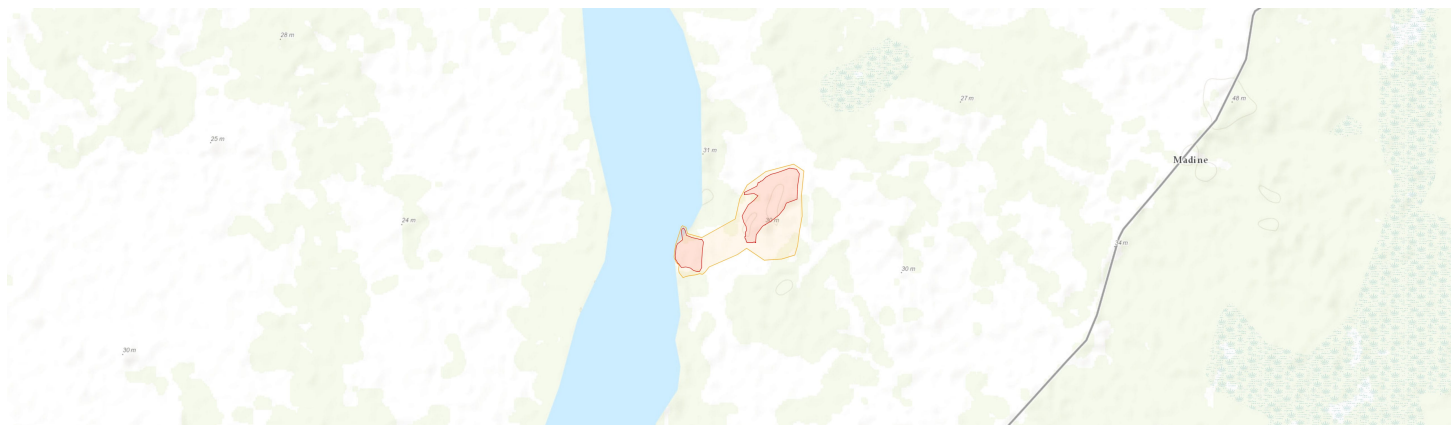


Moofanyi Inselbergs

GUITIPA012



Country: **Guinea**

Administrative region: **Forecariah (Prefecture)**

Central co-ordinates: **7.62222 N, -8.41000 E**

Area: **0.5km²**

Two granite dome inselbergs partly surrounded by mangrove. The larger inselberg (Moofanyi masculine) has a lowland forest patch on part of it, dominated by trees of *Guibourtia copallifera*. The larger inselberg has many microhabitats present which are best distinguished during the wet season.

Qualifying IPA criteria

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

Botanical significance

These are coastal inselbergs with a patch of lowland forest. The large inselberg is one of the tallest in Guinée Maritime. Both the large and small inselbergs have a population of *Raphionacme caerulea* (EN). The smaller inselberg, inhabited by the local community until recently, is degraded and less diverse in species and microhabitats. The inselberg lowland forest patch has large populations of *Tarenna hutchinsonii* (CR), *Stylochaeton pilosus* (EN), and *Marsdenia exellii* (EN). The *Tarenna hutchinsonii* population has the highest genetic diversity known in this species. The *Marsdenia exellii* population is also genetically diverse. Nine out of the ten known African inselberg microhabitats are present, including seepage areas rich in *Utricularia* spp, *Xyris* spp. and *Eriocaulaceae* spp., wet flush vegetation, and *Afrotrilepis pilosa* mats.

IPA assessment rationale

The Moofanyi inselbergs are one of the best representatives of coastal inselbergs in Guinée Maritime depicting 9 of the 10 microhabitats for West African inselbergs identified by Porembski et al (1997, 2000). The lowland forest patch on the inselberg has three globally important highly threatened species *Tarenna hutchinsonii* (CR), *Marsdenia exellii* (EN), *Stylochaeton pilosus* (EN), with the first two demonstrating high genetic diversity. The inselberg has populations of *Raphionacme caerulea* (EN), *Dilophotriche occidentalis* (VU) and *Mesanthemum albidum* (VU), and numerous near threatened species and is threatened by past and future quarrying activities.

Habitat and geology

Coastal granite-dolerite outcrop amongst recent alluvial deposits.

Site description

Both inselbergs interface with mangroves. There are several microhabitats present on the inselbergs, giving rise to different species assemblages. Flat areas and shallow depressions are dominated by grasses (e.g. *Loudetiopsis tristachyoides*) and sedges in the wet season with globally threatened small herbs such as *Mesanthemum albidum*, and *Raphionacme caerulea*.

Conservation issues

The inselberg was quarried in the past for building materials. More recently about half the inselberg was destroyed to facilitate port building activities by Rio Tinto/Simfer. In 2013, however the most important part of the large inselberg for plant conservation was conserved, yet there are concerns that this may be degraded or lost if Simfer passes management control to another company. Deliberate burning of the inselberg vegetation by the local community occurred in 2018. Previously local people would not have entered the forest patch, as it was sacred, but when they acquired the site Rio Tinto/Simfer arranged to deconsecrate it. Since Simfer is not currently active at the site, there is no presence to act as a deterrent to local people accessing the forest. The current status of the inselbergs and forest patch is not clear. Simfer does not have the right to prevent community access to the area (e.g. people traversing the area to get to fields) and the local authorities are not able to provide adequate policing of the area. As a result, burning of the vegetation and illegal wood cutting have taken place. Grazing and trampling of Conservation Priority Species by cattle has also been observed. In 2018, Sensitization of the riparian community to the protection of inselbergs took place and involvement of technical services (Water and Forests, Environment, OGUIDAP) and NGOs have begun to implement sustainable conservation measures.

Site assessor(s)

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Salim Kouyate, 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>Tarenna hutchinsonii</i> Bremek.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Marsdenia exellii</i> C.E.Norman	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Stylochaeton pilosus</i> Bogner	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Dilophotriche occidentalis</i> Jacq.-Fél.	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Frequent
<i>Mesanthemum albidum</i> Lecomte	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
Granite Inselbergs	C(iii)	—	—		

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland Forest	—	Minor
Rocky Areas - Rocky Areas [e.g. inland cliffs, mountain peaks]	—	Major

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Harvesting of wild resources	—	Minor
Extractive industry	—	Major
Agriculture (pastoral)	—	Minor

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Energy production & mining - Mining & quarrying	High	Past, likely to return
Agriculture & aquaculture - Livestock farming & ranching - Nomadic grazing	Medium	Ongoing - stable
Biological resource use - Gathering terrestrial plants - Unintentional effects (species being assessed is not the target)	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Biological resource use - Logging & wood harvesting - Intentional use: large scale (species being assessed is the target) [harvest]	Medium	Ongoing - increasing

Management type

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

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