



## Report at a Glance

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Northwestern Guinea: 89

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## Report at a Glance

### Expedition Dates

April 22 – May 12, 2005

### Area Description

The RAP survey was carried out at several sites in Boké Préfecture along the coast of northwestern Guinea (Guinée Maritime): Sarabaya (Rio Kapatchez), Kamsar (including 5 subsites), and Boulléré. Since the overall area of study has been highly disturbed by human activity, the RAP survey focused on forest patches and wetland areas.

The RAP survey site at Sarabaya was located in an estuary at the mouth of the Rio Kapatchez and in the surrounding area. This site has a wide variety of wetland habitats including extensive mudflats, well-developed mangrove forest along the Kaliki River, a freshwater marsh, a tidal creek and rice fields. The Rio Kapatchez has been identified as one of 12 Ramsar sites and one of 18 Important Bird Areas (IBA) within Guinea. RAP Site 2 was located within the Kamsar sub-prefecture, and five individual subsites were surveyed. These included: Taïgbé West, Taïgbé East, Tarénsa, Kaiboutou and Kateméne. Parts of Kamsar and its surrounding area, contained within Alcatraz, were highlighted as of very high importance for conservation during the 1999 CPSW on the basis of extremely high priority for coastal marine ecosystems, high priority for mammals and freshwater biodiversity, medium priority for birds, and potential priority areas for plants.

The third RAP survey site, Boulléré, was located in the Sangaredi sub-préfecture and consisted of a mosaic of vegetation ranging from gallery forest to open grassland to rocky outcrops of bauxite. The vegetation was highly disturbed by agriculture due to a number of settlements in the area. The gallery forest here was inconsistent in quality.

### Reason for the Expedition

The flora and fauna of Guinea are poorly known overall and large areas of the country have yet to be surveyed. Within Guinea, only Mont Nimba is relatively well studied. The coast of Guinea is estimated to hold, at times, over half a million waterbirds, principally migrant waders. Chimpanzees are found almost throughout Guinea, except in the far east of the country from which they are believed to have only recently disappeared (Kormos et al. 2003). In addition to the unique assemblages of species and range of habitats, Guinea's coastal area also harbors potential mineralogical wealth.

Conservation International's Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) partnered with Alcoa World Alumina LLC (Alcoa) and Alcan Inc., to collect scientific data on the diversity and status of species at a number of sites within a project area that is likely to encompass Alcoa/Alcan's existing operations and infrastructure in Guinea, including the existing mining operations near Sangaredi, the existing port facilities at Kamsar, and the connecting infrastructure corridor. This partnership was formed in the spirit of providing significant gains for biodiversity conservation and the region's communities that rely on these resources. The information collected during the RAP expedition will be used to guide conservation activities in the region and to provide input into the biodiversity aspects of an ESIA study for an Alcoa/Alcan alumina refinery in Guinea.

### Major Results

A variety of habitats were surveyed during the RAP survey, including wooded grasslands, gallery forests, mudflats, mangroves and farmbush. Habitats were evaluated to document the species richness of plants (both woody and herbaceous), insects (katydids and ants), crustaceans, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and primates.

In total, the RAP documented 709 species, including one amphibian and one katydid species recorded as new to science. The RAP team recorded significant range extensions for a number of species (including approximately 50 bird species) and added as new records to Guinea three katydids, one crustacean, one amphibian and two bird species. Another important finding from this RAP was the Critically Endangered freshwater crab species, *Afrithelphusa monodosus*. This crab was recorded for the first time since its original collection in 1947, and was previously known only from the male holotype. Specimens of *A. monodosus* were collected, including the first adult female.

### Species new to Science

Tettigoniidae (1) *Afromecopoda* cf. *austere*

Amphibians (1) *Phrynobatrachus* sp. 2

### New Records for Guinea

Tettigoniidae (3) *Afromecopoda* cf. *austere*

*Anoedopoda lamellate*

*Tylopsis ampla*

Crustaceans (1) *Desmocarid trispinosa*

Amphibians (1) *Phrynobatrachus* sp. 2

Birds (2) *Hippolais icterina*  
*Porphyrio porphyrio*

### Species of Conservation Concern

Plants (3) *Azela africana* (VU)  
*Hallea stipulosa* (VU)  
*Nauclea diderrichii* (VU)

Crustaceans (1) *Afrithelphusa monodosus* (CR)

Amphibians (2) *Leptopelis macrotis* (NT)  
*Ptychoadenia retropunctata* (DD)

Reptiles (4) *Chamaeleo gracilis* (CITES II)  
*Pelusios castaneus* (CITES III)  
*Python regius* (CITES II)  
*Varanus niloticus* (CITES II)

Birds (1) *Phyllastrephus baumanni* (DD)

Mammals (1) *Cephalophus maxwellii* (NT)  
(non-primate)

Primates (4) *Cercocebus atys atys* (NT)  
*Pan troglodytes verus* (EN)  
*Papio papio* (NT)  
*Procolobus badius* (EN)

### Key Conservation Recommendations

(see Executive Summary for additional recommendations)

- We recommend conservation of the gallery forest areas, particularly those in the Boulléré area that are most at risk from slash-and-burn agricultural practices. This has the effect of conserving the sites with the highest biodiversity while preserving the watershed areas.

### Number of Species Recorded\*

	All Sites	Sarabaya (6 days)	Kamsar (all 5 subsites (5 days)	Boulléré (6 days)
<b>Plants</b>	287	159	310	132
<b>Katydid</b>	15	10	12	3
<b>Ants</b>	85	60	52	47
<b>Crustaceans</b>	20	5	14	4
<b>Amphibians</b>	26	15	17	17
<b>Reptiles</b>	11	7	5	5
<b>Birds</b>	239	145	151	140
<b>Mammals</b>	18	11	12	16
<b>Primates</b>	8	3	4	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>372</b>

\*direct comparisons between sites should not be made since different time periods and multiple locations were surveyed per site. See Executive Summary for details.

- Development of a sustainable management plan that adequately protects the coastal mangrove ecosystems in the Boké Préfecture and takes into account the function of the mangrove ecosystems and the ecosystem services they provide such as nursery grounds for commercially important species of crustaceans and fish. Studies and methods to rehabilitate severely impacted mangrove areas should be explored.
- It is of high importance to protect the region's threatened species and thus hunting should be totally banned for these species. We recommend that areas containing observed populations of Endangered species (freshwater crab *Afrithelphusa mondodus*, West African chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes verus*, Red colobus monkey *Procolobus badius*) be removed from consideration as areas for any resource extraction. Once identified, these areas will require increased protection, enforcement and monitoring.