



# Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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



© David Santiago

## Newsletter March 2022





## Wildlife



The Head of Primate Habituation, Research and Monitoring has moved on from DSPA after over 11 years of service. Consequently, readjustments were made in the department to ensure continuity.

This month, a lot of mating was observed in the habituated gorilla groups. The silverback Mata was mating with the female Messupe while the silverback Makumba on his part was mating with his female Mabor. Messupe is the only female in the Mata group with no offspring. We hope to record new births by the end of this year.

The Principal Investigator of the Dzanga Forest Elephant Project from the Cornell University Elephant Listening Project who arrived Bayanga last month made a presentation to the DSPA Management Unit explaining the work they will carry out in the coming years. In addition to research on elephants, they will contribute to conservation and development efforts in close collaboration with the Law Enforcement, Tourism and Community Conservation departments.






*Controlling the bai day... © Nuria Ortega*



*...and night © Ivonne Kienast*

A team made up of a member of the new Helmholtz-Institute for One Health (HIOH) in Greifswald, Germany, the coordinator of the Goualougo Triangle Ape Project, Republic of Congo and the Coordinator of One Health Programme for WCS Congo visited DSPA to discuss collaboration in the implementation of the One Health Program. As previously announced, we are in the process of setting up a field laboratory in Dzanga Sangha that will be a reference for the entire continent and could benefit other protected areas in the region.

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	44	115
	0	15	29
	0	7	10

\*We observed low elephant numbers during the repair works of the mirador, but they quickly increased at the end of each working session

## Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA

**Scientific name:** *Psittacus erithacus*

**English name:** Grey Parrot

**Taxonomy:**

- Class : birds
- Order : Psittaciformes
- Family : Psittacidae
- Genus : *Psittacus*
- Specie : *P. erithacus*



© WWF DSPA

The grey parrot is a medium-sized, predominantly grey, black-billed parrot. Its typical weight is 400 g with an approximate length of 33 cm. The body is grey, but the head and body feathers have slight white edges. The tail feathers are red.

Grey parrots may live for 40–60 years in captivity, but in the wild appears to be approximately 23 years.

The grey parrot is native to equatorial Africa and can be found inside a range from Kenya to the eastern part of the Ivory Coast. The species seems to favour dense forests but can also be found at forest edges and in more open vegetation types, such as gallery and savanna forests.

They are mostly frugivorous as most of their diet consists of fruit, nuts, and seeds. The species prefers oil palm fruit, but also eat flowers and tree bark, as well as insects and snails. In the wild, the grey parrot is partly a ground feeder.

Grey parrots are monogamous breeders who nest in tree cavities.

It's one of the most trafficked birds in Africa, mainly for its facility to imitate sounds. In DSPA can be easily observed flying and crying early in the morning or just before the sunset.



## Anti-poaching

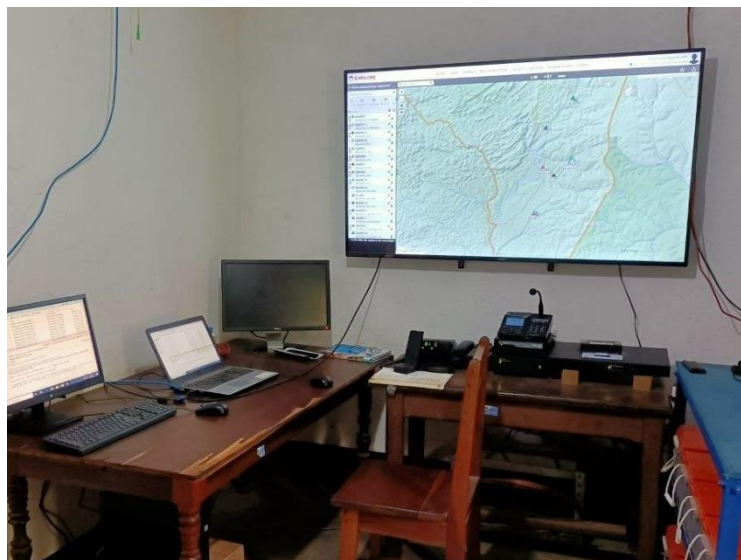
The training of the 25 selected candidates to be recruited as new ecoguards has continued throughout the month. All selected candidates are responding well to the training.

A mobile court hearing session was organized in Bayanga to judge poaching suspects arrested during patrols. Seven individuals were sentenced in total for poaching to, between 6 months and 2 years



© Christian Bassoum

A technician from Chengeta has come to install new equipment in the commandment room and train the responsible



A new screen in the commandment room © Yoann Galeran

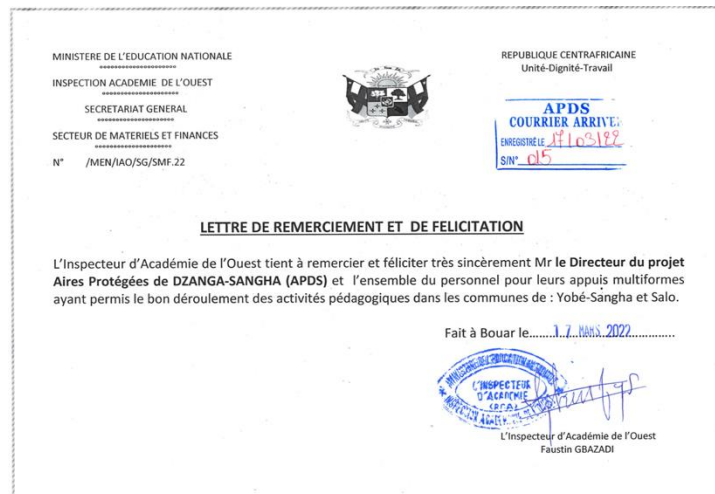
37 regular patrols and 2 BLAB patrols. In total 1.415 rangers/days, 2.275 km traveled on foot and cover an area of 1.432 km<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the seizure of 16 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns and 43-gauge cartridges and 384 kg of meat. In addition, 700 metal snares were dismantled.

Two elephant carcasses were found, one natural death and the other poached. We have recovered the tusks.

4 people were arrested for judgment

## Community Development

We received an official letter of thanks and congratulations from the Ministry of Education for our contribution to improving access to/and quality of education within DSPA and its periphery



DSPA and CAR took part in the celebration of Earth Hour, WWF's biggest campaign and the largest grassroots movement for the environment. While important landmarks around the world took part in the symbolic 'switch off' for an hour, we found an alternative in DSPA since it is practically impossible to switch off the lights (in fact people do not have lights to switch off). We commemorated the day by organizing an awareness campaign in schools during which students carried out garbage collection in the surroundings of schools for an hour. This was followed by a meal for everyone.



Ready to celebrate the Earth hour in Bayanga ©Eustache Kuete





© Eustache Kuete



© Eustache Kuete



in a different way © Eustache Kuete

A Spanish medical doctor and researcher visited us to explore the situation of the Neglected Tropical Diseases and the One Health projects performed in the region, and, above all, their possible treatment

A UNICEF mission from Bangui was in Dzanga Sangha to launch a new anti-poverty project in the Sangha-Mbaéré Prefecture, focusing on education and health. Based on the fact that we have been working on these issues for several years, we discussed the possibility of collaborating with them.

We continued testing everyone visiting the habituated gorillas. One of the tourists who arrived this month was tested positive for COVID 19 and was immediately isolated. The rest of the almost 100 tests carried out were all negative

#### Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	
Monasao Health Post	361
Belemboke Health Post	325
<b>Total</b>	<b>686</b>



## Park Administration

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On the request of the Management of WWF International, we presented the work done in DSPA during a WWF International Board meeting held this month. The purpose of the session was to enhance the Board's knowledge and understanding of the opportunities and challenges of area-based conservation, to bring the work achieved in Dzanga-Sangha to the Board and share learnings, and to offer the team the benefit of the Board's thoughts and feedback.

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The month of March was a busy one for DSPA as we have received a lot of visitors on working missions:

The Director of WWF for Africa accompanied by the Director of Conservation visited DSPA this month to know more about the protected area, witness first-hand and better understand the way we work and the challenges we face.



*Diner at Doli Lodge with the WWF Africa Director and the DSPA staff © Luis Arranz*

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The Technical Advisor of the FTNS, accompanied by a civil engineer were in DSPA as part of the committee for the selection of the enterprise that will construct the future Bayanga stadium

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For his part, the FTNS Programme Officer was in DSPA to see the progress of the Project. The German Development Bank, KfW through the FTNS has been one of our main donors for many years, and due to covid restrictions they could not visit DSPA during the last two years

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The Director of the KfW office, together with the head of EU cooperation and the director of the French Development Agency, all based in Cameroon visited DSPA this month

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The Project Coordinator of a regional program on strengthening of IPLC rights and grievance mechanisms/human rights centres was in DSPA to work with the head of the Human Rights Center managed by the local NGO MEFP



Two technicians from Radio France International (RFI) were in Bayanga to bring material for the local radio station (Radio Ndjokou), supported by us, and to train its staff.



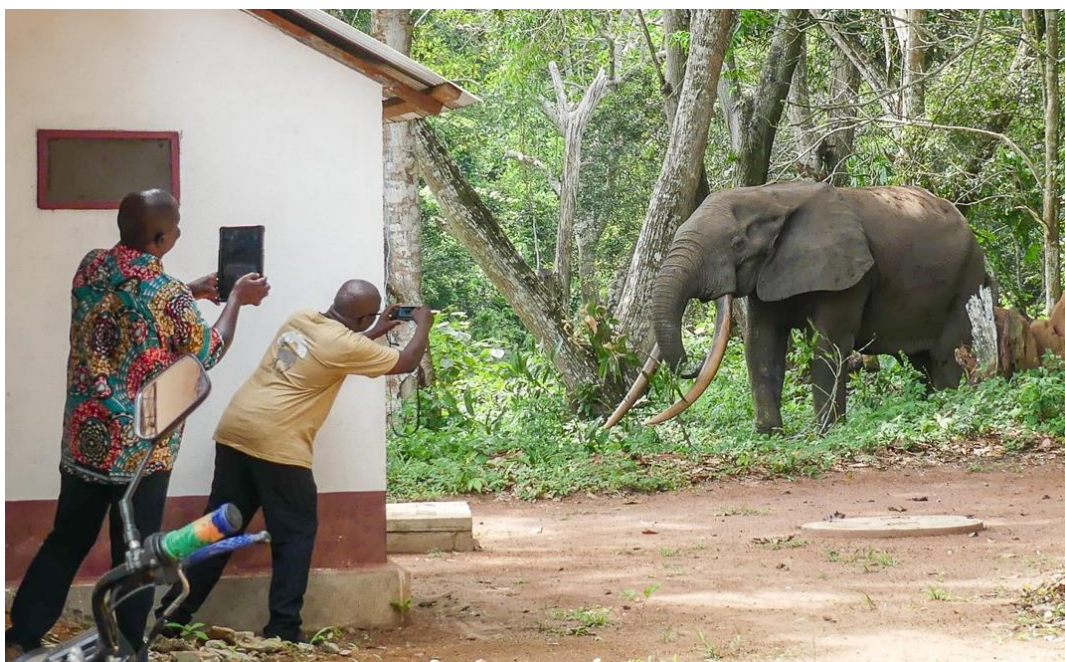
*Radio Ndjokou live © Gael Flaugere*

A consultant sent by the EU was in DSPA to prepare the new project that should start next year

A representative of Sacharuna, an American foundation that has been donating funds to DSPA for many years, is in DSPA to see the progress of the Project and discuss future collaboration.

We recruited a new Technical Advisor for Programme Development who will support Project Managers in the coordination, planning, management, implementation, monitoring and reporting of projects and activities in DSPA. The new recruit, who has also supported DSPA as a volunteer for a year has been able to start immediately.

An FTNS audit mission for the 2021 DSPA operations took place in Bayanga



*We receive daily a lot of visits in our office © Miriam Navarro*





## Tourism and Marketing

This month we rehabilitated the observation platform at Dzanga bai which had suffered significant degradation with time. Works focussed on replacing degraded wood on the structure, floor and ceiling. The work could only be executed in the absence of tourists but due to the constant flow of visitors, it took much longer than one week originally anticipated



© Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz

After the signature of the contract that will allow us to have two weekly flights, the entire Via Air team has come to visit us



© Nuria Ortega





A new 12 seats boat that we ordered, has finally arrived Bayanga. It will be used to transport tourists from Ouessou (Republic of Congo) or Libongo (Cameroon) but also to do drives on the Sangha River



© Nuria Ortega

A team from Random Good Films of Hope, a production company, was in Dzanga Sangha. They are going to make two films about the Park and the people working here



The TV team arriving to Bayanga © Christian Bassoun





## Arrivals and departures

After 11 years at DSPA, enjoying the Park, making us enjoy it, and working from time to time, Terence is leaving us. He came as a volunteer and leaves as head of his department, he arrived a teenager and leaves a respectable family man, he came willing to learn and leaves ready to teach many things to many people.

He will now work for WWF DE and even though publicly all of us wish him the greatest success in his new adventure, we actually hope it will be a flop and he'll return as soon as possible.

In any case, we thank him for his commitment to DSPA



*Terence, in DSPA, eleven years ago © WWF / DSPA*



*Terence, in DSPA, eleven months ago © Nuria Ortega*



*Terence, in DSPA, eleven days ago © Christian Bassoum*



© Luis Arranz

Alice Ruhweza, Director of WWF for Africa, and Jeff Worden Director of Conservation have visited DSPA



© Luis Arranz

Chloe Squires from Sacharuna returned to DSPA after 11 years.



© Luis Arranz

Romain Kana, the FTNS program officer has come to see the activities we are running out.





Miriam Navarro, a Spanish doctor who wants to prepare a project about neglected diseases in DSPA

© Luis Arranz



Alain Ulrich, Livia Patrono and Dave Morgan have come to work with our veterinarian team about the new laboratory

© Livia Patrono



Max Bale and Gael Flaugere from (RFI) Radio France International have come to support us on Radio Ndjokou

© Luis Arranz



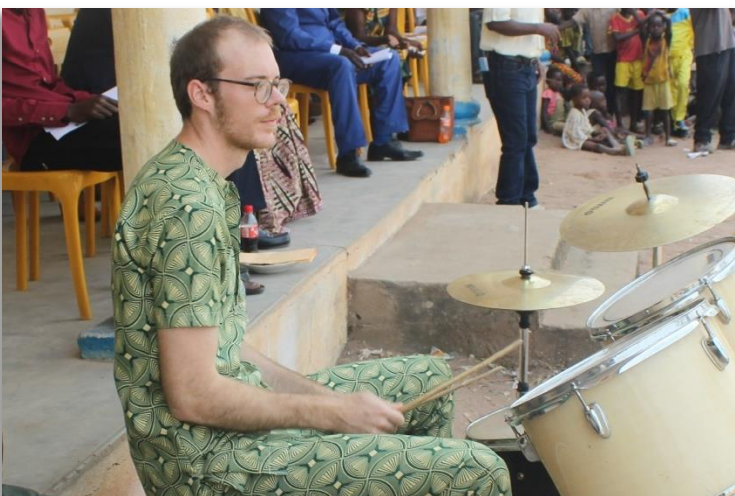
© Luis Arranz

Etienne Kaisin, an EU consultant, is preparing the new EU project.



© Nuria Ortega

Ruari Bradburn, from Chengeta Wildlife, has come to install the new equipment in the commander room and train the responsible



© Christian Bassoum

Stef de Bethune, completely integrated in DSPA, preparing an important proposal as new programme officer





© Luis Arranz

Frank Kamunga has come to work with the Human Right Center responsible.



© Nuria Ortega

Janika Wendefeuer worked here for 7 years, first as volunteer, and then doing the mammals survey in DSPA. Now, she has left us



© Nuria Ortega

After 11 months Lara Nellissen has left. "I was very sad to leave Bayanga. I came here for my PhD project to study gorilla behaviour and vocalizations. Work in the forest can be tough, but I had an amazing time here, thanks to all the wonderful people I have met and all the help they gave me. I felt truly blessed. Singuila minggi!!

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