



## **Guinea**

### **Media and telecommunications landscape guide**

**April 2011**

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## 1. Introduction:

Guinea is one of the poorest and most rundown countries in West Africa.

But it should be rich. Guinea is the world's largest producer of bauxite.

This former French colony in West Africa also has large reserves of gold, diamonds and iron ore.

Guinea is a green and fertile country of 10 million people. It has good potential for agriculture. Yet it is heavily dependent on imports of its staple food rice.

The country suffered a steady economic decline during its first half century of independence under the autocratic rule of two authoritarian presidents; Ahmed Sekou Toure and Lansana Conte.

Today, its infrastructure is decayed, its people are poor and its politics are dangerously divided along ethnic lines.

However, in 2010, Guinea began to experiment for the first time with political freedom and genuine democracy.

Opposition parties were legalized for the first time in 1992. But genuine political liberalization only began following the death in office of President Lansana Conte in December 2008.

He had been in power for 24 years and left no obvious successor.



Source: ESRI ArcWorld, DCW

A military government led by junior army officers seized power after Conte's death and promised to lead Guinea to free elections and a new era of civilian government.

However, splits within the military establishment and the violent suppression of opposition demonstrations by the army nearly derailed the fragile democratization process.

Army Captain Moussa Dadis Camara led the military junta that took power after Conte's death.

He initially pledged not to stand as a presidential candidate in the 2010 elections. But a few months later Camara changed his mind and began hinting that he would stand for election after all.

Camara's increasingly unpopular rule eventually provoked protest demonstrations in the capital Conakry in September 2009.

These were brutally repressed by the army. Human rights groups said at least 157 people were killed in a sports stadium when soldiers opened fire on demonstrators and sexually assaulted women.

Camara was forcibly removed from the political scene three months later. In December 2009, he was shot and seriously wounded by one of his aides in an apparent assassination attempt.

After medical treatment in Morocco, Camara went quietly into exile.

General Sekouba Konate, a former ally of Camara who opposed his bid to remain president, assumed power as interim head of state. He guided Guinea through presidential elections in June 2010 and a second round run-off between the two leading contenders in November.

Konate finally handed over power to his elected successor, Alpha Conde, in December 2010.

However, the electoral process was marred by ethnic violence between Guinea's three main ethnic groups – the the Peul, the Malinke and the Soussou.

Not surprisingly, the vote split along ethnic lines.

The Malinke people rallied to veteran opposition leader Alpha Conde and his *Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinee* (RPG) party.

The Peul meanwhile supported Cellou Dalein Diallo, a former prime minister under Lansana Conte, and his *Union des Forces Democratiques de Guinee* (UFDG).

There were frequent clashes between Malinkes and Peuls as the two main parties traded accusations of fraud.

The Sousou tribe, to which the late president Conte belonged, mostly swung behind Alpha Conde.

Conde won the second round run-off with 53% of the vote, according to official results.

Diallo alleged fraud, but eventually conceded defeat, allowing Conde to be sworn in as president in December 2010.

Despite the relatively peaceful transition to civilian rule, ethnic tensions continue to simmer.

Political analysts feared that they could boil over again as Guinea headed towards parliamentary elections in late 2011.

Guinea also faces possible destabilization as a result of problems in neighbouring countries

During the 1990s, Guinea hosted up to 800,000 refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone after these two countries collapsed into civil war.

The Guinean government gave covert support to rebels opposing President Charles Taylor in Liberia.

Taylor retaliated in kind. In 2000 the government in Conakry was forced to repel a Taylor-backed invasion of central Guinea by gunmen from Liberia.

By 2011, Sierra Leone and Liberia were both at peace again under the rule of elected governments. Nearly all the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea had gone home.

However, Guinea remained vulnerable to instability spilling over the border from its neighbours.

Guinea-Bissau, to the north, had fallen under the influence of South American drug smugglers and was regarded by many diplomats as a failed state.

Guinea-Conakry has also been used as a transit point for drug smuggling from South America into Europe.

In early 2011, Guinea's eastern neighbor Cote d'Ivoire relapsed into full-scale civil war after seven years of armed truce between rival factions controlling the north and the south of the country.

Peace and democracy in Liberia and Sierra Leone meanwhile remained fragile.

The official language of Guinea is **French**. It is used widely in government, business and the media.

The main African languages spoken are **Soussou**, **Malinke** (also known as **Maninka**) and **Peul** (also known as **Pular**). These and several other local languages are also widely used on radio.

**Peul** is the most widely spoken local language in Guinea.

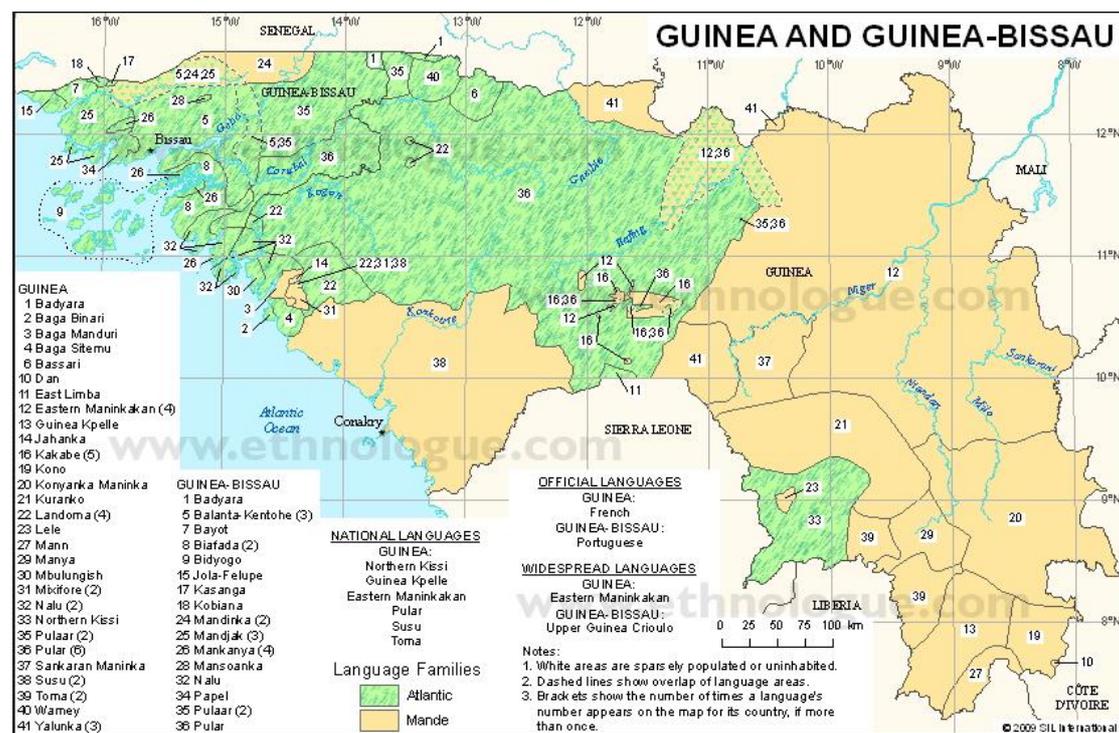
It is spoken by 40% of the population and dominates the Fouta Djallon highlands in the centre and north of the country.

The language of the **Malinke** people is a dialect of Mandingo, a language spoken in several West African countries.

**Malinke** is spoken by about 30% of the population. It is most common in northern and eastern parts of Guinea and neighbouring parts of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Mali.

**Soussou** is mainly spoken in the southwestern coastal area around Conakry. It is the mother tongue of about 20% of the population.

**Kissi** and **Kpelle** are widely spoken along parts of the southern border with Sierra Leone and Liberia. Several other local languages are spoken in the ethnically diverse Forest Region of southeastern Guinea, whose capital is the city of Nzerekore.



Language map of Guinea and Guinea Bissau- [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com)

About 85% of the population of Guinea are Sunni Muslims.

About 8% are Christian. However, Christians, despite their minority status, are heavily represented in the country's educated elite.

The remaining 7% follow traditional animist religions.

Radio is the most common medium for disseminating information to the public. A government-run network of 23 community stations called **Radio Rurale** covers most of the interior.

Poor infrastructure, widespread poverty, low levels of literacy and tight government control of the media, have hampered the development of television and newspapers.

Only one in three adults can read and write.

Since the liberalization of broadcasting was first announced in 2005, at least 17 private radio stations have been established.

They now challenge the long-standing monopoly of the state broadcaster Radiodiffusion-Télévision Guinéenne (RTG) in Conakry and a handful of other towns in the interior.

Television remains a state monopoly, but it only reaches Conakry and a handful of other large towns.

Newspapers barely circulate outside the capital.

The use of mobile telephones, particularly for SMS messaging, is increasing rapidly.

5.7 million people – just over half the population – owned a mobile phone in late 2010, according to the GSM Association, which groups the world's main mobile phone companies.

During the 2010 presidential elections, the crisis reporting platform Ushahidi [www.ushahidi.com](http://www.ushahidi.com), was used by the NGO *Alliance Guinea* [www.allianceguinea.org](http://www.allianceguinea.org) to collate several hundred reports of alleged voting irregularities from people on the ground.

These reports were sent to the site via text messages and email in real time.

The Ushahidi program allowed Alliance Guinea to track and map trouble hot spots and work with the Guinean Electoral Commission to tackle corruption and electoral impropriety.

Ushahidi was also used to monitor outbreaks of violence.

However, in November 2010, as the country waited for the official results of the presidential election to be announced, the government blocked all SMS messages for several days. It said SMS messages were being used to incite violence and spread hate speech.

Internet penetration in Guinea is extremely low. Only 95,000 of the population actively used the internet in 2009 – less than one percent of the population, according to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

However, plans to link Conakry to a submarine fibre-optic cable in 2011 could dramatically improve broadband services and reduce the cost of internet access.

### Guinea at a glance:

Population	10.3 million (UN 2010)
Main languages	French (Official language) Soussou, Peul, Malinke, Kissi and Kpelle.
GDP per capita	\$1000 (2009)
Adult literacy rate	38% (UNESCO 2008)
Radio ownership	<b>NEED INFO</b>
TV set ownership	47 per 1,000 (CFI)
Mobile phone penetration	Over 50% of the population (GSMA 2010)
Mobile network coverage	73% of population and 13% of territory (Agence de Regulation des Postes et Telecommunications 2011)
Internet subscribers	95,000 (ITU 2009)
Ranking in UN Human Development Index 2010	156 (out of 182)
Ranking in RSF World Press Freedom Index 2010	113 (out of 178)

## 2. Media overview:

Radio is the dominant form of mass communication in Guinea.

However, broadcasting remains heavily dominated by the state media.

The government's radio and TV stations have acted as a tightly controlled propaganda tool for the government ever since independence in 1958.

Guinea's transition to elected government since 2008 has done little to change that.

Press freedom is a relatively new concept in the country.

The first private radio station began broadcasting in 2006. Since then at least 17 private FM stations have been licensed to operate across Guinea.

Most are concentrated in the capital Conakry, but a handful serve large towns in the interior, such as **Kankan, Labe, Nzerekore, Siguiri, Faranah** and **Coyah**.

Private newspapers have been allowed to exist since 1991. However, newspaper readership remains small and is largely confined to educated and relatively affluent people in the capital.

Restrictive media laws, government interference, intimidation, physical violence and a lack of funding, have all contributed to a difficult media environment.

Violence against journalists became common-place in 2009 and 2010 during the difficult two-year transition to democracy.

According to the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org) and the US based media development organization IREX [www.irex.org](http://www.irex.org) many journalists were physically attacked. Most radio stations and newspapers found themselves practicing self-censorship to avoid retribution during this period.

Following the bloody repression of the September 2009 demonstrations in Conakry against the military government led by Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, several journalists fled the country. Some private media also suspended operations temporarily for fear of recriminations.

In the past, the government used restrictive media laws to imprison critical journalists and shut down opposition media outlets on charges of defamation.

However, these were replaced with new more liberal media laws in 2010.

The international freedom of expression organization **Article 19** [www.article19.org](http://www.article19.org) welcomed the new legislation as a significant step towards genuine press freedom.

The new media laws have removed prison sentences for defamation cases. They have also adopted a narrower legal definition of defamation and have made the offence much harder to prove in court.

The 2010 media laws created a new regulatory body for the sector called the *Haute Autorite de Communication* or **Higher Authority of Communication (HAC)**.

This provides for much stronger representation of media interests in its membership than its predecessor, the *Conseil National de Communication (CNC)* or **National Communication Council**.

However, in early 2011, the HAC was still not operational, so the CNC continued to function as Guinea's de facto media regulator.

The new media laws give legal recognition to the growing number of online media news websites and radio stations that have become important sources of independent information in recent years.

The state broadcaster, **Radiodiffusion-Télévision Guinéenne (RTG)**, operates a national radio service, which is variously called **Radio Nationale** or **Radio Guinéenne**. This broadcasts nationwide on FM from 29 transmitters across the country.

Radio Guinéenne also provides news bulletins and programme content for a government-run network of local 23 FM stations called **Radio Rurale de Guinée**.

The Radio Rurale stations, are nominally independent from RTG, but they rebroadcast its main daily news programme in **French** and translate some of its other programming into local languages.

The Radio Rurale stations are often the only radio outlets available in remote and otherwise media dark areas of the interior.

International broadcasters also form part of the Guinean radio media landscape.

**BBC World Service** and **Radio France Internationale** both use FM relay stations and partner stations to broadcast news and programmes in **French** in **Conakry** and a handful of other large towns.

**RTG** retains its monopoly on television in Guinea, but its terrestrial broadcasts only reach Conakry and the main cities of the interior.

Television does not command a wide audience and is completely absent from most rural areas. There are only 47 television sets per 1,000 people in Guinea, according to the French media development organization Canal France International (CFI).

Satellite television is available, but is not widely accessed.

There is only one daily newspaper in Guinea – the official government newspaper **Horoya**. However, this prints less than 1,000 copies per day and is barely read outside government circles.

Several small weekly newspapers are published in Conakry. However, sales are low – no publication sells more than a few thousand copies.

Very few newspapers of any kind are distributed outside the capital.

According to UNESCO, in 2008 only 38% of Guineans over the age of 15 could read and write.

### 3. Radio:

Widespread poverty and high rates of illiteracy mean that radio is the most popular method of accessing information in Guinea.

Audience participation programmes are extremely popular. Most private FM stations have at least one daily phone –in show.

Many of the community stations in the government's **Radio Rurale** network also broadcast phone-ins and round-table debates where local people have their say on topical local issues.

The government began to license private radio stations in 2005, ending a half century monopoly of the air waves by the state broadcaster **Radiodiffusion-Television Guinéenne (RTG)**.

RTG operates two stations;

- **Radio Guinéenne** also widely known as **Radio Nationale**, broadcasts nationwide on FM from Conakry
- **Radio Kaloum Stereo (RKS)** is an FM entertainment station that broadcasts to Conakry and the surrounding area.

RTG also provides news and programming for **Radio Rurale de Guinée**, a government-run network of 23 local FM stations in the interior of Guinea.

Whereas **RTG** broadcasts mainly in French, **Radio Rurale** makes extensive use of local languages.

The first private radio station to open in Guinea was **Radio Nostalgie** in Conakry. It began broadcasting in 2006.

By the end of 2010, there were at least 17 private radio stations on air in Guinea.

Most were based in **Conakry**, but there were also private radio stations challenging the state's monopoly of the air waves in **Coyah, Labe, Kankan, Nzerekore, Faranah** and **Siguiri**.

Poor funding and intermittent military aggression have made life difficult for the private radio stations.

Many of them suffered intimidation and violent attack during the political transition years of 2009 and 2010.

As a result, they practice heavy self-censorship to stay out of trouble.

In some cases, editorial independence has been sacrificed for financial gain.

According to media sources, many private radio stations allow their news coverage and editorial line to be influenced by payments from political and religious interest groups.

In addition to the private FM stations broadcasting in Guinea, there are also several internet radio stations that broadcast over the web from overseas.

These include **Radio Kankan** [www.radio-kankan.com](http://www.radio-kankan.com) based in Germany, and **Radio Indiana Guinee** [www.barkere.net](http://www.barkere.net) which operates from the United States.

## 4. Radio stations

### Government radio stations

#### **Radiodiffusion-Television Guinéenne (RTG)** [www.rtg-conakry.com](http://www.rtg-conakry.com)

RTG is Guinea's state broadcaster. It runs the country's only nationwide radio and television services.

Until recently, RTG and its sister organization **Radio Rurale de Guinée** enjoyed a complete monopoly of both radio and television.

However, in 2006, the first private radio stations opened in Conakry and began to compete with RTG and Radio Rurale for audiences.

In early 2011 RTG still retained a complete monopoly on television broadcasting in Guinea.

The organization has always been widely viewed as a biased news provider that broadcasts propaganda on behalf of the government.

The advent of elected government in December 2010 did little to change that.

In early 2011, RTG was churning out news and programming that was heavily biased in favour of President Alpha Conde and his government.

In accordance with its long established practice, the state broadcaster gave virtually no airtime to the president's critics.

RTG operates two radio stations from its headquarters in Conakry. Both broadcast mainly in **French**.

#### **Radio Guinéenne/Radio Nationale 88.5 FM**

This is the national radio service of RTG. The names Radio Guinéenne and Radio Nationale are used interchangeably.

It broadcasts on 88.5 FM to Conakry and the surrounding area and from 29 relay stations that cover about half the main towns in the interior of Guinea.

The station stopped broadcasting on short wave several years ago after its short wave transmitters broke down.

Radio Guinéenne is on air from 06.00 until midnight.

It broadcasts mainly in **French**, but also uses several local languages. These include **Peul, Malinke, Soussou, Guerze, Kissi** and **Toma** .

The flagship daily news programme goes out at 19.45.

This news programme is also relayed by the **Radio Rurale de Guinée** network of 23 local radio stations in the interior.

Many of the Radio Rurale stations are based in remote parts of the country where no other FM stations are available.

The link with Radio Rurale helps to extend the reach of Radio Guinéenne.

Its own transmitters in the interior are frequently out of action due to electricity supply problems.

Radio Guineene has FM repeater stations in the following towns:

**Beyla**  
**Boffa**  
**Boké**  
**Dabola**  
**Dalaba**  
**Dinguiraye**  
**Faranah**  
**Fria**  
**Gaoual**  
**Gueckedou**  
**Kankan**  
**Kérouané**  
**Kindia**  
**Kissidougou**  
**Koubia**  
**Koundara**  
**Kouroussa**  
**Labé**  
**Lélouma**  
**Lola**  
**Mali**  
**Macenta**  
**Mamou**  
**Mandiana**  
**Nzérérekoré**  
**Siguiri**  
**Télémélé**  
**Tougué**  
**Yomou**

Director of Radio Nationale/Radio Guineene – Kaba Conde

Mob: 0224 60 29 04 12

## Radio Kaloum Stereo 94.9 FM (RKS)

RKS is a music and entertainment radio station.

It broadcasts in **French** from 08.00 until midnight in **Conakry** only.

There are short news bulletins on the hour and longer 15-minute news programmes at 15.00 and 19.00.

RKS also carries a lot of sports coverage.

The station mainly targets young people, but in recent years it has lost audience heavily to the private FM stations in Conakry

RKS Director - Ibrahima Barry  
Mob : +224 60 33 30 88

Editor in Chief - Oumou Hawa Sylla  
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+224 68 18 03 04  
Email: [info@rtg-conakry.com](mailto:info@rtg-conakry.com)

## Radio Rurale de Guinée

Radio Rurale de Guinee is a government-owned network of 23 local FM stations that covers most of the interior.

There is a Radio Rurale station in the headquarters town of most of Guinea's 33 prefectures (administrative divisions).

The first two Radios Rurales were set up in the early 1990s.

By 2011 Radio Rurale claimed that its network covered 90% of Guinea's land area.

There are four regional stations based in **Kindia, Kankan, Labe** and **Nzérékoré**. Each of these covers several prefectures with the help of multiple FM transmitter sites.

In addition there are 19 community stations in prefecture headquarters towns. These have only one or two transmitters and a much smaller reach.

All Radio Rurale stations relay Radio Guinéenne's main evening news programme in **French** at 19.45.

Most of their own programming is in local languages.

Much of it deals with farming, health, education and social and economic development issues that directly concern their local audience

The Radios Rurales also broadcast a lot of programmes that encourage nation building and national unity.

Most of the stations broadcast for two periods each day. Most are on air for a few hours in the morning and again at night, although some only broadcast in the evening.

In February 2011, the network ordered all its stations to standardize their transmission times.

The 19 smaller stations are supposed to be on air for eight hours per day from 07.00 to 11.00 and again from 19.00 to 23.00.

The four larger regional stations are supposed to operate for 12 hours per day from 06.00 to 12.00 and again from 18.00 to midnight

However, in practice, many of the Radios Rurales are unable to follow these guidelines.

All the stations are dependent on generators. These frequently break down or run short of fuel, so in practice Radio Rurale broadcasts are often irregular.

Staff salaries are paid by the government.

But each station is expected to raise revenue from advertising to purchase generator fuel and cover other running costs.

Many of the Radio Rurale stations were set up with the help of grants from foreign donors, such as UNICEF and FAO, the governments of Netherlands Italy, the international children's NGO Plan and the National Committee for the Fight against HIV/AIDS.

In many cases their equipment is old and nearing the end of its useful life.

Director General – Hawa Camille Camara

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Email: [ruralqui@mirinet.net.gn](mailto:ruralqui@mirinet.net.gn)

## **Regional Radio Rurale stations**

### **Radio Rurale de Basse Guinée 98.7FM, 99.2FM and 99.3 FM**

This radio station is based in **Kindia**, about 130 km northeast of Conakry.

Its broadcasts reach all the coastal prefectures of Guinea, along with parts of **Sierra Leone** to the south and **Guinea-Bissau** to the north.

85% of the radio station's output is in local languages, particularly **Soussou**.

It also carries programmes in **Peul, Malinke, Kissi, Toma, Guerzé, Baga** and **Dialonké**.

Most of the programmes deal with farming issues, health and hygiene and local culture and traditions.

Radio Rurale Basse Guinée broadcasts from several different transmitters on 98.7FM, 99.2FM and 99.3 FM.

It can be heard clearly in the prefectures of Kindia, Boffa, Fria, Coyah, Dubrékah and Forécariah.

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### **Radio Rurale de Moyenne Guinée 103.1 FM**

The radio station is based in **Labé** in the Fouta Djallon highlands of west central Guinea.

It covers the prefecture of Labé and parts of Lélouma, Tougué, Pita, and Dalaba to the south and east.

Most of the programming is in **Peul**, but some is in **French**.

The station broadcasts a daily regional news programme in Peul.

In February 2011, the station was operating on a reduced schedule because of electricity cuts, fuel shortages and problems in getting its ancient generator to work.

Radio Rurale Moyenne Guinée was one of the first two Radio Rurale stations to be set up in the early 1990s. Much of its analogue equipment dates from that era.

The radio station remains popular in rural areas, but has lost much of its audience in the city of Labé to privately owned competitors.

Director - Mamadou Bhoie Barry, widely known as “Colonel”

Mob: +224 60 52 07 36

Head of Programmes- Madame Aissatou Bah

Mob : +224 60 57 44 29

### **Radio Rurale d'Haute Guinée 93.0 FM**

This regional station broadcasts from the city of **Kankan** in east central Guinea.

It covers the prefectures of Kankan, Faranah, Kissidougou, Dabola, Dinguiraye, Siguiiri, Kouroussa, Kérouané and Mandiana.

About 95% of the broadcasts are in **Malinke**. The remaining 5% are in **French**.

The station has a large network of local correspondents in the region, most of whom are teachers.

It broadcasts a lot of round table discussions. Many of these are staged in villages with strong participation from local people.

Like many stations in the network, Radio Rurale Haute Guinée suffers chronic problems with its aged and worn out generator. As a result the station suffers frequent disruption to its broadcast schedule.

Director - Sorel Bolocada Cissé  
 Mob: +224 60 58 06 04  
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Head of Programmes - Faceli Condé  
 Mob: +224 62 45 69 05

### **Radio Rurale de Guinée Forestiere**

This regional station broadcasts from **Nzérékoré**, the capital of the Forest Region in Southeastern Guinea.

It covers a potential audience of nearly 650,000 people in the prefectures of Nzérékoré, Macenta, Beyla, Lola and Yomou.

The station can also be heard in the Biankouma, Danané and Man districts of nearby **Cote d'Ivoire** and in Nimba County in northern **Liberia**.

Radio Rurale Guinée Forestiere broadcasts mainly in **Kissi, Toma, Guerzé Mano** and **Konianké**.

Only a handful of nationally networked programmes and public announcements are made in **French**.

The station has a strong rural audience.

Radio Rurale Guinée Forestiere has a single studio, which contains a mixture of old analogue and newer digital equipment.

Director - Christophe Millimono  
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Head of Programmes - Madame Edith Koivogui  
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## **Radio Rurale local community stations**

### **Radio Rurale de Beyla 94.4FM and 98.2 FM**

This radio station was established in **Beyla** in the extreme southeast of Guinea in 2008 with the help of Italian government aid.

Italy has also supported several women's organizations in Beyla. The district is being developed by Rio Tinto as a major iron mining centre.

Radio Rurale de Beyla broadcasts on different frequencies from two separate transmitters. One of 300 watts is in Beyla town. The other of 100 watts is located near the Cote d'Ivoire border.

Between them, these two transmitters cover 11 of the 13 administrative districts of Beyla prefecture and parts of neighbouring Kerouane and Lola.

Since the 100 watt relay station is only 13 km from the frontier, Radio Rurale de Beyla can also be heard across the border in **Cote d'Ivoire**.

The station broadcasts for eight hours a day in **Guerzé, Konia and Malinke**.

It is on air eight hours a day, from 07.00 to 10.00 in the morning and again from 18.00 to 23.00 at night.

The radio employs 12 people and has two motorbikes for field reporting.

Director – Abdoulaye Yattara  
Mob: +224 62 02 60 20  
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### **Radio Rurale de Bissikirimá 91.0 FM**

This radio station is situated in **Bissikirimá** in Dabola prefecture in central Guinea.

Bissikirimá lies on the main road that goes along the spine of Guinea from Conakry to Kankan.

The station was launched in 2005 and broadcasts mainly in **Peul** and **Malinke**. **French** is used for public announcements.

Its 300 watt transmitter covers seven of the eight districts of Dabola prefecture and parts of neighbouring Faranah, Kouroussa and Dinguiraye.

The station has two studios and employs 11 staff. It has three motorbikes for reporting.

The station's programmes focus mainly on farming, environmental issues, water hygiene, women's issues and the promotion of education for girls.

Contact: Fatoumata Nagbe Bamba  
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### **Radio Rurale de Boké 95.3 FM**

This radio station broadcasts from the bauxite mining town of **Boké**, situated on the coastal plain near the border with Guinea-Bissau.

Its 1,000 watt transmitter was donated by the local mining companies Alcan and ALCOA.

The station broadcasts mainly in **Soussou**. It also carries some programming in **Peul**, **Nalou** and **Landouma**.

Its signal covers the prefecture of Boké and also reaches parts of neighbouring Téliémélé, Boffa and Gaoual.

The station can also be heard in most parts of southern **Guinea-Bissau**. Its signal even reaches the capital Bissau

The programming focuses on farming, environmental and health issues, community affairs and arts and culture.

Radio Rurale de Boké's local news programme *Le Journal du Paysan* is broadcast daily at 21.15

Director - Madame Bah Bintou Rabi  
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Head of Programmes - Amadou Camara  
 Mob: +224 62 27 34 95

### **Radio Rurale de Dagomet**

In early 2011, this radio station at **Dagomet** in the Dabola prefecture of east central Guinea, had been built, but had not yet started to broadcast.

### **Radio Rurale de Dinguiraye 98.6 FM**

This radio station broadcasts from **Dinguiraye**, an Islamic shrine in north central Guinea.

Much of its programming is devoted to religious issues and the promotion of Islam.

The station broadcasts mainly in **Peul** and **Malinke**.

Its 300 watt transmitter covers four of the seven districts of Dinguiraye prefecture and parts of neighbouring Dabola, Kouroussa and Siguri.

Radio Rurale de Dinguiraye is on air for seven hours a day, from 07.00 to 10.00 in the morning and again from 18.00 to 23.00 in the evening.

It employs 10 staff and has two motorbikes for reporting

Contact – Dantily Camara  
 Mob: +224 60 32 28 72  
 +224 68 71 30 04

### **Radio Rurale Faranah 88.2 FM**

This radio station broadcasts from the town of **Faranah** in south central Guinea.

It covers the prefecture of Faranah and can sometimes be heard in the border area of nearby **Sierra Leone**

The station broadcasts mainly in **Peul**, **Sankaran**, **Kouranko** and **Dialonké**.

It has two studios, one of which was not working in early 2011.

Like many radios rurales, the Faranah station is plagued by energy problems. In early 2011, it was only on air for six hours a day.

The station broadcasts a daily local news programme *Je Journal du Paysan* in local languages at 20.40.

It also broadcasts a lot of music and programmes about education and health. It particularly encourages parents to send their daughters to school.

Director - Lamine Oularé

Mob : +224 60 58 15 92

+224 62 24 30 12

+224 64 37 89 91

Head of Programmes - Tady Ibrahima Camara

Mob : +224 64 50 98 91

### **Radio Rurale de Gaoual 98.6 FM**

This radio station, based in **Gaoual** in northwestern Guinea, was launched in 2010.

Its 500 watt transmitter covers the prefecture of Gaoual and parts of the neighbouring Guinean prefectures of Mali, Lelouma and Télémélé.

Radio Rurale de Gaoual can also be heard in nearby parts of Guinea-Bissau as far west at Gabu.

The station broadcasts in **Peul, Diakanké** and **Wamé**.

Much of its programming deals with bush fire prevention and the resolution of local conflicts between farmers and cattle herders, which are very common in this part of Guinea.

Electricity supply problems meant that in early 2011 the radio was only on air for three hours a day from 19.00 to 22.00.

The station has one studio and employs eight staff.

Director – Sidi Diallo

Mob : +224 62 12 43 92

+224 68 16 93 46

### **Radio Rurale de Gueckedou**

This radio station is situated in **Gueckedou** in southeastern Guinea, close to the point where the borders of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia meet.

This area was drawn into the conflicts which affected all three countries over the past 20 years.

It is also plagued by local conflicts between farmers and cattle herders.

Much of the station's programming is devoted to conflict prevention and the promotion of peace.

The station was launched with financial assistance from the children's NGO Plan International and opened in 2007.

Radio Rurale de Gueckedou broadcasts in seven languages; **Kissi, Lélé, Malinke, Peul, Loma, Guerzé and French.**

French is mainly used for public announcements.

The station's 300 watt transmitter covers all of Gueckedou prefecture and parts of neighbouring Kissidougou and Macenta.

Since Gueckedou is only 3 km from the frontier, the radio station is also heard in nearby parts of Lofa County in **Liberia** and Koydu district in **Sierra Leone**

It is on air for eight hours per day, from 07.00 to 10.00 in the morning and again from 18.00 to 23.00 at night.

Director – Gnouma Camara  
Tel: +224 60 52 56 74  
+224 65 79 21 78

### **Radio Rurale de Kérouané 92.2FM**

This radio station is based in **Kérouané**, a diamond mining town in Kankan province in southeastern Guinea.

It broadcasts in **Konia, Malinke and Kouranko.**

The station's low-powered 300 watt transmitter only allows it to reach five of the seven sub-divisions of Kérouané prefecture and parts of neighbouring Kankan and Beyla.

Many of its programmes deal with the traditional music, rites and ceremonies of the area.

Some also focus on environmental issues, such as the pollution created by mining and the danger of bush fires.

Radio Rurale Kérouané enjoys a large audience in rural communities.

Director - Malomady Kanté

Mob : +224 64 93 95 44

+224 60 58 37 47

+224 62 08 10 15

Head of Programmes - Kaba Djeby

Mob : +224 64 75 28 87

### **Radio Rurale de Kissidougou 95.4FM and 98.1 FM**

This radio station broadcasts from **Kissidougou** in the Forest Region of southeastern Guinea, close to the border with Sierra Leone.

It covers the prefectures of Kissidougou and parts of neighbouring Faranah, Kankan et Kérouané.

Nearly all the broadcasts are in local languages: **Kissi, Kouranko, Lélé Malinke** and **Peul**.

However, public announcements and advertisements are made in **French**.

The station broadcasts a daily regional news programme called *Journal du Paysan* in several local languages at 20.20.

Director: Madame Diallo Fatou Traoré

Mob: +224 62 00 60 77

Head of Programmes - Ibrahima Robert Kamano

Mob: +224 60 36 25 43

### **Radio Rurale de Koundara 98.6 FM**

This small radio station is based in **Koundara** in northern Guinea, close to the point where the frontiers of Guinea, Senegal and Guinea Bissau meet.

The town lies on the main road from Conakry to these two neighbouring countries.

Radio Rurale de Koundara was set up with finance from the nearby Nikolo Badiar national park. Much of the radio's programming focuses on wildlife conservation and the discouragement of poaching.

Its broadcasts have been credited with helping to reduce poaching within the national park, which now boasts an abundance of wildlife.

The station's 300 watt transmitter covers the prefecture of Koundara and parts of Gaoual.

It can also be heard in nearby border areas of **Senegal** and **Guinea-Bissau**.

The station has just one studio with a single microphone.

However, it employs 14 people who produce programming in six local languages; **Peul, Badjaranké, Koniagui, Bassari, Mandingo** and **Fulakunda**.

Radio Rurale de Koundara normally broadcasts for four hours in the evening from 18.30 to 23.00.

Director – Ibrahima Tanou Diallo  
Mob: +224 64 69 88 38

### **Radio Rurale de Kouroussa**

This radio station is situated in **Kouroussa** in east central Guinea on the edge of the Haut Niger national park.

Telephone communication with Kouroussa is difficult and information about this station was not available in early 2011.

### **Radio Rurale de Macenta 98.2 FM and 88.6 FM**

This radio station is based at **Macenta**, near the Liberian border, in southeast Guinea.

It produces several audience participation programmes that discuss topical issues in local languages. These live debates are extremely popular.

The station has two transmitters of 500 watts and 300 watts respectively.

One is located at the summit of Mount Ziama at an altitude of 1,387 metres. The Ziama Massif is a World Biosphere Reserve, renowned for the diversity of its birdlife.

The high elevation of the mast on Mount Ziama gives Radio Rurale de Macenta coverage of the whole of Macenta prefecture, along with nearby parts of Nzérékoré, Beyla Kérouané Kissidougou, Gueckedou, Lola and Yomou.

Its signal also reaches into Northwestern **Liberia** and into **Cote d'Ivoire** as far as **Danane**

The station broadcasts in **Loma, Mania, Kissi, Guerzé, Malinke** and **French**.

It was set up with help from Radio Netherlands, the World Bank and Guinea's *Comite National de Lutte contre le Sida (CNLS)* (National Committee for the Fight against HIV/AIDS).

Radio Rurale de Macenta broadcasts for eight hours per day, from 07.00 to 10.00 in the morning, and again from 18.00 to 23.00 at night.

It has two studios.

Director - René Cécé Sagno

Mob: +224 67 58 90 30

+224 60 58 90 30

### **Radio Rurale de Mali 101.6 FM**

This radio station is situated in the small town of **Mali** in the picturesque Fouta Djallon highlands of west central Guinea.

Mali is something of a tourist centre and draws many visitors, attracted by the surrounding scenery.

The radio station was launched in 2010 and broadcasts for just 3.5 hours per day in the evening from 19.00 to 23.30.

However, thanks to the high altitude of Mali – the town stands at more than 1,300 metres above sea level - its 500 watt transmitter achieves wide coverage.

Radio Rurale de Mali can be heard in much of northern Guinea and in southern parts of **Senegal, Mali and Guinea-Bissau**

It broadcasts in **Peul, French and Dialonké**.

The programmes deal mainly with farming, ranching, health, education, handcrafts and youth issues.

The radio station employs 18 staff and has two motorbikes for reporting trips.

Director –Souleymane Kankouma Diallo

Tel: +224 6818 38 57

+224 60 61 49 72

### **Radio Rurale de Mamou 101.1 FM and 91.1 FM**

This community station based in the crossroads town of **Mamou** in west central Guinea, uses two separate transmitters to cover the surrounding valleys in the Fouta Djallon highlands.

It broadcasts on 500 watts from one transmitter and 300 watts from the other.

Its signal reaches 11 of the 13 districts in Mamou prefecture and parts of neighbouring Kindia and Dalaba.

The station broadcasts in **Peul, Soussou** and **Malinke**.

Its programmes focus on farming, environmental protection, health, education, community participation, youth and women's issues.

Radio Rurale de Mamou employs 15 staff and has two motorbikes for field reporting.

Director - Kande Oumar Toure

Mob: +224 60 57 09 07

Tel: +224 30 68 09 98

### **Radio Rurale de Pita**

This new radio station in **Pita**, near Labe in west central Guinea, was still under construction in early 2011.

### **Radio Rurale Siguiri 94.4 FM**

This radio station is based in the gold mining town of **Siguiri** in northeastern Guinea near the border with Mali.

About 80% of its programmes are in **Malinke**. The remainder are in **French**.

Radio Rurale Siguiri covers a potential audience of nearly 680,000 people in the prefecture of Siguiri and parts of Mandiana to the south.

The station carries a daily local news programme in Malinke, which lasts 20 minutes.

Some of its programmes deal with environmental issues of local relevance, such as the pollution caused by mining and the prevention of bush fires.

Director - Alpha Fodé Dembelé

Mob :+224 68 12 32 55

+224 60 58 06 01

Head of Programmes: Mamadou Tchiam

Mob: +224 60 31 10 34

+224 66 92 95 00

### **Radio Rurale de Télémélé 97.7 FM**

This radio station is situated in the town of **Télémélé** in the foothills of the Fouta Djallon highlands in western Guinea.

It broadcasts in **Peul** and **Soussou** and, to a lesser extent, in **French**.

The station's 300 watt transmitter covers the whole of Télémélé prefecture and parts of neighbouring Kindia, Mamou, Pita and Dalaba.

Radio Rurale de Télémélé was set up in 2007 with the help of the World Bank, the Netherlands and Guinea's *Comité National de lutte contre le Sida (CNLS)* (National Committee for the Fight against HIV/AIDS).

Its programming focuses on farming, environmental issues and women and children's issues.

The station broadcasts for eight hours a day from 07.00 to 10.00 in the morning and again from 18.00 to 23.00 in the evening.

It employs 15 people.

Director – Madame Aminata Camara  
Mob: +224 60 52 01 23

### **Radio Rurale de Tougué 98.3 FM**

This station broadcasts from the town of **Tougué** in central Guinea.

Its 500 watt transmitter covers the prefectures of Tougué and Koubia and parts of nearby Labe, Mali, Dalaba, Dabola, Pita, Mamou and Dinguiraye.

Nearly all its broadcasts are in **Peul**. The station also uses **French** occasionally.

The surrounding area has long suffered from conflicts between farmers and cattle herders and much of the radio station's programming dwells on this problem.

It also deals with farming issues, the protection of water sources and local culture.

The station was launched in 2009. It has two studios and normally broadcasts from 18.00 to 22.00.

Contact – Abass Bah  
Mob : +224 62 13 70 38  
+224 64 62 48 55  
+224 60 57 09 07

## **Private radio stations**

### **Espace FM– Conakry/Labé** [espacefmguinee.info/index.php](http://espacefmguinee.info/index.php)

Espace FM is one of the most popular radio stations in both Conakry and Labé.

It broadcasts in **French**, producing a steady diet of music, news and phone-in programmes aimed at young people.

The main news programme goes out at 18.00 and lasts 30 minutes.

Espace FM's flagship phone-in programme *Grandes Gueles* (Big Mouths) deals frankly with all sorts of topical issues. It attracts a huge audience.

The station broadcasts in **Conakry** on 99.6 FM and in **Labé** on 99.7 FM.

The Conakry station is on air round the clock. Between 23.30 and 07.00 live programmes are replaced by a pre-recorded music playlist.

The Labé station is on air from 06.00 to midnight.

It relays 90% of the programming broadcast by its sister station in Conakry.

However, from Monday to Thursday, Labé opts out to broadcast a 30-minute news analysis programme in **Peul**.

Its signal covers the prefectures of Labé, Dalaba, Koubia and Mali.

Director General – Lamine Guirassy

Tel: +224 30 47 66 66

Mob:+224 65 66 99 60

+224 68 66 99 60

Head of News - Ahmed Camara

Mob : +224 68 69 99 60

Editor in Chief - Ibrahima Bantanco Bah

Mob +224 68 70 99 60

Email: [services@espacefmguinee.info](mailto:services@espacefmguinee.info)

Address: Espace FM Guinée

Quartier Matoto,

Immeuble Mouna

BP 256

Conakry

**Sabari 97.3 FM – Conakry** [www.sabarifm.com](http://www.sabarifm.com)

Sabari FM was set up by **Le Diplomate**, a weekly independent newspaper based in Conakry, with funding from UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

It is a talk radio station aimed mainly at young people.

Sabari FM broadcasts mainly in **French** from a 1,000 watt FM transmitter in Conakry. Its signal reaches the coastal prefectures of Coyah, Boké, Boffa, Dubrécah Fria and Forécariah.

It can also be heard across the southern border in parts of **Sierra Léone**.

Sabari FM's programming is mainly dedicated to social and cultural issues, the economy, the environment and African and international music.

The station airs a lot of phone-in debates on political and social issues.

Besides **French**, these phone-in programmes also use local languages such as **Soussou, Peul, Malinke** and **Guerze**.

Sabari FM also broadcasts messages advocating conflict prevention and resolution.

There are news bulletins on the hour and a main news programme called *Le Journal des Analphabètes* (News for illiterates) at 20.00.

Sabari FM is based in the eastern suburb of Koloma, which was a stronghold of defeated presidential candidates Cellou Dalein Diallo in the 2010 presidential elections.

However, the radio station's owner, Kerfala Sanou Cissé, has close connections with Alpha Conde.

Following the run-off vote in November 2010, the radio station was attacked by Diallo supporters who alleged that Sabari FM had been instrumental in bringing about their candidate's defeat.

Group Executive Chairman – Kerfala Sanou Cissé

Tel: +224 65 75 00 00

+224 65 75 55 55

+224 62 35 51 51

Head of Programmes - Malick Marcel Bangoura

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Tel: +224 64.51.51.51

Email: [hawasanouci@yahoo.fr](mailto:hawasanouci@yahoo.fr)

**Liberté 101.7 FM – Conakry/Nzérékoré** [www.radiolibertefm.com](http://www.radiolibertefm.com)

Liberté FM broadcasts from **Conakry** and **Nzérékoré** between 06.00 and midnight.

The Conakry station has been on air since 2006. It is one of the most popular radio stations in the capital.

The Nzérékoré station, launched in 2010, carries independent programming.

Both stations broadcast on the same frequency – 101.7 FM. They target a broad audience with a mixture of music, news, sport and entertainment.

They also broadcast several audience participation programmes. These include political debates and call-in shows for young people on social issues.

The flagship phone-in programme of the Conakry station is *Matinee Plurielle*. It goes out Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 11.00.

Liberte FM broadcasts five local news bulletins a day and relays international news programmes from **BBC Afrique** at 06.00, 12.00 and 18.00.

It also relays live **BBC Afrique** coverage of English premier league football on Saturdays

The Liberty FM network is owned by Youssouf Diallo, a businessman and former minister in the regime of President Lansana Conté.

His wife, Aissatou Bella Diallo, is a journalist and former information minister.

In February 2008 soldiers from the presidential guard arrested two people working for the station and looted its Conakry studios. The soldiers accused Liberte FM of carrying interviews that were critical of President Lansana Conté.

The Conakry station covers the capital and the coastal prefectures of Kindia, Forécariah, Coyah and Dubrécah.

Director General - Ibrahima Diallo

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+244 64.50.22.47

Tel: +224 30 43 28 92

Email: [radiolibertefm@yahoo.fr](mailto:radiolibertefm@yahoo.fr)

[ibrahima1218@yahoo.fr](mailto:ibrahima1218@yahoo.fr)

Director of Programmes – Mohamed Tondon Camara

Mob: +224 64 33 42 52

Manager of Nzérékoré station – Madani Tcham

Tel : +224 64 33 42 52

Address: Radio Liberte FM  
 Immeuble Zaidan,  
 Quartier Almamya,  
 Commune de Kaloum,  
 Conakry

**Nostalgie Guinée 98.2 FM – Conakry** [www.nostalgieguinee.net](http://www.nostalgieguinee.net)

Radio Nostalgie Guinée was the first private radio station to be set up in Guinea in 2006.

It broadcasts a mixture of talk shows and music and is aimed at a broad audience.

Most of the output is in **French**, but many of the programmes also use Guinea's three main local languages; **Soussou, Peul** and **Malinke**.

The station is based in the central Kaloum district of Conakry and is on air 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

20 hours is live programming. The remaining four hours during the night are taken up with music from a pre-recorded playlist.

Nostalgie is mainly dedicated to music. However, the station also carries drama, news and cultural programmes.

Its flagship phone-in programme *Zone Libre* deals with a broad range of problems in society. It is broadcast daily Monday to Friday from 13.00 to 15.00, using a mixture of **Soussou, Peul** and **Malinke**.

Nostalgie claims to reach a wide audience, including the educated elite, university students, young people and poorer, less educated communities.

It organized a series of political debates before the 2010 presidential elections.

The station has a 1000 watt transmitter in Conakry.

Its signal reaches Fria (north of Conakry), Kamsar and Boké (north of Conakry), Kindia (northeast of Conakry) and Forécariah (southeast east of Conakry).

Radio Nostalgie's has plans to extend its coverage to **Kindia, Mamou, Labé, Kankan, Nzérékoré** and **Siguiri**.

Director - Souhel Hajjar  
 Mob: +224 64 21 12 82  
 +224 65 44 44 44  
 Email: [souhelhajjar@hotmail.com](mailto:souhelhajjar@hotmail.com)

Head of Programmes - Ibrahoma Ndiaye  
 Mob: +224 62 23 99 90  
 +224 64 23 99 90

**Familia FM 105.3 FM – Conakry** [www.familiafm.com/index.php/home](http://www.familiafm.com/index.php/home)

Radio Familia FM was set up by the local women's NGO Actualité Féminine En Guinée (AFEG), in partnership with UNICEF, Search For Common Ground, Population Services International (PSI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote family values and women's rights in Guinea.

It used to broadcast from **Conakry** on 105.3 FM and 4.900 MHz short wave for 19 hours a day between 06.00hr and 01.00.

However, the station was closed in February 2011 following a dispute between its Canadian manager and its Guinean director.

It was not clear whether or when Familia FM would reopen.

In 2009, Familia FM became a propaganda mouthpiece for Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, the head of the transitional military government at the time.

It supported his ambition to be a candidate in the 2010 presidential elections and engaged in hate speech against his opponents.

The station was warned several times by Guinea's association of private broadcasters *l'Union des Radios et Télévisions libres de Guinée (URTELGUI)* about its use of hate speech which ran counter to the organization's code of conduct.

Programming on Familia FM ranged from news and phone-in discussion shows to sports, cultural, family and entertainment content.

Half of the radio station's programming was in **French**.

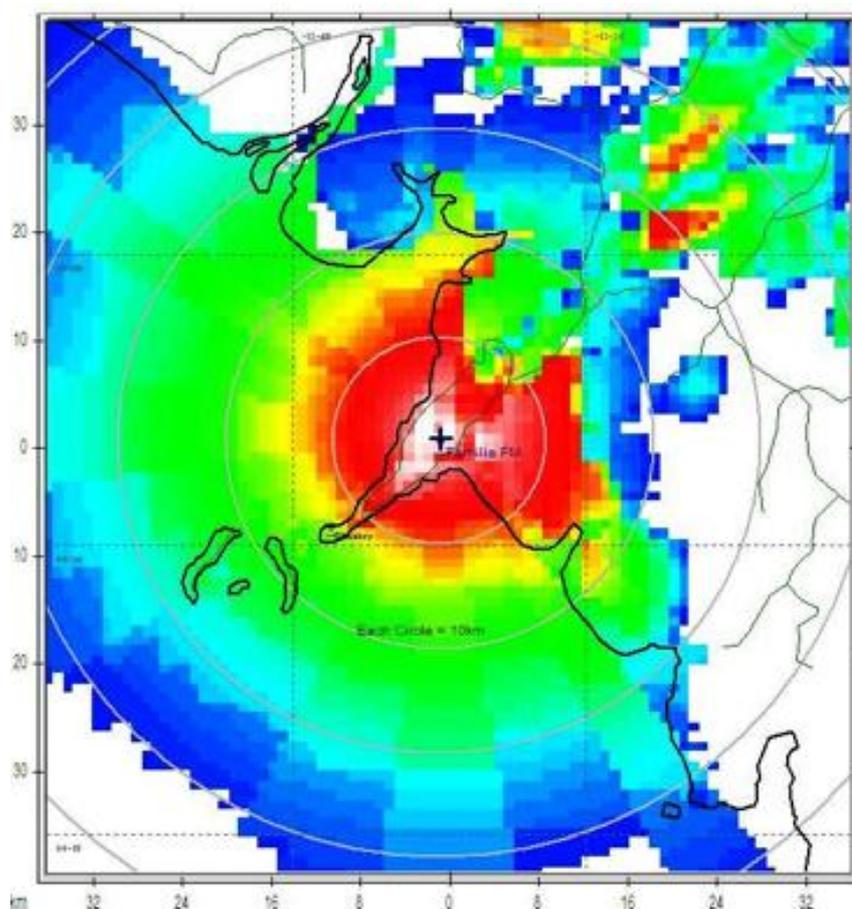
It also broadcast programmes in **Peul, Sousou, Malinke** and **Kpèllè**.

Radio Familia claimed to reach over two million people in Conakry and the surrounding areas of Kindia, Bofa, Fria, Dubreka and Forécariah.

It aspired to achieve complete national coverage.

However, the station was closed by the government media regulator the *Conseil National de la Communication (CNC)* (National Council for Communication) in February 2011 as the result of a dispute between its Canadian manager Colette Baudais and its Guinean director Kaleb Kolié.

Baudais was awarded the radio studios and their equipment, but Kolié was given the rights to the name of the radio station and its broadcasting licence.



Map of Radio Familia FM coverage – from Familia FM website

Contact: Director-General – Colette Baudais  
 Tel: +244 62 41 28 93  
 Email: [directrice@familiafm.com](mailto:directrice@familiafm.com)

### **Horizon 103.4 FM Conakry/Kankan** (no website)

Horizon FM operates two radio stations in **Conakry** and **Kankan** which broadcast separate programming.

Both carry a broad range of music and talk shows in **French** and local languages.

The twin stations were set up by Boubacar Yacine Diallo a former Information Minister and former head of the state broadcaster RTG.

The flagship programme of the **Conakry** station is a daily phone-in called *Face à l'Actualité* (Facing Reality), which goes out from 10.00 to 12.00.

Horizon FM Conakry carries five major news bulletins per day

The signal of the **Conakry** station reaches the prefectures adjoining the capital and is sometimes received as far north as Boke. It is often heard in northern Sierra Leone.

The **Kankan** station broadcasts from a 500 watt transmitter which reaches as far as Kouroussa and Siguiri.

It is very popular with university students in Kankan and people in the gold mining area of Kouroussa prefecture.

Horizon FM Kankan broadcasts in **Malinke, Peul, Soussou Guerzé, Kissi Konia** and **French**.

The station depends entirely on a generator, so it is only on air for 14 hours per day, from 08.00 to 16.00 and again from 18.00 to midnight.

Horizon FM Kankan carries news bulletins on the hour and three longer regional news programmes per day.

Its programming covers political, economic, social and cultural issues.

One of its most popular programmes features griots – traditional wandering troubadours – who talk and sing about Mandingo history and culture

Executive chairman - Boubacar Yacine Diallo

Tel: +224 60.25.14.60

Email: [yacinediallo2000@yahoo.fr](mailto:yacinediallo2000@yahoo.fr)

Director – Madame Hawa Diop (wife of Boubacar Yacine Diallo)

Mob: +244 6022 93 10

Director of Horizon FM Kankan – Sarbou Keita

Mob: +224 62 22 99 66

+224 64 40 05 47

### **Radio Milo 99.5 FM – Kankan/Siguiri** [www.milo-fm.com](http://www.milo-fm.com)

Radio Milo is based in **Kankan**.

In October 2010, the station set up an offshoot in **Siguiri**, broadcasting on the same frequency.

Radio Milo was the first private radio station to be established in the interior of Guinea. It belongs to a Kankan-based NGO called *Groupe Préfectoral de l'Information de l'Education et de la Communication (GPIEC)*.

Milo FM broadcasts round the clock in **French** and **Malinke**.

It carries talk shows on political, economic, environmental, agricultural, education and health issues and a lot of phone-ins.

One of these phone-ins – dedicated to night owls – lasts from midnight until 05.00 .

Milo FM carries a 60-minute news programme in Malinke at 06.00 each morning.

It relays one hour of programmes from **Radio Deutsche Welle** at 12.00 Monday to Friday and one hour of programmes from **Voice of America (VOA)** at 19.00.

Director-General - Lanciné Lass Kaba

Mob : +224 63 34 34 08

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Email : [lasskaba@yahoo.fr](mailto:lasskaba@yahoo.fr)

Directeur of Programmes : Amadou Tchiam

Mob: +224 65 74 82 24

Email: [info@milo-fm.com](mailto:info@milo-fm.com)

Address: Milo FM  
Cherifoula,  
Kankan

**Cherie 104.01 FM – Conakry** [www.cheriefmguinee.com/index.php](http://www.cheriefmguinee.com/index.php)

Cherie FM broadcasts a mixture of talk shows, music and sport in **French** in **Conakry**.

The station broadcasts a phone-in programme at lunch time Monday to Friday that focuses on topical issues. There is normally a high profile studio guest to answer questions from listeners on its Friday programme.

Cherie FM is on air 24 hours a day.

There are extended 15-minute news bulletins at 12.00, 16.00 and 19.00.

The signal from Cherie FM's 1,000 watt transmitter reaches all of Conakry and the nearby prefectures of Dubrécah Forécariah and Fria.

Director - Chantal Colle

Mob: +224 64 21 51 51

Head of News – Conde Aboubacar

Tel: +224 24 63 00 24

Mob: +224 60 35 09 15

### **Soleil 93.5 FM – Conakry**

Soleil FM is based in Conakry.

This talk radio station is owned by Martine Conde, a close associate of President Alpha Conde.

She was the information director of his 2010 election campaign and was named president of the government media regulator, the National Council of Communication (CNC) after he came to power.

Soleil FM broadcasts in **French, Malinke, Soussou, Peul and Guerzé**.

It carries a lot of political discussion programmes and programmes for women. Its flagship daily phone-in show *La Grogne* (The moan) is very popular.

Soleil FM suspended broadcasting for a short period in 2007 after its building was raked by gunfire during protest demonstrations against the regime of former president Lansana Conte.

The station's signal covers Conakry and the surrounding area as far south as the frontier with Sierra Leone.

General Manager - Morlaye Kaba  
Mob : +224 67 07 07 77

Deputy General Manager - Saiba Keita  
Mob: +224 67 36 54 32

Head of Programmes: Mata Afiwa  
Mob: +224 67 40 50 94  
+224 64 31 55 70

Email: [soleilfm@yahoo.fr](mailto:soleilfm@yahoo.fr)

### **Djigui 105.7/107.7 FM – Conakry**

This **Conakry talk** radio station is popular among young people.

It is the only radio station in Guinea which carries a programme about love and romance - ***Problème de Cœur*** (Heart Problem).

The overwhelming majority of its programmes are inter-active

Djigui FM broadcasts in **French, Soussou, Malinke, Peul, Guerzé and Toma**.

The station belongs to Mamady Diawara, a defeated candidate in the first round of the 2010 presidential election. He threw his support behind Alpha Conde in the second round run-off.

Manager - Kalil Oularé  
 Mob : +224 66 37 14 81  
 +224 67 10 55 01

Deputy Manager - Atou Diaye  
 Mob : +224 62 35 15 10

### **Djoliba 95.6 FM – Conakry/Siguiri**

Djoliba FM is based in **Conakry** and operates a subsidiary FM station in the eastern town of **Siguiri**. Both broadcast on 95.6 FM.

The stations belong to Soriba Doumbouya, a successful businessman with political connections who also owns the Djoliba Peche fishing company.

His uncle, Lansana Kouyate, served as prime minister under former president Lansana Conte and was an unsuccessful candidate in the 2010 presidential elections.

Djoliba FM carries a wide range of programming aimed at a broad audience. It includes civic education programmes and programmes about womens's rights and the environment.

The station relays 25 minutes of programmes in **French** from **Radio France Internationale (RFI)** at 07.00 every morning.

Environmental protection is a major issue in Siguiri, where gold mines spoil the landscape and cause pollution and where forest fires are common.

In theory, both stations are on air for 24 hours per day, but in practice, they often close at 02.00 for a few hours during the early morning.

Djoliba FM in **Conakry** broadcasts in **French, Soussou, Peul, Malinke** and **Koninké**.

It carries a lot of audience participation programmes.

The station can be heard throughout the capital and sometimes in the neighbouring prefectures of Coyah and Dubrécah

The **Siguiri** station broadcasts mainly in **Malinke** and **French**.

Its 1,000 watt transmitter was only working at 600 watts in April 2011.

Its signal covered the whole of Siguiri prefecture up to the frontier with Mali and parts of the neighbouring prefectures of Mandian and Kankan to the south.

Chairman and owner - Soriba Doumbouyah  
 Mob: +224 3043 43 28

Alternative contact in Conakry: Sékou Mahdi Traore  
 Tel: +224 64.35.76.05  
 Email: [semahtra@yahoo.fr](mailto:semahtra@yahoo.fr)

Director of Siguiri radio station – Konate Mory  
 Mob: +224 66 04 43 66  
 +224 67 04 50 51

### **SWET FM 102.2 FM – Conakry**

Koffi FM is a **Conakry** university radio station aimed at young people in the 15-20 aged bracket.

It broadcasts exclusively in **French** and carries a lot of phone-in programmes.

There is a daily news programme at 17.00.

The station was set up by Ousemane Kaka, a former finance minister under the regime of Lansana Conte.

Management has been contracted out to Lamine Guirassy, the head of **Espace FM**.

Director - Lamine Guirassy  
 Mob : +224 65 66 99 60  
 +224 68 66 99 60

### **Atlantic 96.5 FM - Conakry**

Atlantic FM is a music and entertainment station based in **Conakry** that caters particularly for youth and women.

It belongs to Bakary Fofana, who served as foreign minister in the 2009-2010 transitional government of General Sekouba Konate.

The station broadcasts in **French, Soussou, Peul** and **Malinke**.

Atlantic FM's studios are based in Conakry's northern suburb of Kaporo Rails.

Its signal covers the entire city and its immediate outskirts.

Director - Mohamed Fofana  
 Mob : +224 66 08 19 06  
 +224 65 45 69 69

Director of Programmes : Billy Condé Nankouma  
 Mob: +224 64 72 80 99

### **Gangan 101.1 FM - Conakry**

This **Conakry** station broadcasts a wide range of programming in **French, Soussou, Peul** and **Malinke**.

It broadcasts a lot of debates on political, economic, social and cultural issues. Some of them involve audience participation.

Gangan FM belongs to AIS Engineering, a company owned by Ibrahima Abbé Sylla, the leader of the *Nouvelle Génération pour la République* (NGR) (New Generation of the Republic) party.

Sylla was an unsuccessful candidate in the first round of the 2010 presidential election.

He supported the defeated candidate Cellou Dalein Diallo in the second round run-off.

Gangan FM broadcasts 24 hours a day.

Its five daily news programmes are all in French.

The station was launched in September 2010. It employs 23 staff.

Gangan FM is based in the eastern suburb of Matoto. Its signal covers the city of Conakry and its immediate surroundings.

Director - Mohamed Baba Sylla

Mob : +224 64 86 10 25

Head of Broadcasting - Mohamed Sylla

Mob : +224 24 32 02 02

### **Voix de L'Afrique 97.8 FM - Dubrécah**

This radio station, based in the prefecture of **Dubrécah**, 50 km east of Conakry, is dedicated to science and education.

Its programmes are aimed mainly at students and teachers in the outer suburbs of the capital.

The station was set up by Aboubacar Camara, a journalist specializing in scientific issues.

Its flagship programme is *Salut les Copains* (Hi Guys), a 60-minute phone-in show which goes out daily at 13.00.

La Voix de l'Afrique (The Voice of Africa) is normally on air continuously from 05.00 to midnight.

However, its broadcasts are often interrupted by electricity cuts.

The station's small 200 watt transmitter covers the outer suburbs of Conakry and parts of the prefectures of Dubrécah, Coyah et Forécariah.

Chairman and owner – Aboubacar Camara  
Mob : +224 67 97 89 78/ 00 224 64 30 20 20

Director - M'mah Hawa Youla (the wife of Aboubacar Camara )  
Mob : +224 67 87 37 20

Tel (Office): 00224 64 45 06 96  
Email: [fondation\\_ac@yahoo.fr](mailto:fondation_ac@yahoo.fr)

### **Bambou 89.3 FM – Coyah/ Faranah**

The Guinean women's rights NGO *Coalition Nationale de Guinée pour les Droits et la Citoyenneté des Femmes (CONAG-DCF)* (the National Coalition of Guinea for Women's Rights and Citizenship) runs two community radio stations. Both are called Bambou FM

One is in **Coyah**, a small town 50 km inland from Conakry. The other is in **Faranah** in south central Guinea.

Both stations broadcast programmes about the rights of women and children that mainly target a female audience.

Bambou FM in **Coyah** went on air in May 2010, but it has been plagued by electricity supply and generator problems.

It is normally on air for six hours a day from 07.00 to 09.00 in the morning and again from 18.00 to 22.00 at night.

The station broadcasts mainly in **Soussou**. It also carries public announcements in **Peul, Malinke, Guerzé** and **Kissi**.

The **Faranah** station went off air in August 2010 after a storm damaged its transmission mast. It had also been in dispute with **Radio Rurale de Faranah** over the use of its frequency.

The station was planning to resume broadcasting in 2011 on a new frequency.

Director **Bambou FM Coyah** - Madame Touré Tabara Yansané  
Mob : +224 66 35 95 40  
+224 60 52 01 24

Head of Programmes - Monic Bangoura  
Mob : +224 64 91 61 11

Tel (general number): +224 67 19 89 45

Contact for **Bambou FM Faranah** - Madame Binta Nabé (Treasurer CONAG DCF)

Mob :+224 6052 45 26

Email : [bnabe62@yahoo.fr](mailto:bnabe62@yahoo.fr)

## International radio stations

**Radio France Internationale (RFI)** [www.rfi.fr](http://www.rfi.fr)

RFI has FM relay stations in **Conakry, Labé, Kankan** (89.9FM) and **Nzérékoré**.

They broadcast news and other programming 24 hours a day in French.

RFI began transmitting in Conakry in 2007.

Its 1,000 watt transmitter on the RTG mast at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications covers Conakry also reaches the nearby préfectures of Coyah, Dubrécah, Forécariah and Boffa.

Guinea Correspondant - Mouctar Bah

Mob +224 60 54 77 97

**BBC World Service** [www.bbc.co.uk/afrique](http://www.bbc.co.uk/afrique)

The BBC World Service broadcasts round the clock in **Conakry** and **Labé** on 93.9FM in **French** and **English**.

Its French language services for Africa are branded as **BBC Afrique**.

Some BBC Afrique news programmes in French are relayed by the private radio station **Liberté 101.7FM** in Conakry.

During the run-up to the first round of presidential elections in June 2010, BBC Afrique, in partnership with Liberté FM, aired a BBC Election Night Live programme from Conakry.

Like RFI, the BBC uses a 1,000 watt transmitter in Conakry, mounted on the RTG mast at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

This provides a 100 km radius coverage area. It includes the prefectures of Coyah, Dubrécah, Forécariah and Boffa.

BBC Afrique claims 1.7 million regular listeners in Guinea.

In early 2011, it had plans to install additional FM relay stations in **Kankan** and **Nzérékoré**.

Guinea correspondent - Makèmè Bamba  
Mob: +224 60 33 01 09  
+224 62 62 33 62

Head of BBC Afrique West Africa bureau (Dakar) - Ibrahima Diané  
Mob: +224 77 742 05 25  
Email: [Ibrahima.Diane@bbc.co.uk](mailto:Ibrahima.Diane@bbc.co.uk)

## 4. Television

Television in Guinea remains a monopoly of the state broadcaster Radio Television Guineenne (RTG) [www.rtg-conakry.com](http://www.rtg-conakry.com)

Television is less popular in Guinea than radio and viewers are mainly concentrated in urban areas.

According to Canal France International (CFI), which supplies programming to RTG, there are only 47 TV sets per 1,000 population.

Poverty, an unreliable mains power supply and patchy TV reception have contributed to this situation.

RTG claims that its free-to-air terrestrial TV signal reaches 40% of the country. It also broadcasts TV by satellite, but few Guineans have a satellite dish.

Since Alpha Conde assumed the presidency at the end of 2010, RTG Television has remained a tightly controlled propaganda tool of the government, despite the appointment of new senior management.

The TV news is dominated by positive stories about the president and members of his government.

The opposition only receives token coverage during the run-up to elections.

As a result, RTG Television has very low credibility as a source of news and information.

RTG Television has a very low programme production budget. Most of its entertainment shows and documentaries are imports.

There are two TV channels, **RTG1** and **RTG2**.

### **RTG1**

RTG's national television channel is on air from 08.00 to midnight.

The main 30-minute news programme goes out at 20.30.

There is a shorter 15-minute news bulletin at 19.00.

RTG1 has a very small production budget, so most of the time it shows imported documentaries.

The channel broadcasts from a new Chinese-built studio complex in Conakry's northern suburb of Koloma.

Director General – Mamadou Dia  
Mob: +224 60 29 51 97

## **RTG2**

RTG's second channel was launched in 2007 as a more commercial and entertainment focused alternative to RTG1.

It only broadcasts to the city of **Conakry** and is not available on satellite.

RTG2 has never really taken off.

The channel is only on air from 09.00 to 18.00. It shuts down before the evening peak viewing period.

RTG2 broadcasts two 30-minute news programmes at 13.00 and 17.00

Their content is virtually the same as the news programmes on RTG1.

RTG2's programming consists mainly of Guinean music videos and imported documentaries and entertainment shows in **French**.

Some local productions also use **Peul, Soussou** and **Malinke**.

RTG2 operates from the state broadcaster's old headquarters building at Boulbinet in central Conakry

Director General – Mariama Dubrecah Camara

Mob: +224 60 23 13 44

+224 60 29 63 01

## 5. Newspapers and magazines

The publication and distribution of newspapers and magazines is limited to Conakry. Very few copies reach the interior.

Low levels of literacy, widespread poverty and difficulties in distributing newspapers in the interior have limited the growth of the print media in Guinea.

Only 38% of adults can read and write.

The only daily newspaper is **Horoya**, a government propaganda mouthpiece, which sells less than 1,000 copies per day

Horoya is run by the Ministry of Information, along with the government news agency **Agence Guineene de Presse (AGP)**.

Following the liberalization of the print media in 1991, several privately owned newspapers appeared in Conakry. Most are published weekly or fortnightly.

By 2008, at least 10 private newspapers were being published regularly in Conakry. Some of them also publish online.

The oldest and most respected independent weeklies are **Le Lynx** and **La Lance**, which are owned by the same publishing house, and **Le Diplomate**, which also owns the Conakry radio station **Sabari FM**.

High printing costs, censorship, intimidation by the military junta and restrictive media laws have all served to create a difficult environment for the print media.

The Panos Institute estimated total newspaper circulation in Guinea at 30,000.

However, several newspapers reach a wider audience, especially amongst the diaspora overseas, by publishing online.

The diaspora and the minority of educated Guineans at home with access to the internet, are also served by a growing number of news websites about Guinea.

Many of these, such as [www.guineenews.com](http://www.guineenews.com) which is run from Canada, are based overseas.

## Main newspapers published in Guinea

### Horoya

Guinea's only daily newspaper is owned and subsidized by the Ministry of Information. Its director general is appointed by the president.

Although it is beset by financial difficulties, Horoya continues to print about 650 copies per day.

Most of these are circulated to members of the government and civil service in Conakry. It is rare to see Horoya on sale in the street.

Horoya has traditionally been little more than a government propaganda sheet. Its opinion columns closely reflect the official government line.

However, President Alpha Conde named a new director for the newspaper in early 2011 - Alhassane Souaré. He has promised to introduce big changes.

Director-General- Alhassane Souaré

Mob : +224 62 66 25 62

### Le Lynx [www.afribone.net.gn/lynx](http://www.afribone.net.gn/lynx) (website does not work)

Le Lynx is a satirical weekly newspaper owned by the Lynx-Lance group.

This also publishes **La Lance**, a more conventional weekly newspaper.

Le Lynx and La Lance are the two most widely read and influential newspapers in Guinea.

The Lynx-Lance group owns its own printing press and employs 54 people.

Le Lynx covers current affairs and political debates. It also contains investigative reports, interviews and analysis.

The newspaper is published every Monday and sells about 7,000 copies a week.

The overwhelming majority of sales are in Conakry, but management claims that the newspaper also reaches 20 of Guinea's 33 prefectures in the interior.

The newspaper began publishing in 1992.

General Manager - Souleymane Diallo

Mob: +224 68 25 27 82

+224 60 25 27 82

Director of Publication : Assane Keita

Mob : +224 60 26 96 24

Tel: +224 30 41 23 85

Email: [le-lynx@afribone.net.gn](mailto:le-lynx@afribone.net.gn)

Address: Immeuble Balde Zaire,  
3rd Floor,  
Sandervalia,  
BP 4968,  
Commune de Kaloum,  
Conakry

**La Lance** [www.lalance.com](http://www.lalance.com)

La Lance is a weekly newspaper owned by the Lynx-Lance group.

The newspaper is published on Wednesdays and sells about 6,000 copies per week.

It began publishing in 1992.

La Lance has frequently been in trouble with the authorities.

Shortly before former president Lansana Conte died in December 2008, the editor was summoned to the presidency to explain why it has published a picture of the head of state showing him to be clearly thin and ill.

Editor in Chief – Abubakar **Second name?**

Mob: +224 60 34 17 59  
+224 66 68 50 51

Tel: +224 30 41 23 85  
Mob: +224 62 66 41 73

Email: [le-lynx@afribone.net.gn](mailto:le-lynx@afribone.net.gn)

Address: Immeuble Balde Zaire,  
3rd Floor,  
Sandervalia,  
BP 4968,  
Commune de Kaloum,  
Conakry

**Le Diplomate** [www.sabarifm.com](http://www.sabarifm.com)

Le Diplomate is a weekly newspaper based in Conakry known for its politically neutral views and current affairs reporting.

It was founded by Kerfalla Sanou Cissé, a former journalist with Le Lynx/La Lance, in 2002.

Le Diplomate is published every Tuesday.

It sells about 1,000 copies a week, mostly in Conakry.

The newspaper employs nine people.

The same media group also owns the Conakry-based radio station **Sabari FM** and the women's magazine **Les Amazones**.

Group Executive Chairman - Kerfalla Sanou Cissé

Mob : +224 64 51 51 51

+224 65 51 51 51

Director of Publication - Amadou Makissa Diallo

Mob : +224 60 55 91 63

+224 62 41 61 01

**L'Observateur** [www.observateur-guinee.com](http://www.observateur-guinee.com)

L'Observateur is a weekly newspaper that only circulates in Conakry.

It is published every Monday and prints nearly 3,000 copies.

In early 2011, the newspaper employed 10 staff.

L'Observateur, like many weekly newspapers in Guinea, is beset by financial difficulties.

It struggles with the high cost of newsprint, electricity shortages and a shortage of advertising.

Manager - Mouctar Diallo

Mob: +224 64 35 10 05

+224 62 14 15 09

Director - Nouhou Baldé

Tel: +224 60 34 26 26

Email: [ibrahimanouhou@yahoo.fr](mailto:ibrahimanouhou@yahoo.fr)

**Le Populaire** [www.lepopulaire-guinee.info](http://www.lepopulaire-guinee.info)

Le Populaire is a weekly newspaper published in Conakry on Mondays

It has a print run of 1,500 to 2,000 copies.

The newspaper employs three full-time staff and four part-timers.

Founder and Director - Alpha Abdoulaye Diallo

Mob : +224 60 40 42 94

+224 65 40 42 94

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## 6. Online news

There are several news websites about Guinea. Many of these are based overseas, but all publish news from contributors inside Guinea.

These websites are aimed at the large diaspora of Guineans living overseas as well as the limited number of people with internet access in Guinea.

There are estimated to be several hundred thousand Guineans living in other West African countries, Europe and North America.

The news websites help to fill the gap left by the lack of independent daily newspapers in Guinea.

Some of them also offer an internet radio service.

In 2007 a dozen or so news websites that focus on Guinea formed an association called ***L'Association Guinéenne de la Presse En Ligne (AGUIPEL)*** (The Guinean Association of Online Publishers).

The main news websites in Guinea include the following:

**Radio Kankan** [www.radio-kankan.com](http://www.radio-kankan.com)

**Radio Kankan** claims to be Guinea's first online radio station. It is based in **Cologne, Germany**.

The organization's official head office in Guinea is situated in the eastern city of **Kankan**. The website also has an office in **Conakry**.

Radio Kankan broadcasts in **French** and has correspondents throughout the country.

The station streams music and interviews with politicians, entertainers and celebrities. It also broadcasts news bulletins.

The station's website carries news articles about Guinea in French and English.

Contact:

Director-General -Aladji Toure

Mob: (Germany) +49 174 56 19 207

Tel/Fax: (Germany) +49 221 513 517)

Mob: (Guinea) +224 60 339 239

+224 65 995 995

E-Mail: [aladji@radio-kankan.com](mailto:aladji@radio-kankan.com)

Address: Gilbach Strasse 27,  
50672 Köln-Cologne,  
Germany

Conakry  
Sandra Werner/Mory Fria  
Mob: +224 64 43 62 17  
+224 60 12 00 07  
+224 65 58 35 58  
E-mail: [Sandra.werner@radio.kankan.com](mailto:Sandra.werner@radio.kankan.com)

Kankan  
Tel: +224 30 72 00 82  
+224 60 339239  
Mobile: +224 65 995 995  
E-mail: [info@radio-kankan.com](mailto:info@radio-kankan.com)

**Barkere Media/Radio Indiana Guinee** [www.barkere.net](http://www.barkere.net)

This news website and online radio station operates out of **Indianapolis, USA.**

**Radio Indiana Guinée** broadcasts in **French.**

The **Barkere** website also streams the online broadcasts of **Espace FM.**

Contacts:

Tel (Guinea) +224.60.55.01.23  
Tel: (USA) +1.819.328.3135  
+1.416.655.6855  
Email: [courrier@boubah.com](mailto:courrier@boubah.com)

**Guineenews** [www.guineenews.org](http://www.guineenews.org)

This online news website is based in **Canada.**

**Guineenews** provides comprehensive, independent news coverage in **French.**

It also includes a directory to other useful websites about Guinea, including those of several bloggers.

Contact:  
Tel: (Canada) +1.819.328.3135  
(Guinea) +224.60.55.01.23  
Email: [courrier@boubah.com](mailto:courrier@boubah.com)

**Aminata.com** [www.aminata.com](http://www.aminata.com)

This online news website is based in the **United States**.

**Aminata.com** publishes news about Guinea in **French**.

Contacts:

Founder/director – Amadou M'bone Diallo

Tel: (United States) +1 973 477 6624

Email: [amadou@aminata.com](mailto:amadou@aminata.com)

Conakry bureau chief - Maadjou M'boné Diallo

Tel: +224 64 32 81 70

**Guineepresse Info** [www.guineepresse.info](http://www.guineepresse.info)

This website carries news and comment about Guinea in **French**.

**Email:** [webmaster@guineepresse.info](mailto:webmaster@guineepresse.info)

**Guinee 24** [www.guinee24.com](http://www.guinee24.com)

This website carries news and comment about Guinea in **French**.

**Guinee 24** was suspended from AGUIPEL in June 2010 for publishing stories about the voting trend in the first round of the presidential election before any official results had been issued.

## **7. Traditional channels of communication**

Radio and mobile phone have become the most important channels of communication in Guinea.

Even in remote villages, people go often about their daily business with a transistor radio glued to one ear.

However word of mouth is still an important source of information wherever people come together in large numbers -, particularly in bus parks and mosques and at political party meetings.

## 8. Media resources

### **Media Development**

**Search for Common Ground/Talking Drum Studio** [www.sfcg.org](http://www.sfcg.org)  
[www.talkingdrumstudio.org/guinea/index.html](http://www.talkingdrumstudio.org/guinea/index.html)

Search for Common Ground is a US-based media development organization which has been working with the government-run network of local radio stations **Radio Rurale de Guinee** since 2001.

In 2005 Search for Common Ground set up a **Talking Drum** radio studio in Conakry to produce programmes with social messaging content for broadcast by local radio stations. It also trains journalists.

The Conakry studios were modeled on similar Talking Drum initiatives in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Talking Drum promotes responsible radio programme content, aimed at improving democracy, social cohesion and peace building.

The output of its Conakry studios includes radio dramas, magazine programmes and public service announcements in **French** and **various local languages**.

In the run up to the 2010 presidential elections, Search for Common Ground launched a Media Synergy initiative. This aimed to build up a national media coalition to ensure responsible and accurate media coverage of the elections.

Together with 16 independent radio stations, Search for Common Ground deployed journalists around Guinea to cover the elections.

It used contributions from network members to produce an election programme, Guinee FM 2010, which was aired across all 16 stations.

Contact:

Country Director – Quentin Kanyatsi

Tel: +224 63 35 14 70

+224 60 30 43 09

Email: [gkanyatsi@sfcg.org](mailto:gkanyatsi@sfcg.org)  
[sfcgguinea@sfcg.org](mailto:sfcgguinea@sfcg.org)

Address: Kipe-Ratoma  
T2 N 2869  
Conakry

## **Radio France Internationale (RFI) Training Department**

RFI's Training Department has undertaken several training and development initiatives with Guinea's independent radio stations since 2006.

These have been aimed at training journalists and radio presenters, developing phone-in programmes and improving the technical quality of broadcast output.

RFI training has also focused on the development of radio programming in particular thematic areas, such as election coverage, women's rights, environmental protection and health.

It has worked closely with Search for Common Ground and *L'Union des Radiodiffusions et Televisions Libres de Guinee (URTELGUI)*, the association of private radio stations in Guinea.

By May 2011, RFI trainers sent out on short-term assignments from France had worked with personnel from more than 30 Guinean radio stations.

Most RFI projects in Guinea have been financed by the French government, the European Commission and USAID.

Head of Projects, International Affairs Department – Bernard Chenuaud

Tél : +33 1 44 30 89 97 / 96

Mob: +33 6 73 48 60 87

Email : [bernard.chenuaud@rfi.fr](mailto:bernard.chenuaud@rfi.fr)

Address : Service de formation internationale  
RFI,  
116 Avenue du président Kennedy,  
75016 Paris,  
France

## **Canal France International (CFI) [www.cfi.fr](http://www.cfi.fr)**

Canal France International (CFI) is a French government funded media development organization that works mainly in television.

It supplies programming and technical assistance to the television arm of the state broadcaster **RTG**.

Tel: (France) +33 2 40 62 32 32

Address: Canal France International (CFI)

131 Avenue de Wagram,

75017 Paris,

France

## **BBC World Service Trust [www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust)**

The BBC World Service Trust is the international media development arm of the BBC organization.

The Trust was planning to start a media capacity building project in Guinea in 2011. It has been established in neighbouring Sierra Leone for several years.

Projects Manager Africa - Nesryn Bouziane

Tel: (UK) +44 207 557 1428

Mob: (UK) +44 798 191 9413

Email [nesryn.bouziane@bbc.co.uk](mailto:nesryn.bouziane@bbc.co.uk)

### **Haute Autorite de la Communication (HAC)/Conseil National de la Communication (CNC)**

The *Haute Autorite de la Communication (HAC)* was created under the 2010 media laws to replace its notoriously repressive predecessor, *Le Conseil National de la Communication (CNC)*.

However, in early 2011, the HAC was not yet operational.

The CNC continued to serve as the de facto media regulator.

Martine Conde, the former director of information of President Alpha Conde's RPG party and the owner of **Soleil FM**, was appointed president of the CNC in January 2011.

In theory, the CNC is supposed to defend the rights of the media against state interference and uphold the rights of ordinary people wronged by the media.

However, in practice, the government has consistently used this body as an instrument to punish and intimidate the independent media whenever its criticism of the authorities oversteps officially tolerated limits.

President of CNC - Martine Condé

Mob : +224 60 54 90 77

+224 62 10 22 37

### **L'Union des Radiodiffusions et Televisions Libres de Guinee (URTELGUI) (Union of Free Radio and Television Stations of Guinea)**

URTELGUI was set up in 2009 to defend the interests of private radio stations.

In early 2011 it had 17 members.

President - Boubacar Yacine Diallo (Founder and owner of Horizon FM)

Mob : +224 60 25 14 60

Spokesman - Mohamed Fofana (Manager of Atlantic FM)  
Mob : +224 66 08 19 06  
+224 65 45 69 69

**Association des Editeurs de la Presse Independente (AGEPI)  
(Association of Editors of the Independent Press)**

AGEPI was founded in 1991 to defend the interests of the independent media shortly after the government allowed the publication of private newspapers.

Over the next 20 years it spoke out on behalf of many journalists who were arrested, jailed and intimidated by the authorities.

In 2011, AGEPI had 65 members, but most of these represented publications that no longer appear regularly.

Only 15 members of the association represented private newspapers that were published weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Président - Iboun Conté  
Mob: +224 60 26 94 56  
Tel: +224 24 57 50 43

**Association des Journalistes de Guinee (AJG) (Association of Guinean Journalists)**

This journalists' trade union was set up in 1991 at a time when nearly all journalists active in Guinea worked for the state media.

In 2011, it was inactive and barely functional.

President – Fode Bouya Fofana  
Tel: +224 60 29 04 61  
Email: [bouyahfofana@yahoo.fr](mailto:bouyahfofana@yahoo.fr)

**Observatoire Guinéen de la Déontologie de Média (OGUIDEM) (Guinean Observatory of Media Ethics)**

OGUIDEN was set up in 2000 with the encouragement of the *Conseil National de la Communication (CNC)*, to help journalists improve the ethical standard of published material.

The formation of this body followed several instances of lapses in media ethics. It was hoped that OGUIDEM would enable journalists to police their own standards more effectively in order to minimise repressive interference by the government.

However, the organization has never lived up to this aim. By early 2011, it had become inactive.

President - Souleymane Diallo  
Mob: +224 68 25 27 82  
+224 60 25 27 82

### **AFEG, Actualité Féminine En Guinée,**

AFEG is a Guinean NGO that promotes women's and family issues in Guinea that was set up in 2005. It owns the Conakry radio station **Familia FM** – which was closed in early 2011 - and an orphanage in the capital.

Contact:  
Administrator -Tiguidanke Keita  
Tel: +244 64 50 61 38  
+244 62 89 22 35  
Email: [afegguinee@yahoo.fr](mailto:afegguinee@yahoo.fr)

### **Printing presses**

#### **La Soguipe.**

This printing press belongs to Guinea's largest independent newspaper publishing company, Groupe de Presse Lynx Lance.

It prints **Le Lynx** and **La Lance** newspapers and several other titles.

Founder and Director of Groupe de Presse Lynx Lance - Souleymane Diallo  
Mob: +224 64 25 35 50  
+224 60 25 27 82

Soloprime,  
Commune de Ratoma,  
Conakry.  
**Akbar-Guinée**

This printing press is owned by the government newspaper **Horoya**. It also undertakes commercial printing work.

Director General Horoya - Alhassane Souaré  
Mob: +224 62 66 25 62

Headquarters,  
Boulbinet,  
Commune de Kaloum,  
Conakry.

### **Imprimerie Alpha**

This privately owned printing press prints several weekly newspapers.

Owner - Alpha Diallo.  
Mob: +224 6058 38 47

Manquepas,  
Commune de Kaloum  
Conakry.

### **Imprimerie 104**

This private printing press prints several weekly newspapers. It belongs to an army officer.

Contact - Abdoulaye Soumah  
Mob: +224 67 74 74 74

Manquepas  
Commune de Kaloum,  
Conakry

### **Imprimerie du Journal le " Defi "**

This printing press prints Le Defi and some other newspapers.

Contact: Thierno Diallo  
Mob: +224 66 45 41 03

Almamy,  
Commune de Kaloum,  
Conakry.

### **Audio and video production**

**Maxi Plus Audio Video**

Small audio and video production company belonging to a young film cameraman.

Contact: Alhousène Sano  
Mob: +224 67 29 20 24  
+224 64 29 20 24

Hamdanlaye,  
Commune de Ratoma,  
Conakry

**Yankady Diffusion**

Audio and video production company set up in 2006 by a broadcasting engineer who formerly worked for state broadcaster RTG.

Contact: Mohamed Sylla  
Mob: +224 60 29 67 46  
+224 62 06 13 94

Manquepas,  
Commune de Kaloum,  
Conakry

**Marketing and communication****Passerelle Communication**

Communications and public relations firm run by journalists

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Mob: +224 64 46 42 59  
+224 60 22 24 34

Matoto,  
Commune de Matoto,  
Conakry

**BBG Communication**

Marketing, public relations and advertising agency founded by a cartoonist.

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Commune de Kalou,  
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## **9. Telecoms**

## Overview

The fixed line telephone network in Guinea has decayed and is barely functional, but mobile telephony is booming.

According to the GSM Association, which groups the world's main mobile phone operators, Guinea had 5.7 million mobile phone subscribers in late 2010.

This figure indicates that more than half of all Guinean adults own a mobile phone. However, in reality, many handset owners possess SIM cards for more than one network.

According to the state telecoms **Agence de Regulation des Postes et Telecommunications**, in early 2011, the mobile network covered 73% of the population and 13% of national territory.

Coverage is focused on the main towns and the surrounding rural area.

There were just 22,000 fixed line telephones in the entire country in 2009, according to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) – roughly one for every 500 inhabitants.

Guinea's fixed line telephone network is operated by the **Societe de Telecommunications de Guinee (Sotelgui)**.

The government sold a 60% stake in this former state corporation to Malaysia Telekom in 1995.

Sotelgui also operates a mobile phone subsidiary called **Lagui**.

Wherever mobile phone users are literate, especially in the towns, they make extensive use of SMS messages rather than voice calls in order to keep costs down.

Voice calls typically cost between 300 and 350 Guinean Francs (GGN) (4.5 to 5.0 US cents) per minute to subscribers on the same network and 400 to 550 FGN (6.0 to 8.5 US cents) per minute to other networks

SMS messages typically cost 100 FGN (1.5 US cents) to subscribers on the same network and 200 FGN (3.0 US cents) to other networks.

Internet use has grown much more slowly than in most other West African countries

In Guinea, the internet remains an information tool of the educated and relatively affluent elite.

According to the ITU, there were only 95,000 internet users in Guinea in 2009.

Less than one percent of the population was online.

However, there were plans to connect Guinea to a submarine fibre optic cable running from the West African Coast to France in 2011 (the Africa Coast to Europe or ACE cable).

This should make fast broadband services more readily available in Guinea and cut the cost of internet access.

In 2011, mobile internet access cost upwards of \$70 to \$80 per month – far more than most Guineans can afford.

Most Guinean internet users go online at an internet café.

Although relatively few Guineans use the internet, it is becoming increasingly popular amongst young people.

Many families use email and instant messaging to keep in touch with friends and relatives living abroad in Europe and North America.

Social networking site such as Facebook are particularly popular.

There are five mobile networks in Guinea.

The largest is **MTN**, formerly known as Areeba, which has 38% market share.

**Cellcom** is the second largest operator with 23%.

It is followed closely by **Orange** with 20%.

The government has frequently closed down parts of the telecommunications system in times of crisis.

Former president Lansana Conte shut down the internet in Guinea during protests against his rule in early 2007.

And in November 2010, as the country waited for the official results of the presidential election to be announced, the interim military government blocked all SMS messages for several days.

It said text messages were being used to incite violence and spread hate speech.

## **Telecoms companies**

### **MTN Guinée**

MTN was Guinea's leading mobile operator in late 2010 with 1.6 million subscribers. This gave it a market share of 38% according to Wireless Intelligence.

MTN provides coverage in all of Guinea's 33 prefectures. In most cases this extends well beyond the administrative headquarters town.

MTN claims to provide some degree of coverage in all but five or six of Guinea's 333 local administrative districts known as sub-prefectures.

A detailed MTN coverage map of Guinea can be found online at:  
[http://www.mobileworldlive.com/maps/network\\_info.php?nid=16938&org\\_id=16900&cid=143](http://www.mobileworldlive.com/maps/network_info.php?nid=16938&org_id=16900&cid=143)

Besides voice and SMS communication, MTN also offers mobile internet services.

The monthly charge for mobile access to the internet via a laptop is 450,000 FGN (\$70). In early 2011, this was the cheapest package on offer by local mobile networks.

Formerly known as Areeba, MTN began operations in Guinea in 2006.

Client Service Manager - René Yaradouno  
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MTN Guinée Head Office,  
Commune de Kaloun,  
Quartier Almamy,  
Conakry

**Cellcom Guinea** [www.gn.cellcomgsm.com](http://www.gn.cellcomgsm.com)

Cellcom Guinea is the second largest mobile operator in Guinea with around 800,000 subscribers and a 23% share of the local market, according to Wireless Intelligence.

The company launched its first mobile network in Liberia in 2004. It began operations in Guinea in 2008.

A detailed Cellcom coverage map of Guinea can be found online at  
[http://www.mobileworldlive.com/maps/network\\_info.php?nid=21901&org\\_id=21900&cid=143](http://www.mobileworldlive.com/maps/network_info.php?nid=21901&org_id=21900&cid=143)

Tel: +224 65 100 100  
Fax: +224 65 100 101

Customer Service: +224 65 111 111  
E-Mail: [info@gn.cellcomgsm.com](mailto:info@gn.cellcomgsm.com)

Address: Cellcom Guinée SA,  
Immeuble WAQF-BID,  
Almamy  
C/Kaloum,  
BP: 6567  
Conakry

**Orange Guinée** [www.orange.gn](http://www.orange.gn)

Orange Guinée had 684,000 pre-paid subscribers in Guinea in late 2010, giving it a market share of 20%.

Its network covers Conakry and the headquarters towns of all 33 prefectures in the interior, plus a number of other locations

The French telecoms group launched its mobile operations in Guinea in 2007.

In 2009, it introduced broadband internet services.

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Orange Guinée Head Office,  
Agence de Kaloum,  
Near French Embassy,  
Quartier Port,  
Conakry

**Sotelgui** [www.sotelgui.net](http://www.sotelgui.net) (website under construction)

Sotelgui operates Guinea's landline network and the **Lagui** mobile telephone network.

The former state corporation was partially privatized in 1995, when Malaysia Telekom acquired a 60% controlling stake in the company.

Its mobile network covers 90 locations in all 33 prefectures.

Commercial Director - Madame Keita Mariam  
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Director of Marketing Madame M'mah Conté  
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Soltegui Head Office,  
Commune de Kaloum,  
Quartier Almamy,  
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**Intercel** (formerly Telecel Guinea)

Intercel was launched in 2000 as Telecel Guinee, but it has remained a very small operator.

Intercel had 12,000 subscribers in 2009, according to the Australian IT website Budde.com.au

In early 2011, Intercel's network only covered about 20 towns in the interior

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Intercel Head Office,  
Immeuble Golfe  
Coléah near the Pont 8 Novembre.  
Conakry

**10. Principal Sources**

Search for Common Ground Media Mapping Survey 2008

UNESCO

UNHCR

UNODC

UNEP

IRES – Media Sustainability Index 2008

International Crisis Group (ICG)

Campaign to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Human Rights Watch

BBC Afrique (World Service)

BBC World Service Trust

Canal France International (CFI)

IRIN

Alert Net

Telegeography

ITU

Amadou Diallo, Guinean journalist and media researcher

Media sources

Radio Rurale

Radio listeners and listening groups

Distributeur de Presse

Autorité de Régulation des Postes et Télécommunications (ARPT)

Radio Television Guinéenne (RTG)

Orange Guinée

MTN- Areeba

Itercel

Sotelgui