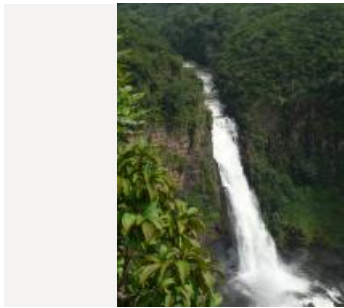
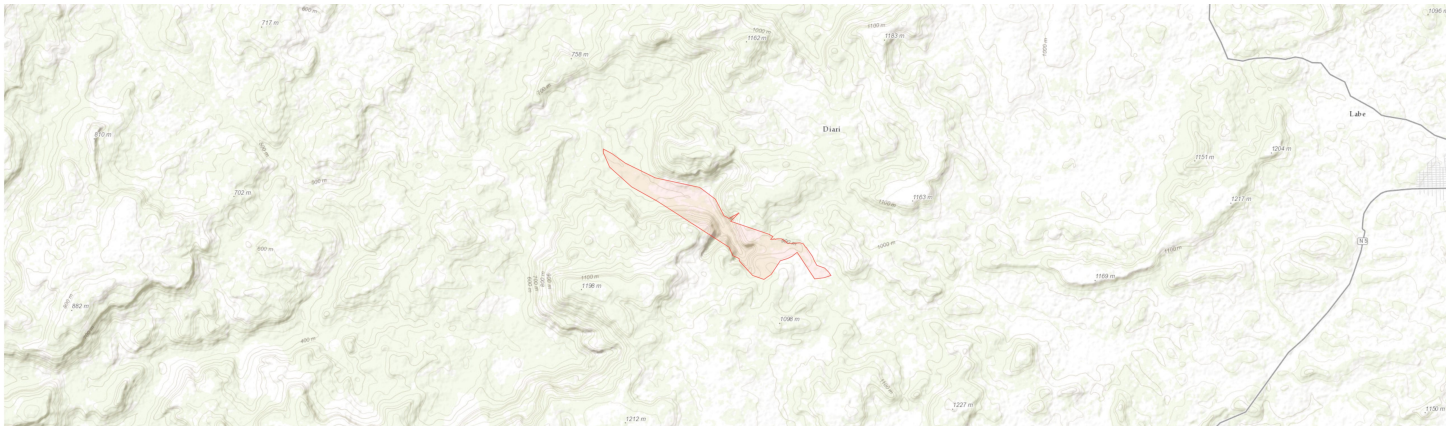


# Saala waterfalls

GUITIPA017



Country: **Guinea**

Administrative region: **Labé (Prefecture)**

Central co-ordinates: **11.29472 N, -12.51306 E**

Area: **7km<sup>2</sup>**

## Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i), A(iv), C(iii)

## IPA assessment rationale

The Saala Waterfalls and rapids are one of the most important national sites for Podostemaceae including three threatened species. Other threatened rheophytic species include *Eriocaulon sulanum*.

## Site description

Touristic waterfall site near to the town of Labé in the Fouta Djallon. There are numerous rocky rapids leading up to the main waterfall that have Podostemaceae present. The area around the waterfall site has a mixture of riverine forest and woodland species. The area at the base of the waterfall has denser riverine forest. There is a tourist camp present near the waterfall that is seldom used, but day

tourists regularly visit.

## Botanical significance

The rocks in the river are rich in Podostemaceae species endemic to Guinea. This family of plants is known to have species which are endemic to particular rivers or to specific points in a river. They require fast flowing clean water and do not tolerate pollution or silt in the water. All rapids and waterfalls in Guinea are threatened due to the expanding hydroelectric sector.

## Habitat and geology

The underlying geology of the areas is Ordovician quartzite rich sandstone. Around the edge of the upper part of the river Saala, near the tourist village there is some riverine vegetation with *Raphia* sp., *Pandanus candelabrum*, *Carapa procera*, *Heisteria parviflora* and *Gnidia foliosa*. The rapids and waterfalls of the Saala River are the second richest in Guinea for Podostemaceae.

## Conservation issues

There is a hydroelectric dam planned for this river, which if it goes ahead is likely to alter the flow of the river and thus negatively affect

the populations of Podostemaceae. This has been seen at other hydroelectric dam sites e.g. Grandes Chutes near Kindia. Litter from tourists is polluting the area both in and out of the water. It is one of the major tourist attractions for the Fouta Djallon and should be given more protection.

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**Site assessor(s)**

**Assessed by:**

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Catherine Andre, Biotope

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IPA criterion A species

SPECIES	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 1% OF GLOBAL POPULATION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION	SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT	ABUNDANCE AT SITE
<i>Eriocaulon sulanum</i> <i>S.M.Phillips &amp; Burgt</i>	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Saxicolella futa</i> <i>Cheek</i>	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Macropodiella macrothyrsa</i> <i>(G.Taylor)</i> <i>C.Cusset</i>	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Stonesia heterosp athella</i> <i>G.Taylor</i>	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Apodiscus chevalieri</i> <i>Hutch.</i>	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Scarce
<i>Dissotis splendens</i> <i>A.Chev. &amp; Jacq.-Fél.</i>	A(i)	✓	✓	—	—	—	Common

IPA criterion C qualifying habitats

HABITAT	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	≥ 10% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	AREAL COVERAGE AT SITE
Waterfalls and Rapids	C(iii)	—	✓	✓	

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers, Streams, Creeks [includes waterfalls]	—	Major

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Tourism / Recreation	—	Minor
Agriculture (pastoral)	—	Unknown

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Residential & commercial development - Tourism & recreation areas	Medium	Ongoing - stable
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Shifting agriculture	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Biological resource use - Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals	Low	Ongoing - stable
Energy production & mining - Renewable energy	High	Future - planned activity

## Protected areas

PROTECTED AREA NAME	PROTECTED AREA TYPE	RELATIONSHIP WITH IPA	AREAL OVERLAP
Saala	Classified Forest	protected/conservation area overlaps with IPA	—

## Conservation designation

DESIGNATION NAME	PROTECTED AREA	RELATIONSHIP WITH IPA	AREAL OVERLAP
Chutes de Saala	Important Bird Area	protected/conservation area overlaps with IPA	—

## Management type

MANAGEMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	YEAR STARTED	YEAR FINISHED
No management plan in place		—	—

## Bibliography

Lisowski, S. 2009. Flore (Angiospermes) de la République de Guinée..

Couch, C., Magassouba, S., Rokni, S. & Cheek, M. 2018. **Threatened plants species of Guinea-Conakry: A preliminary checklist.** Peerj Preprints

BirdLife International 2018. **Important Bird Areas factsheet: Chutes de la Sala.**

Couch, C. 2016. TIPAs Guinea Darwin Project report: Field expedition to Fouta Djallon.