



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



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Newsletter March 2023



Wildlife

A group of black and white colobus (*Colobus guereza*) visited the Dzanga bai forest clearing on the March 20th. The most amazing thing about this visit was the presence of a red colobus (*Procolobus pennati oustaleti*, known as ‘niao’ in the Aka language) among the group. It stayed with the group throughout and they all left the clearing together after the visit.






A Red colobus among the black and white colobus. Everything is possible in Dzanga bai © M. Boungalo. Yang Center / WWF

Following the loss of the two habituated silverbacks last year, our focus has been to start the habituation of new groups to ensure continuity of the primate habituation programme and gorilla ecotourism. We initiated the habituation of three new groups right away, two at the Mongambe field site and one at Bai Hokou.

At Mongambe one of the groups in the process of habituation, known as the Wonga group, is making relatively good progress as they are contacted almost every day.

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
	0	86	154
	0	6	9
	0	25	37

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



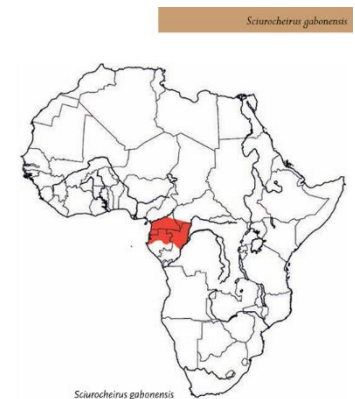
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Scientific name Sciurocheirus gabonensis

English name: Gabon squirrel galago

Taxonomy:

- Class : Mammalia
- Order : Primates
- Family : Galagidae
- Genus : Sciurocheirus
- Species : *S. gabonensis*.



The Gabon squirrel galago also known as the Gabon bushbaby is a small nocturnal primate that lives in evergreen tropical rainforests.

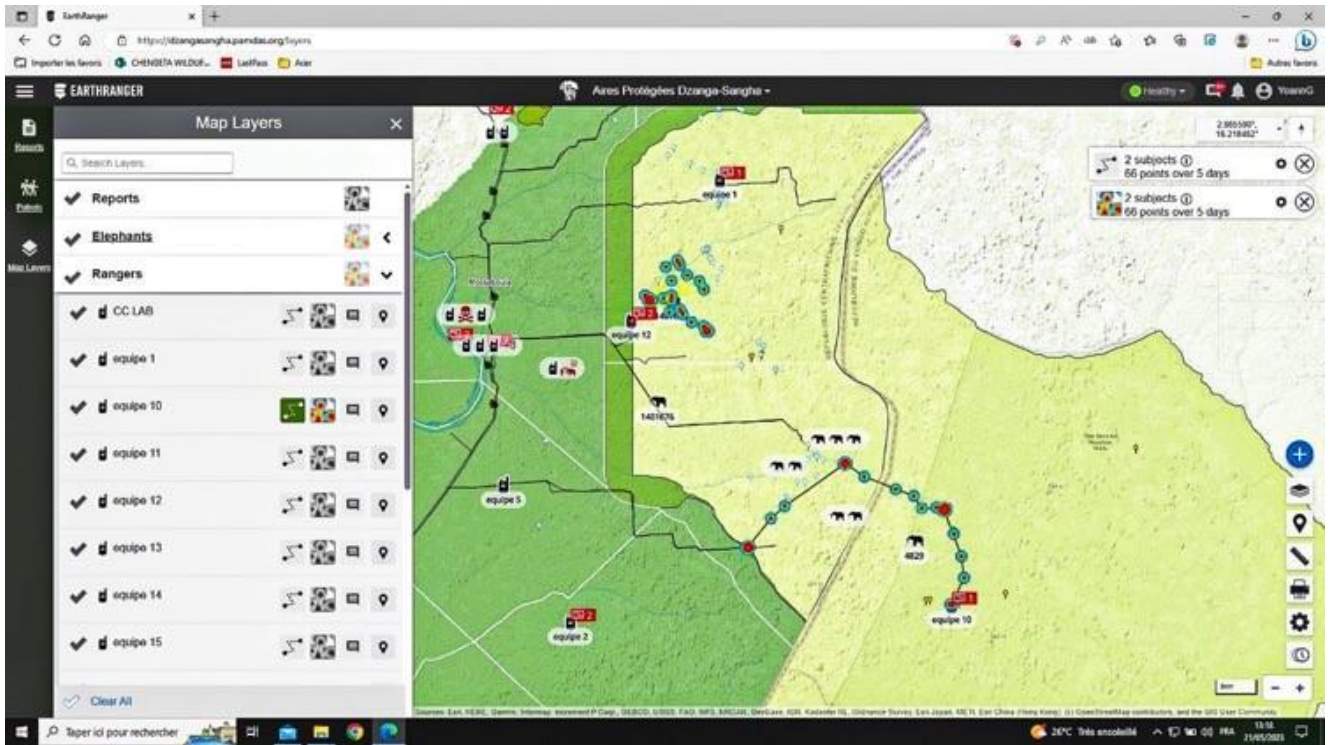
Its head and body are 21 centimetres long with a 25 centimetres tail, and it weighs about 289 grammes. Males have a home range of 30 to 60 hectares while females have a home range of 8 to 10 hectares.

Its typical habitat is dense humid forest where it lives in the lower part of the canopy among the lianas and tree trunks. It seems able to adapt to some extent to inhabiting secondary growth and partially felled areas

They feed primarily on fallen fruit, but also some arthropods.

Antipoaching

APDS recently implemented EarthRanger, a data visualization and analysis system, that combines real-time data from ranger patrols, remote imaging and various sensors to provide monitoring information that helps keep wildlife, habitats and communities safe. Now with EarthRanger, we can see a birds-eye view of the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Area transforming the way we react, coordinate follow-up activities, and help communities around us coexist with wildlife



Control room © Yoann Galeran

44 regular patrols and 2 binational patrols were conducted. In total 1.901 ranger/days, 2.015 km traveled on foot to cover an area of 2.380 km². This resulted in the seizure of 12 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 59-gauge cartridges, and 259 kg of meat. In addition, 1.806 metal snares were dismantled. 8 people arrested in total, of whom 6 were sensitized then released and 02 arrested for trial. No poached elephant carcass was found in the Park



Development

We relaunched the activities of the “Friends of nature” club (“Club Amies de nature”), a club which although created several years ago, never became fully operational.

We aim to continuously engage with groups of children, to obtain a unified understanding of the links between nature and humans, and to create a mood that promotes a participatory approach to the integration of nature protection processes and instil the spirit of sustainability within the children in Dzanga Sangha and its surroundings.

The relaunch was carried out in stages, preceded by contact with the parents of the children for information and consent, then followed by registration of the children. Two facilitation missions were carried out with two modules: concept on the animal species retained as names for the different clubs and concept on forest layers.



Friends of nature member © Christian Bassoum

We now have 500 children (287 boys and 213 girls) in the “friends of nature club”

As part of facilitating access to education to Ba’Aka Indigenous Peoples, DSPA is providing support to five Ba’Aka students attending high school at the ‘Lycée Moderne de Bayanga’. They are living with host families in Bayanga given the significant distance between their villages and the school. This is the only high school within DSPA. In the past students had to go to Berberati (over 200km from Bayanga) to attend high school.

The Ndima-Kali association held its third General Assembly this month, bringing together 30 members. It was an opportunity to evaluate their strategies, to brainstorm on the causes of culture loss and to rethink and realign their vision. They also used the opportunity to discuss the concept of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), the concept of community leadership, and finally elected a new executive office.

During the month, the Ndima Kali Association also organized four training workshops engaging over 173 young people.

DSPA collaborated with the Ba’Aka Community Union (UCB) to organize a major campaign to extract jiggers (sand fleas) from the feet of Ba’Aka children in the 11 communities. This is a flea of the species *Tunga penetrans*, the female of which grows under the skin or nails, especially of the feet, of humans and animals and becomes greatly distended with eggs.



© Christian Bassoum

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	465
Belemboke Health Post	427
Total	892



Park Administration

Lisa Yang, an investor and philanthropist who has provided financial support to Dzanga Sangha for some years now, visited the field to witness the progress of field activities first-hand and to define how to continue her support. She pledged to become a major donor for DSPA.



Lisa Yang, with her daughter Eva and Ivonne Kienast, principal researcher of the Dzanga Elephant Project © Luis Arranz

A mission from the High Authority for Good Governance in CAR visited Bayanga to investigate the governance of natural resources in DSPA.



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In March, two filmmakers, Toon Persyn and Jeroen Dejonghe, were in Dzanga Sangha to help make an educational film on the functioning of the Dzanga Sangha grievance mechanism, operated by the Bayanga Human Rights Centre. The film was made in collaboration with the Human Rights Center, the Ndima kali Association, and the community radio (radio ndjoku). The film is played entirely in Sango and Aka.



©Stef de Béthune



©Stef de Béthune

Tourism and Marketing

The month of March was very intense with the visit of many groups of tourists. After living some of their best experiences, they all left with a wonderful and unique memory of Dzanga Sangha.



Traffic jam at the Bayanga Harbour © Nuria Ortega



And at the Bayanga airstrip © Nuria Ortega



Arrivals and departures



Lisa Yang and Eva Tan spent almost 2 weeks in DSPA

© Nuria Ortega



Jean Kongandemo, Jésus Jephthé Tanguet, Sandrina Gazalima and Yvon Tongo Nguiet were in DSPA for academic internships

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Terrence Ekanje, WWF Head of Finance for Congo Basin, was in DSPA to provide support to the field team

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