



# African grey parrot rehabilitation in Cameroon

PO Box 878, Limbe, SW Region, Cameroon



Cameroon Charity #034/G.37/D14/VoIII/SAAJP

US EIN 93-1289932

## 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**<sup>1</sup>, 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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)

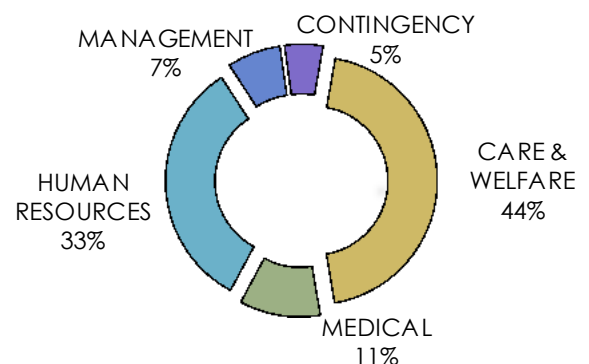
## ACTIVITIES

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

CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURES	Cost (€)
CARE & WELFARE	14,246
MEDICAL	3,385
HUMAN RESOURCES	10,532
MANAGEMENT	2,240
CONTINGENCY	1,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,003</b>





## 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 (3x3x6m<sup>3</sup>), 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

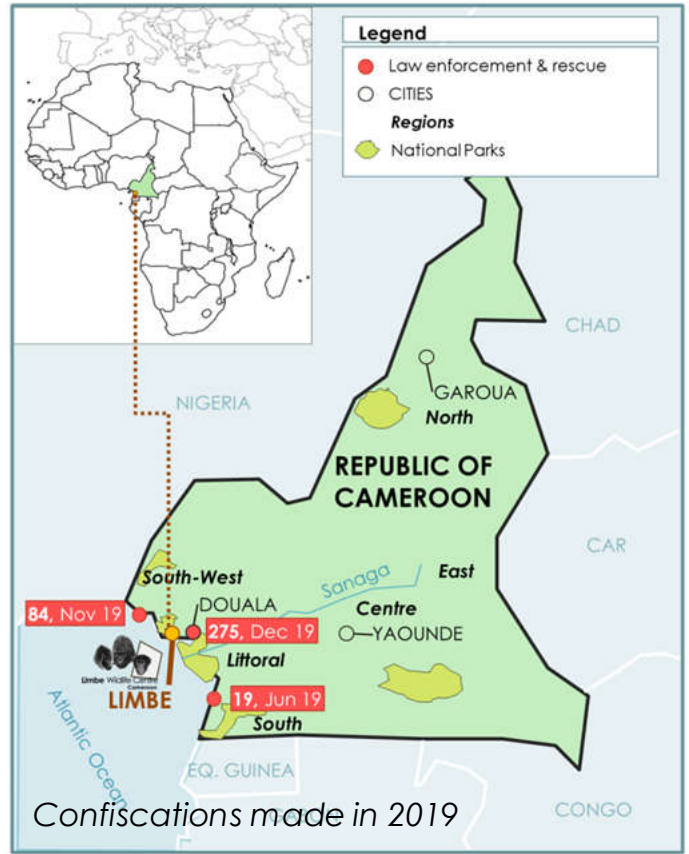
## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE LWC

- 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<sup>2</sup> 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 730m<sup>3</sup>
- 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



<sup>2</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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:**



Confiscations made in 2019



- Reuters online report
- Reuters documentary
- France 24 documentary
- Deutsche Welle documentary
- Deutsche Welle social media

### Limbe Wildlife Centre cements role in rescue, rehabilitation of endangered African grey parrots

**From Frank Lyanga in Limbe**

A time usually reserved for festivities, Christmas Eve 2019 was instead marked by the rescue of another flock of 275 endangered African grey parrots by the Limbe Wildlife Centre.

Customs seized the trafficked parrots in the Littoral Region, placing them in the specialised care of the Limbe Wildlife Centre, LWC, for rehabilitation. Over the course of 2019, the internationally recognised organisation - the only government-led project in Cameroon with the capacity to provide a high standard of care to wildlife - rescued 174 African grey parrots from the illegal trade.

Parrots were able to support the aviary for a total of 13 M FCFAs. The birds were kept in all-outdoor aviaries. However, a dense mist and rain meant that the birds were not able to fly. The birds were kept in all-outdoor aviaries. However, a dense mist and rain meant that the birds were not able to fly.

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### Traffic of endangered species on the rise in Bakassi

**By Toluwani Ashorun**

Trafficking of endangered species in the country is on the rise, particularly in the South West and North West regions.

Over 800 endangered African grey parrots and 100 kg of pangolin scales were on the border of Bakassi in the Littoral Region on November 2, 2019.

The parrots were rescued by the Bakassi Wildlife Centre, which is a joint venture between the Bakassi Wildlife Centre and the Bakassi Wildlife Centre.

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**TO HELP OUR PROJECT**

Get contact at [info@limbewildlife.org](mailto:info@limbewildlife.org)

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

**Option 1:** Directly via wire transfer

<b>Account Name</b>	Pandrillus
<b>Address of Account Holder</b>	P.O. Box 878, Limbe, South West Region, Cameroon
<b>Bank Name</b>	Banque Internationale du Cameroun pour l'Epargne et Cr�dit (BICEC)
<b>Bank Address</b>	BP 1925, Douala, Cameroon
<b>Account Number</b>	33504740001-87
<b>SWIFT code</b>	ICLRMCX
<b>IBAN</b>	CM2110001068403350474000187
<b>Bank Code</b>	10001
<b>Bank Branch</b>	Limbe, South West Region, Cameroon
<b>Branch code</b>	6840

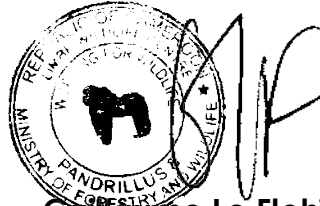
**Option 2 :** via 

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



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](mailto:info@limbewildlife.org)

Limbe, 24 February 2020



**Guillaume Le Flohic**

Pandrillus Country Director

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[www.limbewildlife.org](http://www.limbewildlife.org)