

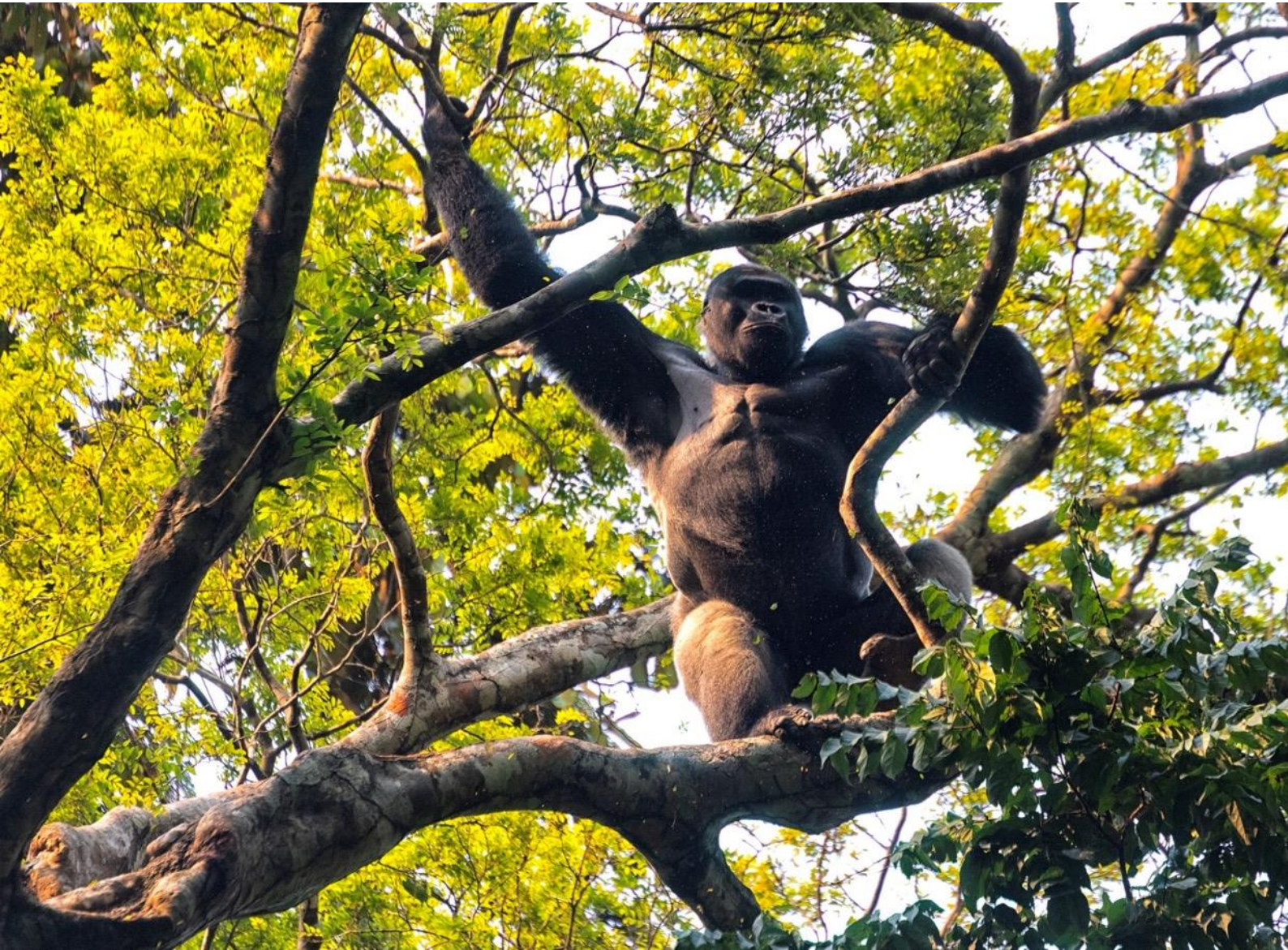


Aires Protégées



30 years
1990-2020

Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas



In Dzanga Sangha, gorillas can be observed from another angle © David Santiago

Newsletter February 2020



sacharuna



Wildlife

Aires Protégées



30 years
1990-2020

The precipitation in February was again 0 mm and we can consider this as one of the most severe dry seasons in decades.



Sangha River in dry season © David Santiago

Camouflage is an important survival strategy for some species. You can see it (or you cannot) in this picture.



Where is Willy? © Miguel Bellosta



With some help, is easier © Miguel Bellosta

The wildlife survey has started and at the beginning of February, three teams were in the field in the Dzanga Park sector. They walked a total of 12 transects of each 2km and installed 23 camera traps. On the transects they found 215 dung piles of forest elephants, 205 dung piles of small, 183 of medium-sized & 10 of large ungulates as well as 11 nests of great apes. Though we had only 11 direct observations on these transects, the species observed were diverse with blue duiker, Peter's duiker, black-fronted duiker and four small primate species (grey-cheeked & agile mangabey, putty-nosed monkey, mustached monkey). Six teams are currently in the forest, walking a total of 36 transects. The wildlife survey will last until beginning of June 2020 and a total of 184 transects will be walked.

In addition to conducting daytime observations of the elephants at the bai, the Elephant Listening Project (ELP) is also using a thermal imaging camera to observe elephant activities in the clearing at night. These observations will help us learn whether sexual behavior is more common in elephants at night and explore the unique vocalizations that accompany sexual interactions. The data collected from these observations will help ELP have a richer interpretation of elephant movements and activities in landscape monitoring datasets such as the one in Nouabalé-Ndoki NP (RoC).



Elephants in the Bai, day and night © Nuria Ortega

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA

Scientific name: *Terpsiphone viridis*

English name: African Paradise Flycatcher

French name: Tchitrec d'Afrique

Taxonomy: Class: birds; Order: Passeriformes; Family: Monachirdae; Genus *Terpsiphone*



© Miguel Bellosa

The African Paradise Flycatcher; (*Terpsiphone viridis*); measures about 6.7 inches or 17cm in length - but the very long tail streamers double its length.

It has a black head, neck and under plumage. The tail and wings are chestnut colored. It has a prominent white wingbar and short legs. It sits very upright when perching, like a shrike.

The female has a browner tint to the under plumage and lacks the wing bar and tail streamers. The males show considerable variation in plumage in some areas. There is a morph (genetic mutation) of this species in which the male has the chestnut parts of the plumage replaced by white, and some races have black tail streamers. Juvenile birds resemble the female, but have a duller plumage. The average clutch consists of two or three eggs that are laid in a tiny cup nest in a tree. It is a ubiquitous species, which is found in savannah and in forest (but it is replaced by other species inside the large dense forest). The bird in the picture is a male. There are two morphs; this is the white morph, which is not uncommon but a little less frequent than the normal / red morph; the white morph is a little more common in the savannah area than in the forest area but it can be found everywhere.

The African Paradise Flycatchers are noisy birds with a harsh scolding call.

Anti-poaching

DSPA rangers received information that a group of poachers coming from Congo had entered the Park. The rapid intervention team was immediately sent out who succeeded to locate them but two elephants had already been killed. They recovered the tusks but the poachers managed to flee. The rangers pick up their trail and tracked forward until they located a camp in which they found more tusks cut into small pieces easy to transport, as well as a weapon of war. We surveyed the entire area for several days but did not find any other elephant carcasses. An investigation is now opened to collect more information to clear the uncertainties. At the moment, we cannot tell where and when the other elephants were killed. However, it is certain that there are some less elephants in the region



© Nuria Ortega

On the other hand, a patrol of guards based in Bai Hokou arrested a group of 4 suspected poachers who were hunting antelopes inside the Park.



Eighteen duikers for four people is not subsistence hunting © Nuria Ortega

Main DSPA Patrols data:

38 regular patrols, 4 BLAB FTNS patrols and 2 special patrols were deployed, in total 1,133 men/days, 1,476 km traveled on foot and covering an area of 2,064 km². This resulted in the seizure of 10 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 1 homemade 12-gauge shotguns, 34 manufactured 12-gauge cartridges, In addition, 580 metal snares were dismantled. 14 suspected poachers were arrested. Two fresh elephant carcasses were found in the month

Community Development

An anthropologist from Chengeta wildlife was in DS to work towards the establishment of a permanent monitoring mechanism for socio-economic development in indigenous communities and to study the hunting habits of local communities so as to provide scientifically backed data leading to effective control and sustainable management of the community hunting zone



© Nuria Ortega

After the meeting we had last November in Salo following the serious problems of poaching, and the agreement we did to work with them, 104 people from 4 localities in the municipality took part in the various meetings organized by the Department of Development and Community Rights of the DSPA to officially launch the support program for teachers in Salo. For the first time, 24 teachers received support from the DSPA to enable them to teach the 2,005 pupils attending primary schools in these 4 localities.



© Nuria Ortega

The activities of Ndima-Kali in February revolved around the making of traditional mats by women and porcupine hunting nets by men in Koundapapaye (on the Mawa river), backpacking baskets for girls in Nguengueli, fishing at the dam, dog hunting and porcupine hunting nets in Yondo-Yobe. A total of 51 participants were registered, including 37 girls.

Health

The hepatitis B vaccination campaign which started in July 2019 continued in February 2020. A total of 189 staff has completed their hepatitis B immunization, with 16 staff completing in February after receiving the 3rd dose. Additional hepatitis B doses for vaccination of wives of the 10% positive tested staff as well as vaccine doses against typhoid fever for all DSPA staffs will arrive in March.



Modern tools help us to improve the health care

The gynecologist who came last month was able to consult 307 women in total and successfully operate three of them. According to his report, significant efforts are needed to improve the situation with the Ba'Aka; infectious diseases, hygiene, reproductive health programs, late show up in hospitals etc. He thinks that medical care conditions are far behind other countries in Africa and everybody should make an effort to change it.

Even if here is quite difficult to take any kind of measures, we have organized several meetings to inform the population about coronavirus and try to avoid the spread of the disease

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients February 2019

Structure	Number of patients
Mobile Clinic ginecologic	135
Monasao Health Post	204
Belemboke Health Post	310
Bayanga	141
Lindjombo	65
Total	855

Park Administration



Participants to the retreat © Nuria Ortega

This month, the second staff retreat took place in Bayanga. This time, contrary to the previous one, not just the WWF staff, but the entire DSPA staff (no employed by WWF) also participated. For a week, we reflected together on innovative ways of addressing issues related to conservation and human wellbeing. We reflected on our strong points, shortcomings and what we can do to improve. A special emphasis was placed on the issue of safeguards of indigenous populations



© Nuria Ortega

His Excellence Thierry Kamach, Minister of Environment and Durable Development who is also the resident Minister, visited DS during a tour of the region.



© Nuria Ortega

On the other hand, his Excellence Dieudonné Ndomate, Minister of Art, Culture and Tourism, accompanied by a delegation from his Ministry, spent 4 days with us, visiting the Park, the facilities and holding meetings on the current situation and future perspectives.

The proposal for the new EU contract has been finalized and presented to them. We hope to sign the contract next month

This month we had two audits. One for the EU and the other for the FTNS funds

Tourism and Marketing

David Santiago a Spanish photographer has been with us this month to try to get additional photos that will be used for the production of the DSPA book



Since we opened the possibility to spend a night in Dzanga bai, most of the tourists do it

Sleeping with elephants © Ana Vara

This month Dzanga Sangha Protected area has welcomed 62 tourists plus 24 visitors (consultants and missions)



A group of tourist travelling by truck, arrived this month to DS © Nuria Ortega



Arrivals and departures



©Nuria Ortega

Patrick Ditoloum. Arrived to Bayanga in 2007 when he started working for WWF/DSPA as Admin Assistant, but from now onwards he will do from Bangui



©Nuria Ortega

Emilia Bylicka, health coordinator and doctor of the mobile unit, almost three years working in the area has decided to start a new adventure in her personal life. We appreciate her dedication and wish her the best.

"The three years that I've spent in Dzanga Sangha, was a life adventure. Living and working with the native population - the Ba'Aka- in the middle of the equatorial rainforest, gave me a chance to see different lifestyles, understand different culture and learn how to treat patients in very difficult conditions and with limited resources. Most of the time I was travelling through the rural part of Dzanga Sangha visiting villages and offering treatment to people for the most common diseases in Equatorial Africa such as malaria, parasites, respiratory tract infections and those less known and less seen such as leprosy or treponematosi. During this time I've made friends with my Ba'Aka patients, gained their trust, saw them happy having children and sad losing members of their families. I understood how similar we are as human beings, those living in the modern world and people of the forest. The same things make us laugh, give us joy; we look for love and relationships in life and the simpler we live the happier we are. As a doctor I've learned that sometimes I need to accept the fact that people have the right to die at their house with a family around instead of taking long term treatment in a remote hospital. Seeing them happy, without a particular reason, (without goods and money), have taught me that I should reach for happiness in family and personal relations. For all this knowledge I am grateful to all the people I met during my work in Dzanga Sangha as a doctor and as a person"



©Nuria Ortega

Martina Lippuner, WWF communication manager for Africa, was in DS to know the place and witness first-hand the activities we are implementing.



© Nuria Ortega

David Santiago a Spanish photograph specialist in Nature and travels



© Nuria Ortega

Jefferson Wanaji Nana, civil engineer from Cameroon and working for the FTNS, has come for helping us in the construction of a football pitch in Bayanga.