



## MT KONOSSOU, GUECKEDOU PREFECTURE

### ABSTRACT

Mt Konossou is the only known global location for the endemic monospecific genus *Feliciadamia stenocarpa*. Its habitat is threatened by uncontrolled burning for agriculture and hunting and needs to be better protected, otherwise this species will become extinct. Granite inselbergs are a threatened habitat in Guinea as they are often quarried.

Charlotte Couch, P  p   Haba and Martin Cheek

# TIPA Assessment: Mt Konossou, Guéckédou Préfecture.

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

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## IPA assessment rationale

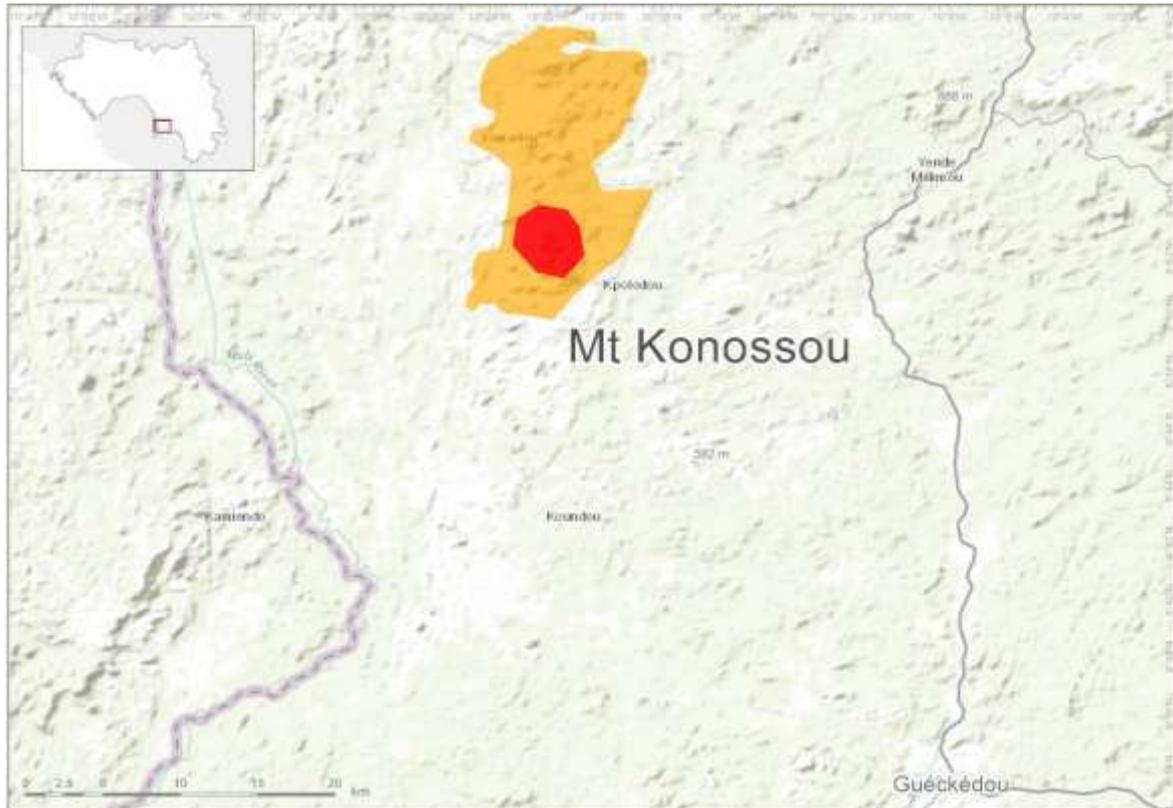
Mt Konossou is the only known global location for the endemic monospecific genus *Feliciadamia stenocarpa*. Its habitat is threatened by uncontrolled burning for agriculture and hunting and needs to be better protected, otherwise this species will become extinct. Granite inselbergs are a threatened habitat in Guinea as they are often quarried.

## Site overview

Site Name: Mt Konossou	
Country: Republic of Guinea	Administrative region: Guéckédou
Central co-ordinates: 08°52'49"N, 10°22'06"W	Area: 16 km <sup>2</sup>
Altitude minimum: 500 m	Altitude maximum: 1350 m

## Site Description

Mt Konossou is a small chain of granitic mountains in the Guéckédou prefecture situated between the sub-prefectures of Kassadou and Gbolodou in Guinée Forestière. It is locally called *Konsou* in the local Lélé dialect which means 'mountain of rock'. The main peak is at 1350 m, with several smaller peaks between 900m and 1300m over a core area of 16km<sup>2</sup>, with a buffer zone of 136km<sup>2</sup>.



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

### Botanical significance

This is only known site for the Guinean endemic *Feliciadamia stenocarpa*, rediscovered in 2017. This species of Melastomataceae is a monospecific genus and is only known to grow in the moist shaded overhangs in the granite between 900m and 1350m.

### General habitat and geology description

Granitic outcrop belonging to the Leonean-Liberian massif, from the late Archean period. It forms part of the chain of inselbergs and granite outcrops extending northeast-southwest from Kissidougou prefecture into Sierra Leone, and east in Guinea to Macenta prefecture. The vegetation ranges from grassland, with small marsh areas, to shaded cliffs, and wooded grassland at the base of the mountain, with gallery forest along the base and small pockets of forest at the summit.

### Conservation issues

The main threats to this area are from the neighbouring populations at Yogboma, Gbodou, and Songbo. Hunters and farmers set fires for field clearance and hunting. This uncontrolled burning may be a real threat to the population of *Feliciadamia stenocarpa*, if seed heads are burnt in the dry season. There are also some rice fields that have been made on the plateaus at 600-700m altitude. There are forest guards present in the area, but due to the size of their area for patrol, little protection is provided. Granite inselbergs are a threatened habitat in Guinea, as they are often quarried for building materials. However, this site's remote location is currently protecting it from quarrying.

### Protected area status and Management

Mt Konossou Forêt Classé (Classified Forest) was designated in 1945 and is shown on maps, but not all classified forests are treated as a protected areas by the Guinea Government.

The TIPA will encompass the present boundary for the classified forest.

## Threats

Agriculture: clearing by fire for farming and hunting.

Potential threat from granite extraction.

**Threat level: Medium-high**

## 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>Feliciadamia stenocarpa</i> (Jacq.-Fél.) Bullock	A(i)	CR	☉	☉	☉	☉		Infrequent

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

## Criterion B: Botanical Richness

This criterion does not apply.

## 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))	
Inselberg	C(iii)		○	☉	149km <sup>2</sup>

## Bibliography

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: [www.redlist.org](http://www.redlist.org)

Lisowski, S. 2009. Flore (Angiospermes) de la République de Guinée. Scripta Botanica Belgica.

Couch, C; Magassouba, S; Rokni, S; Cheek, M. (2018) Threatened plants species of Guinea-Conakry: A preliminary checklist. PeerJ Preprints. <https://doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.3451v2>

Field report by Pépé Haba, October 2017.

Site in pictures



Mt Konossou (Photo: ©Pépé Haba Guinée Biodiversité)



Mt Konossou peak (Photo: ©Pépé Haba Guinée Biodiversité)



*Feliciadamia stenocarpa* (Photo: ©Pépé Haba Guinée Biodiversité)



*Feliciadamia stenocarpa* on humid granite rocks, Mt Konossou (Photo: ©Pépé Haba Guinée Biodiversité)