Updating Key Biodiversity Areas in the Lofa-Gola-Mano & Nimba complexes

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Context and objectives

The Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) of both complexes are poorly known and were designated without data on flora or ecosystems. Moreover, there is a high heterogeneity in the quantity flora and ecosystem data across sites. Local capacities in botany were limited (especially in Liberia), and there is a crucial need for training. Goals: ▶ Increase the level of knowledge. ▶ Capacity building and regional harmonization of practices. ▶ Pooling of data. ▶ Identification of threatened species and ecosystems. ▶ Re-evaluation of KBAs. ▶ Communication to stakeholders.
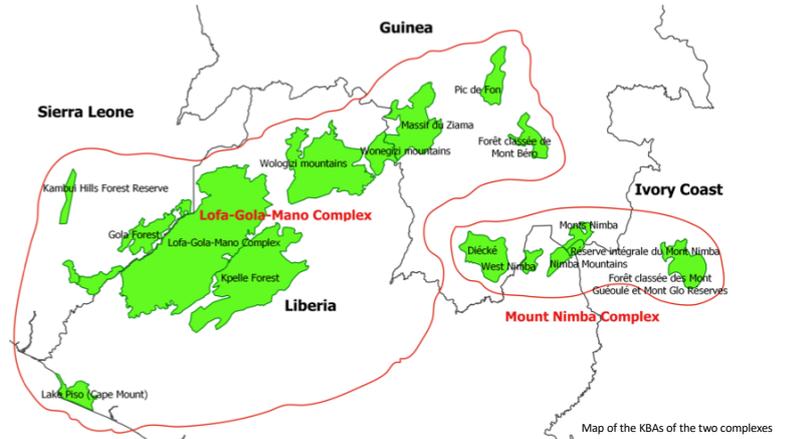
Key results of the project

1. Knowledge

1732 botanical samples collected in Guinea

2082 botanical samples collected in Liberia

63 tree transects in nine different sites

493 orchid individuals cultivated at Sérédou

5610 photos including 650 orchids

150 species assessed out of 200 identified as threatened

30 threatened ecosystems out of 87 ecosystems identified

Submontane mesic forest Assessed as Endangered (Senterre 2020)

Cola buntingii

Cyphostemma adami Endangered

Montane saxicolous seasonal marsh grassland on ironstone (mare d'hivernage, Nimba) Critically Endangered

Map of the KBAs of the two complexes

2. Communication

▶ Website in Tropicos on threatened species and ecosystems.
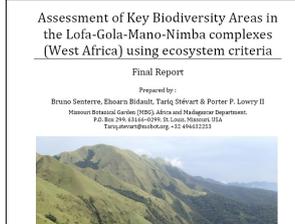▶ Brochures and workshops.

3. Training

▶ Harmonizing the regional practices: same techniques used in both countries, data recognized at the international level, increase visibility on the work accomplished.

▶ Reinforce local capacities: 4 technicians trained in Guinea; 2 technicians trained in Liberia.

▶ Re-establishment of a National Herbarium in Liberia.

4. KBA assessments

▶ Report on ecosystems and KBA analysis

▶ KBA training workshop and formation of the Guinean National Coordination Group

Assessment of Key Biodiversity Areas in the Lofa-Gola-Mano-Nimba complexes (West Africa) using ecosystem criteria
Final Report

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First conclusions and challenges to overcome

▶ Strong heterogeneity in the baseline knowledge: the project allowed to start filling some gaps.
▶ Some data unaccessible: old collections, or recent but never made public.
▶ Standardization is necessary: all collected data and some old data were put into a single system (MBG database TROPICOS) to facilitate analyses.

Continued work:
▶ Follow-up with Guinea KBA National Coordination Group for submission of KBA forms.
▶ Long-term capacity building in Liberia.
▶ Finalization and publication of checklists for both complexes.