



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas



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Newsletter October 2019



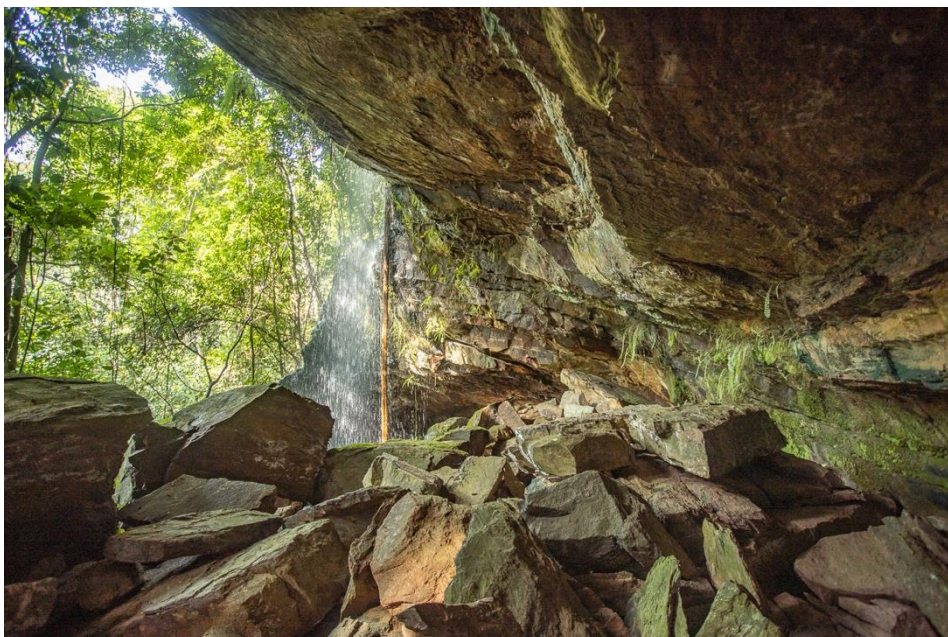
Wildlife



Although we are in the rainy season, the rain this month has been especially intense. We recorded 310 mm of rainfall as compared to 230mm in October last year. This makes transport by boat easy as the river level has considerably risen, but circulation along the tracks in the Park has become somewhat complicated.



Arriving at Doli Lodge © Nuria Ortega



Now is the breeding season of the *Picathartes (Picathartes oreas)*, considered one of the most difficult birds to observe in the Central African forest and therefore, more pursued by birdwatchers. We installed camera traps in some potential nest sites for the species and next month we will see if they capture any birds.

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Over 30,000 photos were downloaded from camera traps in three out of four permanently monitored forest clearings in DSPA.



The PHP manager and two experienced Ba'Aka trackers spent a month with the gorilla habituation team in Campo Ma'an National Park, Cameroon. They went to evaluate the habituation field staff and their habituation technique, carry out refresher training on tracking techniques, making appropriate contacts and introduction to working with tourists as well as to share experiences of Dzanga Sangha with the campo Ma'an team.



The DS team in campo Ma'an

Discover the Biodiversity of the DSPA



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Scientific name: *Scopus umbreta*

English name: Hammerkop

French name: Ombrette

Taxonomy: Class: birds; Order: Pelecaniformes; Family: Scopidae; Genus: *Scopus*

The hamerkop (*scopus umbreta*) is a medium-sized brown water-bird, standing 56 cm high and weighing 470 g. The tail is faintly barred with darker brown. The shape of its head with a long bill and crest at the back is reminiscent of a hammer, which has given this species its name after the Afrikaans word for hammerhead.

The bill is long, 80 to 85 mm and slightly hooked at the end

It is found in Africa, Madagascar and Arabia, living in a wide variety of wetlands, including estuaries, lakesides, fish ponds, riverbanks, and rocky coasts. The hamerkop is a sedentary bird that often shows local movements.

The hamerkop takes a wide range of prey; mostly fish and amphibians, but shrimps, insects and rodents are taken too.

It's mostly active during the day, often resting at noon during the heat of the day. The hamerkop is mostly silent when alone, but is fairly vocal when in pairs

or in groups.

The species is renowned for its enormous nests, several of which are built during the breeding season and sometimes can be more than 1.5 m across, and strong enough to support a man's weight. When possible, it is built in the fork of a tree, often over water, but if necessary, it is built on a bank, a cliff, a human-built wall or dam, or on the ground.



This month, over 100 rangers received training on human rights, focused mainly on the treatment of poachers caught by them. The director of the Human Rights Center in Bayanga participated in this training. We also distributed extracts of the rights to all team leaders that should be read to the arrested.



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It should be noted that this month marks the fourth month in a row that we haven't found any elephant carcasses within DSPA.

Main DSPA Patrols data:

39 regular patrols were deployed + 3 TNS patrols at the BLAB (anti-poaching brigade), 1468 men / day, 2725 km covered on foot over 1844 km². This resulted in the seizure of 2 calibrated 12 calibrated shotguns, 4 homemade 12-caliber rifles, 11 12-caliber cartridges. In addition, 4775 metal traps were dismantled. 18 arrests were made but released after sensitization (no major problem, minor offenses). No fresh elephant carcasses were found in the month of October 2019.

Community Development

28 BaAka and Sangha-Sangha students were admitted to the various school hostels under the auspices of the partners of the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas and teaching materials were distributed to them

4 radio programs were produced and broadcast over Ndjoku Community Radio on the rights and duties and legal instruments for the protection of indigenous peoples at both the national and international levels



Radio Ndjoku help us to protect DS © Nuria Ortega

Human rights Center

26 birth declarations were sent to the civil registry offices leading to the deliverance of 26 Birth certificates for newborn indigenous Ba'Aka babies.

This month, as usually, the human rights center provided free legal and judicial assistance to all in need. They recorded 8 cases of human rights violations involving indigenous people, 3 ended in successful conciliations, 4 mediations started and one complaint was made to the Bayanga Gendarmerie

Ndima Kali

The Ndima-Kali association for the promotion of the ancestral culture of the BaAka and Sangha-Sangha organized a summer camp in Pibongo from 24 to 28 October 2019 to ensure the sustainability of traditional activities in the BaAka and Sangha-sangha environments. 47 people participated.

Health



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A campaign against yaws was organized by the Mobile Health Unit with the staff of Belemboke Hospital. They examined 356 children and treated 154 of them with yaws. The scale of this health problem shows that yaws is still a widespread disease in Central African Republic and important public health problem among the children, especially BaAka.

A medical training took place in Belemboke for field health workers. Thanks to them the Mobile Health Unit is already following 19 cases of leprosy in children and adults.



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Main DSPA April Health Data Number of patients October 2019

Structure	Number of patients
Mobile Clinic	175
Monasao Health Post	282
Belemboke Health Post	303
Lindjombo Health Post	92
Total	852

Park Administration

This month we welcomed Mr. AMIT IDRIS (Minister of Water and Forests) and Mr. NDOMATE DIEUDONNE (Minister of Arts, Culture and Tourism). They traveled to Bayanga to sign a collaboration agreement between the Central African government and Sangha Lodge for the exploitation of Libwe sector for tourism. They stayed at Doli Lodge and used the opportunity to observe the progress of planned activities within DSPA.



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The communication officer participated in the WWF Central Africa Communicator's workshop in Douala, Cameroun

The DSPA deputy Director and the Ndima kali coordinator participated in a capacity building workshop in Brazzaville for local and indigenous populations and other stakeholders on the emerging themes of pilot support initiatives of the GIZ Regional Support Project to COMIFAC for Central African indigenous population and local communities

We have been undergoing many problems with our internet connection following a lightning strike during a heavy storm. This month, the Head of IT for WWF Cameroon was in Bayanga to repair/changed all the equipment.

We repaired the bridge at Yondo on the main road to Bangui that had been destroyed, disturbing circulation.

The construction of two new houses has been completed.



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Salo is a town located north of DS hosting most of the elephant poachers in the region. This month we had a meeting with the population there facilitated by the park and the mayor of the town to discuss ways to improve our relationship. The population of the town complained about being left out of community development efforts. We are now assessing the possibility of integrating Salo into community development projects.



Meeting at Salo ©Lambert Padou

Our Finance and Admin Manager and the Logistics Officer received training on EU procedures in Brussels

Tourism and Marketing

INVENTAIRE FLORISTIQUE DE LA PISTE PEDESTRE DU C.A.T

Nombre d'essence trouvés : 73

Nombre des plaques à trouver : (154)

NOMS PILOTES	NOM LOCAL en BA'AKA	NOMS SCIENTIFIQUES	FAMILLES	Nbre Plaques
LIMBALI	Bemba	GILBERTIODENDRON DEWEVREI	Césalpiniacée	4
AZOBE	Mokolé	LOPHIRA ALATA	Ochnaceae	4
DABEMA	Koungou	PIPTADEAIASTRUM AFRICANA	Mimosaceae	4
BABA	Baba	SANTIRIA TRIMERIA	Mimosaceae	2
ANIEGRE	Mondongué	ANINGERIA ALTISSIMA, ROBUSTA	Sapotaceae	1
N'DJOBE	N'djobé	STROMBOSIA GRANDIFOLIA	Olaceae	3
MBASSO	Mbasso	DIALUM GUINEENSIS	Césalpiniacée	2
(MO) MBALAKA	Mbalaka	ALBIZIA ANDITHIFOLIA	Mimosoideae	2
MOINGOYO	Moingoyo	CARAPA GRANDIFOLIA	Meliaceae	1
MONINGO	Moningo	ISSOLONA	Annonaceae	1
MOKETE	Mokete	SCHWARTIA FISTULOIDES	Césipinacée	4
PAKA	Movaka-Bembé	TRICHILIA PRIEURIANA	Meliaceae	2
POUROU/ PULU	Pourou	VITEX DONANIA	Verbenaceae	4
PADOUK ROUGE	Embéma	PTEROCARPUS SOYOXII	Papilionaceae	2
BODIOA	Moboma	ANOPYXIS KLAINEANA	Rhizophoraceae	1
NGONDO	Mozembe	ANGELOCALYX PYNAERTII	Rhizophoraceae	1
VINE WATER(1)	Tondo			1
VINE WATER(2)	Ebéto			1

We have opened a new path that from the Visitor Center which, in 4 kilometers, will show visitors the diversity of the area. We tagged 73 different tree species that will be identified with plates.

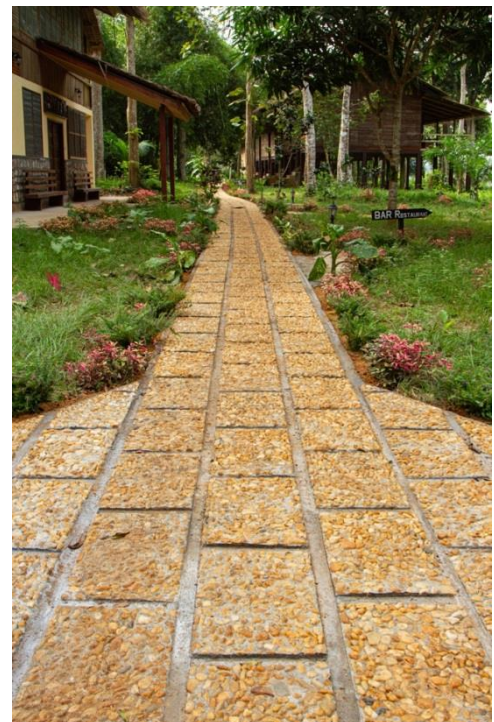


©Nuria Ortega

The pavements at Doli Lodge have been covered with cement and stones, as they had become slippery and sometimes dangerous.



Stone by stone... ©Nuria Ortega



....we arrive© Nuria Ortega

We have also built an annex in the Visitor Center that will host the office so that the great hall of the Center will be dedicated exclusively to exhibitions.



©Nuria Ortega

We have covered the roofs of the bungalows with bamboo.



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Arrivals and departures



Viviane Laure Njoya has worked for more than 10 years with WWF in Cameroun as IT. After her visit to DS, live has become much easier for us.