

National Park of Upper Niger, Guinea

Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 09 March 2022 at 10:57:59 UTC

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Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 19 June 2022 at 18:52:40 UTC

Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 23 September 2022 at 18:52:44 UTC

Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 18 January 2023 at 11:04:01 UTC

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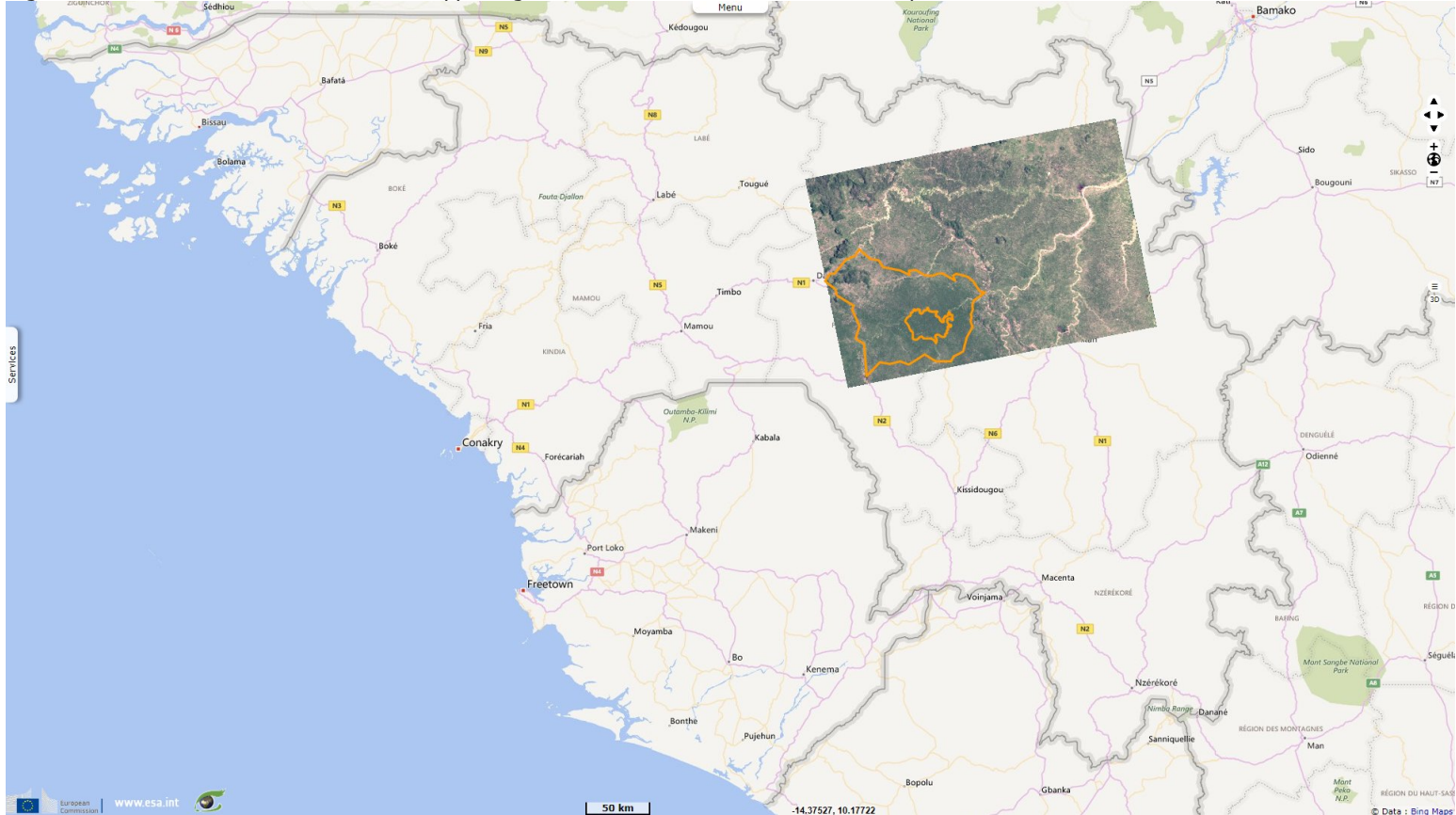
Keyword(s): Land, forestry, national park, biodiversity, seasons, Guinea



[2D Layerstack](#)

Fig. 1 - S1 (15.03.2022->08.04.2022) - The Upper Niger National Park is located in the inland part of Guinea.

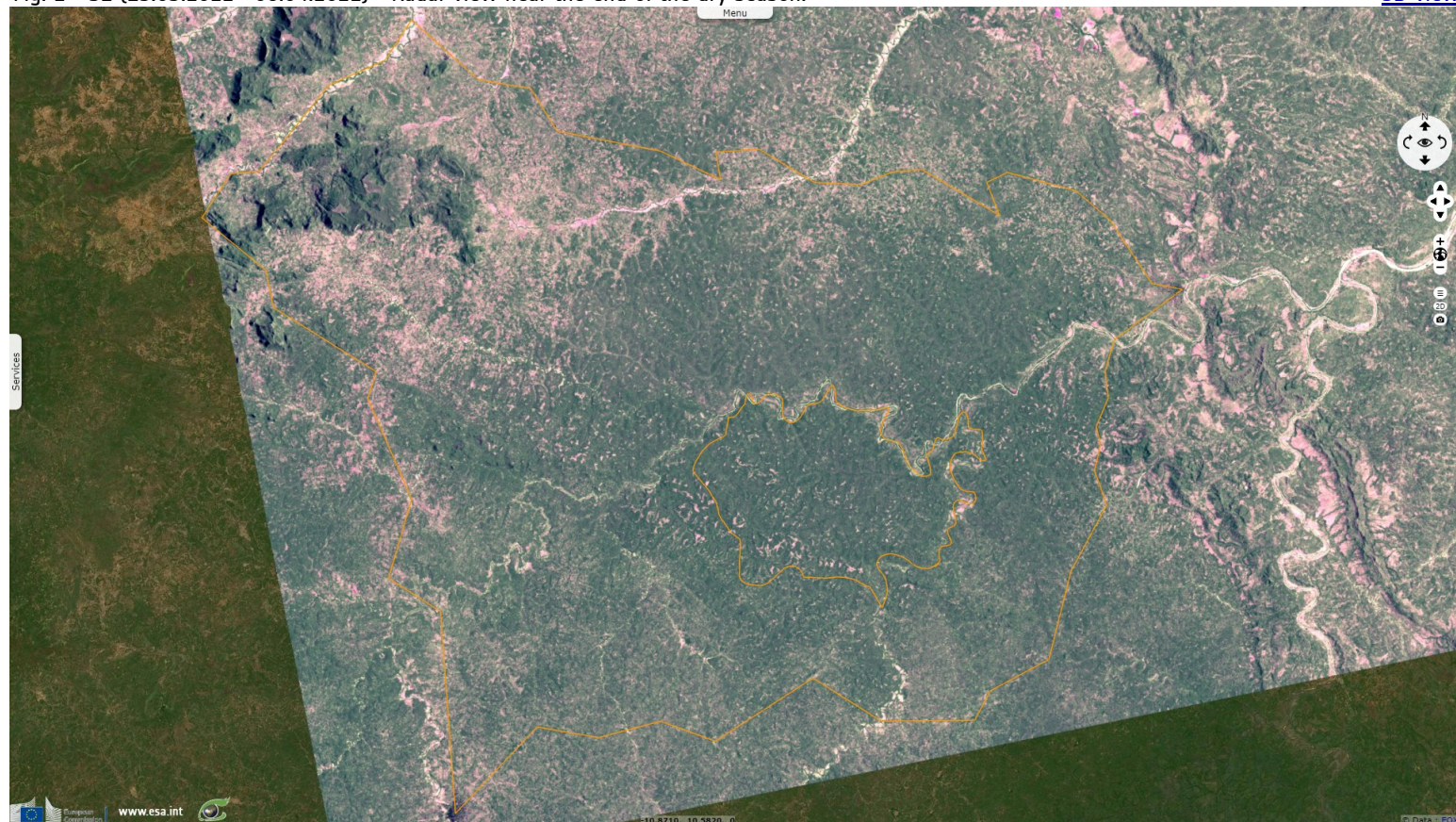
[2D view](#)



The journalist Abdallah Baldé [introduced](#) the Upper Niger National Park in the local newspaper Guinée Matin: The Upper Niger National Park, included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme on 16 December 2002, is the largest reserve in Guinea with its twelve thousand square kilometres.

Fig. 2 - S1 (15.03.2022->08.04.2022) - Radar view near the end of the dry season.

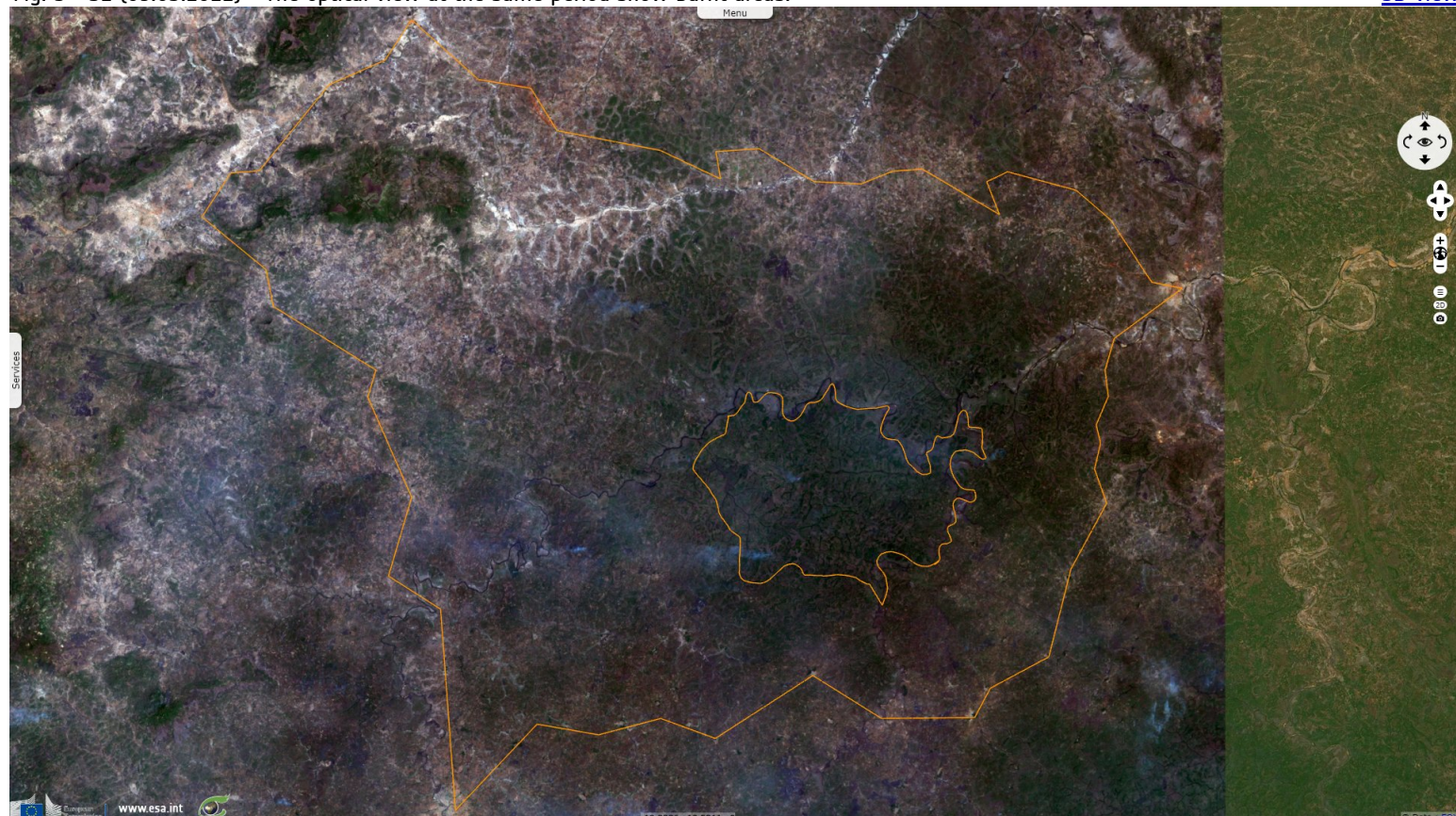
[3D view](#)



Located along the Niger River, this park touches the prefectures of Faranah, Dabola, Kouroussa, Kankan and Kissidougou. It contains many animal and plant species, according to Captain Abdoulaye Kouyaté, Chief Conservator. On the Faranah side, the park is about 70 km north-east of the capital and is linked by a rural track to Sidakoro, in the rural commune of Bendou.

Fig. 3 - S2 (09.03.2022) - The optical view at the same period show burnt areas.

[3D view](#)



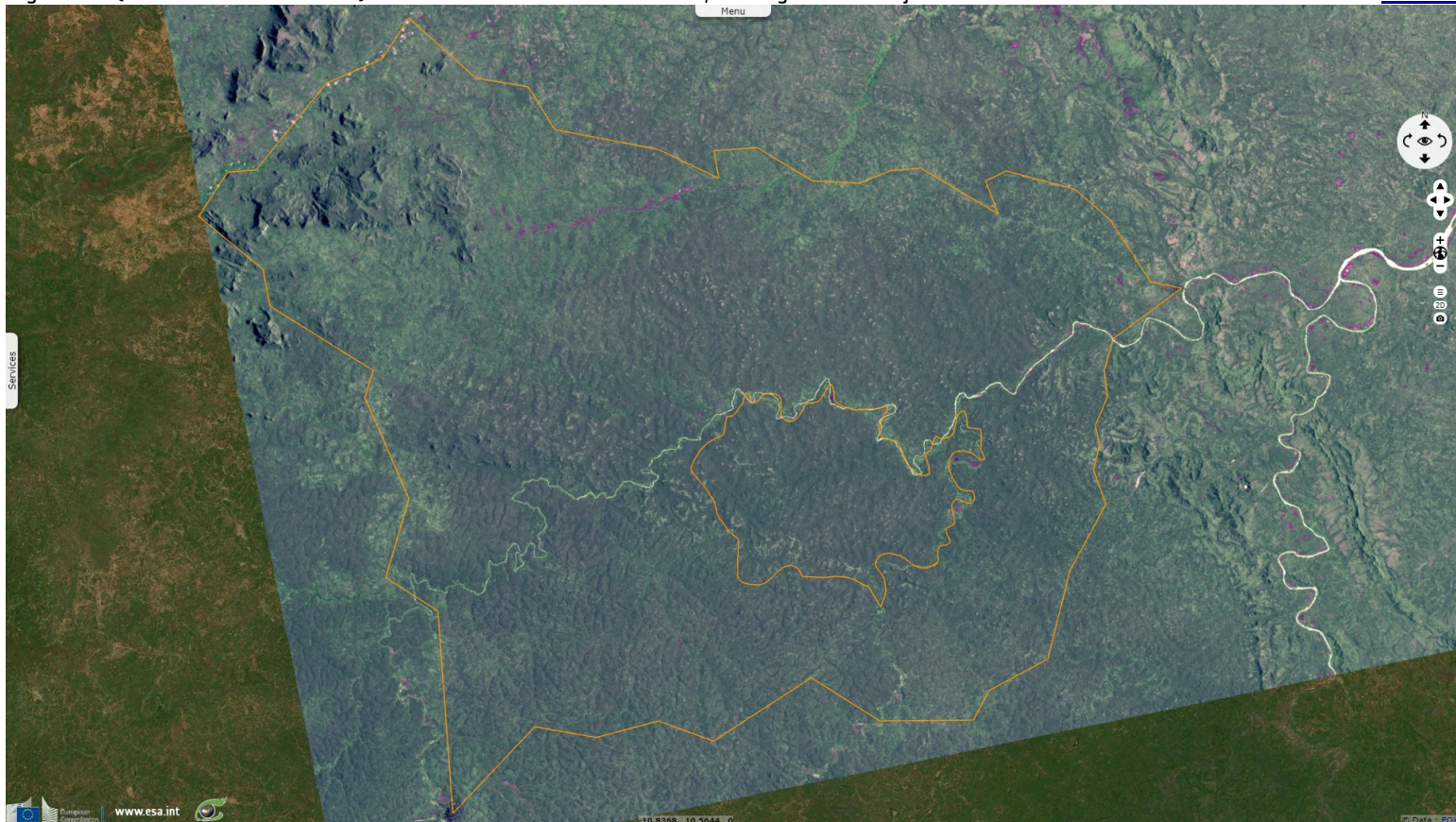
It covers an area of one million 200 000 hectares and contains two nuclei: Mafou with 55 000 hectares and Kouya with 65 000 hectares. All the animal species of the savannah live in these two cores. Surveys in the park conducted during 1996–97 revealed a diverse mammalian fauna of 94 species including:

- 24 rodents
- 18 bats which of: Franquet's epauletted fruit bat, horseshoe bat
- 17 carnivores which of: Caracal, Egyptian mongoose, Gambian mongoose, spot-necked otter
- 14 ungulates which of: giant forest hog, kob, waterbuck
- 9 insectivores which of: four-toed hedgehog, climbing shrew

- seven primates which of: chimpanzee, Senegal galago
- giant pangolin and tree pangolin, and African savanna hare.
- The African elephant) once occurred in the park but is now extinct.

Fig. 4 - S1 (23.09.2022->29.10.2022) - After the rain season has arrived, the vegetation is rejuvenated.

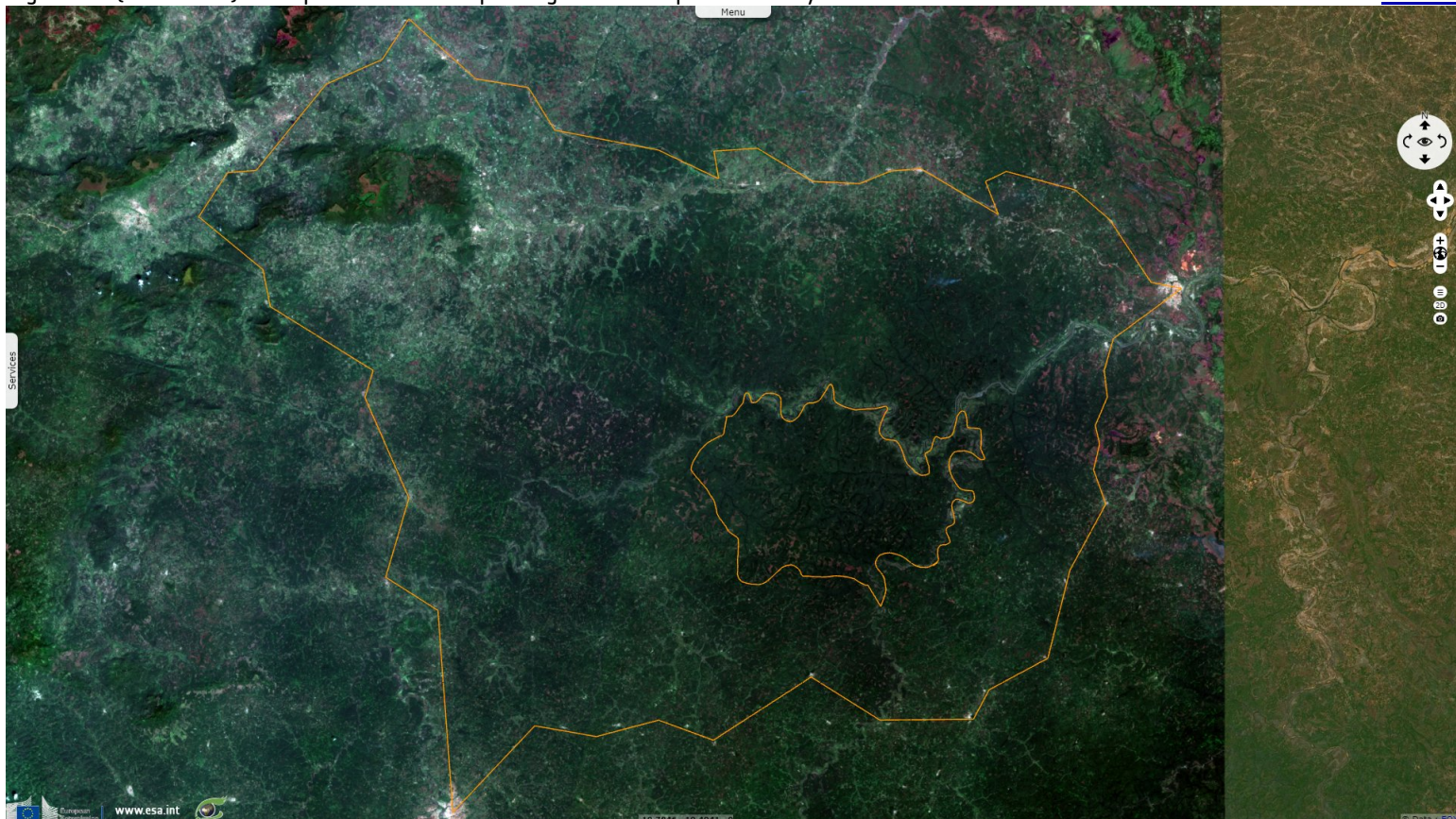
[3D view](#)



However, according to the conservators who watch over this unknown treasure, several species are in danger of extinction. These include panthers, chimpanzees (currently protected by a French NGO on the site), pangolins, hippos, buffaloes, aardvarks... In 1997, lion returned to the protected area, probably migrating from the Tinkisso River region.

Fig. 5 - S2 (30.10.2022) - The park shows in deep dark green at this period of the year.

[3D view](#)



At the entrance to the park, a beautiful city of nature conservationists has been built. Half a dozen agents, led by Captain Abdoulaye Kouyaté, surround the entrances, preventing poachers and nature abusers from infiltrating the park.

Fig. 6 - S1 (15.03.2022->08.04.2022) - Zoom on Mafou protected area, the core of the park.

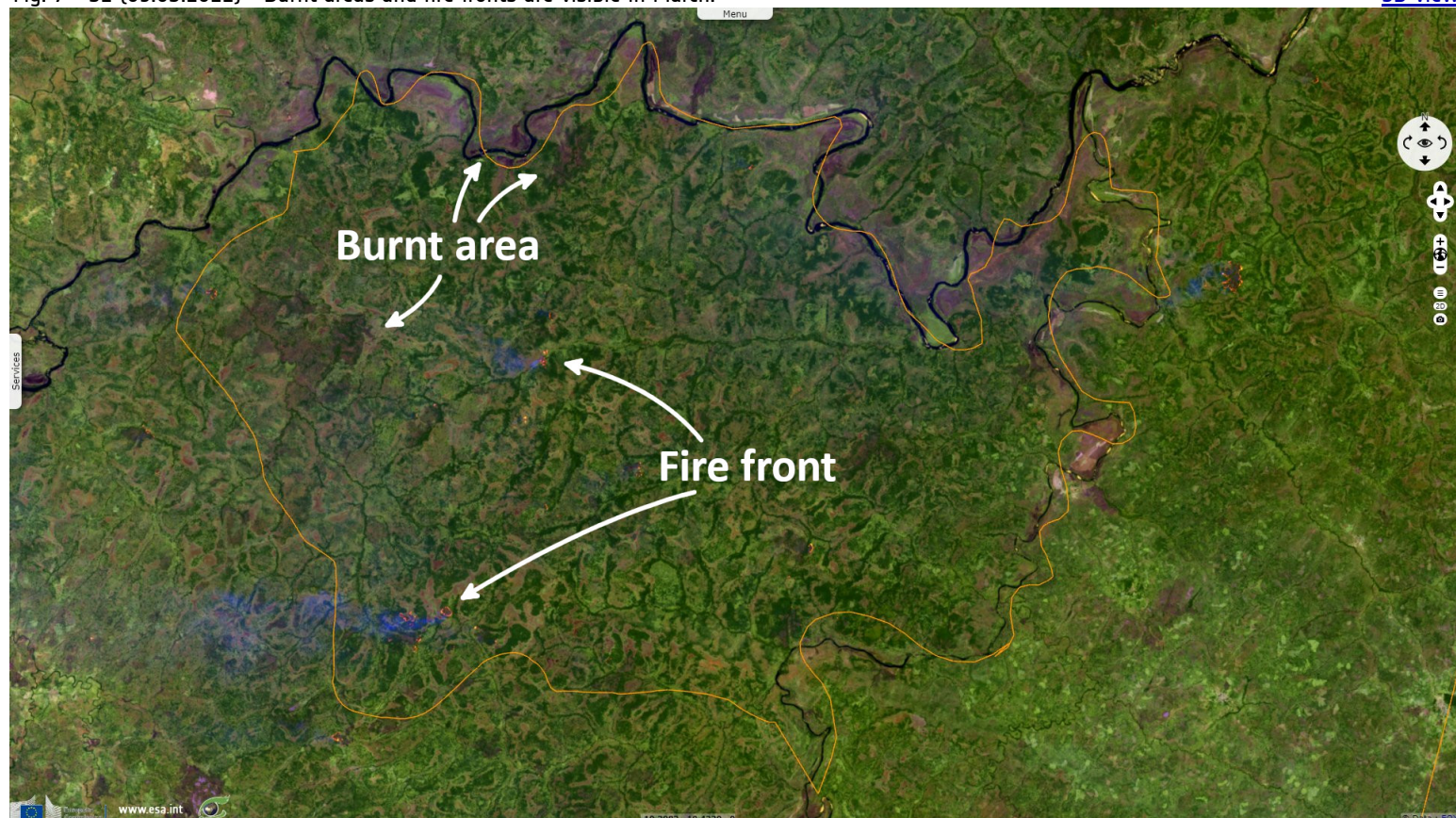
[3D view](#)



Situated in the Niger basin, UNESCO [reminds](#) it is part of the sudano-guanese vegetation zone. The biosphere reserve plays an important role in protecting the primary open dryforests which are believed to represent the last relicts in Guinea and probably in all western Africa.

Fig. 7 - S2 (09.03.2022) - Burnt areas and fire fronts are visible in March.

[3D view](#)



It covers open dry forests, gallery forests along the Niger River and its tributaries, woodland and herbaceous savanna, ponds as well as agroforestry ecosystems. Among scientific projects undertaken in the biosphere reserve are species inventories, a rehabilitation project for chimpanzees and the monitoring of the West African Manatee and the endangered endemic catfish *Arius gigas*.

Fig. 8 - S1 (07.06.2022->01.07.2022) - Most bare soil area regressed in June after rainfall arrived.

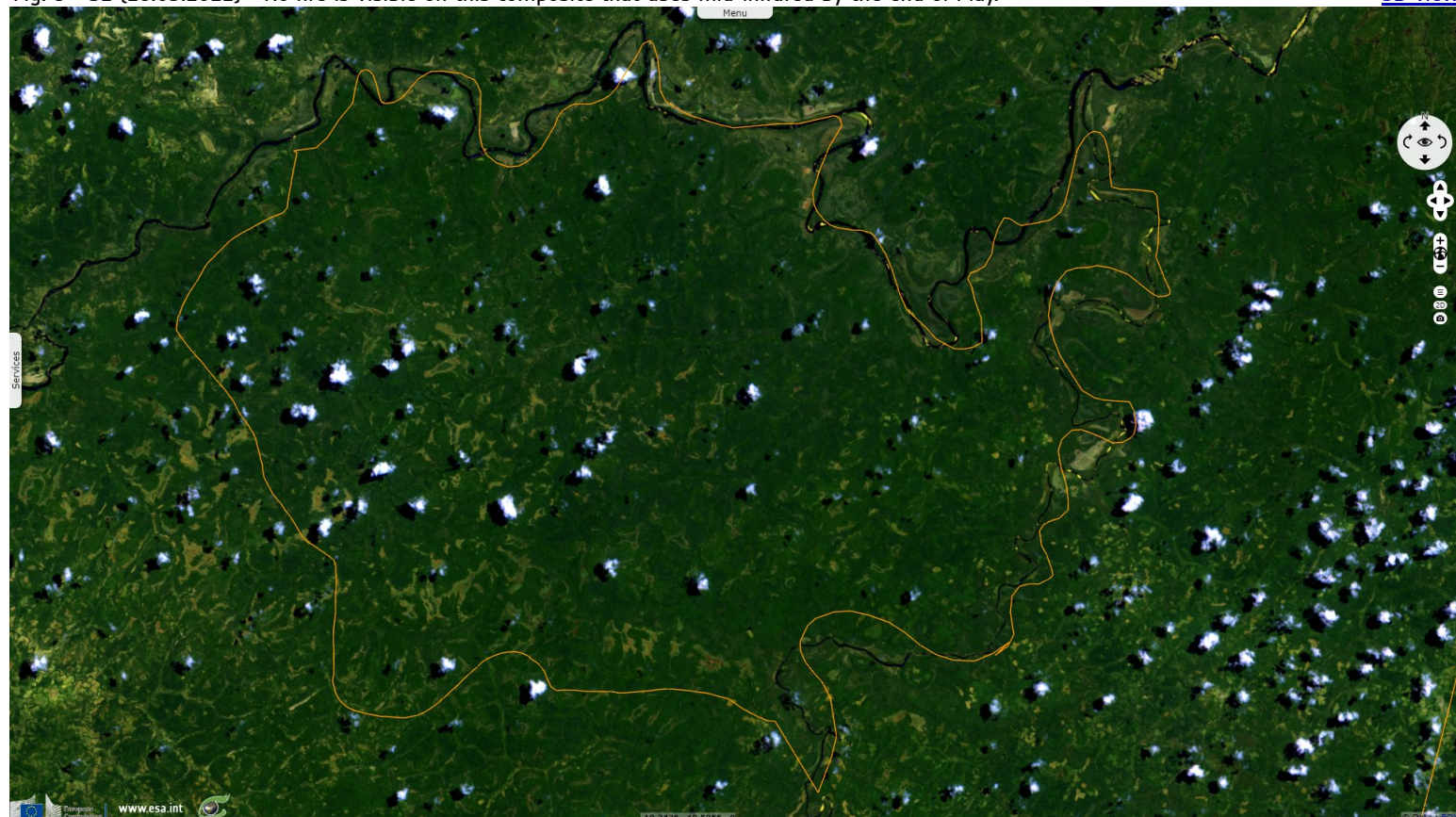
[3D view](#)



More than 4000 people live in the biosphere reserve who mostly depend on agriculture, stock raising, hunting, gathering and fishing.

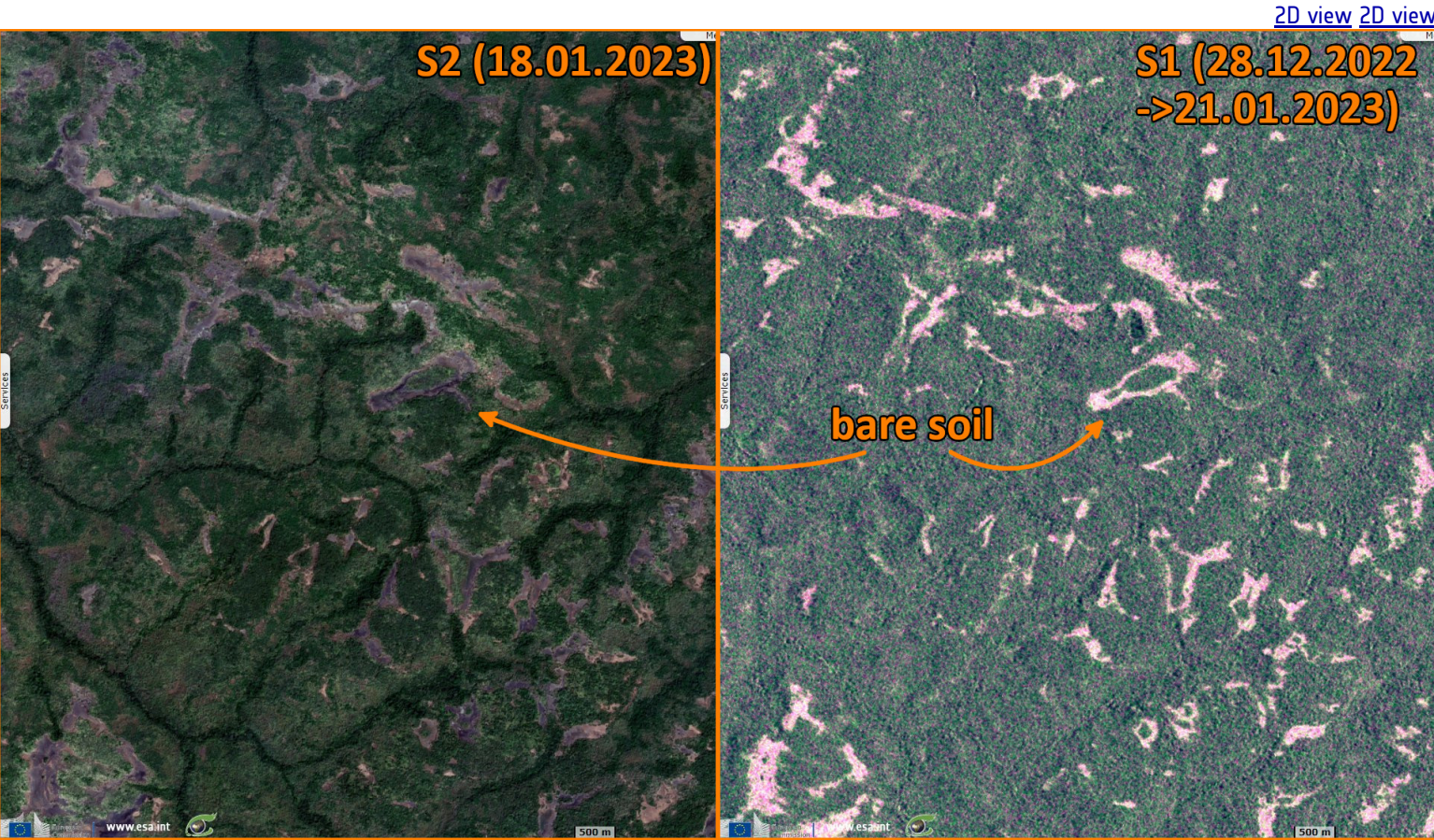
Fig. 9 - S2 (28.05.2022) - No fire is visible on this composite that uses mid-infrared by the end of May.

[3D view](#)



The area has a high potential for eco-tourism development. A development plan (1999-2003) has been established in order to improve the community participation in the management of the biosphere reserve.

Fig. 10 - S2 [18.01.2023] / S1 (28.12.2022->21.01.2023) - Optical & radar images agree on the burnt areas, allowing independence from cloud cover using the latter.



Social, tourist and forestry development projects will be carried out in close cooperation with the local communities.

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