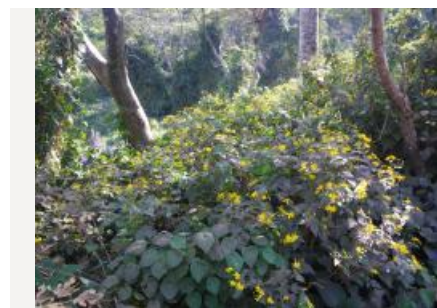
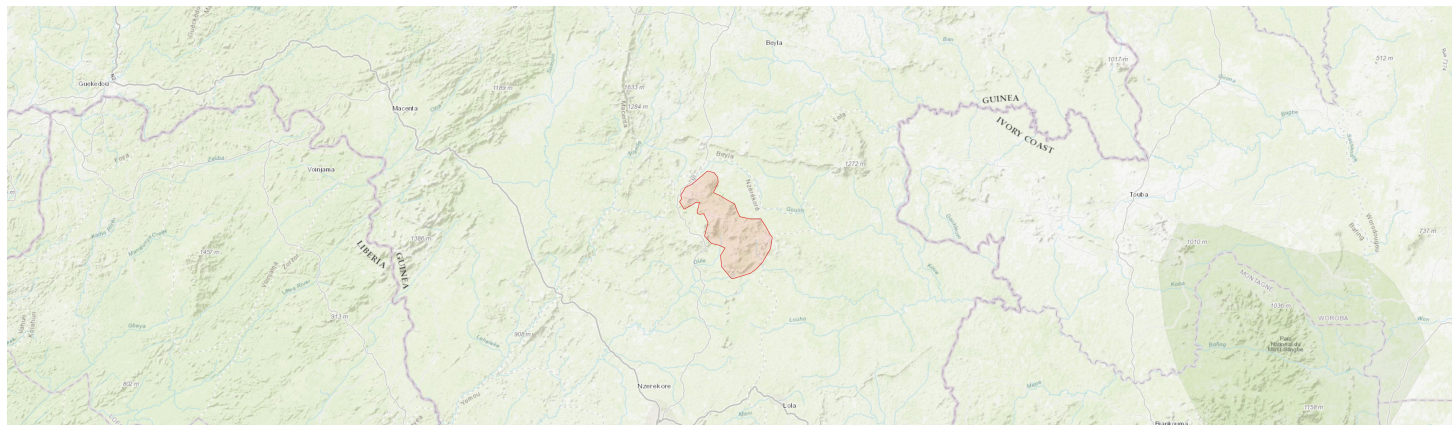


# Mont Béro Classified Forest

Mont Béro Forest Classée (Test version)

**GUITIPA014**



Country: **Guinea**

Administrative region: **Nzérékoré (Prefecture)**

Central co-ordinates: **8.20000 N, -8.63333 E**

Area: **80km<sup>2</sup>**

## Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i), C(iii)

## IPA assessment rationale

Mont Béro classified forest has the largest global population for two threatened species of mass-flowering Acanthaceae. It also has significant populations of several other threatened species. These are restricted to submontane forest and submontane forest-grassland boundary habitats. Mt Béro has suffered from poor governance in the past resulting in increased pressure on natural resources. Cattle trampling, increased wildfires and illegal forest clearance for agriculture are significant threats.

## Site description

Located south-east of the Simandou range mostly in Nzérékoré prefecture, Mt Béro is a classified forest of c.80 Km<sup>2</sup> (Source:

Protected Planet). At 1182m, the main peak is lower than the Simandou range. Submontane forest is present on the flanks and grassland is present on the summit areas. Lowland forest remnants occur on the western slopes. Recently, there have been reports of significant damage to the forest from illegal logging and clearance for subsistence crops, and of the grassland areas by introduction of a large herd of Zebu cattle.

## Botanical significance

The Béro mountains share similarities in floristic composition with the other mountain ranges in Guinée Forestière. There are populations of several threatened species found here, such as *Allophylus samoritourei*, in lowland forest remnants, plus *Acalypha guineensis* and *Lipotriche tithonioides*, on the border between grassland and submontane forest. The submontane forest, characterised by *Uapaca chevalieri* and *Trichilia djaloni*, has the world's largest population of the threatened mass-flowering *Brachystephanus oreacanthus*, and *Isoglossa dispersa*. There is also a population of the range-restricted species *Dorstenia astyanactis* and *Brachystephanus jaundensis* subsp. *nimbae*. The grassland area on the flat tops includes small areas of high-altitude lateritic (ferrallitic) bowal. This is much smaller than that at Simandou, and not as species-rich, but there are some threatened species present in the seasonally wet areas, such as *Rhytachne glabra*, *Nemum bulbostyloides*, and *Kotschyia micrantha*. Comprehensive botanical

exploration has not yet been completed and several threatened potential new species to science are present, such as *Psychotria* sp. nov. aff. *humilis* and *Hibiscus fabiana* Cheek (was *Hibiscus* sp. nov. aff. *rostellatus*).

---

## Habitat and geology

The area is part of the Leonean-Liberian crystalline massif with dolerites and metagabbros. It is not part of the banded iron Simandou rift, which could account for the differences in vegetation between it and the other mountain formations of Simandou and Nimba.

---

## Conservation issues

The area has been a classified forest since 1952, but has not always had protection on the ground. In recent years a large herd of Zebu cattle from north of Guinea were introduced, causing trampling of the grassland. The increased nitrification could have caused changes to the species composition. During a period when patrols ceased, large areas of submontane and lowland forest were cleared for agricultural land. There has also been illegal logging where the road is close to the forest and areas have been cleared for small scale plantations and agriculture by the local villagers. This should have been prevented by the authorities, but the site has not been sufficiently policed. Recent observations in 2022 uncovered illegal banana plantations and large parts of the submontane bowal/forest transition area burned for cattle grazing. This is a problem for sensitive species such as *Lipotriche tithonioides* and *Acalypha guineensis* which inhabit these areas and are not fire tolerant. The fires had also spread in the understory of submontane forest patches where *Brachystephanus oreacanthus* and *Isoglossa dispersa* have been recorded, they were not refound in February 2022. There is also some evidence of over harvesting of NTFPs and ring barking of trees following removal of bark for medicines.

---

## Site assessor(s)

Charlotte Couch, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Pépé Haba, Guinée Biodiversité

Xander van der Burgt, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Martin Cheek, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Faya Julien Simbiano, Herbar National de Guinee

---

## 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>Garcinia afzelii</i> Engl.	A(i)	✓	✓	–	–	–	Scarce
<i>Kotschy micrantha</i> (Harms) Hepper	A(i)	✓	✓	–	–	–	Scarce
<i>Allophylus samoritourei</i> Cheek	A(i)	✓	✓	–	–	–	Scarce
<i>Acalypha guineensis</i> J.K. Morton & G.A.Lavin	A(i)	✓	✓	–	–	–	Scarce
<i>Amorphophallus abyssinicus</i> (A.Rich.) N.E.Br. subsp. <i>akeassii</i> Ittenb.	A(i)	✓	✓	–	–	–	Scarce
<i>Brachystephanus jaundensis</i> Lindau subsp. <i>nimbae</i> (Heine) I.Darbysh.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
<i>Brachystephanus oreacanthus</i> Champl.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Frequent
<i>Dorstenia astyanactis</i> Aké Assi	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
<i>Isoglossa dispersa</i> I.Darbysh. & L.J.Pearce	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Unknown
<i>Lipotriche tithonioides</i> (Aké Assi) D.J.N.Hind	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Frequent
<i>Nemum bulbostyloides</i> (Hooper) J.Raynal	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Frequent
<i>Pavetta platycalyx</i> Bremek.	A(i)	✓	✓	–	–	–	Unknown
<i>Rhytachne glabra</i> (Gledhill) Clayton	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
<i>Hibiscus fabiana</i> Cheek	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce

## 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
Guinean Highland Submontane Forest	C(iii)	—			

## General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane Forest	—	Major
Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude Grassland	—	Minor

## Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Nature conservation	—	Minor
Forestry	—	Minor

## Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Shifting agriculture	High	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Wood & pulp plantations - Agro-industry plantations	High	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Livestock farming & ranching - Nomadic grazing	High	Ongoing - increasing
Biological resource use - Gathering terrestrial plants	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Small-holder farming	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Livestock farming & ranching - Nomadic grazing	High	Ongoing - increasing
Biological resource use - Gathering terrestrial plants	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Small-holder farming	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Livestock farming & ranching - Nomadic grazing	High	Ongoing - increasing
Biological resource use - Gathering terrestrial plants	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Small-holder farming	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Transportation & service corridors - Roads & railroads	Unknown	Ongoing - trend unknown
Transportation & service corridors - Roads & railroads	Unknown	Ongoing - trend unknown
Transportation & service corridors - Roads & railroads	Unknown	Ongoing - trend unknown

## Protected areas

PROTECTED AREA NAME	PROTECTED AREA TYPE	RELATIONSHIP WITH IPA	AREAL OVERLAP
Mont Bero	Classified Forest	protected/conservation area matches IPA	80

## 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

IUCN 2019. *IUCN Red List.*