

LIMBE WILDLIFE CENTRE

2025 Annual Report

Limbe, Southwest Region, Cameroon



Report period: January – December 2025

Cover photo: Camfor the Preuss monkey

Photo credit: Reni Jantek

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Limbe Wildlife Centre

ABOUT THE LIMBE WILDLIFE CENTRE

The Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) is a collaborative partnership between the Government of Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and Pandrillus Cameroon, situated within the Limbe Zoological Garden.

Founded in 1993, the centre was established in response to the alarming decline of animal populations across Cameroon due to habitat destruction, poaching, and the illegal wildlife trade.

The LWC primarily serves as a national sanctuary for confiscated animals, providing expert care, rehabilitation, and - where possible - release back into the wild. It is the only centre in Cameroon with a dedicated programme for the rescue and rehabilitation of the endangered African grey parrot.

The LWC is accredited by the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) and is a recipient of the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award. The centre employs approximately 40 dedicated local staff, many of whom have been team members for over 20 years.

Our Mission

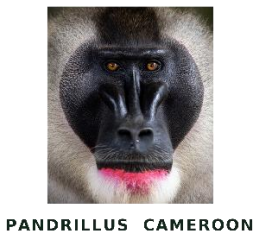
To protect Cameroonian wildlife by rehabilitating victims of the illegal wildlife trade and other injured, orphaned or displaced animals, improving the conservation of endangered species in the wild, inspiring people to connect with nature and improving local communities' wellbeing.



Limbe Wildlife Centre is a collaborative effort between Pandrillus Cameroon and the Republic of Cameroon, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)



The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife oversees implementing the national forest policy for ensuring sustainable management and conservation of wildlife and biodiversity over the national territory as enacted by forestry law No. 01/94 of 20 February which regulates all forestry, wildlife, and fisheries activities



Pandrillus Cameroon is a non-profit making NGO specialised in the protection, rehabilitation, and reintroduction of primates, as well as management and sustainable financing of conservation projects in Africa

ACCREDITATION & AWARDS



The Limbe Wildlife Centre is a founding member of the **Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)**. PASA is the largest association of wildlife centres and sanctuaries in Africa and includes 23 organisations in 13 countries that demonstrate exceptional commitment and the **highest standards of animal welfare** and **conservation practices**, to securing a future for Africa's primates and their habitat.



In August 2019, the Limbe Wildlife Centre received a **2019 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award** at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva, Switzerland, in recognition of the remarkable efforts the LWC has made to help combat wildlife crime.



In 2024, the Limbe Wildlife Centre's Community Green Project was added to the **United Nations Development Programmes Nature-Based Solutions Database**. The database outlines how communities are making possible the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through nature-based actions. The project fulfils three SDGs: Jobs and livelihoods (SDG 1), Health (SDG 3), Sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12).

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Further details and photos of our work and the topics covered in this report are available in our 2025 quarterly newsletters published throughout the year and available on our website and mailing list.

FOREWORD

Dear friends and supporters,

Looking back on 2025, I am proud of just how much has been achieved by the Limbe Wildlife Centre team in this eventful and impactful year. More than 3 decades after our founding, the LWC continues to stand at the front line of wildlife conservation in Cameroon, and 2025 reminded us why that work matters.

Throughout the year, our dedicated team cared for hundreds of rescued animals and welcomed 46 new arrivals - lives saved from the illegal wildlife trade and exploitation, each one now safe. We successfully rehabilitated and released 77 animals back into the wild, including 56 endangered African grey parrots in two carefully managed releases. Releases are in many ways the culmination of our work and they are a testament to the commitment of our veterinary and animal care teams.

Infrastructure has been a major focus this year. The completion of Drill Island Phase 1 - a project that required importing specialist mesh from Lagos and raising the height of a flood-prone site with volcanic soil - stands as one of the most logistically complex undertakings in the LWC's recent history. It now provides a better, calmer environment for some of our most challenging-to-manage drills and lays the groundwork for future sub-group formation, a route to the new site on Mount Cameroon and, ultimately, a pathway to release. Alongside this, we carried out significant refurbishment work on the patas and tantalus enclosures, gorilla facilities, and the upper Guenon mesh — all part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement in animal welfare.

One of the most moving stories of the year was the successful integration of Abbey and Tinu - two of the 'Taiping 4' gorillas, who arrived traumatised after being smuggled from Cameroon to Malaysia as infants - into a new group with developing silverback Balinga. To see these animals, who have been through so much, now thriving in a stable social group is a reminder of why patience, expertise and long-term commitment to individual animal welfare are at the heart of everything we do.

Our community programmes continued strongly. Our conservation education team reached over 2,400 school children across 15 schools, and the Green Project supported 79 community members, supplying over 94,000 kg of nutritious browse for the animals while investing in the livelihoods of local families. Over 22,000 visitors came through our gates - 97% of them Cameroonian - and we welcomed a generous response to our fundraising campaigns, raising over \$10,000 through Giving Day for Apes and Giving Tuesday combined. Thank you!

Looking ahead to 2026, it is shaping up with daunting ambition. Drill Island Phase 2 (a larger, more ambitious extension of Phase 1), new enclosure extensions for red-capped mangabeys and Mona monkeys, river defence improvements, a new much larger dwarf crocodile enclosure, improvements to our intensive care and special care areas are all priorities. The advancement of the new project site within Mount Cameroon National Park will also continue. A square kilometre of forested semi-wild enclosures within the park, this is perhaps the most exciting development in the LWC's history: the first expansion beyond the current 4 ha Limbe Zoological Garden site – with far larger enclosures. It represents the initial steps on Cameroon's first ever pathway toward releasing primates back into the wild and is expected to be operational by 2028.

None of these achievements is possible without our partners and supporters around the world. My heartfelt thanks go to our Cameroon Government partners, MINFOF, and the Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Southwest region for their partnership and collaboration. Likewise, to all the wonderful granting and collaborating organisations and donors listed in these pages for their continued generous support. To our staff - many of them members of this team for decades - and to our volunteers who give their time and expertise so generously: thank you! The work is never finished, but in 2025 we moved forward: for the animals in our care, for the community around us, and for the forests and wildlife of Cameroon.

Yours sincerely,

Jerry Aylmer

Pandrillus Cameroon Project Manager, Limbe Wildlife Centre

2025 AT A GLANCE - KEY STATISTICS

Animals in care throughout 2025	237
New animals rescued and admitted	46
Animals successfully rehabilitated and released	77
African grey parrots released to the wild	56
Critically endangered Home's Hinge-back tortoises released	5
School children reached by conservation education programme	2,452
Schools engaged	15
Visitors received in 2025	22,196
Community members supported by the Green Project	79
Browse supplied to animals via Green Project (kg)	94,000+
Total invested in local community since 2015 (USD)	\$150,000+

YEAR IN REVIEW - QUARTERLY SUMMARY

Below is a quarter-by-quarter overview of arrivals, releases and key veterinary activities during 2025.

Q1 — January to March 2025

Arrivals	Releases	Vet Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 West African Nile monitors • 2 Home's hinged tortoises • 1 West African mud turtle • 1 Patas monkey (Madala) • 2 Mona monkeys (incl. Boti) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 African grey parrots (Feb 15) • 3 West African Nile monitors • 2 Home's hinged tortoises • 1 West African mud turtle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 primate health checks • 18 anaesthesia procedures • 8 contraceptive implants • 153 drug therapies • 43 parrot health checks pre-release • 48 parrot vet treatments

Q2 — April to June 2025

Arrivals	Releases	Vet Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 West African Nile monitor • 2 African dwarf crocodiles • 2 Home's hinged tortoises • 1 Tantalus monkey (Rico Tiko) • 1 Mona monkey • 4 Ostriches (2 survived) • 1 Goshawk • 1 Yellow-billed turaco • 1 Potto • 1 Woodland kingfisher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 African grey parrots (Apr/May) • 1 West African Nile monitor • 2 Home's hinged tortoises • 1 African dwarf crocodile • 1 Goshawk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 primate health checks • 25 anaesthesia procedures • 3 contraceptive implants • 148 drug therapies • Gorilla integration (Balinga, Abbey & Tinu)

Q3 — July to September 2025

<p>Arrivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 infant Mona monkey (dog attack) • 2 Genet kittens • 1 juvenile Mona monkey • 1 juvenile African palm civet • 1 infant Preuss monkey • 1 juvenile Olive baboon (Stephie Rey) • 2 African grey parrots • 1 Dwarf crocodile 	<p>Releases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Home's hinged back tortoise • 1 Mud turtle 	<p>Vet Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 primate health checks • 17 anaesthesia procedures • 10 blood samples • 10 contraceptive implants • 122 drug therapies • Primates Boti, Theo & Rex integrated into troops
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Q4 — October to December 2025		
<p>Arrivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 West African Nile monitor lizards • 4 African grey parrots (glue-trapped) • 2 West African mud turtles • 1 Turtle (species unknown) • 1 Gaboon Viper • 1 Bay Duiker • 1 Lizard Buzzard 	<p>Releases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 West African Nile monitor lizards • 2 West African mud turtles • 1 Turtle (species unknown) • 1 Gaboon Viper • 1 Lizard Buzzard • Stephie Rey integrated into olive baboon group 	<p>Vet Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 primate health checks • 8 anaesthesia procedures • 1 major surgery (finger amputation) • 12 laceration repairs • 155 drug therapies • 4 glue-trapped parrots stabilised

RESCUE, REHABILITATION & RELEASE

The LWC's rescue, rehabilitation and release programme is the cornerstone of our work. In partnership with MINFOF, the centre provides a critical legal and logistical home for animals confiscated from the illegal bushmeat and pet trades. Without this service, wildlife crime would often go effectively unpunished, as confiscating agencies would have no facility to place seized animals.

2025 Arrivals - 47 New Animals

Of the 47 new animals admitted in 2025, approximately 30% were threatened species. Notable arrivals included Madala (a young patas monkey rescued from a military base with a rope around his waist), Rico Tiko (a Tantalus monkey found on a chain), Stephie Rey (a juvenile olive baboon), an infant Preuss monkey requiring round-the-clock care, and four African grey parrots caught using the cruel glue-trap method in November.

Species	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC	DD	?	Total
Birds								
African grey parrot*		6						6
Ostrich							4	4
Goshawk							1	1
Yellow-billed turaco					1			1
Lizard buzzard					1			1
Woodland kingfisher							1	1
Other mammals								
African palm civet					1			1
Genet					2			2
Central African potto					1			1
Bay duiker				1				1
Primates								

Preuss monkey	1							1
Mona monkey				4				4
Patas monkey				1				1
Olive Baboon					1			1
Tantalus monkey					1			1
Reptiles								
Various turtle spp.							2	2
Gaboon Viper							1	1
Dwarf crocodile			3					3
West African mud turtle					3			3
West African Nile monitor lizard					6			6
Home's hinged tortoise	4							4
								46
<p style="text-align: center;">29.79% threatened 51.06% not threatened 19.15% data lacking</p>								

2025 Releases - 77 Animals Returned to the Wild

In 2025, 77 animals were successfully rehabilitated and released, including:

- 56 endangered African grey parrots — in two separate flock releases in February and May using a soft-release programme via the World Parrot Trust-funded release aviary.
- 5 critically endangered Home's Hinge-back tortoises and 2 African dwarf crocodiles.
- 6 West African Nile monitor lizards, 3 West African mud turtles, plus various other reptiles and birds.

Species	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC	DD	?	Total
Birds								
African grey parrot		56						56
Goshawk							1	1
Lizard Buzzard					1			1
Reptiles								
Various turtle spp.							2	2
West African mud turtle					3			3
Gaboon Viper							1	1
West African Nile monitor lizard					6			6
Dwarf crocodile			1					1
Home's hinged tortoise	5							5
Other mammals								
Bushbuck					1			1
								77
<p style="text-align: center;">80.77% threatened 14.10% not threatened 5.13% data lacking</p>								

ANIMAL WELFARE & POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Every day, the LWC veterinary team works to ensure the physical and psychological wellbeing of all animals in our care. This encompasses daily enrichment, regular health checks, quarantine protocols for new arrivals, preventive treatments and emergency veterinary care.

Enrichment Programme

2025 saw significant development of the enrichment programme under Enrichment Coordinator Reni (18 months on site). Achievements included a comprehensive Enrichment Handbook for keepers and volunteers, new hammocks and puzzle boards for great apes, new climbing structures for Guenon enclosures, and festive Christmas enrichment across all sections.

Population Management

The LWC maintains a strict non-breeding policy for rescued primates. Across the four quarters of 2025, a total of 31 contraceptive implants were administered.

Two of our beloved female gorillas, Abbey and Tinu were introduced to Balinga, one of LWC's adult male gorillas, in a carefully managed process led by the Animal Care Manager and experienced gorilla team. Gorilla introductions are complex and require patience, understanding, and deep knowledge of individual personalities. Every behaviour is closely monitored to ensure compatibility and minimise stress.

The result was a smooth and positive integration, an encouraging sign for what comes next.

By forming a new troop with Balinga, Abbey and Tinu are now part of a more natural and enriching social environment. One that supports their long-term welfare and mirrors life in the wild as closely as possible.

Notable Welfare Milestones

- Gorilla integration: Abbey, Tinu (surviving 'Taiping 4' gorillas) and Balinga were successfully integrated into a stable new troop.
- Drill Island Phase 1 completed: Three drills (Bajul, Ebuki and Maliva) relocated to new purpose-built enclosure complex.
- Primate introductions: Boti (Mona troop), Theo & Rex (red-capped mangabey troop), Stephanie Rey (olive baboon group), Etinde (upper Guenon enclosure) all successfully integrated.
- Emergency surgery: In December, chimpanzee Pekus received emergency finger amputation following a serious fight injury. He made a full recovery and returned to his troop.

Spotlight: Theo and Rex

Rex and Theo, two young male red-capped mangabeys, arrived at the centre in July 2024 under very different but equally challenging circumstances. Theo was seized from a hunter, likely orphaned after his mother was killed for the illegal pet trade. Rex had spent three formative years as a household pet; raised not as a monkey, but as a human infant. Both arrived exhibiting deeply humanised behaviours, a reflection of the trauma and unnatural environments they had endured. With patience, expertise and unwavering care from our dedicated team, the boys began a carefully managed journey toward rehabilitation, including a gradual introduction to the resident group on Island Guenon.

Theo adapted quickly to his new social environment, but Rex faced greater challenges. Having missed critical early learning, he initially struggled to interpret the complex social cues and behaviours essential for group life. Despite this, progress came with time. Today, we are delighted to share that both Rex and Theo have successfully integrated, participating in vital bonding activities such as grooming, play, and foraging. Moments like these are profoundly meaningful not only for the animals, whose resilience shines through, but also for our team and supporters. Your generosity makes these transformations possible, offering individuals like Rex and Theo a second chance at a life they were always meant to live.

CURRENT ANIMAL POPULATION (APRIL 2026)

Classification	Species	Scientific name	[IUCN] Class	Number
Birds	African grey parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	[EN] A	114
Total birds				114
Primates	Western lowland gorilla	<i>Gorilla gorilla gorilla</i>	[CR] A	14
	Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	[EN] A	35
	Red-eared monkey	<i>Cercopithecus erythrotis</i>	[VU] A	2
	Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	[LC] C	13
	Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	[EN] C	4
	Preuss's monkey	<i>Allochrocebus preussi</i>	[EN] A	3
	Tantalus monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>	[LC] C	13
	Patas monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	[LC] C	6
	Agile mangabey	<i>Cercocebus agilis</i>	[LC] A	3
	Red-capped mangabey	<i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>	[EN] A	6
	Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	[EN] A	59
	Mandrill	<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	[VU] A	10
	Olive baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	[LC] C	8
Total primates				176
Reptiles	Radiated tortoise	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	[CR] A	1
	Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	[LC] A	1
	African dwarf crocodile	<i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i>	[VU] A	6
	Mud turtle (various spp)	<i>Pelusios spp</i>		56
Total reptiles				64
Other mammals	Genet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	[LC] B	2
	African palm civet	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	[LC] B	1
	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	[LC] B	1
Total for other mammals				4
TOTAL				358

INFRASTRUCTURE & CONSTRUCTION

2025 was one of the most active years for infrastructure development in the LWC's recent history, with significant projects completed across the four-hectare site despite the challenges of the wet season, seasonal flooding, and the complexities of sourcing some of the materials. Here are some of the highlights:

Drill Island - New Enclosure Complex (Phase 1)

The completion of Drill Island Phase 1 stands as the most significant infrastructure achievement of 2025 and a story that encapsulates both the ambition and the resourcefulness of the LWC team.

The LWC is home to one of the largest captive populations of drills in the world — 59 individuals at the start of 2025. Whilst a strict non-breeding policy is in place, the population continues to grow as new animals arrive from the illegal wildlife trade, and occasionally contraceptive measures are not fully effective. Managing space, social dynamics, and individual welfare within the existing enclosure had become increasingly complex. Several individuals had been identified as escape risks or as animals experiencing undue social stress within the larger group, requiring separation.

The idea for Drill Island had been in development for some time but turning it into reality required solving a series of significant logistical challenges. The LWC's 4-hectare site sits on a floodplain between two small rivers. The only remaining available land — across the second river — was low-lying and highly flood-prone. Before any construction could begin, a large quantity of volcanic soil had to be imported from local quarries to raise the ground level by approximately one metre across the entire construction footprint, bringing it safely above flood risk. This groundwork alone represented a major undertaking.

The next challenge was the mesh. Drills are powerful, intelligent primates with a well-earned reputation for escaping enclosures not built to the highest specifications. Sufficiently strong, fine-gauge mesh of the required specification was not available locally. Following consultation with a partner project, Drill Ranch in Nigeria, the LWC identified a supplier in Lagos. Drill Ranch coordinated transportation across Nigeria to Calabar, from where the mesh was loaded onto a cargo boat for a 36-hour sea journey to Tiko port in Southwest Cameroon.

With the site prepared and materials in hand, construction proceeded with the support of Save the Drills, whose vital funding made the project possible. The new cage complex includes multiple caged enclosure sections with climbing structures, zinc screening for shade and stress reduction, foraging material on the floor, a new keeper hut for equipment storage and shelter, fresh water supply, and new drainage and effluent soak-away. The enclosures stand four metres high, providing ample vertical space for the drills to explore. Phase 1 achieved all of this, with another, larger, caged enclosure to be added in 2026.

The first three residents — Bajul, Ebuki and Maliva — have been successfully relocated to Drill Island. Early observations are positive: reduced stress behaviours, improved management of these individuals, and the successful formation of a small new sub-group. This is an important step on the pathway towards creating a sub-group of 10-15 drills which can be prepared, health-checked and transferred to the new Mount Cameroon National Park project site around 2027/2028.

Phase 2 of Drill Island — a larger second cage linked to the first by a mesh tunnel — is planned for 2026, which will allow the transfer of further individuals.

Patas/Tantalus Enclosure Refurbishment - Finished April 2026

The patas and tantalus monkey enclosures on the LWC island were identified in 2024 as requiring a full mesh replacement. The existing mesh was old, rusted and in need of complete renewal, but the scale of the project, combined with the challenge of working around the animals still living in the space, made this a complex and lengthy maintenance project.

Work began during Q3, with the team adopting a phased approach — tackling one fence line at a time to minimise the time the monkeys spent confined to the temporary satellite cages. This approach extended the overall project timeline but proved effective in protecting the welfare of the animals throughout. By the end of the year, the longest wall had been successfully replaced, and the animals had tolerated the disruption well.

However, the refurbishment was not fully completed by year end. The wet season brought significant flooding to the area, causing delays and limiting access. Work continued into early 2026, with completion of the remaining fence sections and associated maintenance — including extension of the night den height and flood protection measures — being completed as a priority in the first quarter of the year. Funding for this work was supported in part by a generous grant from new supporter, Qato Fonden.

Once complete, the refurbished enclosures will provide a safer, more secure home for both the patas and tantalus populations, supporting their welfare and the planned integration of new individuals.

Gorilla Enclosure Maintenance

Essential repairs were carried out across the gorilla enclosures, including replacement of rusted sliding doors between enclosures and repair of a well-used hammock — an important piece of enrichment in the gorillas' daily routine.

Upper Guenon Mesh Replacement

A programme mesh and structural enrichment maintenance and replacement of the upper Guenons mixed-species enclosures was completed simultaneously to the tantalus/patas work, enabling the integration of Efinde the Preuss monkey into this section.

Flood Response & Resilience

Extensive flooding in Q3 caused damage across several enclosures, requiring emergency repairs and delaying planned construction. The LWC launched a Giving Tuesday campaign — Rise Above the Flood — in December, raising \$2,110 from 30 donors to help fund improved drainage, raised walkway and river defences ahead of the 2026 wet season.

Planned for 2026

- ❖ Drill Island Phase 2 - larger second cage linked by mesh tunnel, housing ~10 further drills.
- ❖ Completion of patas/tantalus refurbishment including remaining fence sections, night den height extension and flood protection (this is complete as of April 2026).
- ❖ Improvement of the climbing structures and other structural enrichment available to our 'quarantine' chimpanzee group.
- ❖ Red-cap mangabey and mona monkey major enclosure extensions (doubling space to 1,425m³), linked by tunnels to the existing enclosures.
- ❖ New dwarf crocodile enclosure and turtle space improvements.
- ❖ River defence and drainage improvements ahead of wet season.
- ❖ Significant maintenance to our main parrot aviary.

EDUCATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH & THE GREEN PROJECT

Conservation Education Programme

Summary

In 2025, the LWC's education team reached a total of 2,452 children across 15 schools in Limbe, Batoke and Bakingili in an outstanding year of effort and dedication.

The annual Graduation Ceremony was held on 25 April in the Limbe Botanical Gardens, supported by Go Ape Foundation, PSMNR-SW, Givskud Zoo and Jeanne d'Arc Foundation, and was thoroughly enjoyed by over 2,100 school children.

Outreach into schools and Saturday Nature Club

School outreach remains at the heart of our education programme. Throughout the academic year, our team visited schools across Limbe and surrounding areas, delivering lessons on ecology, wildlife, zoonoses, and environmental challenges.

Using a participatory approach, including theatre, music and hands-on activities, we ensured that learning was both engaging and memorable. By working directly within schools, we continue to expand access to conservation education and inspire students to take pride in protecting their natural environment. Our team conducted structured guided tours, creative activities and interactive discussions to engage visitors of all ages, communities and children from the Saturday Nature Club to promote a deeper appreciation and understanding of wildlife, biodiversity and our role within these systems.

By adopting methods aimed at encouraging curiosity and critical thinking, the programme has made a strong impression that we hope extends well beyond a single visit. Motivating children in Limbe and surrounding communities, we aim to expand mindsets toward more environmentally responsible attitudes and behaviours.

The 2024/2025 education programme placed a strong emphasis on measuring impact. Through structured pre- and post-testing, we gained valuable insights into learning outcomes. Based on 446 primary school pupils who completed all four post-tests, results showed a 5% increase in knowledge among primary school pupils and a 27% increase among secondary students. These findings highlight the effectiveness of the programme while helping the team refine and improve future delivery.



School Graduation

The 2025 annual graduation ceremony was once again a highlight of the year. Held at the Limbe Botanical Gardens, the event brought together students from across participating schools to celebrate their achievements. The day was filled with music, dance, and performances, creating a joyful and memorable atmosphere. Over 2,000 certificates were awarded, recognising the efforts and commitment of each child. We extend our sincere thanks to all donors and partners whose support made this celebration possible.

Beach Clean-Up

Throughout the year, the education team participated in a variety of additional activities to expand outreach and engagement. A key highlight was the beach clean-up at Down Beach. On 29 March 2025, 174 school children removed 221.82 kg of waste from Limbe's Down Beach. Each child received an 'I am a Wildlife Warrior' football shirt.

The Community Green Project

The Green Project links wildlife conservation with community development by supporting alternative livelihoods for residents of Batoke, a former hunting community bordering Mount Cameroon National Park. For over 20 years, the initiative has enabled local harvesters to sustainably collect natural browse and agricultural by-products used to feed rescued wildlife at LWC.

Batoke, like the other communities we work with in our outreach programme, is situated at the base of Mount Cameroon, which is a designated national park and in which MINFOF, the PSMNR programme and Pandrillus Cameroon/LWC are planning a new forested wildlife rescue & rehabilitation project site aimed ultimately at primate releases. The Mount Cameroon National Park is home to many species including Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees, drills, forest elephants, many more primate species and endemic bird species.

The Green Project during 2025:

- Approximately 79 community members were engaged in harvesting activities
- 64 participants were women, strengthening household financial resilience
- 15 former hunters involved in conservation-linked employment
- 94,593 kg of sustainably sourced plant material was supplied to LWC
- Income generated through harvesting provided the equivalent of 127 monthly salaries, averaging 1.6 salaries per participant

This model simultaneously supports animal welfare, reduces reliance on bushmeat hunting, and reinvests conservation funding directly into neighbouring communities.

Since 2015, the project has invested over \$150,000 in the local community and supplied over 775,000 kilograms of fresh browse.

We would like to give heartfelt thanks to our fantastic supporters who have funded the Green Project over the years and specifically in 2025.

Annual statistics 2025	Weight (kg)	Incomes generated (XAF)
Crop by-products		
Cassava leaves	6,860	548,800
Papaya leaves	22,298	1,783,840
Potato leaves	23,411	1,404,660
Subtotal Crop by-products	52,569	3,737,300
Wild herbaceous		
Wild herbaceous Aframomum sp.	32,595	3,436,000
Costus sp.	9,429	471,450
Subtotal Wild herbaceous	42,024	5,082,450
Total	94,593	8,819,750
USD*		12,532
NB permanent members		79
Ex-hunters		15
Women		64
Average total income per week		168,799
Average income per permanent member		97,997
Equivalent number of monthly salaries		127
Equivalent monthly salaries per member		1.6

Green Project costs Categories	2025 Actual XAF	2025 USD	2025 EUR
Labour costs	3,263,010 XAF	5,675	4,974
Community suppliers	8,819,750 XAF	15,339	13,445
Gasoil	3,047,093 XAF	5,299	4,645
Outreach programme	1,461,248 XAF	2,541	2,228
LWC Vehicle maintenance	2,634,407 XAF	4,582	4,016
Fixed costs & admin	2,307,061 XAF	4,012	3,517
TOTAL Project	21,532,568 XAF	37,448	32,824

This year, workshops brought together large numbers of participants, encouraging dialogue, shared learning, and a deeper understanding of conservation challenges and opportunities.

Led by our Wilson Ateh, the first community workshop took place on Saturday 31 May 2025 and was highly productive.

A second workshop was held in early December 2025 in Batoke, to highlight the project's role in protecting wildlife and habitats and provide feedback on how to improve the project in 2026. While we initially anticipated around 100 participants, we were proud to welcome over 200 members of the community.

The day brought together both new and existing participants through presentations, open discussions, and shared experiences. The event also included the distribution of project T-shirts, along with food, music, and dancing, creating a strong sense of community and shared purpose.

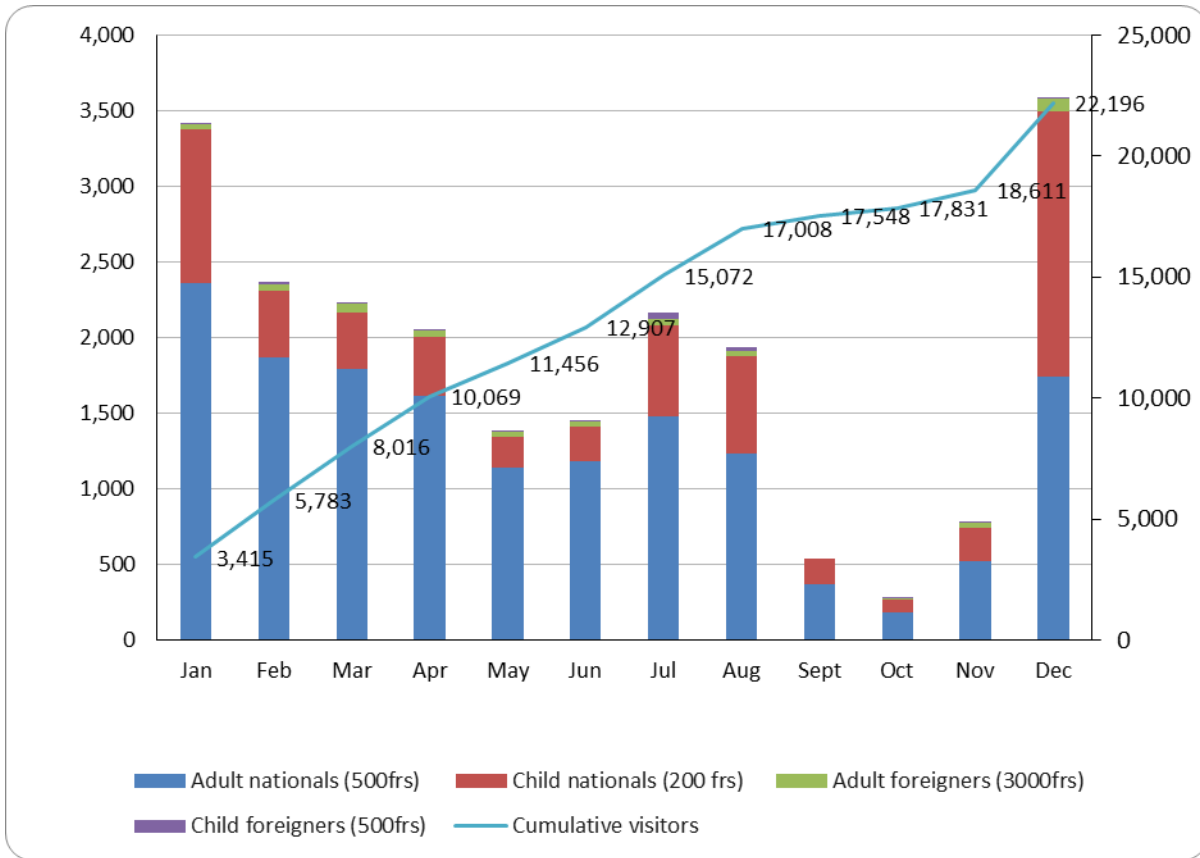
We extend our thanks to the Go Ape Foundation / Contribute Foundation for their support for this second workshop and the t-shirts provided to the community members during it.

VISITOR NUMBERS

In 2025, the Limbe Wildlife Centre welcomed a total of 22,196 visitors — 97.4% Cameroonian. The busiest months were January (3,415), February (2,368) and December (3,585) — the Christmas period once again proving the most popular time to visit. We are grateful to host so many local visitors, so we can keep inspiring them to protect Cameroon's unique flora and fauna!

Cameroonian	Foreign	Adult	Child
97.36%	2.64%	71.8%	28.2%

The chart below shows monthly visitor breakdown for 2025, by adult nationals, child nationals and foreign visitors respectively. All entrance fees are paid to the Government of Cameroon.



Year on year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total visitors	27,550	23,891	23,341	22,196
% Cameroonian	98.7%	97.0%	98.0%	97.4%

STORY OF THE YEAR: THE TAIPING 4 - A NEW BEGINNING

In 2007, four infant gorillas were smuggled from Cameroon to Taiping Zoo in Malaysia. International pressure led eventually to their return to Cameroon and the LWC. Two of the four did not survive.

Eighteen years on, Abbey and Tinu reached a remarkable milestone in 2025. They were successfully introduced to Balinga, one of the LWC's adult male silverback gorillas — a carefully managed integration resulting in the formation of a new, stable gorilla troop. In the wild, gorillas live in structured social groups that provide:

- Protection from threats
- Social learning opportunities for younger individuals
- Emotional stability through bonding and grooming
- Natural behavioural development

Abbey and Tinu are now part of a richer, more natural environment that supports their long-term welfare.

Their story - rooted in tragedy but evolving into one of resilience and renewal - reflects the very heart of what the LWC does: giving every animal not just a chance to survive, but to live well.

CHALLENGES & OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Financial Pressures

The LWC continued to face significant financial challenges in 2025. Key cost increases compared to 2024 included a 5% rise in animal food costs, a 70% increase in spending on enclosures and grounds (construction), a 5% increase in staff salaries, and a 20% increase in vehicle fuel and maintenance costs. See full financial statement below.

Socio-Political Context

The ongoing issues in Cameroon's Anglophone regions continue to reduce international visitor numbers and limit volunteer recruitment. The LWC remains committed to operating effectively in this challenging environment.

Weather & Flooding

The 2025 wet season brought extensive flooding to several enclosures, causing delays to planned construction and requiring emergency repairs. Flood resilience improvements are a key priority for 2026.

LOOKING AHEAD - 2026 PRIORITIES

- Complete Drill Island Phase 2, build extension cages for red-cap mangabey and Mona monkey enclosures and construct new dwarf crocodile enclosure.
- Complete river defence and drainage work ahead of wet season.
- Continue parrot release programme — 70 African grey parrots have already arrived in early 2026.
- Sustain conservation education programme across 15+ schools.
- Diversify and increase funding through new grant applications and individual donor campaigns.
- Further plan and develop with partners the new Mount Cameroon National Park Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project – see below for more details.

2026 - 2030: THE MOUNT CAMEROON WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

In 2025, Pandrillus Cameroon and its key partners (MINFOF and the Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Southwest (PSMNR-SW)) made significant progress towards a new project site within Mount Cameroon National Park - approximately one square kilometre of forested semi-wild enclosures. A site visit in May confirmed a promising location with evidence of wild drill activity and wild chimpanzees nearby. Government approval has been secured. Surveys, access track creation and initial construction of key infrastructure are planned for 2026, with the site expected to be operational around 2027/2028. This represents the most significant long-term development in the LWC's 33-year history: the first progression pathway for primates, firstly into large naturalistic enclosures with semi-wild environments within MCNP, and then with the aim of establishing release programmes back to the wild for selected species.

Background

The Southwest Region of Cameroon is a hotspot for biodiversity, which is at severe risk due to illegal hunting and wildlife trade, deforestation and human encroachment. It contains Mount Cameroon, the highest mountain in West and Central Africa, with an elevation of more than 4,000m, which resides in the 58,154-hectare Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP). Rising from sea level this designated Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) is the only place in West and Central Africa where there is an unbroken vegetation gradient from evergreen lowland rainforest, through montane forest, to montane grassland and alpine grassland near the summit. MCNP contains many endangered species of flora and fauna, including species unique to the area, such as the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*), African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*), Mount Cameroon Francolin (*Pternistis camerunensis*), Mount Cameroon Speirops (*Zosterops melanocephalus*) and drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*).

Pandrillus Cameroon, a locally registered NGO, has partnered with the Government of Cameroon successfully for over 30 years, managing the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC), a sanctuary for rescued primates and other wildlife in SW Cameroon, and associated conservation education and outreach programmes. LWC is situated in the 4ha Limbe Zoological Garden site within the urban environment of the town of Limbe, above which Mount Cameroon rises majestically just a few kilometres away.

The Challenge

There is a critical need to conserve the endangered and unique wildlife in S.W. Cameroon, to provide a forest home for primates rescued from the illegal wildlife trade and to reinforce wild populations. A new large field site is needed to house rescued primates, and other species, in semi-wild forest enclosures. This will provide a high standard of captive animal welfare – as close as possible to natural wild conditions – and be suitable acclimatisation in advance of potential future release into the wild (a first in Cameroon).

The Solution - Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP) Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project

A new 100-hectare project site for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation has been identified within the Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP), which offers abundant forest cover and is a known habitat for locally endemic target species. Establishing a permanent presence here will also directly reinforce law enforcement against illegal hunting and encroachment, benefiting the entire ecosystem and adjacent communities.

Located within the MCNP, and in partnership with the Government of Cameroon (MINFOF) and their PSMNR-SW initiative (backed by the German development bank KfW), the plan is to establish a targeted primate rehabilitation and conservation programme, the Mount Cameroon Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project.

Pandrillus Cameroon is technical advisor and fundraiser, being responsible for animal-related infrastructure development and daily operation of the project.

Together, we will build a wildlife rehabilitation and conservation facility which provides large, forested enclosures to rehabilitate rescued wildlife to natural conditions, preparing them for potential release back to the wild.

Key Project Objectives (SMART):

- Secure, survey and integrate a 100-hectare site within the MCNP management plan.
- Construct necessary infrastructure, including veterinary clinic, staff accommodation, and large forested animal enclosures.
- Provide world-class veterinary care and rehabilitation to natural conditions for critically endangered primate species such as drills and red-capped mangabeys.
- Use the site to facilitate release of other traded endemic wildlife species into MCNP, such as African grey parrots, small mammals, and potentially red-capped mangabeys.
- Work with local communities to create livelihood opportunities, develop eco-tourism and provide sustainable benefits from wildlife conservation.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, CAMPAIGNS & PARTNERSHIPS

Key Partners and collaborators

- **The Government of Cameroon - Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)** - the long and fruitful collaboration between Pandrillus Cameroon and MINFOF has proven to be so beneficial to the wildlife of SW Cameroon. It will be more crucial than ever as we embark on the ambitious plan to create the large forested 'Mount Cameroon National Park Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project'. This has now been given permission to proceed by the Government and included within the new Mount Cameroon National Park Management Plan.
- **PSMNR-SW (Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South-West Region)** — The main funder and majority partner for the initial 2-year construction phase of the new MCNP Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project, as well as the supporter/funder of the 2025 Education Graduation Event and refurbishment of the LWC Exhibition Hall and new interactive and educational displays for visitors within it and around the visitor trail.
- **Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)** — accreditation, network and grant facilitation.

Toledo Zoo Symposium

In October, Project Manager Jerry Aylmer and Animal Care Manager Torie Curr Smith presented about the LWC, its exciting plans for 2026–2030 and 'Caring for and improving the welfare of rescued gorillas in Cameroon' at the Toledo Zoo's 125th Anniversary International Conservation Symposium & Gala. We are incredibly grateful to Toledo Zoo for this opportunity and their ongoing generous support.

Giving Day for Apes - 7th October 2025

The LWC's campaign raised \$8,362 (comprising \$7,862 in donations and a \$500 Golden Ticket win) from 105 individual donors, supported by ambassador Peter Egan and Project Manager Jerry Aylmer who completed a fundraising 10km run in London.

Rise Above the Flood Giving Tuesday, 2 December

\$2,110 raised from 30 donors to fund flood repairs and river defence improvements.

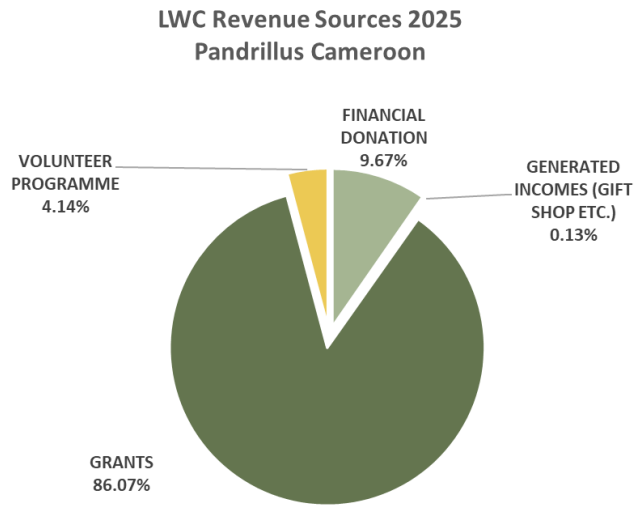
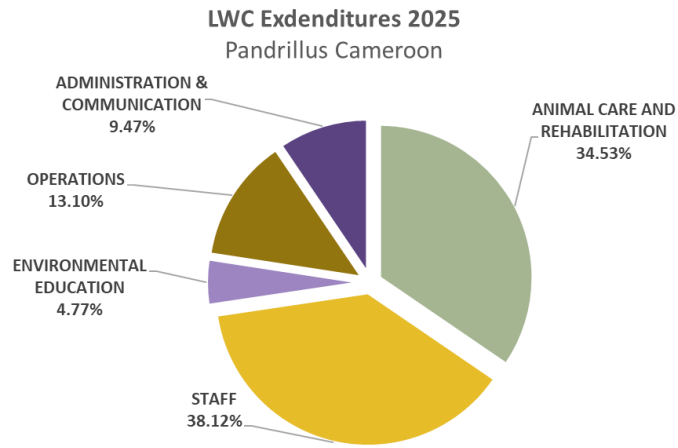
Heartfelt thanks to all our partners and everyone who got involved in our fundraising campaigns this year!

We also extend our deepest thanks to our dedicated volunteers in 2025 - including special mentions for Reni (Enrichment Coordinator) and Steph (Vet Consultant) - and to every member of the LWC team whose daily commitment is the foundation of everything we achieve.

FINANCES – 2025 REPORT

LWC FINANCIAL REPORT	2025	PANDRILLUS		
		FULL YEAR		
EXPENDITURES	ITEMS	XAF	EUR	USD
ANIMAL CARE AND REHABILITATION				
	ANIMAL FOOD	15,034,925	22,919	25,878
	CROP BY-PRODUCTS & WILD PLANTS	8,059,400	12,286	13,872
	ENCLOSURES & ENRICHMENT, GROUNDS	14,477,712	22,070	24,919
	MATERIAL & EQUIPMENT	3,993,000	6,087	6,873
	RESCUE	40,000	61	69
	VETERINARY / MEDICAL	7,127,515	10,865	12,268
	ANIMAL CARE MANAGEMENT	7,806,800	11,901	13,437
	Subtotal ANIMAL CARE AND REHABILITATION	56,619,352	86,310	97,452
STAFF				
	NON-WAGE EXPENDITURE	6,691,700	10,201	11,518
	PANDRILLUS ADVISOR	101,500	155	175
	TOTAL SALARIES, ALLOWANCES, OVERTIME, BONUSES	55,693,914	84,899	95,859
	ANIMAL CARE STAFF	21,319,871	32,500	36,695
	VET PERSONNEL	11,791,203	17,974	20,295
	CONSTRUCTION STAFF	6,326,223	9,644	10,889
	EDUCATION PERSONNEL	6,063,302	9,243	10,436
	OPERATIONS STAFF	6,696,997	10,209	11,527
	MAINTENANCE STAFF	3,496,318	5,330	6,018
	STAFF MEDICAL	107,300	164	185
	CHILD EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP	-	-	-
	Subtotal STAFF	62,492,914	95,264	107,561
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION				
	MATERIAL, DISPLAY, BOOKS	272,000	415	468
	OUTREACH PROGRAMMES	6,374,200	9,717	10,971
	WORKSHOPS	1,179,100	1,797	2,029
	Subtotal ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	7,825,300	11,929	13,469
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESEARCH & MONITORING				
	Subtotal WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESEARCH & MONITORING	15,000	23	26
OPERATIONS				
	ACCOMMODATION	8,163,225	12,444	14,050
	CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP	1,978,400	3,016	3,405
	FUEL, WATER & ENERGY	154,000	235	265
	MISSION & RECEPTION	1,680,925	2,562	2,893
	TRANSPORT	431,350	658	742
	TRAVEL	165,000	252	284
	VEHICLE FUEL	4,764,700	7,263	8,201
	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	4,146,450	6,321	7,137
	Subtotal OPERATIONS	21,484,050	32,750	36,978
ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION				
	ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS	-	-	-
	LEGAL COSTS, BANK FEES, MISC.	258,221	394	444
	MARKETING & FUNDRAISING	2,294,810	3,498	3,950
	OFFICE SUPPLY, EQUIP. & COMMUNICATIONS	2,345,150	3,575	4,036
	PANDRILLUS PROJECT MANAGEMENT	10,521,084	16,038	18,109
	GIFT SHOP PURCHASES	110,000	168	189
	Subtotal ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION	15,529,265	23,673	26,729
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	163,965,881	249,948	282,213

REVENUES	ITEMS	XAF	EUR	USD
	FINANCIAL DONATION	19,500,001	29,726	33,563
	GENERATED INCOMES (GIFT SHOP, SERVICES ETC)	252,950	386	435
	GRANTS	173,633,891	264,686	298,854
	IN-KIND DONATIONS (material items or cash)	70,000	107	120
	VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME	8,358,482	12,742	14,386
	TOTAL REVENUES	201,815,324	307,645	347,359



FINANCES – 2026 FORECAST

LWC BUDGET	PANDRILLUS CAMEROON 2026				
		2025 RESULTS	2026 ESTIMATES		
EXPENDITURES	ITEMS	XAF	XAF	EUR	USD
ANIMAL CARE AND REHABILITATION					
	ANIMAL FOOD	15,034,925	16,600,000	25,305	28,571
	CROP BY-PRODUCTS & WILD PLANTS	8,059,400	8,500,000	12,957	14,630
	ENCLOSURES & ENRICHMENT, GROUNDS	14,477,712	16,000,000	24,390	27,539
	MATERIAL & CONSUMABLES	80,000	100,000	152	172
	MATERIAL & EQUIPMENT	3,993,000	4,400,000	6,707	7,573
	RESCUE	40,000	100,000	152	172
	VETERINARY / MEDICAL	7,127,515	7,900,000	12,043	13,597
	ANIMAL CARE MANAGEMENT	7,806,800	8,600,000	13,110	14,802
MAJOR NEW INFRASTRUCTURE	DRILL ISLAND (PHASE 2)	0	19,676,796	29,995	33,867
NEW INFRASTRUCTURE	GUENON ISLAND EXTENSIONS - included above in ENCLOSURES				
	Subtotal ANIMAL CARE AND REHABILITATION	56,619,352	81,876,796	124,812	140,924
STAFF					
	NON-WAGE EXPENDITURE	6,691,700	7,100,000	10,823	12,220
	PANDRILLUS ADVISOR	101,500	200,000	305	344
	TOTAL SALARIES, ALLOWANCES, OVERTIME, BONUSES	55,693,914	58,700,000	89,482	101,033
	ANIMAL CARE STAFF	20,864,799	22,400,000	34,146	38,554
	VET PERSONNEL	11,585,627	12,400,000	18,902	21,343
	CONSTRUCTION STAFF	6,191,190	6,700,000	10,213	11,532
	EDUCATION PERSONNEL	5,933,881	6,400,000	9,756	11,015
	OPERATIONS STAFF	6,554,050	7,100,000	10,823	12,220
	MAINTENANCE STAFF	3,421,690	3,700,000	5,640	6,368
	STAFF MEDICAL	107,300	200,000	305	344
	CHILD EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP	0	-	-	-
	Subtotal STAFF	62,492,914	66,000,000	100,610	113,597
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION					
	MATERIAL, DISPLAY, BOOKS	272,000	300,000	457	516
	OUTREACH PROGRAMMES	6,374,200	6,700,000	10,213	11,532
	STAFF TRAINING	0	500,000	762	861
	WORKSHOPS	1,179,100	1,300,000	1,982	2,238
	Subtotal ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	7,825,300	8,900,000	13,567	15,318
OPERATIONS					
	ACCOMMODATION COSTS	8,163,225	8,600,000	13,110	14,802
	CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP	1,978,400	2,100,000	3,201	3,614
	FUEL, WATER & ENERGY	154,000	200,000	305	344
	MISSION & RECEPTION	1,680,925	1,800,000	2,744	3,098
	TRANSPORT	431,350	500,000	762	861
	TRAVEL	165,000	200,000	305	344
	VEHICLE FUEL	4,764,700	5,100,000	7,774	8,778
	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	4,146,450	4,400,000	6,707	7,573
	Subtotal OPERATIONS	21,484,050	22,900,000	34,909	39,415
ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION					
	LEGAL COSTS, BANK FEES, MISC.	258,221	300,000	457	516
	MARKETING & FUNDRAISING	2,294,810	2,500,000	3,811	4,303
	OFFICE SUPPLY, EQUIP. & COMMUNICATIONS	2,345,150	2,500,000	3,811	4,303
	PANDRILLUS PROJECT MANAGEMENT	10,521,084	11,600,000	17,683	19,966
	GIFT SHOP PURCHASES	110,000	200,000	305	344
	Subtotal ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION	15,529,265	17,100,000	26,067	29,432
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET	163,965,881	196,776,796	299,965	338,686

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & DONORS

The Limbe Wildlife Centre is profoundly grateful to every organisation and individual whose generosity made our work possible in 2025. Below we list our institutional grant funders, major individual donors and high-net-worth supporters.

Institutional Donors 2025

We are grateful to the following organisations for their financial support during 2025, listed by approximate grant value (USD):

\$20,000+

- Fondation Brigitte Bardot
- Kathryn McQuade Foundation
- San Diego Wildlife Alliance

\$10,000–\$19,999

- ProWildlife
- Toledo Zoo
- Animal Welfare Institute
- Save the Drill / Hannover Erlebnis Zoo / Munich Hellabrunn Tierpark
- Chessington Conservation Fund
- Zoo Boissiere

\$5,000–\$9,999

- Zoo Atlanta
- Qato Fonden
- New England Biolabs
- Born Free Foundation
- Go Ape Foundation
- Marchig Animal Welfare Trust
- ZGAP
- Wagmore Foundation
- Barcelona Zoo Foundation / Red-capped Mangabey EEP
- Stichting Wildlife / Drill EEP / ZooParc Overloon
- La Pal Nature Foundation
- Givskud Zootopia
- Kattenhotel de sfinx
- Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Southwest (PSMNR) / KfW

Up to \$4,999

- IPPL
- World Parrot Trust
- Parrot Wildlife Foundation
- Port Authority Douala
- Go Ape / Contribute Foundation
- FEDERNLIEBE e.V.
- Harmony Fund
- Worldwide Veterinary Service
- Stichting World-Wide Animal Rescue



Major Individual Donors & High-Net-Worth Supporters 2025

The LWC is grateful to the following individuals who made particularly generous contributions or provided sustained personal support during 2025 and into 2026:

- Gary Sambol - has been a wonderful consistent supporter.
- Matthew P Nickson – generous monthly supporter of the African grey parrot programme.
- Patrick Maselis - generous donor to our Giving Day for Apes appeal and a strong personal supporter of our work.
- Annelise Begas - major supporter, multiple generous contributions in 2025 including for chimp enrichment, tantalus mesh and veterinary equipment (dart gun repair and darts).
- Tiffany (Wright) Peña - significant supporter of the African grey parrot programme via the Microsoft Benevity match donation scheme.
- Roger Gray - a valued friend of the LWC.
- Jana Icke - a valued friend and previous volunteer at the LWC.

We also wish to thank our 105 individual donors who contributed to the Giving Day for Apes, the 30 donors to our Rise Above the Flood Giving Tuesday campaign, and all individual supporters via our online platforms, sponsor-an-animal programme and merchandise shop throughout the year.

Thank you all for your incredible support