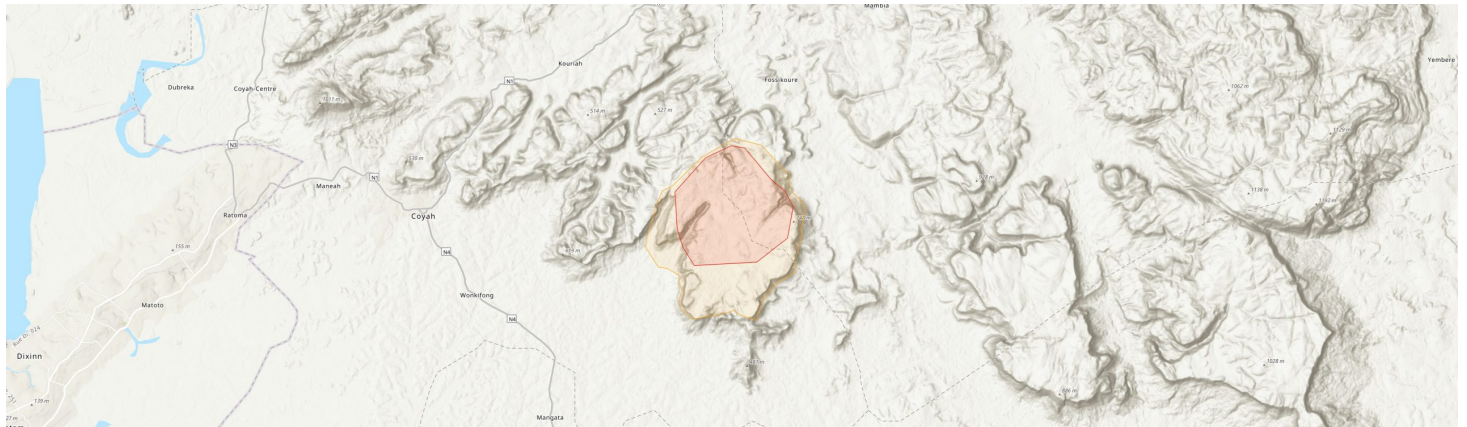


Tassing Plateau

Plateau de Tassing (Test version)

GUITIPA020



Country: **Guinea**

Administrative region: **Kindia (Prefecture)**

Central co-ordinates: **9.71667 N, -13.20000 E**

Area: **0.5km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i), C(iii)

IPA assessment rationale

The Tassing Plateau is an important site for sandstone cliff species and was only recently surveyed for the first time. It is only the second known global site for *Mesanthemum bennae* and *Cailliella praeurpticola*, the waterfall is the only known global site for a new species of Podostemaceae currently being described (*Inversodicraea* sp. nov. *tassing*). In addition it is home to several threatened Guinean endemic species and other globally threatened species.

Site description

Sandstone plateau with high cliffs in parts and forested steep valleys which are rocky and with limited access. The plateau straddles the

prefectures of Coyah and Kindia. The nearest villages are Malassi to the south-west side and Fossikouré to the north-east. On the lower slopes of the valley and on the plateau there has been clearance for farming. The plateau is also used for cattle ranging. The grasslands are burned in the dry season. There are several seasonal waterfalls that run off the plateau; the largest near Malassi provides habitat to a unique species of Podostemaceae.

Botanical significance

The Tassing Plateau has a number of threatened Guinean endemic species present, some of which are specific to the sandstone cliffs of the lower Fouta Djallon: *Cailliella praeurpticola*, *Pitcairnia felicianae*, *Mesanthemum bennae* (outside of Kounounkan), *Heterotis pygmaea* and *Anisotes guineensis*. Due to the fragmentation of the lowland forest in coastal Guinea, this area is an important refuge. The forested valleys have *Talbotiella cheekii* (EN) and *Diospyros felicianae* (EN), in addition to several vulnerable species of Legume trees. The waterfall is home to a new species of Podostemaceae, currently being described. Sandstone cliffs, waterfalls with Podostemaceae and lowland forest are all recognised as Threatened Habitats in Guinea.

Habitat and geology

Sandstone overlying plutonic/ metamorphic rock. Sandstone cliffs with crevices and cracks. Thin soils on the plateau with some rock outcrops. On the lower slopes the soils are deeper and humus rich.

Conservation issues

The main threats to this TIPA are from farming. Forest has been cleared on lower slopes and on parts of the plateau for fields. The high plateau area has been burnt repeatedly due to the presence of cattle herders and species that would usually have occurred here have been pushed to the edges of the plateau and to the cliff area e.g. *Mesanthemum bennae* and *Cailliea praerupticola*. There is also localised tree cutting for construction materials and hunting.

Site assessor(s)

Xander van der Burgt, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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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>Talbotiella cheekii</i> Burgt	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Abundant
<i>Cailliella praeupticola</i> Jacq.-Fél.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Mesanthemum bennae</i> Jacq.-Fél.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Heterotis pygmaea</i> (A.Chev. & Jacq.-Fél.) Jacq.-Fél.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Cryptosepalum tetraphyllum</i> (Hook.f.) Benth.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Abundant
<i>Tessmannia baikieoides</i> Hutch. & Dalziel	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Copaifera salikounda</i> Heckel	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Diospyros feliciana</i> Letouzey & F.White	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Pitcairnia feliciana</i> (A.Chev.) Harms & Mildbr.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Anisotes guineensis</i> Lindau	A(i)	✓	✓	—	—	—	Scarce
<i>Gilbertiodendron aylmeri</i> (Hutch. & Dalziel) J.Léonard	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Inversodicraea tassing</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
Sandstone cliffs and walls	C(iii)	—	—	—	—
West African Lowland Evergreen Forest	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
Agriculture (arable)	–	Major
Forestry	–	Minor

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Biological resource use - Logging & wood harvesting - Intentional use: subsistence/small scale (species being assessed is the target) [harvest]	Medium	Ongoing - stable
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Shifting agriculture	High	Ongoing - increasing
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Unknown	Ongoing - increasing

Bibliography

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