



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



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Wildlife



A baby was born at the clearing. Adult female Thelma II(II), who is 19 years old gave birth to her first offspring, a male. Ten minutes after the birth, the baby was greeted by family members and other individuals at the clearing. Observations of births are very rare, as forest elephants probably prefer giving birth in the safety of the dense rainforest.



Newborn male, named *Thelma II(II)(II)* © ELP for the Yang Center/WWF.



Thelma II(II) with the newborn ©ELP for the Yang Center/WWF






Bongos continue to come to the bai almost every day



Bongos at Dzanga bais © Nuria Ortega

Three students from the Natural History Museum of Paris have come to spend 12 months with us to continue the work on collecting data on the behavior and diet of gorillas.

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 60 minutes from 11:00 to 16:00 each day of the month.

Species	Minimum	Average	Maximum
	5	79	161
	0	16	34
	0	7	11

Antipoaching

In partnership with the organization Chengeta Wildlife, a recruitment session for future eco-guards of the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA) was recently held in Bayanga. This selection process, open to both men and women, also actively involves the indigenous population, ensuring fair and inclusive representation of the local population in the protection of biodiversity.



Candidates to become rangers in DSPA © Nuria Ortega



© Nuria Ortega

38 regular patrols were conducted involving 85 rangers. In total 1.483 rangers/days. 2.564 km were traveled on foot.

This resulted in the seizure of 1 manufactured and 24-gauge firearms

3.072 metal snares were dismantled

1 elephant carcass was found in the Ndoki NP

1 suspect was arrested for hunting in the National Park.



Community Conservation

Cultural learning workshops were held with the participation of 357 young people from 12 Ba'aka villages of the DSPA. This month the workshops focused on the following activities: teaching children the process of weaving hunting nets and traditional mats; making traps, making tam-tam musical instruments; and teaching children knowledge about medicinal plants.



Learning the traditional methods of living © Nuria Ortega

We organized a training course on computer use for 6 members of the UCB (Union of Baaka Communities).



And the new ones © Nuria Ortega



On the 29th and 30th of this month, under the initiative of Ndima-Kali and in collaboration with the other DSPA partners (UCB, MEFP and Radio Ndjoku), we organized the first edition of a cultural festival that we have called FESTICULTURE APDS 2025. The theme of this first festival was “A person without culture is like a tree without roots.

On the program were traditional dance and song competitions, traditional games (hunting games), exhibition of art objects and other tools and several awareness sessions and video projections on various subjects including human rights, human health, zoonoses, benefits of tourism, etc.

Around one thousand people participated in the festival.



Hunting games © Nuria Ortega



dancing games © Nuria Ortega



The second edition of the Biodiversity Conservation Cup football tournament kicked off this month. Although the final was scheduled for the 31st of May, we changed the date to avoid the overlap with the Champions League final, another sporting event of almost equal importance.



And Sport games © Nuria Ortega

Doctor Julien Semdouto from the local hospital in Bayanga, along with veterinarians Frédéric Singa and Yanthe Nobel, took part in a 3-day training on the AVADAR tool held at the WWF CAR office in Bangui. AVADAR is a digital tool that allows community members to report important (zoonotic) disease cases in humans and (wild) animals, as well as environmental incidents such as flooding. During the training, the participants learned how to use the application and brainstormed together with the AVADAR team on the best strategies for implementing the surveillance tool in the villages in and around the DSPA in the following weeks.

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	531
Belemboke Health Post	957
Total	1.488



Park Administration

The Steering Committee of the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas was held in Bayanga with the participation of His Excellency the Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, and Her excellency the Minister of Arts, Culture, and Tourism. The meeting provided strategic orientation for the future of the Protected Areas, reinforcing high-level government commitment to conservation and sustainable development.



Members of the Steering committee © Christian Bassoum

At the end of April, we held a workshop for the launch of a new EU-funded cross-border project, jointly implemented by Lobeke and Dzanga Sangha.



Participants at the workshop © Caroline Le Merle



More than 157,000 wire snares and 465 homemade guns collected over the past three years by ecoguards were publicly incinerated in Bayanga at the DSPA headquarter. The event aimed to raise awareness among communities about the negative impact of poaching on wildlife, tourism, and local livelihoods, and to encourage greater community involvement in conservation efforts



Confiscated guns in DSPA over the last 3 years © Christian Bassoum



Destroying those guns © Christian Bassoum



The Government of CAR and the local Community Committee officially signed a participatory management plan for the Dzanga Sangha Community Hunting Zone developed in consultation with Indigenous Peoples and Local Community. This milestone supports sustainable use of natural resources while safeguarding community rights, improving food security, and contributing to highest conservation standards.



Signature of the management plan for the Community Hunting Zone in DSPA © APDS / WWF

We have put the new gasoline and diesel pump into operation, and it will allow us to refuel directly from the 30,000-liter tank that was installed last year.



New gas station in Bayanga © Ray Hencker



Tourism and marketing

Tourists have continued to come to DS even though the gorilla tour has not been open for a while.



Tourists with BaAka © Nuria Ortega

The good news for tourists is that we will reopen the gorilla tours starting in July. While it is true that many of the females in the new group were part of other habituated groups, being able to safely open a group to tourists a year after habituation began is something that doesn't happen often. This demonstrates the skill and professionalism of our team, especially the Baaka.



Limo is ready for it debut © Nuria Ortega



In the summer issue of the magazine published by WWF US, there is an article about Dzanga-Sangha

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/summer-2025/articles/how-conservation-in-dzanga-sangha-supports-people>



A NEW START
In the last three years, three silverback gorillas died in the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas, which dissolved the habituated family groups they led. These primate patriarchs and their families, closely monitored by humans for decades, provided essential education and tourism income. Park staff are currently habituating new groups more quickly than ever before, and they hope to reopen gorilla viewing in 2025.

FAST FORWARD
*In the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas, **decades of conservation have created a safe haven** for people and wildlife*



SAFE ZONE
For people as well as elephants and gorillas, a haven in the heart of Africa.

PRESERVING THE BUBBLE
During the pandemic, almost 5,000 Indigenous Ba'Aka in Dzanga-Sangha protected themselves by isolating for several months in traditional forest camps. WWF supplied food and medical resources to them as needed.

BROAD PROTECTION
Park staff protect more than just wildlife. In 2021, after a local Ba'Aka girl was abducted, Dzanga-Sangha rangers used their tracking skills to scour the forest and rescue her. She was then cared for by the local WWF-supported hospital and Human Rights Center.



Arrivals and departures



© Nuria Ortega

Emile MEDJUBIT YOTCHOU arrived in March to take care of the agroforestry activities that we carry out at the periphery of the DSPA.



© Nuria Ortega

Laurent Some, (papa Laurent) the new WWF/CAR country director has come to Bayanga to see the activities that we do, and to participate at the Steering Committee meeting.



© Nuria Ortega

Hugo Guillaud-Potel, Emma Guillaud-Potel and Léon Faure from the museum of Natural History of Paris arrived to collect data on gorilla ecology.



Robert Roth, Director KfW Cameroon office (left) and Knut Gummert, Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy of Cameroon.

© Nuria Ortega



Julia Barske from WWF DE and Allard Blom from WWF US, both members of the Steering Committee have come to Bayanga to participate at the meeting.

© Nuria Ortega



Susanna Rodriguez, Ombudsperson, WWF and Richard Caines, Director ESSF at WWF International

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