



# Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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



*Jean Paul Rousseau*

## *Newsletter February 2025*



## DSPA receives funds from



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FONDATION  
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*K Lisa Yang  
Charitable Trust*



## Ehepaar Fronja





## DSPA collaborates with





Every five years, a wildlife inventory is conducted in the DSPA to assess changes in animal populations and to better understand ecological dynamics and the impact of human activities. This data is essential for guiding conservation strategies and ensuring effective management of the protected area.

In February we started the mission and additionally to the traditional methods (line transects, which allow for the estimation of species abundance and distribution through direct and indirect observations, and camera traps, used to capture images of wildlife, even the most secretive species) this year, for the first time in Dzanga-Sangha, we are going to use two new DNA-based approaches,

- DNA analysis of elephant dung, which provides valuable information on the size and structure of elephant populations.
- Environmental DNA (eDNA), which allows the identification of a wide range of species present in the DSPA ecosystems using samples collected from the environment.



*The teams for the surveys leaving for Ndoki NP at the South of the DSPA © Antoine Ede*

To ensure the smooth development of this mission, a consultant was hired. He contributed to the training of field teams and continues to support data monitoring and analysis.

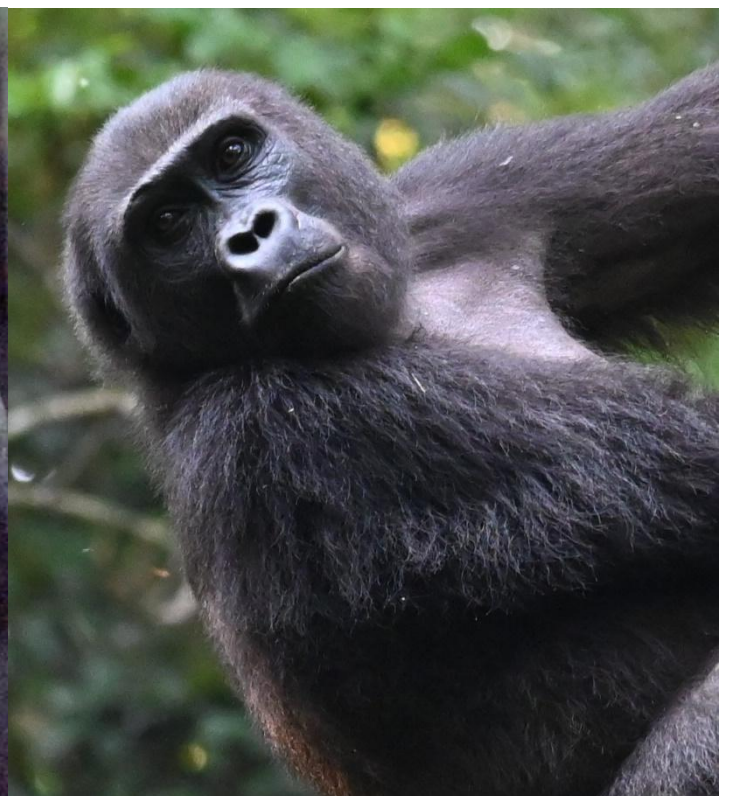
Furthermore, another expert from WWF US, contributed supervising the training of teams in the collection and use of DNA methods.

These innovations will provide a more accurate view of biodiversity and improve conservation efforts.



*Taking samples of elephant dung © Antoine Ede*

We think that finally, we have identified the last female in the group of Limo. It is difficult to be able to 100% identify an individual with only a few photos from adolescence and adulthood, but in collaboration with researchers from the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, who have been working with us for over 20 years, we have been able to determine that this female is Mio, a child of Indolia who grew up in Mata's group. A DNA analysis will allow us to confirm this 100%, but the morphological similarities are already sufficient to confirm her identity, particularly thanks to a mark she has above her right eye.



*(Almost certainly) Mio © Shelly Masi (left) Andrea Sotto*






The highlight this month at Dzanga Bai was the visit of a sitatunga who spent part of the day alone in the bai.

While it is not uncommon to see them in other bais, it is very difficult to find a sitatunga in Dzanga Bai. In the past 4 years a total of only 4 observations have been made.



*Sitatunga (and some ducks) at 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>
	60	100	183
	0	24	45
	0	7	11



## Antipoaching

This month we have not had any elephant poached in the park. In the last months there had been an increase in poaching, but reinforcing law enforcement has decreased poaching.



*Rangers in DSPA © Aaron Porter*

34 regular patrols were conducted involving 76 rangers. In total 1.476 rangers/days. 2.365 km were traveled on foot.

This resulted in the seizure of 10 manufactured 12-gauge firearms, 14 homemade firearms, and 8 ammunitions. 1.704 metal snares were dismantled and 38 kilograms of bush meat seized.

3 suspects were arrested for hunting in the National Park.



## Community Conservation

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We have made a campaign of animation with the children of various villages, were first, we have treated the topics previously dealt with (the layers of the forest, the protected species, the use of binoculars, etc.). Subsequently, we talked about the principles of the food chain. In total, 306 children participated (175 boys and 131 girls).

Another campaign, in which 509 children, 327 boys and 182 girls participated, consisted of games imitating sounds of forest animals and on how these animals protect their offspring.

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We have also celebrated the education week, and this year, the theme was « Let's support education for an inclusive, accessible, safe and quality school for all." The day was marked by a set of cultural, recreational and awareness-raising activities in Salo and in Bayanga, in addition to campaigns on Radio Ndjoku. Around 1,000 people were reached.

The program included recitations, modern and traditional dance groups, sports activities, competitions, storytelling, an art exhibit, and more.

During these festivities, strong awareness messages about drug use in and outside of school were delivered to young people, emphasizing its harmful impacts and consequences on their studies, in their schools, and in the lives of students.



*Some of the toys made by the children in Bayanga © Rogatien Massamba*





The second part of the awareness campaign on STDs/AIDS was carried out jointly with the medical team from the Bayanga health center in the southern zone of DSPA, specifically in Lindjombo and Bomandjokou.



*At DSPA, a doctor must do almost everything, this time, she became a dentist © Colombe Irahali*

The DSPA doctor continued to provide support to the Bayanga Secondary Hospital (HSB) during the month of February, and also to run the mobile clinic for the BaAka villages. As you can see in the next table, this month we have treated 1.652 patients.

<i>Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients</i>	
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
Monasao Health Post	638
Belemboke Health Post	576
Unité Mobile	438
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.652</b>



# Park Administration

We have covered the ceiling of the PAPA multipurpose building, both for aesthetics and to reduce heat inside.



*New ceiling in the PAPA hall © Luis Arranz*



*The construction of the central of the solar system advance, slowly, but it does © Luis Arranz*

## Tourism and marketing

This year we want to publish a book about the DSPA and therefore, a group of artists visited. We will be able to show, not only with photos and texts, but also with drawings, how special this place is.



*The group of artists observing the Baaka dancers © Luis Arranz*



*And then, drawing them. © Luis Arranz*



*Jean Paul Rosseau*



*Pedro Cebrán*



Gabriel de la Riva



Romarc Gnotoumbo



February has once again been a good month for tourism and Doli Lodge has been fully booked for most part of the month.



Another big group of tourists © Luis Arranz

Although we have not yet opened the gorilla visit to tourists, more and more people are coming to see the group of mangabeys, (more than 300) that are habituated.



Man does not live by gorilla alone © Nuria Ortega



## Arrivals and departures



Samuel Pereira (left), an independent ecological expert, and Arnaud Lyet, from WWF US have come to help us with the ecological inventory that must be realized this year.

© Nuria Ortega



The artists : Gabriel de la Riva, Jean Paul Rousseau and Pedro Cebrian

© Luis Arranz



Romarc Gnotoumbo another artist, and Carmen de la Riva, who came as a tourist but also decided to draw.

© Luis Arranz



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