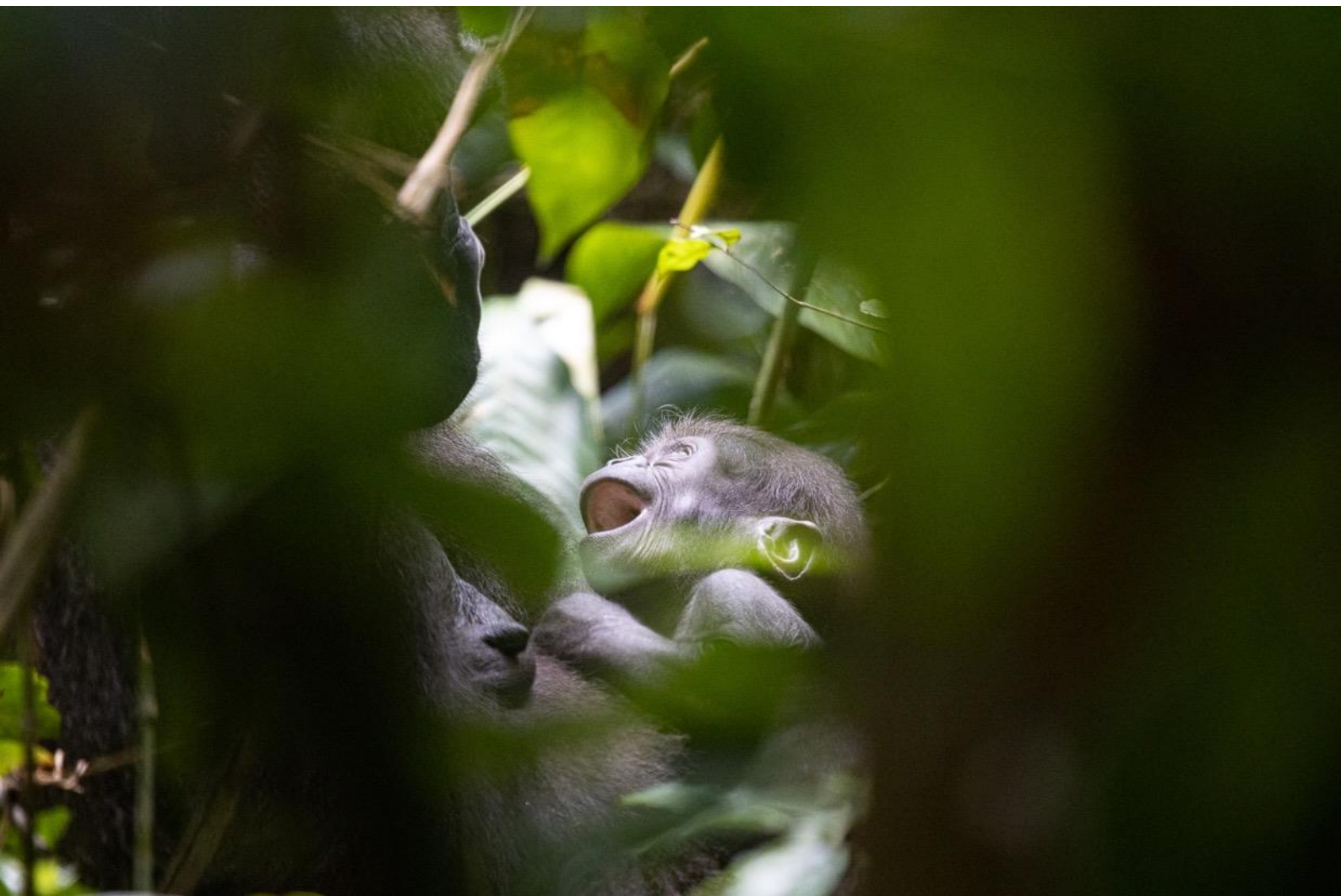




Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



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Newsletter September 2021



Wildlife

This month we had another new born gorilla. The Mayélé group welcomed a new family member who was named "Bokonya" in Ba'Aka language in reference to the fruit tree *Manilkara Letouzeyi* under which he was first observed in the arms of the female Duma. Born on the 6th of September, Bokonya comes almost 5 years after its older sibling Kenga.



Bakonya, three weeks old, the new DSPA staff @Nuria Ortega

Tembo, the blackback of the Makumba gorilla group in Bai Hokou that we reported to be spending considerable time away from the group was absent from the group for over 3 weeks this month. As he is almost a young silverback, we expect him to completely emigrate from the group any time, though our experience with other blackbacks show he could return sometimes to visit.

Wiya, a 10-year old female from the Mayele group also left the group since July. At the age of 10, young females are expected to leave their natal group and join another male to start their own family.

After spending more than 4 months on the border with NNNP in Congo, the Mata group returned to the surroundings of the Bai Hokou camp towards the end of September. Their return seemed to have been caused by serious inter-group interactions in their former haven. Interestingly, the Makumba group that had also been ranging far from Bai Hokou camp returned around the same time and both groups interacted with each other very close to the camp on September 27.






We are in the middle of the rainy season; the Sangha River has overflowed its banks like every year. Also, like every year, transportation from Bangui to Bayanga is very challenging due to the poor state of the roads.



Doli, a Lodge over calm waters ©Matt Heaven

Dzanga bai data: based on the number counted every 30 minutes between 11:00 to 16:30 each day of the month.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	5	62	143
	0	0	19
	0	8	10

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© Nuria Ortega

Scientific name: *Ceryle rudis*

English name: Pies kingfisher

Taxonomy:

- Class : birds
- Order : coraciiformes
- Family : alcedinidae
- Genus : ceryle
- Specie : c. rudis



The pied kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) is a species of water kingfisher widely distributed in sub-Saharan Africa. Its black and white plumage and crest, is typical. They are usually found in pairs or small family groups hovering over clear lakes and rivers before diving for fish. When perched, they often bob their head and flick up their tail.

This is a medium-sized kingfisher, about 25 cm (9.8 in) long

It is resident and do not migrate, other than short-distance seasonal movements

This kingfisher feeds mainly on fish, although it will take crustaceans and large aquatic insects

Its nest is a hole excavated in a vertical mud bank about five feet above water. The nest tunnel is four to five feet deep and ends in a chamber. Several birds may nest in the same vicinity.

Anti-poaching

Two Chengeta trainers have returned to continue the 5th wave of “Anti-poaching Level 2” training. A group of 30 rangers are participating in this training at the Kongana training center.

This month we found another elephant carcass killed by poachers. It's the third consecutive month we have lost an elephant and we are trying to understand what is happening.



An elephant poached @ Aaron Porter

We carried out 39 regular patrols and one binational patrol with the rangers of NNNP. In total 1,448 rangers-days, 1,631 km traveled on foot covering an area of 1,692 km². This resulted in the seizure of 9 manufactured 4-gauge shotguns and 56 gauge cartridges. In addition, 2,774 metal snares were dismantled and 82kg of bush meat and 1.5 kg of pangolin scales were confiscated. 6 poachers were arrested, sensitized and released. 7 suspected poachers were judged and sentenced to prison during a court session organized in Bayanga from September 16th to 19th, 2021. 2 elephant carcasses found in the Park. One of them resulting from poaching.

Community Development

Two of the Ba'Aka students supported by the DSPA school homes sat for the junior school certificate (known in French as Brevet de College, BC) exam this month. The female candidate succeeded in the exam and will thus move forward to high school meanwhile the male candidate unfortunately failed and will try again next year. The general exam results at the end of the year in the two homes were satisfactory, with 5 out of 11 boys and one out of two girls succeeding to move to the next class.



©Christian Bassoum

In order to improve the quality of education in DSPA, which constitutes one of the major concerns of the community conservation policy, we met with the Education Inspector in Nola to launch the recruitment process for 'parent-teachers' who will be supported by DSPA during the 2021-2022 academic year.



Ready for a cinema afternoon ©Christian Bassoum

On the request of the Evangelical Baptist Youths (JEB) which is a movement of the Evangelical Baptist Church (EEB), awareness sessions were organized and conservation themed films projected during their youth camp held in Ngola, a village located in the Commune of Salo, to raise awareness on conservation issues.



We had supported certain village groups, farmers' organizations and individual beneficiaries by providing them with seeds and technical support during the cultivation period. At harvest time, this support work continued in some of the beneficiary's plots, including those of some Ba'Aka women. The yield this year was satisfactory



Harvesting the peanuts crop © Christian Bassoum

During the month of September, the Ndima-Kali youth group organized two summer camp activities aimed at bringing children during their vacation to the forest to teach them aspects of their tradition and culture (making works of art, hunting, fishing, dancing, collecting honey, learning about medicinal plants. etc.) by the support of certain experienced elders and guides. In total, 91 boys and 92 girls participated in these camps.

We carried out 37 covid-19 tests this month and the results of all tests were negative

This month, the second dose of Astra Zeneca vaccine was deployed in Bayanga for those who had received the first dose together with a wave of Johnson-Johnson for others who haven't received any vaccine. Most of the DSPA staff including the Ba'Aka trackers of the PHP got vaccinated.

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	21
Monasao Health Post	399
Belemboke Health Post	376
Mobile clinic	
Total	796

Park Administration

It is September again, the beginning of the period when the elephants spend a lot of time with us in our headquarters.



Who is observing who? © Nuria Ortega

Construction works have started on the new PAPA building which will house the offices of the Ndima-Kali Association and the Union of Ba'Aka Community (UCB) as well as a multi-purpose hall. Among the workers, we note the consideration of gender through the involvement of women including six who work for the contracting company as part of this construction.



Women at work © Nuria Ortega

A delegation from USAID visited DSPA and the surrounding community to monitor USAID joint investments in conservation, peacebuilding, and legal artisanal mining and consider prospects for new programs.

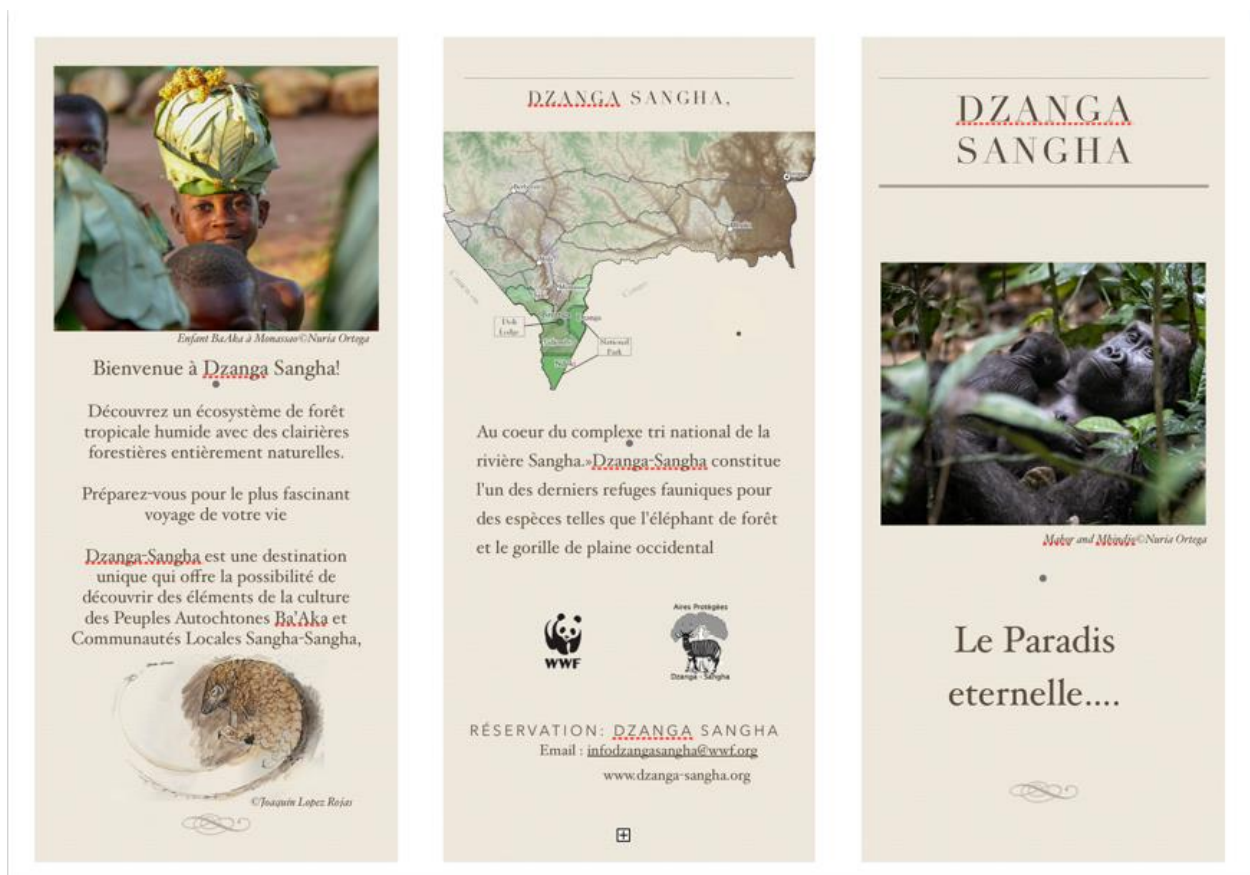


Tourism and Marketing

We made a short video to showcase all about Dzanga Sangha and the reality of what visitors could expect when they visit
<https://dzanga-sangha.org/visit-dzanga-sangha/> <https://youtu.be/RRO4rU2WrVU>



After being closed for almost two years, we have decided to reopen the Park to tourism from this month, with a series of conditions that visitors will need to fulfil before their arrival and during their stay. We have made some triptychs that will be distributed mainly in Bangui to develop the local tourism.



Based on the guide “Birds of Africa - South of the Sahara” from Ian Sinclair and Peter Ryan, we have made a compilation of those that can be found in DS to facilitate their identification to visitors.



On the occasion of World Gorilla Day 2021, WWF published a blog titled “Stepping up measures to protect gorillas from Covid-19 and people from future pandemics” authored by Terence Fuh Neba, the DSPA Head of Primate Habituation, Research and Monitoring. <https://wwf.medium.com/stepping-up-measures-to-protect-gorillas-from-covid-19-and-people-from-future-pandemics-fc53fcff8cc>

Stepping up measures to protect gorillas from Covid-19 and people from future pandemics



WWF Sep 24 · 6 min read

By Terence Fuh Neba, Head of Research and Monitoring and Manager of the WWF Primate Habituation Program in Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas, Central African Republic



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Arrivals and departures

Not arrivals or departures this month