



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



Gabriel de la Riva

Newsletter March 2025



DSPA receives funds from



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DSPA collaborates with





In addition to the habituation of the Limo group, the Primate Habituation Program teams began the habituation of two other groups of gorillas several months ago, following a period of exploration. The results for these two groups are very promising, with an encouraging development over the past few months.

Both groups consist of about ten individuals and live in the same area, with overlapping territories. Since our first encounters, the male of the first group exhibited very interesting behaviors. He did not hesitate to emerge from the vegetation to vocalize and protect his group. The first photo has been taken, and we will be able soon to identify him.



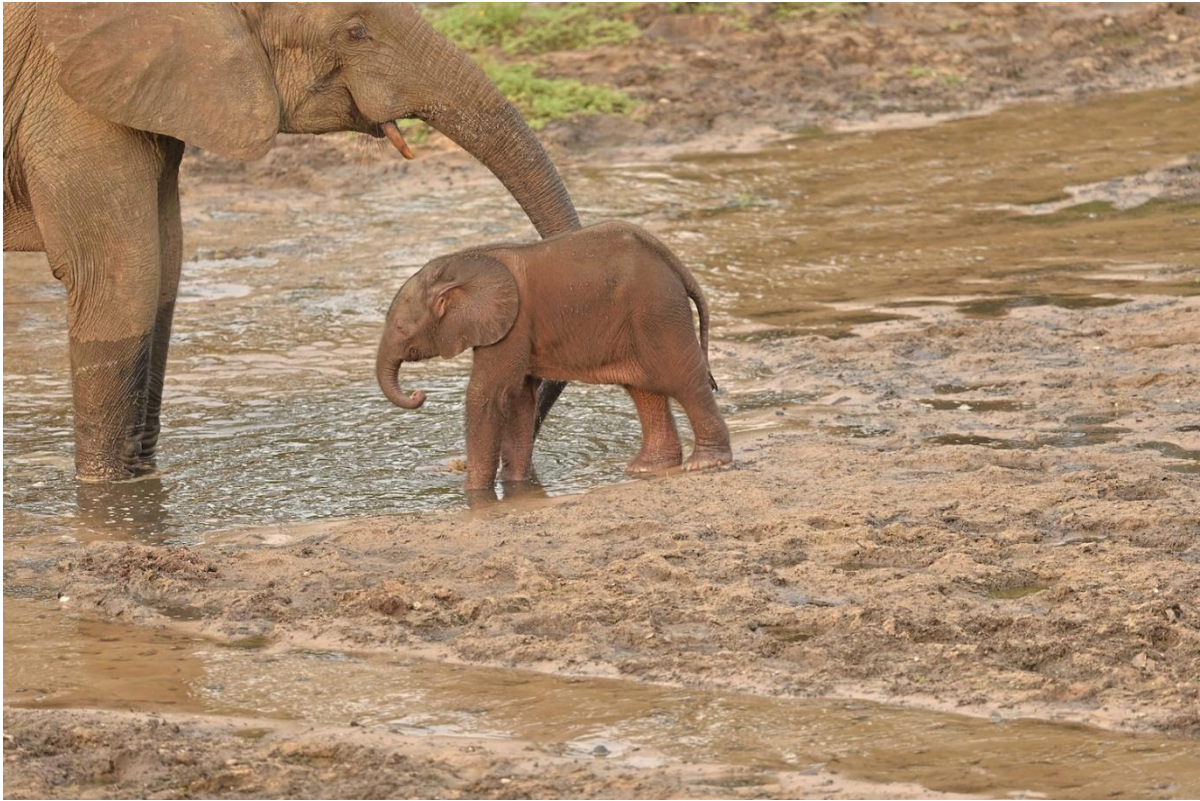
Silverback from one of the new groups undergoing habituation. © Andrea Sotto Mayor

The second group is more difficult to observe. The males perform lateral charges and vocalize, but generally remain behind the vegetation. However, with the numerous contacts we are now able to make, some individuals from the group are beginning to become visible, including a female, who doesn't seem to be concerned by our presence and may be an individual from the Mayele group.

These positive results greatly encourage the PHP teams after the disappearance of the former habituated gorilla groups, and are a reward for their efforts.



Adult female Alvah V (22 years old) gave birth to a little female. The Alvah group is one of the biggest groups visiting the clearing counting now with a new member.



Alvah V with her newborn on March 14th, 2025 © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF.



Alvah V introducing her newborn to others on March 10th, 2025 © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF.






Daniela Hedwig, director of the Elephant Listening Project (ELP), and Larissa Sugai, interim assistant director of the K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics (Cornell University), both longtime bioacousticians and conservationists visited the DSPA to see the work being done by the Dzanga Forest Elephant Project team. They had a great time at DS and also visited the ELP team in the neighboring Nouabale-Ndoki NP (RoC).



Daniela Hedwig, Ivonne Kienast (Dzanga Forest Elephant Project manager) and Larissa Sugai @ Luis Arranz

We also received the visit of Maria Montero Botey, the principal investigator for the Mbeli Bai Study in the Nouabale-Ndoki NP, in RoC.

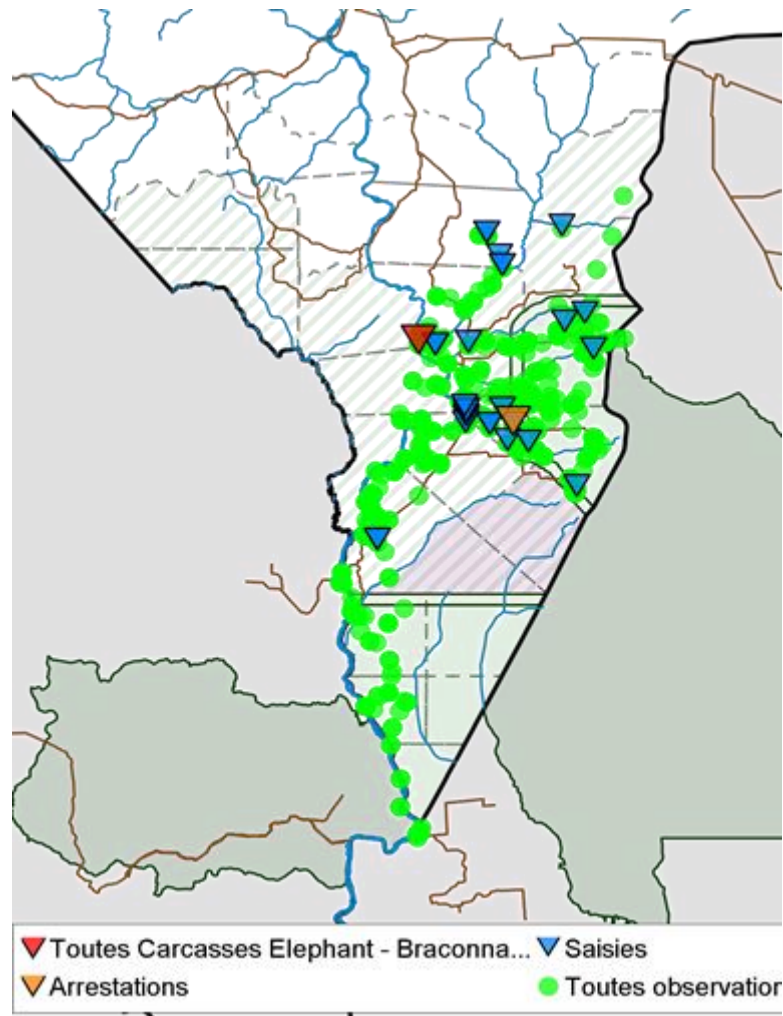
Dzanga Bai data collected in collaboration with the Elephant Listening Project: presence of mammals at the clearing based on the number of individuals counted every 30 minutes from 11:00 to 16:30 each day of the month.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	27	83	161
	0	30	37
	0	7	37



Antipoaching

During the entire month we worked without major incidents. One elephant carcass was found but the cause of the death could not be determined.



39 regular patrols were conducted involving 80 rangers. In total 1.629 rangers/days. 2.365 km were traveled on foot.

This resulted in the seizure of 16 manufactured 12-gauge firearms, and 17 ammunitions.

2.000 metal snares were dismantled and 8 kilograms of bush meat seized.

1 elephant carcass was found.

1 suspect was arrested for hunting in the National Park. 5 people were detained, made aware of the illegality of their actions and subsequently liberated.



Community Conservation

As all the years, the 8th of March, DSPA celebrate the woman day. Everyday, more women work in DSPA and participate in the conservation of the area



Happy day for all the women in the World @ Amandine Toumbou



Some of the DSPA woman workers @ Amandine Toumbou



In collaboration with the BaAka Communities Union (UCB), an awareness campaign on the effects of the use of drugs and narcotics was organized in all BaAka villages.

In addition, we showed a documentary translated into the BaAka language, which shows the harmful effects of tobacco, followed by a debate between the community and the health authorities. More than 500 people attended the sessions.

To ensure the harvest and storage of the agricultural products planted by the BaAka, we organized several accompaniment missions. For some people it was their first-time planting and harvesting products. All products have been stored in the granaries built for this purpose.



Stock of peanuts in Kanza © Frederic Ndoubabe

The health program has continued, and it is worth noting that since the renovation and acquisition of equipment for the Belemboke hospital, the number of patients treated has increased significantly, as shown in the table.

<i>Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients</i>	
Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	421
Belemboke Health Post	1001
Total	1.652



Park Administration

The new EU ambassador for the CAR, Diego Escalona, visited Dzanga-Sangha, accompanied by his head of cooperation Jean Marc Dewerpe and the heads of the delegation's green section, Roberta del Giudice, team leader, and Mario Frances. Felix Costales, Spain's ambassador in Nigeria and formerly in the DRC, also came with them to visit DS.

The EU is the main donor to DSPA and after signing the new contract, they came to visit the park and see the work we are doing.

One of the main problems treated with the delegation, was the presence of logging companies inside the DSPA and very close to the Dzanga NP.



From left to right. Mario Frances, Jean Marc Dewerpe, Diego Escalona, Roberta del Giudice and Felix Costales © Luis Arranz

Tourism and marketing

We can say that this March, in terms of tourism, has been the Spanish month. During the week of the 3rd to the 9th, 28 tourists out of 32 were Spanish.

In total, 206 tourists came during the first quarter, and considering that the visit to the gorillas was not possible, we still achieved a similar number to March of 2024, when 210 tourists visited, getting to see the gorillas.

We can also say that currently, 95% of the tourists we receive participate in activities with the BaAka population, spending one or several nights with them in the forest, which represents a greater income for them.



Learning how to spend a night in the forest © Nuria Ortega

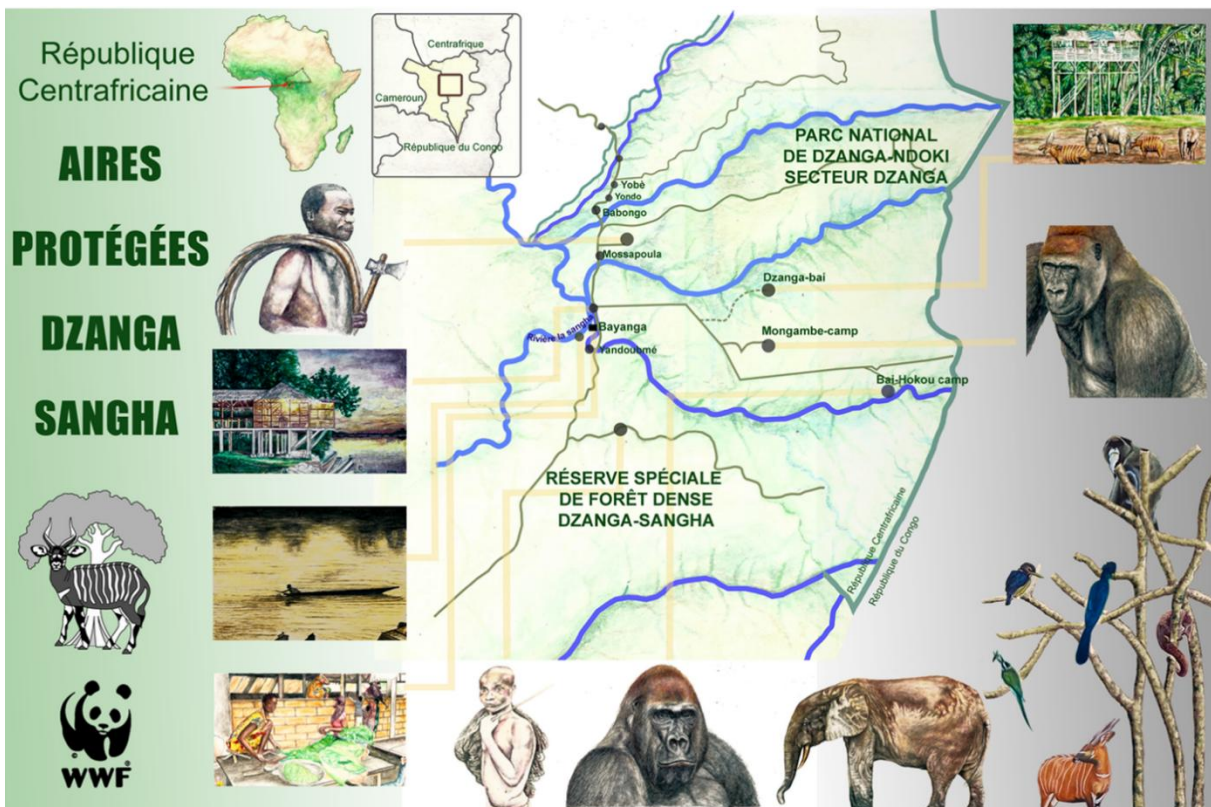


A new filming team, Zandland Films that is associated with the Royal Foundation (charitable organization of Prince and Princess of Wales) and United for Wildlife, came to prepare a new series of six chapters about rangers all over the world. The initial idea was to focus one chapter on Claver Modiki, who won the Ranger of the Year Award last year. But at the end, the excitement of seeing all the work being done at the DSPA, the film team decided to show the story behind the work that the guards, scientists and other staff at DSPA carry out together with the population to protect this exceptional site.



Filming Claver and the rest of his unit © Nuria Ortega

We have made a hand-out map for visitors of the places to visit in DSPA. Drawings were made by local artists.



The new map for tourists, done by Romaric Gnotoumbo



Arrivals and departures

- *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.*