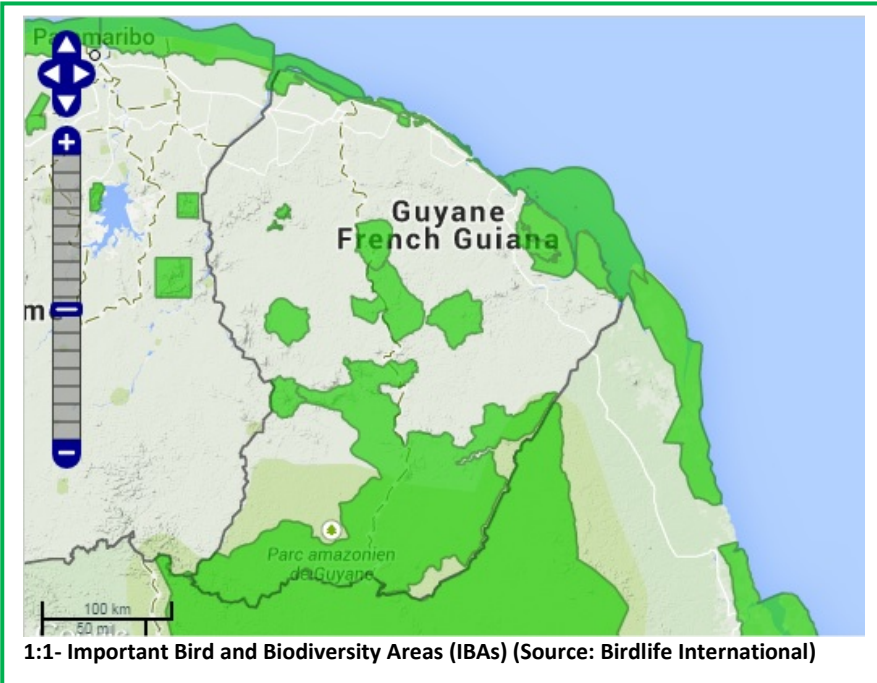


## AMAZONIA [French Guiana]



### Current situation & main challenges

#### Socio-economic context

- Vast territory (same size as Austria) covered to 94% by forests
- Multicultural society, very wealthy from an historical point of view
- Economic growth of 4% mostly driven by investments, the spatial sector and by the demographic dynamics
- Imports are five times higher than exports
- Population growing at an annual rate of 3.7%, doubling by 2030 with a very high youth rate (44% is under 20)
- Unemployment reached 22.3% in 2013, twice the French average
- 63% of electricity is produced thanks to renewable energies (mainly photovoltaics, hydropower and biomass)
- 12% of the population has no access to drinking water and one in three homes has no electricity
- Numerous illegal activities, such as gold mining and fishing, at the Guiana Shield level

#### Legal and political context

- French overseas department since 1946 and a French overseas region since 1982
- Strategic position being the only French and European territory in South America
- Strong economic dependency on France
- Weak regional cooperation at the Guiana Shield level

The figures reported are coming from the [Regional Planning Scheme \(SAR\)](#)

### Facts & figures

#### Geography

Total area:	209,846 km <sup>2</sup>
Land area*:	83,846 km <sup>2</sup> (40%)
Protected land area**:	24,606 km <sup>2</sup> (12%)

Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) ***:	126,000 km <sup>2</sup> (60%)
Marine protected area (MPA, % of EEZ)****:	133 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.1%)

Overseas Regions	French Guiana (F)
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#### Socio-economic facts\*\*\*\*\*

Total population:	(250,109)
Population density:	3/km <sup>2</sup>
Average annual GDP:	€3,919 million
Main income sources (% of average annual GDP):	Primary sector (4%) Secondary sector (20%) Tertiary sector (76%)

Human development index	0.806
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#### Biodiversity

Natural areas of great heritage value*****:	32,914 km <sup>2</sup>
Threatened endemic species*****:	27

Terrestrial mammals (2): Neusticomys oyapocki (VU), Ateles paniscus (VU). Reptiles (1): Peltocophalus dumerilianus (VU). Birds (12): Rupicola rupicola (LC), Psophia crepitans (NT), Oxyruncus cristatus (LC), Phylomyias griseiceps (LC), Sakesphorus melanothorax (LC), Amazona dufresniana (NT), Penelope marail (LC), Crax alector (VU), Myrmotherula surinamensis (VU), Picumnus spilogaster (VU), Ramphastos tucanus (VU), Pterodroma hasitata (EN). Plants (8): Astrocaryum minus (VU), Bactris nancibensis (VU), Eschweilera squamata (VU), Henriettella ininensis (VU), Pouteria benai (VU), Rinorea pectino-squamata (VU), Syagrus stratincola (VU), Tapirira bethanniana (VU). Amphibians (2): Atelopus flavescens (VU), Atelopus franciscus (VU). Marine environment (2): Diplobatis pictus (VU), Isogomphodon oxyrhynchus (CR).

Threatened species not endemic*****:	69
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Terrestrial mammals (7): Tapirus terrestris (VU), Pteronura brasiliensis (EN), Leopardus tigrinus (VU), Myrmecophaga tridactyla (VU), Priodontes maximus (VU), Tayassu pecari (VU), Trichechus manatus (VU). Reptiles (8): Lepidochelys olivacea (VU), Podocnemis unifilis (VU), Dermochelys coriacea (VU), Caretta caretta (EN), Lepidochelys kempii (CR), Eretmochelys imbricate (CR), Chelonia mydas (EN), Chelonoidis denticulate (VU). Birds (2): Patagioenas subvinacea (VU), Ramphastos vitellinus (VU). Plants (7): Aniba roseadora (EN), Bertholletia excelsa (VU), Cedrela odorata (VU), Couratari guianensis (VU), Mezilaurus itauba (VU), Swietenia macrophylla (VU), Virola surinamensis (EN). Amphibians (1): Atelopus spumarius (VU). Marine environment (24): Balistes vetula (VU), Carcharhinus longimanus (VU), Carcharhinus obscurus (VU), Epinephelus itajara (CR), Epinephelus striatus (VU), Gymnura altavela (VU), Hyporhodus flavolimbatu (VU), Hyporhodus niveatus (VU), Isurus oxyrinchus (VU), Kajikia albida (VU), Lachnolaimus maximus (VU), Lutjanus analis (VU), Lutjanus cyanopterus (VU), Manta birostris (VU), Megalops atlanticus (VU), Narcine bancroftii (CR), Pagrus Pagrus (EN), Pristis pristis (CR), Rhincodon typus (VU), Sphyrna lewini (EN), Sphyrna mokarran (EN), Sphyrna tudes (VU), Thunnus obesus (VU), Thunnus thynnus (EN)

\*, \*\* [Schéma d'Aménagement Régional] \*\*\*\*\* [Schéma d'Aménagement Régional]  
 \*\*\* [EXTRAPLAC] \*\*\*\*\* CR, EN, VU [IUCN Red List]  
 \*\*\*\* [Agence des aires marines protégées] \*\*\*\*\* CR, EN, VU [IUCN Red List]  
 without RAMSAR sites  
 \*\*\*\*\* [Schéma d'Aménagement Régional]

## Current conservation status

### Threats and pressures on biodiversity

- Deforestation for agriculture and mining activities, causing erosion and habitat loss
- Land fragmentation because of urbanization, especially at the western part of the coastline
- Poor wastewater management polluting rivers, especially in urban centers
- Illegal gold mining, mercury is a main source of pollution for rivers and contamination of freshwater fishes. It is also a big health problem for communities living at the rivers
- Unregulated hunting
- Invasive flora (e.g. *Acacia mangium*)
- Unsustainable fishing activities related to illegal fishing

### Current investments

Life+ Cap DOM

Creation of a marine ZNIEFF (*Zone naturelle d'intérêt écologique, faunistique et floristique*)

Update of terrestrial ZNIEFFs

Annual budgets for the seven Natural Reserves (€1.46 million)

Annual budget for the two Natural Parks

National action plan for marine turtles in French Guiana

### Critical areas for action

#### Marine environment

Sea mounts, rocky seabeds, migration corridors: these areas provide habitat for benthic fishes as well as rare and unique species

Continental slopes.

#### Coastal environment

Mangroves, mudflats and estuaries: these ecosystems maintain water quality and clarity, serve as nursery for fish and invertebrates, shelter a great avifauna, and protect the shorelines from erosion.

Turtle nesting areas

Dry and flood savannahs, coastline forests on rocks, forests on white sands and sandbanks ("*forêts sur cordons sableux*"): these rare and unique ecosystems represent a potential resource for building material.

#### Terrestrial environment

Lot of the terrestrial areas are ecological corridors linking reservoirs of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity within the territory, which may shelter a lot of endemic species. Although they have suffered only little fragmentation in the past they remain very fragile and are also threatened by illegal gold mining.

### Investment niches

Except for marine turtles, environmental issues related to marine biodiversity have not drawn a lot of attention yet in French Guiana.

Regional cooperation at the Guiana Shield level needs to be developed, particularly protected areas management and promoting environmental-friendly practices.

## Important conservation activities

### Parc Amazonien de Guyane

**Annual budget:** €7 million

**Activities:** National park created in 2007, aiming to preserve and add value to the incredible biodiversity but also the cultural aspects of communities living in the park by helping them to develop sustainably.

**Results:** Development of a Charter for the territories, monitoring of wildlife and gold mining activities, etc.

### Plan de restauration des tortues marines en Guyane

**Budget:** €3 million

**Activities:** Implemented by WWF and ONCFS (*Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage*) under the direction of DEAL (*Direction de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement*). Activities were planned on a 5-year basis (2007-2012). The project was focused on the conservation of three turtle species: *Dermodochelys coriacea*, *Lepidochelys olivacea* and *Chelonia mydas*.

**Results:** The use of TTED (Trash and Turtle Excluder Device) being obligatory in 2010, public awareness raised, Sandwatch beach monitoring strengthened and local authorities involved in marine turtle conservation.

### Life+ CAP DOM

**Budget:** €2.3 million for Martinique, Réunion, Guiana

**Activities:** Conservation of priority bird species in the French Overseas departments (2010-2015). Project coordinated by GEPOG (*Groupe d'Étude et de Protection des Oiseaux en Guyane*) and steered by *la Région* and the DEAL. In the dry savannahs, experiments carried out on techniques to manage invasive flora, slash and burn practices and reclamation following agricultural use. Gained more knowledge on the species cock-of-the-rock and, in consultation with the businesses and institutions involved, access to the most exposed caves will be restricted and certain sites classified as non-exploitable. Bird-watching tourism adapted. Started developing the first conservation plan for the species *agami heron*. Assessment of the status of sites of national interest for avifauna and implementation of a monitoring protocol (**STOC-EPS**) for common birds.

**Results:** New management techniques developed for the savannahs. Coq-of-the-rock diet studied in order to understand its habitat. Argos tracking to understand the ecology and behaviour of *agami herons*. Monitoring protocol STOC-EPS implemented and observers trained.

### Useful links

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/best/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/best/index_en.htm)

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<http://www.cr-guyane.fr/>

<http://www.cg973.fr/>

<http://www.ademe-guyane.fr/>

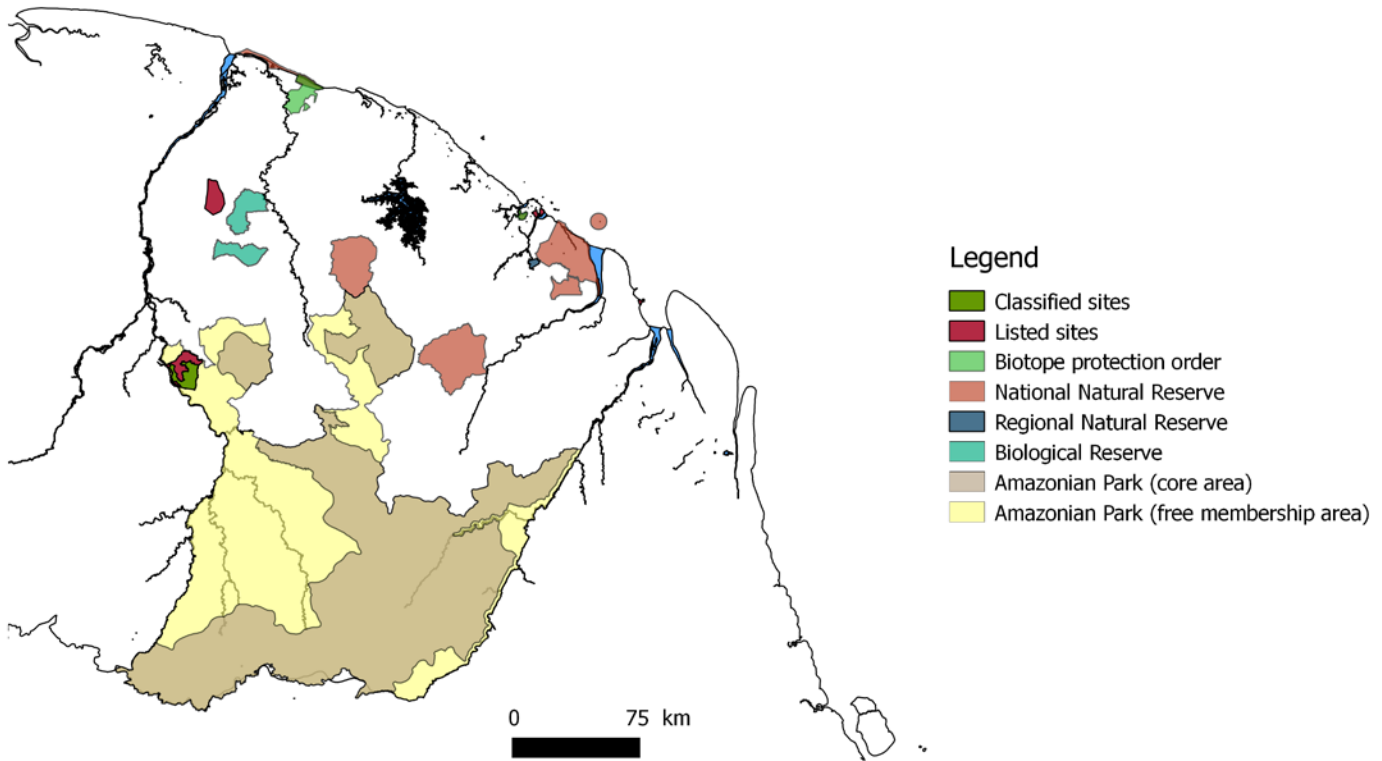
<http://www.guianashield.org/>

<http://www.guyane.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>

<http://guyane.wwf.fr/>

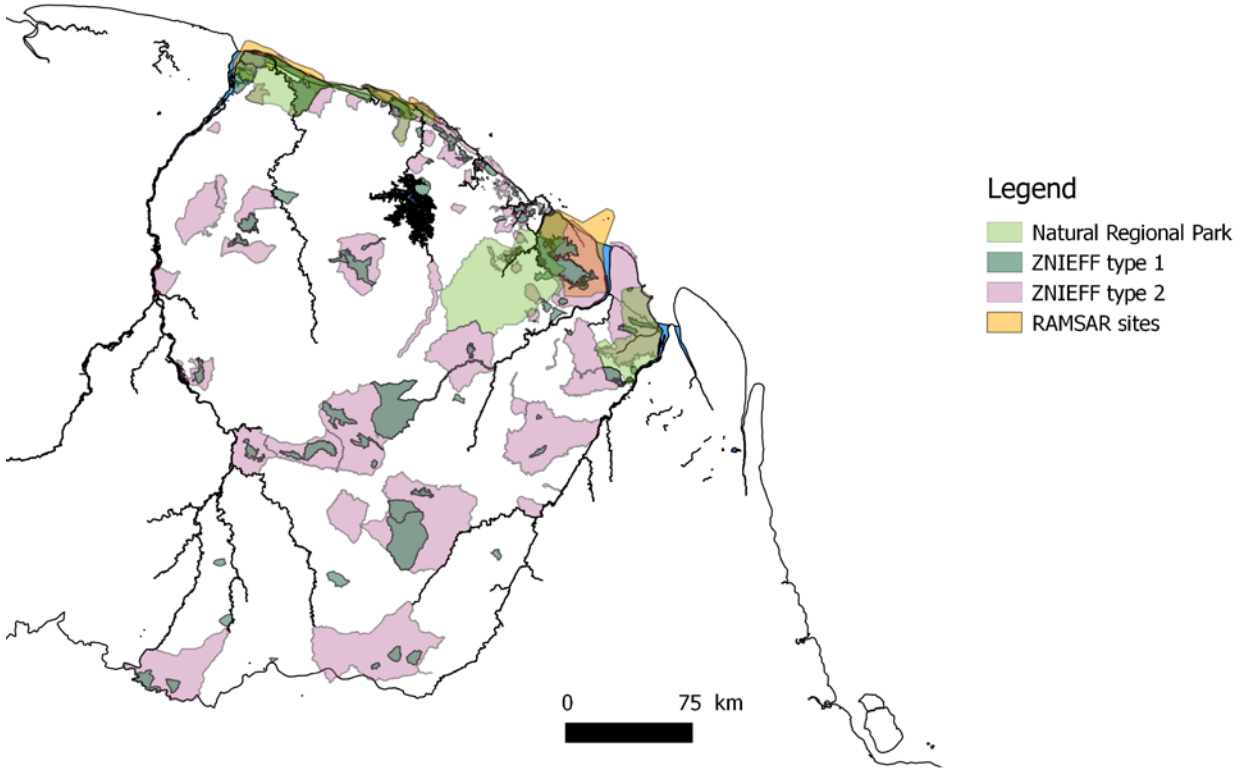


## Protected Areas in French Guiana



1:2 Protected Areas in French Guiana. Source: GéoGuyane (2014)

## Labelled Areas and inventories in French Guiana



1:3 Labelled Areas and inventories in French Guiana. Source: GéoGuyane (2014)