



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



© David Santiago

Newsletter June 2024



DSPA receives funds from



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K Lisa Yang



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Wildlife

Elephant ears function the same as human fingerprints. Elephants are identified mainly by their ears, as each pattern of veins, nerves, notches and tears is unique. Other physical characteristics such as tusks, tails, body size and body shape are also used for identifying individuals.

Same XIV is an adult male and an avid visitor of Dzanga Bai. Thanks to continuous monitoring researchers have been able to document physical changes that he went through in the last two years. In 2022 he was seen with both tusks being intact and a few small tears on his left ear. In November of the same year, he was observed with his right tusk broken and several months later, with a big tear in his left ear. These damages can be caused by fights with other males, pushing tree trunks and also infections at the root of the tusk.



Left, Same XIV with a big tear in his left ear. Right Same XIV in 2023 before his left ear presented the big tear ©ELP for the Yang Center/WWF

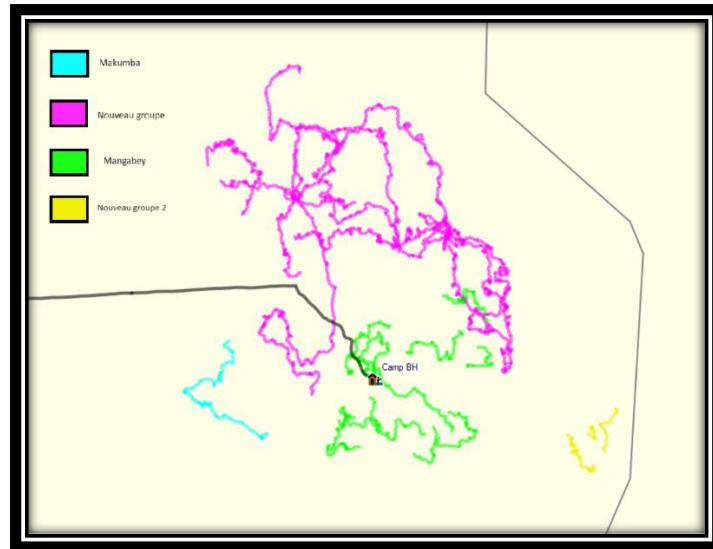


Left, Same XIV with his right tusk broken, Right Same XIV in 2022 with both tusks intact ©ELP for the Yang Center/WWF



At the end of June our teams managed to find Mabor, one of Makoumba's females, to the west of the camp, opposite the areas used by the group in recent months. During the first contact we could observe that she was with her two healthy children. An unknown silverback was at their side and charged our teams. His behavior indicates that he is not used to human presence.

Regarding the new group in the process of habituation, after having carried out six days of contact in the month of April and eleven days of contact in the month of May, this month, we contacted the group on 21 days, an important progress for the evolution of the habituation. The viewing time remains low on average, but an increase in contacts is promising for the progress.



The group of Mangabeys was followed almost every day during this month and was visited five times by tourist groups.

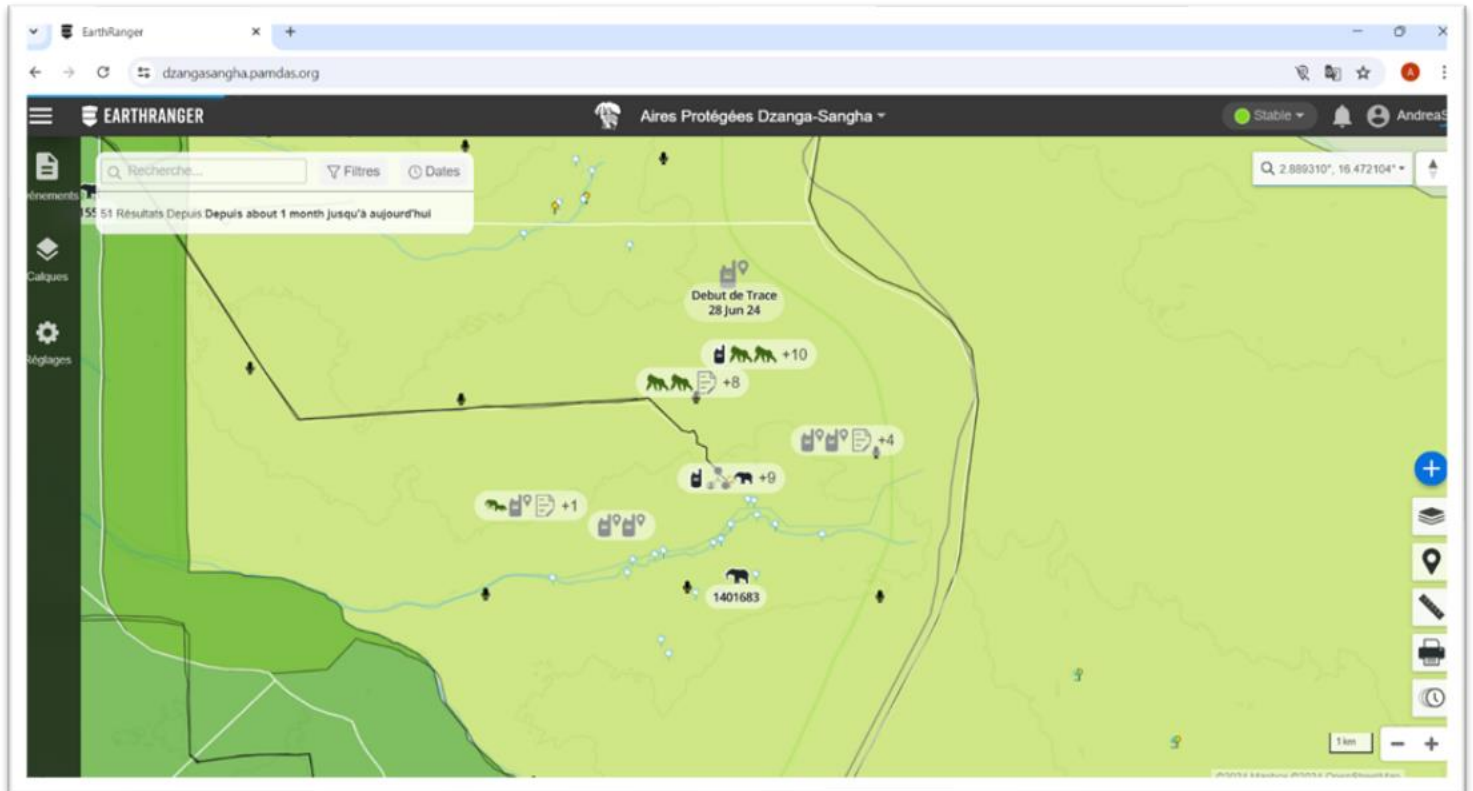


Mangabeys at Bai Hokou © Miguel Bellosta






In order to improve data collection to move to an electronic model, we received a visit from the managers of the primate habituation sites of Mondika and the Goulougo Triangle in Nouabale Ndoki NP (RoC). After this exchange, we configured the software application to collect data during monitoring of gorilla groups.

We also purchased new Inreach GPS devices, which allow sending of messages and benefit the communication between field teams facilitating handovers between two teams. This improvement is an asset during tourist visits, allowing us to know the position of a team and whether groups have been contacted before going into the field with the tourists.



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.

Species	Minimum	Average	Maximum
	21	90	128
	0	11	35
	0	5	9

Antipoaching

For the month of June, the APDS relaunched efforts to build the capacity of ecoguards thanks to the support of its partner Chengeta Wildlife.

The refresher session was divided into five sessions, covering various essential aspects such as professional ethics, human rights, patrolling techniques, and handling complex tactical situations.

This program aims to maintain and improve the individual and collective skills of ecoguards, thus ensuring adequate preparation to face the real challenges encountered in their daily mission.

Over the past quarter, early warning system activities have reached crucial milestones in the northern APDS sectors, thanks to close collaboration with the community leaders of targeted villages.

Additionally, workshops were held to strengthen understanding of wildlife protection laws and to promote sustainable conservation practices at the local level.



The collaboration of the population is essential for the protection of the area © Yoann Galeran



In June, a detailed restitution of the mapping activities carried out in the western sector of the Special Reserve was carried out in close collaboration with ADLAC (association de détenteurs légaux de armes de chasse = association of legal hunting gun owners).

These mapping activities will guide the future implementation of the Simple Community Hunting Area Management Plan, ensuring sustainable and balanced management of natural resources in the region.



Ecoguards explaining the population how the hunting area will be used © Yoann Galeran

48 regular patrols were conducted involving 92 rangers. In total 1.677 rangers/days. 2.311 km were traveled on foot.

This resulted in the seizure of 2 manufactured 12-gauge firearms, and 4 homemade firearms, with 31 ammunitions.

144 kg of illegal wild meat were seized, and 1.763 metal snares were dismantled.

No elephants were poached this month and 5 suspects were arrested for hunting in the National Park.

Community Conservation

Two international days were celebrated in synergy during this month: World Environment Day and World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. To this end, a series of cultural and sporting activities were organized on Monday June 17th in the town of Bayanga; the apotheosis of which was a canoe race on the Sangha river.



Classification phase for Paris 2024 © Amandine Toubou

The celebration began with a popular walk in the town of Bayanga collecting plastic waste.



The waste is a big problem in Bayanga. We are studying how we can help to solve it © Christian Bassoum



In addition to cultural activities, such as the manufacture of craft objects, we organized a competition for lucrative projects that respect the environment. Groups of 3 and 5 young people between 15 and 25 years old presented their projects to be carried out during their school holidays. We received 11 projects and the winning project was a startup of a fast-food restaurant in Bayanga proposed by a group of women.



Some of the handcraft objects manufactured © Amandine Toubou

Every year, for the return to school, APDS finances a large part of the school supplies. This year, instead of providing normal notebooks, we have designed notebooks with pictures from APDS accompanied by text explaining what this park means and how the local population can help to protect it.



We have confectioned special notebooks for the students in the area



The Club of Friends for Nature has continued its program on environmental education, including visits to Dzanga Bai.



The visit to the bai is one of the preferred activities for the members of the club © Amandine Toubou

The Ndimba Kali association has continued with its activities, which mainly consist of the training that elders give to young people about culture and traditions.

This month 368 young people from 12 towns have participated in the association's activities.



Sometimes, two hands are not enough. © Martial Betoulet



This month, two cases of human monkeypox were confirmed in the surrounding villages of the Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas. The patients exposed themselves to the disease by handling and consuming a small monkey carcass that they found in the forest.

The One Health Program in collaboration with the association of indigenous peoples (UCB) has intensified awareness campaigns in the peripheral villages of the APDS but also on the local radio to allow the population to take precautions regarding this disease.

The reported cases are currently under the control of health personnel and no new cases have been reported to date.



Sensibilization on the radio ©Frederic Singa

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	423
Belemboke Health Post	724
Total	940

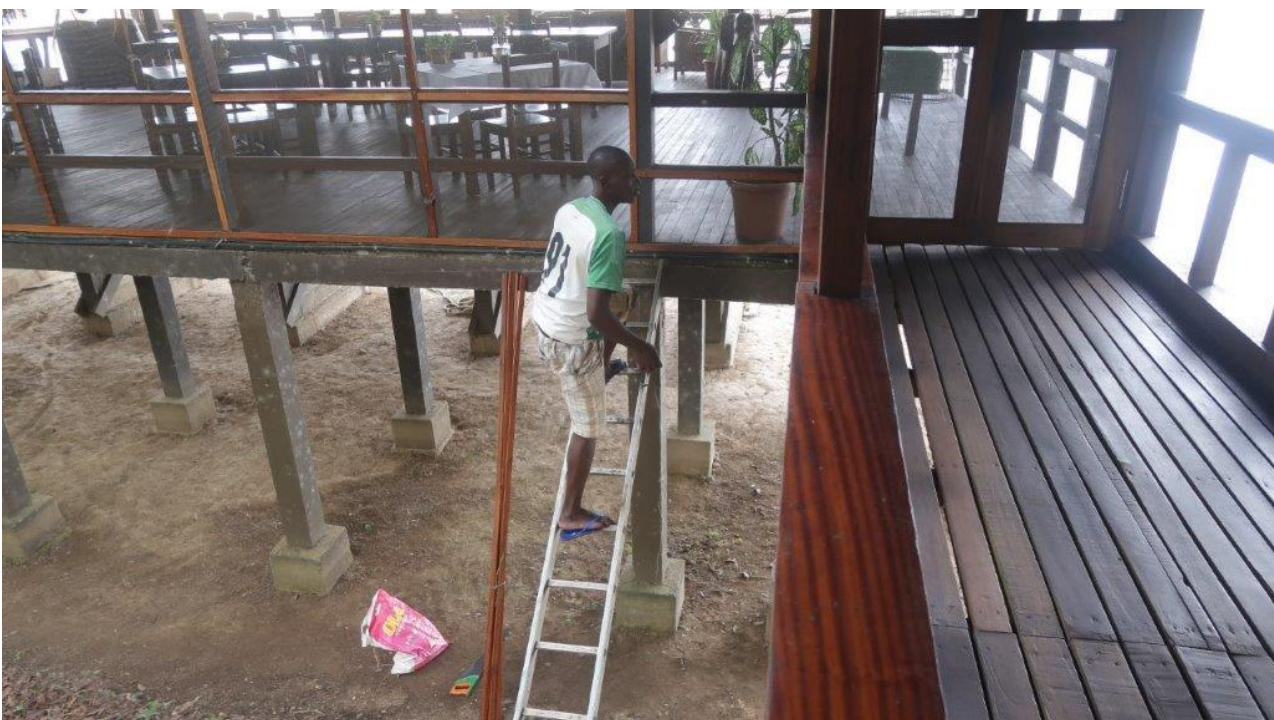
Park Administration

The Moussapola river has been cleaned from tree trunks and major debris that blocked the passage of canoes. This river is one of the main rivers that tourists use to arrive to the area where raffia vine is obtained.



Cutting tree trunks with a chainsaw ©DSPA / WWF

The rehabilitation work at Doli Lodge has continued.



Changing the mosquito nets at Doli Lodge © Luis Arranz

Tourism and Marketing

June has been again a great month for tourism in DS. Several new Tour operators have stated to bring tourist to DS even if in this moment, we can no offer the visit to the gorillas.

A new article has been published on Germany's largest newspaper, the FAZ, (Frankfurter Allgemeine) written by a journalist who visited APDS in November 2023. This article is the first one of a series that will be published soon.

REISE

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SONNTAGSZEITUNG

18. APRIL 2024 NR. 19 SEITE 41

Trouten auf dem Weg zur Danga Bai im Danga-Ndilo-Nationalpark
in Richtung ins Wald in eine Art Kanon der Waldföhren
und Felsen für Wunderschönheit. Der Einfluss in die glänzende
Verkehrsmittel auf dem Sangha Fluss



Der Schatz im Kongobecken

Das Dzanga-Sangha-Schutzgebiet ist eines der letzten Tropenparadiese: Waldelefanten und Gorillas sind nirgendwo besser zu beobachten. Bleibt ein Problem: Die Zentralafrikanische Republik ist eines der gefährlichsten Länder der Welt, gebeutelte vom Bürgerkrieg, illegalem Holzeinschlag und Wilderei.

Von Fabian von Poser (Text & Fotos)

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jetzt wo
Buch

* Preisvergleich April 2016, Buchpreisvergleich April 2016. Nicht vergleichbar mit Amazon. Nicht lieferbar durch Amazon. Versandkosten ausgeschlossen.

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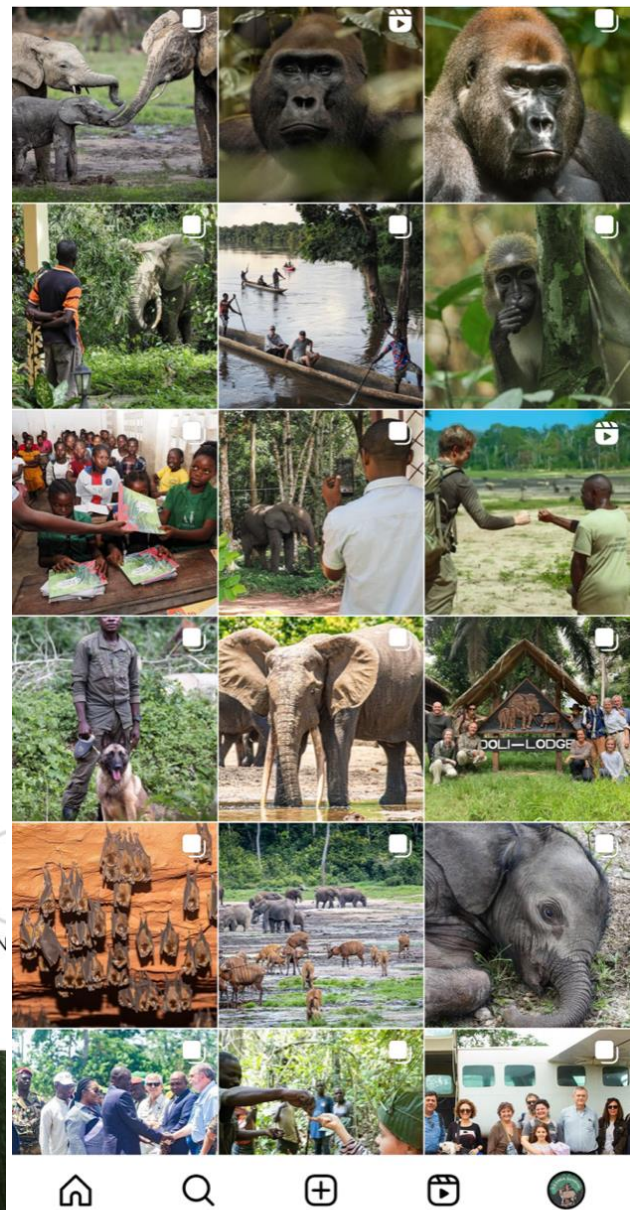
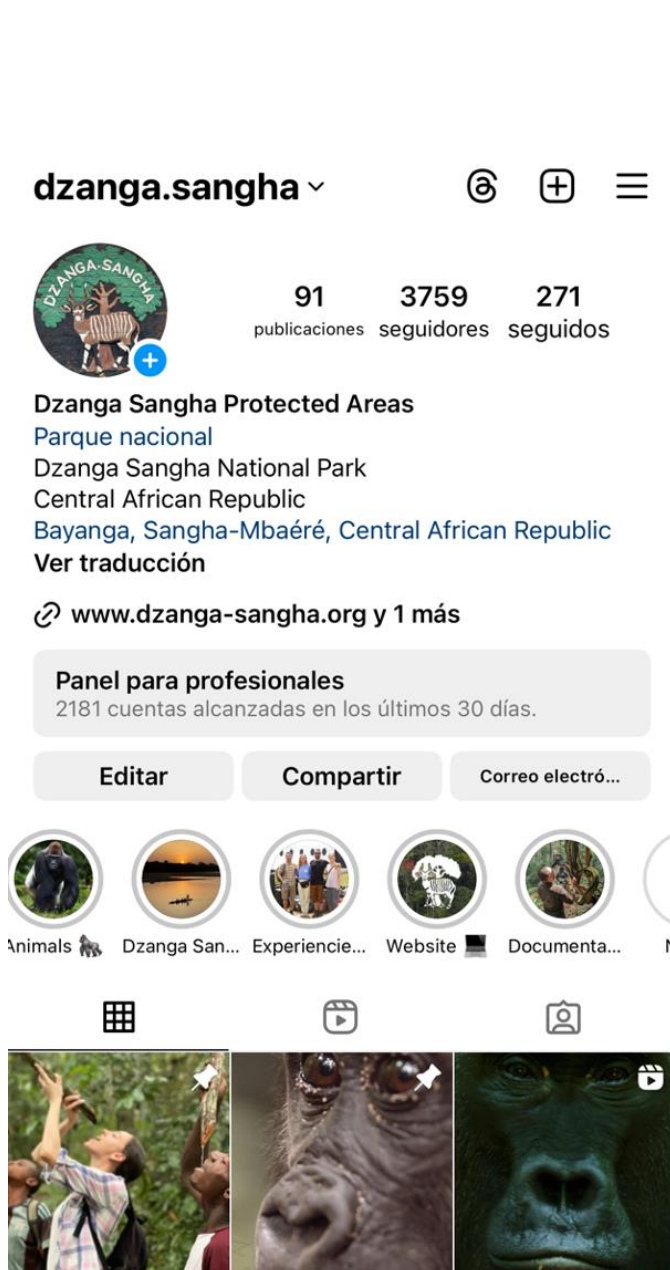
2018, Sternchen in der gesamten Kategorie
„beste Angebote auf der Insel“ & „best. Verpflegung“
„best. Service“ „beste Küche“ & „best. Ambiente“



Erweiterung auf die Abstände δ



Regarding our social media presence: we went from 1,326 followers on Instagram in September 2023 to 3,759 Instagram followers as of July 9th...an increase of 2,433 followers in 9 months.





Arrivals and departures



© Luis Arranz

Elia Brizzi, from Chengeta Wildlife, has come to DS for helping us in the refreshing training session for the rangers.



© Nuria Ortega

Private-Rhodes Ceincinatus Ouabangui, student at the Faculty of Sciences of Bangui University, vivites DSPA to perform research on the topic “Management of a protected area and its impact on the riverine human population”

- *This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of WWF CAR and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*