



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas



© David Santiago

Newsletter July 2020



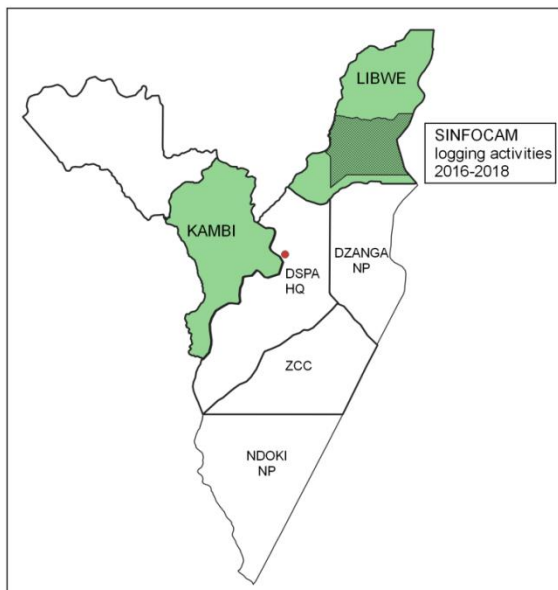
sacharuna

Wildlife

We observed an unusual inter-group interaction between the Makumba and Mata habituated gorilla groups in Bai Hokou during which Mio, a young male from the Mata group spent all the time playing with Inguka, one of the twins in the Makumba group. The interaction was generally friendly with no face to face confrontation but with lots of chest beating from the silverbacks of both groups. At the time of separation, an individual of the Mata group took Inguka (the twin) with them for a while before he ran back to his natal group. We have observed such friendly interactions between these two groups many times and it usually feels more like one family is visiting the other.



© David Santiago



We restarted the ungulate dung pellet degradation study at the beginning of the month. This comprises marking fresh dung piles and revisiting them some time later, collecting data that will be used to estimate degradation rates for DSPA. This information will be vital for the estimation of ungulate populations from indices collected during the wildlife inventory. This month, we carried out three missions in the Dzanga Park sector and two missions in the Yobé Lindjombo sector and the community hunting zone. We marked and revisited 178 dung piles in the Park.

In the next month, we will revisit marked dung piles in the Yobé Lindjombo sector and the community hunting zone and carry out a third mark-revisit cycle in the Ndoki Park sector.

We also restarted the wildlife survey at the beginning of the month with all six teams sent out on field missions in the Kambi and Libwe sectors which are both parts of the two logging concessions within

DSPA. The teams found considerably less wildlife indices on transects in these sectors compared to transects walked in the Park sectors and the community hunting zone.

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© Miguel Bellostá

Scientific name: *boaedon olivaceus*

English name: Olive house snake

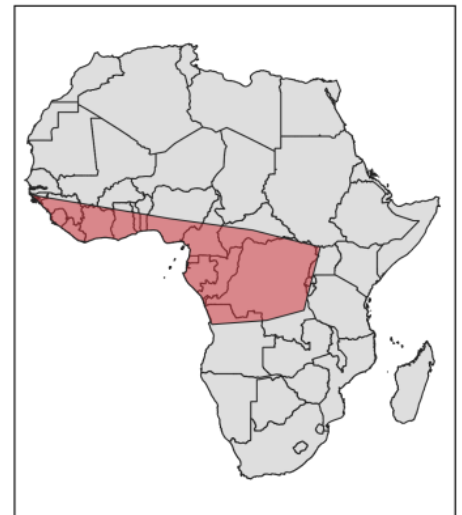
Taxonomy:
Class Reptilia
Order Squamata
Family Lamprophiidae
Genus Boaedon

Is a non-venomous species which shines in several shades of green, mostly in a dark olive tone. It has small eyes, which can be orange, red, or reddish-brown. Its dorsum is glossy and colored dark gray or a dark, greyish-brown

It is quite calm. Its total length is males 60–80 cm, females 80–100 cm and can live about 20 years

It is found in Central and West and East Africa Countries it has been recorded in include: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, and Togo. Western central Africa from the Gulf of Guinea south to Angola

It is found in and near rainforests grass, savannah and cultivated land, under litter or rocks, in holes or termite mounds.



A team of six rangers on patrol in the Park was involved in a bongo poaching incident. After investigating, their involvement was proved and they all acknowledged it. The Park management strives to maintain discipline among eco guards, and the disciplinary council, therefore, acted swiftly and appropriately.

It is undoubtedly very bad news, in fact one of the worst pieces of information for us during a year already filled with bad news. However, it shows that no one is above the rules in place.



The disciplinary council takes the incident seriously © Luis Arranz

Apart from this incident, the month has been calm and we did not find any elephant carcasses or arrest any presumed poachers in the Park.

Main DSPA Patrols data:

39 regular patrols and 3 BLAB patrols. In total 1,744 men/days, 1.806 km traveled on foot and covering an area of 1,712 km². This resulted in the seizure of 7 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 3 homemade 12-gauge shotguns. 61 cartridges type 00. In addition, 7.922 metal snares were dismantled. 0,3 kilograms of pangolin scare were confiscated and the old tusks with 3 kilograms were found in the forest. No elephant carcass found neither poacher arrested

Community Development

Following the lifting of most of the COVID-19 related restrictions by the CAR government, the country is gradually returning to normal. Bangui International Airport has reopened and most of the airlines have rescheduled international flights.

We tried to maintain the confinement measures within DSPA as well as the confinement program for the Baaka in the forest. The good news is that no COVID-19 cases have been observed up till now, though there is still so much uncertainty on what would happen the day it finally arrives.



© Luis Arranz

After four months of confinement in their forest camps, most of the Ba'Aka would now prefer to return to their villages. We think it is not the best time to return to villages because the virus is still a threat and could arrive DSPA very soon. However, given that from the onset the confinement was completely voluntary, we have respected their decision to return to their villages.

We had agreed to support the confinement program on the condition that all Ba'Aka confined in forest camps had no contact with the rest of the population. Now that they are gradually leaving the forest to return to their villages, we have started sensitization campaigns relating to social distancing rules to be respected in villages to minimize contamination



Confinement camp near Kongana © Luis Arranz



New handwashing equipment © Luis Arranz

We will also continue to provide material for handwashing in villages with the aim that handwashing becomes mainstreamed into their lifestyle even after the COVID-19 pandemic, and serve to minimize the propagation of other diseases.

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients July 2020

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	34
Monasao Health Post	268
Belemboke Health Post	220
Bayanga	97
BaAka camps	380
Total	999



Aires Protégées



30 years
1990-2020

Park Administration

Sacharuna, an American foundation that has been supporting DSPA for many years, has confirmed once again their commitment to fund mainly law enforcement activities and support community engagement efforts.

We have also received supplementary funds from WWF International to help us through this crisis

The electrical installation on the project HQ has been completely renovated and we recently installed a system to collect rainwater and use it for a high pressure car wash.



© Luis Arranz

We also built a new shelter, which will be use as a dining room for the staff.



© Luis Arranz



Aires Protégées



30 years
1990-2020

All the paths between the different offices have been completed. We will be able to avoid mud when it rains.



© Luis Arranz



© Luis Arranz

Tourism and Marketing

A study by Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit in partnership with Panthera found that many affluent countries aren't doing a lot to preserve wildlife. Among the 152 nations investigated those that ranked the highest are nations from relatively lesser developed nations with a few developed countries included in the top 10.

Here's a look at the 10 countries that are contributing the most towards wildlife preservation among any other regions in the world based on the scores on the Megafauna Conservation Index.

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/which-countries-are-the-best-in-wildlife-conservation.html>

Which Countries Are The Best In Wildlife Conservation?

Loraine Balita-Centeno

7. The Central African Republic (CAR)



*The elephant calf and elephant cow The African Forest Elephant, *Loxodonta africana cyclotis*. At the Dzanga saline (a forest clearing) Central African Republic, Dzanga Sangha. Image credit: Sergey Uryadnikov/Shutterstock.com*

Central Africa is home to an amazingly diverse species of wildlife populations. [The Central African Republic \(CAR\)](#) is a landlocked nation that has 5 designated national parks, which are home to the bongo antelope, western lowland gorilla, the central and eastern chimpanzee, and the mighty forest elephant. Its vast wildlife refuge called Chinko or Chinko Nature Reserve, which covers 5.9 million hectares, is protected by law enforcement agencies.



National Geographic published an article about DSPA this month.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.fr/animaux/2020/07/reportage-le-dernier-paradis-des-elephants-de-foret>

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Reportage : Le dernier paradis des éléphants de forêt

En République centrafricaine, au cœur d'un pays perpétuellement instable, le dernier havre de vie sauvage est menacé et, avec lui, les éléphants de forêt qui y habitent.

24 JUILLET 2020,
DE THOMAS NICOLON

The PBS TV program NewsHour, presented a coverage about law enforcement in DSPA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wx4WDopgSU8>

YouTube ^{ES}

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PBS NEWS HOUR #PBSNEWS

RESCUE PLAN

PBS is an American public broadcast service. [Wikipedia](#)

Congo Basin's endangered wildlife find unlikely guardians in indigenous hunters

Arrivals and departures



© Luis Arranz

Therese Loehrich a German veterinarian, who has spent two and a half years working on the zoonosis project came to the end of her stay and has left DSPA definitely this month. Her contract with WWF ended at the end of March but she has been stuck in DSPA due to travel restrictions related to COVID 19.



© Luis Arranz

Thais Tombolomako, a Central African PhD candidate awarded a scholarship by WWF to carry out research in DSPA has arrived the field. His work is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) through the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, Germany. He joins our veterinary team to work towards understanding emerging infectious diseases at the human-wildlife interface.



© Nuria Ortega

After almost two years working in DSPA, Boby and Mitch has left us. They have to pass a medical revision in Netherlands