



# Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

[www.dzanga-sangha.org](http://www.dzanga-sangha.org)



© David Santiago

## Newsletter July 2023

DSPA receives funds from



Co-funded by the European Union



## Wildlife

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Forest elephants are known to form small groups, generally a mother and her dependent offspring. Males can leave their birth group as early as at the age of 7 years, and females around the age of 15-20, or when they have their own first offspring. However, exceptions can be seen at Dzanga Bai such as the Alvah family. Alvah was first seen in 2006 and estimated to have been born in 1962. Alvah has most probably sired more than seven offspring in her life, and she is often seen at the clearing with up to 12 family members, including her daughters Alvah II, Alvah III, Alvah IV, Alvah V and Alvah VI. The matriarch Alvah organizes the movements of the group to leave the clearing and probably also to enter it. It is a spectacular view to observe this big group at Dzanga Bai.



*Alvah in 2008 with Alvah V © Andrea Turkalo*



*Alvah and seven members of her family in July 2023 ©ELP for the Yang Center / WWF.*



A young female buffalo died in the Dzanga Bai forest clearing. We carried out the necropsy and even though the cause of death remains unclear for the moment, we observed various injuries. We collected enough samples of organs, tissue, blood, and parasites for further analysis in the laboratory.

This young female named Olivia by the research team, was first appeared in the clearing in September 2022, with deformed hooves. Since then, she did not leave the clearing again. Her condition worsened over time, and in the last months of her life she had been suffering attacks from elephants and harassment from a male buffalo



Necropsy ©ELP for the Yang Center / WWF



Olivia with overgrown hooves ©ELP for the Yang Center / WWF



During the month of July, the veterinary teams of the Nouabale Ndoki National Park and DSPA carried out a joint mission to the tri-national antipoaching brigade site to raise awareness on zoonotic diseases and to train ecoguards from the three TNS Parks on carcasses swabbing using personal protective equipment.






© Frederic Singa

The research camps in DSPA have been equipped with television screens and Canal + antennas to allow staff in the field to be better informed and entertained in the evening after work. This initiative, which is a first in DSPA, marks the beginning of a long series of improvements in the conditions of workers in forest sites.



© APDS / WWF

Dzanga bai data: based on the number counted every 30 minutes between 11:00 to 16:30 each day of the month.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	2	80	155
	0	3	35
	0	6	9

## Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA

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© Luis Javier Barbadillo

**Scientific name** *Hyperolius balfouri*

**English name:** *Balfour's reed frog*

**Taxonomy:**  
Class : amphibia  
Order : anura  
Family : Hyperoliidae  
Genus : Hyperolius  
Specie : H. balfou



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The Balfour's reed frog is found in Cameroon, Central African Republic, north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, southwestern Ethiopia, Uganda, and western Kenya.

Adult males measure 28–34 mm (1.1–1.3 in) and adult females 36–42 mm (1.4–1.7 in) in snout–vent length. The dorsum is yellow to brown with thin, dark dorsolateral stripes. The venter and throat are white to orange. Males possess a large, flat, somewhat shagreened gular flap and small asperities on the dorsum. Females have smooth skin.

*Hyperolius balfouri* occurs in savannas at elevations below 820 m but also in formerly forested areas in Cameroon and CAR. Breeding takes place in small pools. It is an abundant species that is unlikely to face significant threats.



## Antipoaching

The World Ranger Day was celebrated on July 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a day to honour and express our gratitude towards the brave individuals who dedicate their lives to protect the ecosystems all over the world. In the course of their duty, ecoguards continue to risk their lives, and too often lose it, especially in Africa. This month, DSPA ecoguards managed to stop a group of poachers armed with an AK 47 and 18 ammunition, intended to kill elephants.



© Alice Peretie



©Nuria Ortega

41 regular patrols were conducted. In total 1.552 ranger/days, 1.958 km traveled on foot to cover an area of 2.140 km<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the seizure of 9 manufactured 12-gauge 24-gauge cartridges, 1 war gun AK and 28 cartridges. 251 kg of meat. In addition, 4.820 metal snares were dismantled.

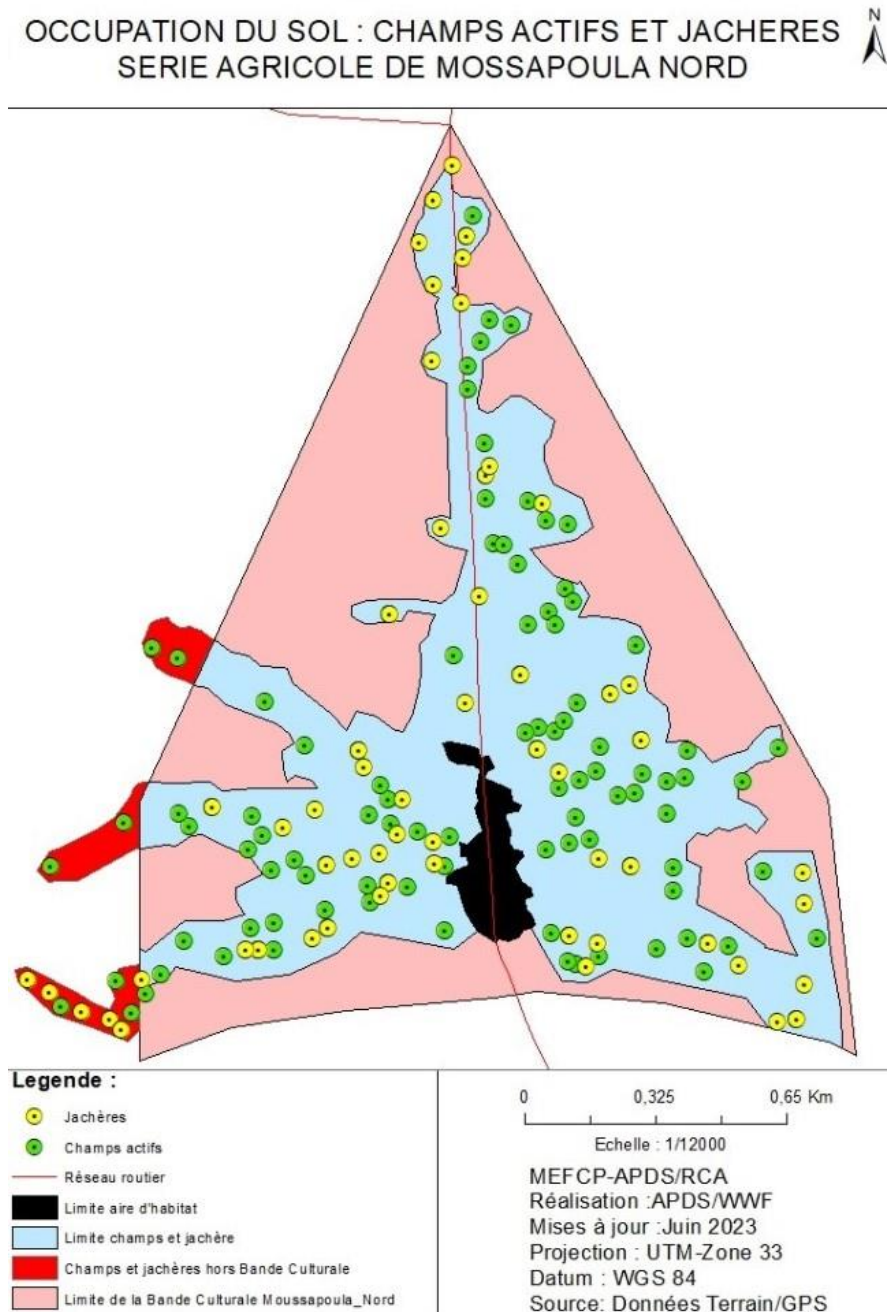
8 people arrested, sensitized then released

2 people arrested for trial

# Community Development

We are preparing a big agroforestry project in the DSPA landscape that will help to diversify agricultural practices and reduce forest degradation around the agricultural strip. To understand the land tenure situation, we tested a methodology to identify landowners and their type of ownership. The activity will be replicated throughout APDS in July and august and allow us to make an informed design for agroforestry implementation in the future.

OCCUPATION DU SOL : CHAMPS ACTIFS ET JACHERES  
SERIE AGRICOLE DE MOSSAPOULA NORD





An expert in sustainable agriculture was in DSPA to observed and to determine what should be planted in DSPA, as well as how and when to plant in order to optimize time, money and work. Now we await the final report of the expert to start the activities.



© Christian Bassoum



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***Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients***

<b>Structure</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
Monasao Health Post	387
Belemboke Health Post	506
<b>Total</b>	<b>893</b>



## Park Administration

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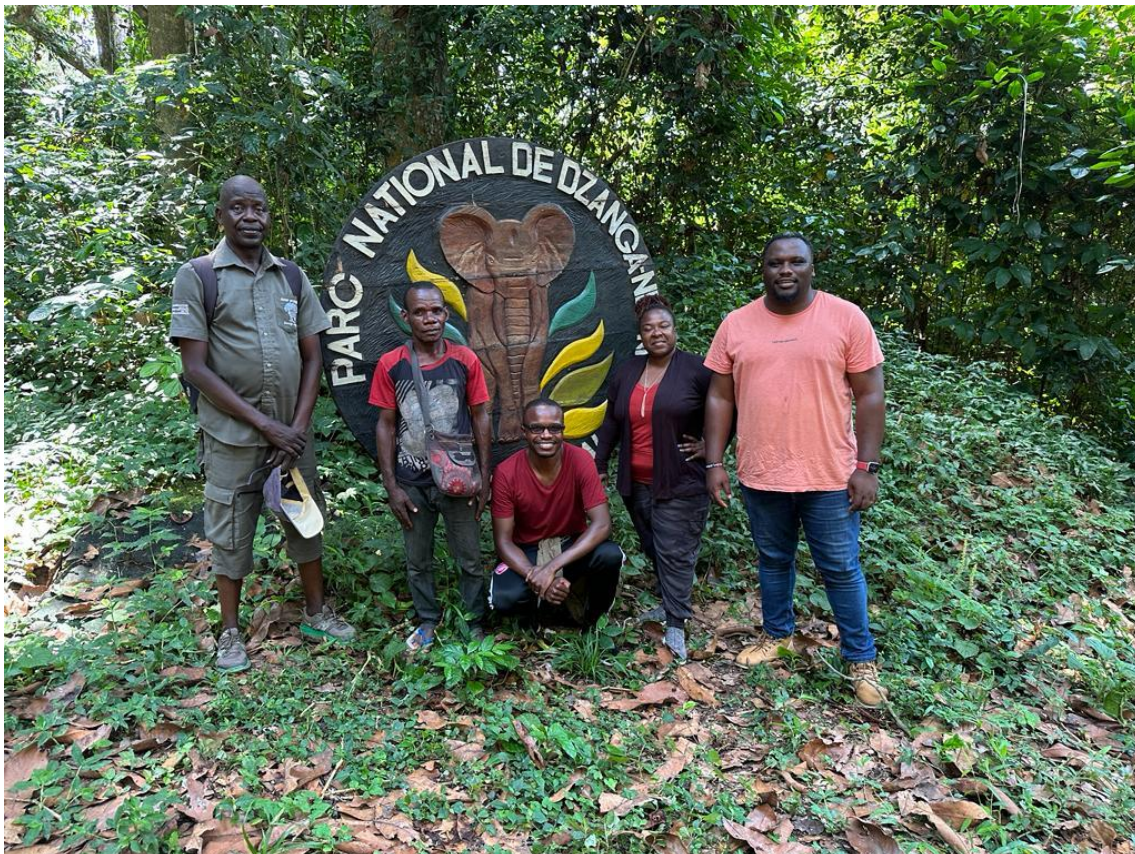
This month we have some good news at financial level.

Firstly, the new head of the logistics and infrastructure department, who we had been wanting to recruit for years, has arrived, and started his work. This will help us decisively in the progress of the project.

Secondly, we have signed a new contract with the European Union for financing for the next three years, and furthermore, and after long months of negotiations, we have finally received the first part of the money from the UNDP.

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A mission from WWF International came to support DSPA in the appropriation of environmental and social safeguard tools and their integration into our project cycles.



*Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaura, Felix Mmata and Eric Essomba, the ESSF mission, visiting Dzanga bai © WWF / DSPA*



## Tourism and Marketing

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One of the Ba'aka tour guides, Motungui, died this month from a snake bite and apparent cardiac arrest. He was such an exemplary person that every tourist who has visited the park with him, never stopped asking about "the man with the eternal smile".



©EvaSpyridis

© Eva Spyridis

## Arrivals and departures

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Ray Henker, the new logistic and infrastructure manager has luckily arrived.

© Luis Arranz



Lameck Lasege came to help us to optimized the agriculture activities en DSPA

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