



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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Newsletter September 2024



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Wildlife



Like every raining season, the elephants, normally big bulls, come close to our headquarters.



Elephants visit us regularly © Nuria Ortega.

Fiona (56 years old) had her 8th offspring, a baby female called Fiona IX. Fiona is an avid visitor of the clearing, and she is normally accompanied by her two older daughters, Fiona VII and Fiona VIII.



Fiona and her newborn female offspring. © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF



Conrad is an adult male estimated in his late 40's and reidentified in 2022. Last December his ears were still almost intact, but in September he appeared with a big tear on his left ear, probably caused by entangling in the vegetation. His identification is easy thanks to the enormous size of his ears. If an elephant could fly, it definitely would be Conrad.



Conrad in September, presenting a big tear in his left ear. © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF.



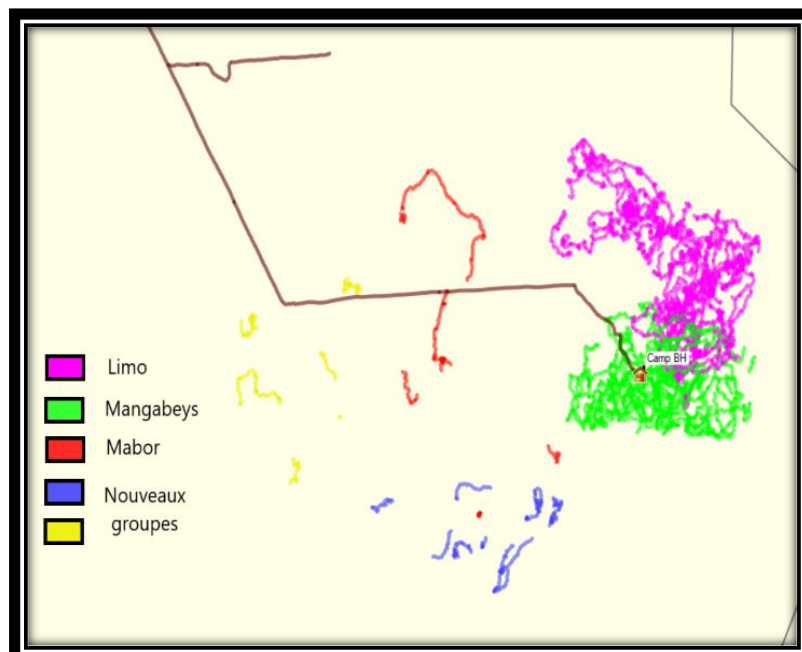
Conrad in December 2023 with an intact left ear. © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF.

Despite having lost the gorilla groups for a few days due to the heavy rainfalls of the season, our teams followed Limo and his family continuously. Contacts were made very early in the morning, close to the places where the gorillas spent the night, and close to where the group had been last observed the previous day. This behavior indicates that the gorillas are fleeing from our presence much less. One of the females of the group was identified as Mopatapata, a female who was with the Makumba group from 2000 to 2006. She is one of the four females of the new group who has a young baby.



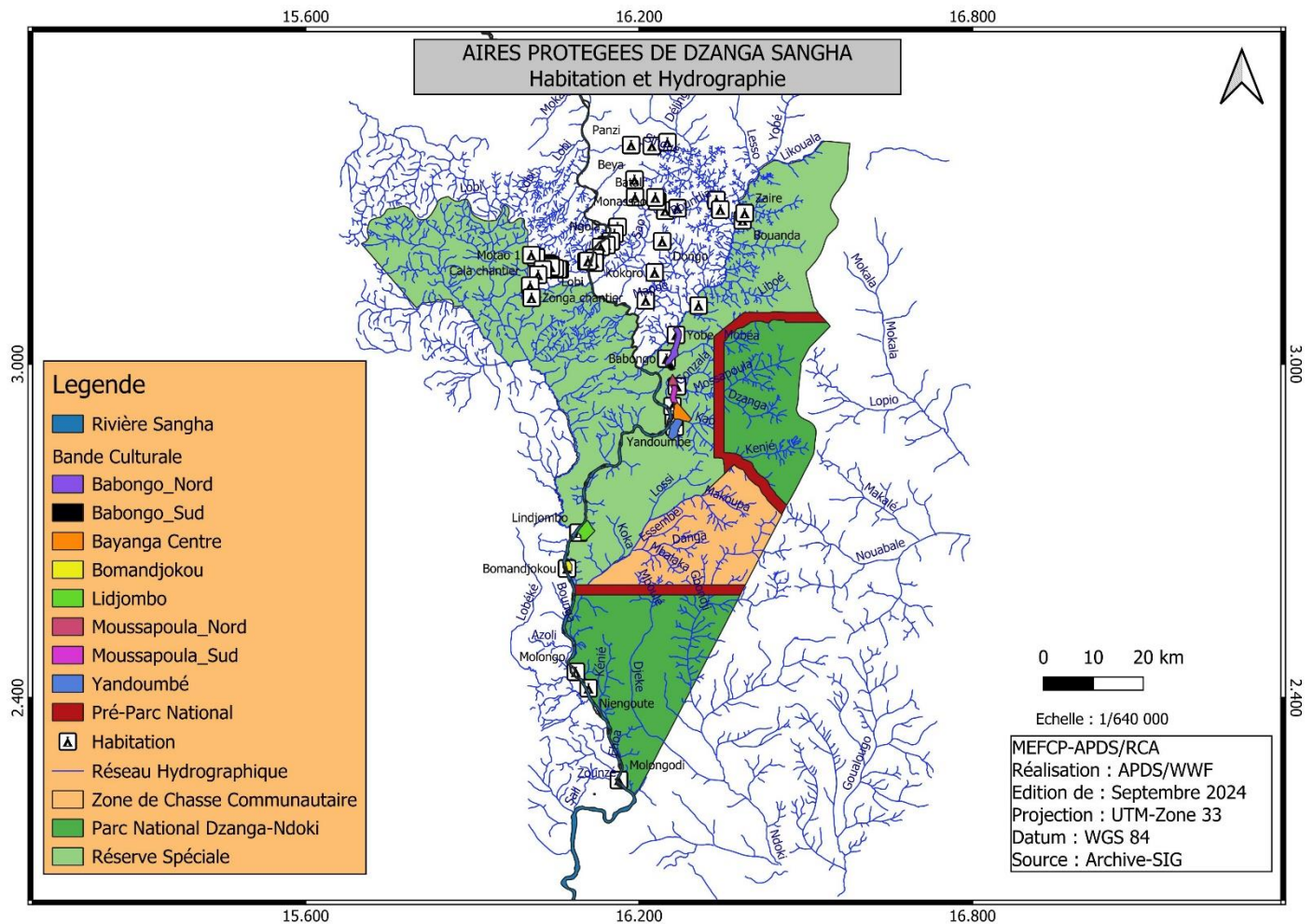
Mopatapata, © Léon Faure

Our teams have been tracking female Mabor and her children, as they had been observed several times with a new gorilla group near Baï-Hokou. This month our teams followed three different groups, and we chose to continue following the two groups that roam closer to camp as their movements keep them within the limits of the protected area.





The Forest Management Unit organized an introductory training on the use of QGIS 3.34. Indeed, this capacity building initiative in Geographic Information Systems aims to enable learners to produce their maps and also to be able to download GPS points from the QGIS software which is a mapping software at their fingertips. At the end of these two days of training, some learners were able to produce their own maps.



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
	1	54	106
	0	1	18
	0	4	8



Antipoaching

This month we caught again four elephant poachers in the border between DSPA (CAR) and Nouabale Ndoki NP (RoC) they were Central Africans and were judged in Bayanga. Two of them were convicted to 3 years in prison and two were convicted to 10 years in prison.



Rangers during a patrol in a poachers camp © Miguel Bellostá

35 regular patrols were conducted involving 85 rangers. In total 1.560 rangers/days. 2.140 km were traveled on foot.

This resulted in the seizure of 3 manufactured 12-gauge firearms, and 4 homemade firearms.

10 kg of illegal wild meat were seized, and 3.623 metal snares were dismantled.

Three elephants were poached and the rangers arrested 3 suspects for this.

4 people stood trial; 2 were convicted to 3 years in prison and 2 were convicted to 10 years in prison.

Community Conservation

The APDS relaunched the strategy of strengthening the Permanent Support Program for Indigenous Peoples with the resumption of the Action Leaders Project. The APDS in collaboration with the communities work with 33 action leaders, who are members chosen by the communities to play the role of intermediary (Community Relays) between the APDS and the communities.



An action leader in action © Rogatien Massamba



Learning how to fill out a datasheet © Lassy Epoua

Since 2020, the APDS has supported two Ba'Aka, a young woman and a young man, enrolled in the Faculty of Political and Legal Sciences of the University of Bangui. Both of them have successfully finished their bachelor studies and will continue studying pursuing a Masters degree.

Starting this new academic year, and in collaboration with the Catholic mission SMA of Monasao, DSPA will support another two young Ba'aka students. Léonie will perform her entrance exam for the Nursing School in October and Robert will enroll in the Faculty of Law at the University of Bangui.

The APDS are supporting at the moment 28 Ba'Aka children throughout their school period, in order to later on access higher education, and increase the number of Ba'aka students from the CAR at the university. All Photos Rogatien Massamba and Lassy Epoua





In March 2024, the APDS provided a professional integration material kit and training completion certificates to 25 young people trained in sewing and carpentry. Monitoring of 11 of these beneficiaries during this month of September showed that the majority of them are already making profits for a living.



Bertrand, one of the beneficiaries of carpentry © Borossio Robinson



Chairs made by Bertrand © Borossio Robinson

Regarding the second agricultural campaign that started in August 2024, the first observations show satisfactory results in terms of the implementation of sowing techniques. These techniques had been demonstrated to the beneficiaries during the training sessions. Unfortunately, some fields have suffered major damage caused by wild and domestic fauna.

The Club of Friends for Nature has continued working with the children. You can watch a short video at this link:

<https://youtu.be/6WCedoK75uo>

<i>Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients</i>	
Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	558
Beleboke Health Post	721
Total	1279



Park Administration

Radio Ndjoku installed a new 500W transmitter and dipole antennas on the Telecel transmission tower. Not only is the new transmitter more powerful than the previous one, the tower has more than doubled in height (45m). This means that Radio Ndjoku's historic listening range has been restored to roughly 80 km for around 50 000 listeners. This is an enormous result for Radio Ndjoku's mission of spreading information on sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the area, which contributes immensely to DSPA's mission.



© Stef de Bethune

We have received 15 new motor-bikes for the park activities.



New motorbikes for DS © Luis Arranz



A solar system was installed at the observation platform at Dzanga Bai.



From now on the researchers will be able to charge their equipment in the bai © Felix Safouet

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Guy Nganare. Guy arrived at the DSPA in the year 2000 working as a research assistant for the primate habituation program. Since 2011 he was the driver and logistics assistant for the same program.

Guy was much loved, not only by all the PHP trackers, and Dzanga Bai team, but by the entire DSPA staff. In his 24 years of professional career at DSPA he never created problems, but would rather find solutions, and was always ready to work and help. Guy was a role model for all of us and he will be greatly missed.



Guy Nganare: Thank you! © DSPA



Tourism and Marketing

The visitors center in Bayanga will be entirely renewed as the 20-year old information displayed is obsolete. We have commissioned a design studio to carry out the project, and the work will soon begin.



SPEC SHEET

2.2 Graphic Design: Floating Light Boxes - Posters x 4



Project Title: Doli Lodge - Visitors Centre



Arrivals and departures



© Stef de Bethune

Dr. Carolyn Robinson arrived in September as the responsible for the implementation of the DSPA community hunting zone management plan for two years. Carolyn has more than 15 years experience in central and west Africa, many of those years spent in Dzanga Sangha. She will lead a team of staff from The Forest Collective and DSPA to implement a rotational hunting plan in the hunting zone, monitored by an acoustic grid and market studies, and with strong participation of the DSPA community through employment, research and participatory governance.



© Nuria Ortega

Sarah-Matio Elangwe Milo from the Helmholtz Institute for One Health in Germany, has come to Bayanga to continue the study focused on human health as part of the long term One Health surveillance project within the Protected Areas of Dzanga Sangha”

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