



Aires Protégées



30 years
1990-2020

Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas



© Miguel Bellota

Newsletter May 2020



sacharuna



© Camera traps team.

We have completed the great ape nests and elephant dung degradation study. A total of 558 marked indices were revisited and data obtained to estimate degradation rates for DSPA. At the same time, one wildlife inventory team was sent to complete the survey of the community hunting zone. During 18 Days, they observed 328 indices on 7 transects. Also, with the help of rangers we de-installed 79 cameras that were installed in February and March, downloading about 11 000 videos. Unfortunately 7 cameras were lost to poachers. So far very interesting data has been obtained but of course we can only draw conclusions after we analyze them.

Three out of four permanently monitored forest clearings were visited with about 14 000 images and videos downloaded from installed camera traps. The database for the analyses of these data is being developed. Three of the cameras were lost to poachers



© Miguel Bellosta

The three habituated gorilla groups are all in good shape and continue to be followed by minimum staff needed to protect them, while respecting strict hygiene measures.



©Luis Arranz

This month we found two bongo carcasses near Bai Hokou with no signs of poaching. The vet team immediately performed necropsies and analyzed the samples in our field lab. The results obtained for the first one were negative for both anthrax and Ebola and we are waiting for the other. However, once circumstances permit, we will send the samples to the Robert Koch Institute in Germany for further analysis.



DSPA is definitively the paradise of the butterflies © Luis Arranz

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© Philipp Roth

Scientific name: *Panthera pardus*

English name: leopard

Taxonomy: Class: Mammalia; Order: Carnivora; Family: Felidae; Genus Panthera

The leopard has the largest distribution of all wild cats, occurring widely in Africa as well as the Caucasus and Asia. It inhabits foremost savanna and rainforest.

The leopard's skin color varies between individuals from pale yellowish to dark golden with dark spots grouped in rosettes. The pattern of the rosettes is unique in each individual

Males are larger and heavier than females. It is muscular, with relatively short limbs and a broad head. Males weigh 37–90 kg (82–198 lb), and females 28–60 kg (62–132 lb)

The leopard is a solitary and territorial animal. Adults associate only in the mating season. At one year of age, leopard young can probably fend for themselves, but remain with the mother for 18–24 months

The roaring sequence in leopards consists mainly of grunts and is also called "sawing", having been described as resembling the sound of sawing wood.

Leopards are active mainly from dusk till dawn but in western African forests, they have been observed to be largely diurnal and hunting during twilight. Leopards can climb trees very skillfully. The average typical life span of a leopard is between 12 and 17 years.

It is not easy to directly observe leopards in DSPA, but their population is healthy.



Anti-poaching

Two white bellied pangolins were confiscated from poachers arrested by rangers in the Dzanga sector. Both pangolins were severely injured (deep cut in the neck region). Unfortunately, this is common practice among poachers and serves



©Luis Arranz

to keep the meat fresh when there is no possibility to immediately smoke their game. Based on veterinary assessment of the health status, one pangolin was released from suffering while the other one with a better prognosis was given intensive care by the Sangha Pangolin Project. Veterinary treatment and intensive care taking (wound cleaning, pain relief and antibiotic treatment, infusion therapy to compensate dehydration, and artificial feeding via intubation) was provided and the health situation of the pangolin monitored daily. Even though remarkable wound healing was observed after some weeks, the prognosis for this pangolin remains uncertain.



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Mitch, one of the members of the sniffer team has a problem with one of his eyes. At the moment we cannot tell if it is due to an illness or an injury. Nevertheless, he is under treatment by our veterinary team, and we hope he recovers soon.



Mitch © Luis Arranz

The rangers continued with patrols as usual. During one of the patrols, a ranger was bitten by a snake, probably a green mamba. Fortunately, the other team members immediately provided him most needed first aid just as they have learned during first aid training. We then evacuated him to the hospital as quickly as possible and he is already healthy again.

Main DSPA Patrols data:

34 regular patrols and 3 BLAB patrols. In total 1,466 men/days, 1.744 km traveled on foot and covering an area of 1,860 km². This resulted in the seizure of 2 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 6 homemade 12-gauge shotguns, 31 manufactured 12-gauge cartridges, In addition, 3.411 metal snares were dismantled. 4 people arrested for minor offenses and then free. 3 elephant tusks found in the forest but no one fresh elephant carcasses were found in the month

Community Development

As in the previous months, and for sure will be in the months ahead, all the activities of the community development team focus on preventing the spread of COVID 19. We continue to believe that the virus has not arrived DSPA. In fact, a mission from the Ministry of Public Health carried out 60 random tests on hospital staff, rangers and the general population of Bayanga, and they were all negative. At the level of DSPA, we tested three people with possible symptoms but also all of them were negative.

Leaders of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and representatives of the DSPA met on 5th May 2020 to discuss issues related to the management of COVID 19 in and around DSPA. The response plan proposed by the DSPA administration was endorsed by the Ba'Aka communities. At the end of this meeting, a monitoring committee was set up for the forest confinement program.



Leaving to the forest © Franck Mavinga

The departure in the forest as well as the self-confinement of the Ba'Aka in their old hunting camps continued this month. For now, 2,812 Ba'Aka have settled in 15 camps from Kanza to Bomandjoku and are receiving food and non-food items on a weekly

A fixed schedule was set up for the medical team to provide necessary health care to the Ba'Aka confined to the camps. A total of 136 Ba'Aka were consulted in the course of this month.



Ba'Aka camp © Franck Mavinga



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Thanks to new funds obtained to fight COVID 19, we ordered another 10,000 masks and continued installing hand washing points, with over 200 points installed so far.



Supply and distribution has continued by air... ©Luis Arranz



...sea... © Luis Arranz



....and land © Luis Arranz

In an effort to mobilize the civil society to be involved in the fight against COVID 19 in DSPA, we established 6 awareness raising teams to sensitize communities in an around DSPA to respect social distance measures. These teams made much progress and reached out to 32 villages.



Keeping distance © Franck Mavinga



©Luis Arranz

<i>Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients May 2020</i>	
Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	50
Monasao Health Post	225
Belemboke Health Post	265
Bayanga	65
BaAka camps	136
Total	741



Park Administration

A private donor from the USA has given us a grant to fight against the COVID 19

We have begun the renovation of the entire electrical installation on our project HQ. As a result of the closure of the Lodge and the reduction of personnel on site, the consumption of electricity has greatly reduced so much that over 90% of consumed energy is purely solar



After living at the edge of the cliff, we are changing the electrical installation © Luis Arranz

We have reinstalled the internet connection at the Command Center by linking it to the internet system of the Lodge by means of optic fiber.



Installing the optic fiber © Luis Arranz



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Tourism and Marketing

We continue receiving reservations to visit the Park, most of them now for 2021.

We have received new uniforms that were ordered for the Lodge staff as well shirts for sale at the tourist center.



New Dzanga Sangha shirts © Luis Arranz

Two articles were published about DSPA during the month of May, one by the EU and the other by Agence France-Presse.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/stories/central-african-republic-conserving-nature-and-beating-virus-together_en

<https://www.afp.com/fr/infos/334/virus-des-pygmees-centrafricains-incites-se-confiner-en-foret-pour-se-protger-doc-1ss3bo3>

European Commission > International Cooperation and Development > Stories > Central African Republic: conserving nature and beating the virus together

International Cooperation and Development

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Central African Republic: conserving nature and beating the virus together

Published on 18 May 2020

Téhéran (AFP) - 08/06/2020 - 06:52 Le scientifique iranien Majid Taheri, libéré par Washington, retourne à Téhéran

Virus: des pygmées centrafricains incités à se confiner en forêt pour se protéger

4 JUIN 2020

Aux confins sud-ouest de la Centrafrique, le coronavirus est encore une réalité lointaine. "Les génies de la forêt nous protègent !" rigole Marc, un pygmée à la barbe blanche, étonné qu'on lui refuse une poignée de main potentiellement contagieuse.

Et à qui s'en remettre, sinon aux génies, dans un pays aux infrastructures de santé quasiment inexistantes, alors que l'immense majorité des pygmées sont, de toute façon, trop pauvres pour consulter un médecin ?

Pour l'heure, le virus n'a pas encore atteint la réserve protégée de Dzanga Sangha, un sanctuaire relié au reste du monde par une piste étroite, inaccessible à la première pluie. Cet isolement constitue aujourd'hui la meilleure défense pour les pygmées bayaka, parias dans un pays déjà

Récupération de l'écorce d'un arbre, aux propriétés

Arrivals and departures

This month we present some smaller species, the beetles



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