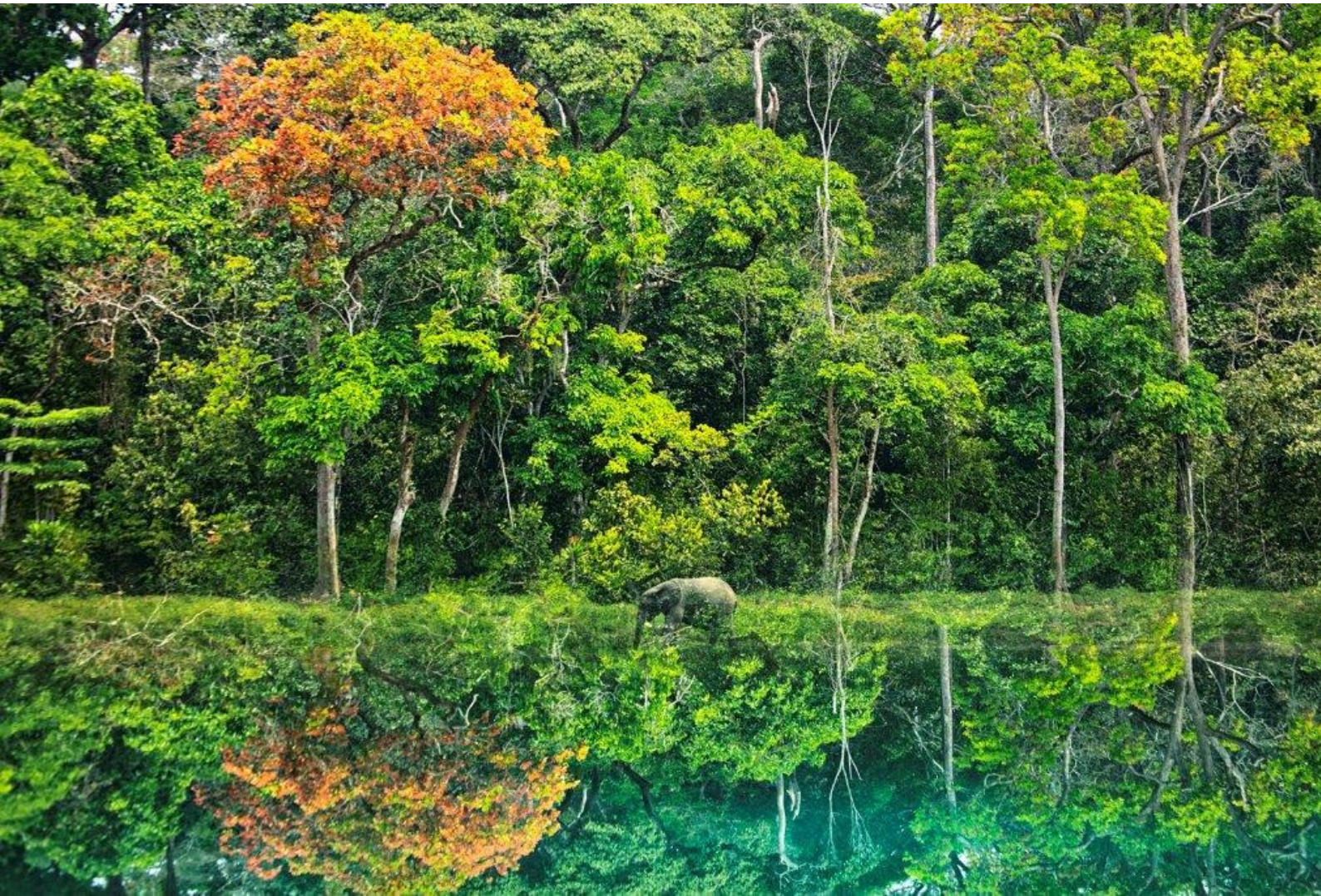




Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas



© David Santiago

Newsletter August 2020





All wildlife inventory teams returned by the beginning of the month from missions in the Yobé sector, the Libwe Sector and the Kambi sector on the other site of the Sangha River. By mid-month, all teams went out again for their last missions which extended to September. A lot of human activity, including hunting pressure was observed on transects in the Yobé sector because of its proximity to Bayanga, Yandoumbe, Moussapoula and Lindjombo settlements.



© Miguel Bellosta

Regarding the ungulate dung pellet degradation study started in July, we completed the marking of ungulate dung with a third marking session in the Ndoki sector. Additionally, we revisited ungulate dung previously marked in the Yobé sector and the community hunting zone.



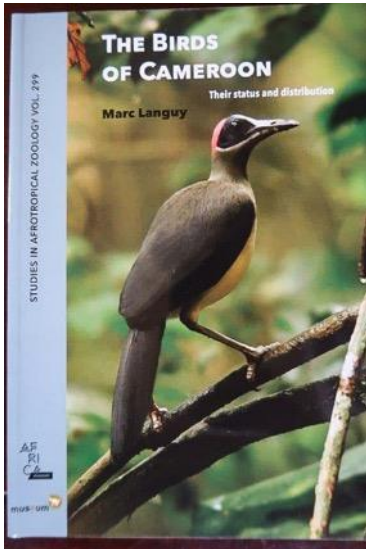
Inganda ©Nuria Ortega

Inganda, one of the twins from the Makumba group, has been limping following a sprain in his left arm. He was closely monitored by the veterinary team until he restarted using it for walking and normal daily activities.



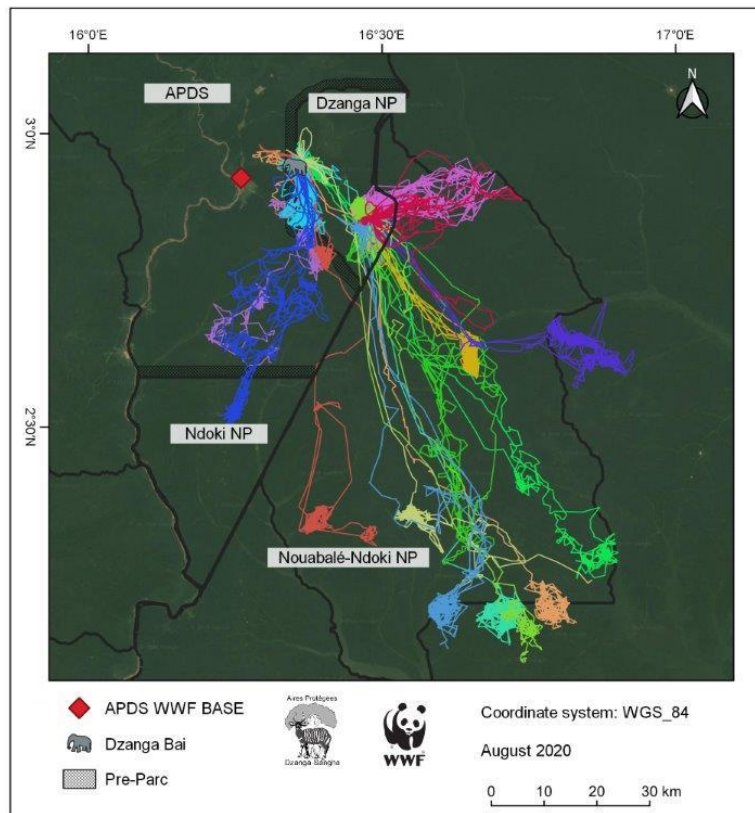
We finally received typhoid fever and hepatitis B vaccines that were purchased in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) with assistance from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Congo Programme in March but could not be transported to Bayanga due to measures put in place to minimize the propagation of COVID-19. These vaccines are for DSPA staff and their close families

We equipped the living areas of Bai Hokou, Mongambe and Dzanga field camps with new cushions.



Marc Languy, former WWF Director for Central Africa and ornithologist has published a book titled "The birds of Cameroon. Their status and distribution". This book will be very useful to us as it covers absolutely all bird species found in DSPA.

Based on the data collected on the movement of the collared elephants during the first semester of the year, we observed that they avoided moving to the North and the West direction but rather remained within DSPA and PNNN in Congo, clearly showing the importance of the protected areas and their management.



Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



© Miguel Bellosta

Scientific name: *Guttera plumifera*

English name: *Plummed guinea fowl*

Taxonomy:

- Class Birds
- Order galliformes
- Family numididae
- Genus Guttera

Guinea Fowls are relatively round chicken-like birds, with naked heads. It has long, stiff feathers growing from the top of its head.

The bare skin on the face and neck is entirely dull grey-blue and differs from the crested species, because it has straight feathers on its crest, instead of curly feathers. Essentially, they have a rockstar haircut instead of a perm

They are omnivores, and feed on a variety of seeds and small invertebrates. They eat a wide variety of foods, including spiders, ticks, beetles, maggots, insect larvae, fruits, berries, lizards, snakes, and even small mammals or more.

The plumed guinea fowl is found in humid forest in Central Africa although human domesticated ones live on farms virtually worldwide.

They live in primary forest but also secondary forests not too degraded and like to walk in small groups, along forest paths. In DSPA they are relatively easy to observe along the roads.





Aires Protégées



30 years
1990-2020

Anti-poaching

With the arrival of Yoann Galeran, member of Chengeta Wildlife, we have restarted the training and mentoring program for the guards

August has been another quiet and calm month in which we have not found any elephant carcasses within DSPA.



© Nigel Kuhn

Main DSPA Patrols data:

40 regular patrols and 3 BLAB patrols. In total 1,495 men/days, 2.273 km traveled on foot and covering an area of 1,756 km². No one bi or tri national patrol because the COVID 19. This resulted in the seizure of 6 manufactured 12-gauge shotguns, 1 homemade 12-gauge shotguns. 12 cartridges type 00. In addition, 9.390 metal snares were dismantled. 2, 5 kilograms of pangolin scare and 143 kilograms of meet were confiscated. No elephant carcass found and 22 small scale poachers were caught, sensitized and liberated.

Community Development

We still have not detected any case of COVID 19 in the area and all the tests done to suspects were negatives.

The Ba’aka have started leaving their confinement camps in the forest to return to their villages. Before their departure, measures were taken to keep them alert regarding the respect of strict social distancing and hygiene measure in place.



©Luis Arranz

We also organized a training, information and awareness workshop on the coronavirus in the town of Salo, targeting administrative and political authorities, community relays and health post managers

To support local communities on respecting the measures in place, we have continued distributing hygiene kits and masks.

We donated ThermoFlash thermometers to health posts as well as the entry and exit points of the municipalities of Bayanga, Salo and Nola and trained users of these devices to ensure possible temperature sampling as people enter an exit these municipalities.

We have also provided megaphones, as communication material to sensitize local communities

DSPA facilitated the establishment of a management committee to ensure the proper management of the water source developed in September 2019 in Bongo-ville, one of the districts of Bayanga

Main DSPA Health Data Number of patients July 2020

Structure	Number of patients
Lindjombo Health Post	31
Monasao Health Post	226
Belemboke Health Post	188
Bayanga	59
BaAka camps	
Total	504



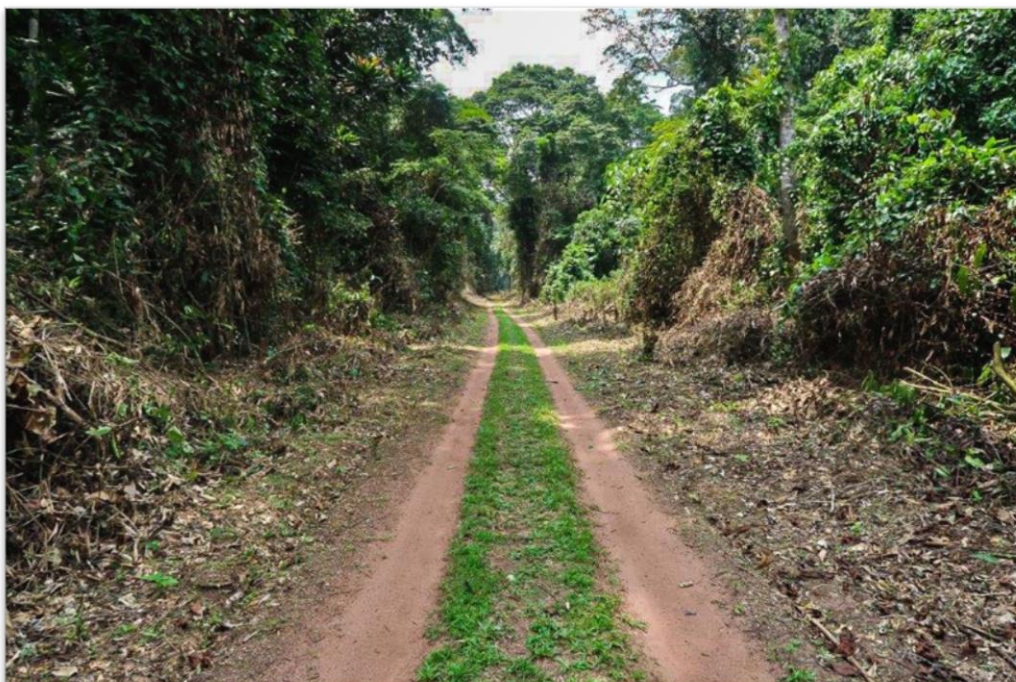
Park Administration

MIKES Project (Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and Other Endangered Species) has accorded us a new grant to continue with the LE activities

We began rehabilitation works on the main trails in the Park by clearing off vegetation which has almost completely closed the trails and making access difficult. Once we complete the clearing, we will proceed to repairing the road surface with the arrival of the dry season in December.



© Luis Arranz



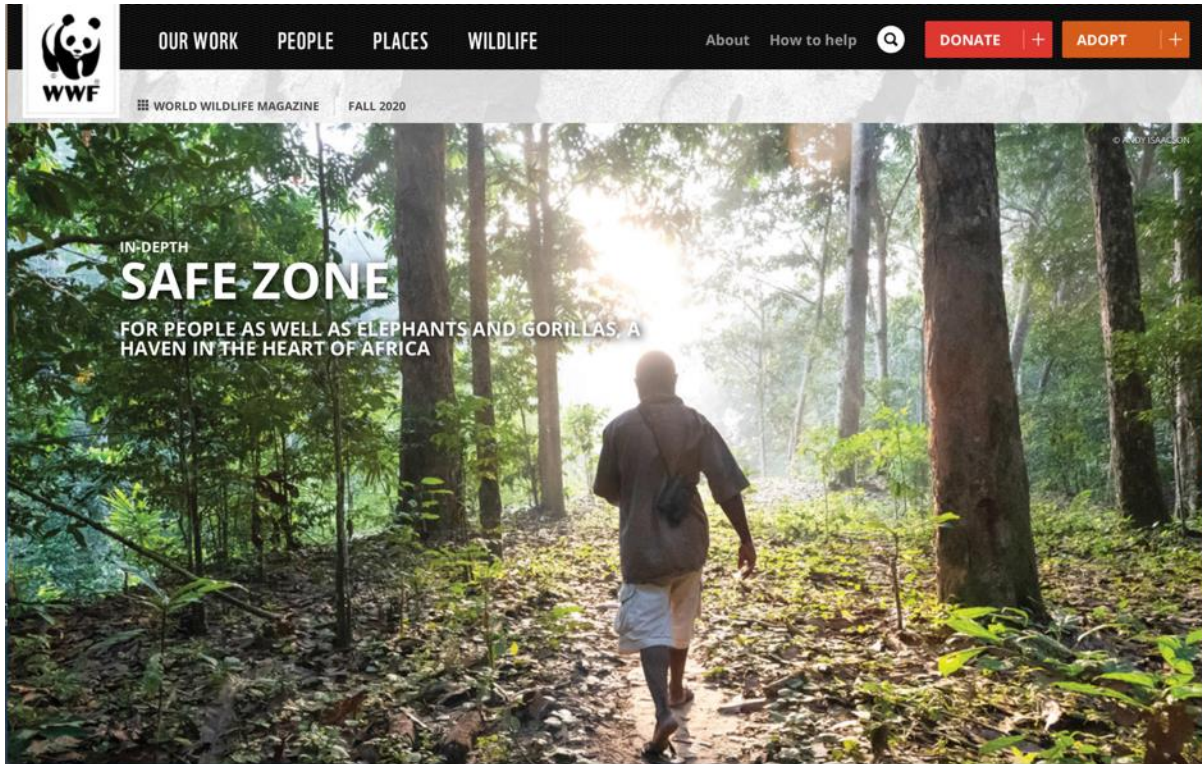
© Luis Arranz



Tourism and Marketing

A couple of articles were published this month. The first one by WWF USA with an interview of the American Ambassador

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/fall-2020/articles/safe-zone>.

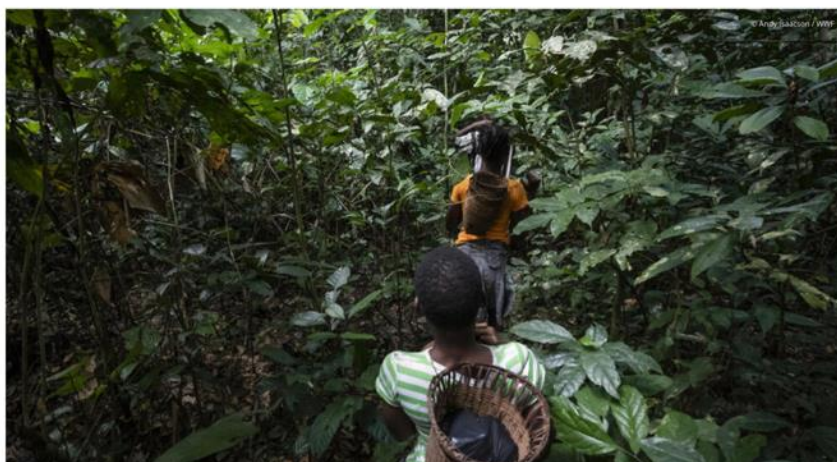


The other one is about the Baaka confinement in the forest

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/covid-the-ba-aka-tribe-of-dzanga-sangha?p=85cbd5&v=1&hours=100000>



COVID & the Ba'Aka Tribe of Dzanga-Sangha





Arrivals and departures



© Christian Bassoum

Yoann Galeran from Chengeta Wildlife, who should have come last April to continue the training program for the rangers, could only arrive this month because the COVID 19 restrictions.



© Christian Bassoum

Yanthe Nobel a Dutch veterinarian, from the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, has come to collect data for her PhD and help us in our One Health program. She also will help us with the COVID 19 testing