



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



Where are you going? © Ivonne Kienast ELP for the Yang Center / WWF

Newsletter June 2023

DSPA receives funds from



Wildlife

Dzanga Bai is a site for social gathering of forest elephants. While the mean number of adult females is always twice or three times higher than the number of adult males, every month we observe identified or well-known adult males in the clearing. Males can become independent as young as of the age of 5 years, leave their mother and roam alone. And although some might stay longer with their birth group, when arriving to adulthood they do separate from their family. At the age of 15 years, they reach the height of an adult female, and from there on, they continue growing. An adult male can be half a body size higher than an adult female. In June, the most outstanding male visits have been by six different adults:: All the photos © ELP for the Yang Center / WWF



Aaron 58



Sharif 52



Espoir 40



Tyrone 34



Emmett 34



Fergie 27



We have launched a new internship program at Dzanga bai called "Ita Ti Doli" (meaning sisters and brothers of the elephants). This is an immersion program at the Dzanga Bai research site open to 16-year-olds. They come to spend a week with us and every day they go to the bai where they learn about elephants, data collection, video recording, etc. The objective is to be able to motivate adolescents to learn about elephants and to project a future that is different from the traditional one



Phanuel Bassoum © ELP for the Yang Center / WWF






Chequina Vonto © ELP for the Yang Center / WWF

This month, the APDS Veterinarian took part in a practical training on the techniques of capture and immobilization of wildlife in Namibia. This training was organized by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.



Our veterinarian in Namibia

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	56	113
	0	1	34
	0	5	8

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



L. Javier Barbadillo

© Luis Javier Barbadillo

Scientific name	Chiromantis rufescens
English name:	African foam-nest tree frog
Taxonomy:	Class : amphibia Order : anura Family : Rhacophoridae Genus : Chiromantis Specie : C. rufescens



The African foam-nest tree frog is a species of frog found in the tropical rainforests of Central Africa. The species has been found in nations ranging from Uganda to Sierra Leone, and has been found on the island of Bioko in Equatorial Guinea. It is likely to live in other nations in the region too, such as Angola but no scientific sightings have been recorded.

This species builds nests of foam above temporary pools and other water bodies

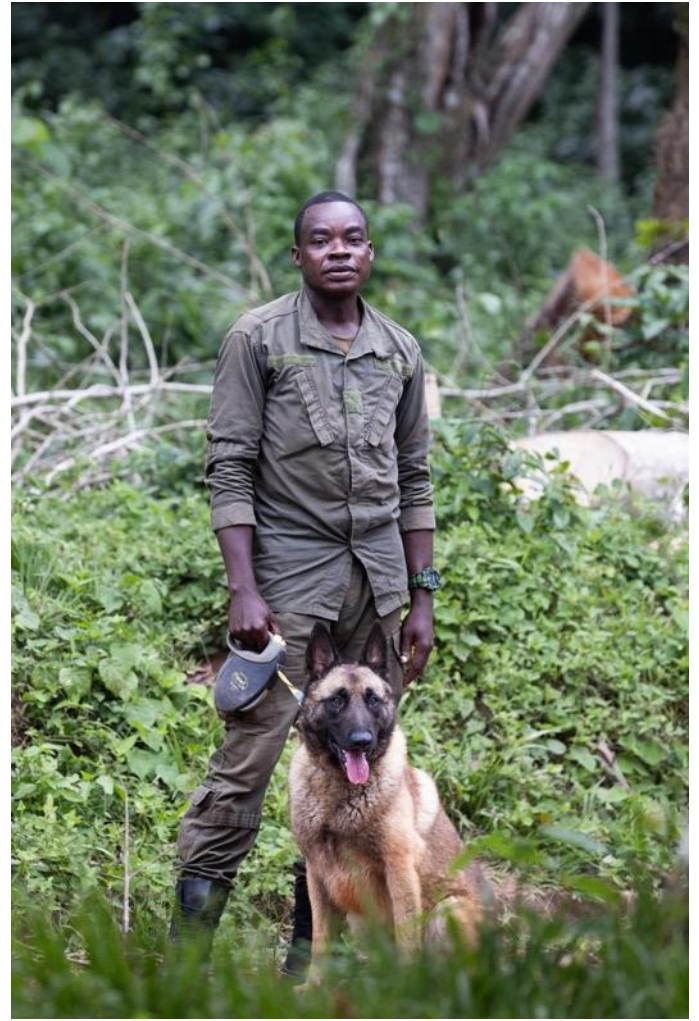


Antipoaching

Following an interruption of the canine unit that was operated in DSPA by Chengeta Wildlife since the end of 2018, for a change of dogs, our canine unit is once again operational with two dogs and four handlers. The dogs were prepared and trained in Europe and introduced to DSPA during the month of June. These new members of anti-poaching unit are called Ringo and Bizzy and have already started adjusting to their new home. They are proficient in detecting ivory, pangolin scales and ammunition. This makes it possible to diversify the methods of surveillance and to offer varied career possibilities to the eco-guards.



Bizzy © Alice Peretie



Ringo © Alice Peretie



The month of June is so far the rainiest month this year. Heavy rains lead to a rise in the water level of the rivers within DSPA, making the patrols of the ecoguards more difficult. Despite these rising water levels, the ecoguards do not slow down their activities during this period and always find ways to cross these natural obstacles



© Landry Bessamboussou



Better to be a bit taller © Landry Bessamboussou

37 regular patrols and 31 patrols from the tri-national anti-poaching brigade were conducted. In total 1.532 ranger/days, 1.979 km traveled on foot to cover an area of 2.300 km². This resulted in the seizure of 8 manufactured 12-gauge 24-gauge cartridges and 121 kg of meat. In addition, 2.244 metal snares were dismantled and 2 kg of pangolin

Community Development

The DSPA facilitated the travel of 22 teachers and 115 students living in the outskirts of Bayanga to take part in the end of the 2022-2023 academic year exams organized in Bayanga. Every year, DSPA supports these communities living in the outskirts of Bayanga who experience enormous transport difficulties to reach the exam centre in Bayanga.



the students had to show what they had learned © Christian Bassoum



But in this case, also the teachers © Christian Bassoum

After the exams, we organized a retraining workshop for all the teachers (51 in total). This workshop was coupled with the distribution of hand washing (hygiene) kits to the managers of the various establishments for hygiene measures.



© Christian Bassoum



More than 350 table-benches have been ordered by the DSPA, funded by DENTSU, to be distributed in schools to increase their reception capacities and improve study conditions for students. 150 table-benches are already received, part of which have been given to Bayanga high school (100), the rest to the sub-prefectural school Girls and Boys of Bayanga (50).



New banks for the schools in the region © Christian Bassoum

The Head of the Development and Community Rights Department left DSPA in mid-June, at the end of her contract, after two years with us.

<i>Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients</i>	
Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	376
Belemboke Health Post	497
Total	873

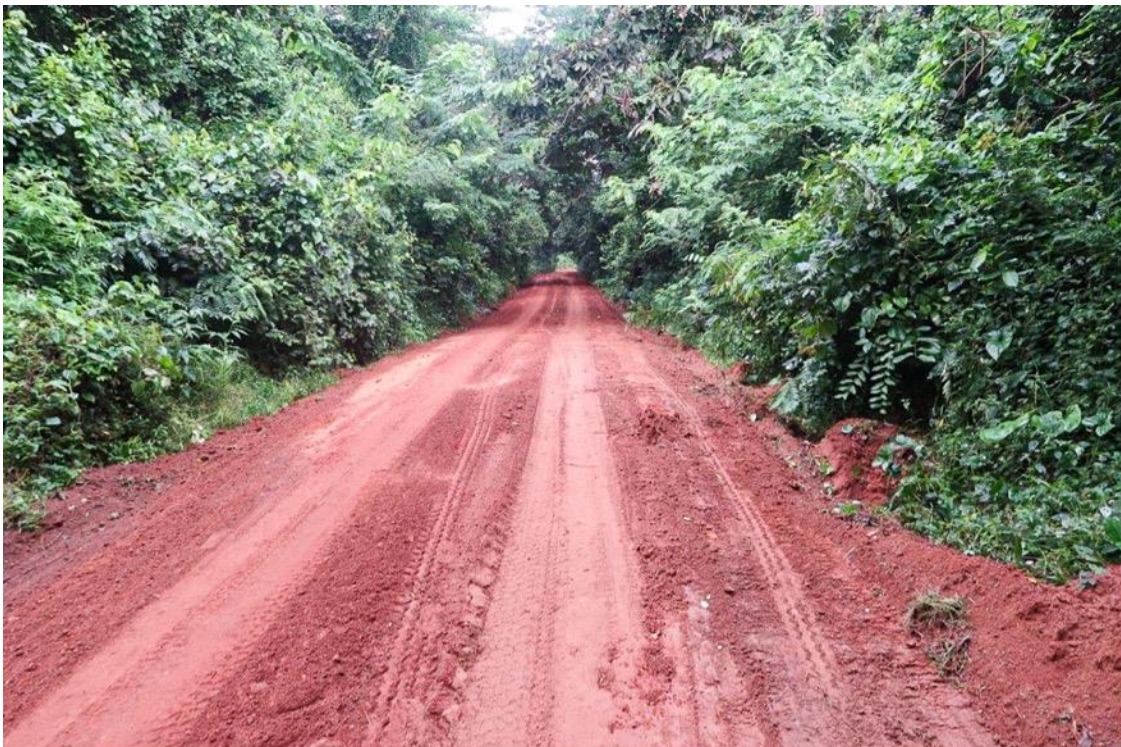


Park Administration

This month we completely rehabilitated the road leading to the Kongana training center, which was in a rather deplorable state



© Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz

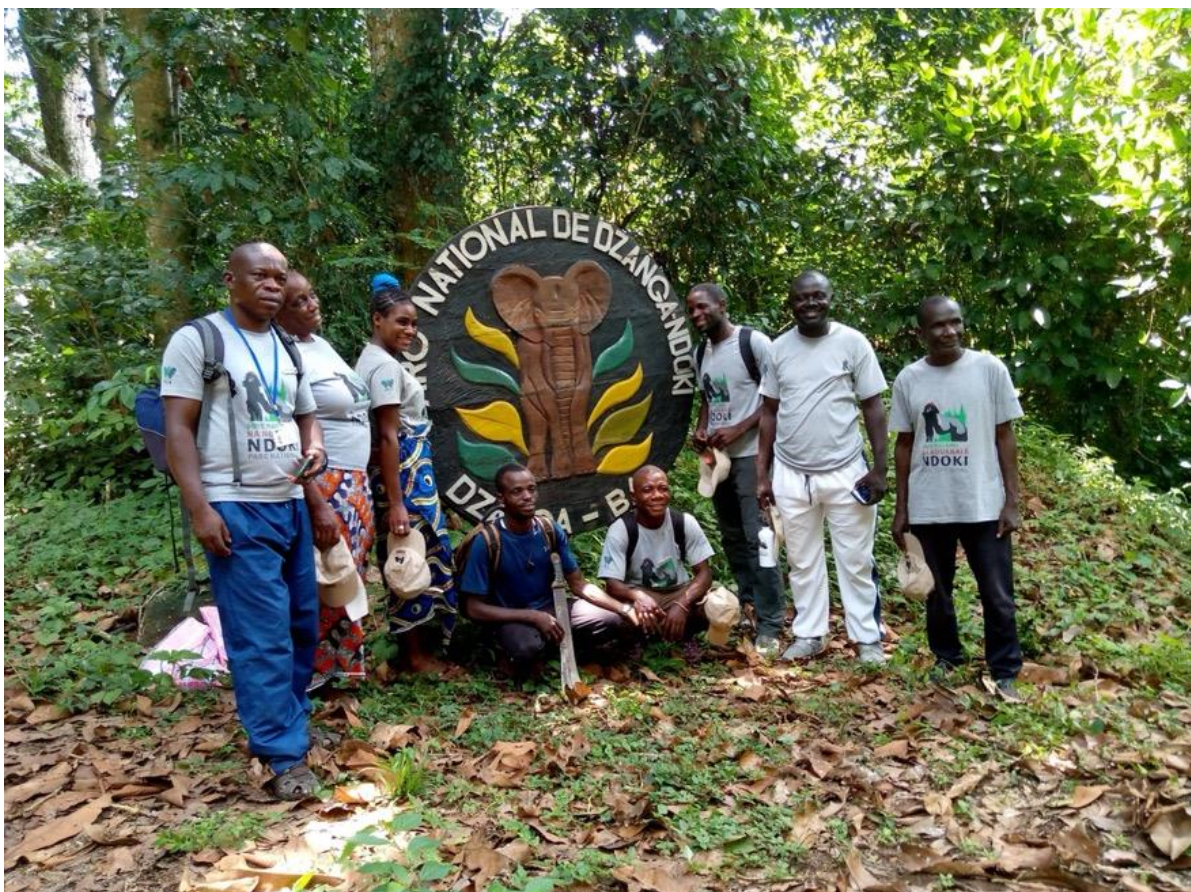
Tourism and Marketing

This month, in addition to the regular visit of tourists, we received two missions from managers of the other parks within the TNS (The Sangha Trinational, known by its French acronym *trinational de la Sangha*) and elsewhere.

From Nouabalé Ndoki National Park (Republic of Congo), eight people from the ecotourism sector and two Ecoguards came to DSPA.

This mission, including representatives of the indigenous Ba'Aka people of Congo, benefited from a day of sharing and exchange through presentations, questions and answers. This session that took place at the DSPA Tourist Welcome Center, enabled these managers to understand the tourism strategy put in place in Dzanga Sangha which is a reference in the TNS.

They also carried out several tourist activities, including visiting elephants at Dzanga Bai, tracking gorillas and cultural immersion with the indigenous Ba'Aka community.



The NNNP team enjoying DSPA and the bai © Lambert Padou



The second experience sharing visit was the one carried out by the managers of the Lobéké National Park and Campo Ma'an National Park (both in Cameroon). Unlike the above-mentioned visit, the Lobeke team consisted of all its management staff, including the heads of all Units.

The main objective of this mission was to become familiar with the operating model of DSPA. They met all DSPA department heads to discuss strategies and operations.



© Lambert Padou



The Lobeke team ©Lambert Padou



Arrivals and departures



© Luis Arranz

Lydie Axelle Mbango, the PAPA Project Coordinator, and responsible of the community development department, has finished her work in DSPA. We wish her all the best

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