



Limbe

Wildlife Centre

CAMEROON



MAR 2021

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Limbe Wildlife Centre: **March 2021**

Cover page: Rescued black-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*)

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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 February which regulates all forestry, wildlife and fisheries activities



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ALL OUR REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE

Accreditations & Awards

The speckled mousebird (*Colius striatus*) is common in the Limbe Wildlife Centre.



In February 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 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 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 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.

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Foreword



Richard NDANJI, member of the Construction Team

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | PROJECT MANAGER

The end of the tunnel

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The non-COVID-19 respiratory disease outbreak in our Drill group has been contained. No new cases have been detected. Despite limited resources and a total lack of support by the government, our team has managed extremely well. At the beginning of April, the isolation of the section will no longer be needed. We are investigating the possible cause of our Drills' deaths and hope to obtain more answers to our numerous questions.

With the number of COVID-19 cases growing exponentially in the country, it is no time to loosen our precautionary measures. We absolutely need to maintain

our hygiene and safety standards, and we will prioritise boosting the immune system of all our animals. Unfortunately, the continuation of these measure means that the LWC must remain closed to the public.

After months of difficulties, March brought a series of satisfying achievements, which I hope you will appreciate as much as we do!

Firstly, we successfully rescued and released a black-bellied pangolin. Since our animal care staff are not specialised in pangolin rehabilitation, we are learning from a combination of experience and gladly-received guidance from the Tikki Hywood Foundation. After a couple of days under observation and feeding on ants and



termites, the pangolin found a safe place to walk and immediately climbed a tree, happy to retrieve his freedom!

The integration of male chimpanzees Papa and Tikar is going very well, thanks in large part to our team's experience. So far, we have integrated more than half of the individuals. We expect the process, which we monitor very closely, to be achieved in 3 weeks. After this, we will enter the next stage of the project. This will be several months of continuous post-integration monitoring – both to ensure the welfare of all individuals and that the overall group cohesion remains high and stable.

A third satisfying feature of this month is the gorilla enclosure re-enrichment project, which has been progressing very well after the maintenance of the gorilla 1 night den was achieved. After more than a week indoors, the gorillas finally got back into their enclosure through a newly-built tunnel.

Arguably our most impactful ongoing work is our UNESCO-partnered *Art4Nature* project, aimed at creating a unique education package. This work, though slightly delayed due to the various crises we had to address, is progressing well. We are

on track to finalise the various products through April.

We have released the 6th flock since we started to implement the soft-release protocol. The remaining 52 birds have all been checked. They will need more time to recover fully and we anticipate the next flock release to take place in the second half of the year.

It is now time for us to move to the next steps. These involve developing the post-release monitoring methodology using GPS technology, replicating the soft-release programme in protected areas, and continuing our public education efforts. African Grey parrots remain severely endangered. The national safeguarding programme needs not only to continue but to progress. For this to be a possibility, a far greater level of involvement and leadership from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife will be required.

Finally, we have been conducting basic security training to strengthen the capacities of all the security officers. Led by a volunteer physical coach, the training aims at teaching the basics of patrolling, vigilance, and self-defence to our security officers.

Thank you, as ever, for your unfailing support.



EMERGENCY

Drill non-COVID-19 respiratory disease outbreak (update)

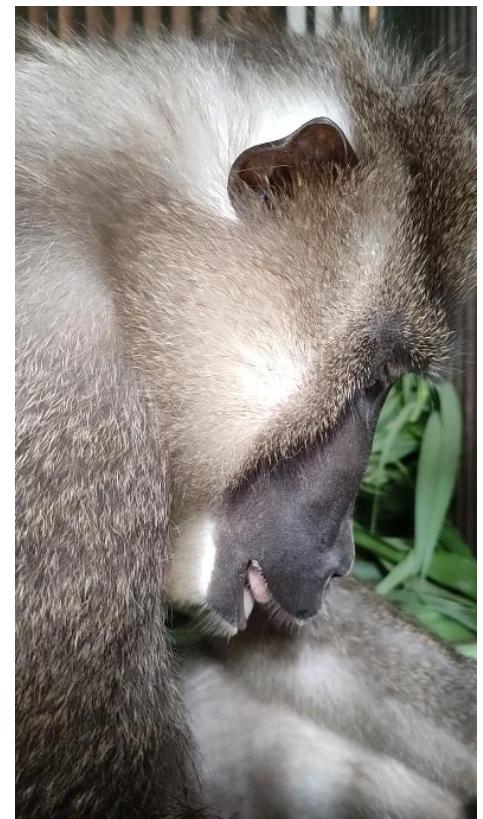
Since 22nd February, the outbreak has been successfully contained but the drill section and the clinic will remain quarantined until at least the 6th April.

This crisis left us with another **10,000 USD deficit** that adds to the accumulated loss due to COVID-19. No support was provided by the Government of Cameroon to face this unprecedented crisis.

We need to restore our **stock of veterinary material** and consumables; we need to reinforce **disease surveillance** efforts, and further **boost the immune system** of our drills with vitamins and minerals.

We need financial support to enable us to maintain our standard of care to the 273 individuals in rehabilitation at the LWC and continue our **much-needed conservation work**.

**DONATE \$5 OR MORE TODAY TO
SUPPORT OUR VETERINARY DEPARTMENT**



Our priority financial needs



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

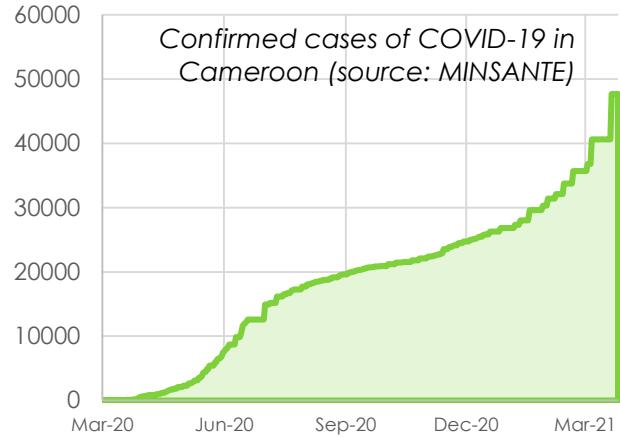


We must boost the immunity of 15 critically endangered gorillas, 43 endangered chimps, and 75 endangered Drills and upgrade biosecurity measures vs. COVID-19.

COVID-19 updates in Cameroon

The number of confirmed cases approaches **48,000**, with a **constant increase** of the number of new cases detected throughout March (**Monthly increase: +33%**).

DONATE [NOW](#) TO PROTECT THEM FROM COVID-19!



enclosure



2. Help us free 52 parrots back to the wild in 2021!

We are leading the National rehabilitation and release programme for the endangered African grey parrot. 171 birds were released in 2020-2021. **52 must still be released this year!**

RELEASE PARROTS [NOW!](#)

3. Splitting the large gorilla

To enable our gorillas to enjoy an **enriched outdoor** every day, take part in this **amazing project** and help us divide and re-enrich the largest enclosure with **climbing structures** and **shelter** to rest, hide and play. **Goal: €25,000**

RE-ENRICH THE GORILLAS ENCLOSURE [HERE!](#)

Contact info@limbewildlife.org to know more

March 2021 Highlights

A photograph of a large green parrot, likely an African grey, perched on a branch. The bird has a dark green body with yellow wing patches and a grey head. It is surrounded by dense green and reddish-brown leaves. The background is bright, suggesting sunlight filtering through the trees.

- Rescued 1 Black-bellied pangolin
- Released 1 Black-bellied pangolin back into the wild
- Released 19 African grey parrots into the wild
- Finished maintenance of Gorilla group 1 night den
- Completed phase 1 of the Gorilla re-enrichment project



LWC'S SPECIAL SUPPORTER

A word from **ROWENA FACEE SCHAEFFER**

Building the new bridge in 2019

Rowena is the founder of [Go-Ape.nl](#). She helps great ape rescue centres with communication, fundraising and special projects onsite. Rowena "Goes Ape" in Asia and Africa and regularly volunteers in centres that have a special focus on conservation and education to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss.

"Back in 2018, I was looking for a rehabilitation centre in Africa. I wanted to put into practice everything I learned as a volunteer chimpanzee caretaker in the Netherlands and to learn more about the threats to their existence in their home country.

Working closely with the LWC's caretakers, especially Victor Veseke and Killi Matute, I was impressed by their knowledge, professionalism and dedication. While at the LWC, I observed and enriched rescued gorillas and chimpanzees, designed enrichments, and joined the education team on several awareness events with the local communities. Later, I kept assisting in communication for several fundraising campaigns.

LWC conducts several impressive conservation projects that not only save wildlife but also help to strengthen the capacities of local communities to achieve sustainability. I recently wrote [an article about the Green Project](#) and started a [new fundraiser](#) to help sustain this great project. Amid COVID-19, the local communities need all our help! [Donate to support this amazing project :\)](#) All funds raised go directly to the LWC.

LWC is so more than 'just' a rescue centre. And to me? Well... They are family!"



Rowena Facee Schaeffer



Achievements March 2021 & Objectives April 2021

1. Pandrillus-GoC Partnership & Public Relations

Funders

- None

April 2021 objectives

- Validate internal rules and regulations (pending)
- Review the proposal of the national strategy to rehabilitate and release the African grey parrots (pending)

2. Population management & Animal welfare

Funders



Ongoing activities

- Maintained frequency and diversity of enrichments in each section

Specific activities

- Red-Capped Mangabey:** Water pressure cleaning of Eta's enclosures and re-enriched with wood shavings (**Image 1**)
- Mona Monkey:** Re-enriched the cage with branches on weekly bases (**Image 2**)
- Putty-Nosed Monkey:** Water pressure cleaning of Zulu's enclosures and re-enriched with wood shavings
- Chimpanzee:** Continued the process of the integration of Papa and Nanga in the Mainland enclosure: introduced them to 6 new individuals of the group (**Images 3-6**)



□ **Vet cares** (March 2021):

- **Drill respiratory disease outbreak:** Since 22nd February, the outbreak has been successfully contained but the drill section and the clinic will remain quarantined until at least the 6th April. So far, none of the analysis performed by the medical analysis laboratories was conclusive. We are looking forward to conducting further analyses. Meanwhile, we reinforced our disease surveillance efforts, and further boost the immune system of our drills with vitamins and minerals. **DONATE TO OUR VETERINARY DEPARTMENT**
- **Primates:** 145 individuals treated; 4 anaesthesia performed; 15 individuals sampled (3 blood samples for haematology analysis, 3 blood samples for biochemistry analysis, 15 faecal samples for coprology analysis, 0 pus swab for microbiology analysis); 0 contraception; 0 identification with a microchip; 2 laceration repairs; 31 drug therapies: 29% antibiotics, 26% anti-inflammatories, 16% dietary supplements, 10% fungicides, 6% antiparasitic, 3% painkillers and 10% others; 1 health check (1 chimpanzee); 0 death (**Images 7-9**)
- **African grey parrots:** 41 general health checks; 20 health checks before release; 20 transferrals to the soft-release aviary, 5 transferrals to the rehabilitation aviary; 8 individuals undertook minor surgery to remove cysts that prevented the regrowth of their feathers; 4 individuals received intensive care treatment with 3rd generation antibiotic treatment and special diet; 4 deaths (**Images 10-11**)



Image 1a&b. The Red Capped Mangabey enclosure was fully re-enriched with wood shaving, branches, elephants stalk and soybeans to stimulate natural foraging behaviour.



Image 2a&b. Foreign volunteers and the head of section, Tana Ossomba, re-enriched the Mona monkey enclosure with fresh mango branches to provide natural environment for the animals.



Image 3. Papaya, the dominant female of the Mainland chimp group (and the most respected individual within the group who usually bring peace and calm conflicts) was grooming introduced adult male Papa and hence created a new positive bond with him. Such affiliative behaviours are critical to ensure a successful integration.



Image 4. Play and display also serve integration purpose to create a hierarchy without fighting. Dominance can hence be expressed without injuries.



Image 5. Introduced male Nanga and Jojo are demonstrating their strength and defending their position in the hierarchy, while Jack (standing) supports his groupmate Jojo. During agnostic interactions, our team remain extremely vigilant to ensure there are no serious injuries. Grooming, play, display and aggressions are three different categories of behaviours that intervene during integration. Our role as caretakers is to mitigate aggressions and facilitate positive interaction.



Image 6. Adult male Jojo and introduced male Papa found a quick balance and we involved in affiliative interactions, hence creating a positive link. Papa, contrary to Nanga, who is a younger adult male, is wise. He knows that despite his massive body, he will not take dominance in a highly cohesive group and hence chose to submit to others. Later, as he will create a stronger link with a few individuals, the politics and demonstration of power could lead to a change of dominance.



Image 7. Koto was transferred back to Island group after 08 months of intensively daily cares, treatments, and enrichments to treat abscessation



Image 8. Malengo a challenger male undertook surgery after he injured his thumb in a fight with the Nimbus a another challenger male



Image 9a&b. Baju, an adult male challenger needed a laceration repair after a fight with one of the dominant.

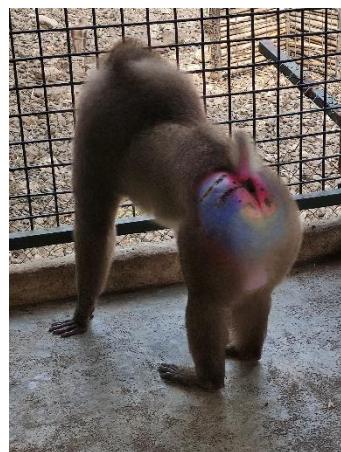


Image 10. All 31 remaining individuals from the large rehabilitation aviary undertook a health check, during which their body condition, amongst other parameters, was recorded



Image 11. Each bird received a fipronil treatment against parrot lice



April 2021 objectives

- Continue with the ongoing activities
- African grey parrots:** Continue to provide special care for the last individuals with difficulties improving their body conditions
- Vet cares:** Contraception: Drills (3), Chimpanzees (3)

3. Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release programme

Funders



Arrival & quarantine

- Rescued 1 adult black-bellied pangolin (Images 12-15)



Image 12. This adult male black-bellied pangolin was taken from his home forest and rescued by the Limbe Wildlife Centre. As he was in good conditions, we kept him in quarantine under observations.



Image 13. The black-bellied pangolin received some treatments shortly after his arrival. The injection is dexamethasone, which serves to reduce stress from capture and transport.



Image 14. His quarantine cage was fully enriched to provide privacy and a safe environment where he could hide and sleep.



Image 15. Providing care to rescued pangolins is extremely challenging, especially since LWC is not specialised. However, our team ensured that he was eating, drinking and defecating properly before he could be released back into a safe forest near Limbe.

Behavioural rehabilitation

- **Black kite:** Continued to maintain the care and enrichment

Social rehabilitation

- **African grey parrot:** Continued to maintain the care and enrichment to the 85 African grey parrots in the large aviary
- **Drill:** Continued integration process of juvenile male drill Mbigou with 6 females in a satellite cage of the Drill enclosure

Release (ecological & environmental rehabilitation)

- Released 1 Black-bellied pangolin back into the wild (Image 16)
- Released 19 African grey parrots into the wild (Images 17-18)
- Released 1 Black-hinged terrapin into the wild (Image 19)



Image 16. After 2 weeks of quarantine, care and monitoring, the black-bellied pangolin was released in a safe forest block. He quickly climbed a tree, feed on ants and disappeared into the canopy, where he will feel more secured. Millions of wild pangolin such as this one are killed each year to benefit criminal groups.

STOP PANGOLIN SCALE TRAFFICKING!

#ProtectWildlife



Image 18. Thanks to our strict standard soft-release protocol following rehabilitation in the large aviary in the Limbe Wildlife Centre, we have reached 100% release success so far. Now we need to improve our post-release monitoring to track them for several months and identify habitats of priority conservation importance.



Image 17. Despite the lack of GPS or radiotracking technology, our team maintains its efforts to survey and detect released African grey parrots in the Limbe vicinities. This individual was spotted several days after its release, quietly feeding on some young nutritious leaves of a wild native tree.



Image 19. Black-hinged terrapin (*Pelusios niger*) was released in a safe place near the river.

April 2021 objectives:

- African Grey Parrots:** Continue the rehabilitation process
- Black kite:** Continue the rehabilitation process and release
- Drill:** Continue the social rehabilitation of juvenile male Mbigou into the drill group

Flying to their freedom.

The 6th flock of rehabilitated African grey parrots was released this month. Hence, 171 birds returned to the wild in less than a year! The majority of the 52 remaining individuals will join them before the rainy season in July 2021.





A tree climber on
his way back to

FREEDOM...

**STOP
PANGOLIN SCALE
TRAFFICKING**
#ProtectWildlife

Black-bellied pangolin



4. Infrastructures and development | Material & Equipment

Funders



Activities

- **Western lowland gorilla:** Finished maintenance of Gorilla group 1 night den (**Images 20-22**)
- **Western lowland gorilla:** Started the Gorilla re-enrichment project: started and completed phase 1 of the splitting of the large gorilla enclosure (**Images 23-29**)
- **Chimp Island:** Maintained the broken ladder enrichment (**Images 30-31**)



Image 20. The rod mesh in the gorilla 1 night den was fully renovated. We are using 12 mm thick rod to ensure sufficient resistance against the immense power of a silverback.



Image 21. Painting of renovated night den of Gorilla group 1.



Image 22a&b. View of the finished maintenance of Gorilla group 1 night den after 3 months of daily efforts!





Image 23. Installation and welding of tunnel frame to prepare the splitting of the large gorilla enclosure.



Image 24. Installation of the first metal pole for the splitting of the large gorilla enclosure.



Image 25. Concreting of beam foundation to prepare the splitting of the large gorilla enclosure.



Image 26. Welding of the new tunnel mesh to prepare the splitting of the large gorilla enclosure



Image 27. Installing ring insulator pole the splitting of the large gorilla enclosure.



Image 28. Running of electric fencing wire for the splitting of the large gorilla enclosure.



Image 29a&b. Final views of the fence that will serve to increase security when the gorillas will be using their section of the large enclosure.



Image 30. Concreting the metal pole of the ladder enrichment in the Chimp Island enclosure.



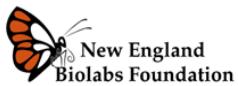
Image 31. Connecting the ladder and welding in the Chimp Island enclosure.

April 2021 objectives

- Start the maintenance of the western lowland gorilla enclosure group 2
- Maintenance of the enrichment of the Drill enclosure

5. Community Conservation, Environmental education & Ecotourism

Funders



Los Angeles Zoo &
Botanical Gardens





Activities

- **School outreach programme:** Continued the 2020-2021 programme: 6 schools, 22 classes and 908 school.children; monthly efforts: 41 men.hours
- **Saturday Nature Club:** Postponed the 2020-2021 Nature Club
- **Art4Nature:** Continued to produce a series of animated videos, billboards, posters, and radio podcasts to promote forest ecosystem preservation.
- **Green project:** 43 community members benefited from the Community-based Green Economy; 15 ex-hunter members sustainably harvesting wild herbaceous plants: 1,950 kg of Aframomum stems and 173 kg of Costus stems; 28 women members harvesting crop by-product: 475 kg of cassava leaves, 2,227 kg of papaya leaves, 2,525 kg of potato leaves, 163 kg of invasive Trumpet wood shoots, corresponding to 37 trees hand-cut; 760,645 FCFA (€1,161) paid directly to the local community association this month; 2,598,980 FCFA (€3,968) contributed to alleviate local poverty in 2021



Image 32. The creation of posters, billboards and a series of short film about the importance to protect the Congo Basin forest is ongoing well, despite delay due to the various crises Pandrillus had to managed to support the Limbe Wildlife Centre in absence of sufficient commitment from the government.

April 2021 objectives

- Continue with ongoing programs



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:** Continued the collection of daily data on the parrot movement and use of the environment (**Image 33**)
- **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.
- **Behavioural monitoring of the endangered Chimpanzees:** Started the Mainland group cohesion and individual welfare before, during and after social integration of Papa & Nanga (adult males)

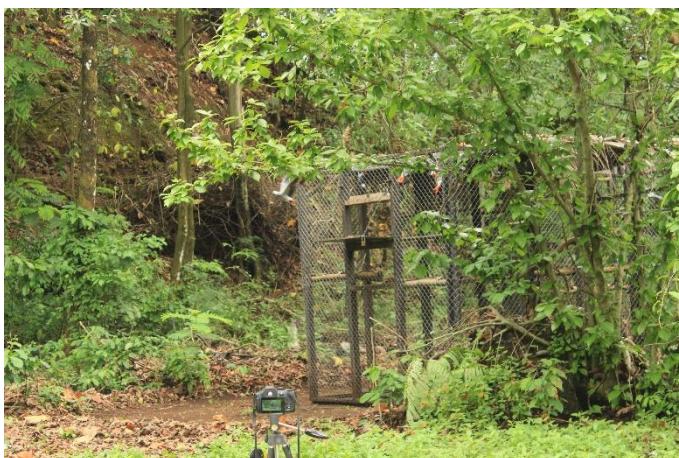


Image 33. Once the hatch of the soft-release aviary is open, we thoroughly monitor the movements of the African grey parrots. To help us capture them in flight, we installed a digital camera. Although limited, this post-release monitoring methodology enables us to better understand individuals behaviour during the release and earn valuable lessons to keep upgrading our standards.

April 2021 objectives

- Continue with the above ongoing activities



7. Capacity building, staff empowerment & Mentorship

- Strengthening the capacity of our security officers: conducting basic security training to teach the basics of night patrolling, vigilance, and self-defence (**Images 34-35**)
- Head Keep Jonathan Kang led an awareness meeting with the less experienced animal care staff to share lessons and experience about the management of animal escapes: focus, coordination and decision-making were identified as the key elements to ensure safety and success.



Image 34. Simulating attack from the back: the security officer must interrupt the aggression and find a way to escape from the catch. Basic technics are usually the most useful and effective to respond to aggression and must be repeated much time to be fully mastered.

Image 35. Sparring partners and technical training are practices to strengthen the mind and the body of our security officers. Beyond self-defence learning, which requires months of intensive practices, this exercise increases confidence and help identify and correct position and stability.

April 2021 objectives

- Continue with the above ongoing activities
- **Staff workshop:** Presentation of the project to splitting gorilla enclosure by Vallarine AFORLICA, Head of Construction (postponed).



8. Communication & Visibility

- **Digital communication** (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter): In March, all four of our social media platforms have had a significantly increased reach, with an overall increase of 60.4% compared to the previous month, February. An overall increase of followers was also visible with 2.8%, YouTube having the highest increase of 8.1%, now standing at 1,984 subscribers. Significantly, our followers on Facebook have also increased by 477 individuals in one month and is now at almost 19,000 followers.

April 2021 objectives:

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

9. Revenues generated

- **Entrance fees (March 2021):** FCFA 0 (0 visitors; 0% children, 0% Cameroonian) due to the closure of the Limbe Wildlife Centre to visitors



Figure 1. Visitor statistics March 2020 - March 2021

