



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



© David Santiago

Newsletter January 2024

DSPA receives funds from



K Lisa Yang



Wildlife

A group of forest elephants is generally composed by an adult female and her dependent offspring. Phyllis IV, born in 1999 to her mother Phyllis, was observed at Dzanga Bai in 2022 with three daughters who are still with her. The juvenile females are Phyllis IV(II), the first offspring born in 2012, Phyllis IV(III), born around 2016 and Phyllis IV(IV) born around 2020.

On November 14, 2023, Phyllis IV's group was seen for their last bai visit of 2023. Their first visit of 2024 brought a surprise; they came with Phyllis IV(V) a female who was born during a few weeks of absence of the group. Phyllis IV's group is one of the biggest groups of a mother with dependent offspring, a total of four young females.



Phyllis IV group at the bai © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF



Newborn female named Phyllis IV(V) © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF



The dry season is at its peak in the protected areas of Dzanga-Sangha, making the work of our teams more difficult. The rainy season, despite its constraints, has the advantage of making the ground looser, thus favoring the increase in traces left by the gorillas behind their passages. In addition, at this time of year, the availability of fruit throughout their living space is very low, forcing the gorillas to switch to a diet mainly composed of plants and tree leaves. Despite this, our teams, accustomed to these seasonal changes, continue their efforts to habituate the new groups of gorillas.




This month, Mboga, the youngest member of the Makumba group, celebrates his first anniversary.



Mboga is already one year old © Nuria Ortega

This new year has started with a new adventure for juvenile female Inguka, one of the twins born in the Makumba group. Her absence was noticed by tracking teams on the morning of January 5th and this was confirmed in the days that followed. Less than a hundred meters from the place where the group spent the night, we found the nests of another group, leading us to believe that this is when she left the group to join another one. It is rare to see groups of different gorillas spending a night so close to each other without the dominant males entering conflict. Was it the group of a former son of Makumba, born to another female than Malui, the mother of the twins? Did this other male pique the interest of Inguka, in order for her to leave her birth group? The conditions of Injuka's departure will remain unclear, but we wish her the best and thank her for these magnificent moments that she and her sister brought us.

Dzanga Bai data collected in collaboration with the Elephant Listening Project: presence of mammals at the clearing based on the number of individuals counted every 30 minutes from 11:00 to 16:30 each day of the month.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	33	116	185
	0	1	31
	0	6	10

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© Andrea Turkaloi

Scientific name	Potamochoerus porcus
English name:	Red river hog
Taxonomy:	Class : mammalia Order : <u>Artiodactyla</u> Family : <u>Suidae</u> Genus : Potamochoerus Specie : P. porcus



The red river hog lives in tropical rainforests, humid savannahs, in densely forested valleys, and near rivers, lakes and swamps.

It has striking red fur, with black legs and a white line along its spine and tufts on its ears. They have white markings around the eyes and on the cheeks and jaws; the rest of the mouth and face are black

Adults weigh 45 to 115 kilograms and measure 55 to 80 centimeters in height, with a length of 100 to 145 centimeters. the males are somewhat larger than the females

These pigs eat grasses, berries, roots, insects. They usually live in herds of between 6 and 20 members led by a dominant wild boar.



Antipoaching

The ecoguards have performed their usual activities during this month,



Rangers patrol by car, by foot and by boat © Miguel Bellosta

40 regular patrols were conducted involving 88 rangers. In total 1801 Rangers/days. 2362 km were traveled on foot to cover an area of 2407 km².

This resulted in the seizure of 11 manufactured 12-gauge firearms, and 6 homemade firearms, with 218 ammunitions. 819 kg of illegal wild meat were seized, and 1159 metal snares were dismantled.

2 elephant carcasses were found and 5 suspects arrested

Community Conservation

Among the activities that Ndima Kali carries out, we have held a competition for toys made by the children. These toys are the ones that they usually play with.



Studying new investments for DSPA © Luis Arranz



African Barbie house © Luis Arranz



The Club of Friends for Nature, in collaboration with the Elephant Listening Project, has continued with its program of visits to Dzanga Bai. Children are taken to the observation platform to see the elephants and learn about the work we are doing there. This month, the majority visiting were Ba'aka children.



Children learning from the researcher about mammals © Christian Bassoun

Thanks to the help of a private donor, the health centers of Monassao and Belemboke have started their construction work for the extension of their infrastructure.



Bricks for the health center © Melania Jimenez

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	397
Belemboke Health Post	421
Total	818



Park Administration

We have rehabilitated the Mongambe camp entirely, and it will now be able to house a greater number of workers and in much better conditions than before to house a greater number of workers and in much better condition than before.



House for the trackers © Luis Arranz



House for the research assistants © Luis Arranz



House for the researchers © Luis Arranz



Toilets © Luis Arranz

UNDP has confirmed the approval of new funding for DS for this year. Now, we have to prepare the proposal and the budget for the use of the funding.

Last year the rainy season ended later than usual, meaning that the start of the rehabilitation work on the roads in the Park has been slightly delayed.



Tourism and Marketing

Like every January, in the middle of the dry season, the flow of tourists has been quite high. This year we had the visit of some members of the Cisneros rugby team from Madrid. Although this time was the turn of the youth, we hope that little by little the rest will find the courage to also come.



Members of the junior team © Léon Gonde-Leu

Arrivals and departures



© Anais De Giovanni

Antoine Ede has arrived to take charge of the research and monitoring department at DS. His experience in other parks in the region will help us significantly.

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