



Libassa Wildlife  
Sanctuary

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



January 2026





# ABOUT US



## Mission

Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release Liberia's native wildlife. As the only multi-species facility in West Africa, we use expert veterinary care to return animals to their natural habitats. Through education and partnerships, we shift the national narrative toward stewardship, ensuring Liberia's biodiversity remains wild and protected.



## Vision

Our vision is a future where the sanctuary is no longer needed. We strive for a day when education has so transformed national awareness that wildlife exploitation ceases entirely. Until then, we remain dedicated to protecting Liberia's heritage and invite you to join us.

## Core values

### Applied Science

We utilize evidence-based protocols to provide high-fidelity clinical care and specialized rehabilitation for every resident. This scientific approach ensures that animals, from endangered primates to pangolins, meet the behavioral and health milestones necessary for successful wild independence.

### Local Collaboration

Our mission is sustained through strong, respectful partnerships with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and our local community. By fostering these collaborative relationships, we ensure that our conservation efforts are integrated into the national strategy and supported by the people of Liberia.

### Integrity & Transparency

We operate with absolute financial and ethical accountability to our donors, government partners, and the global conservation community. This commitment to transparency ensures that every resource is effectively directed toward animal welfare and the strategic expansion of our rewilding sites.



Libassa Wildlife  
Sanctuary

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“

Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary serves as the vital link between crisis and recovery. As the only multi-species facility in West Africa, our mission extends beyond rescue; we are restoring the ecological integrity of an entire region.

My approach is grounded in a multidisciplinary academic foundation in Applied Biology, Biomedicine, and Ecology established across multiple European institutions. This scientific perspective treats the health of wildlife, people, and the environment as a single, inseparable "One Health" system.



Our 2026 strategy prioritizes educational outreach alongside a focused improvement of our Rescue-to-Release ratio. I am committed to scaling community programs and upgrading rescue infrastructure because shifting perspectives from exploitation to stewardship ensures fewer animals enter our gates. By enhancing our facilities and addressing root causes like the bushmeat trade, we guarantee more successful rescues stay in the wild.

I want to fuel our mission by transparency. In 2025, we achieved an exceptional 96.5% program efficiency rate, ensuring that donor contributions go directly toward the tons of food and specialized medical care required to rewild Liberia's natural heritage.

**Finn Tenhüfeld**  
Director of Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary



# MILESTONES

## Animals

Our facility provides care for an extraordinary breadth of wildlife: In 2025, LiWiSa supported 220 animals across 21 species. The population consisted of primates, birds, reptiles, pangolins, and other mammals showcasing our ability to cater to the needs of multiple distinct species at once.

Throughout 2025 We Cared For

**220 Animals, 21 Species**



## Resources

Our operations mobilize specialized resources to combat wildlife exploitation through local expertise and community-centered education. We have channeled significant capital into modernizing facilities to withstand increasing intake volumes while maintaining high standards of care.

Local Staff Animal Care

**24,960 hours**



Enclosure Capacity Increase

**234 m<sup>3</sup>**

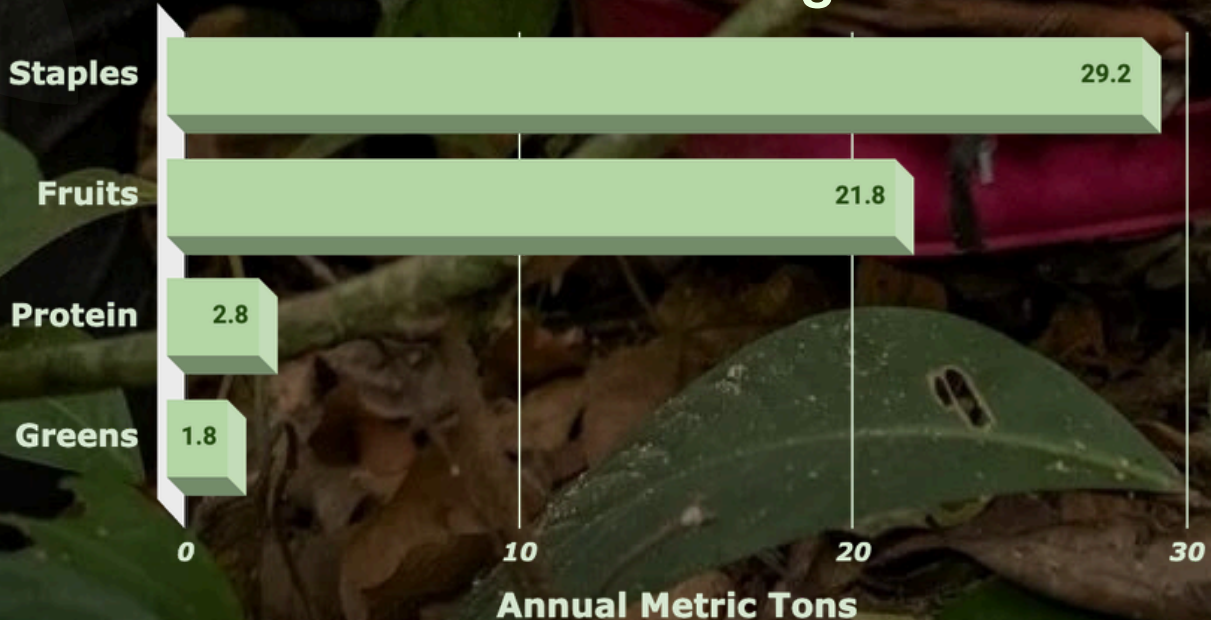


Animal Food

**55,590.60 kg**



## Animal Food Usage





Libassa Wildlife  
Sanctuary

# RESCUE & RELEASE



## Strategic Reintroductions & Field Operations

During 2025, we managed 69 total rescues, including 35 primates, 16 pangolins, 7 reptiles, 5 birds, and 6 other mammals. We have successfully returned 49 animals to their natural habitats, achieving a 71% Rescue-to-Release ratio. These rescues reached our sanctuary from across every corner of Liberia and even from beyond before their eventual reintroduction into the Warkolor Forest, Sapu National Park, and the Nimba region.

Our operations rely on a vital collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF). This partnership bridges the gap between law enforcement and sanctuary care, ensuring confiscated animals are stabilized and rehabilitated for a secure return to protected areas. This unified approach remains the backbone of our success in combating illegal wildlife trafficking.

**69**

Rescues

**49**

Releases

**71%**

Ratio



Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

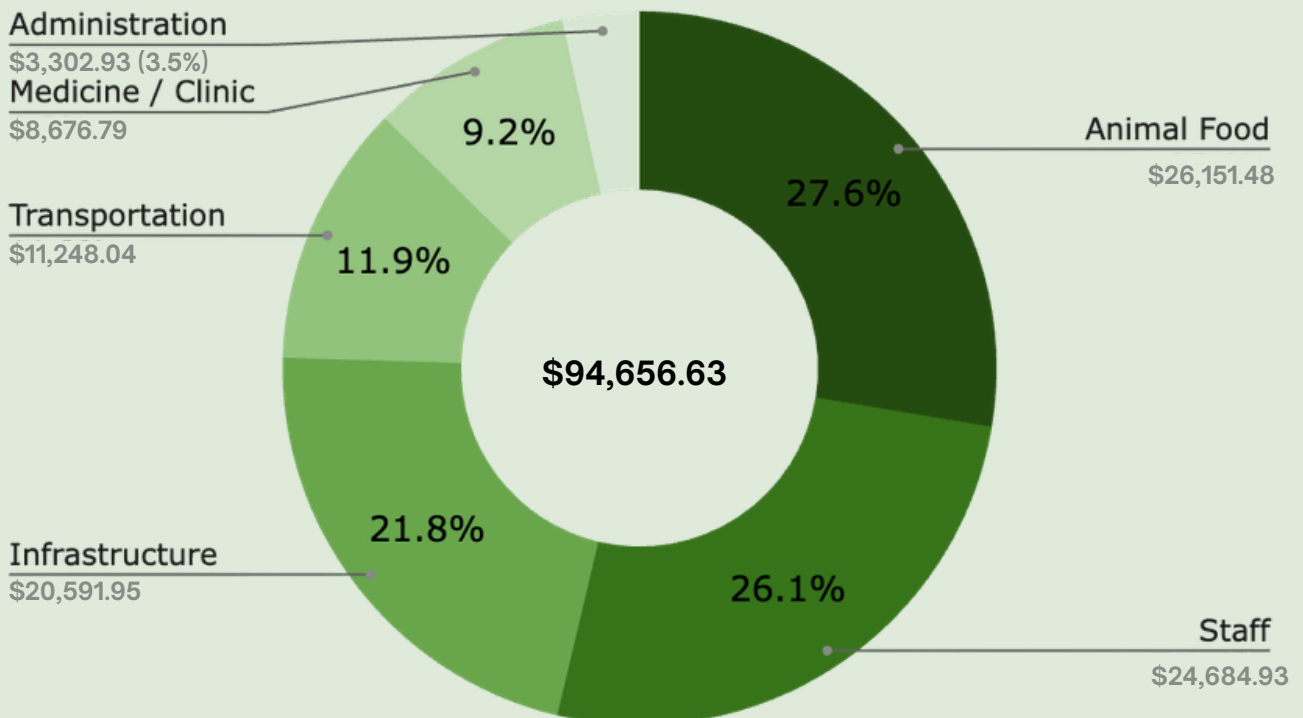
In 2025, Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary managed a total operational expenditure of \$94,656.63 USD to sustain our multifaceted conservation mission.

This financial breakdown illustrates a rigorous commitment to resource efficiency, ensuring the vast majority of our funding is directed toward the specialized care, high-fidelity nutrition, and professional rehabilitation of our residents.

By maintaining lean operations, we maximize the direct impact of every dollar on the health and long-term recovery of Liberia's unique animal populations.



## Annual Operational Expenditure





Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary

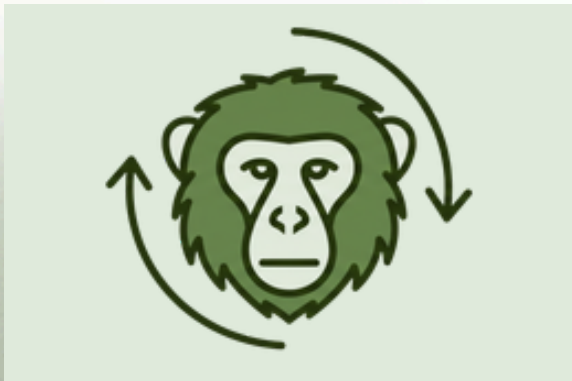


# FUTURE OUTLOOK



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Besides enhancing our overall operations, such as the ongoing **Pangolin Project**, the sanctuary is prioritizing two major projects for 2026:



## Sooty Release Project

We are preparing for the first successful Sooty Mangabey release in Liberia’s history, a vital step for this endangered species. This pioneering project represents a significant leap for national biodiversity, returning this endemic species to its ancestral forest home through rigorous rewilding and scientific monitoring.



## LiWiSa II

Our expansion into LiWiSa II creates a permanent release staging ground for Liberia’s diverse wildlife.

The site features specialized large-scale enclosures designed to support the metabolic and behavioral needs of pangolins, antelopes, primates, and many more.

LIBASSAWILDLIFESANCTUARY.ORG



Libassa Wildlife  
Sanctuary

# IMPACT - PROGRAMMES

## Educational Programmes

We offer staff-led tours for schools and universities to cultivate awareness of wildlife conservation in the next generation while ensuring minimal disturbance to our residents. These educational experiences are now provided free of charge to the local community, reinforcing our commitment to our neighbours and the shared protection of nature.

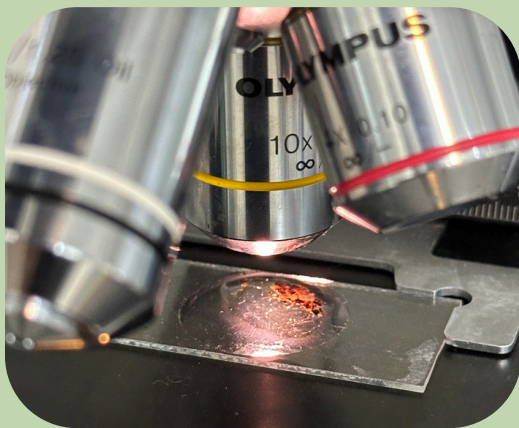


**530**

School & University Students

**28**

Institutes



**1000+**

Ectoparasite Samples

## Research

Our on-site diagnostics are enhanced by microscopy and ultrasound, providing immediate, high-fidelity health assessments for our residents. Through collaboration with Oregon State University and the US Department of Agriculture, we integrate systematic ectoparasite sampling to bridge frontline rehabilitation with global disease ecology and outbreak prevention. To scale this impact, we are acquiring a specialized freezer to expand our bio-sampling capacity, facilitating deeper collaborations with researchers on zoonotic disease prevention, but also behavioral studies, and long-term conservation science.



Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary



# LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

## On Site



**Finn Tenhüfeld**

*Sanctuary Director*



**Love Kaona**

*Sanctuary Veterinarian*



**Rudolph & Lisa Antoune**

*Founders & Patrons*

## Board of Directors



**Steven Janssen**



**Julie Vanassche**

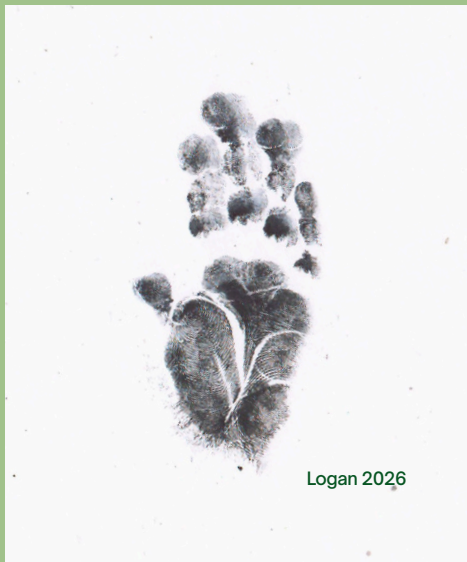


**Bonnie Dighero-Kemp**



Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary

# CONTACT US



Phone Number:  
**+231 775 716 058**



Email Address:  
**director@libassawildlifesanctuary.org**



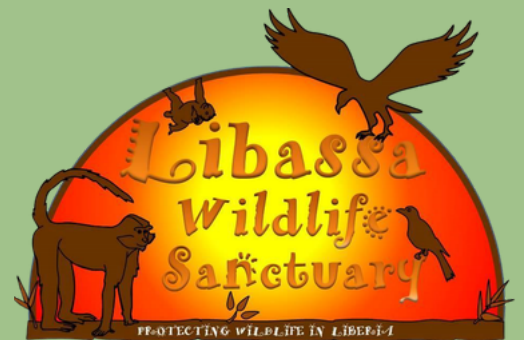
Website:  
**libassawildlifesanctuary.org**



Location:  
**Marshall Road, Kpan's Town,  
Margibi County, Liberia**

## FOLLOW US

Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary





Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary

# WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE

To our 2025 partners and those who contributed behind the scenes: Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission and the wildlife under our care!



Humane World for Animals™



WORLD PARROT TRUST

