

Douala-Edea

CMNTIPA048

Country: **Cameroon**

Administrative region: **Littoral (Region)**

Central co-ordinates: **3.60000 N, 9.76000 E**

Area: **2715km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

IPA assessment rationale

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Site description

Douala-Edea National Park is a large reserve of mangroves, swamp forest and humid littoral forest on the Gulf of Guinea coast immediately south of the major city, Douala. The site was first gazetted as a reserve in 1932 but was upgraded to a National Park in 2018 (Ajonina & Usungu, 2001). It incorporates the deltas of the four major rivers from north to south, the Wouri, Dibamba, Sanaga and Nyong and is divided into two main parts by the Sanaga. To the north of the Sanaga, incorporating the Manokoa reserve, is one of the two major areas of mangrove forest in Cameroon, the other being the Ndongere/Cross delta zone, and an important element of the Central African mangroves ecoregion (Dopa, 2021). South of the Sanaga the site is slightly higher lying, rising to nearly 100m, with more humid forest and less mangroves and swamp forest. Lake Tissongo is also found within this southern part.

The national park boundary forms a complex shape with exclusions for the coastal strip of villages either side of the Sanaga for an area around the town of Manoka. The boundary also incorporates the river and banks of the Sanaga reaching inland towards Edea for 40-50 km, as well as a 10 km wide strip of coastal waters. These boundaries are followed here for convenience and because of the importance of coastal protection to the mangrove habitat. The Lake Ossa wildlife reserve is not included here although it might be considered separately.

Lac Ossa?

Botanical significance

Ctenolophon englerianus (NT) is a large swamp tree only recorded in Cameroon from Douala-Edea and potentially also lost from Nigeria (Hills, 2021). The timber and bark are used for canoes and

construction. Although relatively widespread and gregarious where it occurs (Onana & Cheek, 2021) it has restricted to a narrow habitat range. It is also notable for its phylogenetic significance (likely contribution to Evolutionary Diversity) as one of only two species in the mono-generic Ctenolophonaceae family. A good fossil record demonstrates the genus has survived in tropical Africa since the late Cretaceous while it has appeared and disappeared elsewhere (Arabia, South America and India) and only more recently reached SE Asia where the other extant species is found (Kubitzki, 2013). *Diaphananthe dorotheae* at Chutes de Dehane on Nyong a little outside the boundary.

Isonema buchholzii - north of Douala, can't really include

Beilschmiedia letouzeyi

Campylospermum longestipulatum

Ardisia ototomoensis?

Ardisia atrobullata - route razel, not assessed.

Costus bicolor is recorded only from this site but specimens were lost in the Berlin fire and it is considered insufficiently known by Maas & Maas 2016.

Pleurostylie serrulata

Dactyladenia chevalieri has been recorded here. Although this species is not threatened, this is the only record in Cameroon.

Habitat and geology

3000-4000 mm rain p.a. and monthly averages 24-29 deg C (Ajonina & Usungu, 2001).

Rivers Nyong, Sanaga, Diamba

Conservation issues

Sixty villages and 10,000 people within the reserve (Ajonina & Usungu, 2001). Fishing, fish smoked with mangrove wood

<https://www.crtv.cm/2021/10/biodiversity-cameroots-lake-ossa-choking-with-salvinia-molesta/>

Oil has supposedly prevented gazettelement

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>Bulbophyllum platybulbon</i> (Schltr.) Govaerts & J.M.H.Shaw	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Duguetia dilabens</i> Chatrou & Repetur	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Octoknema dinklagei</i> Engl.	A(i), A(iv)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Englerodendron graciliflorum</i> (Harms) Estrella & Ojeda	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Mussaenda conopharyngiifolia</i> Stapf	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Newtonia scandens</i> Villiers	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	
<i>Isonema buchholzii</i> Engl.	A(i)	–	–	–	–	–	
<i>Beilschmiedia preussii</i> Engl.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Cuviera talbotii</i> (Wernham) Verdc.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Isomacrolobium leptorrhachis</i> (Harms) Aubrév. & Pellegr.	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	
<i>Piptostigma goslineanum</i> Ghogue, Sonké & Couvreur	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Rinorea amietii</i> Achound.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Sabicea rufa</i> Wernham	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Sabicea medusula</i> K.Schum. ex Wernham	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	
<i>Tridactyle lagosensis</i> (Rolfe) Schltr.	A(i)	–	–	✓	–	–	
<i>Pauridiantha divaricata</i> (K.Schum.) Bremek.	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	

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>Asystasia lindauiana</i> Hutch. & Dalziel	A(i)	✓	–	✓	–	–	
<i>Amanoa strobilacea</i> Müll.Arg.	A(i)	–	✓	✓	–	–	
<i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i> (A.Chev.) Capuron ex N.Hallé	A(i)	–	–	✓	–	–	
<i>Lophira alata</i> Banks ex Gaertn.f.	A(i)	–	–	–	–	–	

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
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General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
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