



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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Newsletter April 2023





Wildlife

An elephant calf was born in Dzanga Bai on April 19th

A female elephant called Etta II gave birth to a female calf on April 19th at 14:00 in the clearing. Even though Dzanga Bai is very frequented by elephants and other mammals, births of forest animals are rarely observed in such an open area, which makes this observation even more special.

Researchers have been following the activity of the Etta family since 1991. Etta II was first observed in 1992, estimated to be born in 1980 and since then she has sired three known offspring, including the newborn calf: Etta II(IV). The little female calf was spotted on the ground, still in the embryonic sac. There was a state of confusion as the mother was hesitant to approach the little one due to the presence of an older dominant female called Necat. However, it was indeed Necat who helped the newborn to get up for the first time. Following long minutes of distress for the mother and of curious females approaching the baby, Etta II and her older male offspring finally gained access to the newborn.

The next day, the family spent several hours in the clearing, and the calf met some new friends. Another ten days later Etta II and her offspring used the space underneath the observation platform to rest and relax. This presented a unique opportunity for the researchers (and visitors) to observe a newborn elephant from very close.



Newborn calf helped out of the embryonic sac by adult female Necat ©ELP for the Yang Center/WWF






Newborn calf Etta II(IV) sleeping underneath the observation platform ©ELP for the Yang Center / WWF

This buffalo calf was born with a deformity in its limbs that prevents it from standing up. It is always in the Bai fighting for its life. We are studying the possibility to intervene and cut its hooves....



Ivonne Kienast for the Yang Center / WWF

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
	27	105	164
	0	7	8
	0	28	36

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



Luis Javier Barbadillo

© Luis Javier Barbadillo

Scientific name Sclerophrys pusilla

English name: Flat-backed Toad

Taxonomy:
Class : amphibia
Order : anura
Family : bufonidae
Genus : Sclerophrys
Specie : S. pusilla



Sclerophrys pusilla is a species of toad in the family Bufonidae. It is found in Angola, northern Namibia, Botswana, northeastern South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, southern Kenya, Uganda, eastern Ethiopia, parts of South Sudan, Gabon and Cameroon, as well as the Central African Republic

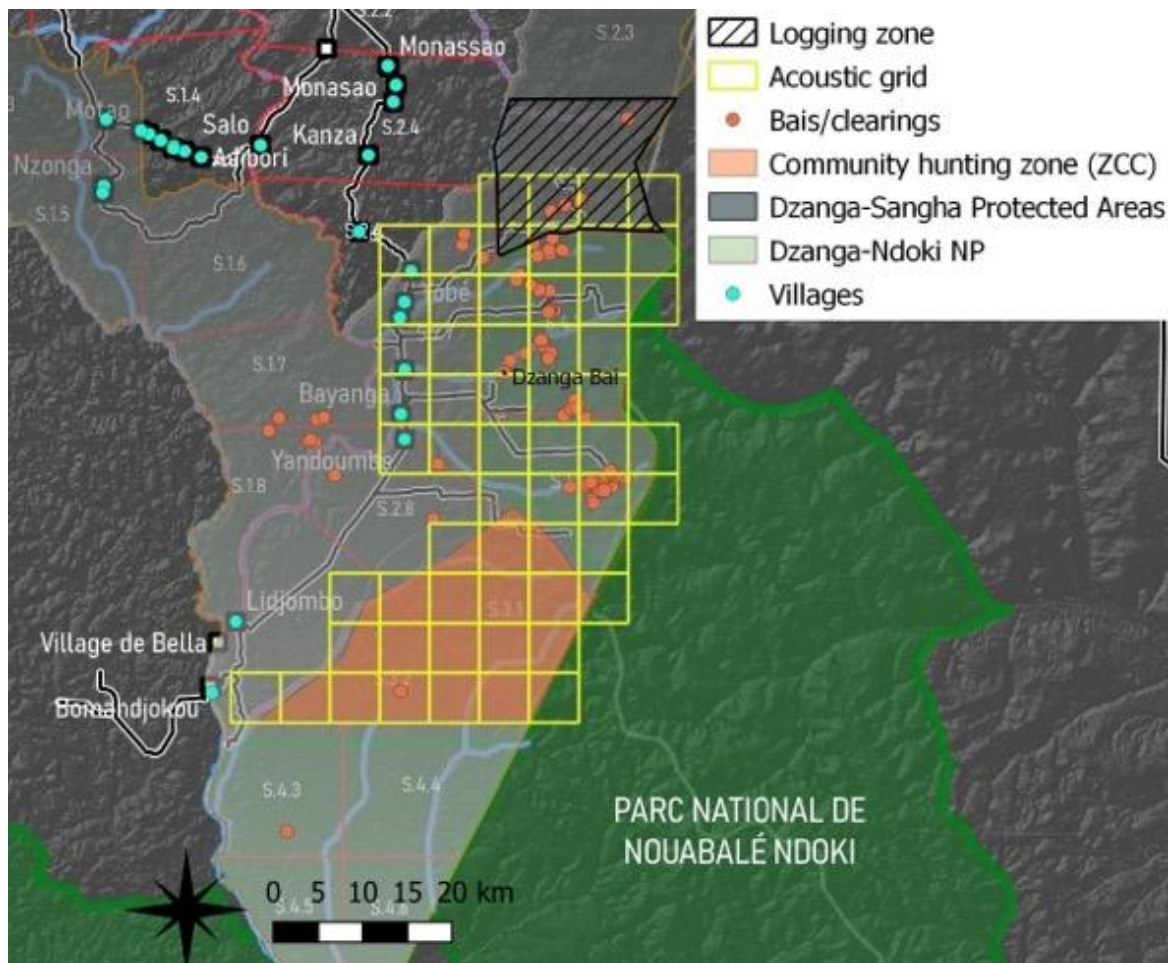
The specific name *pusilla* means "small" in Latin, and refers to the fact that this frog is smaller than others in the *Sclerophrys* genus.

The calls are often antiphonal, with individuals calling at slightly different pitches so that alternate calls are readily distinguishable

Sclerophrys pusilla inhabits savanna and lowveld grassland, and likes shallow, slow-moving, or stationary water

Antipoaching

The DSPA Law Enforcement Unit in collaboration with the Elephant Listening Project of the Lisa YANG Center for Conservation Bioacoustic has expanded its monitoring strategy by setting up a passive acoustic monitoring program within the protected area to better understand gun hunting trend, how elephants modify their use of the landscape over time and according to human activities as well as understand the environmental health in general. The data derived through this program will be crucial in orienting the deployment of anti-poaching patrols and promote the conservation of forest elephants and other biodiversity. The program also provides an opportunity for the training and capacity building of the ecoguards



36 regular patrols and 2 patrols from the tri-national anti-poaching brigade were conducted. In total 1.767 ranger/days, 1.885 km traveled on foot to cover an area of 1.934 km². This resulted in the seizure of 12 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 33-gauge cartridges and 65 kg of meat. In addition, 1.278 metal snares were dismantled.

25 people arrested were sensitized then released

Two elephant carcass was found in the Park. One of them was recent and killed by poachers. We recovered the tusks

Community Development

To facilitate sustainable marketing of non-timber forest products within DSPA, we are installing market sheds in the villages of Bomandjokou, Lindjombo and Babongo to enable people in these communities to gather in one place to sell their products.



A new market shed © Christian Bassoum

The Ba'Aka Community Union (UCB) held its general assembly this month, during which the evaluated activities of the previous year and plan activities for the current year



The UCB members during the general assembly in Bayanga © Christian Bassoum

<i>Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients</i>	
Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	507
Beleboke Health Post	419
Total	926

Park Administration

His excellency Amit Idriss, Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing of CAR and Her Excellency Jennifer Saraiva-Yanzere, Minister of Arts, Culture and Tourism of CAR, were both in Dzanga Sangha this month to participate in the meeting of the Steering Committee of DSPA. It was also an opportunity to visit the park and to appreciate the results of the previous year and understand the activities planned for this year



Arrival of the Ministers to Bayanga © Nuria Ortega

This month, we organized a 3-days workshop to prepare the management plan of DSPA. The current management plan was due two years ago but preparation of a new one was hindered by the COVID 19 pandemic. As a result, it was agreed to extend its validity.



A new management plan is needed in DSPA © Christian Bassoum



Tourism and Marketing

This month was very special as we received the visit of young children for the first time, who were able to enjoy almost all the experiences of Dzanga Sangha and who spent time interacting with local children and sharing the local culture. All pictures © Nuria Ortega





Enjoying life in the bush and living one day as the Ba' Akas...





On the other hand, April was the busiest month so far this year with almost 100 tourists and 400 nights from different nationalities (Italian, American, Spanish, Indian, etc.) All pictures ©Nuria Ortega





We are extremely pleased to announce that Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas is part of the new clip released by Disney for the upcoming National Geographic documentary series "Secrets of the Elephants"

"Secrets Of The Elephants" Soundtrack Out Now

22 Apr 0



To tie in with the release of the new Disney+ Original documentary, "Secrets Of The Elephants", Hollywood Records has released the soundtrack to the show on digital platforms, including Apple, Spotify and Amazon.

An interview with Frédéric Singa, head of the One Health programme in the Dzanga Sangha was published on our website and can be accessed here <https://dzanga-sangha.org/stories/the-interview-frederic-singa/>

The Interview - Frédéric Singa



Stef de Bethune

Frédéric Singa is Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and works for WWF in the Central African Republic as a Wildlife Veterinarian. He leads the implementation of the One Health programme in the Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas and manages the field laboratory.



Arrivals and departures



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Elise Herald, Programme Officer Central and West Africa at WWF Germany, and responsible for the new Dzanga Sangha EU project at WWF Germany, visited DSPA to get to know the place and the team, so that we can collaborate better