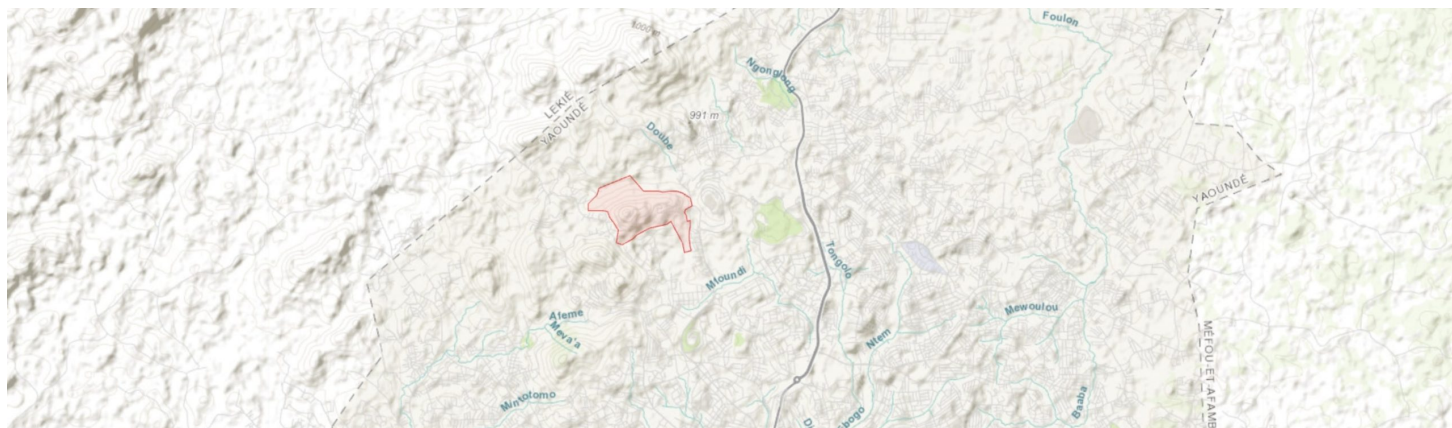


Mount Febé

CMNTIPA013



Country: **Cameroon**

Administrative region: **Centre (Region)**

Central co-ordinates: **3.88780 N, 11.47760 E**

Area: **1.55km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i)

IPA assessment rationale

Several globally threatened species have been recorded at the site. If any of these remain then the site would potentially qualify under criterion A(i). In particular, it would certainly qualify as one of the best 5 national sites for *Talbotiella breteleri* (CR), as this taxon is known from less than five sites, all in the Yaoundé area.

Site description

Mount Febé is a 1000 m high inselberg located on the northwest fringes of Yaoundé and approximately 3km due west of the Presidential Palace. It is the site of a large upmarket hotel with grounds and golf course and there is little natural vegetation on the south and west slopes except towards the summit. However, there appears to be remaining forest on the steep north slopes which is partially continuous with the forested Nkolondom hill and associated topology to the north. The site here suggested also includes a strip of forest extending southwards on the eastern side.

Botanical significance

Many specimens were collected in the Yaoundé area by Zenker and Staudt as far back as the 1890s but unfortunately few of these can

be located to precise areas (Cheek et al., 2011). Subsequent collecting has recorded several rare or important species from the inselbergs to the west and north of the city, including rediscovery of many of the earlier collections. At Mount Febé *Pterorhachis zenkeri* (VU), originally collected from "Yaoundé station" in the 1890s, was recollected in the 1960s along with other threatened species, *Justicia camerunensis* (VU), *Tricalysia atherura* (VU), *Diaphananthe sanfordiana* (EN), *Drypetes molunduana* (VU) and *Talbotiella breteleri* (CR). The latter species is thought to be endemic to Yaoundé, having been recorded from two or three of the city's inselberg sites including Mount Febé. *Agelanthus dichorus* (VU) is recorded from Yaoundé along the road to Mt Febe at c.700 m (Breteler, F.J.).

Habitat and geology

The hills around Yaoundé rise from the South Cameroon Plain between the Sanaga fault and the north-thrusting Congo craton. They are formed from high grade metamorphic rocks, mainly granulites and migmatites also referred to as embrichite gneiss (Achoundog 1985), formed from sedimentary and igneous protoliths and apparently dating from around 600 mya (Nzenti, 1988; Tchouatcha et al., 2018; Ngnotue et al., 2012). Precipitation in Yaoundé is 1,605 mm per annum, falling in a bimodal pattern with a small (March-June) and greater (September-November) wet season interspersed with a drier period (July-August) and a second more severe dry period between December and February when mean monthly rainfall drops below the relatively stable mean monthly temperature curve (range: 22.8–25.47 °C) on a Walter-Leith type chart (Simo et al., 2009; Bissay et al., 2010; Noumi, 2015). This is below the level of rainfall normally thought necessary to sustain evergreen tropical forest (Cheek et al., 2011), although the level maybe higher on the summits with orographic precipitation likely (Noumi, 2015; Simo et al., 2009). The original forest was probably semi-deciduous (Achoundog et al., 1985) but has been

heavily degraded through timber and wood extraction and cultivation.

Conservation issues

Much of the hill has been developed into a luxury hotel and golf course and access to the summit area is apparently out of bounds for ordinary people (Explor xplore, 2020). Urban development has covered the lower flanks. Other inselberg sites in Yaoundé have been partly destroyed by quarrying. Smallscale logging and fuelwood gathering have heavily impacted other partially forested sites in the area.

Sustainable management of remaining important species could be implemented in the grounds of the hotel and golf course, enhancing the interest and aesthetic appeal of the site. Walking routes with educational signs could be developed around the hill to help promote local interest in preserving the city's biodiversity.

Site assessor(s)

Bruce Murphy, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Xander van der Burgt, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Martin Cheek, 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
<i>Pterorhachis zenkeri</i> Harms	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	
<i>Justicia camerunensis</i> (Heine) I.Darbysh.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	
<i>Tricalysia atherura</i> N.Hallé	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	
<i>Diaphanthe sanfordiana</i> Szlach. & Olszewski	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	
<i>Drypetes molunduana</i> Pax & K.Hoffm.	A(i)	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Talbotiella breтелиeri</i> (Aubrév.) Mackinder & Wieringa	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	
<i>Ixora batesii</i> Wernham	A(i), A(iii)	—	—	✓	—	—	
<i>Leptoderris macrothyrsa</i> Dunn	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
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland Forest	—	
Artificial - Terrestrial - Subtropical/Tropical Heavily Degraded Former Forest	—	

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Residential / urban development	—	
Harvesting of wild resources	—	

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Tourism / Recreation	–	

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Small-holder farming	High	Ongoing - trend unknown
Residential & commercial development - Tourism & recreation areas	High	Ongoing - trend unknown
Residential & commercial development - Housing & urban areas	High	Ongoing - trend unknown
Biological resource use - Logging & wood harvesting	Medium	Ongoing - trend unknown

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