OVERVIEW

The Limbe Wildlife Centre was created in 1993 as a result of the rapid decline of animal populations in Cameroon due to habitat degradation, poaching, and the illegal wildlife trade.

Run in partnership between the non-profit organisation Pandrillus and the Government of Cameroon, our project is unique in Central Africa. Our mission is to ensure the survival of Cameroonian wildlife.

Our team is composed of local and international wildlife ecologists and veterinarians, and a highly experienced and qualified local animal care staff.

The Limbe Wildlife Centre is a founding and accredited member of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance\(^1\), and the only recipient of a Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award Winner (2019).

CORE MISSIONS

1. Support law enforcement efforts
2. Raise awareness on the value and fragility of biodiversity
3. Engage the community to support nature conservation
4. Promote animal welfare

\(^1\) The largest association of wildlife centers and sanctuaries in Africa, which demonstrate exceptional commitment and the highest standards of animal welfare and conservation practices
**CONTEXT**

The Limbe Wildlife Centre is the only government-led project dedicated to the survival of the endangered African grey parrots with the capacity to appropriately care for and rehabilitate rescued African grey parrots in Cameroon. We currently have 270 individuals saved from trafficking in rehabilitation. The budget required to run high standard rehabilitation for these birds is 32K EUR (21M FCFA). So far, we have raised 35% of the budget.

**TIMEFRAME**

On average, a 6 to 9-month rehabilitation period is required before release. End of the project will be second semester 2020 given a release site is identified and additional funds available. The pilot soft release programme will cost an additional 14K EUR (9.2M FCFA) (see FUTURE PLANS)

**ACTIVITIES**

We need to provide up to 340 kg of diverse and rich food each week. At least 2 health checks are done prior to the final health check before release. Veterinary procedures consist of ringing for identification, weighting, body and feather condition assessment, plucking of damaged feathers, injection of antiparasitic treatment, and blood sampling. The blood analyses serve to assess the individual stress index.

The flocks are also receiving daily antibiotics and multivitamins treatment to enhance survival chance, reduce the risk of disease outbreak and speed up the recovery process.

**FUNDING GOALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>Cost (€)</th>
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<td>CARE &amp; WELFARE</td>
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<td>MEDICAL</td>
<td>3,385</td>
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<td>HUMAN RESOURCES</td>
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<td>MANAGEMENT</td>
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<td>CONTINGENCY</td>
<td>1,600</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,003</strong></td>
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OUTCOMES

- Ensure the survival of several hundreds of endangered African grey parrots
- Develop Cameroon potential to be a leading example in the protection and rehabilitation of the African grey parrots by running a successful rehabilitation and release programme, which can serve as an invaluable communication tool to the public, media and donors

FUTURE PLANS

1. Design and run a pilot soft release programme in the Limbe Botanical Garden, including the construction of a release aviary (3x3x6m³), food and medication, the use of radio tracker technology, security and logistic (estimated cost: 9,000 EUR)
2. Design and run a public sensitization campaign using classic media to engage the community alongside the release programme (estimated cost: 5,000 EUR)
3. Replicate the above (1. & 2.) to develop a new conservation project to ensure adequate post-release monitoring and collect crucial data on survivorship, habitat use, and movement patterns. The field sites that seem fit for such projects are the Campo Ma’an National Park (South region), Lake Ossa Wildlife Reserve or the Douala-Edea National Park (Littoral region).
4. Engage local communities into new conservation actions to develop local conservation value and alternative livelihoods to help protect wildlife
5. Perform genetic testing on blood/feather samples to sex each individual as part of the reintroduction programme and to build a genetic database for the Government of Cameroon to support the fight against illegal wildlife trade by identifying bird origin and trafficking routes (in partnership with CITES authorities)

KEY FACTS ABOUT AFRICAN GREY PARROTS

- Since 4 February 2017, the African grey parrot was reclassified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and placed in Appendix 1 of the CITES
- The African grey parrot is by law one of the most protected species in Cameroon (Class A), and both capture and export are no longer permitted
- The wild populations have been declining at a dramatic rate (-50% between 1998 and 2013)
- Cameroon contributed to almost half of the 1.3 million legally wild-caught individuals between 1982 and 2014
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE LWC

- Between 2003 and 2018, the LWC rescued **3,372 African grey parrots** and successfully released 2,150 of them
- In May 2019, Pandrillus launched the **#ProtectWildlife** campaign in partnership with local authorities and civil society
- In June, LWC rescued **19 endangered African grey parrots** seized in the port of Kribi
- In September, Pandrillus gave a talk at the **EAZA** Conference in Valencia, Spain on the African grey parrots rehabilitation programme in Cameroon
- In October, Pandrillus built the **first rehabilitation aviary** specially designed for the African grey parrots, 730m³
- In November, LWC rescued **84 individuals** seized in Bakassi
- In late December, LWC rescued another flock of **275 individuals** seized in Douala, bringing to **379** the total of individuals rescued in 2019
- Since October 2019, the African grey parrots made the highlights of the LWC Monthly Reports

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2 European Association of Zoos and Aquaria
In February 2020, an international bird consultant provided pieces of training to our care staff to better enrich and monitor the African grey parrots.

On 17th February 2020, a meeting held in Edea, Littoral region put 4 conservators of protected areas and their NGO partners (ZSL, WWF, AWF and Pandrillus) together to design the strategy of the national rehabilitation and release programme.

Following the meeting, Pandrillus and a bird expert visited 2 field sites (Lake Ossa Wildlife Reserve and Campo Ma’an National Park) and assessed the feasibility to set a soft release and tracking programme.

African grey parrots at the LWC received several media exposure:
- Reuters online report
- Reuters documentary
- France 24 documentary
- Deutsche Welle documentary
- Deutsche Welle social media

Confiscations made in 2019
TO HELP OUR PROJECT
Get contact at info@limbewildlife.org

DONATE for the rehabilitation of the African grey parrots in Cameroon:

Option 1: Directly via wire transfer

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Option 2: via PayPal

Option 3: via our European partner (specify Limbe Wildlife Centre):

ZGAP

If you wish to support our future soft release programme, public sensitization campaign or post-release monitoring, or for any other information, contact us at info@limbewildlife.org

Limbe, 24 February 2020

Guillaume Le Flohic
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guillaume@limbewildlife.org