



COMUNE DI CALIMERA



# MUSEO DI STORIA NATURALE DEL SALENTO

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## 7<sup>th</sup> scientific expedition in the Ivindo National Park (Gabon)

The Museo di Storia naturale del Salento (MSNS) organizes the seventh expedition in Gabon. It will last about 15 days in June 2016 (probably from 15<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>) to take advantage of the lushness at the end of the big rain season.

The mission has the aim to collect and study entomological and herpetological material in primary and secondary forest environment. Other kind of researchers could be admitted to participate (ornithologists, ichthyologists, botanists, etc.), but we need more time to obtain the relevant permit, so they should kindly communicate us their desire to participate as soon as possible.

We collected many information about the weather in June and we convinced that the time could be good both for insect and reptiles observation and collection. However, we have never been there (Ipassa, near Makokou) in this month, so we discharge any responsibility if the season will be not plenty of animals of your studying group.

Cost is not yet exactly fixed, we hope it will be cheaper than in the past edition, that is about 2.700 against 2,950 Euros all included (this will depends upon the number of participants and a probably small contribution by the MSNS).

I emphasize that the MSNS is not a travel agency, so it cannot decide the price by itself, but it has to rely on operators and hotels like anybody else. This leads the price to be not very cheap, even if over the years we think we selected the best quality/cost ratio.

However, you cannot find from a generic tour operator the knowledge of the place and the opportunity to collect material into a national park with regular permit from the CENAREST (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique), that is the authority in charge, with which the MSNS signed an international agreement. In addition, the collected material can be exported thanks to the clearance of the Gabonese Ministry for Water and Forest.

The organization of the trip needs quite long time (particularly for the achievement of the research permits), so it is very important to communicate without any obligation the simple aspiration to join it **before the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016**.

Hopefully, the number of 10/12 members should be reached. Subsequently, they should confirm **before the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016** with the payment of 30 per cent of the fee.

The minimum number of participants is 8, under which the expedition will be canceled.

More details could be request to [info@msns.it](mailto:info@msns.it) or [antonio.durante@msns.it](mailto:antonio.durante@msns.it)

It is possible to refer to the web pages: [progetto erpetologia](#) , [progetto Lepidotteri](#).

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