



# Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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



Although it is usually the opposite, sometimes it is the tourists who dance for the Baaka population © Luis Arranz

## Newsletter August 2023

DSPA receives funds from



## Wildlife

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The bais do attract elephants and offer an opportunity for them to meet and also facilitate activities very specific to elephants for all age groups, such as: friendly play, bathing, greeting, fighting, measuring capacity of strength etc.



*Two infants playing at Dzanga Bai. © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF*



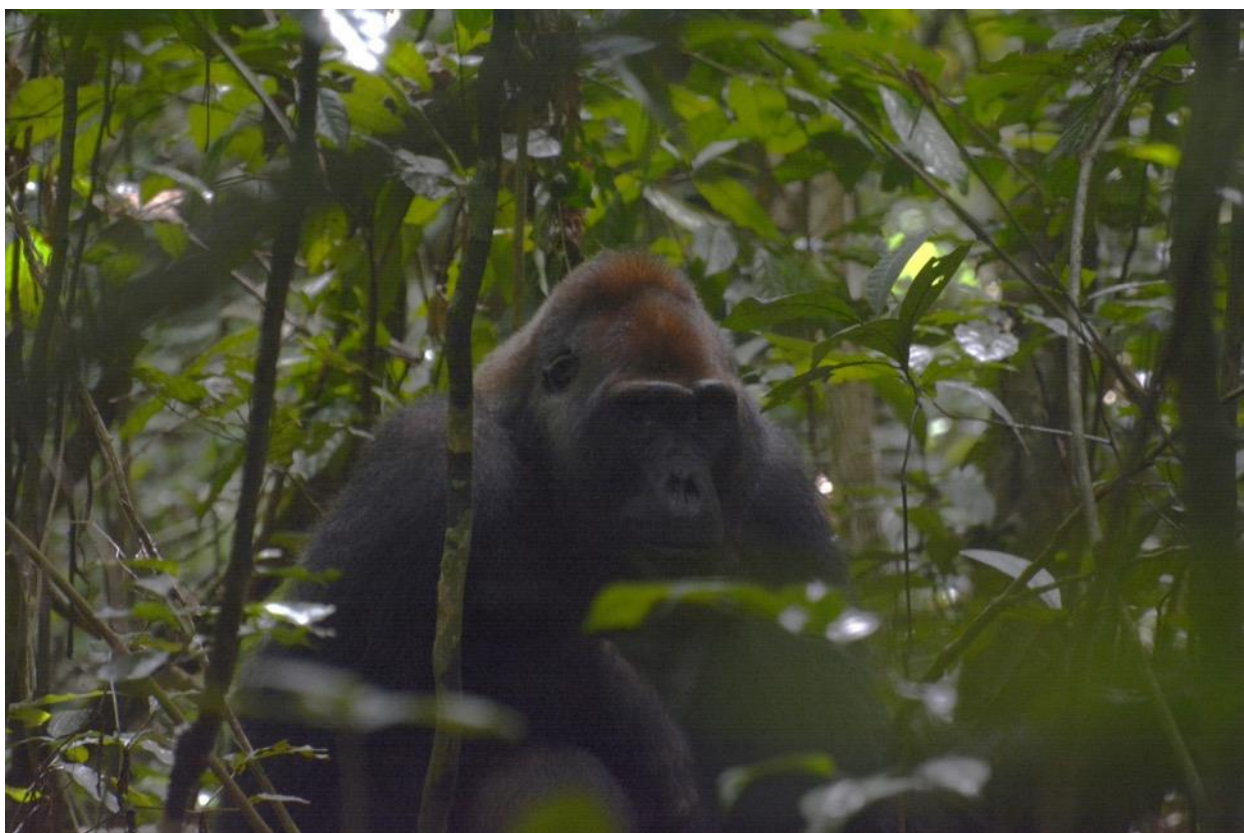
*Last moments of play. Exhausted infants at Dzanga Bai © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF*



After the loss of two habituated gorilla groups due to the accidental deaths of the silverbacks Mata and Mayele, and with only one habituated group left, we have intensified the search and habituation of new groups.

A new habituation expert for the program has arrived. He had already been at Dzanga-Sangha 6 years ago as a researcher, and with him leading the habituation we have recruited 6 new trackers and are recruiting two new research assistants.

In addition, we are expanding the Mongambe camp to allocate more staff, as two gorilla groups are being simultaneously habituated in that area. Both groups have been tried to be followed on a daily basis. The Wonga group has been contacted 16 times during this month and clear observations of a few individuals have been made. The second group has been followed and contacted several times, and we think that the silverback of the group is Mopangu, a son of Mayele.






*Maybe Mopangu, son of Mayele © Andrea Soto-Mayor*

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We have also recruited a new Lab assistant for the One Health Project

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Dzanga bai data: based on the number of individuals counted every 30 minutes between 11:00 to 16:30 each day of the month in collaboration with the Elephant Listening Project.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
	24	90	163
	0	0	1
	0	6	8

## Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA

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Luis Javier Barbadillo

© Luis Javier Barbadillo

**Scientific name** Perodicticus potto

**English name:** potto

**Taxonomy:**

- Class : mamalia
- Order : primates
- Family : lorisidae
- Genus : Perodicticus
- Specie : P. potto



The potto is 30 to 39 cm long with a short (3 to 10 cm) tail, and its weight varies from 600 to 1,600 grams. The dense, woolly fur is grey-brown. The index finger is vestigial, although it has opposable thumbs with which it grasps branches firmly.

Like other strepsirrhines the potto has a moist nose, toothcomb, and a toilet claw on the second toe of the hind legs.

Pottos move slowly and carefully, always gripping a branch with at least two limbs. They are also quiet and avoid predators using cryptic movements.

The potto diet consists of about 65% fruit, tree gums and insects.<sup>[21]</sup> Pottos have also occasionally been known to catch bats and small birds.<sup>[22]</sup>

Pottos have large territories which they mark with urine and glandular secretions.

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## Antipoaching

In recent months we have confiscated several AK 47 weapons, which is worrying for us.



*Antipoaching control © Alice Péretié*



*Metal snares continue to be a big problem © Alice Péretié*

35 regular patrols were conducted. In total 1.625 ranger/days, 1.914km traveled on foot to cover an area of 2.100 km<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the seizure of 9 manufactured 12-gauge, 1 hunting gun 375, and a war gun AK.47 with ammunitions. Also 163 kg of meat and 4.611 metal snares were dismantled.  
2 persons were arrested.  
1 person was arrested for trial.



## Conservation Community

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We have begun the process to recruit a person in charge of the Community Conservation Department who we hope will arrive as soon as possible,

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The Friends of Nature club, taking advantage of the summer school holidays, has carried out games and awareness campaigns in several of the towns located around the Park.



© Christian Bassoum

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

<b>Structure</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
Monasao Health Post	345
Belemboke Health Post	394
<b>Total</b>	<b>739</b>



## Park Administration

A mission from the FTNS has come to carry out both the annual audit and the inventory and see the achievements made this year.



© Luis Arranz

As part of the training program, the deputy director of APDS has gone to Ghana to spend two months learning English.



The deputy director of DSPA receiving his diploma in English © APDS / WWF



From now on, a team will be in charge of the care and maintenance of the gardens at the headquarters .



*Improving the aspect of the gardens © Luis Arranz*

We have finished the construction of a new building that will be used to store weapons and confiscated items such as illegal weapons, ivory and pangolin scales.



*© Nuria Ortega*



## Tourism and Marketing

August has once again been quite a busy month with tourists visiting. This time the majority have come from Spain, and again there were children among them.



© Luis Arranz



© Ruth Rubio



We were also visited by 2 new Spanish Tour Operators, Kananga and Rift Valley, who came to inspect the terrain and from 2024 will start offering Dzanga Sangha in their brochures.



© Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz

## Arrivals and departures



© Nuria Ortega

Andrea Soto-Mayor, who had been in DS as a researcher 6 years ago, has come to lead the Gorillas Habituation Program.



© Nuria Ortega

Jephthé Francis Estimé Kandou, has come as a laboratory assistant for the One Health Project.



© Nuria Ortega

Mireille Mozouta, who had been working for 6 months at the Elephant Listening Project as an interim, has been recruited and will remain permanently with us.

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