



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Guinea

**16 Ramsar Site(s) covering 9,065,446 ha**

### **Bafing-Falémé**

Site number: 1,719 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: 9

Area: 517,300 ha | Coordinates: 12°00'N 11°30'W | Designation dates: 16-10-2007

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Bafing-Falémé. 16/10/07; Labé; 517,300 ha; 12°00'N 011°30'W. Includes managed resource protected areas (IUCN cat. VI). An extensive area of rolling terrain, 800m-1000m altitude, including gallery forest, shrub and wooded savannah, and floodplains, near where the Bafing River descends from the Fouta Djallon massif northward to become the Senegal River in northwestern Mali. The area has an important influence on the hydrology of the Senegal River basin and it also supports an array of threatened species such as chimpanzees, lions, and vultures. Human uses include agriculture and pastoral pursuits in the floodplain areas. There is presently no management plan for the whole site, but steps are being taken to alleviate threats from unmanaged forestry, brush fires, poaching of protected species and out of season hunting. Ramsar site no. 1719. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### **Bafing-Source**

Site number: 1,720 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: 9

Area: 317,200 ha | Coordinates: 10°28'N 11°56'W | Designation dates: 16-10-2007

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Bafing-Source. 16/10/07; Mamou; 317,200 ha; 10°36'N 11°50'W. Includes classified forests (IUCN cat. VI). An extended highland area, 800m-1500m altitude, of varied hilly terrain with shrub and wooded savannah, gallery forest, and wet meadow. The site supports a number of threatened species, including the Black Vulture (*Aegyptius monachus*) and the West African Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*). The region is semi-arid, especially during the dry season November to May, and several large and small ponds provide refuge that is vital as the fragmentation of habitats due to demographic pressures has made free movement difficult for many species. Small-scale agriculture and pasturage, as well as fishing and working with wood products, are the chief uses of the site's resources, but unplanned land uses such as deforestation of steep slopes and river banks have had damaging effects, including increased flooding. Increasingly weak and irregular precipitation is seen as one of the principal threats to the character of the site, as well as growing population pressure. Ramsar site no. 1720. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Gambie-Koulountou

Site number: 1,578 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Boké  
Area: 368,192.8 ha | Coordinates: 12°21'N 13°03'W | Designation dates: 14-11-2005

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Gambie-Koulountou is a semi-arid region on the northern border with Senegal, comprising the floodplain of the Koulountou River, the Gambia River's main tributary, and a number of smaller, often temporary, watercourses and ponds. The Site is located in the natural region of Middle Guinea; it overlaps with the Badiar Biosphere Reserve and the Guinean part of the cross-border Niokolo-Badiar Park. The water bodies support 80 mammal species (including lions, chimpanzees and antelopes), 330 bird species (including wild ducks, ibis, raptors and hornbill), 36 reptile species including pythons, 20 amphibian species and at least 60 species of fish, which find an important refuge in the Site during the dry season. The savannah, forest, woodland, and aquatic vegetation plays an important role in preventing erosion and siltation of the wetlands, while humus deposition increases the floodplain's fertility and supports rice cultivation. Fishing and livestock breeding are also significant, while non-timber forest products are collected for several uses; bamboos (*Oxytenanthera abyssinica*) and the African fan palm (*Borassus aethiopicum*) are the most exploited species. Only conservation activities are allowed in the core area of the Biosphere Reserve, but in the periphery a co-management system is in place to allow the varied communities to make use of the site. Bush fires, illegal fishing, pesticide use, and slash-and-burn agriculture constitute some of the main threats.

## Gambie-Oundou-Liti

Site number: 1,579 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Labé  
Area: 527,400 ha | Coordinates: 11°33'N 12°18'W | Designation dates: 14-11-2005

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Gambie-Oundou-Liti. 14/11/05; Labé, 527,400 ha; 11°33'N 12°18'W. Nature Reserve. A mountainous site in the Fouta massif that plays an important hydrologic role as the origin of numerous water courses which flow into surrounding countries and are regulated by three protected forests. Floodplains, savannas, gallery and mountain forests are important habitats, reproduction, resting and feeding sites for some threatened species such as lions, chimps and wild dogs, and for many more mammal, raptor and waterbird species for which there is still little information available. Agriculture (subsistence and fruit trees) and animal raising are the main land uses, while apiculture and fishing are less developed. Water is considered a public good with water courses and sources managed communally, based on the Water Code. There is a high tourist potential in the area that remains to be exploited, with several interesting cultural and natural attractions, including underground mosques, mysterious tombs, smoky caves, giant bees, waterfalls and warrior "tatas" or fortified houses. One of the main threats to the site, as well as to downstream wetlands, is the projected Sambagallo dam, which will flood part of the Kabéla forest. Ramsar site no. 1579. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Ile Alcatraz

Site number: 571 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Kamsar, Boke  
Area: 1 ha | Coordinates: 10°38'N 15°23'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992

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Ile Alcatraz. 18/11/92; Kamsar, Boke; 1 ha; 10°38'N 15°23'W. Shallow marine waters, sandy intertidal zones, and two small islands. The larger (Ile Alcatraz) is rocky, devoid of vegetation and covered by a thick layer of guano, providing nesting habitat for the largest colony (3,000 pairs) of *Sula leucogaster* in West Africa. Ile de Naufrage, a low sand bank, remains uncovered at high tide, providing a roost for 6 species of terns. Surrounding waters support dolphins and marine turtles. Ramsar site no. 571. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Ile Blanche

Site number: 618 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region:  
Area: 10 ha | Coordinates: 09°26'N 13°46'W | Designation dates: 23-06-1993

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Ile Blanche. 23/06/93; 10 ha; 09°26'N 13°46'W. A rocky sand covered islet. Unusual for the occurrence of coral and rare fish species. The last substantial refuge in Guinea for *Lepidochelys olivacea*, which reproduce here. Sea turtles are among the rare and endangered species and are hunted. Clandestine collection of coral and turtle eggs occurs. Home to shipwrecks, the area is used for water sports and traditional rituals. Ramsar site no. 618.

## Iles Tristao

Site number: 572 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region:

Area: 85,000 ha | Coordinates: 10°55'N 15°00'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Iles Tristao. 18/11/92; 85,000 ha; 10°55'N 015°00'W. Kogon River Delta, an estuarine complex of extensive mangrove forests and sandy intertidal zones. The site contains several villages where activities include traditional fishing, rice cultivation, and small-scale horticulture. The area supports nesting and wintering birds. Mammals include hippopotamus. Ramsar site no. 572. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Konkouré

Site number: 575 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Dubréka, Conakry, Koba-Tatéma

Area: 90,000 ha | Coordinates: 09°45'N 13°41'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992

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Konkouré. 18/11/92; 90,000 ha; 09°45'N 013°41'W. Estuarine complex, forming part of the Konkouré River Delta, with extensive intertidal mud/sand flats, mangrove forests and adjoining marsh. Primary human activities include subsistence fishing and rice cultivation. Mangroves provide nesting sites for several rare bird species. Mudflats support large numbers of wintering Palearctic shorebirds. Ramsar site no. 575. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Niger-Mafou

Site number: 1,163 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Kouroussa, Préf. de Faranah

Area: 1,015,450 ha | Coordinates: 09°53'N 10°37'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002

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Niger-Mafou. 17/01/02; Kankan, Faranah; 1,015,450 ha; 09°53'N 010°37'W. Réserve naturelle gérée. A very large area of permanent and seasonal rivers and freshwater marshes, with irrigated and seasonally flooded agricultural land, located between and around the rivers Niger and Mafou. Large areas of primary dry forest support a high level of unusual biodiversity, and the area has been little altered by human intervention. The threatened endemic fish *Arius gigas* is supported, and a number of waterbirds visit the site annually. Moreover, the site is situated in a migratory corridor for large mammals between Guinea and neighboring states, with abundant water resources for them throughout the year. Water quality is good, but increases in cotton-growing and the use of pesticides may offer a threat - moreover, the mahogany tree *Azelia africana*, highly prized in woodworking, is now menaced with extinction. Traditional fishing is economically important, as is agriculture and grazing, but losses due to clearing and deforestation are not negligible, and the use of explosives in fishing is diminishing fish stocks. The numerous ponds figure prominently in cultural life, with family and village festivals and rituals said to bring moral and material happiness. Reprint of the RIS. Ramsar site no. 1163. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Niger-Niandan-Milo

Site number: 1,164 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Gouvernorat de la Région Admin. de Kankan

Area: 1,399,046.2 ha | Coordinates: 10°25'N 09°27'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niger-Niandan-Milo is a very large flat expanse of permanent and seasonal rivers and freshwater ponds and marshes, which makes up a critical section of the Niger Basin. Part of the Site lies within the Upper Niger National Park. It is extremely important for its hydrological functions and for its fish biodiversity, with more than 200 species noted. The Site is also host to a large number of waterbirds such as the spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*), the white-faced whistling duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), the cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and the African jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*). The Site has important cultural value: the forest of Mafou and the pond of Baro are particularly rich in folklore. The construction of a hydroelectric barrage is being planned, but this is not expected to adversely affect the ecology of the Site. Extensive farming with excessive deforestation and burning have led to soil denudation, acceleration of erosion, the destruction of vegetation and scarcity of wildlife resources. Irresponsible fishing practices, such as the use of dynamite and chemicals to cause massive fish mortality, are being countered and steadily reduced.

## Niger Source

Site number: 1,165 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Faranah  
Area: 180,400 ha | Coordinates: 09°20'N 10°40'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niger Source. 17/01/02; Faranah; 180,400 ha; 09°20'N 010°40'W. Réserve naturelle gérée. Covering the headwaters of the river Niger from its source near the frontier with Sierra Leone northward to Bandéya, the site is marked by savannah and forest vegetation with marked dry and rainy flood seasons. An extraordinarily important site, since the enormous basin of 4,660km river depends upon the quality and quantity of its flow, it also supports an impressive biodiversity, including the threatened endemic freshwater catfish *Arius gigas* and a number of migratory waterbirds. Subterranean circulation of water in parts of the site aids in groundwater recharge and merits further study. Traditional fishing, grazing, and agriculture are practiced within the site. Ramsar site no. 1165. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Niger-Tinkisso

Site number: 1,166 | Country: Guinea  
| Administrative region: Préf. de Siguiri, Préf. de Kankan, Préf. de Mandia  
Area: 400,600 ha | Coordinates: 11°20'N 09°15'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002

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Niger-Tinkisso. 17/01/02; Kankan; 400,600 ha; 11°20'N 009°15'W. Réserve naturelle gérée. An extensive area of river and freshwater ponds and marshes between and around the Tinkisso river and the Niger as far as the frontier with Mali, centering upon Siguiri, particularly representative of the most important wetland types of West Africa. The Western Giant (or Derby) Eland, thought to be extinct in Guinea, has been rediscovered within the site but remains threatened, and appreciable number of both waterbirds and molluscs are reported. Water quality is generally good, but the effects of mining (particularly gold mining) and pesticide runoff from cotton culture will bear close watching. Ramsar site no. 1166. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Rio Kapatchez

Site number: 573 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Boke  
Area: 679,280 ha | Coordinates: 10°45'N 14°15'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992

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The Site encompasses marshy coastal plains bordered by a stabilized dune cordon, and includes a complex of mangrove forests, intertidal mud and sand flats, and freshwater marshes. These different habitats support various waterbirds. In the mangroves, nesting bird species include the woolly-necked stork *Ciconia episcopus*, hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*), African fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) and yellow-billed stork (*Mycteria ibis*), while the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) winters there. The mudflats host populations of pink and lesser flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus* and *Phoenicopterus minor*) in the dry season, and large numbers of wintering waders including a few thousand avocets. Fulvous whistling duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) nest in the freshwater swamp and rice paddies. A small island is also important as it is a high tide roost for shorebirds. Human activities include traditional fishing and subsistence rice cultivation, while there is intensive rice cultivation in surrounding areas.

## Rio Pongo

Site number: 574 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Boké  
Area: 600,571 ha | Coordinates: 10°32'N 13°44'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992

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Rio Pongo is an extensive estuarine complex dominated by pristine mangrove forests, with some intertidal mudflats. It is a resting, reproduction and growth area for juvenile waterbirds, and a migration corridor for many coastal and marine organisms. The mangrove ecosystem is a biodiversity hotspot. The site is home to bird species such as the woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*), Goliath heron (*Ardea goliath*), hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*), yellow-billed stork (*Mycteria ibis*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). The vulnerable African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) has also been reported. Several small villages which depend on traditional fishing and subsistence rice growing are found on stabilized dune ridges within the Site. Other human activities include woodcutting by outsiders, poaching, and disturbance of nesting birds. Domestic and foreign artisanal fishermen are attracted by the abundance of fish resources along the Site's seafront, as are illegal trawlers of industrial fisheries. Hunting, poaching, disturbance of possible nesting sites, the misuse of mangrove forests, and rice cultivation are also potential threats to the Site.

## Sankarani-Fié

Site number: 1,167 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Kankan  
Area: 1,656,000 ha | Coordinates: 10°20'N 08°33'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002

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The Site, within the basin of the Sankarani River, is located in the east of the country next to the border with Côte d'Ivoire. It is characterized by savannah and dry forest, and enormous floodplains along the length of the river. This stretch of the river is an important fish spawning ground because the current is calm, deep and well protected by gallery forests. It is also a refuge for spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*), white-faced whistling duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and African jacana (*Actophilornis africana*). Hippopotamuses have also become numerous within the Site because of water retained by the Sélingué dam. However, extensive agriculture accompanied by the use of fires, exploitation of gold and prohibited fishing practices have all contributed to the destruction of vegetation cover and an increasing scarcity of wildlife.

## Tinkisso

Site number: 1,168 | Country: Guinea  
| Administrative region: Préf. de Dabola, Préf. de Dinguiraye, Préf. de Kouro  
Area: 1,228,995.3 ha | Coordinates: 11°02'N 10°39'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Tinkisso Ramsar Site covers over 12,000 square kilometres of the upper reaches of the Tinkisso River, which flows from the highlands near Dabola and Dinguiraye downstream toward the plains near Siguiri. Its climate is characterized by two seasons, rainy from June to October and dry from November to May, with a strong dry easterly wind called the harmattan. The Site supports water birds such as the spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*), the white-faced whistling duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), the cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and the African jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*). Extensive farming, prohibited fishing practices, and gold panning are major threats to the Site. The rhun palm (*Borassus aethiopum*) has been seriously over-exploited, particularly for making palm wine, and will disappear in the region unless steps are taken. A range of legislative texts have been adopted to strengthen measures to protect natural resources.