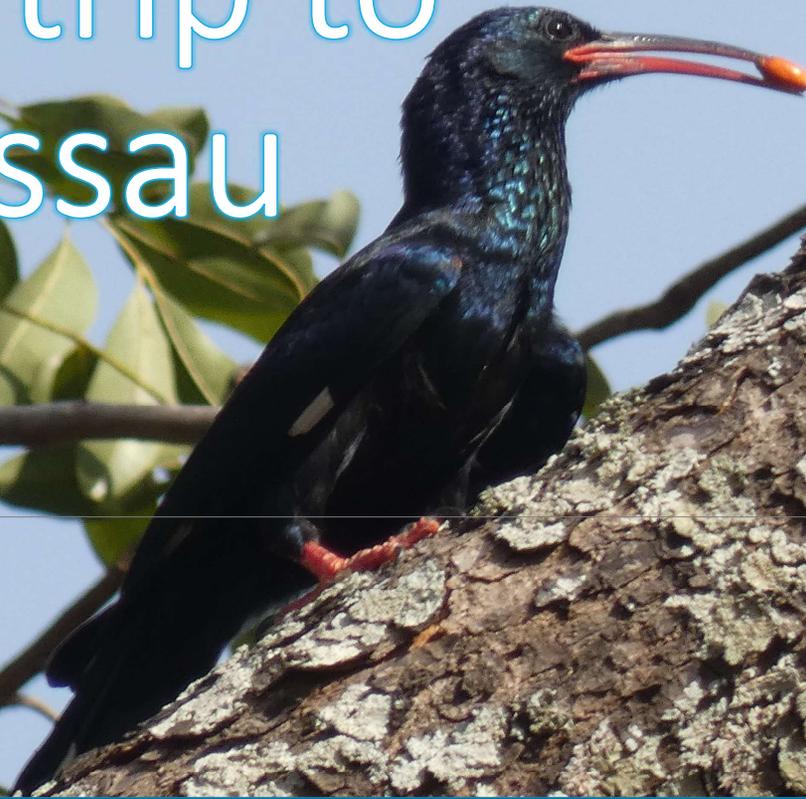


TROPIBIO trip to Guinea-Bissau



TROPIBIO

Tropical biodiversity and ecosystems research



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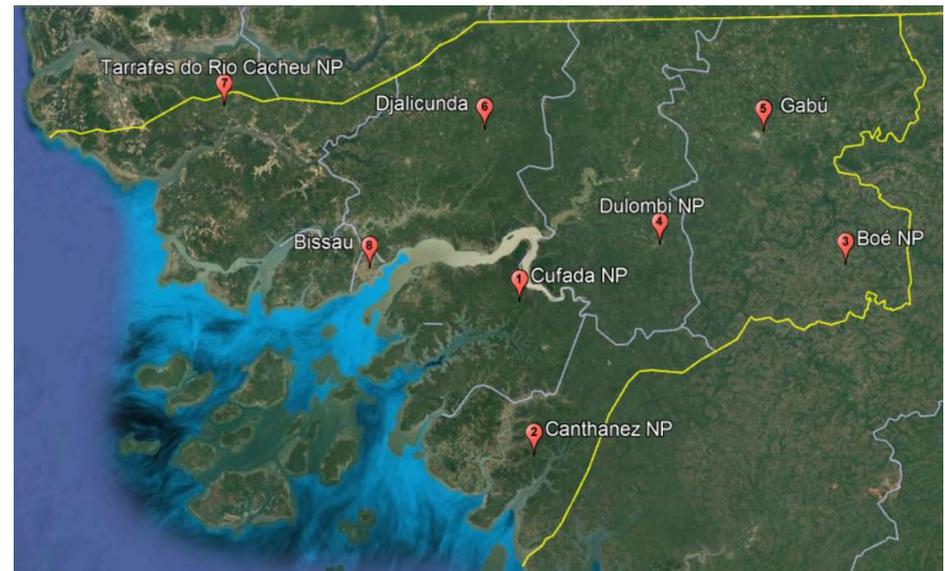
Trip overview

- Objectives:

- Prospect areas for future studies
- Meet possible local partners
- Understand the possible challenges of working in GB

- Team:

- Luke, Filipa & Patrícia (Core team)
- Luís Palma (collaborator)
- Ricardo Rocha (collaborator)
- Cristian Pizzigalli (PhD student)



1. Cufada National Park

- Lagoon system
- Breeding site for crocodiles
- ODHZ – Organização para a Defesa e Desenvolvimento das Zonas Húmidas da Guiné-Bissau
 - Bird surveys
 - Struggle with lack of equipment, training and financial support



1. Cufada National Park

- Mist nets for migratory birds
- High biodiversity: many bird species seen and heard, monkey vocalizations, Nile monitor lizard, Felidae scat.



2. Cantanhez National Park

- Pristine sub-humid forest
- High biodiversity: several species of monkey, lizards, birds and mammal tracks spotted.
- Cashew plantations inside the park
- Gandambel: forest elephant tracks in multiple types of plantation
- Close proximity between elephants and chimpanzees and humans
- Vendu Boliangha: Important water point for wide array of wildlife.
- Considerable Bushmeat hunting throughout the country, partly to newcomers



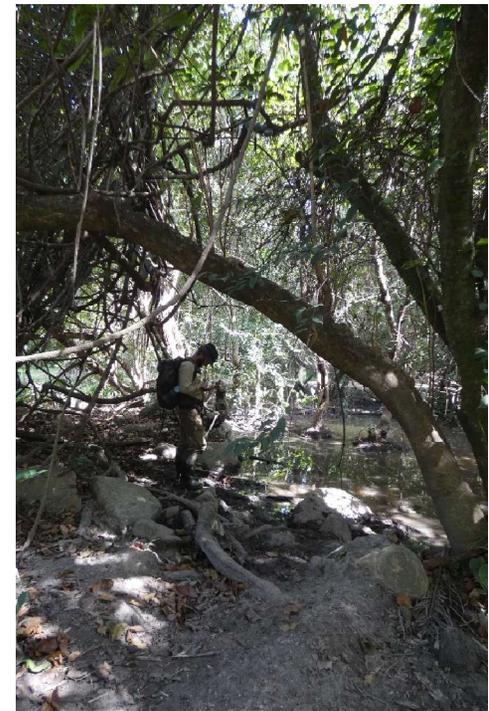
3. Boé National Park

- Savannah habitat
- Lack of large herbivores but multiple medium-sized mammals
- Meeting with Aminata Sillo from Chimbo Foundation:
 - Chimbo has worked in Boé for at least 20 years
 - Focused on chimpanzees but they also have smaller projects focused on reforestation, honey and rice production, etc.
 - Interested in exploring collaboration opportunities with TROPiBIO for capacity building and ecological and conservation research.
- Vendu Tcham: human-wildlife conflict



4. Gabú

- Unplanned stop
- Visited a sacred forest where locals say they saw crocodiles
- No crocodiles or faecal samples found: pressure from livestock.



5. Dulombi National Park

- High diversity of habitats (humid forest, temporary lagoons, cashew plantation, cattle, etc) and species (multiple species of mammals, lizards, bats, fish and bird species spotted)
- Severe anthropogenic impacts: nomad shepherds with ca. 1,000 cows.



- Possibility to use a house inside the park as a field station (after minor modifications)



6. Djalicunda

- Habitat type: rice plantations (*bolanhas*), fallow, community forest, cashew plantation.
- Study site for Ana Rainho FCT-funded project: Rice Guardians.
- Sampling session for bats: one mist net for 2 hours captures 30+ bats and 28 faecal samples
- Potentially two new species records for Guinea-Bissau
- Federação camponesa KAFO has excellent infrastructures (e.g. small museum, meeting rooms, cafeteria, electricity, running water, etc)



7. Tarrafes do Rio Cacheu National Park

- Mangroves
- Mist net for migrant birds



8. Bissau

- Meetings with governmental and non-governmental conservation stakeholders:
 1. IBAP – Instituto para a Biodiversidade e Áreas protegidas
 - Two brief meetings with the Director and Vice-Director for presenting TROPIBIO and summarizing the trip
 2. ODHZ – Organização para a Defesa e Desenvolvimento das Zonas Húmidas da Guiné-Bissau
 - Wish to develop capacity in ecological data analysis – vast amount of data already collected
 - Connections with Universidade Lusófona
- We also found young crocodiles, tens of fruit bats and possibly an otter near a pond in the center of the city → great potential for studies related to urban ecology



Important remarks

- 140+ bird species sighted
 - 25 species of reptiles and amphibians → Checklist for the country
 - Possibly 2 new bat species recorded
 - Black mambas in city center Bissau
 - New record of *Elapsoidea* sp. for the country
 - New record of fossorial snake (*Afrotyphlops* sp.) – almost no information on this genus
 - Probably more than on species of *Agama* sp.
 - Local perception of reptiles has a lot of misconceptions: geckos and chameleons thought to be venomous and killed indistinctly
- } Public health problem



Thank you!

