



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

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Newsletter January 2022



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Wildlife

We celebrated the anniversaries of three individuals from the MAKUMBA habituated gorilla group. Firstly, MBINDJIO, infant of the female MABOR turned 3 on January 3rd, and the twins INGUKA and INGANDA turned 6 one January 25th. They are all in perfect physical health.



Happy birthday to the twins © Nuria Ortega



And to Mbindjo ©Nuria Ortega

MPOKA-MPOKA, one of the four adult females of the MATA habituated gorilla group emigrated from the group this month. Her absence was noticed on January 7th by the tracking team following a 3–day period during which no contact was made with the group. Meanwhile, MONGENJE, her 5-year old offspring has been spending most of his time next to the silverback. The MATA group that has been ranging very close to the border with the Republic of Congo for over seven months finally returned to the vicinity of the Bai Hokou camp probably because of an intergroup interaction in the area.






The implementation of forest restoration initiatives continue in Dzanga Sangha. Plant production activities in the community nursery to enrich 40 ha of fallow land continue in Mossapoula. To date, 21,500 seedlings of different tree species are being produced with the active participation of members of local communities and indigenous peoples.

The Leendertz Lab, our 'One Health' partner at the Robert Koch Institute has moved to a new institute called the Helmholtz-Institute for One Health in Greifswald, Germany. Prof Fabian Leendertz, founding director of the Helmholtz Institute for One Health has reiterated his intentions to continue collaborating with Dzanga Sangha. In fact Dzanga Sangha will be one of his focal research sites in Africa. Through this new institute he will equip our Field lab which already finished



The first bongos of the year have already visited Dzanga Bai. ©Miguel Bellosta

Dzanga bai data: based on the number counted every 30 minutes between 11:00 to 16:30 each day of the month.

Species	Minimum	Average	Maximum
	67	105	148
	0	1	30
	0	11	12

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA

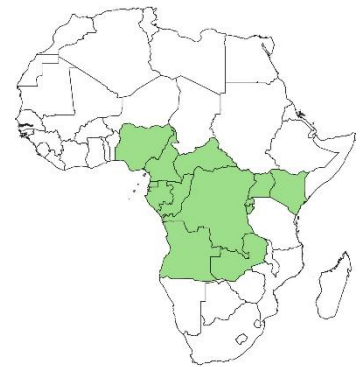


© Miguel Bellosta

Scientific name: Etrilda atricapilla

English name: Black-headed waxbill

Taxonomy:
Class : birds
Order : passeriformes
Family : estrildidae
Genus : estrilda
Specie : E. atricapilla



The Black-headed waxbill is a small bird that can measure up to 11cm in length. In the females generally, the red coloring is less extensive than in males, especially on the hips: both sexes, however, are generally quite difficult to distinguish.

It inhabits the forest biome but does not live inside the forest. It occupies the grassy surroundings of forest roads, plantations, and villages.

These birds are diurnal and tend to congregate in groups that have a maximum of twenty individuals. They spend most of the day on the ground or on the grass, looking for food. These birds have an essentially grainy diet.

Both partners collaborate in the construction of the nest and take care of the chicks.

This species is very widespread in Central Africa.



Anti-poaching

Two trainers from Chengeta Wildlife arrived Dzanga Sangha to organize the final selection among more than 200 candidates and start the training of 20 new rangers. This training for the new rangers is planned to take three months and as always, will focus on Law Enforcement tactics and integrate human rights and Indigenous people's rights in line with WWF's social policies.

Another Chengeta Wildlife staff arrived Dzanga Sangha to support us with the strategy and mentoring of the rangers. He will be present full time in Dzanga Sangha



©Aaron Poter

We carried out 38 regular patrols and 1 tri-national patrol with the rangers of NNNP. In total 1,183 rangers-days, 1,539 km traveled on foot covering an area of 1,416 km². This resulted in the seizure of 3 manufactured shotguns. In addition, 2,249 metal snares were dismantled, 36 kg of bush meat and 1.5 kg of pangolin scales were confiscated.

No elephant carcasses found in the Park.

One buffalo poacher was arrested by the NNNP rangers and handed over to the DSPA team to follow up administrative procedures

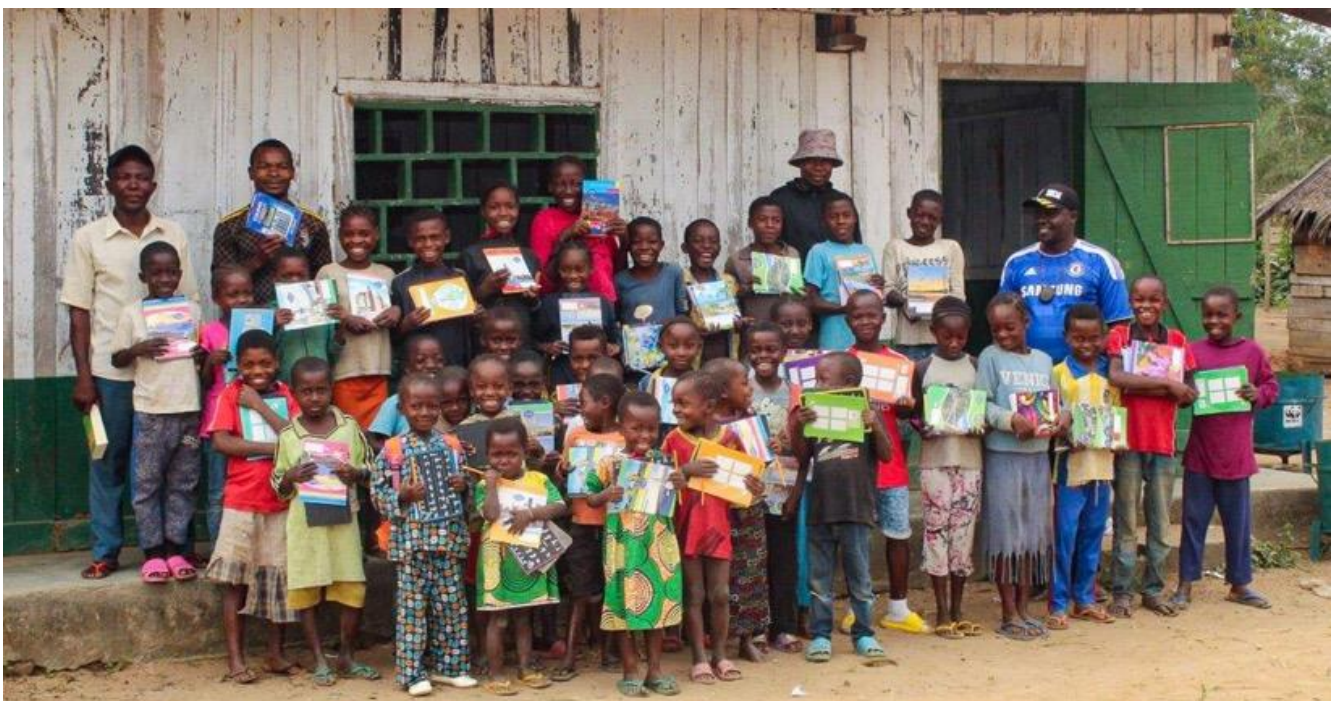


Community Development

In an effort to promote appropriate education among communities within DSPA, teaching materials for teachers and school supplies exclusively for Ba'Aka students, were distributed in 10 schools in Bayanga and its surroundings



Teaching material for all the schools in DSPA ©Martial Betoulet



©Martial Betoulet

336kg of fresh fish were recorded during the emptying of fish ponds in Babongo and Nguenguéli. Furthermore, new fish ponds have been opened and stocked with fingerlings received from other breeders, a way for the latter to perpetuate the practice of fish farming, as stipulated in the collaboration protocol between the first beneficiaries and DSPA.

Representatives of the Union of Ba’Aka Communities (UCB) met in Bayanga to amend and adopt their new action plan in order to relaunch activities among communities for the promotion of Indigenous people and their involvement in the management of natural resources in DSPA.



Members of the UCB during their meeting © Christian Bassoum

Four members of the communities who have been selected to oversee the 48 selected community relays who would facilitate the implementation of activities of the Support Project for Indigenous Peoples (locally called Project PAPA) received training on leadership, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), animation, facilitation, moderation and communication techniques. They also received informal training on computer skills particularly Microsoft Word that will facilitate the compilation of reports

We continue distributing waste bins to Bayanga and its surroundings to promote sanitation among the communities.

We have completed the process for the recruitment of the new Health program coordinator.

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	
Monasao Health Post	303
Belemboke Health Post	399
Mobile clinic	
Total	702

Park Administration

A delegation from the UNDP visited Dzanga Sangha to witness first-hand the work we are doing as well as to see the reality and to collect relevant information necessary to finalize a proposal being developed to fund Dzanga Sangha, in synergy with ongoing activities carried out by other partners. During the visit, they discussed with local communities and indigenous peoples on their real needs in relation to eco-tourism, human rights and socio-economic inclusion to permit them explore and define the relevant areas on which the project could be aligned.

They were accompanied by the Director General of the Ministry of the Environment and H.E. the South African Ambassador to CAR.



The UNDP team enjoying our "Haute Cuisine" in Bayanga @Luis Arranz

Following our completion of the different evaluation stages, project C.U.R.E. has agreed to donate to us necessary material and equipment for the Bayanga, Monassao and Belemboke health posts.

The Conservation Director of WWF US visited Dzanga Sangha. Although we have been collaborating for several years, he did not get the opportunity to visit before. In addition to knowing the Park better, he has also seen our work and understood our needs.

We have received the first draft of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)/ Environmental and Social Mitigation Framework (ESMF) and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Dzanga Sangha prepared by the consultation team recruited by WWF and that was in DSPA in November 2021.



We have recruited a new Technical Advisor for Programme Development. He'll start the first of February

The works continue in DSPA. The new Lab is already finished and the buliding for the UCB and Ndima Kali office, as well as the multisuse hall is advancing well



The Labratory ©Luis Arranz



And the BaAka complex © Stef De Berthune

Tourism and Marketing

As anticipated, despite the restrictions due to the Coronavirus, we are proud to announce that we have started the year with a lot of interest from media and tourists.

A Filming crew has spent the entire month filming in Dzanga Sangha.



(A Part) of the equipment for filming ©Luis Arranz

In addition, among other tourists, we have received the visit of the African Parks team who manage Odzala-Kokoua National Park in Republic of Congo



The African Parks team ©Luis Arranz



Arrivals and departures



© Luis Arranz

Nick Sekhran, Conservation Director of WWF US has visited DSPA. WWF US has supported us since DSPA was created



© Luis Arranz

Franck Cunnet and Philipp Klein, from Chengeta Wildlife, have come to train the new recruits. They will spend three months with us

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