



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org

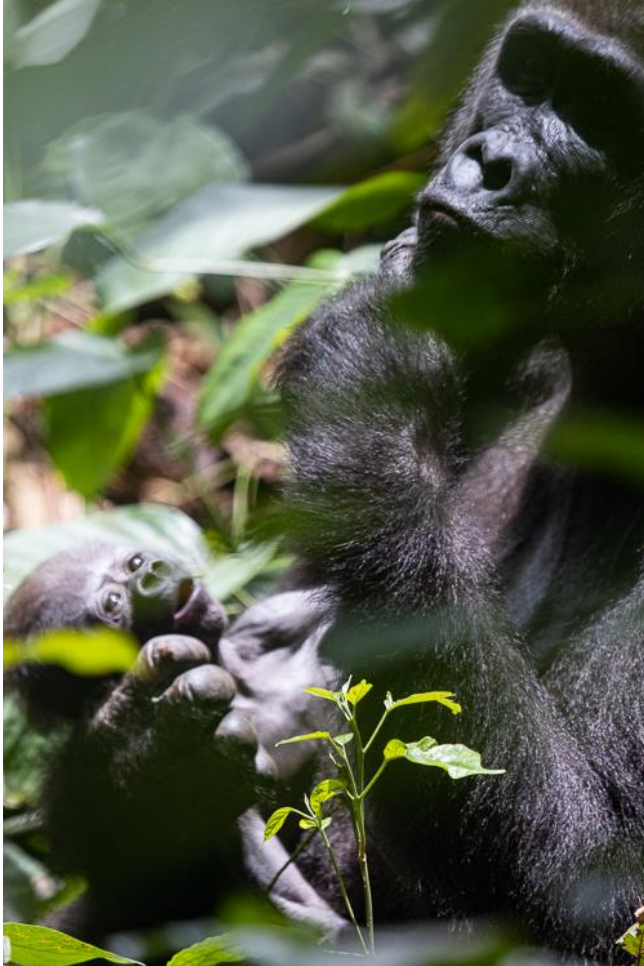


Mayele © Nuria Ortega

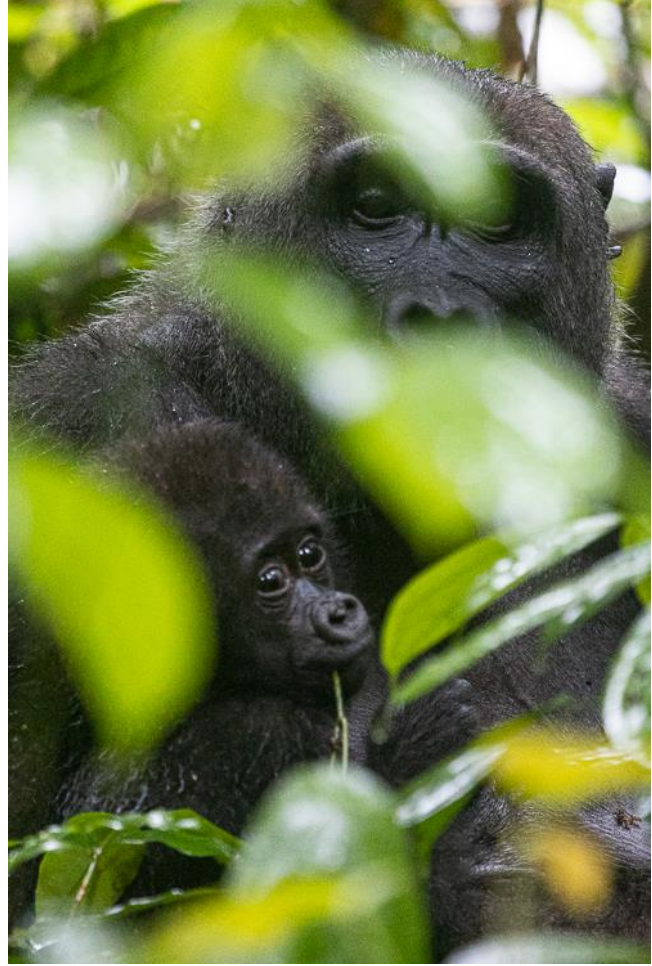
Newsletter September 2022



This month we celebrated the first birthday of Bokonya, an offspring of the female Duma and the silverback Mayele, that was born on September 06 2021, in Mongambe.



Bokonya 1 week old @Nuria Ortega



Bokonya 1 year old @Nuria Ortega

After the death of the silverback Mata last month at Bai-Hokou, Dzanga-Sangha was once more hit, this time with the loss of the silverback Mayele at Mongambe. The tracking team found Mayele seriously injured on the morning of September 20 following a fight the night before probably with a solitary silverback. The Veterinary team which was immediately called to the scene observed that Mayele had very deep cuts on the chin, chest, arms and legs, and the lower lip bitten off. As a result, he had lost a lot of blood which could be seen spilled all over the site of the interaction and he was not able to move. The following morning, he was even weaker than the previous day and had not moved from the scene. He was administered an anti-biotic using a dart in an attempt to prevent possible infections. Unfortunately, he did not survive the injuries and died later that day in the presence of the veterinary and tracking teams.

“Mayele” which means “crafty or sneaky” in Aka language, was named by the Ba’Aka trackers following his habit of constant abrupt changes in direction as if to intentionally confuse the tracking team during the habituation process. His habituation started in November 2005 and the group was officially opened to the public in 2010. He is estimated to be about 39 years old and during his tenure, he acquired five females and sired at least 17 offspring. He now leaves behind three females and six offspring aged between 6 months and 14 years.



Update from the Mata group: a case of infanticide was observed by the tracking team as a silverback trying to take over the Mata group killed one of the infants, one-year-old Mossika. While tracking the group, the team was alerted by loud cries of the female Wusa and as they observed, an unknown silverback snatched her offspring and dashed into thick vegetation. On searching the area, they found the infant already dead. We had predicted that this could happen, even though we hoped otherwise.



Life will become more difficult for them without Mayele © 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	76	158
	0	0	27
	0	4	7

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



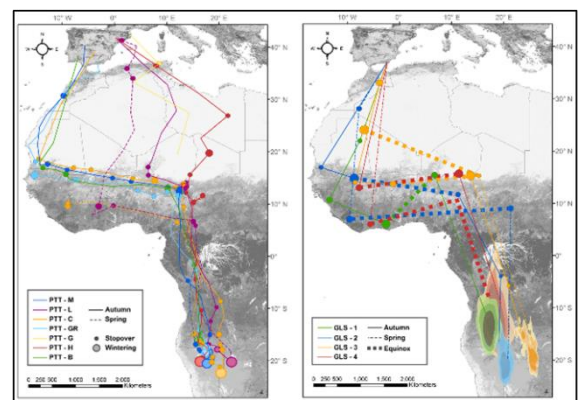
@ Marc Languy

Scientific name : *Coracia garrulus*

English name: *European roller*

Taxonomy:

- Class : birds
- Order : coraciiformes
- Family : coraciidae
- Genus : coracia
- Specie : *C. garrulus*



The European Roller is a fairly large, colourful bird that breeds in southern and eastern Europe. The entire world population winters in Africa.

Tracking studies of European rollers have shown that birds breeding in Spain migrate through the Sahara and pass through Cameroon and CAR before wintering in Angola and Botswana. The birds pass south through the Dzanga-Sangha region in October and return during spring migration in March. They therefore do not winter in Dzanga-Sangha but are transient visitors.

The European Roller is essentially a species of open habitats. It can therefore be found hunting dragonflies and other large insects in the savannahs as well as forest clearings, such as Dzanga Bai from where the above photo was taken.

Antipoaching

“Advanced Ranger Law enforcement Training” for eco-guards resumed in Dzanga-Sangha in September with the support of Chengeta Wildlife trainers. Unlike the training of new recruits conducted at the beginning of the year, this training session meant to increase the capacity of the eco-guards represents a logical evolution of the previous trainings carried out in previous years.

The Advanced Ranger Law enforcement Training is designed around the main skills required by an eco-guard to effectively carry out law enforcement, focusing on technical skills like tracking, navigation, first Aid and also legal knowledge of human rights and ethics for law enforcement. It is rolled out in three different levels; initially, capacity building through refresher sessions and development of skills adapted and tested in real conditions, as well as the introduction of new skills allowing the growth of eco-guards at the individual and collective level. Secondly, focus on the development of leadership capacity to enabling long term and sustainability and ensure local capacity has the right qualified personnel to responsibly lead law enforcement. Lastly, identify Eco-guards capable of specific functions, such as team leaders, group leader, logistics or similar.



©Marc Garrigues



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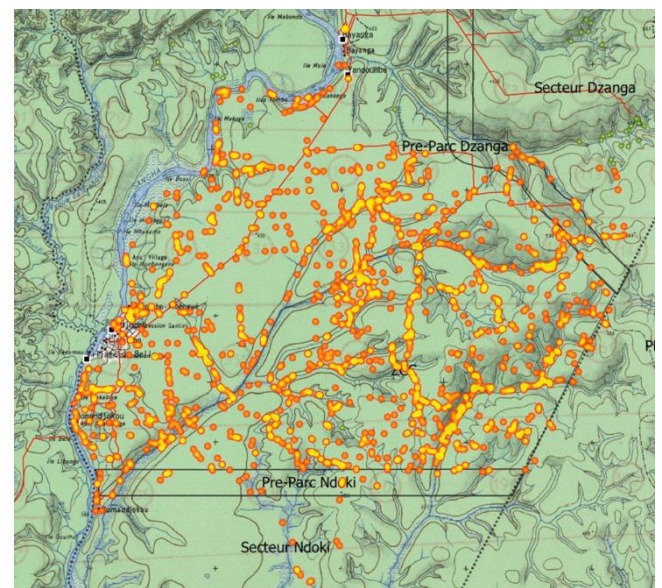
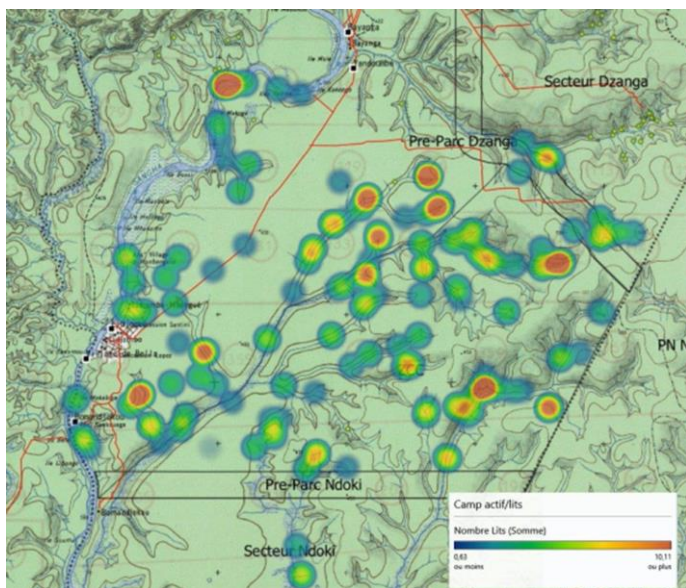
45 regular patrols and 1 patrol from the tri-national anti-poaching brigade were conducted. In total 1.421 rangers/days, 1.871 km traveled on foot and cover an area of 1.496 km². This resulted in the seizure of 6 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, and 55 kg of meat. In addition, 2,582 metal snares were dismantled.

This month two elephant carcasses were found. We have recovered the tusks and are not sure about the cause of death.

Community Development

The mapping of the Community Hunting Zone in Dzanga-sangha has been completed thanks to combined efforts of DSPA staff, Chengeta Wildlife, members of the local hunters association as well as local and indigenous people. During a period of over four months, the combined teams collected detailed information on the use of the community hunting zone with respect to gathering, fishing, hunting, and other uses. The information assembled is crucial for the ongoing participatory design of a potential management plan of this community hunting zone.

The first phase of activities for the participatory design of a potential management plan for this zone has officially commenced. This phase which involves engaging with all relevant stakeholders to capture different perspectives was officially launched by an introductory presentation of planned actions to local authorities, NGOs and associations.



Density of active hunting camps in the community hunting zone.

We designed and distributed some items as T-shirts and vests to the Ba'Aka Community Union (UCB) to increase their visibility.



New T-shirts for the UCB © Christian Bassoum



September is caterpillar season, a source of protein © Christian Bassoum

Throughout the month, the mobile clinic was at the service of the indigenous and local communities providing healthcare to those in need.

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	349
Belemboke Health Post	509
Mobile Clinic	85
Total	943



Park Administration

The construction of the stands of the Bayanga football stadium have finally started after a delay of a couple of years, mainly because the COVID pandemic. With the current pace of the construction, we expect the stands to be inaugurated next January.



The new stadium in Bayanga ©Nuria Ortega

This month was marked by several meetings with important partners of Dzanga-Sangha; in the US with WWF-US, USAID and USFWS and in Germany with WWF-Germany, KfW and BMZ. During these meetings, we discussed ongoing projects as well as upcoming and future projects. The partners reaffirmed their commitment to support inclusive conservation and development efforts.



Solving serious problems in Berlin © Celine Dillmann

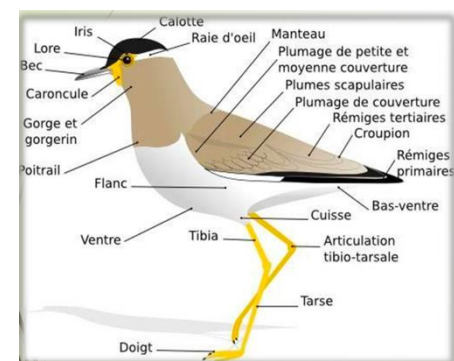
Tourism and Marketing

Despite the fact that there is still a lack of fuel for charter flights in Bangui, some flights have been made this month, at very high prices, but some of the tourists could afford it.



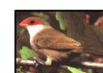
After some months, planes have returned to Bayanga ©Nuria Ortega

With the support of the European Union, DSPA tourist guides successfully underwent a training in Ornithology. Even Ba'Aka trackers decided to attend the training. In fact more than 20 people, including other tourism staff took part in this training carried out with lot of enthusiasm by Remy Nkombe, a professional guide from Gabon.



Quelques familles

- Les **Estrildidae** : famille de passereaux constituée de 29 genres et 141 espèces. Ils sont en général de petits oiseaux dont la taille varie entre 9 et 15 cm. Ils présentent souvent un plumage vivement coloré. La plupart des espèces possèdent un bec conique, court et fort.





The training started with theoretical classes and proceeded to practical lessons in the bush ©Nuria ortega & Christian Bassoum



Arrivals and departures



© Nuria Ortega

Remy Yorrick Nkombe, Professional diploma for guides in African rainforest, specialist in Ornithology, GIS, botany. Lope, Gabon



© Luis Arranz

Bovys Dobe and Derant Yankois have been recruited to support the implementation of restoration activities and complementary income-generating activities, with the populations of Monassao, in the periphery of DSPA

- *This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of WWF CAR and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*