



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas



© David Santiago

Newsletter September 2020



sacharuna



Wildlife



30 years
1990-2020

We planted about 8,000 trees within a 20ha area in an effort to restore degraded forest within the agricultural zone in DSPA. Funding for this restoration project was provided by the Peter and Luise Hager Foundation (Peter und Luise Hager-Stiftung) through WWF Germany. We also maintained previously planted trees. A total of 176 people from the local community (most of them women) were involved in this project



Choosing the future tree... © Christian Bassoum



...transporting... © Christian Bassoum



...and planting it © Christian Bassoum

We have completed the field missions for the wildlife inventory. Throughout the month, ecoguard teams helped with the collection of camera traps from two sectors. All camera traps should be returned by the end of October.

We visited all camera traps installed around 3 important forest clearings in DSPA and downloaded over 45,000 photos and videos. Unfortunately 4 cameras were lost to poachers and one destroyed by elephants.



Two carcasses, a baby elephant and a bongo were found in the forest by the gorilla tracking team, dead from natural causes. Samples were collected by the veterinary team for laboratory analyses.



Collecting samples with all the security measures © Frederick Singa

We received new primers for COVID-19 testing in our field laboratory from the Robert Koch Institute in Germany. We have the capacity to carry out up to 500 tests.

We equipped the Primate Habituation camps with ThermoFlash thermometers for continuous monitoring of employee health.

We carried out annual health checks for all DSPA staff this month. By the end of the month, 218 out of 250 staff members were consulted and given consequent treatment. All consulted staff members also received Typhoid fever vaccination and those who haven't received Hepatitis B vaccines yet got vaccinated too.



Vaccination campaign © Christian Bassoum

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© David Modry

Scientific name:	<i>trioceros owen</i>
English name:	<i>Owen's chameleon</i>
Taxonomy:	Class Reptilia
	Order Squamata
	Family Chamaeleonidae
	Genus Trioceros

Owen's chameleon or Owen's three-horned chameleon is endemic to Central Africa.



It inhabits the dense tropical rainforest and can be found on large trees. Its distribution area include Equatorial Guinea, North of Angola, Cameroon, DRC, Gabon South of Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Central African and Burundi

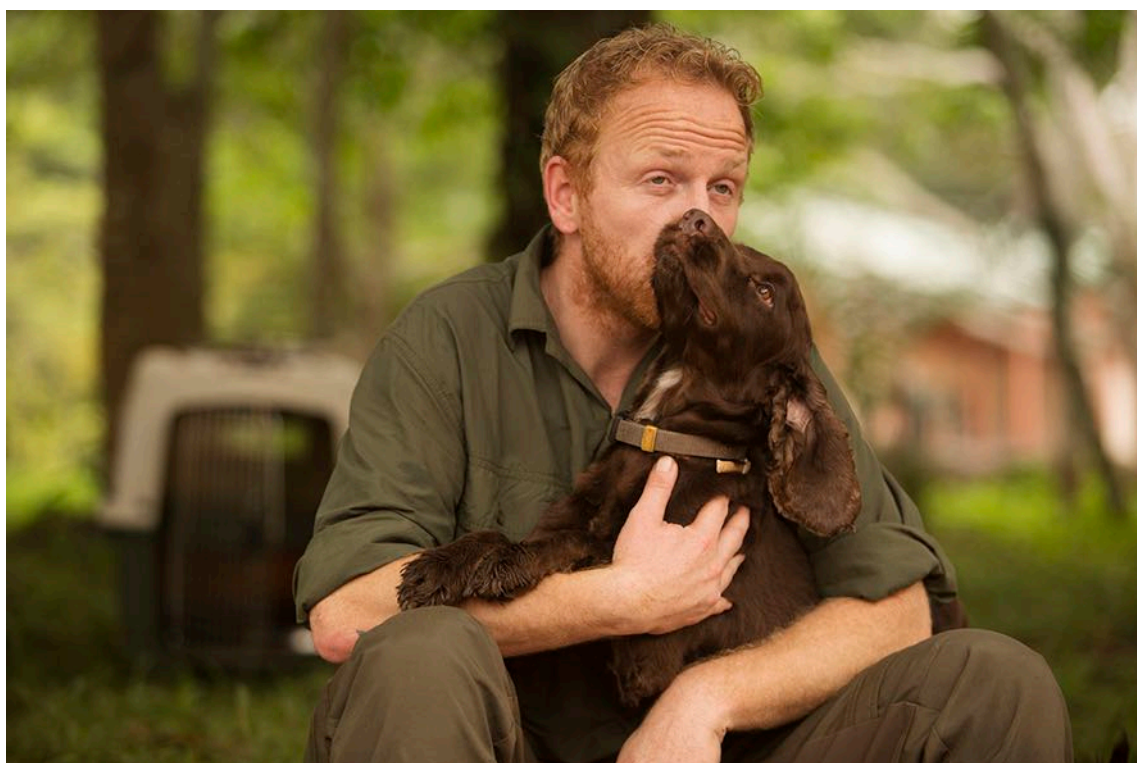
Males have three smooth horns, while females lack horns. It's adapted to arboreal life with a prehensile tail and zygodactyl toes, which are tong-like to better grip branches.

It can have 28 cm in total length (including tail) and weighs around 75 g.; it tends to feed on insects and use its tongue as projectile missile. It can be exploited for the pet trade but also to be used in traditional medicine or magic rites.

Anti-poaching

The Deputy Director and the Park warden participated in a workshop organized by the FTNS in Bertoua, Cameroon, to evaluate the management efficiency of Parks and to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation System in the Sangha Tri national landscape (TNS).

Mitch, one of the dogs who worked with us for almost two years and who had to be evacuated to the Netherlands last July to treat an infection, has unfortunately been euthanized to avoid suffering. Veterinarians were unable to find the cause for his illness.



Mitch © Nigel Kuhn

Main DSPA Patrols data:

38 regular patrols and 3 BLAB patrols. In total 1,463 rangers/days, 1.675 km traveled on foot and covering an area of 2,092 km². No one bi or tri national patrol because the COVID 19. This resulted in the seizure of 2 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 7 homemade 12-gauge shotguns. 4 cartridges type 00. In addition, 3,679 metal snares were dismantled. 3, 5 kilograms of pangolin scare and 33 kilograms of meat were confiscated.

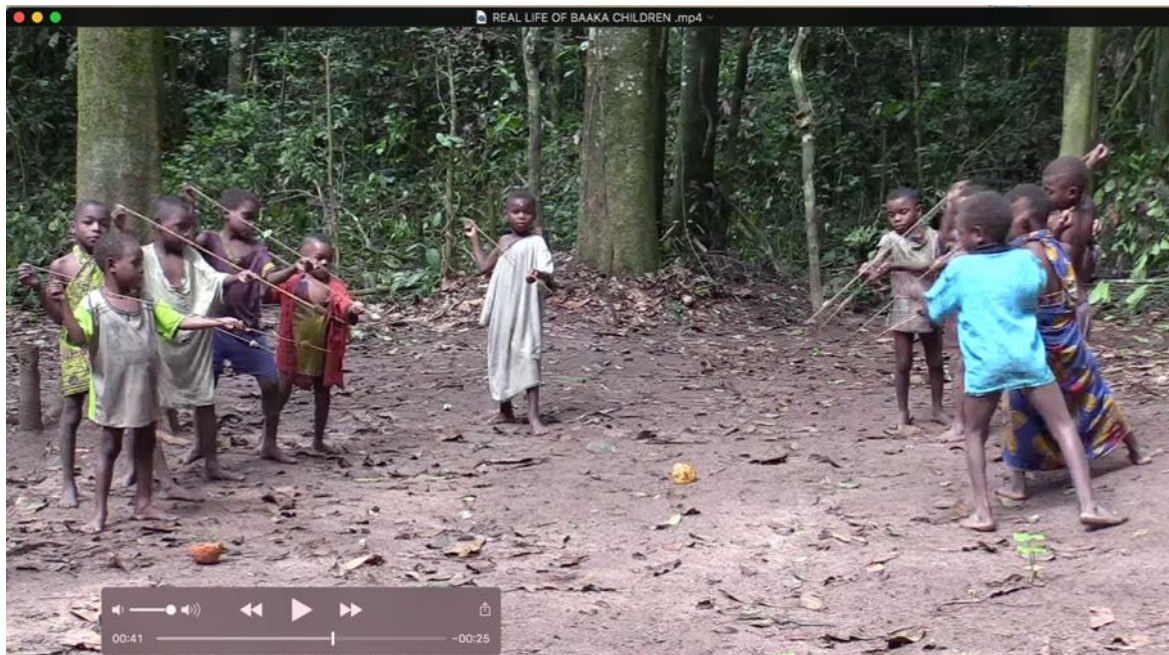
2 tusks with 3.5 kg from an elephant carcass found in the forest dead for unknown causes were recovered. We found also another tiny elephant dead for natural causes

11 small scale poachers were caught, sensitized and liberated.

Community Development

Until now, no cases of COVID-19 have detected within the DSPA. We however continue to stay alert and encourage local communities to maintain social distancing measures

The indigenous Ba'aka population have already left their confinement camps in the forest and returned to their villages. Even though we continue to sensitize them on social distancing and hygiene measures, they have in general returned to their normal lives. (We present a short video about their stay in the forest). <https://youtu.be/dbEbxBAIXr4>



Video ©Franck Mavinga

In an effort to facilitate the reintegration of the Ba'Aka in their villages post confinement, we launched two aid projects. Given that since most of their fields had been invaded by vegetation and they had lost seeds, we supply them with new plants. At the moment we have distributed approximately 20,000 manioc stems to be planted.

We also supported a fish farming project. We have stocked almost 2000 fry in 18 ponds, covering an overall area of approximately 5.635 m² in Monassao, Nguengueli, Babongo and Mossapoula villages. A social agreement will be signed with the beneficiaries in order to perpetuate action of supplying local markets with fish, as a substitute for bushmeat.



The new fish farm activity © Christian Bassoum



More than 20.000 manioc stems were distributed ©Luis Arranz



The Ndima-Kali association embarked on activities aimed at enhancing the cultural heritage of indigenous Ba'Aka people in DSPA and its surroundings. This month, 121 people from 4 villages were actively involved. The identification and inventory of the different types of music and traditional dances and BaAka artists constituted the key elements of this program.

© Christian Bassoum

Cecile AYA, a Ba'Aka student sponsored by WWF, successfully passed her second-year exams in the first-degree program in Public Law within the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences of the University of Bangui, Central African Republic.

In an effort to continue supporting the health and safety of local populations within DSPA, an additional 2,100 face masks were made on site.

To fight against the spread of diarrheal diseases in the DSPA and its surroundings, an awareness program for local communities is being designed. Data on the use of latrines in households are being collected to constitute a baseline database.



© Christian Bassoum

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients September 2020

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	16
Monasao Health Post	206
Belemboke Health Post	231
Bayanga	352
Total	805



Aires Protégées



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Park Administration

This month we have lost two of our collaborators, Joachim TAGBOKOKAMA, Ranger, and Benjamin BAMBANGO, Ba'Aka tracker for the Primate Habituation Programme. Both started to work in DSPA in 2005

The guest house at the DSPA HQ has been completely renovated.



©Luis Arranz

We have installed a new weather station in Bayanga



© Luis Arranz



Tourism and Marketing

Michael Nick Nichols, National Geographic photographer for 40 years has published a book with what he initially considers the best photos of his career. Having been to, and photographed practically the whole World, we see that there are several of DS which he considers as one of the places that cannot be missed

<https://www.booksforfriends.photo/wild-michael-nichols>



A signed copy of the book WILD by photographer Michael Nichols.



Arrivals and departures



© Luis Arranz

Serge Shabani Lusamaki joined Bayanga staff as head of the finance team. He previously worked on various EU funded projects which will help us improve the quality of our work. Although he has been with us since the beginning of April, he has not been able to join us until now



© Christian Bassoum

Emmanuel GBAGALAMA and Michael BOUNGALO, team leaders for the wildlife inventory left after completing the field missions.