

# Limbe

## Wildlife Centre

CAMEROON



SEP-OCT 2020

### ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Composting for developing sustainable food value chains

### HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS

Worrisome weakening of the protective wall on the Limbe River bank of the Island

### INFRASTRUCTURES & ENRICHMENTS

Drills and Savannah-dwelling guenon enclosures just like new!

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



# Limbe Wildlife Centre: **September-October 2020**

Published in November 2020

Limbe Wildlife Centre, P.O. Box 878, Limbe, Republic of Cameroon



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



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



**Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife** is in charge of 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 January which regulates all forestry, wildlife and fisheries activities



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ALL OUR REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE

# Accreditations & Awards



In December 2018, the Limbe Wildlife Centre has had its **accreditation** with the **Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)** renewed for another five years. PASA is the largest association of wildlife centres and sanctuaries in Africa, founded by the Limbe Wildlife Centre, along with 6 other primate sanctuaries. Today, PASA includes 23 organizations in 13 countries which 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 April 2018, the Limbe Wildlife Centre was voted **Best Volunteer Abroad Project** and chosen to feature in the **Tutorful's Wildlife Conservation** editorial along with other prestigious organisations **making a notable difference in wildlife conservation worldwide**. The LWC gives people the chance to volunteer and assist experienced caregivers with the daily caregiving activities, offering the opportunity for volunteers to the experience of making a meaningful contribution to primate conservation (and all the satisfaction this provides).



In September-October 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.

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Roof made of palm leaves provides excellent shelter to the savannah-dwelling guenons

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | PROJECT MANAGER

*The rain and flooding raises concern for the safety of wildlife in rehabilitation*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Exceptionally this report includes **September and October**. As the wet season came upon us (after almost a month's delay) with violent rainfalls, our activities were slowed down. Despite this, several important achievements were made.

However, our **biggest concern** during these two months has been the intensity of the **flooding** of the Limbe River, which crosses the Limbe Wildlife Centre. The river ends its course a few hundred metres downstream where it flows into the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. The protective wall (built ten years ago to protect the Island of the Limbe Wildlife Centre from flooding and permit the building of animal enclosures) has been showing signs of cracking. It is becoming

extremely fragile and threatens to collapse (p. 15-16).

The flooding is getting more destructive and less controllable each year. The **flood hazards** have increased due to several factors, predictably owing to human activity. **Deforestation** and forest conversion into agricultural lands in the slopes of Mount Cameroon have increased surface runoff, mudslides and soil erosion while reducing the capacity of the soil to absorb rainwater. The **climate crisis** has increased the frequency of the heaviest rainfall. The continuous spread of the concrete urban area means that rainwater rushes, accumulates and floods, a problem exacerbated by the substandard urban evacuation system and plastic pollution. The result from this myriad of factors is that we will have to face more of these challenges in the future and must be better prepared for



that. Overall, the poor state of the wall and other structure is of great concern (*Note: On the 5th November 2020, a 10 meter-long section of this protective wall collapsed as a result of the pressure of repeated flooding and lack of maintenance, hence jeopardizing the welfare and safety of 231 animals, including chimps, mangabeys, guenons and African grey parrots*).

In the meantime, we are thrilled by the completion of the composting area (p. 15 & 17). Not only does it represent a major step towards the increase of our food security by providing the necessary inputs to grow various crops, but also it dramatically improves our waste management and reduces pollution by recycling 100% of the organic matter produced by our animals. This materializes one and a half years of planning and hard work to improve the access to the farmland (such as the construction of the bridge, completed in December 2019, started in April 2019). The next step will be to develop and promote organic farming as a sustainable alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture in the local community. This will increase food security, reduce deforestation, preserve the quality of soil and water of Mount Cameroon and mitigate against the effects of climate change.

Other much-need maintenance was done successfully. Firstly, we maintained the metal tree and satellite cages for the Drill enclosure (p. 15, 18-20). Secondly, we completed the renovation of all platforms in the Chimp Mainland night dens (p. 15, 17-18). Finally, more bamboo fences were created to keep improving the aesthetic of the centre and

provide more privacy for the animals (p. 15, 21-22).

Our vet nurse brilliantly completed the preparation of the 5th primate skeleton: Muea, the last wild-born female Preuss's monkey in captivity who died last year, will eventually remain an ambassador for her species. She will serve an essential educational purpose in Nyango's exhibition hall, raising awareness of the beauty of this endangered species and the threats that her conspecifics face in the wild (p. 22-23).

We have progressively re-opening access to the centre to long-term volunteers and are happy to welcome three talented persons from abroad in the next couple of weeks. They will provide support to monitor and enrich the lives of our primates and African grey parrots. Equally importantly, they will help us raise the extremely necessary funds to enable us to continue our essential work, protecting wildlife and raising awareness of the fact that *People Need Wildlife! No matter where, no matter who!*

Finally, the Great Ape giving day this year was a great success, and we thank the 83 generous donors who raised \$8,900. You are not just donors to the Limbe Wildlife Centre: by donating, you become a guardian of the entire project, and are even more pivotal in this time of extreme difficulties because of the pandemic crisis. A thousand times: Thank you all!

Stay safe and healthy,

Thank you for your unfailing support

# Our priority financial needs



## 1. Help us protect our rescued animals during COVID-19!

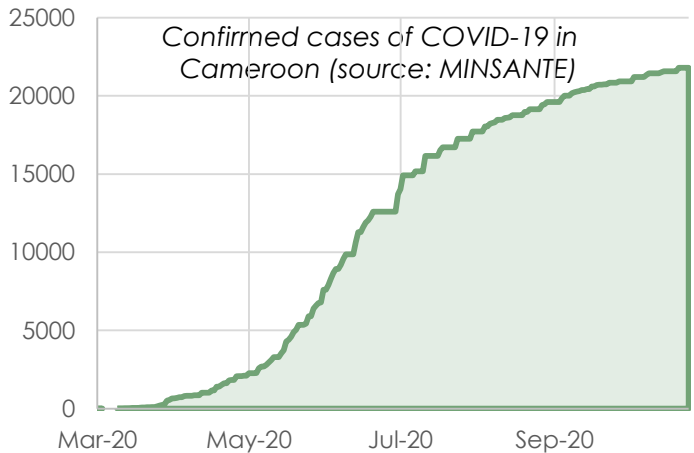


We must boost the immunity of 15 critically endangered gorillas, 43 endangered chimps, and 75 endangered Drills and upgrade biosecurity measures vs. COVID-19.

### COVID-19 updates in Cameroon

The number of confirmed cases exceeds **21,700**, reaching a stabilisation in the number of new cases detected.

**DONATE NOW TO PROTECT THEM FROM COVID-19!**



## 2. Help us free 100 parrots back to the wild in 2020!

We are leading the National rehabilitation and release programme for the endangered African grey parrot. **Before the end of 2020, we will release 60 more flyers!**

**RELEASE PARROTS NOW!**



## 3. Urgent support needed to renovate the gorilla night dens

Our facilities require **much-needed maintenance** to prepare the division of the enclosure and allow 12 adult gorillas to enjoy an **improved environment**. **Goal: €7,500**

**MAINTAIN GORILLAS HERE!**

Contact [info@limbewildlife.org](mailto:info@limbewildlife.org) to know more

# September-October 2020 Highlights

- Complete building of the composting area
- Complete maintenance of the Drill satellite cages and enrichment structures
- Built several new bamboo screens to increase animal privacy and welfare, and improve aesthetic of the LWC
- Complete the second phase of a darting training course for selected staff
- Giving Day for Apes 2020: Raised \$8,900 from a total of 83 donors, incl. 36 new donors
- Media coverage: LWC's monthly reports are highlighted in the Partner's News of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership





## Achievements September-October 2020 & Objectives November 2020

### 1. Pandrillus-GoC Partnership & Public Relations

#### Funders



- Drafted the protocol to re-open the Limbe Wildlife Centre to the public in the beginning of 2021

#### November 2020 objectives:

- Validate internal rules and regulations (pending)
- Review the proposal of the national strategy to rehabilitate and release the African grey parrots
- Review the re-open the Limbe Wildlife Centre to the public in the beginning of 2021

### 2. Population management & Animal welfare

#### Funders



#### Ongoing activities

- Maintained frequency and diversity of enrichments in each section **(Images 1-4)**

#### Specific activities

- **Drill:** Subgroup of Jomio (adult male) with Ossing and their ("accidental") offspring Emilia is successfully back into group **(Image 5)**
- Maintained several structural enrichments in Drill and Savannah-dwelling guenons **(Image 6)**



□ **Vet cares** (September-October 2020):

○ 67 Primate individuals treated; 2 anesthesia performed; 31 individual sampled (2 blood samples for hematology analysis, 0 blood samples for biochemistry analysis, 35 fecal samples for coprology analysis, 0 pus swabs for microbiology analysis); 0 contraception; 1 identification with a microchip; 1 laceration repair; 27 drug therapies (of which 52% to treat 4 individuals with resistant bacteria abscessation): 74% dietary supplements, 19% antibiotics, 4% painkillers and anti-inflammatories, 4% others; 2 health checks; 0 death

○ **African grey parrots:** 18 general health checks; 0 health check before release; 0 transferrals to the soft-release aviary, 0 transferrals to the rehabilitation aviary; 2 individuals received intensive care treatment with 3<sup>rd</sup> generation antibiotic treatment and special diet; 3 deaths (**Images 7-8**)



**Image 1.** Mbu is enjoying a palm nut. Fat is important for hormones and to keep the Chimpanzee strong and healthy, but its intake must be strictly monitored to prevent overweight. Yet, most of the obese animals in captive facilities are because of the excess of sugar present in some fruits. Vegetative parts and fruits low in sugar content are preferable.



**Image 2.** Browse provided to the drill is extremely good for their health. All browse are provided through the community-based green project. Here, Janu (mother) and Irene, her daughter, are eating potato leaves that were harvested by woman farmer groups to increase land value by purchasing crop by-products to reduce encroachment into the Mount Cameroon National Park, empowering women and sustainably promote gender equality.



**Image 3.** The remaining bamboo sticks used for structural enrichments and screens are great to provide and hide some food enrichments to stimulate natural foraging behaviours.



**Image 4.** The bamboo sticks are filled with leaves and small pieces of food items (bread, fruits, vegetables, peanuts) mixed with a little amount of honey. That will keep them busy for quite a time and they love it!



**Image 5.** Adult male Jomio (left) is finally back into the group after a long period in a satellite cage. Jomio has always been a challenger, with a rough character and it took expertise, patience, and adequate monitoring to ensure his successful reintegration. The LWC is committed to enabling each rescued individual to live in a natural social environment.



**Image 6.** Two drills using the large rope in their enclosure. Ropes are excellent to stimulate them to improve their balance and movements just like in wild trees.



**Image 7.** Vet nurse Tana Ossomba, assisted by Yvette Sokoudjou and Ma Pauline Mbong during African grey parrot general health check



**Image 8.** During the second health check of African grey parrots in quarantine, we control the growth of the feathers that were damaged and plucked.

**November 2020 objectives:**

- Continue with the ongoing activities
- African grey parrots:** Continue to provide special care for the last individuals with difficulties improving their body conditions
- Chimpanzee:** Start introduction of adult male Jacob with disabled females Mayos and Ngambe after Ghaa's disappearance in August 2020
- Training:** Start the positive reinforcement training for improving welfare during isolation and administering drugs to animals with long illness with minimum stress
- Vet cares:** General health checks: **African grey parrots (8)**; Contraception: **Drills (5)**

### 3. Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release programme

#### Funders



#### Arrival & quarantine

- None



### Behavioural rehabilitation

- None

### Social rehabilitation

- **African grey parrot:** Continued to maintain the care and enrichment to the 170 African grey parrots in the large aviary **(Images 9-10)**
- **Drill:** Transferred juvenile male Drill Mbigou with adult female Jafita in a satellite cage of the Drill enclosure, started integration process **(Images 11-12)**

### Release (ecological & environmental rehabilitation)

- Released Fraser's eagle-owl *Baseka* using the soft-release site in the Limbe Botanical Garden **(Images 13-14)**



**Image 9.** Rescued African grey parrots are recovering in quarantine before transferral to the large aviary.



**Image 10.** The diet provided to the African grey parrots covers all their daily requirements to quicken their recovery.



**Image 11.** Part of the integration process is learning NOT to touch the electric fence. A line was placed in the satellite cage where Mbigou was transferred.



**Image 12.** Mbigou (on the right) meets with the 75 drills of the group through the mesh of the satellite cage.



**Image 13.** Rescued in January 2020 as a young juvenile Fraser's eagle-owl, Baseka has grown up as a beautiful and strong adult, capable of hunting and flying.



**Image 14.** Baseka was released softly after 2 weeks of acclimatization to her new environment in the soft-release aviary in the Limbe Botanical Garden (which was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after the release of the African grey parrots)

**November 2020 objectives:**

- **African Grey Parrots:** Continue the rehabilitation process of the rescued individuals
- **African Grey Parrots:** Transfer the 3<sup>rd</sup> flock of 25 individuals to the soft-release site
- **Drill:** Continue the social integration of juvenile male Mbigou into the Drill group



## 4. Infrastructures and development | Material & Equipment

### Funders



□ The protective wall has been showing signs of cracking and becoming extremely fragile and threatens to collapse (Image 15)

□ Purchased 2 brand new water pressure machines (Images 16-17)

□ Complete building of the composting area (Images 18-20)

□ Rebuilt all platforms in the Chimp Mainland night den (Images 21-24)

□ Complete maintenance of the Drill satellite cages and enrichment structures (Images 25-39)

□ Maintained the Olive baboon electric fence (Image 40)

□ Maintained sliding doors of Mona monkey Sonara's group (Image 41)

□ Maintained all structural enrichments in the savannah-dwelling guenon enclosure (Images 42-43)

□ Built bamboo screens to increase animal privacy and welfare, and improve esthetic of the LWC in front of Red-eared and Mona monkeys, the Mandrill and Nile crocodile enclosures (Images 44-47)



**Image 15.** The protective wall was built in 2009 to protect the Island of the Limbe Zoological Garden / Limbe Wildlife Centre (LZG/LWC) from flooding and permit the building of animal enclosures. This was necessary to increase the LZG/LWC's husbandry capacity and further support the rescue of victims of wildlife poaching and trafficking in Cameroon. Unfortunately, the lack of maintenance has dangerously weakened the wall that threatens to collapse.



**Image 16.** The water pressure machines were generously sponsored by Expose Trophy Hunting and their dedicated team!



**Image 17.** Starting the high-pressure cleaning of gorilla Arno's night den. Two 200L tanks and pipes were also purchased.





**Image 18.** Last phase of mat roofing to provide a natural and fresh shelter to the compost.



**Image 19.** Natural raphia palm roof is not only elegant and effective but also helps support a traditional handicraft activity in the local community.



**Image 20.** Final view of the finished roof of the composting area.



**Image 21.** Crafting of the rod mesh to build the platform for the Chimps in the Mainland.



**Image 22.** Crafting of the framework for the Chimp Mainland platforms.



**Image 23.** Rods mesh installation to form the Chimp Mainland platforms.



**Image 24.** First and second layer painting on the Chimp Mainland platforms.



**Image 25.** View of damage roof of a Drill satellite cage.



**Image 26.** Some damaged parts of the Drill satellite cage.



**Image 27.** Damaged parts of a sliding door in a Drill satellite cage.



**Image 28.** Replacement of metal tube in a Drill satellite cage.



**Image 29.** Concreting of the floor and wall dressing with cement in a Drill satellite cage.



**Image 30.** Roofing of a Drill satellite cage.



**Image 31.** The concrete floor is smooth and regular and enables the evacuation of water during cleaning in the Drill satellite cages.



**Image 32.** One of the three Drill satellite cages that were maintained.



**Image 33.** Installation of a keeper door to improve the access to the Drill enclosure.



**Image 34.** The new keeper door is completed, but Drills are not allowed to use it! It does not open either by staring at it...



**Image 35.** Some rusted areas in the Drill metal tree required brushing and painting.



**Image 36.** Painting of the Drill metal tree.



**Image 37.** View of finish maintenance work on the Drill metal tree.



**Image 38.** Recharging visual obstacles in the Drill enclosure with new bamboo sticks.



**Image 39.** Replacing the large rope on the two-level platform in the Drill enclosure.



**Image 40.** Maintenance of the electric fence of the Olive baboon enclosure.



**Image 41.** Maintenance of a sliding door in a satellite cage of Sonara's Mona monkey group.



**Image 42.** Replacing broken bamboo in the savannah-dwelling guenon enclosure.



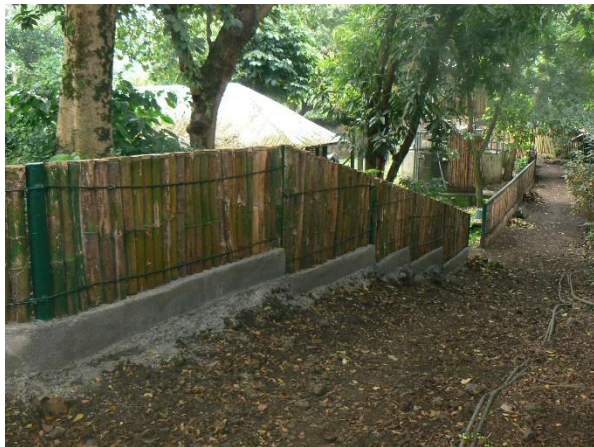
**Image 43.** The savannah-dwelling guenon structural enrichments are back to place! Now the guenons will do their best to put them down again!



**Image 44.** Placing bamboo screens to increase privacy in the Red-eared monkey Idenau's group (and to stop them to destroy the mat raphia palm roof!).



**Image 45.** Welding of rods on the metal pillar to prepare the bamboo screen in front of the Mandrill enclosure.



**Image 46.** Bamboo screen in front of the mandrill enclosure is complete.



**Image 47.** Bamboo screen in front of the Nile crocodile enclosure. Large reptiles also get stress and must be protected.

**November 2020 objectives:**

- Complete maintenance of the structural enrichments in the Drill enclosure
- Start the urgent renovation of the Western lowland gorilla night dens

## 5. Community Conservation, Environmental education & Ecotourism

### Funders



BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, OUR **EDUCATION PROGRAMMES** WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITIES, AND VISITORS HAVE BEEN **SUSPENDED...**

**...BUT WILL RESUME NEXT MONTH!**

- School outreach programme:** Suspended the 2019-2020 programme; received donations of material and consumables (**Image 48**)
- Saturday Nature Club:** Suspended the 2019-2020 Nature Club
- Natural History:** prepared the 5th primate skeleton (female Preuss's monkey) in view of future mounting and exhibition in Nyango's Education Hall (**Image 49**)



- **Community-based Green Economy:** 15 ex-hunter members sustainably harvesting wild herbaceous plants: 4050.0 kg of *Aframomum* stems and 637 kg of *Costus* stems; 50 women members harvesting crop by-product: 1,867 kg of cassava leaves, 7,962 kg of papaya leaves, 5,497 kg of potato leaves, 427 kg of invasive Trumpet wood shoots, corresponding to 95 trees hand-cut; 1 950 205 FCFA (€2,977) paid directly to the local community association this month; 8 383 740 FCFA (€12,800) contributed to alleviate local poverty in 2020



**Image 48.** Thank you to Serie Golo ([www.serie-golo.com](http://www.serie-golo.com)) for the generous donation of schoolbooks, pens and pencils and many others that will be very useful for all the children involved in our school outreach and Nature Club programmes resuming soon!



**Image 49.** The skeleton of Muea (female Preuss's monkey) is the 5<sup>th</sup> that has been successfully prepared in view of future mounting and exhibition for education purpose.

#### **November 2020 objectives:**

- Continue with ongoing programs
- Organise a community engagement workshop in Batoke to discuss COVID-19 precautionary measures and about maintaining the support to the community-based green project during the pandemic crisis
- Start the school outreach programme in 5 first schools only
- Install 4 large billboards and unveil the 4 original artworks made by Toh Bright in Limbe (delayed)



## 6. Wildlife conservation research & Health monitoring

### *Ongoing activities*

- **Recovery monitoring of the rescued endangered African grey parrots:** Continued to collect data during health checks and through direct observation
- **Monitoring the soft-release of endangered African grey parrot:** Suspended the collection of daily data on the parrot movement and use of environment until the next release in November 2020
- **Establishing Haematological Reference Values for the endangered Drill:** Continued to build the dataset of haematological data extracted from 18 years of analysis (2002-2019), corresponding to 199 samples, and including a total of 21 haematological parameters.

### *Activity achievement*

- None

### *Data analysis*

- None

#### **November 2020 objectives:**

- Continue with the above ongoing activities





## 7. Capacity building, staff empowerment & Mentorship

- Complete the second phase of a darting training course for selected Limbe Wildlife Centre staff (**Images 50-52**)



**Image 50.** The darting training is aimed at producing associate staff to the veterinary department of the Limbe Wildlife Centre who can (1) assist in recapturing escapee animals that must be anesthetized to bring them back to their enclosure and (2) maintain a backup team that is readily available in times of need, ie group health check. Six staff has been selected for this training exercise.



**Image 51.** Our resident vet John Kiyang indicates to our Head of Quarantine Killi Matute how to aim with the CO<sub>2</sub> pistol.



**Image 52.** Result of the dart training in the target.



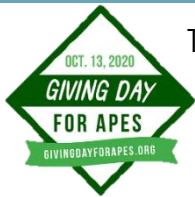
**November 2020 objectives:**

- Continue with the above ongoing activities
- Start the capacity building of staff and long-term volunteers to use positive reinforcement training for improving welfare during isolation and administering drugs to animals with long illness with minimum stress

## 8. Communication & Visibility

- **Digital communication** (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter):

□ **Giving Day for Apes 2020: Launched our campaign and raised \$8,900 from a total of 83 donors, incl. 36 new donors**



These funds will help to maintain the highest standards of care for our 15 Western lowland gorillas and 43 chimpanzees during the pandemic crisis

- **Media coverage:**

- Since August 2020, the work done by the Limbe Wildlife Centre is highlighted in the Partner's News of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (<https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner.html>)



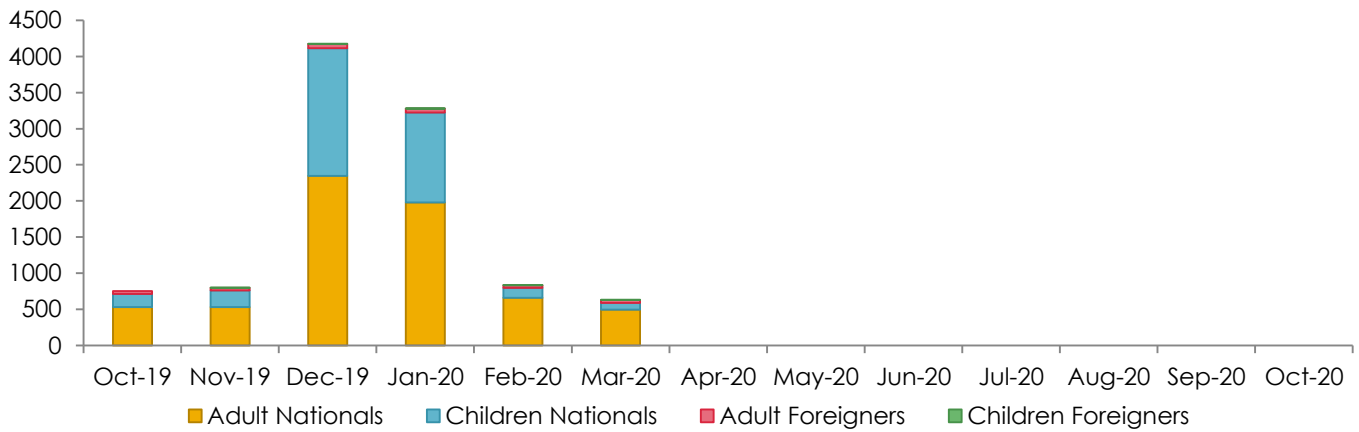
**November 2020 objectives:**

- Continue advocating the missions of the LWC within the Central African Conservation Landscape in Cameroon



## 9. Revenues generated

- **Entrance fees (September-October 2020):** FCFA 0 (0 visitors; 0% children, 0% Cameroonians) due to the closure of the Limbe Wildlife Centre to visitors



**Figure 1.** Visitor statistics October 2019- October 2020



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