



# Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

[www.dzanga-sangha.org](http://www.dzanga-sangha.org)



© Francisco Marquez

## Newsletter October 2021







## Wildlife

On October 23, we celebrated the anniversary of Epolo, the youngest member of the Makumba gorilla group born in 2020 by the female Malui. Though it is difficult to determine the sex of young gorillas we believe Epolo is male, same as its older siblings, the twins, Inguka and Inganda.



*Epolo, one year old @ Nuria Ortega*

The return of the Mata group to the vicinity of the Bai-Hokou camp was short-lived. Indeed, at the beginning of the month the group traveled more than 8 km to return to the border with the Nouabalé Ndoki National Park in Congo where it remained the entire month.

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A respiratory outbreak was reported in the Makumba gorilla groups this month and the emergency protocol was immediately implemented. We sampled and tested all gorilla tracking staff for germs causing zoonotic respiratory pathologies specifically COVID 19, Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). All tested negative. We also sampled and tested fecal samples from the gorillas and some individuals tested positive for human Metapneumovirus.

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Long-term DSPA researcher, Shelly Masi from the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, visited DSPA this month to support her student carrying out research on western gorilla feeding strategies, communication and spatial coordination

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Two members of the Dzanga Elephant Project in DSPA visited Mbeli bai in Noabalé Ndoki NP to receive training on the identification of elephants from the WCS Congo team. On the way back the WCS team accompanied the DSPA team to follow up the application of the acquired skills in Dzanga bai

WCS and WWF elephant monitoring teams in Bayanga @ Luis Arranz



Dzanga bai in a normal day @ Nuria Ortega

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

Species	Minimum	Average	Maximum
	17	63	122
	0	0	7
	0	8	12



## Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



**Scientific name:** *Cephalophus silvicultor*

**English name:** Yellow-backed duiker

**Taxonomy:**

- Class : mammalia
- Order : artiodactyla
- Family : bovidae
- Genus : cephalophus
- Specie : c. silvicultor



The Yellow-backed duikers is a forest antelope and the most widely distributed of all duikers. It gets their name from the characteristic patch of yellow hairs on their rump, which stand when the duiker is alarmed or feels threatened. Yellow-backed duiker females often grow to be slightly larger than males. Coloration is very similar between sexes and very little sexual dimorphism exists.

Yellow-backed duikers are mainly forest dwelling and live in semi-deciduous forests, rain forests, riparian forests, and montane forests.

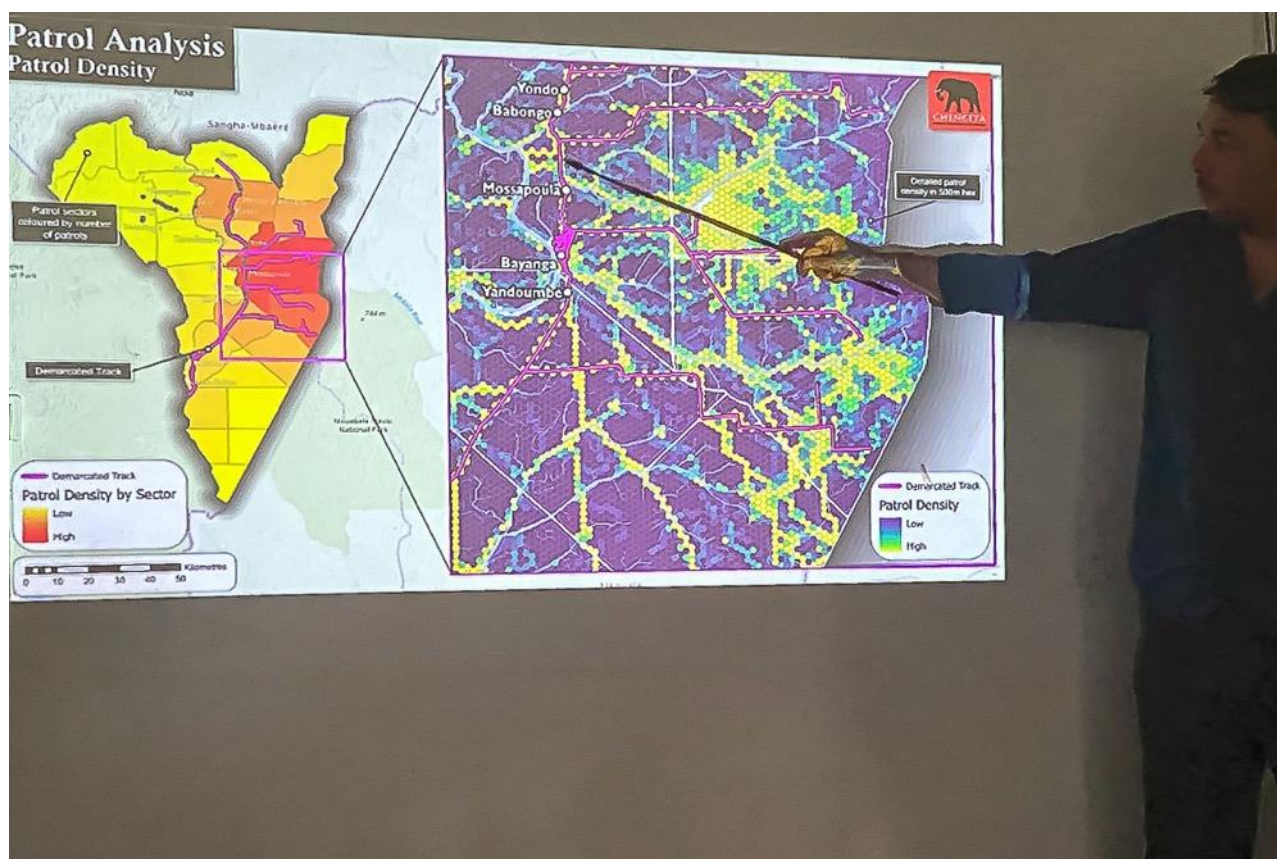
Yellow-backed duikers are active at all times of the day and night. They live mainly solitarily or in couples, rarely in even small herds.

These forest dwelling antelope feed selectively on plants or plant parts such as shoots, roots, leaves, and buds, but their diet is mainly made up of fruits, and it is one of the few antelopes that can eat meat. Occasionally, these forest antelopes kill and eat small animals, such as birds.

## Anti-poaching

The last wave of training for the rangers was carried out during the month. Now, all the rangers in DS have already received “Anti-poaching Level 2” training from Chengeta wildlife trainers.

The new Chengeta Wildlife CEO together with some members of his team visited DSPA to discuss work strategies and the priorities in DS for the next years. They also used the opportunity to present to us some results derived from the analyses of DSPA patrol, bio-monitoring and socio-economic data from the last years. The results show that we are working well and patrols cover mainly areas with big fauna, especially elephants. It was recommended to extend the patrols to other zones. This would however require that we increase the number of rangers.



*Presentation of the analytics results @ Aaron Porter*

We carried out 38 regular patrols and one tri-national patrol with the rangers of NNNP. In total 1,323 rangers-days, 1,457 km traveled on foot covering an area of 1,712 km<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the seizure of 45 manufactured 4-gauge shotguns and 08-gauge cartridges. In addition, 3,879 metal snares were dismantled and 74kg of bush meat and 1 kg of pangolin scales were confiscated.

6 poachers were arrested, sensitized and released.

1 suspected poacher was arrested and heard on record

No elephant carcasses was found in the Park.



## Community Development

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Educational materials were purchased for distribution to Ba'Aka children in an effort to encourage Ba'Aka students, especially those of school age to register for the 2021-2022 academic year.

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In an effort to promote basic education through the revitalization of the school system, 38 teachers who were newly recruited based on the criteria of skills and aptitude for basic education were trained on pedagogic modules.



*Learning to write @ Nuria Ortega*

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The Ndimba Kali Association continued its Ba'Aka youth training program. This month in the town of Kanza, youths received practical training on the construction of traditional huts and climbing of trees to collect honey.



*But also learning how to climb a tree @ Francisco Marquez*

52 fish farmers from Beya, Ngola, Salo 1 and Salo 2 villages situated in the periphery of DSPA were trained in rural fish farming techniques, including the use of cow dung manure to fertilize fishponds.

In the context of the Project for the Support of Indigenous People (known as PAPA), 48 community representatives (women and men) have been identified in 25 villages grouped into 3 communes (Salo, Nola and Yobe-Sangha) to be at the heart of the support system by being the elected community representative to proactively assist and guide the implementation of the activities planned in the support system at the level of their respective villages / communities. This will ensure that the concerns of local and indigenous communities are taken into consideration in decision making likely to affect their lives

83 beneficiaries including 76 Ba'Aka and 6 Bantu people from 7 villages with the DSPA and its surrounding received 864 cassava cuttings for planting, a way for the DSPA to encourage agricultural production in indigenous communities



*Cassava (manioc) ready to be planted @ Martial Betoulet*

One positive covid-19 case was detected this month out of the 80 tests carried out. The individual who also happens to be vaccinated did not show any serious symptoms.

#### **Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients**

<b>Structure</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
Lindjombo Health Post	
Monasao Health Post	357
Belemboke Health Post	705
Mobile clinic	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.062</b>



## Park Administration

A team of solar experts was in DSPA for the maintenance and replacement of some equipment of the second power plant at DSPA HQ in Bayanga, as well as to install a solar power system at the Dzanga bai camp and update solar equipment at the Bai Hokou and Mogambe camps.



*The second solar plant is already functional © Matt Heaven*



*New equipment and batteries © Nuria Ortega*





In addition, they began the installations of two more solar plants: One will illuminate the future Bayanga stadium and the other at the Belemboke hospital.



*The solar installation for the stadium @ Nuria Ortega*

The EU has approved our request for a 6-month no-cost extension of our project agreement that should have ended in December 2021. Due to COVID 19, we had to stop or delay many planned activities and now have until June 2022 to implement all project activities.

For various reasons, no planes were available this month and we had to travel by road between Bangui and Bayanga. Being in the raining season, it was very challenging given that the roads are in terrible conditions



*Traveling to Bangui by road is a challenge @ Luis Arranz*





## Tourism and Marketing

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After being closed for almost two years, we have reopened the Park and already received the first tourists



*We were ready to receive tourists @ Francisco Marquez*



*And they arrived. First post-Covid tourist in DSPA @Nuria Ortega*





Once again, a photo taken in DSPA, this time of Malui, has won an important Nature Photo Contest  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-58720336>

## The Nature Conservancy announces 2021 photo contest winners

🕒 1 October



Anup Shah has been announced as the winner of the Nature Conservancy 2021 Photo Contest, for his image of a western lowland gorilla walking through a cloud of butterflies in the Central African Republic.



ANUP SHAH/TNC PHOTO CONTEST 2021

The photographer's winning image, entitled Malui, was chosen from more than 100,000 entrants from 158 countries.

An article about Dzanga Sangha was published in Travel Africa magazine  
<https://travelafricamag.com/preserving-dzanga-sangha>



*In issue 94 of Travel Africa we visited the Congo Basin, with Heather Richardson going to both Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo and the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Area in the Central African Republic. Readers will have got a*





## Arrivals and departures



© Nuria Ortega

Greg Murphy, new CEO, Matt Heaven (analytical) and Alex Davidson (medical), from Chengeta Wildlife, have come to know DSPA and discuss the future collaboration with us



© Nuria Ortega

Jean Philippe Denruyter, Koulouchoumi Alim and Felix Safouet, came again to continue working on our solar program



© Nuria Ortega

Shelly Masi from the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, came to continue her research about gorillas





© Luis Arranz

Serge Shabani Lusamaki, who worked as head of the finance team for one year, has left Bayanga definitively for personal reasons as he wanted to live closer of his family. During his time with us, did a good work and we'll miss him. Good luck.



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John Hugues has carried out this month the audit of the PAPA project (EU)

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