



TIPA ASSESSEMENT:
DIEKE CLASSIFIED FOREST, YOMOU
PREFECTURE

ABSTRACT

Dièké Classified Forest is the largest intact area of lowland forest remaining in Guinée Forestière. It has a high diversity of species including 29 threatened species especially timber trees. Many West African trees have their only Guinean location in this forest.

Charlotte Couch and Pépé Haba

TIPA Assessment: Dièké Classified Forest, Yomou Prefecture.

IPA criteria under which the site qualifies: A(i), B(i), C(iii)

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Assessment rationale

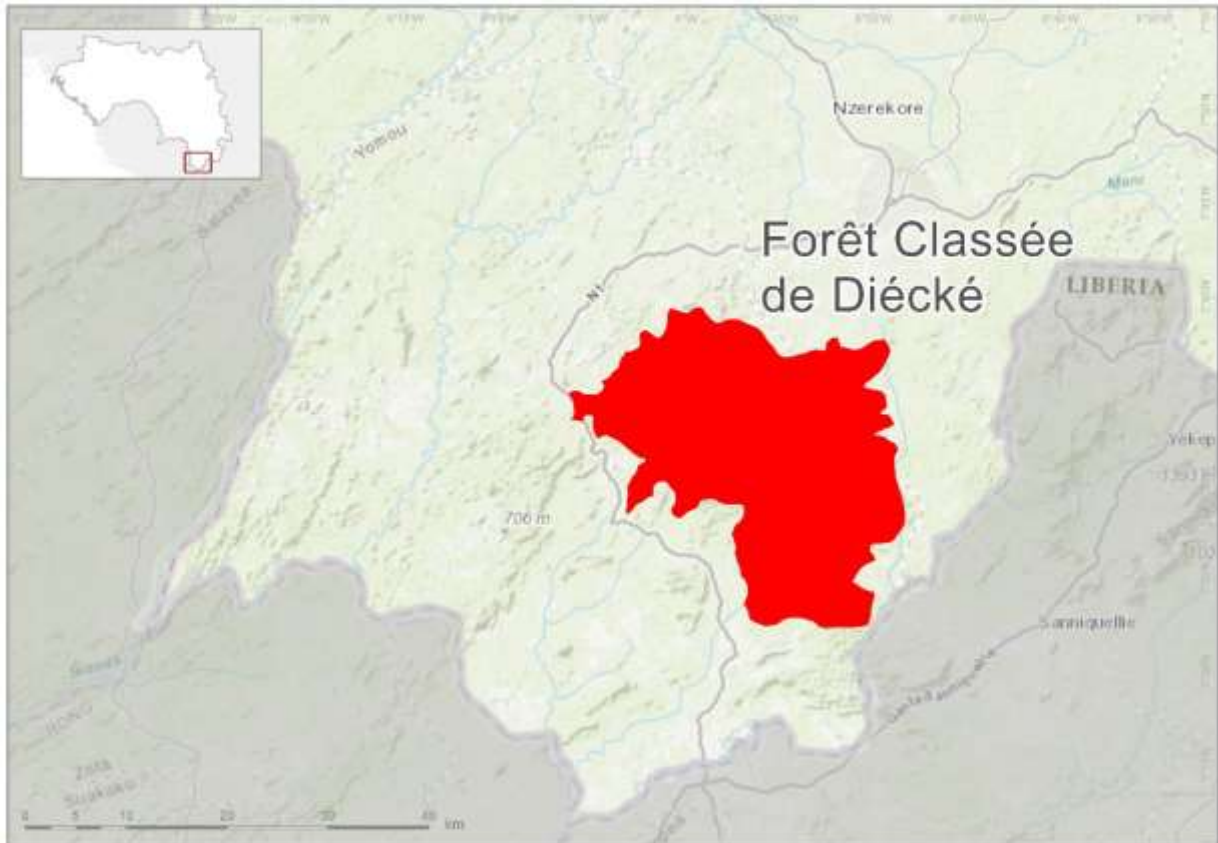
Dièké Classified Forest is the largest intact area of lowland forest remaining in Guinée Forestière. It has a high diversity of species including 29 threatened species especially timber trees. Many West African trees have their only Guinean location in this forest. Dièké remains to be comprehensively surveyed for its plant species.

Site overview

Site Name: Dièké Classified Forest	
Country: Guinea	Administrative region: Yomou Prefecture
Central co-ordinates: 07°12'36"N, 08°56'43"W	Area: 640 km ²
Altitude minimum: 300 m	Altitude maximum: 550 m

Site description

Lowland evergreen forest situated in the south east of Guinée Forestière in Yomou prefecture, close to the border of Liberia. This has been a Classified Forest since 1945. It was previously logged in certain areas leaving an open canopy, but most of the site is still relatively intact forest with an open understory. The forest is bordered by villages and cultivation has encroached on some of the boundaries.



Map showing the proposed area for protection as a TIPA. Core area in red, buffer zone in yellow.

Botanical significance

Diécké is the largest surviving near pristine lowland evergreen forest area in Guinée Forestière. It has many rivers running through it and has a high diversity of plant species including some threatened species e.g. *Allophylus samouritouri* (Haba, 2018). Large girth trees of timber species are still present forming a dense canopy (Haba, 2016 and 2018).

General habitat and geology description

The area is gently undulating with hills reaching 550m, with forested slopes and riverine forest in the valleys. It sits on the late Archean period Mani series of biotite gneiss with localized magnetite. It is part of the Leonean-Liberian crystalline massif.

Conservation issues

Part of the classified forest of Diécké was exploited by the Forêt Forte Company between 2003-2004, but fortunately they did not do much damage in this brief period. However their activities are thought to have caused the presence of invasive species in the forest.

Areas in the river valleys (Bas-fonds) have been authorized for rice cultivation in recent years, which has led to the encroachment of fields from the surrounding area. The areas closest to Kéréma, Ouéta, Kilikpala, Nonah and Gboimou are especially threatened by encroachment of fields and by the illegal hunting of the neighboring population. Towards the East, in the zone of Yonsono, Guêpa and Diécké, hunting dominates and so the forest has remained intact. Eco-guards are present, but they do not regularly patrol the forest.

Protected area status and management

The forest of Diécké was classified in 1945. The TIPA corresponds with the protected area.

Threats

Agriculture: Encroachment of fields on the edge of the protected area and rice cultivation in the floodplains.

Forestry: In the past, there is no current activity.

Threat level: Medium

Criterion A: Threatened Species

Criterion A taxon present	IPA subcriterion	IUCN redlist assessment	Site contains...			Entire global population (single-site endemic)	Species is of socio-economic importance	*Abundance at site
			≥ 1% of global population	≥ 5% of national population	Is 1 of 5 best sites nationally			
<i>Allophylus samouritourei</i> Cheek	A(i)	EN	☉	☉	☉		☉	Infrequent
<i>Cola attiensis</i> Aubrév. & Pellegr.	A(i)	EN	☉	☉	☉			Unknown
<i>Neolemonniera clitandrifolia</i> A.Chev.	A(i)	EN	☉	☉	☉			Infrequent
<i>Tieghemella heckelii</i> (A.Chev.) Pierre ex Dubard	A(i)	EN	☉	☉	☉		☉	Infrequent
<i>Albizia ferruginea</i> (Guill. & Perr.) Benth.	A(i)	VU	☉	☉	☉		☉	Infrequent
<i>Amanoa bracteosa</i> Planch.	A(i)	VU	☉	☉	☉		☉	Unknown
<i>Cryptosepalum tetraphyllum</i> (Hook.f.) Benth.	A(i)	VU	☉	☉	☉			Abundant
<i>Drypetes afzelii</i> (Pax) Hutch.	A(i)	VU	☉	☉	☉			Infrequent
<i>Entandrophragma candollei</i> Harms	A(i)	VU	☉	☉	☉		☉	Infrequent
<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i> (Sprague) Sprague	A(i)	VU	☉	☉	☉		☉	Infrequent
<i>Entandrophragma utile</i> (Dawe & Sprague) Sprague	A(i)	VU	☉	☉	☉		☉	Infrequent

<i>Garcinia afzelii</i> Engl.	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Infrequent
<i>Garcinia epunctata</i> Stapf	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Unknown
<i>Lepalaea cedrata</i> (A.Chev.) E.J.M.Koenen & J.J.F.E.de Wilde	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Infrequent
<i>Khaya anthotheca</i> C.DC.	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Infrequent
<i>Khaya grandifoliola</i> C.DC.	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Infrequent
<i>Khaya ivorensis</i> A.Chev.	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Infrequent
<i>Lophira alata</i> Banks ex Gaertn.f.	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Abundant
<i>Nauclea diderrichii</i> (De Wild. &T.Durand) Merrill	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Abundant
<i>Pericopsis elata</i> (Harms) Meeuwen	A(i)	EN	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Unknown
<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i> A.Chev.	A(i)	VU	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	Infrequent
<i>Heritiera (Tarrietia) utilis</i> (Sprague) Sprague	A(i)	VU	⊙				⊙	Unknown
<i>Cassia fikifiki</i> Aubrev. & Pellegr./	A(i)	EN	⊙				⊙	Infrequent
<i>Copaifera salikounda</i> Heckel	A(i)	VU	⊙				⊙	Infrequent
<i>Garcinia kola</i> Heckel	A(i)	VU	⊙					Infrequent
<i>Tessmannia baikieaoides</i> Hutch. & Dalz	A(i)	VU	⊙				⊙	Infrequent
<i>Anopyxis klaineana</i> (Pierre) Engl.	A(i)	VU	⊙				⊙	Infrequent

Key: IUCN category: CR Critically Endangered, EN Endangered, VU Vulnerable. Abundance: Abundant, Common, Frequent, Infrequent, Scarce, Unknown.

Criterion B: Botanical Richness

B(i) exceptional botanical richness within a defined habitat		B(ii): exceptional number of species of conservation importance - site recording table (from nationally agreed list)		B(iii): exceptional number of useful / culturally valuable species (from nationally agreed list)		
*Habitat code and name	Site is part of the top 10% of the national resource	Site is one of the 5 best sites nationally for that habitat	Site contains ≥ 3% of the species on the national list	Site is one of the 15 richest locations nationally	Site contains ≥ 3% of the species on the national list	Site is one of the 15 richest locations nationally
Lowland evergreen forest	○	○	○	○	○	○

*Criterion B taxon present	Sub-criterion under which species qualifies	For B(i) – indicator of habitat	*Abundance at site
<i>Azelia parviflora</i> (Vahl) Hepper	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Albizia ferruginea</i> (Guill. & Perr.) Benth.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Scarce
<i>Cassia fikifiki</i> Aubrév. & Pellegr.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Scarce
<i>Chidlowia sanguinea</i> Hoyle	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant
<i>Copaifera salikounda</i> Heckel	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Cryptosepalum tetraphyllum</i> (Hook.f.) Benth.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant
<i>Daniellia thurifera</i> Bennett	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Drypetes afzelii</i> (Pax) Hutch.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Drypetes inaequalis</i> Hutch.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant
<i>Garcinia afzelii</i> Engl.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Garcinia epunctata</i> Stapf	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Unknown
<i>Garcinia kola</i> Heckel	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Guibourtia ehie</i> (A.Chev.) J. Léonard	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Guibourtia leonensis</i> J Léonard	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Newtonia aubrevillei</i> (Pellegr.) Keay	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant
<i>Newtonia duparquetianna</i> (Baill.) Keay	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent

<i>Omphalocarpum pachysteloides</i> Mildbr. ex Hutch. & Dalziel	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Unknown
<i>Pericopsis elata</i> (Harms) Meeuwen	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Unknown
<i>Sclerochiton vogelii</i> (Nees) T. Anders.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Scarce
<i>Tessmannia baikiaeooides</i> Hutch. & Dalziel	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Tetrapleura chevalieri</i> (Harms) Baker.f	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Infrequent
<i>Xylia evansii</i> Hutch.	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant
<i>Heritiera utilis</i>	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant
<i>Landolphia micrantha</i>	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Scarce
<i>Landolphia membranacea</i>	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Scarce
<i>Coffea humilis</i>	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant
<i>Anopyxis klaineanna</i>	B(i)	Lowland evergreen forest	Abundant

Key: Abundance: Abundant, Common, Frequent, Infrequent, Scarce, Unknown.

Criterion C: Threatened Habitat

*Habitat type	IPA subcriterion	IUCN redlist assessment	Site contains...		Estimated area at site (if known)
			≥ 5% of national resource (for C(i) and C(ii))	≥ 10% of national resource (for C(iii))	
Lowland evergreen forest	C(iii)		○	⊙	600 Km ²

Bibliography

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Field Reports :

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Site in pictures



Interior of the Diécké Classified Forest. Photo: ©Pépé Haba



Tetrapleura chevalieri (Harms) Baker.f. Photo: ©Pépé Haba



Illegal tree cutting for agriculture. Photo: ©Pépé Haba