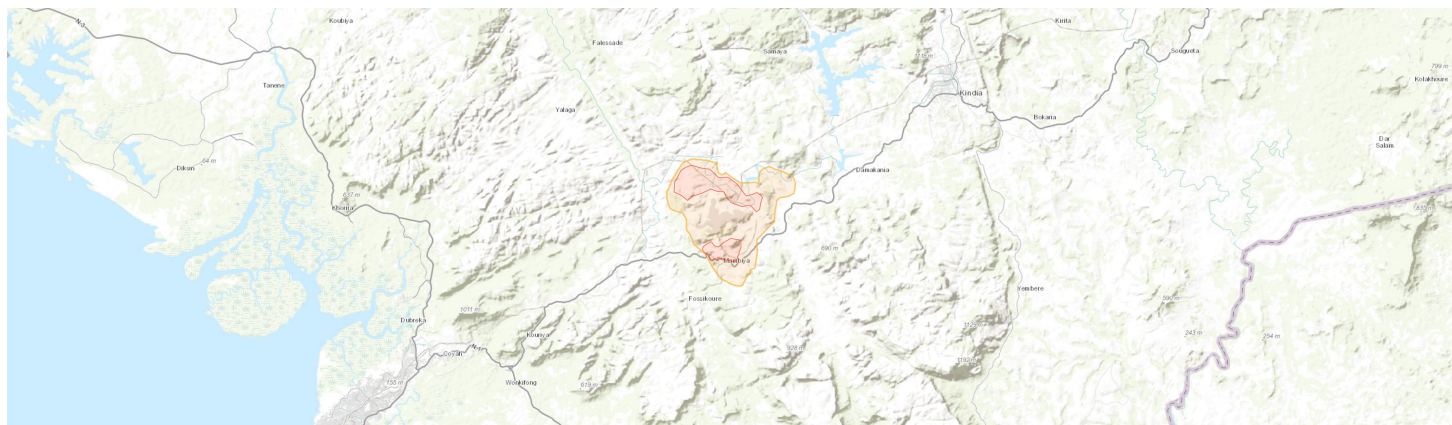


Grandes Chutes Classified Forest

GUITIPA005



Country: **Guinea**

Administrative region: **Kindia (Prefecture)**

Central co-ordinates: **9.90722 N, -13.11944 E**

Area: **160km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i), B(i), C(iii)

IPA assessment rationale

This is the only known global site for four species of plant, such as *Scleria guineensis*, a critically endangered endemic species to Guinea and a new species to science of *Coleus*. Grandes Chutes falls is the only known global site for the Podostemaceae species, *Inversodicraea pygmaea* and several other species of Podostemaceae; they may now be extinct due to the construction of a dam for hydro-electric power. It also has a population of *Raphionacme caerulea* (EN). The seepage areas are rich in carnivorous plant species including the threatened species *Utricularia pobeguinii* (EN) and *Utricularia macrocheilos* (VU). The area is under threat from increased mining activities, housing and cattle grazing.

Site description

Grandes Chutes Classified Forest is located between the towns of Coyah and Kindia on the N1 national highway, in Kindia Prefecture. The area is part of the southern extent of the Fouta Djallon, with low elevation sandstone outcrops with shallow valleys and bowal. The sandstone bowal has several microhabitats, including seasonal seepage areas which support threatened herb species such as *Utricularia pobeguinii*, *Raphionacme caerulea*, and *Scleria guineensis*. Part of the classified forest has an active bauxite mining concession owned by RUSAL. The Grandes Chutes falls, after which the area is named, was dammed in the 1960s to provide power to the nearby town and open-cast bauxite mine. This may have resulted in the global extinctions of *Inversodicraea pygmaea* and *Stonesia gracilis*, as this was their sole global site. They have not been discovered elsewhere, despite searches.

Botanical significance

The classified forest is the only known site for *Scleria guineensis* a critically endangered (CR) endemic species to Guinea. It also has a population of *Raphionacme caerulea* (EN). The seepage areas are rich in carnivorous plant species including five species of Lentibulariaceae two of which are threatened (*Utricularia pobeguinii* (EN) and *Utricularia macrocheilos* (VU)). Grandes Chutes falls is the only known global site for the Podostemaceae species,

Inversodicraea pygmaea and Stonesia gracilis; several other species of Podostemaceae are also recorded from the site, but due to the change in hydrology caused by the dam, they are likely extinct. Targeted searches for them in January 2018 failed to find them.

Habitat and geology

Low sandstone hills with sandstone bowl, rich in bauxite in some parts, with crevices and cracks, seepage areas and temporary waterways. Ordovician sandstone of the Pita suite with patches of aleurolites (Source: Carte des Mineraux de la Guinee, Ministry of Mines, Government of Guinea, 2006).

Conservation issues

There are numerous threats to the Grandes Chutes Classified forest, most notable from the RUSAL mine and its potential expansion. There is a lot of dust across the area from the access roads and the mine itself coating the vegetation. The hydroelectric dam has already caused damage to the Podostemaceae populations. There is also an area that has been marked out for housing (seen from Google Earth). From recent visits to the area, cattle grazing and trampling in the seepage areas close to the road have been observed, which has also led to fires across the bowl areas.

Since the mine and hydroelectric dam are already established, the TIPA area will have two core areas of protection within the larger boundary of the CF to protect specific populations of threatened species.

Site assessor(s)

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Denise Molmou, Herbar National de Guinee/ Simfer

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>Raphionacme caerulea</i> E.A.Bruce	A(i)	✓	✓	–	–	–	Scarce
<i>Scleria guineensis</i> J.Raynal	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	Scarce
<i>Utricularia macrocheilos</i> (P.Taylor) P.Taylor	A(i), A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Frequent
<i>Utricularia pobeguinii</i> Pellegr.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
<i>Stonesia gracilis</i> G.Taylor	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	Unknown
<i>Inversodicraea pygmaea</i> G.Taylor	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	Unknown
<i>Sericanthe trilocularis</i> (Scott Elliot) Robbr. subsp. <i>paroissei</i> (Aubrév. & Pellegr.) Robbr.	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Unknown
<i>Keetia susu</i> Cheek	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	Scarce
<i>Coleus</i> sp. nov.	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	Scarce
<i>Dilophotriche occidentalis</i> Jacq.-Fél.	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	Frequent

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
Low Altitude Sandstone Bowal Grasslands	C(iii)	–	–	–	41

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Seasonally Wet/Flooded Lowland Grassland	–	Major

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Agriculture (pastoral)	–	Major
Extractive industry	–	Major
Residential / urban development	–	Minor

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Residential & commercial development - Housing & urban areas	Medium	Ongoing - stable
Agriculture & aquaculture - Livestock farming & ranching - Nomadic grazing	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Energy production & mining - Mining & quarrying	High	Ongoing - increasing

Protected areas

PROTECTED AREA NAME	PROTECTED AREA TYPE	RELATIONSHIP WITH IPA	AREAL OVERLAP
Grandes Chutes Classified Forest	Classified Forest	protected/conservation area encompasses 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.*

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