



# Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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## Newsletter November 2021





## Wildlife

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The dry season has definitely set in, and it will now be easier to work, and especially move.



*Elephants at the bai © David Santiago*

This month we celebrated the anniversaries of two individuals in our habituated gorilla groups; that of Kenga, a juvenile female born in 2016 in the Mayele group, and of Ngumu, a juvenile male born in 2018 in the Mata group.



*© Miguel Bellosta*

We restarted the monitoring of the habituated group of agile mangabeys in Bai Hokou that had been suspended since the month of April due to reduced personnel in the camps in line with covid-19 restrictions. The group also received its first tourists since the reopening of the Park. It should be noted that there are over 300 individuals in this habituated mangabey group.



Frederic Singa, our Wildlife Veterinary Officer who is heading the 'One health' program is currently at the Lwiro Primate Rehabilitation Center in DRC where he is receiving training through the center's Capacity-Building Program for African Vets. The cost of his training is covered through the Wildlife Conservation Network Veterinary Scholarship that he received thanks to his dedication and demonstrated exceptional promise for lifelong commitment as wildlife veterinarian and conservationist.




He will be absent from site for three months now and another three next year, but thanks to our collaboration with the Robert Koch Institute of Berlin, the 'One health' program will continue to function smoothly with the help of its two PhD candidates onsite.



*Thanks to the Robert Koch Institute, the work at the lab doesn't stop © Nuria Ortega*

In the data on the presence of elephants in the Bai, we observe that the maximum number this month is quite close to the absolute record, which is 177

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
	3	77	159
	0	0	0
	2	9	12

## Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA

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<b>Scientific name:</b>	Lophocebus albigena
<b>English name:</b>	grey-cheeked mangabey
<b>Taxonomy:</b>	<div>Class : mammalia</div> <div>Order : primates</div> <div>Family : cercopithecidae</div> <div>Genus : lophocebus</div> <div>Specie : L. albigena</div>



The grey-cheeked mangabey (*Lophocebus albigena*), also known as the white-cheeked mangabey, can be found in the forests of Central Africa. It is a dark monkey, with a slightly golden mane around the neck. The sexes are similar, with the males slightly larger than the females.

The grey-cheeked mangabey lives in a variety of habitats with the forests of Central Africa, mainly in the canopy but can be on the floor collecting food. It feeds primarily on fruit but also shoots, flowers and insects.

They live in groups of between 5 and 30 individuals. Their territories cover several square kilometres and can both overlap with other troops and shift over time.



## Anti-poaching

With the training of all DSPA ecoguards completed, we have initiated the process to recruit 20 new ones.

The DS Park warden attended the TNS Park wardens meeting held in Libongo, Cameroon. This meeting that brings together all three wardens from the TNS segments; Lobeke, Nouabale Ndoki and Dzanga Sangha facilitates collaboration and information sharing between the Parks.



*Testing the equipment @ Aaron Porter*

We carried out 33 regular patrols and 2 tri-national patrol with the rangers of NNNP. In total 1,224 rangers-days, 1,594 km traveled on foot covering an area of 1,868 km<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the seizure of 13 manufactured shotguns and 64-gauge cartridges. In addition, 3,750 metal snares were dismantled and 62kg of bush meat were confiscated. Two elephant carcasses found in the Park.



## Community Development

The Ndima-kali Association organized field camps in the forest of Kundapapaye and in the village of Yobé with an effective participation of 80 individuals, half of whom were children. Activities were aimed at promoting traditional Aka music with the men focused on the manufacture of traditional drums while the women focused on costume design and braiding nets.



*Time to play drums © Nuria Ortega*



*And learn to dance © Martial Betoulet*



Following the notorious slowness that characterized the resumption of classes since the official launch of the effective start of the school year on October 18, 2021, an awareness campaign through a caravan was organized in all the villages of DSPA to mobilize all stakeholders in the education sector to become aware of the real and effective opening of classes and to encourage the students to return to school.



*Ready to start the course © Nuria Ortega*

A first mission took place in the context of APDS' pilot early warning system, an activity supported by the EU.

The objective of this system is to increase community awareness on the reality of poaching threats through an active collaboration between APDS and the local community. The intention is for this upstream anti-poaching component to be implemented, organized and managed by the communities themselves. Representatives of the DSPA Anti-poaching department, Community Development department, Administration, and partner Chengeta Wildlife conducted said sensitization mission in the villages of Lindjombo, Bomandjoku and Babongo.

As a first phase of the early warning system, community members are asked to help collect information on natural resource use in their respective villages through confined market studies, of which the results will continuously be communicated back to the community. The mission allowed to present to idea to community leaders and members of aforementioned villages, and democratically identify and elect three members per village to assist in the data collection. All villages together, 248 people participated, of which 200 Bilo (146 men and 54 women) and 48 Ba'Aka (25 men and 23 women).





We participated in a workshop in Ouessou, (Republic of Congo) organized by GIZ to strengthen the capacity of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) facilitators / catalysts within the TNS. This workshop that brought together over 50 participants, was focus on the Congolese and Central African segments of the TNS.

We also participated in another workshop organized by the Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of the Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa (known by its French acronym REPALEAC) and funded by GIZ in Douala aimed at sharing experiences of Pilot Initiatives (PI) and to strengthen the capacities of REPALEAC members on leadership and management of organizations.



*In the Baaka live, the traditional medicine is essential © David Santiago*

**Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients**

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	
Monasao Health Post	371
Belemboke Health Post	405
Mobile clinic	
Total	776



## Park Administration

We attended the 27th session of the FTNS board Meeting where we presented both the state of implementation of the 2021 work plan as well as the proposed 2022 annual budget and work plan. The proposed 2022 budget and work plan was approved.

The Board of DSPA met this month in Bayanga. The last board meeting took place in Bangui at the end of 2019 and although in principle two meetings are planned each year, it was impossible to organize them due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this meeting the board discussed the effect of the covid-19 pandemic, the current situation of DSPA and the next steps to take.

This meeting was attended personally by the Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing in his capacity as a member and current president of the DSPA Board



*The DSPA Board presided by his Excellence the Water, Forest, Hunting and Fishing Minister © Céline Dillmann*

We hosted a consultation team recruited by WWF to carry out of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and develop an Environmental and Social Mitigation Framework (ESMF) for the Lobeke (Cameroon) and Dzanga Sangha (Central African Republic) Landscapes. This is in order to align WWF's interventions within these landscape with the WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) and to ensure that any negative environmental and social risks and related impacts potentially stemming from the Project are minimized and mitigated as much as possible.

With the arrival of the dry season, we have begun the rehabilitation of the roads. Regular rehabilitation of roads every year is a much easier and cost-effective way for us to keep the roads in good condition.



## Tourism and Marketing

Despite being the worst month of the year due to the rains, we have been surprised by an outpouring of bookings, and it's only the beginning as we continue to receive bookings for the year 2022.



*UN staff mixing work and tourism in DSPA ©Nuria Ortega*



*But everybody must do the COVID test before visiting the gorillas © Nuria Ortega*

A team from Pronto Prod Production came to make a documentary mainly about the Sangha Pangolin Project but also the DSPA





## Arrivals and departures



John Nelson, Florence Lissouk, Hilaire Kuate and Doudou Kalala, members of the team who came to carryout the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

© Nuria Ortega



Allard Blom from WWF USA and member of the DSPA Board, and Celine Dillmann, from WWF DE in charge of the DSPA program, arriving to Bayanga

© Nuria Ortega



Njungkeng Fualefac has come to be the financial manager on a provisional basis





Franck Sanson and Philippe Yves Joseph Mar Gaw  
from Pronto Prod production

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