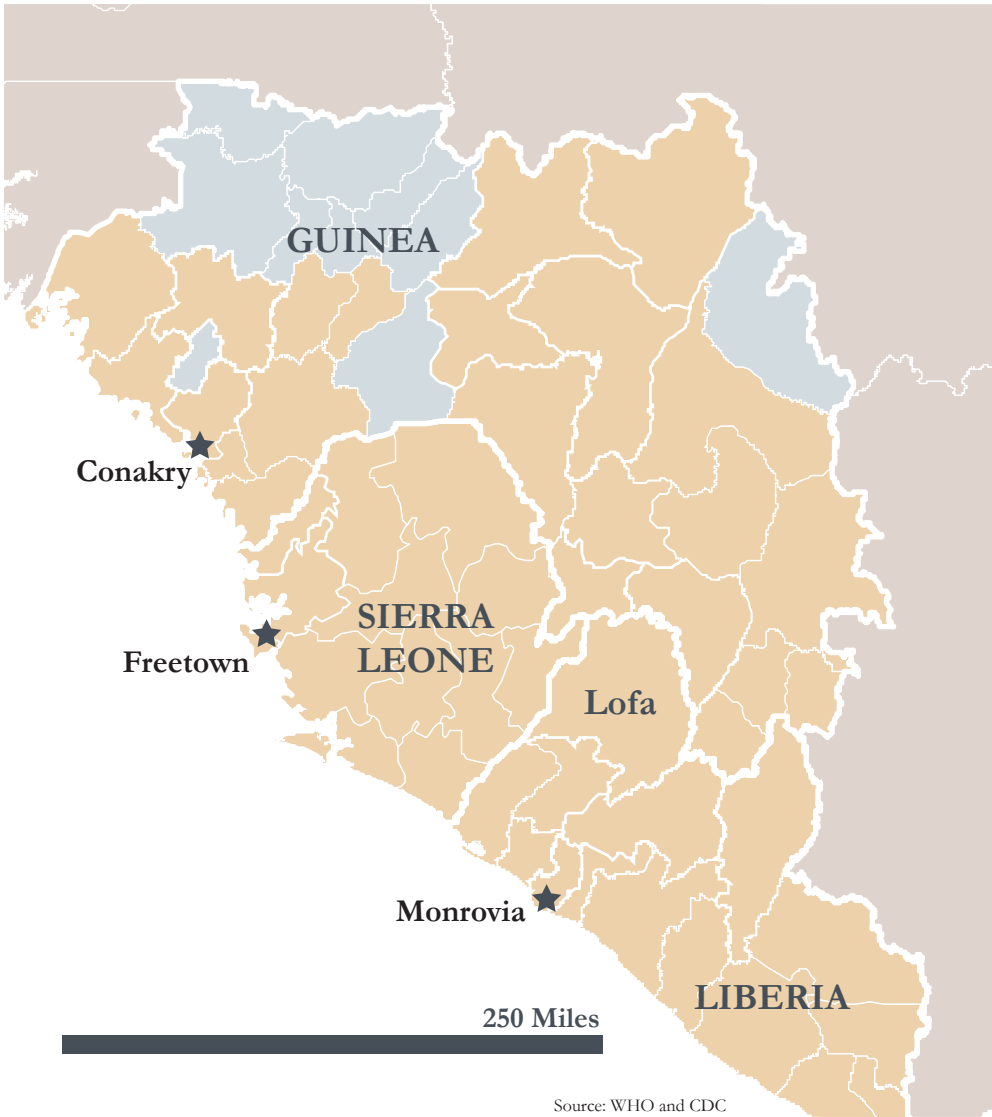
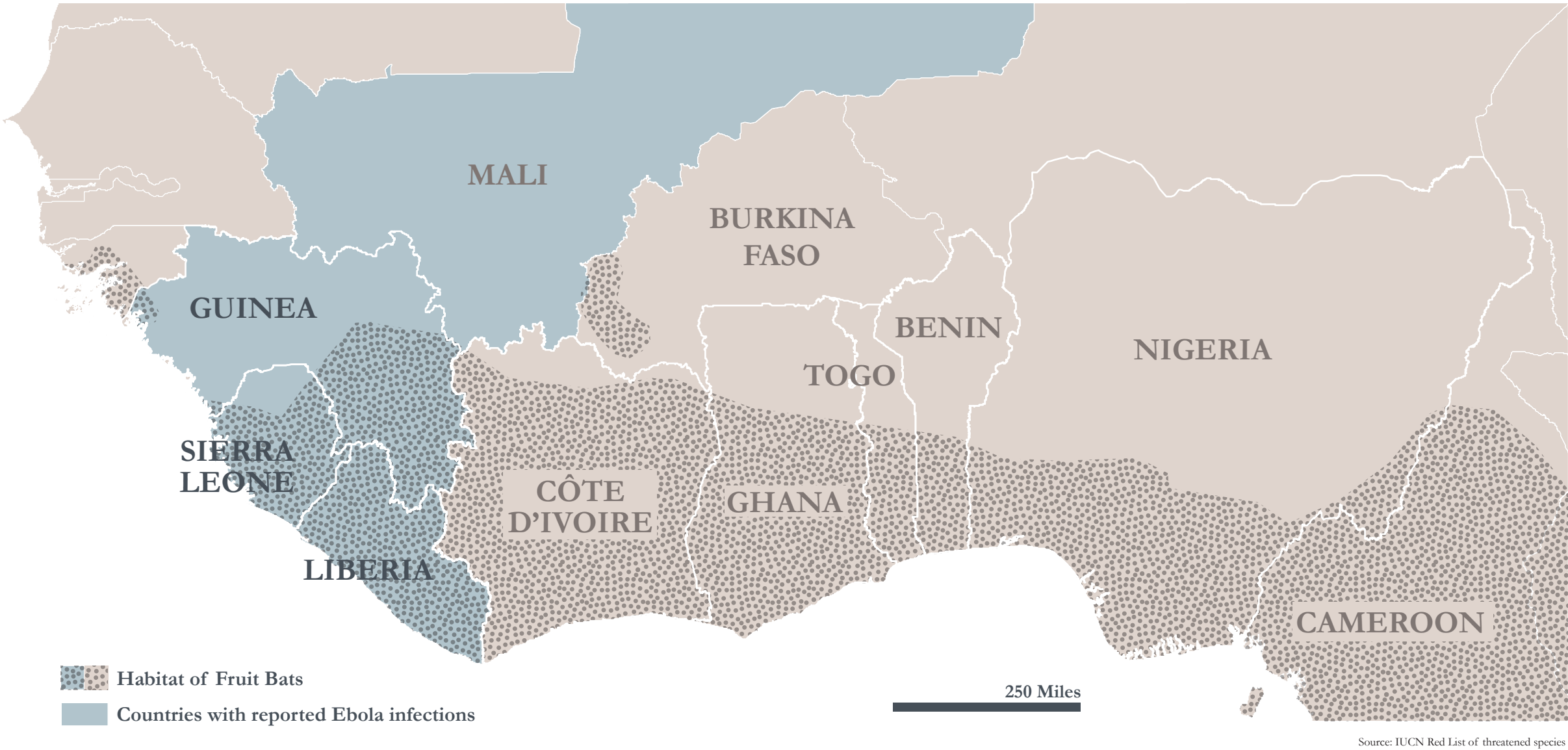


# Ebola Virus in West Africa - 2014



Franquet's Epauletted Fruit Bat (*Epomops franqueti*)

In Africa, fruit bats, particularly species of the genera *Hypsignathus monstrosus*, *Epomops franqueti*, and *Myonycteris torquata*, are considered possible natural hosts for Ebola virus. As a result, the geographic distribution of Ebola virus may overlap with the range of the fruit bats.



Initial Ebola virus infections in humans are believed to result from contact with bats or other infected animals, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Geospatial intelligence can provide useful insight on the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as Ebola, between animals and humans. The first reported cases of Ebola virus in the current outbreak were in Guinea near the Liberian border. Neighboring Lofa County, Liberia, is the home to several markets that distribute “bush meat” to the local population, according to open source information. This map depicts the geographic relationship between Lofa County and other areas with confirmed Ebola virus cases.

Provinces\Counties with reported Ebola infections



Previously epidemiology relied exclusively on the principles of the first law of geography —Nearer things are more related than distance things. With the advent of modern transportation options, this principle should be a measured factor when calculating the spread of diseases.

## Ebola Disease Impacts Economy of All of Africa

