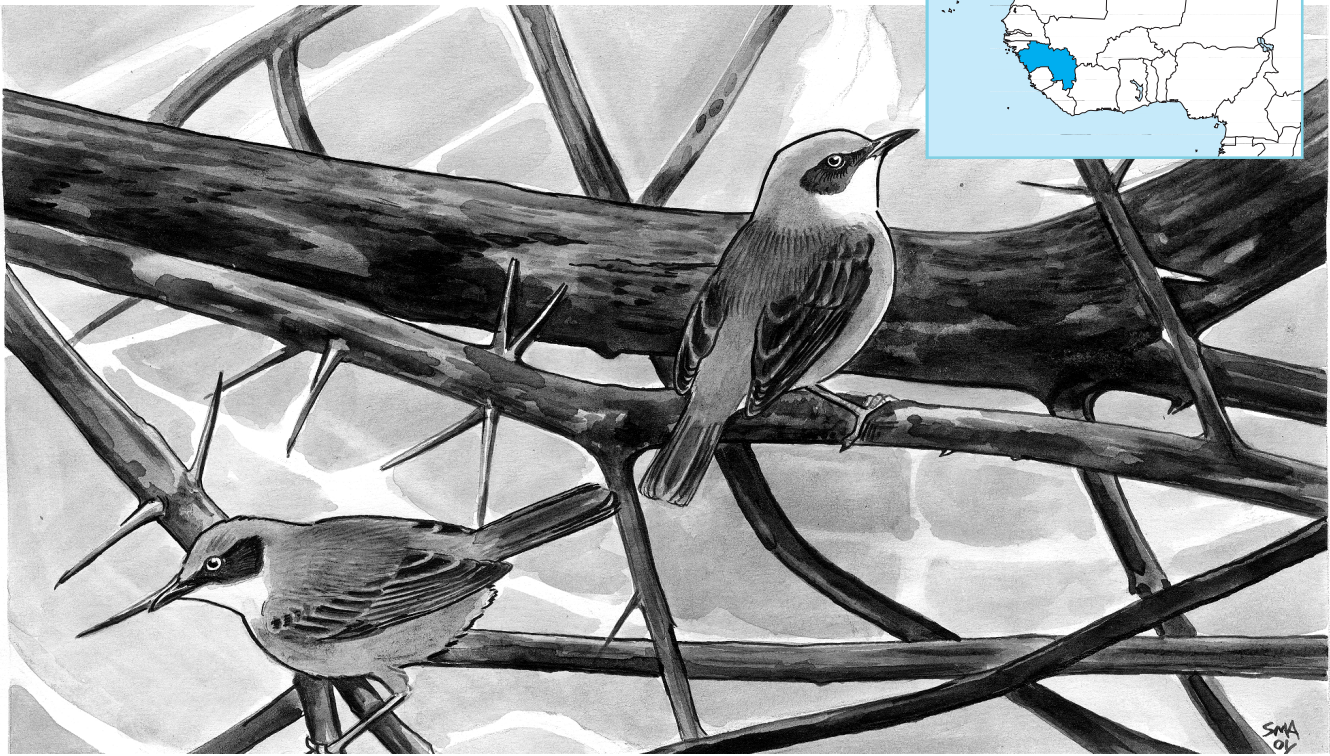


■ GUINEA

PETER ROBERTSON



Green-backed Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*. (ILLUSTRATION: MARK ANDREWS)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Guinea is situated on the coast of West Africa and has borders with Guinea-Bissau to the north-west, Senegal to the north, Mali to the north-east, Côte d'Ivoire to the east and Liberia and Sierra Leone to the south. It covers an area of 245,860 km² and has a population of 7,300,000. The average population density is 30 people/km² and the annual rate of population increase is 2.5%.

There are significant mining operations in Guinea, particularly of the world's richest bauxite deposit. The country is also a diamond exporter and, in the south-east, is extremely rich in iron ore. Timber production is also of significance, some of it being exported. However, a large proportion of the population is involved in agriculture, with rice and coffee the main subsistence and cash crops, respectively. Livestock-production is important, particularly of cattle by Fulani herdsmen in the Fouta Djallon and the eastern lowlands. Artisanal fisheries are developing as a major source of protein for local consumption.

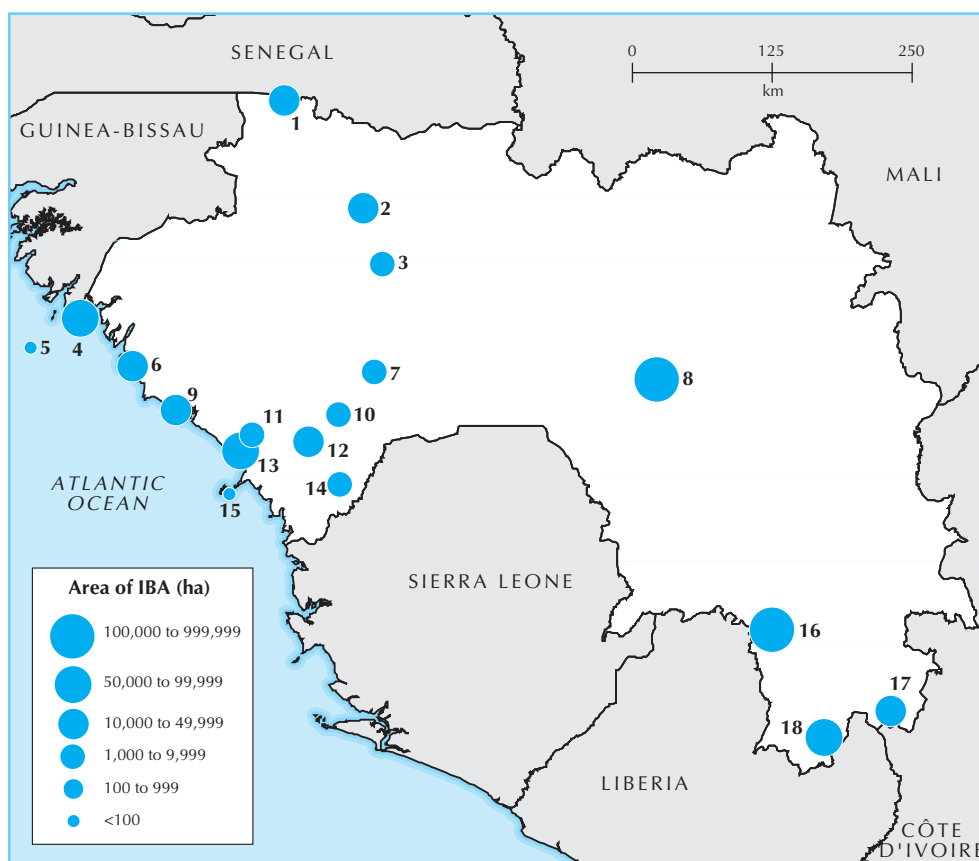
Guinea lies in the monsoon climatic zone, experiencing a rainy season between May and November. On the coast rainfall averages 2,200–4,000 mm per year, reaching a maximum of 4,300–4,400 mm/year in and around the capital, Conakry. Rainfall decreases inland to about 3,000 mm/year in parts of the forested south-east and 1,200–1,700 mm per year in the north-eastern savanna. Conakry, on the coast, shows little annual fluctuation in temperature; the mean temperature of the coolest month is 25°C and that of the warmest month 27°C. Inland at Labé (1,000 m) the equivalent figures are 20° and 25°C.

Guinea has 280 km of coastline characterized by numerous estuaries. These comprise large areas of mudflats and sandbanks which are exposed at low tide and are mainly bordered by mangroves. Fifty years ago the entire coastline, except for a short section about Cap Verga and in the vicinity of Conakry, was lined with mangroves, but in recent years much coastal forest has been cleared for agriculture, creating substantial gaps in the mangrove belt. There are some 305 km² of intertidal flats, 2,230 km² of mangroves, 755 km²

of fresh or brackish water coastal marshes and 605 km² of inundated rice-fields. There are only two areas of rocky coast; Cap Verga and the Conakry peninsula, together with the adjacent offshore Iles de Los. The islet, Ile Alcatraz, lies some 40 km off the coast.

The Guinean coastline sits on the edge of a coastal plain at the foot of the Fouta Djallon mountain chain. This plain is 60 km wide in the southern section, but narrows to 30 km in the centre, where it is intersected by hills which reach the sea at Conakry, and widens to 90 km in the northern section. A number of rivers, which rise on the western side of the Fouta Djallon, flow to the Atlantic Ocean across the coastal plain. The main ones, from north-west to south-east, are the Kogon, the Nunez, the Kitali, the Fatala, the Konkouré and the Kolenté, the latter forming the international frontier with Sierra Leone for 156 km. The only permanent freshwater wetland of any size, the Lac de Bento, is located at the foot of the south-western slopes of the Fouta Djallon, north-east of the town of Boffa. The population density is higher in the coastal zone than elsewhere in the country, at 44 people/km².

Inland from the coastal plain the Fouta Djallon massif rises rapidly and reaches a maximum height of between 1,200 m and 1,400 m, with a peak of 1,538 m at Mont Loura, near the town of Mali. This highland mass, composed mostly of sandstone, occupies much of the centre-west of the country. Its northern and western slopes are steep, formed by a series of fault steps while the eastern slopes are more gentle. There are extremely rich bauxite deposits in parts. The massif is deeply dissected by river valleys, producing a dramatic landscape. Indeed, the headwaters of the rivers Senegal, Gambia and some of those of the Niger rise in the Fouta Djallon. On the numerous, extensive and remarkably level plateaux are large areas of bowé, iron-pan crusts which support little vegetation. Much of the original submontane forest which covered areas with deeper soils has been cleared in historical times. The drier forest on the western slopes, dominated by *Erythrophleum guineense*, has been particularly affected by bush fires during this century. However, the Fouta Djallon is still an important centre of plant endemism, with many of the 99 species and subspecies of plant endemic to



Map 1. Location and size of Important Bird Areas in Guinea.

Table 1. Summary of Important Bird Areas in Guinea

18 IBAs covering 7,084 km²

| IBA code | Site name | Administrative region | Criteria (see p. 11; for A2/A3 codes, see Tables 2/3) | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------|------------------|-----|------|-------|---|
| | | | A1 | A2 084 | A3 A04 A05 | A4i | A4ii | A4iii | |
| GN001 | Badiar | Labé | | | ✓ | | | | |
| GN002 | Nialama | Labé | | | ✓ | | | | |
| GN003 | Chutes de la Sala | Labé | | | ✓ | | | | |
| GN004 | Iles Tristao | Kindia | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| GN005 | Ile Alcatraz-Ile du Naufrage | Kindia | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| GN006 | Rio Kapatchez | Kindia | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| GN007 | Balandougou | Kindia | | | ✓ | | | | |
| GN008 | Ma fou | Kankan | | | ✓ | | | | |
| GN009 | Rio Pongo | Kindia | | | | | | ✓ | |
| GN010 | Gangan | Kindia | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| GN011 | Kabitaï | Kindia | | | ✓ | | | | |
| GN012 | Grandes Chutes | Kindia | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| GN013 | Konkouré | Kindia | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| GN014 | Kounounkan | Kindia | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| GN015 | Ile Blanche | Kindia | | | | | ✓ | | |
| GN016 | Massif du Ziama | Nzérékoré | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| GN017 | Monts Nimba | Nzérékoré | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| GN018 | Diécké | Nzérékoré | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Total number of IBAs qualifying: | | | 9 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 |

Guinea being found here, and also in the Guinea Highlands to the south-east. In the north-west corner of the country, to the north of the Fouta Djallon, lies a small lowland area contiguous with similar areas across the border in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. The habitat in this region is savanna woodland and the grassy flood-plain of the River Tominé. Badiar National Park is located on the border here, adjacent to Niokolo-Koba National Park in Senegal.

The Guinea Highlands are located in the south-east of the country and extend into parts of northern Sierra Leone and Liberia and western Côte d'Ivoire. They are composed of granite, gneisses, schists and quartzites and are thus different from the Fouta Djallon to the north-west. This steep-sided ridge of mountains reaches its highest point at 1,752 m at Monts Nimba, where the borders of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia meet. Heavy rainfall, steep slopes

and relative inaccessibility have enabled the survival of forests in this area, with submontane forest occurring at higher altitudes on Monts Nimba and on the nearby Ziama Massif. These represent the northernmost extensions of the Upper Guinea rainforest. In 1992 it was calculated that, excluding mangrove, less than 4,692 km² of forest remained in the country as a whole while, in 1989, the total area of dense forest in the Guinea Highlands was estimated at 1,180 km², of which 810 km² were restricted to two sites, Ziama and Diécké.

North and north-east of the Guinea Highlands is an extensive lower-lying region—average elevation 300 m—of Sudan-Guinea savanna woodland with a mosaic of forest patches and secondary grassland. Rainfall averages 1,250–1,600 mm per annum. The soils are thin or non-existent as the area is covered by hard, iron-quartzite crusts. The upper stretches of the River Niger, together with its

Table 2. The occurrence of restricted-range species at Important Bird Areas in Guinea. Sites that meet the A2 criterion are highlighted in **bold**. Species of global conservation concern are highlighted in **blue bold**.

| 084 – Upper Guinea forests Endemic Bird Area (12 species in Guinea; five sites meet the A2 criterion) | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| IBA code: | 010 | 014 | 016 | 017 | 018 |
| <i>Scotopelia ussheri</i> | | | ✓ | | ? |
| <i>Ceratogymna cylindricus</i> | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Campephaga lobata</i> | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Bleda eximia</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Criniger olivaceus</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Illadopsis rufescens</i> | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Prinia leontica</i> | | | | ✓ | |
| <i>Apalis sharpei</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Bathmocercus cerviniventris</i> | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Melaenornis annamarulae</i> | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Lamprotornis cupreocauda</i> | | | | | ? |
| Number of species recorded: | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 |

major affluents the Milo, Niandan and Tinkisso, drain this region, flowing north-eastwards into Mali. Parts of this drainage system are prone to seasonal flooding, creating a network of temporary wetlands. The population density in this part of the country is relatively low, with 12 people/km².

ORNITHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Some 625 bird species have been recorded from Guinea, of which a total of 97 are Palearctic migrants. Seventeen species of global conservation concern have been recorded, of which two, *Falco naumanni* (VU) and *Phoenicopterus minor* (NT), are non-breeding visitors, the former only irregularly in small numbers on passage, while the latter is at least occasionally numerous on some coastal wetlands. Breeding species include *Scotopelia ussheri* (EN), *Ceratogymna cylindricus* (NT), *C. elata* (NT), *Campephaga lobata* (VU), *Bleda eximia* (VU), *Criniger olivaceus* (VU), *Laniarius turatii* (NT), *Illadopsis rufescens* (NT), *Picathartes gymnocephalus* (VU), *Prinia leontica* (VU), *Bathmocercus cerviniventris* (VU), *Melaenornis annamarulae* (VU) and *Lamprotornis cupreocauda* (NT). The status of the remaining two species of global conservation concern, *Agelastes meleagrides* (VU) and *Malimbus ballmanni* (EN), is, however, unclear—their occurrence has yet to be confirmed. It is possible that the former used to occur, but has now been exterminated.

Part of the Upper Guinea forests Endemic Bird Area (EBA 084) extends into south-eastern Guinea, and 12 of its restricted-range species occur in the country. Elements of two biome-restricted assemblages are also found. The south-east and parts of the south-west are occupied by the Guinea–Congo Forests biome (biome A05), of which 148 species have been recorded. The Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome (A04), and its transition zone with the Guinea–Congo Forests biome, span the northern two-thirds of the country, and 33 species of this biome are known to occur. The coast of Guinea is estimated to hold, at times, over half a million waterbirds, principally migrant waders. In addition, Guinea holds a breeding colony of a congregatory seabird, *Sula leucogaster*. No inland wetlands of global significance for birds have been identified, though there are several sacred lakes in the savanna zone which have not been well studied.

CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED-AREA SYSTEM

There are two ministries principally concerned with biodiversity conservation and protected areas. The Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et des Forêts (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forests) contains the Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (Department of Water and Forests), which is responsible for the designation and management of protected areas and which deals with issues relating to wildlife trade. The Ministère de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement (Ministry of Energy and Environment) contains the Direction Nationale de l'Environnement (Department of Environment), which is responsible for overseeing the activities of other ministries where their actions may impact on the environment. It is also responsible for the national inventory, strategy and action plan for the conservation of biological diversity. The government has also produced a national forest policy, under the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, which establishes a framework for forestry activity. The Direction Nationale de l'Environnement has a remit to assess potential protected areas and make recommendations to the Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts.

The Code for the Protection of Nature and Hunting Regulations (Ordnance No. 007/PRG/SGG/90, 15 February 1990) provides definitions of protected areas. The categories of protected areas are parc national (National Park), réserve naturelle intégrale (Strict Nature Reserve), réserve naturelle gérée (Managed Nature Reserve), réserve spéciale (Special Reserve) or sanctuaire de faune (Faunal Sanctuary), zone d'intérêt cynégétique (Sport Hunting Zone) and zone de chasse (Hunting Zone). Legislation for the administration of protected areas is given in Decree No. 008/PRG of 19 March 1987, under which the Direction Nationale de l'Environnement was established. The protected-area system includes two National Parks,

Table 3. The occurrence of biome-restricted species at Important Bird Areas in Guinea. Sites that meet the A3 criterion are highlighted in **bold**. Species of global conservation concern are highlighted in **bold blue**. Any other species with a restricted range are highlighted in blue.

| A04 – Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome (33 species in Guinea; seven sites meet the A3 criterion) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| IBA code: | 001 | 002 | 003 | 007 | 008 | 010 | 011 | 012 | IBA code: | 001 | 002 | 003 | 007 | 008 | 010 | 011 | 012 |
| <i>Falco alopex</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | <i>Nectarinia coccinigaster</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | <i>Emberiza affinis</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Musophaga violacea</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | <i>Nesocharis capistrata</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| <i>Merops bulocki</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | <i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Coracias cyanogaster</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Pytilia hypogrammica</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Lybius dubius</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | <i>Euschistospiza dybowskii</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Galerida modesta</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Lagonosticta rufopecta</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Hirundo leucosoma</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Lagonosticta rara</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Corvinella corvina</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Estrilda caerulescens</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| <i>Cosypha albicapilla</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Estrilda troglodytes</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Myrmecocichla albifrons</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | <i>Petronia dentata</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| <i>Cisticola rufus</i> | | | | | | | | | <i>Coccycolius iris</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| <i>Drymocichla incana</i> | | | | | | | | | <i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| <i>Hypergerus atriceps</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | <i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| <i>Eremomela pusilla</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Ptilostomus afer</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| <i>Muscicapa gambagae</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | Number of species recorded: | 10 | 10 | 16 | 13 | 28 | 6 | 14 | 14 |

Table 3 ... continued. The occurrence of biome-restricted species at Important Bird Areas in Guinea. Sites that meet the A3 criterion are highlighted in **bold**. Species of global conservation concern are highlighted in **bold blue**. Any other species with a restricted range are highlighted in blue.

| A05 – Guinea–Congo Forests biome (148 species in Guinea; five sites meet the A3 criterion) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| IBA code: | 007 | 008 | 010 | 011 | 014 | 016 | 017 | 018 | IBA code: | 007 | 008 | 010 | 011 | 014 | 016 | 017 | 018 |
| <i>Tigriornis leucolophus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Ixonotus guttatus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Pteronetta hartlaubi</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Chlorocichla simplex</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Spizaetus africanus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Phyllastrephus scandens</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Accipiter erythropus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Phyllastrephus albigularis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Urotriorchis macrourus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Phyllastrephus icterinus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Francolinus lathami</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Bleda syndactyla</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Francolinus ahanensis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Bleda eximia</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Sarothrura pulchra</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ? | <i>Bleda canicapilla</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Himantornis haematopus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | <i>Nicator chloris</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Canirallus oculus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | <i>Criniger barbatus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Columba unicincta</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Criniger calurus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Columba iriditorques</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Criniger olivaceus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Turtur brehmeri</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Dryoscopus sabini</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Laniarius turatii</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| <i>Tauraco persa</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Laniarius leucorhynchus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ? |
| <i>Tauraco macrorhynchus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Malaconotus cruentus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Cercococcyx mechowi</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Prionops caniceps</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Cercococcyx olivinus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Neocossyphus fraseri</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Centropus leucogaster</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Neocossyphus poensis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Bubo leucostictus</i> | | | | | | | | | <i>Alethe diademata</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Scotopelia ussheri</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ? | <i>Stiphornis erythrothorax</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Rapidura sabini</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Sheppardia cyornithopsis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| <i>Alcedo leucogaster</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Ispidina lecontei</i> | | | | | | | | | <i>Illadopsis cleaveri</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Halcyon badia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ? | <i>Illadopsis rufescens</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Merops gularis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Illadopsis puveli</i> | | | ✓ | | ? | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Merops muelleri</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Eurystomus gularis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Phyllanthus atripennis</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Phoeniculus castaneiceps</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Tockus albocristatus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Prinia leontica</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| <i>Tockus hartlaubi</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Apalis nigriceps</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Tockus camurus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | <i>Apalis sharpei</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| <i>Tockus fasciatus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Ceratogymna fistulator</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Camaroptera chloronota</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Ceratogymna cylindricus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Bathmocercus cerviniventris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Ceratogymna atrata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Eremomela badiceps</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Ceratogymna elata</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Sylvietta virens</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Gymnobucco calvus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Sylvietta denti</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Macrosphenus kempii</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Pogoniulus atrolavus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ? | <i>Macrosphenus concolor</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Hylia prasina</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Hylia violacea</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Melaenornis annamarulae</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i> | | | | | | | | | <i>Fraseria ocreata</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Indicator maculatus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | <i>Fraseria cinerascens</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| <i>Melichneutes robustus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Muscicapa ussheri</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Prodotiscus insignis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Muscicapa olivascens</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Campethera maculosa</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Muscicapa epulata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Campethera nivosa</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | <i>Muscicapa comitata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Campethera caroli</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Muscicapa cassini</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| <i>Dendropicus gabonensis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | <i>Bias flammulatus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Dendropicus pyrrhogaster</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Platysteira castanea</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Hirundo nigrita</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Platysteira blissetti</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ? |
| <i>Psalidoprocne nitens</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Erythrocercus mcallii</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Trochocercus nigromitratus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Coracina azurea</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Trochocercus nitens</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Campephaga lobata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | <i>Terpsiphone rufiventris</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Andropadus gracilis</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | <i>Parus funereus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Andropadus ansorgei</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | <i>Anthroptes fraseri</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Andropadus curvirostris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | <i>Anthroptes gabonicus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| <i>Calyptocichla serina</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | <i>Anthroptes rectirostris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Baeopogon indicator</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <i>Nectarinia cyanolaema</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |

Table 3 ... continued. The occurrence of biome-restricted species at Important Bird Areas in Guinea. Sites that meet the A3 criterion are highlighted in **bold**. Species of global conservation concern are highlighted in **bold blue**. Any other species with a restricted range are highlighted in blue.

| A05 – Guinea–Congo Forests biome (148 species in Guinea; five sites meet the A3 criterion) | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| IBA code: | 007 | 008 | 010 | 011 | 014 | 016 | 017 | 018 |
| <i>Nectarinia adelberti</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Nectarinia johanna</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ? | |
| <i>Nectarinia superba</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Pholidornis rushiae</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Parmoptila rubrifrons</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Nigrita fusconota</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Nigrita bicolor</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Pyrenestes sanguineus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| <i>Spermophaga haematina</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Ploceus nigerimus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Ploceus tricolor</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| <i>Ploceus albinucha</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| IBA code: | 007 | 008 | 010 | 011 | 014 | 016 | 017 | 018 |
| <i>Ploceus preussi</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Malimbus scutatus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Malimbus nitens</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Malimbus malimbicus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Malimbus rubricollis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Lamprotornis cupreocauda</i> | | | | | | | | ? |
| <i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Oriolus nigripennis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Dicurus atripennis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Number of species recorded: | 12 | 11 | 20 | 10 | 41 | 133 | 57 | 74 |

two Strict Nature Reserves (also designated as Biosphere Reserves, and one as a World Heritage Site) and six coastal Ramsar Sites. In addition, there are a large number of *fôrets classées* (Classified Forests or Forest Reserves) which seek to manage the national timber resource. Many of these are small and offer little effective protection. The total area protected, excluding Classified Forests, is 436,971 ha, or 1.8% of the land area of the country.

INTERNATIONAL MEASURES RELEVANT TO THE CONSERVATION OF SITES

Guinea has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification, and the World Heritage Convention, under which those parts of Monts Nimba in both Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire have been declared a transboundary World Heritage Site. It participates in UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme, under which the Massif du Ziam and Monts Nimba have been listed as Biosphere Reserves. Guinea is also a party to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.

OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY

A total of 18 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) have been identified, covering 7,084 km² or 2.9% of the surface area of the country (Map 1, Table 1). These include five coastal wetlands, reflecting the importance of these habitats in Guinea to both migrant and breeding waterbirds. One is a marine site selected for its breeding seabirds. Three forest IBAs have been selected in the south-east of the country and a further five forest IBAs in the south-west, which between them include all confirmed resident species of global conservation concern and species of restricted-range (Table 2). Seven sites qualify as being representative of the Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome (A04) (Table 3). However, six of these are small (less than 14,000 ha), relict patches of woodland—only Badiar National Park (IBA GN001) on the Senegal border, and Mafou

(GN008) within Haut Niger National Park in Haute Guinée, cover more extensive areas of habitat. For many of these sites, ornithological information is scanty and further surveys are needed. This is reflected in the fact that there are a number of species (including less readily identifiable ones such as *cisticolas*) on the Guinea lists of both biome assemblages that are not known to occur in any IBA (Table 3). There is also, for example, virtually no information on the birds of Guinean Monts Nimba and their inclusion here owes much to inference from what is known from the Liberian and Ivoirian sides of the mountain.

The avifauna of Guinea is, indeed, comparatively poorly known overall and large areas of the country have yet to be surveyed. It is certain therefore that more IBAs remain to be identified, although there are likely to be few forest sites as so little of this habitat remains outside of the areas here chosen.

COMMENTS ON THE INVENTORY

Spelling of place names conforms, with a few exceptions, with that used on the *Carte Générale de Guinée* (1:1,000,000; IGN, Paris, 1992).

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GLOSSARY

bowal (plural **bowé**) flat ironstone outcrops, either largely unvegetated or supporting seasonal marsh vegetation (literally, 'no trees').

SITE ACCOUNTS

Badiar

Admin region Labé

Coordinates 12°37'N 13°19'W

Area 38,200 ha Altitude 50–100 m

GN001

A3 (A04)

National Park

Site description

Badiar National Park is situated in the north-west of the country, immediately north of the town of Koundara on the international frontier with Senegal, where it is contiguous with Niokolo-Koba National Park (IBA SN016). The park incorporates a mosaic of

savanna types and gallery forest. The principal rivers, the Koulountou and the Mitji plus their tributaries are bordered by depressions, some of them extensive, which support savanna grassland and which are occasionally inundated. In the eastern, drier part of the park the habitat is scrub woodland dominated by *Combretum*, *Terminalia* and *Gardenia* spp., *Hymenocardia acida*, *Piliostigma thonningii*, *Burkea africana*, *Parinari* sp., *Bombax costatum*, *Hexalobus* sp. and *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. Bowé are found throughout but are particularly common in the east, where they are often associated with bamboo thickets and dense stands of *Azelia africana* and *Anthonotha* sp. Wooded savanna and open forest characterize western parts, where the soils are better.

The dominant trees are *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Azelia africana*, *Daniellia oliveri*, *Burkea africana*, *Lannea acida* and *Terminalia laxiflora*. There are also patches of *Acacia seyal* on areas of hydromorphic soils, giving a more Sahelian appearance. Palms occur along some of the watercourses while along the Koulountou river there are patches of gallery forest, extremely dense in places. There are a number of permanent wetlands in depressions. The average annual rainfall is 1,000–1,500 mm, mostly falling from June to October.

■ Birds

See Box and Table 3 for key species. The park has yet to be thoroughly surveyed.

Key species

A3 (A04) Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome: 10 of the 33 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

Mammals which occur, or used to do so, include *Loxodonta africana* (EN) (estimated population 1,000), *Tragelaphus derbianus* (LR/nt), *Lycaon pictus* (EN) and *Papio papio* (LR/nt).

■ Conservation issues

Badiar National Park was created in 1985. Human pressure on the park is high. There is a sedentary human population within the park, as well as a nomadic one. The resident population clears vegetation in order to grow a variety of subsistence crops. Occupants of villages also hunt for subsistence and for commercial purposes. Transhumant pastoralists bring their herds into the park, particularly during the dry season, in order to get access to the river and its flood-plains. The domestic herds tend to exclude wild mammals from prime grazing areas and also from water sources. Fishermen and palm-wine tappers set up temporary camps along the rivers and live off bush-meat and fish for the period they remain. Excessive tapping is killing many of the palms.

■ Further reading

Bousquet and Gautier (1994).

Nialama

Admin region Labé
Coordinates 11°45'N 12°40'W
Area c.12,000 ha
Altitude c.250–900 m

GN002

A3 (A04)
Forest Reserve,
Unprotected

■ Site description

The site is located in the north-west Fouta Djallon, south-west of the town of Linsan, north-west of Lélouma and comprises principally the Nialama (Nyalama) Forest Reserve (10,000 ha), but also includes neighbouring parts of the valleys of the Ouésséguélé river and its affluent, the Koundou (Kuundu). The area includes bowé, cliffs and escarpments, hills, a low-lying plain of gently undulating terrain and lowland seasonal swamps. The site is a mosaic of sparse forest, denser gallery forest, open savanna woodland and grassland and patches of bamboo *Oxytenanthera abyssinica*. The dominant forest species are *Parkia biglobosa* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, while *Azelia africana* and *Elaeis guineensis* are characteristic savanna species. Average annual rainfall is 1,145 mm. The precise limits of the site have yet to be determined.

■ Birds

See Box and Table 3 for key species. The area has yet to be thoroughly surveyed.

Key species

A3 (A04) Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome: 10 of the 33 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

A troop of at least 30 *Pan troglodytes* (EN) occurs within the forest reserve. The site is within the Fouta Djallon centre of plant endemism; some of the endemics may therefore occur.

■ Conservation issues

An enclave of 150 ha has been established in the centre of the Forest

Reserve which contains two permanent villages. Bush fires, set to clear land for farming, are an annual feature, since at least the time of the gazettlement of the reserve in 1943. Some swamp areas are cultivated for rice production and much of the western part of the forest reserve is under cultivation. The area is also subject to hunting, fishing and the grazing of livestock as well as the collection of various natural products for medicines, food, dyes and building materials. At the end of the 1980s, much timber, particularly *Khaya senegalensis* and *Borassus aethopium*, was extracted from the reserve.

■ Further reading

Bourque (1996).

Chutes de la Sala

Admin region Labé
Coordinates 11°19'N 12°31'W
Area c.1,000 ha
Altitude c.500–1,000 m

GN003

A1, A3 (A04)
Forest Reserve,
Unprotected

■ Site description

The site lies within the Fouta Djallon due west of the town of Labé and includes a small Forest Reserve (568 ha). The area is grassland with scattered trees and shrubs, some dense stands of trees and shrubs, and gallery forest along the watercourses. Much of the reserve lies at around 1,000 m and contains a waterfall where the Kakrima river begins its descent to the lowlands. Precise limits of the site have yet to be determined.

■ Birds

See Box and Table 3 for key species. The area has yet to be thoroughly surveyed.

Key species

A1 *Laniarius turatii*
A3 (A04) Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome: 16 of the 33 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

None are known to BirdLife International, but the site is within the Fouta Djallon centre of plant endemism, therefore some of the endemics may occur.

■ Conservation issues

Overgrazing is a threat, although much of the area is protected by its relative inaccessibility.

Iles Tristao

Admin region Kindia
Coordinates 10°51'N 15°00'W
Area 85,000 ha Altitude 0–5 m

GN004

A1, A4i, A4iii
Ramsar Site (Unprotected)

■ Site description

This coastal site lies west of the town of Boké on the international border with Guinea-Bissau, which forms its western boundary. It consists of an estuarine complex comprising two main islands, Ile Katarak (the largest) and Ile Kapken, and two smaller ones, Niémé Souri and Foré Souri, at the mouth of the River Kogon. Much of the area is covered in mangroves as well as fresh and brackish water marshes, rice-fields and extensive intertidal mudflats (2,300 ha). Secondary forest and wooded savanna occurs on the highest points (5 m) of the islands. To the south-west of Ile Katarak lies a sandy islet known as Pani Bankhi, which is covered with halophytic vegetation.

■ Birds

See Box for key species. Counts of between 5,000–10,000 *Phoenicopiterus minor* have been made. The breeding colonies of *Platalea alba* and *Sterna caspia*, as well as of *Threskiornis aethiopia* (75 pairs) and *Larus cirrocephalus* are located on Pani Bankhi. In addition, *Ardea goliath*, *Ciconia episcopus*, *Scopus umbretta*, *Haliaetus vocifer* and *Balearica pavonina* are suspected to breed. The mudflats

surrounding the islands, particularly those adjacent to the village of Katchek on Ile Katarak, hold more than 20,000 wintering waders and it is likely that further counts would reveal that more species exceed 1% thresholds.

Key species

| Code | Species | Breeding (pairs) | Non-breeding |
|-------|--|------------------|--------------|
| A1 | <i>Phoenicopterus minor</i> | | |
| A4i | <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> | — | 2,000 (1988) |
| | <i>Platalea alba</i> | 75 (1988) | — |
| | <i>Sterna caspia</i> | 350 (1988) | — |
| A4iii | More than 20,000 waterbirds have been recorded at this site. | | |

Other threatened/endemic wildlife

Among mammals, *Trichechus senegalensis* (VU) is found in the mangroves, and the dolphin *Sousa teuszii* (DD) has been recorded from the channel between Ile Katarak and Pani Bankhi.

Conservation issues

The Iles Tristao were designated a Ramsar Site in 1992 and have been proposed as a National Park. Raiding of the breeding colonies on Pani Bankhi is an occasional problem. In the 1990s some basic infrastructure was installed at Pani Bankhi (signs, etc.), but it was destroyed shortly afterwards.

Further reading

Altenburg and van der Kamp (1989, 1991a,b).

Ile Alcatraz and Ile du Naufrage

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 10°38'N 15°23'W

Area 1 ha Altitude 0–12 m

GN005

A4i, A4ii

Ramsar Site (Unprotected)

Site description

Ile Alcatraz (0.75 ha) is a lateritic rock islet on the continental shelf of the Atlantic Ocean, 40 km south-west of Iles Tristao (IBA GN004). The Ile de Naufrage (0.25 ha) is a sandbank 2 km south-west of Ile Alcatraz which is exposed even at high tide. Ile Alcatraz is unvegetated and covered with guano to a depth of about 3 m, which is the cause of its white appearance. The Ile de Naufrage is also unvegetated and reaches a maximum height of c.3 m above high water. The intertidal area is mainly sandy.

Birds

See Box for key species. Ile Alcatraz holds the only known breeding colony of *Sula leucogaster* between Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. There is breeding activity throughout the year. The Ile de Naufrage provides a roost for thousands of terns including *Sterna maxima*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons* and *Chlidonias niger*.

Key species

| Code | Species | Breeding (pairs) | Non-breeding |
|------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| A4i | <i>Sterna maxima</i> | — | 3,000 (1988) |
| A4ii | <i>Sula leucogaster</i> | 3,000 (1988) | — |

Other threatened/endemic wildlife

Among mammals, the dolphin *Sousa teuzii* (DD) and the sirenian *Trichechus senegalensis* (VU) are reported from the area; sea-turtles also occur.

Conservation issues

The area was designated a Ramsar Site in 1992. Guinean industrial and artisanal fishermen avoid this area of shallow waters because of the dangers of navigation. It is necessary to ensure that foreign fishermen do the same. In the past (40–60 years ago) guano on the island was extracted for phosphate, a practice which had a serious negative impact on the population of *Sula leucogaster*. The designated shipping lane to the port of Kamsar passes a few dozen kilometres south of the site and there is, therefore, some risk of oil pollution. The islands are state owned.

Further reading

Altenburg and van der Kamp (1991a, b), Jones (1993).

Rio Kapatchez

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 10°29'N 14°33'W

Area 20,000 ha Altitude 0–5 m

GN006

A1, A4i, A4iii

Ramsar Site (Unprotected)

Site description

The site is located on the north-west coast, to the south of the town of Kamsar, at the mouth of Rio Kapatchez. It extends between Pointe Gonzalez to the north-west and the Koumba river to the south-east, just to the north of Cap Verga. The site includes a large expanse of mudflats as well as mangroves, sand-dunes, freshwater marsh and rice-fields. Mangroves are well-developed along the Kaliki river and, at its mouth, c.3 km east of Pointe Gonzalez, is a sandy islet known as Khôni Benki.

Birds

See Box for key species. The mudflats are used by both *Phoenicopterus minor* (counts of 5,000–10,000) and *P. ruber*. Several waterbird species nest in the mangroves including *Scopus umbretta*, *Ciconia episcopus* and, perhaps, *Mycteria ibis*. In addition, large numbers of wintering waders use the mudflats, including several hundred *Recurvirostra avosetta*. Khôni Benki is an important high-tide roost for waders. The freshwater marshes and rice-fields are used by numerous nesting *Phalacrocorax africanus*, *Anhinga rufa*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Dendrocygna viduata* and, probably, *Ardeola ralloides*. Although there have been no complete counts, available data suggest that the site is regularly used by more than 20,000 waterbirds and it is likely that further counts would reveal that some species exceed 1% thresholds.

Key species

| Code | Species | Breeding (pairs) | Non-breeding |
|-------|--|------------------|--------------|
| A1 | <i>Phoenicopterus minor</i> | | |
| A4i | <i>Sterna maxima</i> | 1,470 (1998) | — |
| | <i>Sterna albifrons</i> | 1,800 (1998) | — |
| A4iii | More than 20,000 waterbirds are thought to occur regularly at this site. | | |

Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The dolphin *Sousa teuszii* (DD) has been recorded near Khôni Benki.

Conservation issues

The area was designated a Ramsar Site in 1992. Disturbance of nest-sites by farmers and fishermen is a problem, as is cutting of the mangroves to supply wood to the nearby urban market of Kamsar. Clearance of mangroves for rice cultivation is a further threat. The site is state owned.

Further reading

Altenburg and van der Kamp (1991a, b), Jones (1993).

Balandougou

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 10°27'N 12°35'W

Area 2,800 ha Altitude c.400–920 m

GN007

A3 (A04)

Forest Reserve

Site description

Balandougou Forest Reserve is situated in the south-west of the Fouta Djallon, north-east of the town of Kindia and to the west of Mamou. It is drained by the headwaters of the Konkouré river and some of its tributaries. The habitat is savanna woodland and dry forest, with gallery forest along the watercourses.

Birds

See Box and Table 3 for key species. There have been no formal surveys of the reserve and data given here come from its vicinity. This is the only site in the country for which *Coccycolius iris*, a species with a narrow range in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, is listed. In addition, 12 Guinea–Congo Forests biome species have been recorded (Table 3).

Key species

A3 (A04) Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome: 13 of the 33 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

Other threatened/endemic wildlife

None known to BirdLife International.

■ Conservation issues

It is likely that bush fires and habitat clearance for shifting agriculture are problems.

Mafou

Admin region Kankan

Coordinates 10°23'N 10°17'W

Area 208,800 ha

Altitude 300–600 m

GN008

A3 (A04)

National Park, Forest Reserve,
Controlled Hunting Zone

■ Site description

The site is located in the eastern lowlands, immediately west of the town of Kouroussa. It includes the core area of the Haut Niger National Park, centred on Mafou Forest Reserve, which covers an area of 52,000 ha, together with the surrounding Controlled Hunting Zone, which occupies a further 156,800 ha. Excluded, however, is the larger, encircling buffer zone of a further 392,400 ha. As defined therefore, the site is bounded by the roads linking the towns of Kouroussa, Banfélé, Faranah, N'Déma, Cisséla and Kouroussa. The area is drained by the Niantan river, flowing east from the Fouta Djallon, and by the northward flowing Mafou river from the Guinea Highlands, which unite at the north-east corner of Mafou Forest Reserve to become the Niger. The area is a relatively flat granitic plateau with greater relief provided by some stream valleys.

Mafou Forest Reserve is uninhabited, almost untouched savanna woodland with gallery forest along the larger rivers, other forest patches in depressions and bowé. The closed forests are dominated by *Chlorophora excelsa*, *Erythrophleum guineense*, *Nauclea latifolia*, *N. pobeginii*, *Pterocarpus santalinoides*, *Syzygium guineense* and *Vitex doniana*. The savanna habitat comprises woodland, wooded grassland and grass savanna on laterite. The woodland formations are characterized by the trees *Afrormosia laxiflora*, *Combretum glutinosum*, *Daniellia oliveri*, *Annona senegalensis*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Lophira lanceolata* and *Uapaca togoensis*. There are also areas of dense *Isoberlinia* (*I. doka* and *I. dalzielli*) woodland. The grasslands are dominated by *Andropogon gayanus*, *Hyparrhenia* spp. and *Imperata cylindrica*. Annual rainfall is between 1,500 and 1,700 mm.

■ Birds

See Box and Table 3 for key species. The park contains a rich and diverse avifauna, reflecting the high quality habitat. Some 300 bird species have so far been recorded, including 11 species of the Guinea–Congo Forests biome; see Table 3.

Key species

A3 (A04) Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome: 28 of the 33 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The mammal *Loxodonta africana* (EN) occurs.

■ Conservation issues

Mafou Forest Reserve was established in 1954 and was incorporated into Haut Niger National Park on its creation in 1997. This core area is entirely unpopulated, probably due to the prevalence of onchocerciasis in the area; population densities in the hunting zone are about 1.1 persons/km². Clearance for agriculture, particularly by burning, in the latter area has degraded the savanna woodland in places. Burning has exerted a selective pressure on the savanna, favouring fire-resistant species.

■ Further reading

Nikolaus (2000).

Rio Pongo

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 10°08'N 14°12'W

Area 30,000 ha Altitude 0–5 m

GN009

A4iii

Ramsar Site (Unprotected)

■ Site description

The site is located in the central part of coast, immediately south and

south-west of the town of Boffa, and spans the area between the estuaries of the Rio Pongo and the Rio Dangara to the north and includes that of the Rio Motéba. The site is principally composed of almost pristine mangrove forest together with some intertidal mudflats.

■ Birds

See Box for key species. The area is thought to be a breeding site for several waterbird species including *Ardea goliath*, *Scopus umbretta*, *Mycteria ibis* and *Ciconia episcopus*. Numbers of *Pandion haliaetus* winter.

Key species

A4iii More than 20,000 waterbirds are thought to occur regularly at this site.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The mammal *Trichechus senegalensis* (VU) has been recorded.

■ Conservation issues

The area was designated a Ramsar Site in 1992. Wood-cutting and disturbance of breeding sites are potential threats. Several small villages occur on stabilized dune ridges within the site, the population of which is mainly involved in rice cultivation and artisanal fishing. The site is state owned.

■ Further reading

Altenburg and van der Kamp (1991a, b), Jones (1993).

Gangan

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 10°06'N 12°53'W

Area 9,000 ha Altitude c.250–1,117 m

GN010

A1, A2 (084), A3 (A05)

Forest Reserve

■ Site description

Gangan Forest Reserve, on the southern edge of the Fouta Djallon, is centred on a steep-sided mountain which dominates the town of Kindia, immediately to the south-east. The habitat is wooded savanna and grassland with remnant patches of forest and some areas of cultivation.

■ Birds

See Box and Tables 2 and 3 for key species. In addition, six species of the Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome have been recorded (see Table 3). This is the only IBA in Guinea known to hold *Illadopsis rufescens*, here at the western edge of its range. The area has yet to be thoroughly surveyed.

Key species

A1 *Laniarius turatii* *Illadopsis rufescens*

A2 (084) Upper Guinea forests EBA: One of the 12 species of this EBA that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 2.

A3 (A05) Guinea–Congo Forests biome: 20 of the 148 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The bromeliad plant *Pitcairnia feliciana*, endemic to a limited area of Guinea, has been recorded.

■ Conservation issues

The reserve was gazetted in 1942. Threats include harvesting of wood for fuel and construction, as well as clearance for agriculture.

Kabitäi

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 9°56'N 13°35'W

Area 4,900 ha Altitude c.300–630 m

GN011

A3 (A04)

Forest Reserve

■ Site description

Kabitäi (Khabitaye) Forest Reserve is located south-east of the town of Wassou and north of Dubréka on the south-western edge of the Fouta Djallon, some 20 km from the sea and only a short distance from Konkouré (IBA GN013). The habitat is mixed wooded savanna and grassland, although some areas are cultivated.

■ Birds

See Box and Table 3 for key species. In addition, 10 species of the Guinea–Congo Forests biome have been recorded; see Table 3. The area has yet to be properly surveyed.

Key species

A3 (A04) Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome: 14 of the 33 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

None known to BirdLife International.

■ Conservation issues

The reserve was gazetted in 1944. Threats include collection of wood for fuel and construction, and clearance for agriculture.

Grandes Chutes

GN012

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 9°52'N 13°07'W

Area 13,400 ha Altitude c.150–500 m

A1, A3 (A04)

Forest Reserve

■ Site description

Grandes Chutes Forest Reserve is situated in the southern Fouta Djalon immediately north of the town of Mambiya, beside the Conakry–Kindia road. The habitat is wooded savanna and grassland and, along the northern boundary of the reserve, a tributary of the River Badi is lined by gallery forest. The terrain is hilly, with some steep slopes and sheer rock-faces.

■ Birds

See Box and Table 3 for key species. The area has yet to be adequately surveyed.

Key species

A1 *Laniarius turatii*

A3 (A04) Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome: 14 of the 33 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

None known to BirdLife International.

■ Conservation issues

The reserve was gazetted in 1944. Threats include collection of wood for fuel and construction, and clearance for agriculture.

Konkouré

GN013

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 09°47'N 13°41'W

Area 90,000 ha Altitude 0–5 m

A4i, A4iii

Ramsar Site (Unprotected)

■ Site description

The site lies immediately to the north of the Conakry peninsula. The site spans part of the Baie de Sangaréya and the mouths of the Rio Konkouré and the Rio Bouramaya and includes 28,000 ha of mangroves, mudflats and sandbanks, as well as a small area of rice-fields. Kabitaï (IBA GN011) is only a few kilometres to the north.

■ Birds

See Box for key species. The mangroves provide nesting sites for several species of waterbird including *Ardea goliath*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Scopus umbretta* and *Ciconia episcopus*.

Key species

| A4i | Breeding (pairs) | Non-breeding |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|
| <i>Egretta gularis</i> | — | c.500 (1988) |
| <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | — | c.3,000 (1988) |
| <i>Tringa totanus</i> | — | 2,052 (1988) |
| A4iii | More than 20,000 waterbirds have been recorded at this site. | |

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

Among mammals, *Trichechus senegalensis* (VU) is known to occur in

the mangroves and the dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (DD) has been recorded in the bay.

■ Conservation issues

The area was designated a Ramsar Site in 1992. Wood-cutting for use by the urban population of Conakry is a particular problem and much damage to the mangrove has been done. Mangrove is also cleared for subsistence rice cultivation. Pollution from the bauxite factory at Fria, upstream on the Konkouré river, has almost certainly had a negative impact, but the extent of the damage is unknown. Part of the site is included within the remit of an EC-funded project to promote sustainable management of mangrove resources.

■ Further reading

Altenburg and van der Kamp (1991a,b).

Kounoukan

GN014

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 09°32'N 12°52'W

Area 5,032 ha Altitude c.50–1,094 m

A1, A2 (084), A3 (A05)

Forest Reserve

■ Site description

Kounoukan Forest Reserve, also known as Kamalayah, is located 90 km south-east of Conakry, north of the town of Moussaya, on the southern tip of the Fouta Djalon. The forest sits on a massif of Devonian sandstone, rising to 1,094 m above the coastal plain. The massif is dissected into several steep-sided plateaux. The vegetation is mainly old-growth (more than 150 years) secondary, closed canopy, semi-evergreen rainforest, mostly confined to the ravines. Representative tree species include *Afzelia africana*, *Aningeria altissima*, *Cola gigantea* and *Morus mesozygia*. Savanna woodland occurs on the ridge tops with areas of farmbrush on the lower slopes.

■ Birds

See Box and Tables 2 and 3 for key species. To date 134 species have been recorded from Kounoukan.

Key species

A1 *Ceratogymna elata*

Picathartes gymnocephalus

A2 (084) Upper Guinea forests EBA: Two of the 12 species of this EBA that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 2.

A3 (A05) Guinea–Congo Forests biome: 41 of the 148 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3.

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The primates *Cercopithecus diana* (VU) and *Pan troglodytes* (EN) are known to occur.

■ Conservation issues

The reserve was gazetted in 1994. Firewood-collection is considered to be the most significant threat to the remaining area of forest. Other threats include agricultural encroachment and uncontrolled bush fires. Hunting pressure appears to be relatively low.

■ Further reading

Barnett *et al.* (1994), Hayman *et al.* (1995).

Ile Blanche

GN015

Admin region Kindia

Coordinates 09°26'N 13°46'W

Area 10 ha Altitude 0–23 m

A4i

Ramsar Site (Unprotected)

■ Site description

Ile Blanche is the southernmost island of the Iles de Los archipelago, located some 10 km offshore, south-west of the capital Conakry. It is a rocky, lateritic island with a surface area of some 10 ha which becomes divided into three islets at high tide. The island is covered with fine and coarse sands with, except for a few mangroves, little vegetation. The mean tidal amplitude is 3.6 m and the island is surrounded by relatively deep water.

Birds

See Box for key species. The island is regularly used as a roost by terns and other waterbirds.

| Key species | Breeding (pairs) | Non-breeding |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| A4i <i>Sterna maxima</i> | — | 1,500 (1990) |

Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The sea-turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* (EN), and possibly other sea-turtle species, nest on the sandy beaches.

Conservation issues

The island was declared a Ramsar Site in 1993. It is uninhabited, but there is heavy human pressure on turtle nests and young. This activity is likely to result in disturbance of roosting and breeding birds.

Further reading

Altenburg and van der Kamp (1991a,b).

Massif du Ziama

Admin region Nzérékoré

Coordinates 8°22'N 9°20'W

Area 116,170 ha

Altitude 500–1,387 m

GN016

A1, A2 (084), A3 (A05)

Forest Reserve,

Biosphere Reserve

Site description

The Massif du Ziama Biosphere Reserve forms part of the Guinea Highlands in the south-east of the country, situated 40 km south-east of the town of Macenta and 100 km north-west of Nzérékoré. Part of the western boundary is contiguous with the Wonegizi mountains in Liberia (IBA LR002). Much of the terrain is extremely rugged. The whole area was forested originally, but primary forest now remains only in the remote upland parts of the south-west, next to the Liberian border. Most of the remainder, including the valleys, is now secondary forest, dominated by *Parinari* and *Erythrophleum* spp. There are also areas of swamp and of wooded savanna on lateritic outcrops of the high plateaux. The core zone of the reserve covers 60,000 ha, outside of which is a buffer zone. Annual rainfall is in the range 1,700–2,000 mm.

Birds

See Box and Tables 2 and 3 for key species. The reserve has an extremely rich avifauna with some 287 bird species recorded. In addition to those listed below, there are reports that *Agelastes meleagrides* may occur or, at least, that it used to do so—it is known to local hunters. There is also one unconfirmed sighting of both *Lamprotornis cupreocauda* and of *Malimbus ballmanni*, although the presence of the latter seems improbable from what is known of its distribution in Liberia.

| Key species | |
|-------------|---|
| A1 | <i>Scotopelia ussheri</i> <i>Ceratogymna cylindricus</i> <i>Ceratogymna elata</i> <i>Campephaga lobata</i> |
| | <i>Criniger olivaceus</i> <i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i> <i>Bathmocercus cerviniventris</i> <i>Melaenornis annamarulae</i> |
| A2 (084) | Upper Guinea forests EBA: Eight of the 12 species of this EBA that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 2. |
| A3 (A05) | Guinea–Congo Forests biome: 133 of the 148 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3. |

Other threatened/endemic wildlife

Mammals which occur, or which used to do so, include *Loxodonta africana* (EN), *Cercopithecus diana* (VU), *Procolobus badius* (LR/nt), *Procolobus verus* (LR/nt), *Colobus polykomos* (LR/nt), *Cercocebus atys* (LR/nt), *Pan troglodytes* (EN), *Papio papio* (LR/nt), *Cephalophus dorsalis* (LR/nt), *Cephalophus jentink* (VU), *Cephalophus niger* (LR/nt), *Cephalophus sylvicultor* (LR/nt), *Tragelaphus euryceros* (LR/nt), *Hyemoschus aquaticus* (DD), *Neotragus pygmaeus* (LR/nt), *Hexaprotodon liberiensis* (VU) and *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni* (VU).

Conservation issues

The area was declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1980. A population of 29,000 live in 23 villages in and on the margins of the reserve and in the

town of Sérédou, on its eastern edge. The site is administered locally by the Centre Forestier de Sérédou. The reserve is divided into two main management zones, the protection zone (60,000 ha) and the production zone. Timber extraction is permitted in the latter where there is a forestry concession of 30,000 ha, containing a forestry station and chipboard factory. There is also a quinine plantation, processing station and an 8 ha palm grove within the reserve boundaries. Although there is a management plan, it is not known to what extent it is being followed in the exploitation of the production zone, nor whether or how much illegal exploitation is taking place. Encroachment by shifting agriculturalists and by refugees is also a problem.

Further reading

Bourque (1993), Bützler (1996), Halleux (1994), WCMC/IUCN (1986).

Monts Nimba

Admin region Nzérékoré

Coordinates 7°42'N 8°22'W

Area 12,540 ha

Altitude c.450–1,752 m

GN017

A1, A2 (084), A3 (A05)

Strict Nature Reserve, Forest Reserve,

Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site

Site description

The Nimba massif is located in the extreme south-east of the country, at the point where the international border with Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia meet, some 50 km due east of Nzérékoré. Nimba lies at the eastern end of the Guinea Highlands and rises from the almost flat surrounding plain to 1,752 m at Mont Richard-Molard, which straddles the frontier with Côte d'Ivoire and is the highest point of both countries. The Nimba massif is some 40 km long and the largest and most dramatic part of it is in Guinea. The Nimba mountains are dissected by deep, richly forested valleys with abrupt cliff-faces between plateaux, rounded hilltops, rocky peaks and bare granitic blocks. There are three major vegetation-types within the reserve; grassland, forest and wooded savanna. High-altitude grassland with *Loudetia kagerensis* occurs near the summit with woody plants such as *Protea occidentalis* on the slopes. Forest remnants at high altitude are dominated by Myrtaceae, with the tree-fern *Cyatula cylindrica* in ravines. At lower altitudes savanna occurs, interspersed by gallery forests (with *Parinari excelsa*) between 1,000 m and 1,600 m. Primary forest is located mainly on the foothills and in the valleys, with *Triplachiton scleroxylon*, *Chlorophora regia*, *Morus mesozygia*, *Terminalia ivorensis*, *Lophira procera*, *Tarrietia utilis* and *Mapania* spp. among the dominants. Drier, mid-altitude forests are found at the northern end, in which *Piptadeniastrum africanum* and *Parkia bicolor* are conspicuous elements. The whole area constitutes a vast water catchment; mean annual rainfall in the less wet Guinean parts is around 2,000 mm. The site is contiguous with IBAs CI003 and LR004 in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia respectively.

Birds

See Box and Tables 2 and 3 for key species. This is the only site in the country from which *Prinia leontica* is known. There is relatively little information available on the birds of Guinean Monts Nimba, but the avifauna is likely to be similar to that recorded from the Liberian part of the mountain. Many more species than are currently known may therefore be expected to occur, including up to 16 species of global conservation concern.

| Key species | |
|-------------|--|
| A1 | <i>Bleda eximia</i> <i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i> |
| | <i>Prinia leontica</i> |
| A2 (084) | Upper Guinea forests EBA: Four of the 12 species of this EBA that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 2. |
| A3 (A05) | Guinea–Congo Forests biome: 57 of the 148 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3. |

Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The floristic and faunistic importance of Monts Nimba is considerable. Endemic plants include the fern *Asplenium schnellii* and the flowering plants *Blaeria nimbaana*, *Osbeckia porteresii* and *Dolichos nimbaensis*. More than 500 species of fauna new to science have been described from specimens collected in the Mount Nimba Reserve. Endemics include an amphibian *Schoutedenella nimbaensis*, known only from

the type-locality in Guinea, a viviparous toad *Nimbaphrynoides occidentalis* (EN) and an aquatic insectivore *Micropotamogale lamottei* (EN). Other, non-endemic, mammals of global conservation concern include *Colobus polykomos* (LR/nt), *Procolobus badius* (LR/nt), *Cercopithecus diana* (VU), *Pan troglodytes* (EN), *Hexaprotodon liberiensis* (VU) and *Genetta johnstoni* (DD).

■ Conservation issues

The Nimba mountains in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire were declared a Strict Nature Reserve in 1944. They form part of a transboundary World Heritage Site, shared with Côte d'Ivoire, that was declared in 1981, and were also created a Biosphere Reserve in 1980. The reserve in Guinea now covers an area of 12,540 ha, following the excision of 1,550 ha in the northern part in 1993 as a result of the effects of prospecting for minerals that took place in the area between 1969 and 1978 and of the potential future exploitation of the extremely rich iron-ore deposits that were found. In 1995, the Guinea government established CEGEN, the centre for the management of the Mount Nimba complex. There has probably never been any settlements on the mountains themselves, but there are 10 villages in its immediate vicinity with several thousand inhabitants, mainly growing crops. Some illegal hunting and cultivation occurs within the reserve. As a result, there has been considerable degradation of the lower, northern parts of the reserve, around the edge of which runs the road linking Nzérékoré with Danane in Côte d'Ivoire. The influx of large numbers of refugees from Liberia in the recent past has exacerbated this problem. The main threat to the site as a whole, however, is from mining; not only of those deposits on the Guinean side which have yet to be exploited but also from the recommencement of massive iron-ore mining operations in the southern part of the mountains in Liberia. Here about 6,000 ha have been drastically affected by the building of roads, wells, mine-shafts, workshops and townships. In particular, the removal of hundreds of square metres of soil over large areas has led to streams throughout the area becoming polluted with heavy-metal-tainted run-off.

■ Further reading

Bourque (1993), Brosset (1984), Lamotte (1998), République du Guinea (1995), UNESCO (1993), WCMC/IUCN (1986).

Diécké

Admin region Nzérékoré

Coordinates 07°30'N 08°55'W

Area 59,000 ha Altitude c.400–595 m

GN018

A1, A2 (084), A3 (A05)

Forest Reserve

■ Site description

Diécké Forest Reserve is situated in the extreme south-east of Guinea,

south of Nzérékoré and immediately north of the town of Diécké, close to the Liberian border. It is an area of lowland rainforest near the north-western limit of its distribution. Representative tree species include *Parkia bicolor* and *Piptadeniastrum africanum*. Although parts of the north-east of the reserve have been logged, much of the remainder is mature forest. The reserve also includes areas of swamp-forest dominated by *Raphia* palms, which makes access for commercial timber exploitation difficult or impossible in places. Annual rainfall is in the range 1,900–2,000 mm.

■ Birds

See Box and Tables 2 and 3 for key species. A total of 141 species is currently known from Diécké, a figure which suggests that many more have yet to be discovered. There are also earlier records of a number of additional species, including *Scotopelia ussheri* and *Lamprotornis cupreocauda*, from 'Nzérékoré', only a short distance to the north, which may therefore yet be found in Diécké.

Key species

| | | |
|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| A1 | <i>Ceratogymna elata</i> | <i>Criniger olivaceus</i> |
| | <i>Bleda eximia</i> | <i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i> |
| A2 (084) | Upper Guinea forests EBA: Three of the 12 species of this EBA that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 2. | |
| A3 (A05) | Guinea-Congo Forests biome: 74 of the 148 species of this biome that occur in Guinea have been recorded at this site; see Table 3. | |

■ Other threatened/endemic wildlife

The frog *Phrynobatrachus tokba* is known only from its type-locality, close to Diécké. Fauna of conservation concern include the crocodile *Osteolaemis tetraspis* (VU) and the mammals *Cercopithecus diana* (VU), *Procolobus badius* (LR/nt), *Colobus polykomos* (LR/nt), *Cercocebus atys* (LR/nt), *Pan troglodytes* (EN), *Cephalophus dorsalis* (LR/nt), *C. jentinki* (VU), *C. niger* (LR/nt), *C. sylvicultor* (LR/nt), *C. zebra* (VU), *Neotragus pygmaeus* (LR/nt), *Hexaprotodon liberiensis* (VU), *Hyemoschus aquaticus* (DD), *Tragelaphus euryceros* (LR/nt) and *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni* (VU).

■ Conservation issues

The reserve was gazetted in 1945. Some 5,000 ha in the north-east of the reserve were logged in the 1960s. Farms were then established on this land under the 'taungya' system whereby farmers care for tree seedlings alongside their crops for a number of years before leaving the area to become reforested. The area was not, however, returned to forest. More recently, the influx of refugees from Liberia escaping the civil war has led to increased exploitation.

■ Further reading

Bourque and Wilson (1990), Bützler (1996), Estève *et al.* (1986), Hald-Mortensen (1971).

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