



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



© Paco Marquez

Newsletter November 2024



DSPA receives funds from



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FONDATION POUR LE TRI-NATIONAL D-SPA SANGHA



K Lisa Yang Charitable Trust



DSPA collaborates with





Wildlife



The habituation process of Limo's group continues to progress and every day he appears more calm, spending most of his time resting. He only reacts when Mpokapoka, one of the females with a much more variable temperament, vocalizes in front of the team, or when he notices that someone new, who does not belong to the habituation team, is in front of him. Then Limo becomes restless again, which does not last long. This demonstrates the ability of gorillas to recognize humans individually.

We can now introduce all the members of the group, which consists of 7 adults and 4 babies. All individuals have names, except for two babies, and one female, who we are still trying to identify and find out if she belonged to one of the previously habituated groups.

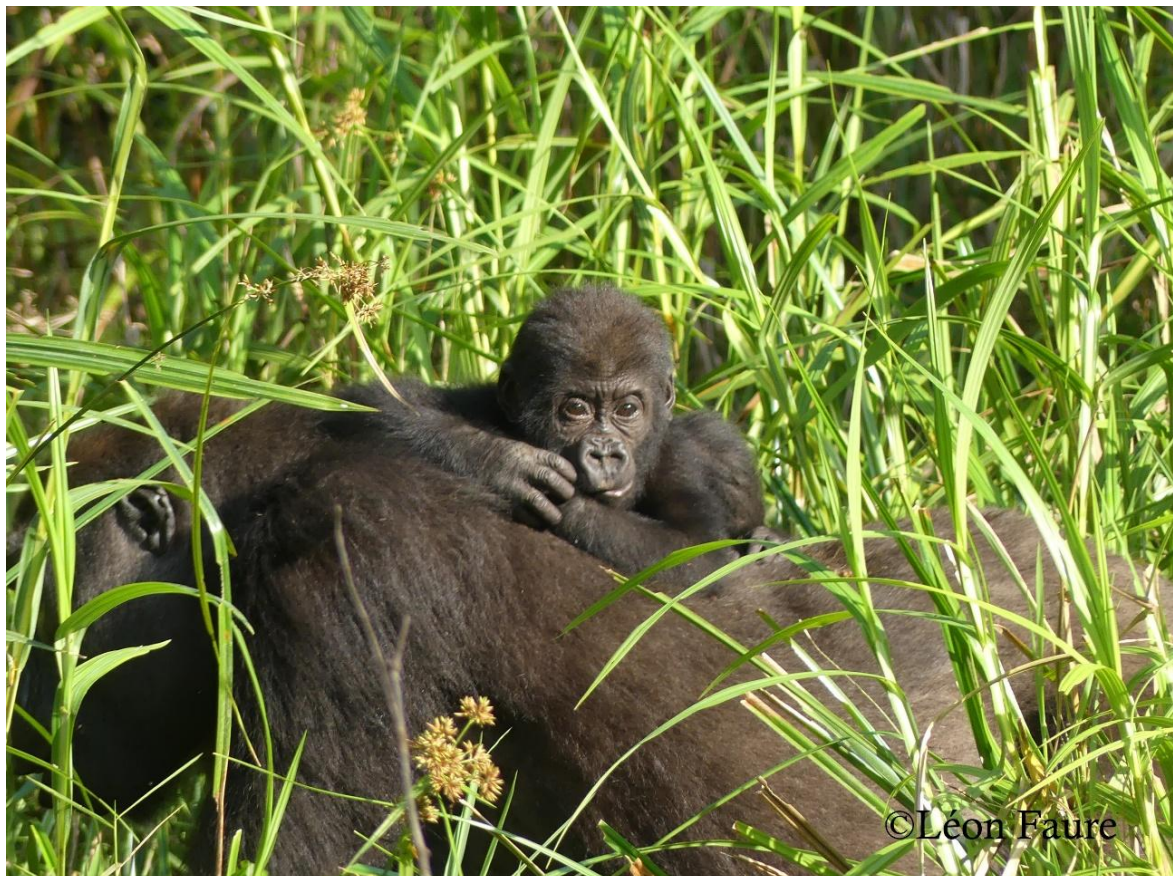
Indolia's baby is called Ekombe, which is the name of a vine that gorillas often eat. Wusa's baby is called Ebuka, which is the name given to dense vegetation formed by vines, and where gorillas spend a lot of time hidden, eating Djele and other marantaceae plants.



Limo © Léon Faure



Wusa © Léon Faure



Ebuka © Léon Faure



Indolia © Léon Faure



Ekombe © Léon Faure



©Léon Faure

Mpokapoka © Léon Faure



©Léon Faure

Unnamed female + baby © Léon Faure



©Léon Faure

Mopatapata + unnamed baby © Léon Faure



©Léon Faure

Payo © Léon Faure






This month a leopard came to visit us at the bai, which is quite rare. He spent a while watching the elephants, like any other tourist, and then he quietly left.



A male leopard hanging out in Dzanga Bai © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF.


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>
	6	98	181
	0	1	44
	0	6	10







Antipoaching

One of our rangers, Claver Modiki, has been awarded the African Conservation Award for Best Field Ranger of the year. This demonstrates the effort and professionalism of the guards that work at DS. Huge congratulations to Claver ! <https://www.conservationawards.africa/2024-awards.html>



AFRICAN CONSERVATION AWARDS 2024

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**BEST
FIELD RANGER**


2024

GAME RANGER ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

THE FOLLOWING AWARD IS GIVEN TO

Modiki Claver


TEAM LEADER, DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS



Congratulations

**BEST
FIELD RANGER**

Modiki Claver





2024 WINNERS & RUNNERS UP

The 2024 African Conservation Awards, hosted by the Game Rangers' Association of Africa (GRAA) is an opportunity to celebrate just some of the outstanding work by African conservationists. It is the GRAA's privilege to be able to showcase the exceptional contributions to protecting Africa's natural heritage. In 2024, the GRAA modified categories in this prestigious event to ensure Marine Rangers are also recognised and celebrated.

These awards continue to remind us of our responsibility to rangers working across Africa, many of whom are working in challenging environments with a lack of resources. Every organisation and individual nominated for these awards has displayed remarkable resilience and determination, despite their overwhelming odds and have remained steadfast in their dedication to achieving their conservation goals, inspiring us all with their unwavering commitment. Rangers should be acknowledged and celebrated.

The Winners for the 2024 African Conservation Awards are:

BEST FIELD RANGER

Winner: Modiki Claver, Ranger Team Leader, Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas, Central African Republic (CAR)

Modiki Claver, the Team Leader of Dzanga Sangha Protected Area's law enforcement section in CAR, has risen from starting as a porter in 2010 to becoming the top team leader in the landscape. Leading a team of seven rangers across the Congo Basin, including parts of Noubale-Ndoki National Park and Lobeke National Park, Claver exemplifies leadership by dismantling snares, seizing weapons, and making arrests. He has significantly contributed to scientific research, including tracking elephant populations, assessing the impact of logging, and monitoring illegal hunting activities. Beyond his law enforcement duties, Claver has fostered strong relationships with local communities and youth, guiding them toward conservation careers. During the 2013 military-political unrest, he demonstrated exceptional courage by covertly tracking rebel movements and providing critical information to protect wildlife. Known for his field skills, ethical leadership, and commitment to the rights of indigenous people, Claver is an inspiring role model in conservation.

1st Runner Up: Sekibibi Bareke Désiré, Central Sector Manager, Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

2nd Runner Up: Jean Claude Kyungu, Former Head Ranger Maiko National Park, DRC



“Since I was a child, I heard my parents say at home that because we lived in DSPA, we had many things that were not available in other places: security, access to healthcare, better education and jobs. I decided that the best thing I could do was to help protect the area and that is why I became a guard.” Claver Modiki



Throughout the month of March, ranger training has continued with the support of Chengeta Wildlife. We have made a short video about this training, which you can watch here:

<https://youtu.be/4y8fbzhtlL4>



Rangers during the training © Stef de Bethune

37 regular patrols were conducted involving 74 rangers. In total 1.381 rangers/days. 1.997 km were traveled on foot.

This resulted in the seizure of 5 manufactured 12-gauge firearms, 3 homemade firearms and 3 AK 47.

On the other hand, 3.623 metal snares were dismantled.

One elephant was poached and 3 suspects were judged. One was convicted to 3 years in prison and two to 2 years prison.

Community Conservation

The Bouar Music School, which was in DS a few months ago giving a concert, has composed a song and made a video clip that can be seen at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOuUNHCJs8E>



Bouar Music School Live at Bayanga © Luis Arranz

We have carried out an awareness campaign throughout the area on the importance of education in order to encourage parents to send their children to school. This campaign has reached 3,100 people. To motivate parents and children various sports competitions have been held and school supplies have been given to the winners.



© Amandine Tombou



The two Baaka students who were studying at the University of Bangui, Cécile Assio-Aya and Célestin Moyondo, have finished their degrees and started their Masters in law.

In addition, two new Baaka students have gone to Bangui to begin their studies.

Robert Mboyo will spend a year at the Bimbo Agricultural School and next year he will try to enter the faculty of Agricultural Engineering at the Catholic University of Bangui.

Léonie Gbaya is enrolled in the faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Bangui.



Leonie with her parents ready to go to the Bangui University © Amandine Tomboue



Robert Mboyo © Amandine Tombou



The Club of Friends for Nature has continued its program of visits to Dzanga Bai to see the elephants and spend time with the researchers to hear about the work they are doing.

They also visit the project facilities, Doli Lodge, and meet the heads of the different departments.



Children bird watching in the forest © Christian Bassoum

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	490
Beleboke Health Post	548
Total	1038



Park Administration

We have installed a new tank with the capacity to hold 36,000 liters of fuel, enough for a whole year.



© Luis Arranz

Four new trucks have arrived in DS.



© Luis Arranz

A doctor has come to perform a medical check-up on all DSPA employees.



© DSPA / WWF



© DSPA / WWF



Tourism and Marketing

The rehabilitation work at Doli Lodge has been completely finished.



Reception hall at Doli Lodge © Nuria Ortega



New mosquito nets in the bedrooms © Nuria Ortega



New uniforms have arrived for Doli Lodge staff and for tourism guides.



Doli Lodge staff © Leon Gongie



Tourism guides © Nuria Ortega



Arrivals and departures



© Nuria Ortega

Alphonsine Colombe Irahali, medical doctor specialized in tropical medicine, has joined the DSPA to relaunch the mobile clinic program of the DSPA.



© Stef de Bethune

Olivier Raspail from Chengeta Wildlife has come to train the DSPA rangers.



© Stef de Bethune

Romain Julien also from Chengeta Wildlife has come to train the DSPA rangers.



© Luis Arranz

Klara J. Petrzelkova, Ph.D. , from the Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Czech Academy of Sciences, has come to continue a long-term study about the relationship between the environment, parasitological hosts, and symbionts.



© Andrea Sotto Mayor

Bethane Mason, has come to help Klara with the study. Her main work focuses on the 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.*