



BOWAL TANKON AND BOWAL TOUPPE MAMA, DALABA

ABSTRACT

Bowal Tankon is home to the last surviving known global population of *Vernonia djalensis* and *Emilia djalensis*, an endemic species to the Fouta Djallon area of the Guinea highlands. Bowal Tankon is under immediate threat from construction and urbanisation. Three other Vulnerable species are also thought to be present: *Kotschyia lutea*, *Eriocaulon sessile*, *Indigofera macrocephala*.

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TIPAs Report:

Bowal Tankon and Bowal Touppe Mama, Dalaba

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

IPA ASSESSMENT RATIONALE

Bowal Tankon and Bowal Touppé Mama is home to the last surviving known global populations of *Vernonia djalonensis* and *Emilia djalonensis*, endemic species to the Fouta Djallon area of the Guinea highlands. Other historic sites have been searched at Mali and between Timbo and Ditinn, neither species have been rediscovered in these places. Bowal Tankon is under immediate threat from construction and urbanisation. Three other vulnerable (VU) species are also thought to be present: *Kotschyia lutea*, *Eriocaulon sessile*, *Indigofera macrocephala* from historical records.

SITE OVERVIEW

Site Name: Bowal Tankon and Bowal Touppé Mama	
Country: Guinea	Administrative region: Dalaba
Central co-ordinates: 10° 39' 31.8'' N, -12° 12' 52.9'' W	Area (km ²): 5 km
Altitude minimum: 1290 m	Altitude maximum: 1350 m

SITE DESCRIPTION

Bowal Tankon is southern part of the Diaguissa plateau which runs north east- south west across National Route 5. The plateau is made up of a solid outcrop of iron rich laterite covered by thin soils with some gravel and deeper soils upslope. In the wet season there is a marsh area on the upper part of the plateau area. Due to it being alongside the road, housing has already sprung up and a new estate area has been marked out and lots assigned. The North West side of the plateau, Bowal Touppé Mama, has a less intact outcrop and has areas which are more gravelly and with deeper soils compared to Bowal Tankon. Both areas have some human influence either from construction, pastoralism or agriculture. The vegetation is typical of the bowal of high altitude and shares affinities with the iron-rich bowal found in the mountains of Guinée Forestière. Areas further north in the Fouta Djallon towards Labé and Pita are not iron rich and therefore have a different composition.

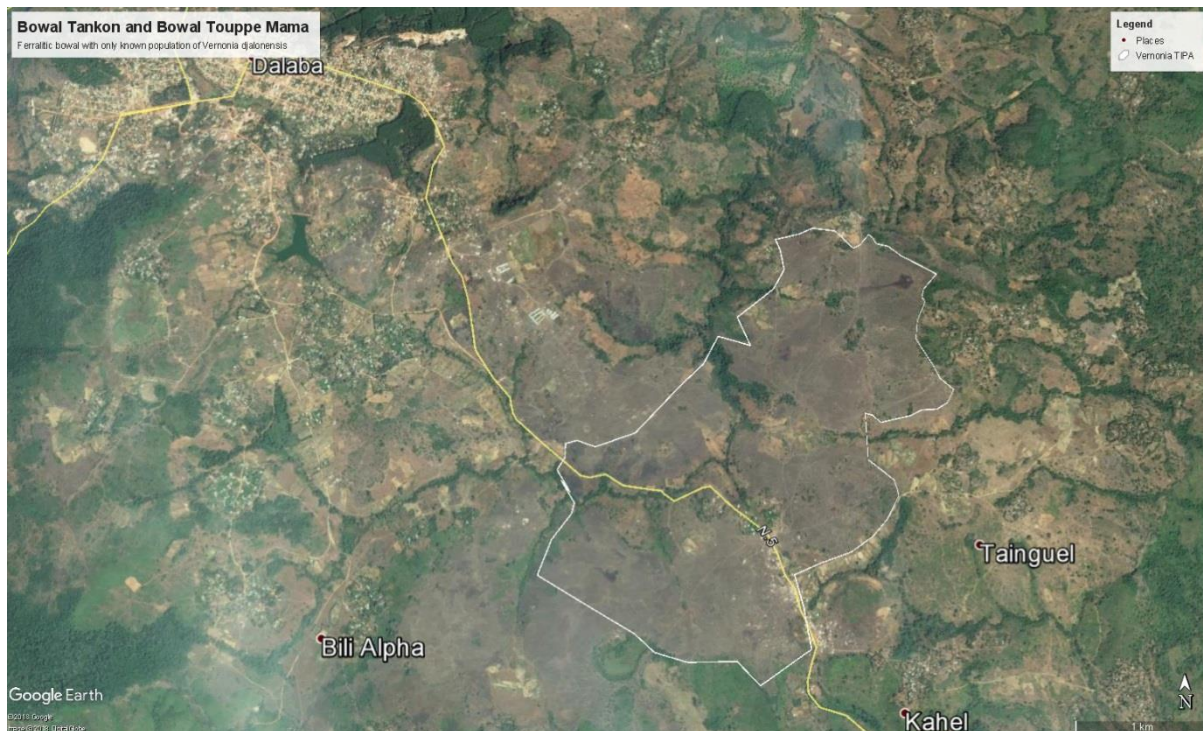


Image taken from Google Earth showing the proposed area for protection as an IPA.

BOTANICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Diaguissa plateau is the only known surviving site globally for *Vernonia djalensis* and *Emilia djalensis*. There have been recent field campaigns to verify populations known from old collections, and areas that resembled the Diaguissa plateau on satellite imagery have also have unfortunately not yielded any new or extant populations. The largest part of the population of *Vernonia djalensis* is found on the lower slopes of Bowal Tankon with a sparser number found on Bowal Touppé Mama. *Emilia djalensis* is known from one Chevalier collection on the Diaguissa plateau of which this is a part. There have been no recent collections of this species. The lower slope of Bowal Tankon is populated with other common bowal species; upslope where there is a temporary marsh in the wet season, there is a large population of *Kotschyia micrantha*, one of only 5 sites known in the Fouta Djallon. On Bowal Touppé Mama a small sparse population of *Mesanthemum tuberosum* (VU) has been recorded. Three other vulnerable species, *Kotchyia lutea*, *Eriocaulon sessile* and *Indigofera macrocephala* are also recorded from this area.

GENERAL HABITAT AND GEOLOGY DESCRIPTION

Ferralitic hard pan (impervious). Bowal grassland on a continuous outcrop of concretised iron pan with very thin soils. Different to other bowal in the area as there is very little gravel present.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Major current threats are from 1.) Housing (urbanisation): this area has already been marked out for building plots and most plots have been sold (*Pers. Comm.* Mayor of Dalaba, July 2017). 2) Chinese gravel crushing plant installed after Nov. 2016. Much of the upper slope of Bowal Tankon has been cleared for installation and there was evidence of rubbish burning outside the plant in July 2017 (*Pers. Obs.* C. Couch).

Criterion B: Botanical Richness

Insufficient data available

Criterion C: Threatened Habitat

*Habitat type	IPA subcriterion (automatically populated from habitat look-up table)	IUCN redlist assessment (string automatically populated from look up table)	Site contains...		For KBA compatibility: 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))	For CR and EN habitats: ≥ 5% of global resource	For VU habitats: ≥ 10% of global resource	For range restricted habitat: ≥ 20% of global resource	
High altitude ferralitic bowal, continuous rock outcrop.			○	○ Yes	○	○	○	5km ²

Bowal Tankon and Bowal Touppé Mama in pictures



Upper section of Bowal Tankon October 2016 with *Vernonia djalensis*



Lower part of Bowal Tankon in October 2016 with *Vernonia djalensis*



Evidence of construction at Bowal Tankon.



Marsh area on upper plateau of Bowal Tankon.



Bowal Tankon dry season, January 2018.



Bowal Touppé Mama October 2016.



Vernonia djalonensis in flower, October 2016.



Vernonia djalonensis in fruit, January 2018.