



## MT KONOSSOU, GUECKEDOU PREFECTURE

### ABSTRACT

Mt Konossou is the only known global location for the endemic monospecific genus *Feliciadamia stenocarpa*. The habitat of this species 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 due to the need for building materials, they are often quarried.

Charlotte Couch, Pepe Marc Haba and  
Martin Cheek

# TIPAs Report: Mt Konossou, Guéckédou Préfecture.

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

### IPA ASSESSMENT RATIONALE

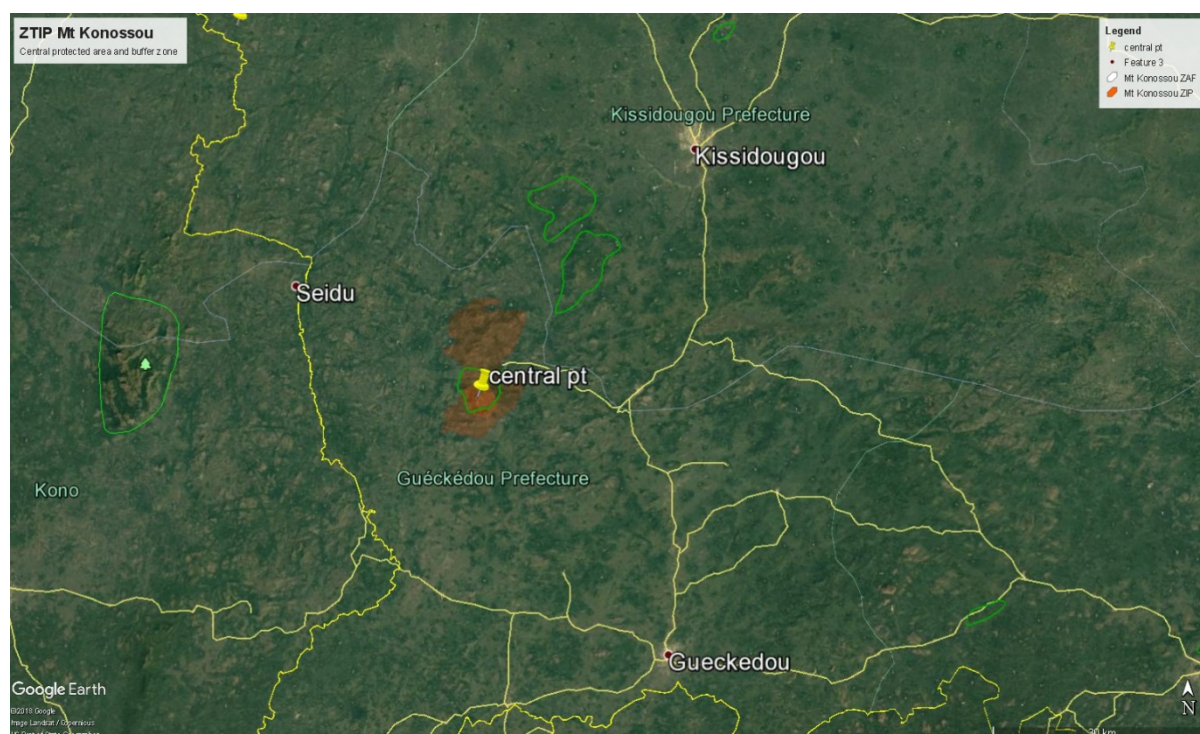
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### SITE OVERVIEW

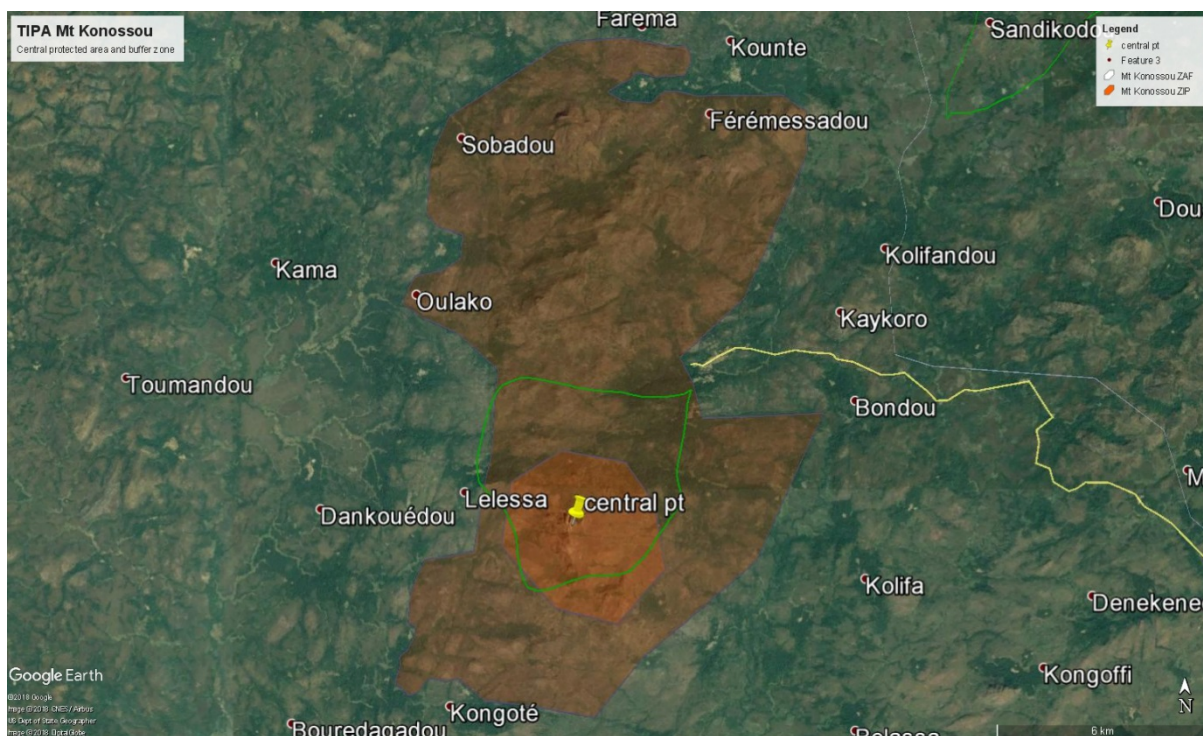
Site Name: Mt Konossou	
Country: Guinea	Administrative region: Guéckédou
Central co-ordinates: 8°52'49"N, 10°22'6"W	Area (km <sup>2</sup> ): 16 km <sup>2</sup>
Altitude minimum: 500m	Altitude maximum: 1350m

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Mt Konossou is a small chain of granitic mountains in the Guéckédou prefecture situated between the sous 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 1350m, 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>.



Google Earth image showing Mt Konossou in relation to nearest towns



Google Earth image showing Mt Konossou TIPA in detail.

#### 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 900 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 north east south west into Serra Leone from Kissidougou prefecture and east in Guinea to Macenta prefecture. The vegetation ranges from grassland with small marsh areas to shaded cliffs, to 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 who are hunters and farmers. This leads to clearance by fire for fields and chasing out the animals for hunting. There are also some rice fields that have been made on the plateaux at 600-700m; 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 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 due to the need for building materials, they are often quarried. The remote location is currently giving this site protection from quarrying.

#### PROTECTED AREA STATUS AND MANAGEMENT

Mt Konossou Forêt Classé (Classified Forest) is demonstrated 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.

THREAT LEVEL: Medium-high

## Criterion A: Threatened Species

Criterion A taxon present	IPA subcriterion	IUCN redlist assessment	Site contains...			For KBA compatibility: Site contains...		Species is of socio-economic importance	*Abundance at site
			≥ 1% of global population	≥ 5% of national population	Is 1 of 5 best sites nationally	≥ 10% of global population	Entire global population (single-site endemic)		
[Genus, species, Author, [infra rank, infra name, infra Author]]  <i>Feliciadamia stenocarpa</i> (Jacq.-Fél.) Bullock	[A(x)]  A(i)	[category and criteria]  CR (pending review)	○	○	○	○	○	No	Infrequent

## Criterion B: Botanical Richness

This criterion does not apply.

## 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	
Granite inselberg	C(iii)		○	⊙	○	○	○	149km <sup>2</sup>

## Site in pictures



Mt Konossou Photo: ©Pepe M Haba Guinée Biodiversité



Mt Konossou peak Photo : ©Pepe M Haba Guinée Biodiversité



*Feliciadamia stenocarpa*. Photo: ©Pepe M Haba Guinée Biodiversité



*Feliciadamia stenocarpa* on humid granite rocks, Mt Konossou. Photo: ©Pepe M Haba Guinée Biodiversité