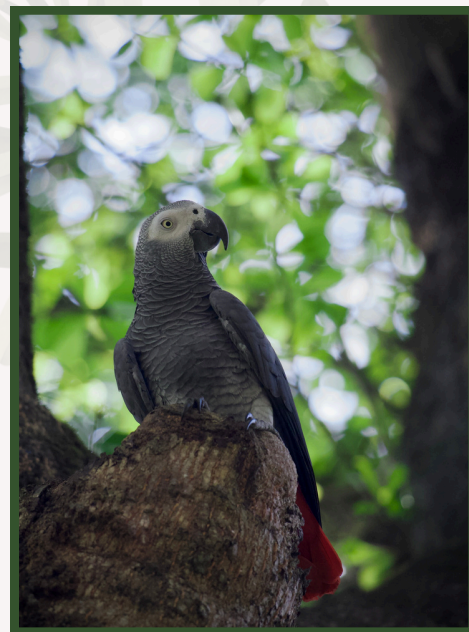
With gratitude, **The LWC Team**



56 African grey parrots find freedom

Last quarter, we proudly shared the successful release of 28 African Grey parrots into the wild. This quarter, we have selected and released the next, and final group of 28 parrots this year. Unfortunately, the remaining parrots in our care are not suitable for release at this time. Some are too habituated to human interaction, while others require additional time to regrow their flight feathers and regain the strength needed for survival in the wild.

On the 26th of April, 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, 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!



Our AGP partners!



WORLD PARROT TRUST



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!

Creature Feature: Rico

In June, a young Tantalus monkey, estimated to be between two and three years old, was brought to the centre after being found in the possession of a private individual who was walking the animal on a chain. The monkey was rescued by MINFOF staff, who engaged with the owner to raise awareness about wildlife protection laws and animal welfare.



Now named Rico Tiko, the monkey is in good health but displays signs of significant humanisation. He has adapted well to his quarantine environment, and once he has completed the mandatory quarantine period, we will initiate a gradual introduction process to integrate him with the existing group of Tantalus monkeys.



Volunteer Highlight: Lana

We were pleased to host Lana, a dedicated volunteer who initially joined us for a three-month placement but chose to extend her stay to a total of four months. During her time with us, Lana completed her university internship and conducted her thesis research on the welfare and captive housing of African dwarf crocodiles. In addition to her academic contributions, she generously donated a range of much-needed supplies to both our veterinary and education departments. We are sincerely grateful for Lana's commitment, generosity, and the valuable support she provided throughout her time at LWC.

Institutional Partners



Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Population management and animal welfare

Every day, our dedicated veterinary team prioritize the mental and physical well-being of the animals in our care. This includes frequent and varied enrichment activities, comprehensive quarantine protocols for new arrivals, and regular health checks.

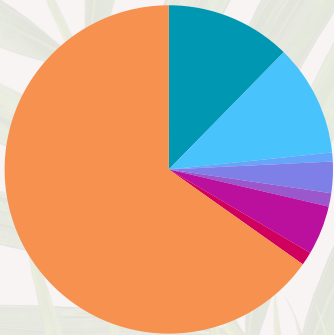
This quarter, **28 primate health checks** were conducted as part of our quarantine procedures and routine veterinary monitoring. These proactive evaluations allow us to identify and address potential health issues before they become more serious. In line with our commitment to responsible population management, we also continue to prevent captive breeding among rescued primates. This quarter, **three contraceptive implants** were administered to support effective, humane population control.

This quarter, our veterinary team prioritized comprehensive health screenings within our Quarantine and Guenon sections. Each animal underwent a thorough examination to ensure their health and safety. We're pleased to report that all test results came back negative. This proactive health monitoring reflects our continued commitment to the well-being of the animals in our care.



Primate veterinary treatments

- Health checks (28)
- Anaesthesia (25)
- Blood samples (2)
- Faecal samples (7)
- Contraceptives (3)
- Laceration repairs (11)
- Minor surgeries (3)
- Drug therapies (148)



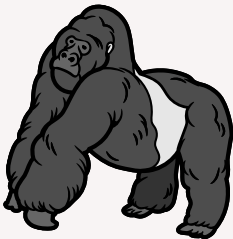
Enrichment

Over the past three months, several enrichment improvements have been made to the indoor enclosures of the great apes. New hammocks were installed to enhance resting opportunities, and hanging tires were added to encourage physical activity and engagement. Additionally, puzzle boards were introduced as part of cognitive enrichment, designed and built by our Enrichment Coordinator in collaboration with Gorilla Keeper Cyrille. These enhancements support the apes' physical and mental well-being by promoting natural behaviours and stimulating their curiosity.



Gorilla/Quarantine keeper Cyrille with a puzzle board

Female gorilla, Emma enjoying her new board



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

- One West African Nile monitor
- Two African dwarf crocodiles
- Two Home's hinged tortoises
- One Tantalus monkey
- One Mona monkey
- Four Ostriches
- One Goshawk
- One Yellow-billed turaco
- One Potto

Releases

- One West African Nile monitor
- Two Home's hinged tortoises
- One African dwarf crocodile
- Twenty eight African grey parrots
- One Goshawk

Two African dwarf crocodiles came to us with injuries caused by tight ropes, an all-too-common sign of capture for the illegal wildlife trade. Unfortunately, one of them was really weak and passed away shortly after arrival. After a month of dedicated care and rehabilitation, during which the wounds healed, the other crocodile regained strength and was ready to return to the wild, where it belongs.

We also released two Home's hinged tortoises, a West African Nile monitor and a resilient African goshawk, which arrived underweight and weak. Thanks to proper nutrition, a safe space to recover, and careful monitoring, the bird gradually gained weight and strength and was eventually cleared for release.



In addition, 28 African grey parrots completed our soft release programme, an approach that allows them to gradually adjust to life back in the wild while still receiving support. After weeks of acclimatisation, all 28 parrots took flight and found their freedom once again.

Each release is a powerful reminder of the importance of rescue, recovery, and rehabilitation and a testament to what's possible when wildlife is given a second chance.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RESCUE AND
REHABILITATION

Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Community outreach and education



On April 25th 2025, the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) proudly hosted its annual Graduation Ceremony for the children who participated in the 2025 Conservation Education Outreach Programme. The celebration took place in the Jungle Village of the stunning Limbe Botanical Gardens, bringing together students from 16 schools across Limbe, Batoke, and Bakingili.

This year, LWC’s team of four dedicated educators reached 53 classes, engaging a total of 2,452 children in conservation education. The event marked the culmination of their learning journey and aimed to inspire these young conservationists to continue serving as ambassadors for wildlife and environmental protection.

Thank you to our fantastic partners **Go Ape Foundation**, **Programme For Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Region (PSMNR-SW)**, **Givskud Zoo**, **Jeanne d’Arc Foundation (JAF)** and all our generous donors for helping us to make this event possible!

Together, we are nurturing the next generation of guardians for Cameroon’s rich wildlife and natural heritage!

New field site visit

On the 31st of May, our Animal Care Manager, along with a PSMNR-SW member and MINFOF representatives, conducted a site visit to a new location that is still within the Mount Cameroon National Park boundaries but on the other side of a historic lava flow. The new potential site was chosen as it is flatter than the original Bakingili site and also not an elephant area. The new site seems very promising, with signs of wild Drill activity and wild chimpanzees were heard calling in the distance. This new site, however, does not have such good road and track access, an aspect which would need some extra work. Detailed comparisons and site evaluations are being compiled before a final decision is made on the final location.

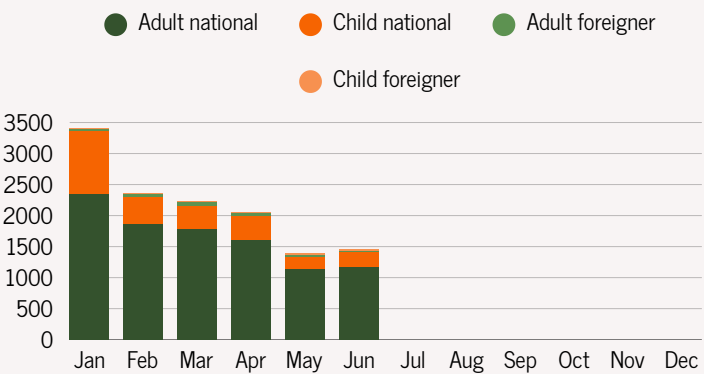
Visitors

So far in 2025, we received a total of **12,907** visitors, **98%** of which were Cameroonian. We are grateful to host so many local visitors, so we can keep inspiring them to protect Cameroon’s unique flora and fauna!

Visitors in April, May and June:

4,891 visitors: **83%** adults, **17%** children

(All entrance fees go to the Government of Cameroon)



Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

Unusual arrivals

In May, four ostrich chicks were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade and brought to the Limbe Wildlife Centre. Unfortunately, two of the chicks died shortly after their arrival. Necropsy results revealed that both had ingested significant amounts of foreign material prior to rescue. One ostrich chick had an entire plastic bag in its stomach, while the other had consumed sharp metal fragments.

A third chick arrived in a weakened condition and was unable to stand; despite intensive veterinary care, it sadly did not survive. The remaining chick is thriving, demonstrating strong health and steady growth.



Successful gorilla integration

End of last year we started the integration of Balinga, a silverback gorilla and two females, Abby and Tinu. Everything went smoothly and they bonded with each other very well. This May we moved them out of their bonding enclosure into the main gorilla group 2 enclosure. The move required large amounts of planning as moving a 180kg male gorilla is not easy! The whole team came together, and the anaesthesia and moves all went extremely well.



Infrastructure and development

The construction team have been very busy working on the new drill enclosure. Drill Island aims to provide good outdoor space for the 'escaper' Drills as well as providing an additional holding facility.

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 look forward to sharing more about the impact of this new enclosure.



See below for the full story!



Construction staff, Mr Jacob installing the platforms



Behind the Scenes: Quarterly Activities

The story of the new Drill Island section – Construction and Challenges

We are currently home to 59 Drills and whilst we have a non-breeding policy, our population continues to grow each year as new animals arrive from the illegal wildlife trade and occasionally our Drills evade the contraceptive measures. The Drill is listed as endangered by the IUCN.

This new cage complex (named Drill Island by the LWC staff) aims to address the issues of overcrowding in the current



enclosure, provide good outdoor space for the 'escaper' drills as well as providing an additional holding facility to assist with the creation of a new troop that will in time be moved to a new field site (therefore hopefully starting their journey on a pathway to releases within Mount Cameroon National Park in the next few years).

Construction in Cameroon is not an easy task due to the climate, geography and availability of some materials, and the creation of the Drill Island enclosures has been a challenging process. Much of the LWC lies on a floodplain between two small rivers (including 'Chimp Island' and the main parrot aviary) and floods regularly in the wet season. Beyond the 2nd river the flood plain is equally low and previously has only contained our compost area and some crop growing, with the recent addition of a new quarantine primate holding cage. It is on this area which we have constructed the new drill section, which incorporates use of the holding cage, as there is no remaining space elsewhere on our 4ha Limbe site.

Because the area across the rivers is low and prone to flooding, before construction of the cages could begin, a large amount of volcanic soil from the local quarries had to be brought in to create a large, raised area (about 1m higher than previously) to allow construction of the new cages / enclosure to be above the flood risk. Once this was done, we needed to source the correct strength and gauge of mesh for the walls and roof. Unfortunately, it is currently not possible to buy sufficiently strong mesh to hold drills in Cameroon. We therefore made enquiries across the border to our sister project, Drill Ranch, about how they obtain mesh. They kindly worked with us to obtain the suitable mesh from their usual supplier in Lagos and arranged transport of it across Nigeria to Calabar. From there, we organised for it to be taken by a cargo boat from Calabar to Tiko port in SW Cameroon (a 36-hour boat journey). In synchronisation with this, we were in contact with the Government of Cameroon, collaborating with the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, as their NGO partners at LWC, and with the Ministry of Finance to facilitate the importation of this mesh into Cameroon.

The final preparations involved the climbing structures being installed, the ground in the cages being thoroughly cleaned and soil/stones for the drills to forage in being added. Zinc screening has also been added to provide additional shading, rain cover and to block the animals' view across the nearby road and houses, and to reduce stress. A new gate is also being placed over the entrance through the outer wall at that location, and a small hut is being renovated to provide drill keeper equipment storage and keeper shelter. Water supply is already installed and new drainage and effluent soak-aways have been completed.

To manage this new area, the existing drill team will need to substantially modify their daily routine. There will be far more distance to cover with food transportation etc., and we are supplementing their capacity with an extra keeper trained to work regularly on drills.

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 you buy helps to support the LWC and protect Cameroon's unique wildlife.

[Limbe Wildlife Centre mug](#)

[Limbe Wildlife Centre organic classic dad hat](#)

[Limbe Wildlife Centre t-shirt](#)

NEW!

[Limbe Wildlife Centre Eco tote bag](#)

NEW!

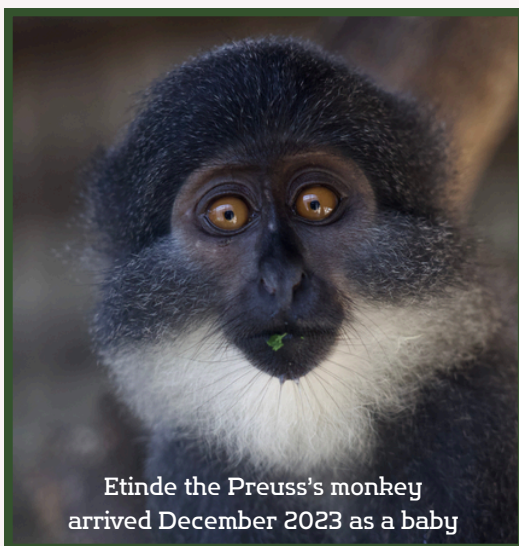
[Abbey the Gorilla t-shirt](#)

[Limbe Wildlife Centre stickers](#)

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You can purchase your merch from anywhere!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Etinde the Preuss's monkey
arrived December 2023 as a baby

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

We look forward to [Giving Day for Apes on October 7th](#) - see you there!