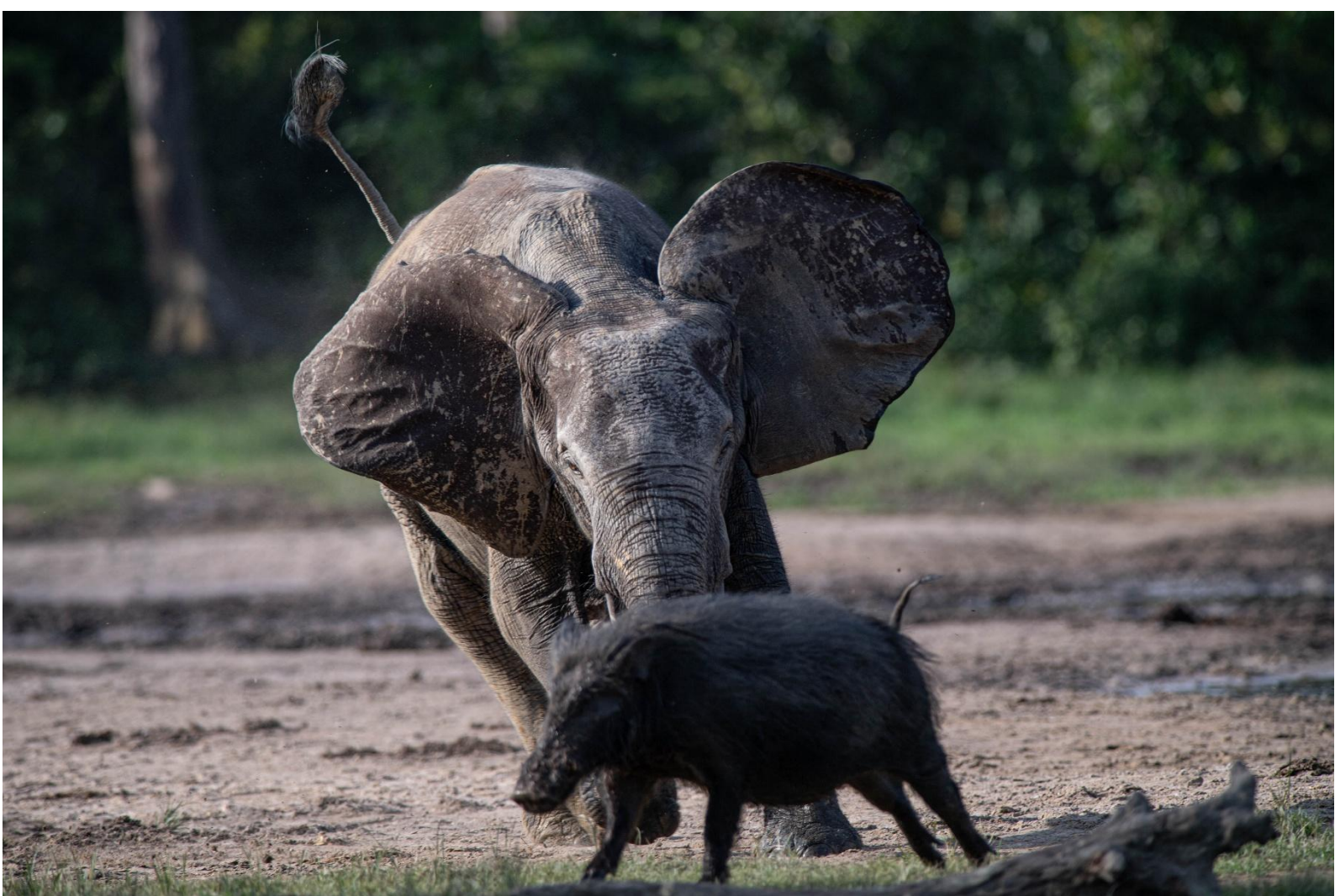




Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

www.dzanga-sangha.org



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Newsletter August 2025



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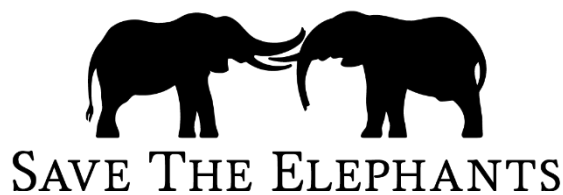




DSPA collaborates with



NDIMA KALI





Wildlife



Blacky is an adult males identified in 2022 who frequently visit the Dzanga Bai. He was spotted this August in the village of Bayanga, specifically near the bungalows of Doli Lodge and close to the houses, eating leaves and fruits.



Adult male Blacky at Dzanga Bai. ©ELP for the Yang Center/WWF



Adult male Blacky eating leaves. ©I.Kienast



A 16 year old female known as Caught II(V), the daughter of Caught II, entered the bai on August 24, 2025, with her first offspring.



©ELP for the Yang Center/WWF

The family of hylochères that often visit the Dzanga Bai continues to grow in number. The group was seen with two new young ones.



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

<i>Species</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	9	106	170
	0	3	28
	0	7	11

Wildlife Inventories:

August was the end of most of the Wildlife Inventory field missions; the teams can finally rest after 8 months of consecutive field missions. We have recovered all the equipment used in the forest, especially the camera trap, which gives us 26,408 videos to analyse. First, the number of species present will be determined, and at the same time, any individuals showing signs of disease will be reported. This has the potential to identify areas with a higher prevalence of disease that would require more extensive monitoring. Next, the Random Encounter and Staying Time (REST) method will be used to define species density from the camera trap data. Finally, these camera trap data will be combined with data from other counting and detection methods, transects, EDNA and DNA to estimate the population size of the different species present in the ADPS.





August also saw the awarding of a training certificates to the team for the wildlife inventory techniques in DSPA.



©Antoine Ede

Some part of the Wildlife inventory team went back to Bangui, last picture before take off.



©APDS/WWF



Discover the biodiversity of DSPA



©Miguel Bellostá

Order: Hemiptera

Family: Belostomatidae

Genus: Hydrocyrius

Great water bugs are large aquatic insects known for their predatory behaviour and venomous bite. They use their raptorial front legs to catch prey such as fish, tadpoles, and mosquito larvae and inject a digestive enzyme and venom. They are found in still or slow-moving freshwater environments, such as marshes.

Eggs are glued to the back of the male by the female, who then carries them until they hatch. The male actively cares for the eggs by regularly transporting them to the water's surface for air, using specialized air straps as a snorkel, and will consume any eggs that become dislodged. The male's role is critical for the survival of the eggs, as they require both oxygen and protection from predators until they hatch into nymphs.



Antipoaching

August Patrol Highlights from Dzanga-Sangha

In August, a total of 44 regular patrols were conducted, involving 110 rangers, who completed 1,887 ranger days and covered 3,952 km on foot.

These efforts led to the seizure of 8 firearms (including 5 homemade weapons and 3 hunting rifles) and 25 rounds of hunting ammunition.

A total of 5,669 wire snares and 205 pieces of bushmeat, weighing 442 kg, were also seized.

Unfortunately, one carcass of a poached elephant was discovered, along with 14kg of ivory seized during the month.

In total, 5 arrests were made and 13 awareness-raising sessions were conducted with local communities in the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas.

Community Conservation

Holiday Camp 2025

To promote the ancestral traditions of the Ba'aka and Sangha-Sangha communities, the Ndimakali association organized its annual holiday camp for children in the forest from August 30 to September 3. This initiative aims to pass down traditional knowledge from elders to the younger generation.

This year, the camp brought together 75 participants, including two elders, from the villages of Kanza, Kundapapaye, and Bayanga. Activities included medicinal plant identification, traditional hunting and weaving techniques, tree climbing, as well as storytelling, singing, and dancing.





@Ndima Kali

Start of Peanut Harvest

In April 2025, maize, peanut (305 Ngawi distributed), cassava, and yam seeds were distributed to 180 farmers across 12 villages in the Dzanga Sangha area.

This August, harvest data was collected from 57 beneficiaries who had already harvested their peanut fields.

These farmers initially received 96 Ngawi (basins of peanuts), harvested a total of 470 Ngawi, and fully repaid the 96 Ngawi they had received.



@APDS/WWF

Environmental Education

This month's environmental education sessions focused on the food chain, exploring predator-prey relationships and camouflage techniques. The activities included games and the selection of the most engaged children for a nature excursion to Dzanga Bai.

A total of 510 children participated, including 292 boys and 218 girls, from the villages of Beya, Belemboke, Sced, and Salo.

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	424
Belemboke Health Post	881
Community consultation	498
Total	1803

Agroforestry in Monassao

Recent developments in Monassao reflect strong community engagement and ongoing efforts to promote sustainable land management through agroforestry.

At the central nursery, seed collection and stock enrichment with suitable species have been carried out, while approximately 10,000 seedlings are being maintained regularly. To support these operations, the water storage capacity has been increased to 5,000 liters.

In Nguengeli, a land demographic survey was conducted to identify well-maintained plots. Household surveys were also carried out to better understand farming practices, land tenure systems, and explore opportunities for collaboration with local farmers.

In Gbokosso, awareness sessions were held to inform the community about the negative impacts of slash-and-burn agriculture. These sessions sparked strong interest and commitment to adopting agroforestry practices. A CLIP (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent) session was also organized to define clear and transparent criteria for selecting project beneficiaries.



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©APDS/WWF



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DSPA Administration

Great news for the DSPA One Health Laboratory.

After several years of anticipation, we have finally received the container shipped by the Helmholtz Institute of One Health. This long awaited delivery marks a major milestone, as it will significantly enhance the technical and operational capacity of our One Health laboratory.



Tourism and marketing

August was a busy month with a high number of visitors to the DSPA. A total of 362 overnight stays were recorded across Sangha Lodge, Doli Lodge, and the various guesthouses and motels in Bayanga. This reflects a strong interest in the area and continued engagement from tourists.



©Antonio Sanchez Chamorro





©Luis Arranz



Photographer Luca Catalano, supported by WWF Italy, recently visited Dzanga-Sangha. You can discover several powerful stories from his time in Dzanga-Sangha on the Witness Image website :

<https://www.witnessimage.it/en/stories/>

Dzanga-Sangha was recently featured in *AFAR Magazine* as one of the most amazing wildlife experiences.

<https://www.afar.com/magazine/dzanga-bai-is-one-of-the-most-surreal-wildlife-experiences>

AFAR

This “Elephant Village” Is Incredibly Hard to Reach. That’s a Good Thing

*For those who make it to Dzanga Bai, a reward
awaits: This elephant stronghold remains one of
Africa’s least visited spectacles.*

BY CHRIS SCHALKX

August 20, 2025



by Chris Schalkx

Arrivals and departures



Mr. Luther Palabre conducted an evaluation mission on a UNDP supported project at APDS.

©APDS/WWF



Caroline Rothemeier and Markus Ullrich from the Helmholtz Institute for One Health visited APDS to support the installation of new materials and equipment in the One Health Laboratory.

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- *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.*