

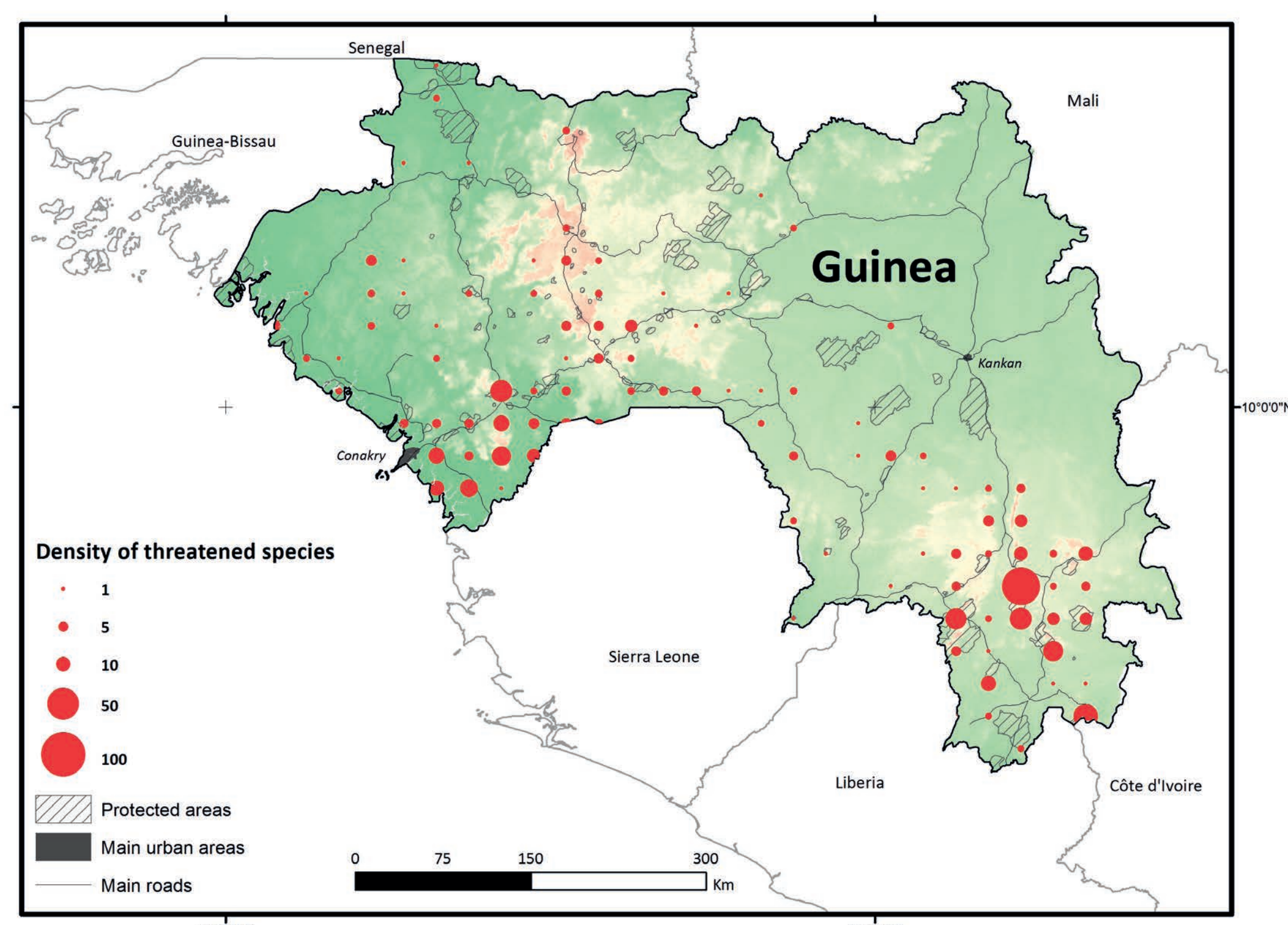
# Tropical Important Plant Areas

## A case study from Guinea

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### What is a Tropical Important Plant area (TIPA)?

- Kew's Tropical Important Plant Areas uses the revised IPA methodology to assess plant conservation priorities at a regional or national level.
- They are identified using collections based research, surveys and inventories and expert knowledge.
- The aim is to promote sustainable management and protection of TIPAs through engagement with policymakers and land owners and international initiatives e.g. IUCN Key Biodiversity Areas.



As of January 2017

### Mount Gangan area, Kindia

Sandstone table mountains north of Kindia, including Mt Gangan, and the surrounding area c.100km<sup>2</sup>. Microhabitats including crevices, bowal plateaus, cliffs and waterfalls make it an interesting and unique habitat for plants. Several Guinean endemic species are found here e.g. *Fleurydora felicis*, *Anisotes guineensis* and point endemics including *Pitcairnia feliciania* and *Clerodendron sylviae*. The hills and plateaus are used for grazing and market gardening and agriculture. There is the potential for ecotourism in the area Mt Gangan itself is a known hiking trail. There is also potential to use underutilised plants in the area to develop new sources of income for local communities to promote sustainable management practices. **The area qualifies as a TIPA under Criteria A, B and C.**



Lowland forest at Kounounkan

### Stakeholder-scientist interaction:

Kew has held several workshops in Guinea e.g. IUCN red listing & conservation management strategies with government, academic and NGO participation. We teach on an MSc course and do collaborative fieldwork with the national herbarium. We are also working with NGO Guinée Ecologie to provide learning materials for schools.

### How is an IPA identified?

IPAs are designated based on 3 criteria:

- Threatened species
- Botanical richness
  - Species rich habitats
  - Naturally rare species
  - Useful plants
- Threatened habitats

A site needs to satisfy one or more of the criteria to become an IPA.



Mt Gangan area, Kindia



*Fleurydora felicis* A.Chev.



*Neocarya macrophylla*  
(Sabine) Prance

### Kounounkan Massif, Forécariah

This is the last remaining coastal lowland forest area in Guinea outside of the Guinée Forestière province. It is not currently a protected area, but **qualifies as a TIPA under Criteria B and C**; local NGOs are pushing for National Park status. Previous surveys of the area focussed on trees, but a rapid survey in 2011 almost doubled the botanical species richness and subsequent surveys continue to prove what a diverse forest this is. The lack of access to the area is its biggest protection, but this could change quickly with increased development in the country.

### Future research:

Grow research capability and build capacity in Guinea to improve prosperity, food security and dietary range of rural poor living in or near priority areas for plant conservation (TIPAs), and reduce loss of habitat and pressure on threatened species, through interdisciplinary research, innovation and commercialisation activities into development of products from sustainably harvested or cultivated underutilised native plant species.