



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year 2021*

© Miguel Bellosta

Newsletter November 2020



sacharuna



Wildlife

This year the seasons have been very unusual. We normally expect rainfall to reduce from mid-November, until the dry season begins at the end of the month. Tourists and film crews planning trips to DSPA require precise climate information to plan their trips. However, this year, we could specify the exact time as after three months of continuous daily rainfall, it suddenly stopped raining on November 8 at 06:37 and since then no drop of rain has been observed

After the analyses of data from 355 great ape nests, 195 elephant dung piles and 217 ungulate dung piles collected during the nine-month degradation study we estimated the decay time for the different indices in DSPA as follows: 77.84 days for elephant dung, 85.94 days for gorilla nests, 285.15 days for chimpanzee nests, 22.93 days for small ungulates and 22.36 days for medium-sized ungulates. This information will be used to estimate wildlife population densities from indices collected on line transects in DSPA this year.

During the month we observed two of the habituated gorillas coughing, but after a special follow-up soon these symptoms disappeared completely.

Epolo, the newborn gorilla in the Makumba group is already one month old thereby bypassing a critical period for its life.



Epolo, learning from mom how hard is the life of a gorilla in DSPA @Janika Wendefeuer



Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



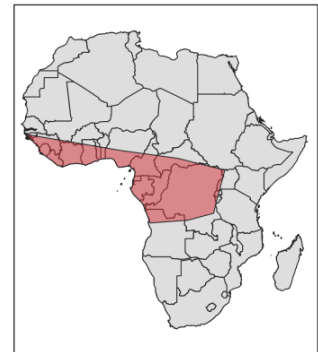
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Scientific name: Pteronetta hartlaubii

English name: Hartlaub's duck

Taxonomy:

- Class Birds
- Order anseriforme
- Family anatidae
- Genus Pteronetta



The hartlaub's duck is a large duck with a black bill, reddish brown eyes, and dark yellow-brown legs. The head and upper neck are black with variable white on forehead. It's approximately 56 to 58 cm (22 to 23 in.) long

Lives in Central Africa is found in forested areas, in particular in secluded marshes and pools within dense, swampy, lowland tropical evergreen forest and gallery forest. It is actually the only true forest duck but requires areas of open water such as large rivers or lakes on which to molt

This species generally feeds nocturnally, its diet consisting of aquatic invertebrates (insects, arachnids, crustaceans and mollusks), seeds, and roots.

In DSPA can be observe easily in Dzanga bai.

Anti-poaching

Thanks to information received, the guards arrested an individual who arrived from Congo with almost a thousand munitions to sell within DSPA.



Almost 1.000 illegal cartridges were confiscated this month © Jonathan Apila

For the rest, despite the fact that November is usually a challenging month for the LE team as illegal activities rise due to the proximity of the celebration of December 1st (national day) and Christmas and the need to earn money from hunting, this year has been quiet. We have not found any elephant carcasses either.

Main DSPA Patrols data:

34 regular patrols and 3 BLAB patrols. In total 1.389 rangers/days, 1.690 km traveled on foot and covering an area of 1.756 km². No one bi or tri national patrol because the COVID 19. This resulted in the seizure of 9 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 1 homemade 12-gauge shotguns, 979 12 gauge cartridges. In addition, 4.084 metal snares were dismantled and 215 kilograms of meat and 2 kilograms of pangolin scales were confiscated and
No elephant carcasses were found
9 small scale poachers were caught, sensitized and liberated.

Community Development

At the beginning of the year we had started to open the piece of land designated by the council for the construction of a new soccer stadium in Bayanga. Unfortunately, these works were interrupted in March due to COVID 19 restrictions, only to be restarted when the rains stop.

This month we relaunched the works but faced the challenge that the land had been transformed into manioc farms by its former owners. After consultations between the council and these former land owners the problem was resolved and construction works could continue



Manioc crops in the future DSPA Arena © Luis Arranz



At last, we have been able to start the construction of the football field ©Luis Arranz



After the rainy season that has just ended, the main road to Bangui was in very bad state making access to Bayanga very difficult. After several meetings with the representatives of the different villages along that road, we reached an agreement to join resources to repair the roads. It was agreed that the villages provide the labor while we provide the material/ equipment for road works as well as community meals for the teams.



Repairing the road ©Luis Arranz



The new Sangha-Mbaere Highway © Luis Arranz

To contribute to the sanitation of Bayanga we continue distributing equipment. This month we donated garbage bins, shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows to the Assabissé district



The sanitation remains a big problem in the region © Franck Mavinga

We launched a new agricultural program to fight against youth malnutrition, one of the causes of infant mortality in the Ba'Aka environment, starting with women from Yandoumbe village.



© Franck Mavinga

November has been another month with no Covid 19 cases in DSPA

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	33
Monasao Health Post	211
Belemboke Health Post	345
Bayanga health post	49
Mobile clinic	357
Total	995



Park Administration

Last year allegations against WWF in general and RCA in particular had appeared in the press. WWF International commissioned an investigation by an independent panel whose report was released this month. This is the official statement from WWF.

On Tuesday 24 November, WWF published the report of the [Independent Review](#) panel we commissioned to assess how we embed human rights in nature conservation across all our work, including with regard to our support toward law enforcement programs in six countries including CAR. Reported abuses committed by some government rangers are horrific and go against all the values we stand for. We feel deep and unreserved sorrow for those who have suffered

A tough and unbiased evaluation of our efforts, the Independent Review recognized steps our teams have taken to support communities in the places it reviewed but also identified important areas of improvement. In particular, the panel led by Judge Navi Pillay, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, called for stronger systems to implement our policies more consistently across all our work, stronger channels for listening and responding to communities, and more consistent advocacy for governments to uphold their human rights obligations.

We embrace the Panel's recommendations and we are addressing all of them.

Since we commissioned the report 19 months ago, and based on our own internal examination, we have already made changes and taken action. We have improved the ways communities can raise their concerns, changed our systems to centrally screen and approve high-risk projects, and we are prepared to suspend support to projects if our commitments to human rights cannot be met. In particular, the Human Rights Centre in Bayanga, which the Panel praised as a best practice, is WWF's model for integrated grievance mechanisms in complex landscapes. The report states: "The Panel views WWF's support for and cooperation with the independent HRC as a positive development, both in terms of providing a mechanism to respond to grievances involving the DSPA, and more generally in generating awareness of human rights, access to justice and civic empowerment of the members of marginalized communities living in and close to the DSPA." We will continue to support the viability of the center as an independent entity.

You can find [the Independent Review and our response on our website panda.org](#) and we remain available for any additional questions you may have. For decades, WWF has partnered with communities worldwide to achieve both conservation and development gains. As we continue to make improvements to deliver greater impact - for the communities with whom we work and for the natural systems upon which we all depend - we look forward to our dialogue and collaboration with you.

LATEST WWF INDEPENDENT REVIEW FR ES



Last year, WWF commissioned an independent panel of experts to review how we were responding to reports of human rights abuses by some government rangers in complex and remote landscapes in Central Africa, India, and Nepal. 'Embedding Human Rights in Nature Conservation - from Intent to Action' is the resulting report. We wanted a tough and unbiased evaluation of our efforts in order to continue to learn and improve our programs.

Downloads



[Download WWF Statement: Embedding Human Rights in Conservation \(PDF\)](#)

At last the tractor accessories (trailer, loader and grader) have arrived DSPA and we can now begin to repair the roads in the Park



Since now everything will be easier © Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz

The wooden bridge on the road leading to Dzanga bai already degrading for a while now became impassable and we decided to construct a new one with cement and iron rails to ensure durability and long-term use.



The old bridge.... © Luis Arranz



...and the future new one © Luis Arranz

Both the director and the deputy director of the Park have attended the 26th meeting of the FTNS Board in Douala (Cameroon), during which the budget presented was approved. In response to the lack of tourism (resulting from COVID 19 restrictions and therefore the closure of the park) which usually plays an important role in Park management and community commitments, the FTNS has slightly increased its contribution to help us partially alleviate this fact.

Apart from this, the KFW granted us new funds to promote and scale up ongoing one health activities in DSPA. Part of the funds will be used for the construction of a new laboratory.



Participants to the FTNS board meeting in Douala © FTNS



Tourism and Marketing

The photo of David Santiago that had served as the cover of the October newsletter has been awarded the AEFONA (Spanish Association of Nature Photographers) award, one of the most prestigious in Spain.

<https://www.facebook.com/aeфона/posts/5044512048894105>



An article about DSPA was published by one tourist who visited us last year

<https://www.littleresthill.com/gorillas-and-elephants/>



AFRICA

GORILLAS AND ELEPHANTS

· A Few Day in a C.A.R. Iconic Park ·



SEP, 20, 2020



COMMENTS OFF

Central African Republic (CAR): In 2012/2013, this medium-sized country in the middle of the continent erupted into an all-out civil war. Ever since then, the CAR has been facing an enormous challenge trying to maintain a minimum of security within its borders. Rather surrealistically, it is here that you will find one of the most iconic national parks in the whole of central Africa: the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park (DNNP).

JSERPA



Arrivals and departures



Viviane Njoya, an IT expert working for WWF Cameroon, came to update all our IT equipment.

The expert verifying the Dzanga Sangha IT equipment © Luis Arranz