



# Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

[www.dzanga-sangha.org](http://www.dzanga-sangha.org)



© David Santiago

## Newsletter June 2021



sacharuna



## Wildlife

---

The weather in DS continues to be strange this year. In principle we should be going through a short dry period within the rainy season at the moment, for the rains to restart in August but the reality is that the rainy season has not yet started. There is so much uncertainty on what will happen now.

---

After having been missing for 5 weeks following an interaction with another adult male and also retreating to the extreme northern edge of its home range, the Mata gorilla group at Bai Hokou has moved further to the Northeast completely out of its home range. In fact, the group has crossed the border several times into Noabalé Ndoki National Park (NNNP) in the Republic of Congo before returning to DSPA. The area is still unexplored by our trackers and it requires over 2 hours to get there from camp, making the tracking process very challenging.

A bi-national surveillance team consisting of DSPA and NNNP ecoguards is patrolling the area to protect them



© Miguel Bellosta

The Nouabale Ndoki NP Health Program team, together with the new head of Research, visited DSPA for an exchange with our health and research teams to meet and make introductions so as to improve collaboration.



The NNNP health team in DSPA © Luis Arranz



A new born gorilla infant was observed in the Mata group from the female Wusa. This is the female who was anesthetized back in 2017 to take out a snare that had been caught in her arm and dangerously cutting through while she carrying a 3-month old baby then. We have not been able yet the make a picture of the infant yet but the trackers have confirmed the birth.

We found a dead elephant in the middle of Dzanga bai with the tusks intact and no gunshot wounds but it did show a characteristic weight loss



*Honoring an old friend © Michael Bounghalo*

After carrying out an autopsy and analyzing the samples in the field lab, we were able to verify that the cause of death was neither Ebola nor Anthrax. However, we observed a significant change in the color of the liver, which we could not explain why. We will send the samples to the Robert Koch Institute for further analyses



*Carrying out an autopsy on an elephant is not an easy task © Frederick Singa*

## Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© Nuria Ortega

**Scientific name:** *Colobus guereza*

**English name:** Mantled guereza

**Taxonomy:** Class mammals

Order Primates

Family cercopithecidae

Genus *Colobus*

Species *C. guereza*



The mantled guereza or black and white colobus (*Colobus guereza*) lives both in the dry and humid forests and in the wooded grasslands of eastern and central Africa, It can be found from sea level up to 3,000 m of altitude

It is the largest among the Colobus. It reaches a length of 45 to 72 cm, plus the tail, which is between 52 and up to 82 cm long. The males are larger and weigh 13 to 14.5 kg, while the females reach only 5 to 8 kg.

The main coloring is black, but the outline of the face, chest, shoulders and tail are white, sometimes with long hairs and a tassel on the tail,

It is diurnal and generally stays in the trees. Sometimes a group spends whole days in the same tree, although in sparsely forested regions, it can go down to the ground.

They form territorial groups of 8 to 15 individuals, formed around an adult male, his females and their young. Males when maturing must leave their birth group and fight each other to secure possession of a harem.

They are strictly herbivorous and new leaves constitute the fundamental part of the diet. They also eat fruits

The fourth group of rangers are undergoing the “Anti-poaching Level 2” training at the Kongana training center.



*Training at Kongana © Nuria Ortega*

Last year Last year, we received a grant from Save the Elephants (STE) and Wildlife Conservation network’s Elephant Crisis



*The new antenna © Luis Arranz*

Fund (ECF) to improve the communications network in DSPA. As agreed on the MoU, communication equipment including HF and VHF radios together with their accessories were purchased and shipped to CAR by Forgotten Parks. Unfortunately, due to the travel restrictions implemented as a result of the spreading COVID-19 pandemic, the technicians could not come in to install the equipment. This month the radio technicians were finally able to come in for the installation. The project HQ is now connected at all times with the four main camps Bai Hokou, Mogambe, Kongana and Dzanga Bai as well as with patrol vehicles. This will greatly facilitate organizing our teams and especially helpful in case of an incident

32 regular patrols and 2 binational patrols with the rangers of NNNP. In total 1.339 rangers/days, 1.337 km traveled on foot and cover an area of 1.392 km<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the seizure of 10 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns and 10 gauge cartridges. In addition, 2.420 metal snares were dismantled and 100 kgs of bush meat and 0’5 kgs of pangolin scales were confiscated.  
46 poachers were arrested, sensitized and released and four sent for judgment  
One elephant carcass was found in Dzanga bai. It was a natural death.  
We recovered the two tusks

## Community Development

We celebrated World Environment Day in Bayanga. We handing out T-shirts, planting trees and collecting garbage in the city, to try to create more awareness and make the population understand the importance of the environment



*Planting trees... © Frederick Singa*



*...and cleaning the city of Bayanga © Martial Betoulet*



The coordinator of the PAPA project (Support Program for the Indigenous Population) financed by ECOFAC / UE has joined us and started working on June 15

The Director of the Human Rights Center and the director of Ndima Kali, have participated in Bangui at the workshop to validate the National Development Plan for Indigenous Populations and Local Communities in CAR

We handed over motorcycles to the community radio known locally as Ndjoku radio station to facilitate their work of keeping the population informed of what is happening in the area. We also distributed seeds among the population to support the planting season



©Luis Arranz



©Luis Arranz

We did not detect any person with symptoms of Covid this month and all the tests that we carried out randomly yielded negative results

The vaccination campaign against COVID 19 has started in the area. Around 700 doses of Astra Zeneca have already been administered



The vaccine has arrived to Bayanga © Luis Arranz

On the other hand, as part of the specialist visits program, two German doctors came in to DSPA to support in the health program. During this month they attended more than 300 patients and carried out 150 ultrasound scans at the Bayanga, Monassao and Belemboke hospitals. Next month, they will start visiting the different villages within DSPA



Working at the Bayanga hospital © Luis Arranz



Waiting to be attended by the doctors. © Luis Arranz

**Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients**

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	27
Monasao Health Post	326
Belemboke Health Post	533
Bayanga health post	79
Mobile clinic	
<b>Total</b>	<b>965</b>



The construction of a path to the new port at Doli Lodge has been completed



*Like a million-piece puzzle © Luis Arranz*



*New path to the Sangha Cruiser Line harbor © Luis Arranz*



© Solidarité technologique

A solar energy technician came in from Cameroon to carry out maintenance work on the system at the project HQ and to collect useful information required to prepare for the next field mission planned in September. The next mission will be dedicated to the installation of new solar plants

We signed an agreement with the organization “Solidarité Technologique” [www.solidarite-technologique.cm](http://www.solidarite-technologique.cm) to send all the old solar batteries to Cameroon where they will be recycled.

We have held a meeting in Bangui with those responsible for EU cooperation on the operation of the Park, as well as the future

We had a working session for the inception of the MIKES project and also received the first payment of funds

We have started the construction of the new PAPA office



Testing the all-new technology to compact the floor in the new PAPA office © Luis Arranz

# Tourism and Marketing

The training of tourism staff continued throughout the month.



The staff from Sangha Lodge and from Doli Lodge © Luis Arranz

The heads of Congo Conservation Company, <https://congoconservation.travel/> that manages tourism in the Odzala-Kokoua National Park together with the NNNP head of tourism visited DSPA to meet with us and discuss the possibility of establishing a tourist circuit between the three parks and to look into when we could reopen all three Parks

We have received new recycled material for construction from Cameroon



© Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz

- *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*

## Arrivals and departures



© Luis Arranz

Lydie Axele Mbango from CAR, the new PAPA Project Coordinator, has started to work with us this month



© Luis Arranz

Xavier Safari Winana and Andre Marcellus Ndongereye from Forgotten Parks have come to install the new radios



©i Luis Arranz

Monika and Hans Hoffmann are breaking records of number of patients per day



Felix Safouet, a solar technician from Canopy, has come to arrange some solar problems

© Luis Arranz