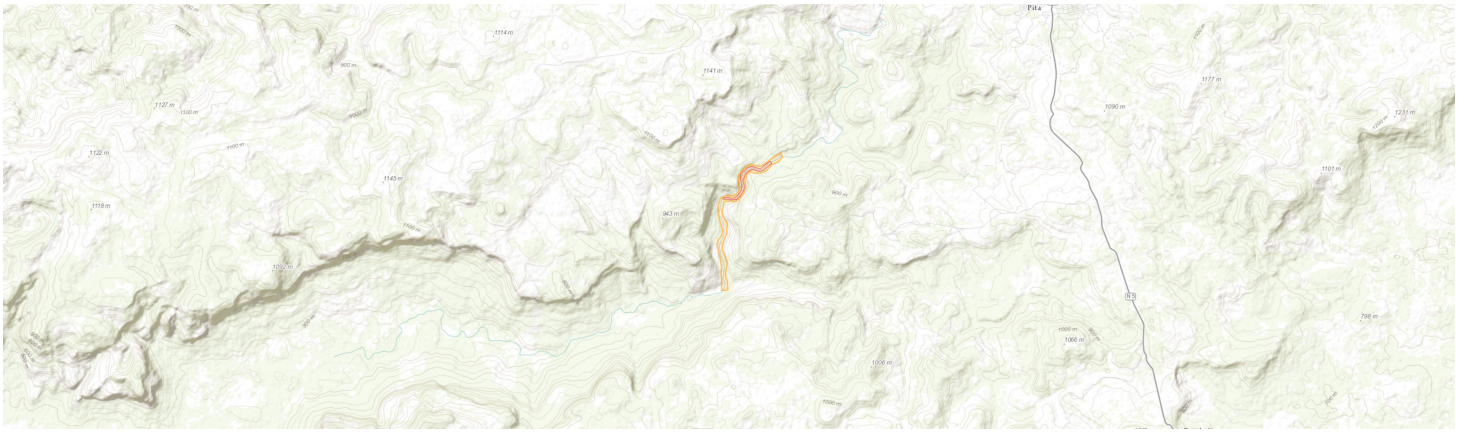
Available from https://tipas.kew.org/site/kambadga-falls/
[Accessed 16 June 2026]

Kambadga Falls

Chutes de Kambadga (Test version)

GUITIPA007



Country: **Guinea**
Administrative region: **Pita (Prefecture)**
Central co-ordinates: **10.99778 N, -12.49194 E**
Area: **2km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

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

IPA assessment rationale

Kambadga Falls is the only existing site known globally for the Inversodicraea abbayesii (CR(PE)), and for Stonesia fascicularis (CR(PE)). It also has a population of Saxicolella futa Cheek ined. (likely EN) a new species discovered in 2018, and Eriocaulon sulanum (EN) only the second population known in Guinea. It is under threat from the proposed building of a hydroelectric dam.

Site description

The Kambadga Falls are located around 21 km from Pita town and are on the Kokoulo River, (an affluent of the Konkouré), the Kinkon Falls and hydroelectric dam are 15km up stream. The falls are made up of a series of four cascades, the first two being the highest. The river is flanked by thin strips of gallery forest. It is a popular tourist site with an ecovillage nearby.

Botanical significance

The succession of fast flowing rapids and waterfalls at Kambadga is particularly rich in rheophyte species. It has four species of Podostemaceae, two of which are Critically Endangered (CR) and were made locally extinct due to the Kinkon dam. They had been thought possibly globally extinct before they were found at Kambadga, together with Eriocaulon sulanum (EN), for which this is only one of two sites known in Guinea.
Associated rheohytes are: Tristicha trifaria, Eriocaulon latifolium, Gnidia kraussiana, Hygrophila and Culcasia. The submontane gallery forest is intact and includes Uapaca chevalieri, Gardenia imperialis, Hypolytrum senegalensis, Ficus saussureana, Usteria, Harungana, Bertiera, Anthocleista, Alchornea, Kotschya, Syzygium, Pavetta, Garcinia, Warneckea and Anthostemma.

Habitat and geology

The river valley has carved its way through the surrounding Ordovician quartzite rich sandstone to older argillites and aleurolites interlayered with quarzitic sandstone. The river is flanked by thin strips of gallery forest though much of the surrounding area has

been cleared for farming over the years.

Conservation issues

The site has been earmarked for a hydroelectric dam financed by the Chinese investors (sign found close to the falls). The site is popular with tourists who have low-level impact by trampling.

Site assessor(s)

Martin Cheek, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Charlotte Couch, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

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
Eriocaulon sulanum S.M.Phillips & Burgt	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
Saxicolella futa Cheek	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
Inversodicraea abbayesii G.Taylor	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Frequent
Stonesia fascicularis G.Taylor	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
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

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Natural system modifications - Dams & water management/use - Dams (size unknown)	High	Future - planned activity

Management type

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

Bibliography

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

IUCN 2019. **IUCN Red List.**