

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

the association of German Zookeepers has noted with great concern the events of January 9th at the Drill ranch in the Afi Mountains, Cross River State in Nigeria.

The preservation of the Afi Mountains Wildlife Sanctuary and the work of Pandrillus is invaluable for conservation of nature and species and also for the population of Nigeria.

It is home to the highly endangered drills, the extremely rare Cross River Gorilla, the little-known Nigerian chimpanzee and other smaller species of monkeys, some of them are only endemic to Nigeria. The Drill Ranch offers them a retreat, also protection and care by the passionate employees.

Just very few of these precious animals are indigenous outside of Africa, which makes the work of Afi Mountains even more important for species conservation.

In only very few German zoological facilities these rare and highly endangered drills are kept. In cooperation with 'Rettet den Drill e. V.' (Save the Drill, registered association) they sensitize all their visitors for the problems in your country.

Therefore, many of our members feel connected to the work of the association 'Rettet den Drill e.V.' Our keepers association has been supporting the great work of Pandrillus and its highly committed employees in Nigeria for many years. All the more appalled we are by the incidents at the Drill Ranch of Pandrillus in the Afi Mountains.

In addition to worrying about the future of the significant conservation Work in Nigeria, we would like to draw attention to the fate of Pandrillus' great local staff. These people do the sacrificial work to protect the drills that are threatened by extinction and now probably lose their jobs and lifework. Not only the animals and the most beautiful places of Nigeria were protected by their work, also the population benefited from this project.

Therefore, we implore you to help ensure that the work on site can be continued safely and that the lives of the employees are protected. As a professional association of German zookeepers and supporters of Pandrillus, it is of the utmost interest for us that the incident is investigated promptly and solved comprehensively.

Respectful