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“The Value of Fragments: Making a Hotspot in Mount Nimba, Liberia”

Roth, Emmanuelle, and Gregg Mitman



Les Grands Rochers, with Mount Signal Sempéré in the distance, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, Guinea. © Gregg Mitman. CC BY 4.0.



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Faint high-pitched sounds echo up from the cavernous pit into which we peer. At twilight's edge, the dry season's intense midday sun has mellowed into a cool orange glow as bats take flight. Moses, a middle-aged Liberian park ranger with a solid frame and a taste for good stories, shows his anxiousness when we lean just a bit further over the concrete-lined chasm obstructed with twisted steel. One man died here already, salvaging scrap metal from the abandoned conveyor shaft. Moses holds in his hands our protection, and that of the bats who reside in these fragments of a once-prosperous iron-ore mine. (From the article)

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