



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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Newsletter October 2025



DSPA receives funds from



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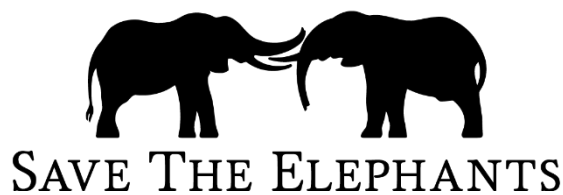




DSPA collaborates with



NDIMA KALI



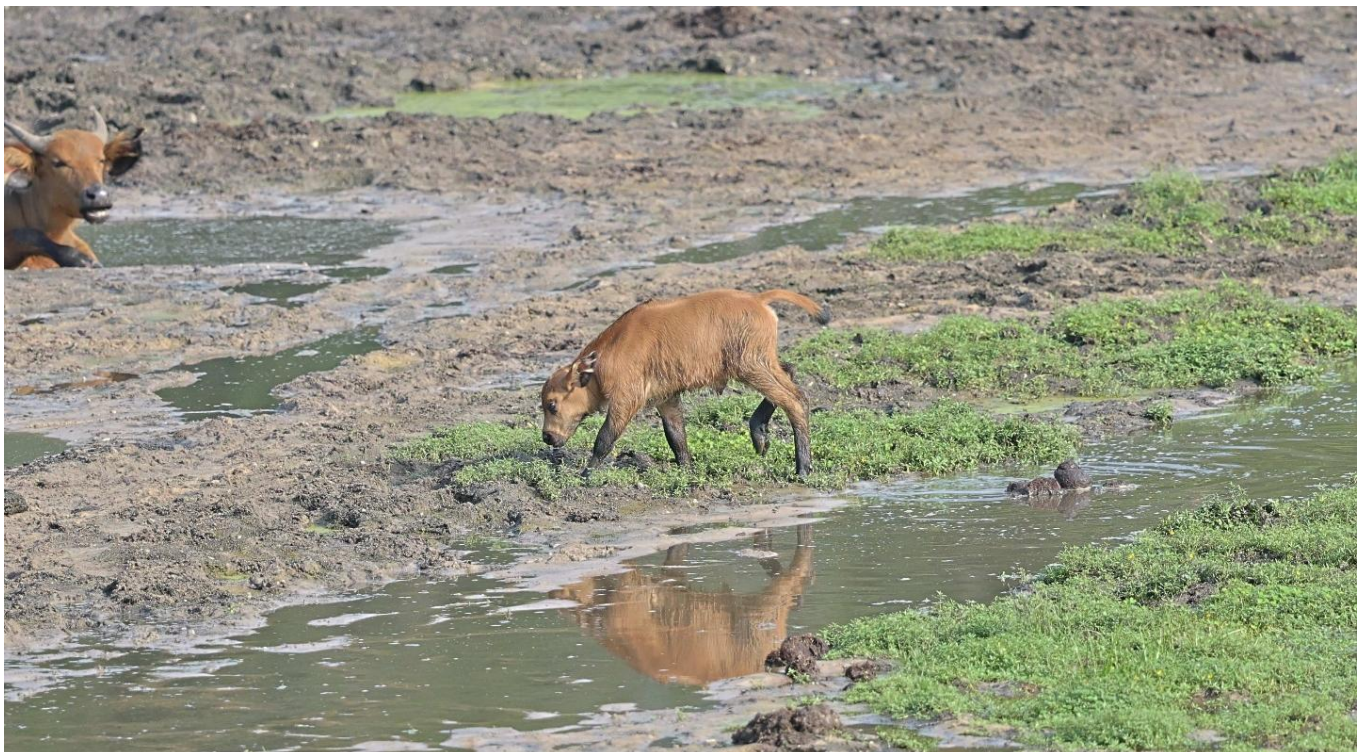


New Arrival Among the Buffalo




On 29 October 2025, an adult female from the buffalo herd that regularly visits the bai returned with a newborn calf. Buffalo have a gestation period of approximately 11 months, making this new arrival a sign of a healthy and thriving population.



Adult Female Buffalo at the Bai – Oct 2025 with Newborn © 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.

Species	Minimum	Average	Maximum
	36	76	146
	0	1	31
	0	8	12



Dr Shelly Masi on the Radio: The primatologist shares her latest insights on western lowland gorillas in Dzanga-Ndoki :

<https://www.rts.ch/audio-podcast/2025/audio/grande-invitee-shelly-masi-primatologue-et-autrice-de-queen-kong-sur-les-gorilles-de-l-ouest-29045158.html>

Discover the biodiversity of DSPA



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Order:Artiodactyla

Family:Bovidae

Genus:*Syncerus*

Species: *S. caffer nanus*

The forest dwarf buffalo, or red buffalo, is the smallest subspecies of the African buffalo. It thrives in the dense rainforests and swampy clearings of Dzanga-Sangha, and is especially remarkable for its frequent presence in Dzanga Bai and many other bais throughout the park. With its reddish coat, compact build, and shy behavior, it moves quietly through the undergrowth, feeding on grasses, leaves, and fallen fruits.



Antipoaching

In October, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas stepped up their operations with 42 patrols covering a total of 3,488 km on foot. These patrols led to the seizure of 2,150 wire snares, 13 firearms, 66 rounds of ammunition, 7 kg of ivory, and 283.5 kg of bushmeat. Seven individuals were arrested (five awaiting trial), and 37 awareness-raising sessions were held. The month was marked by strong effort including river deployments and joint patrols with PNNN (2) and TNS (1) demonstrating DSPA's sustained commitment to cross-border law enforcement. Following these operations, several poachers were sent to the judicial authorities in Nola : two were convicted for gorilla poaching (one sentenced to 2 years and 6 months, another to 8 months), while one person charged with killing an elephant and two others accused of elephant poaching are still awaiting trial.

Community Conservation

Ba'aka Student Scholarships Update 2025–2026:

Based on last year's results from 28 Ba'aka scholarship students, 38 of the 40 identified Ba'aka students for the 2025–2026 school year were enrolled at Salo College. The remaining two were enrolled at Bayanga High School due to recurring health issues, ensuring they receive continuous care at Bayanga Secondary Hospital. A medical file has been opened for each with the Bayanga Health Center.



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Sessions with all biological parents and their children were held, and parents from foster families and the Ba'aka children participated in an introductory session in Salo, attended by the local brigade commander and the mayor's representative.



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Back-to-School Awareness Campaign 2025–2026:

Kicking off in 11 APDS villages, the campaign featured football matches, contests, and quiz games to engage communities and promote school enrollment.



Back-to-School Awareness Sessions/Selected Images ©Rogatien MASSAMBA

First Celebration of International Day of the Girl – Bayanga, 17–18 October 2025

With financial and technical support from Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS), the Bayanga Girls' Association celebrated the 2025 International Day of the Girl on 17–18 October under the theme: ***“For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment.”*** The event focused on empowering the next generation especially young women and girls so they can become catalysts for lasting change. Around 200 girls from Bayanga participated, mentored by women leaders from the association, learning about their rights and responsibilities, development opportunities, and the importance of girls' education.



Mass Awareness Marches and Special Radio Roundtable

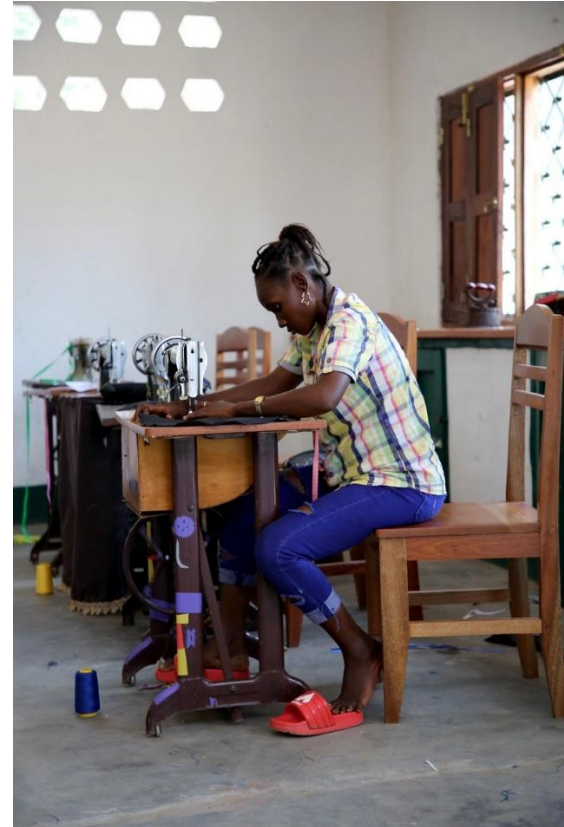
As part of community outreach efforts, marches were held across Bayanga to raise public awareness, complemented by a special roundtable on Radio Ndjoku. Panelists included the Head of Social Affairs of Bayanga, the MEFP Psychosocial Officer, the President of the UCB, the Head of the Bayanga Girls' Association, and the APDS CDDDC. © Amandine TOUMBOU

Assessment of Local Tailors' Skills - Bayanga, 24–25 October 2025

As a prelude to launching an artisanal development project in the DSPA, 33 local tailors participated in a skills assessment organized in collaboration with NDARA from Bangui. The initiative aims to strengthen local craftsmanship, provide high-quality artisanal and tourism services, and increase community incomes. The evaluation analyzed technical and manual skills, identified candidates for future training, and assessed potential for collaborative production. Following the assessment, NDARA team members also visited workshops and met with Bayanga artisans and artists, including painters, tailors, sculptors, and weavers.



©NDARA



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Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Monasao Health Post	347
Belemboke Health Post	511
Community consultation	353
Total	1211



Prenatal Consultation (left) – Patient Care (right), Kanza Village ©Colombe Irahali



One Health



Congratulations to Dr. Klára J. Petrželková



Dr. Klára J. Petrželková from the Institute of Vertebrate Biology (Czech Academy of Sciences) received the Prize for Best Scientific Results from the Czech Ministry of Education for her research on the primate-human microbiome, much of it carried out over nearly two decades in the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas.

With great humility, she dedicated the award to the DSPA field teams, acknowledging that their work made these results possible.

Tourism and marketing

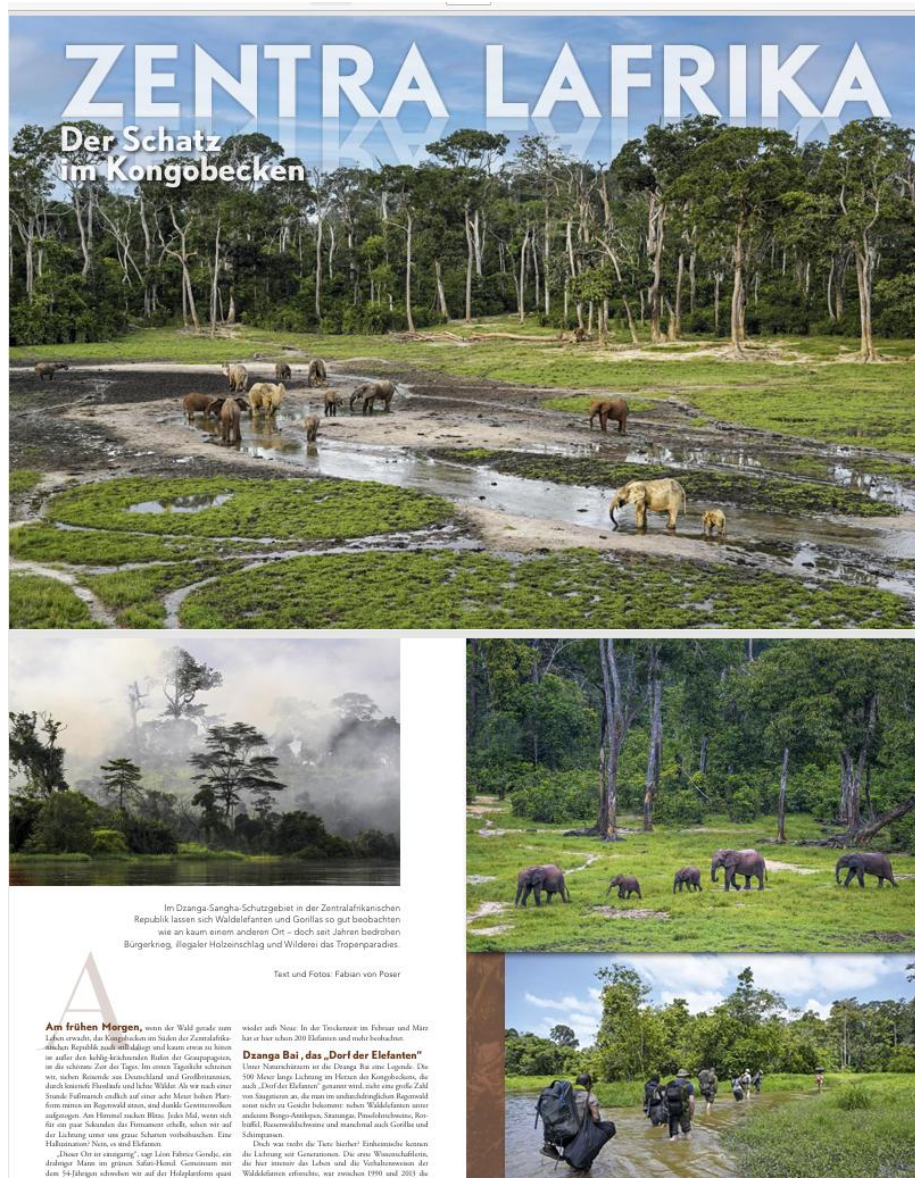
On October 15, the Central African Republic marked World Tourism Day 2025 (theme: *Tourism & Sustainable Development*) in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Félix Moloua, government officials, private sector actors, and development partners. Notably, representatives from the **Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS)** were present, underscoring the country's commitment to leveraging conservation tourism for sustainable growth. Tourism Minister Ngola Ramadan-Mamata emphasized the strategic importance of the DSPA as a driving force for socio-economic development and environmental protection.



Following that, two recent articles explore Dzanga-Sangha, highlighting eco-tourism in this forest sanctuary. (From Fabian Von Poser and Mike Unwin).

terra 4/2025 digital | terra (digital) | Magazine | Tecklenborg Verlag

<https://www.thetimes.com/travel/inspiration/cruises/republic-of-the-congo-brazzaville-expeditions-ducret-bnfr5zvs2>

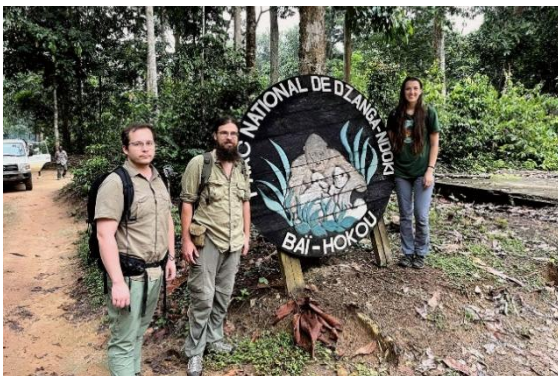


Magic and mysticism on one of Africa's least-visited waterways

A new river cruise through the Republic of Congo is an eye-opening expedition, with buffaloes, forest hogs and crowned eagles for company



Arrivals and departures



Dr. Michael Kotyk, Marek Valt, and Dr. Bethan Mason from the Primate Symbiont Ecology Research Group (Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Czech Academy of Sciences) returned to DSPA to study gorilla entodiniomorphid ciliates tiny gut organisms crucial for digesting plant fibers



Charlotte Mararv, Yann Kossi, and Meryse Bagoua from Ndara Ti Beafrika came to Bayanga to evaluate and support 32 local tailors in collaboration with DSPA



We were pleased to welcome Livia, Lorenzo, and Harriet from the Helmholtz Institute for One Health for a study on small mammals. More details about their work in the next edition. They are pictured here with the field team, led by Frédéric Singa, during their on-site research and data collection.

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