



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



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Newsletter December 2022



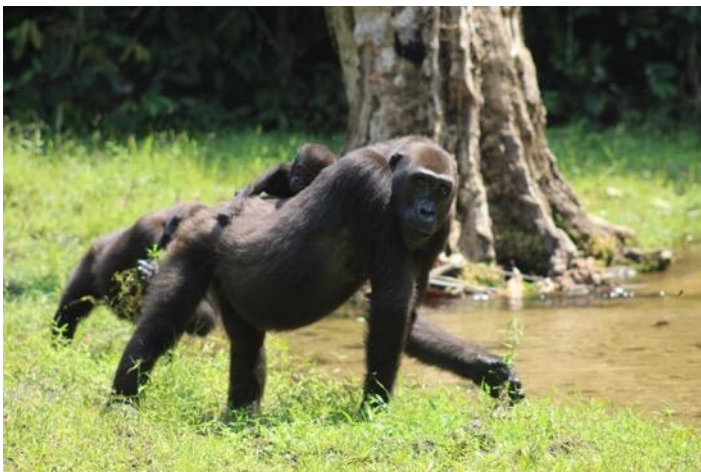


Wildlife

Despite decades of permanent presence at Dzanga bai, we still get surprises. Mangabeys, despite being quite common in the area, very rarely enter the bai. This month, a young mangabey that for some reason had been separated from its group, entered the bai causing a commotion. The elephants began to swear, between nervous and angry, and they gradually harassed the young mangabey until it had to leave the bai






© I. Yankousse pour le Yang Center/WWF



Wusa and Mossika in her back ©Lara Nellissen

Wusa, an adult female of the Mata group has emigrated. She is the third female out of Mata's four females, to emigrate since the group became habituated. Her absence from the group was noticed by the tracking teams during the second week of December. Following the tragic loss of her infant (Mossika) last October, she sometimes expressed the desire to move away but was held back by the female Indolia, who is the current group leader. With her departure, the Mata group is down to just four individuals – the female Indolia and three youngsters.

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
	30	110	203
	0	1	15
	0	5	9

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



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Scientific name *Osteolaemus tetraspis*

English name: *dwarf crocodile*

Taxonomy:

Class	: Reptilia
Order	: Crocodylia
Family	: Crocodylidae
Genus	: <i>Osteolaemus</i>
Specie	: <i>O. tetraspis</i>



The **dwarf crocodile** (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*) is the smallest living species of crocodile, attaining a medium adult length of 1.5 m (4.9 ft), though the maximum recorded length for this species is 1.9 m (6.2 ft)

As a result of its small size and heightened vulnerability to predation, this species of crocodile has a heavily armoured neck, back, and tail

Dwarf crocodiles range across tropical regions of Sub-Saharan West Africa and Central Africa and live from lowlands to mid-altitude in streams, small rivers, swamps, pools and mangrove, but generally avoid main sections of large rivers.

Unlike most crocodiles, dwarf crocodiles only rarely bask in the sun. During the night they may move some distance from water on land.

Dwarf crocodiles are generalist predators and have been recorded feeding on a wide range of small animals such as fish, crabs, frogs, gastropods, insects, lizards, water birds, bats and shrews. They can survive for relatively long periods without food. During the dry season, dwarf crocodiles often retreat to deep holes.

Antipoaching

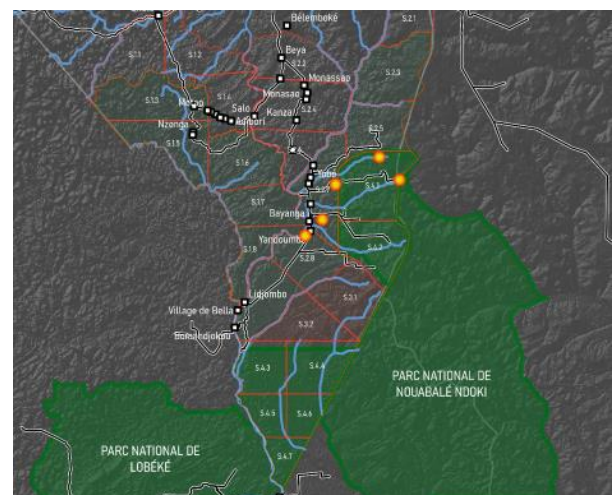
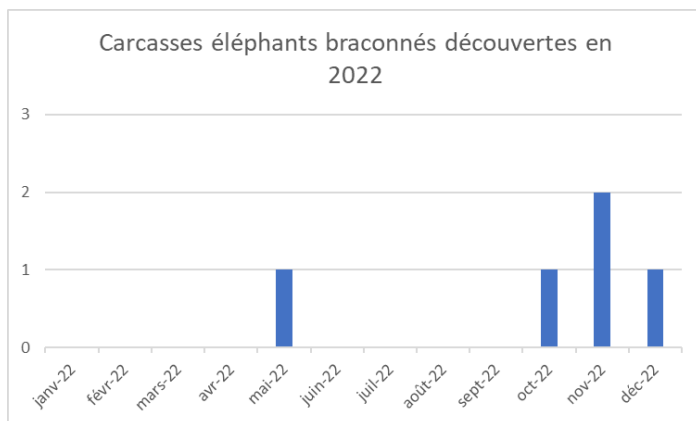
We renewed the individual equipment of the eco-guards (uniforms, backpacks, tents), as well as some collective equipment like GPS units and VHF radios. We are very grateful to the African Forest Elephant Foundation for the contribution they made towards this and for the continuous support offered to Dzanga Sangha eco-guards for several years now.



© Mark Garrigues

The year 2022 was an important year for capacity building of eco-guards. We recruited and trained 25 new eco-guards, and provided continuous training, mentoring and leadership training to 85 eco-guards.

Meanwhile, during the same time, we recorded five dead elephants resulting from poaching. Even though this number is relatively small, we must strive to reduce it in the following years.



Elephant carcasses found in the Park in 2022

34 regular patrols and 3 patrols from the tri-national anti-poaching brigade were conducted. In total 1.714 ranger/days, 1.739 km traveled on foot to cover an area of 1.636 km². This resulted in the seizure of 5 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 322-gauge cartridges, 363 kg of meat and 1 kg of pangolin scales. In addition, 2.946 metal snares were dismantled.

One poached elephant carcass was found in the Park. We recovered the only tusk it had.

Community Development

Within the professional training program for the community, we have recruited four trainers and delivered the first batch of sewing machines. This will serve for the training of 40 candidates as tailors and seamstresses.



© Luis Arranz

This month we organized a capacity building session for the four permanent community support team and the 48 community relays on improved communication, animation, facilitation, leadership, and experience sharing techniques. A total of 51 people including 24 women and 27 men participated in this capacity building session.

The Ndima-Kali association organized two forest camps in Kounda-papaye and Kanza as part of their mission to promote the transfer traditional knowledge from the older to the younger generation.



© Nuria Ortega



© Miguel Bellosta



As part of the activities to improve access to health care in the region, we provided a solar power plant to the Belemboke hospital, to solve serious electricity challenges. With this new plant, they will have access to electricity 24 hours a day and this will enable them to offer better services to the community. *Pictures © Belemboke Nuns*



© Claude Mbengono

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	434
Belemboke Health Post	541
Total	868

Park Administration

Works on the Bayanga stadium are advancing quite well. The stands are practically finished, and we are already testing the solar installation and the projectors that will make it possible to play at night.



©Stef de Bethune

A new lookout box has been built at the park entrance to better control access to it



© Luis Arranz

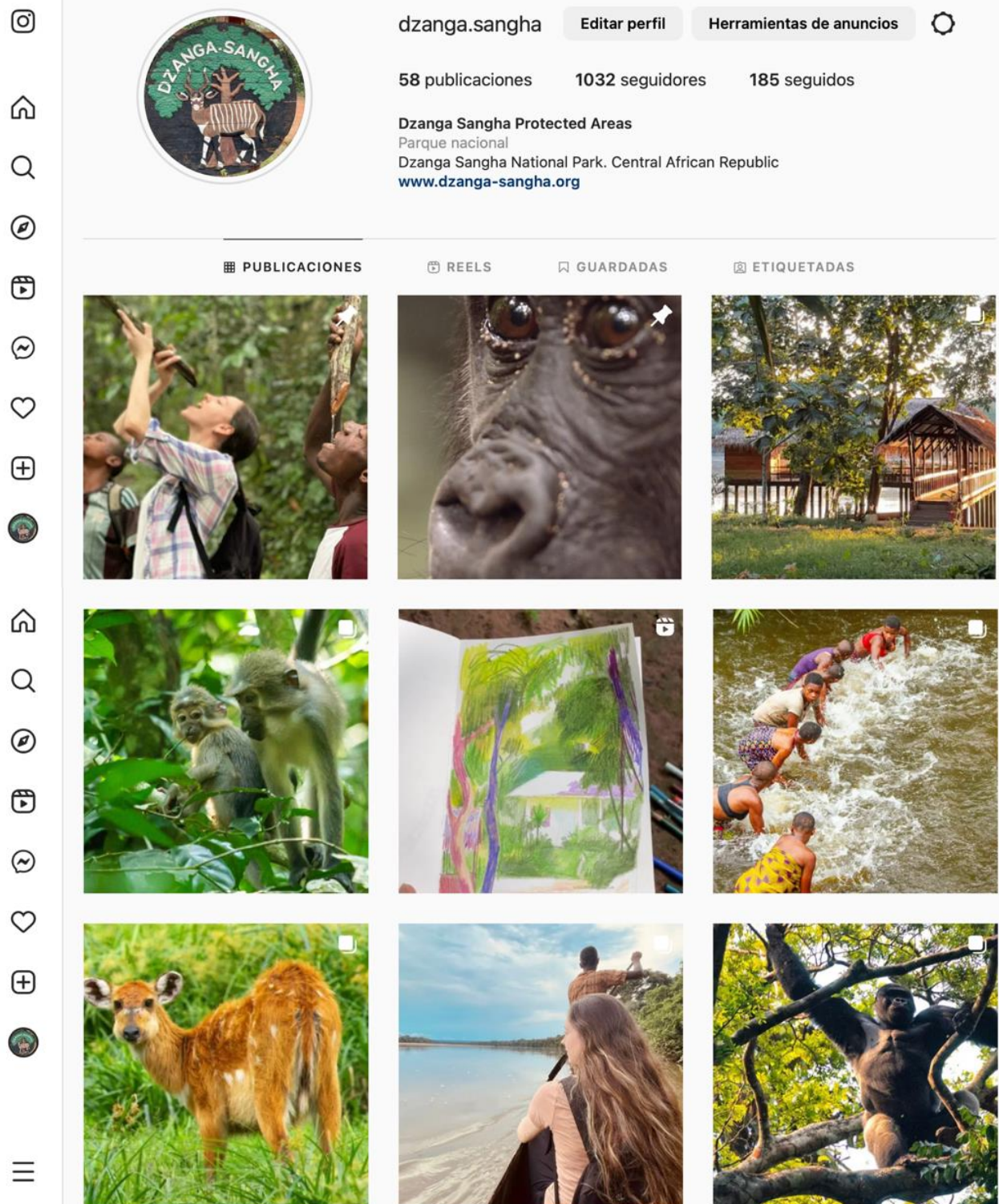
The WWF Technical Advisor Program Development participated in a workshop held in Kribi from 5-9 of December. Apart from having a good time at the beach, he represented WWF CAR during the project proposal development of a potential future support by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). With a consortium consisting of WWF Germany, WWF Cameroon, WWF Central African Republic, FAO, University College of London (UCL), the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and The Helmholtz Institute for One Health (HIOH), we are collaborating on a project in Cameroon and Central African Republic (Dzanga Sangha) to preserve and restore natural forest barriers to mitigate climate change and risk of pathogen spillover.



Tourism and Marketing

Despite significant events affecting the ecotourism sector (fuel crisis, flight cancellations and pandemic) in the APDS, the 2022 tourism season was nevertheless marked by an unprecedented influx of several film production chains, more than 544 visitors of 52 different nationalities and 2584 overnight stays..

As a highlight this month we have reached 1000 followers on Instagram without doing paid advertising.



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