



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



© David Santiago

Newsletter August 2021



Wildlife

Tembo, the blackback of the Makumba gorilla group in Bai Hokou has started spending more time away from the group. This month he was absent from the group for a week but came back. He is almost 14 years old and our experience with three other blackbacks show that he has reached the time to leave the group. Tembo, born in December 2007 was the first western lowland birth to be observed in the wild. He was born in the presence of tourists and the tracking team has observed him grow from an infant to a sub-adult.



Tembo @Nuria Ortega

Three members of the Elephant Listening Project team from Nouabalé Ndoki National Park in Congo visited DSPA to train our team on the installation and maintenance of acoustic recorders. The Dzanga Elephant Project team at Dzanga bai participated in the training together with our ecological monitoring team and some ecoguards. A total of 12 people were trained.



The elephant Listening Project team @Christian Bassoum



Installing the equipment @ Christian Bassoum



We officially launched a project titled “Community-based reforestation of degraded areas of the Bayanga agriculture zone in DSPA”. This project which started in May 2021 and aims to restore 40 Ha of degraded lands will be headed by the local NGO Maison de l’Enfant et de la femme Pygmée (MEFP). This month MEFP mobilized 12 community members (divided into four teams, each headed by a woman) to complete the work on the community tree nursery that will produce at least 20,000 seedlings of important plant species which are multi-use and fast growing as well as have the capacity to contribute to the restoration of soil fertility

We provided the material necessary for the maintenance of the tree nursery.






Working on the tree nursery @ Christian Bassoum



@ Christian Bassoum

We also used a community approach to maintain the old 20 Ha reforestation plot. The Bayanga youths association mobilized 100 youths to do the job

Dzanga bai data: based on the number counted every 30 minutes between 12:00 to 16:30 each day of the month.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	0	30	74
	0	0	1
	0	7	10

Note that there were 2 instances with zero elephant in the bai; first during the autopsy of an elephant carcass and the second when there was a loud thunder during a storm that caused elephants to take refuge in the forest.

The Institute of Vertebrate Biology from the Czech Academy of Sciences published an interesting article on parasites in habituated lowland gorillas titled “Fecal glucocorticoids and gastrointestinal parasite infections in wild western lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) involved in ecotourism”

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016648021001520?dgcid=author>

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© Miguel Bellosta

Scientific name: *Zapornia flavirostra*

English name: Black crane

Taxonomy:

- Class : birds
- Order : gruiformes
- Family : rallidae
- Genus : zapornia
- Specie : Z. flavirostra



The black crane (*Zapornia flavirostra*) is a waterbird. It breeds in most of sub-Saharan Africa except in very arid areas.

The adult black crane is 19–23 cm long with a short tail and long toes. As its name implies, the adult has mainly black plumage, with a brown olive tone on the wings and upperparts which is rarely detectable in the field. The eye is red, the bill is yellow and the legs and feet are red, duller when not breeding. The sexes are similar, but the male is slightly larger.

The habitat is freshwater marshes of all types, as long as there is some vegetation to provide cover.

The black crane is extremely aggressive when breeding and will attack birds of many species, but especially other rails

The black crane is diurnal, and eats a wide range of invertebrates, small fish, frogs and seeds.

Anti-poaching

The veterinary team carried out necropsies on two elephant carcasses observed by ecoguards in the Dzanga bai area. The first elephant who had many bruises from fighting was also victim of poaching. There was a bullet hole on the head but the tusks were still intact showing that it ran from its aggressors many kilometers away to finally die in Dzanga bai.

The second elephant was victim of aggression as it was full of bruises. Interestingly this elephant had tusks weighing 49kg



A big bull, possibly killed by another bull @ Christian Bassoum

37 regular patrols and 4 binational patrols with the rangers of NNNP. In total 1,416 rangers-days, 1,724 km traveled on foot covering an area of 1,380 km². This resulted in the seizure of 9 manufactured 2-gauge shotguns and 30 gauge cartridges. In addition, 3,700 metal snares were dismantled and 105 kgs of bush meat and 1.5 kgs of pangolin scales were confiscated.

20 poachers were arrested, sensitized and released. 7 poachers are currently awaiting trial.

4 elephant tusks were recovered from two elephant carcasses found in the Park. One was poached and the other from natural causes

Community Development

On the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, August 9, this year, we organized activities to commemorate the day in Monassao, some 50 kilometers from Bayanga.



The Nguengui (spirit of the forest) also participated at the Indigenous people day @ Christian Bassoum

We projected documentary films during awareness campaigns in the villages within DSPA



Summer cinema in DSPA © Christian Bassoum



© Christian Bassoum



The Ndima-Kali Association continued to organize training camps for young indigenous people. This month they focused on net hunting and tree climbing techniques using ropes for picking of caterpillars and wild fruits as well as collecting honey.



Teaching children to collect honey on the trees @ Christian Bassoum



Girls with traditional dance outfits @ Christian Bassoum

Water remains a priority for indigenous peoples and all communities. This month we carried out a mission to identify water sources within DSPA with the aim to seek efficient means to provide communities with drinking water, because water is life



Following the mobilization of 273 representatives of the Union of Ba'Aka Communities (UCB) in July, this month we helped organize the first general assembly where a new group of leaders of the union was voted and put in office. We will work closely with the newly installed office to improve collaboration with the Ba'Aka communities and to ensure their effective participation in the management of DSPA.



Participants to the General Assembly of the UCB @Christian Bassoum

Eric Essomba, the regional head of Environmental and Social Safeguards for Africa at WWF International visited Dzanga Sangha. During his visit he met with key stakeholders involved in the functioning of the complaint mechanism in Dzanga Sanga. He also did an analysis of the HRC complaints database so as to better inform the upcoming development of the safeguard mitigation framework for the landscape.

We carried out 47 covid-19 tests this month and the results of all tests were negative.

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	27
Monasao Health Post	412
Belemboke Health Post	459
Mobile clinic	
Total	898

Park Administration

The Ambassador of the European Union, the Ambassador of the United States of America and the Representative of the UNDP based in Bangui visited Dzanga Sangha accompanied by their respective delegations.

In addition to visiting the Park, we discussed about the work we do, and the challenges we face. They also held meetings with the newly installed UCB management



Samuela Isopi, (EU), Lucy Tamlyn (USA) and Nathalie Boucly (UNDP) in DSPA @ Luis Arranz

The African Forest Elephant Foundation, <https://forestelephants.org/> a South African NGO that has provided support to us in other occasions, recently donated two cars to support our LE efforts.



One of the cars provided by the African Forest Elephant Foundation @ Christian Bassoum

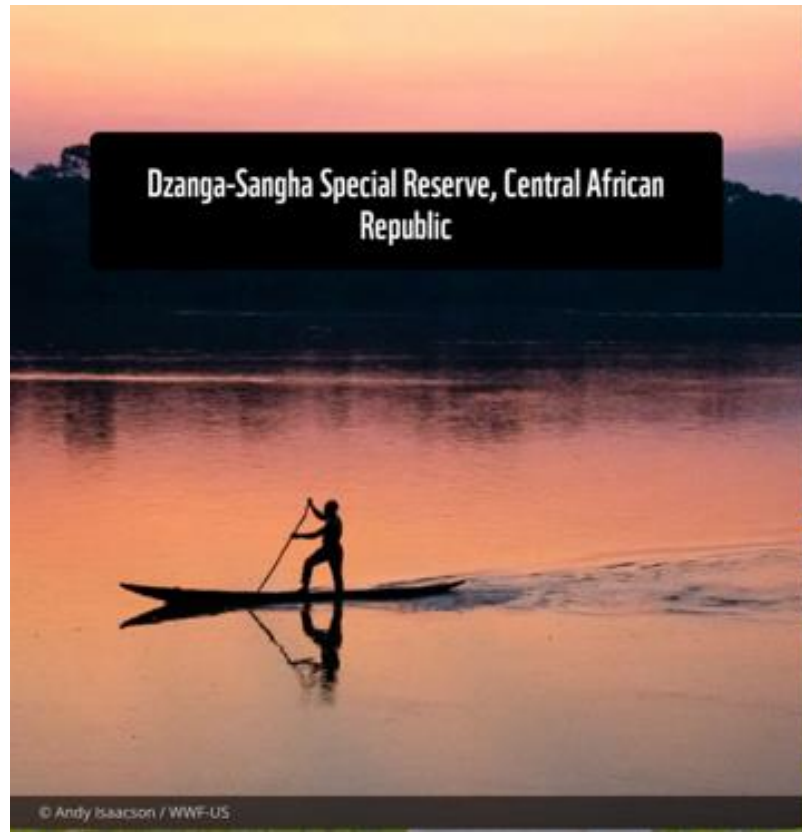
A consultant sent by the EU was in DSPA to analyze the impact of multi-donor interventions in the TNS, specifically the case of Dzanga-Sangha and Nouabale-Ndoki National Park.



Tourism and Marketing

On the occasion of the World Day of Indigenous Peoples, WWF published an article in which DSPA is represented

<https://explore.panda.org/celebrating-indigenous-peoples-and-their-territories-of-life>



On the other hand, the 12th of August was the World Elephant Day. The best way to celebrate this day in DSPA is to continue to protect them.



World elephant day @Nuria Ortega



David Santiago has been the overall winner of the Asferisco photocontest 2021 and winner in the category of mammals, both awards were obtained with the photo of an elephant and its calf taken in the Dzanga Bai. Last month, he received the award in Italy.

<https://lnx.asferico.com/concorso/2021-risultati/>



David Santiago in Italy receiving the award @ Ana Vara



The winner photo @ David Santiago

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Arrivals and departures



Eric Essomba, Regional Head of Environmental and Social Safeguards for Africa at WWF International.

© Christian Bassoum



Phael MALONGA, BAMBI Frelcia and Onesi SAMBA; Research Assistants of ELP Noabalé Ndoki, Congo

© Christian Bassoum



Jerome Laporte from AGRECO, has come to analyze the impact of multi-donor interventions in the area

© Luis Arranz



@ Nuria Ortega

Eléazar Jocelyn Gbintekara Ngaisse, student at Senghor University in Alexandria (Egypt) with a specialization in Management of Protected Areas and Biodiversity completed 5 months of internship in DSPA. He worked with the ecological monitoring team and helped set up the database for the monitoring of forest clearings using CAMELOT software.