A photograph of a rural village scene. In the foreground, there is a dirt path or clearing. To the left, a small thatched-roof hut has laundry hanging on a line in front of it. In the center, a person is sitting on a wooden bench. To the right, a larger thatched-roof hut is visible. The background is filled with lush greenery, including several tall banana trees and other tropical plants. The sky is overcast.

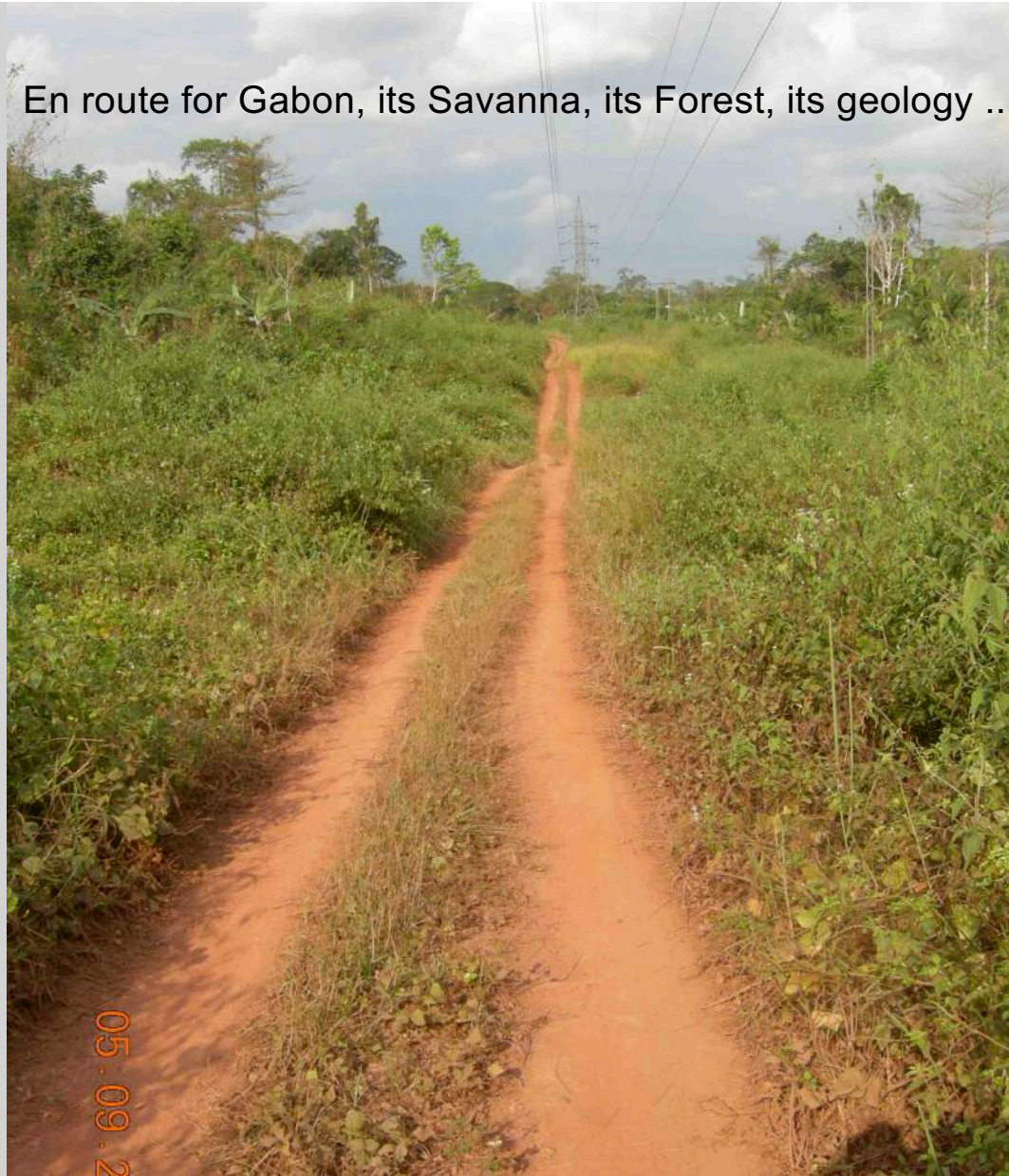
Field geology is a fascinating adventure.  
It allows us to discover other 'worlds' on the planet.  
It's full of surprises, because it's the terrain that decides where we go....

And after a life full of this terrain, geology has never disappointed me.  
The thousands of samples collected and the data gathered are then studied in the laboratory...

Each time looking forward to the next field expedition...



En route for Gabon, its Savanna, its Forest, its geology ...



05-09-2



# GABON – LIBREVILLE 08-2006



BRGM base camp for geological mission, Libreville



Table saw and water for cutting samples





FIRST DAY  
preparations  
and  
departure south to Franceville



## FIRST STOP – RESTAURANT VERY LOCAL FOOD

carp, wild boar, gazelle, hooting cat, monkey



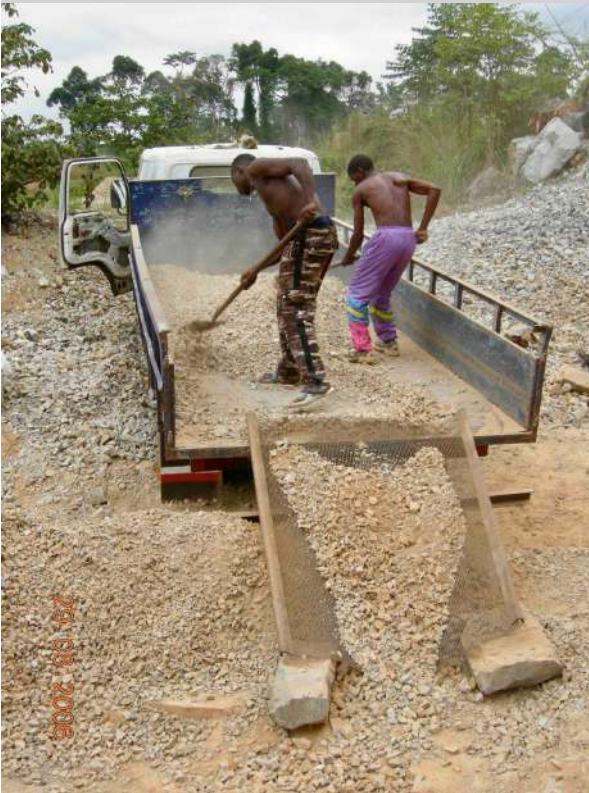


## FIRST OUTCROP ALONG THE ROAD (CENOZOIC)





# MOUILA QUARRY, NEOPROTEROZOIC, STROMATOLITES



All by hand ..... No machines



# ARRIVAL AND STOP FOR THE NIGHT





# ‘Hotel’ for one night, along the river coarse sand full of big red ants....







We have permission to enter the forest on foot.

The village was in mourning, and we had to wait (one day) until the spirits had subsided (animist village).







## ON THE WAY TO AN OUTCROP

At the end of the trail with the 4X4,  
we set off for 10 km through dense forest  
with a hunter and a guide to lead the way.

very hot, very humid and myriads of insects  
it's the good life for geologists

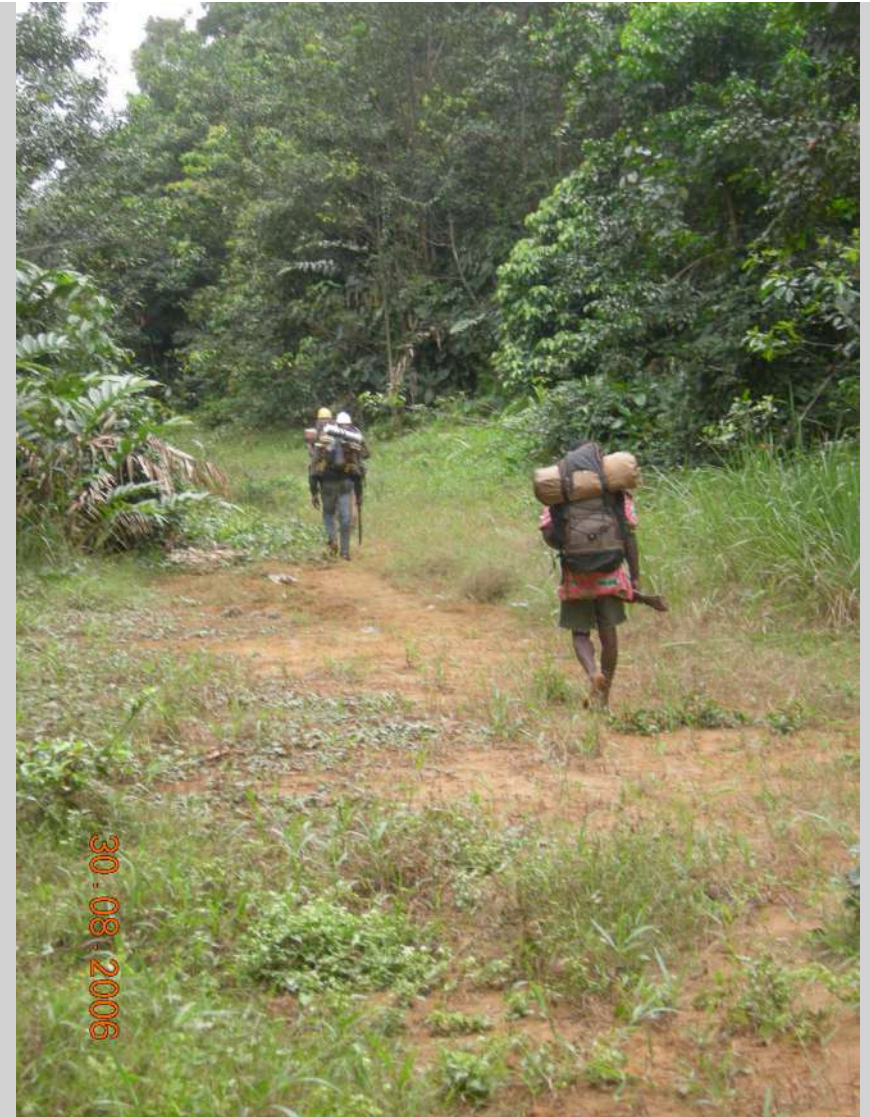




# ON THE WAY....

## ALL THE DAY

(humidity near 100%)





Setting up camp on an old elephant track  
(no other open areas, dense forest)

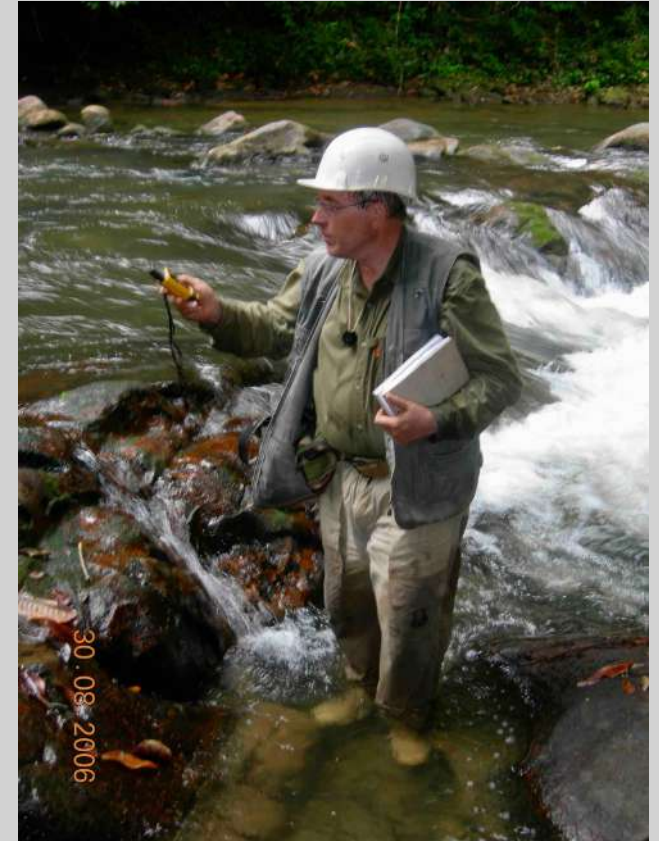




# WITH GRASS IN THEIR EARS (full of little bees, going crazy...)



Tillite/Diamictite (Neoproterozoic)





## Progress in the river following the outcrop



Red dolosiltites on the riverbank







# **BACK TO THE VILLAGE**





## Departure from Mouila, Arrival at Palace (Lebamba)







DOLCE VITA ...





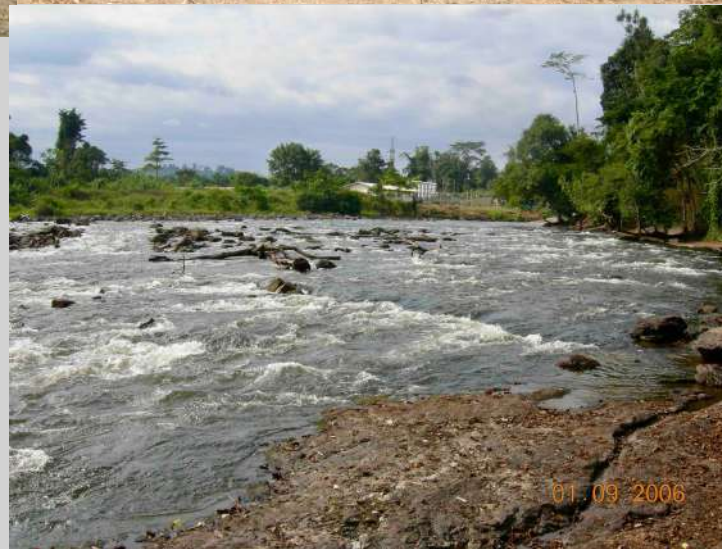
# Washing Playing Working







ON  
THE WAY  
TO THE  
OUTCROP  
TO SAMPLE  
(tillite, again)





# Sand extraction from the river Ogooué

The children do it  
with a few dugout canoes.



In the 4X4,  
Gabonese geologists  
of our team





Still  
very friendly  
and  
happy



P



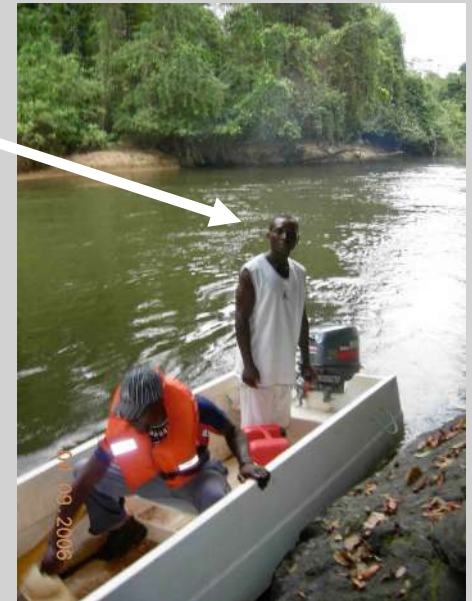
# Superb savannah



A./Gabon 2006



River trip, one day round trip  
the most important person is the PIROGUIER  
Looking for outcrops on the banks



Préat A./Gabon 2006





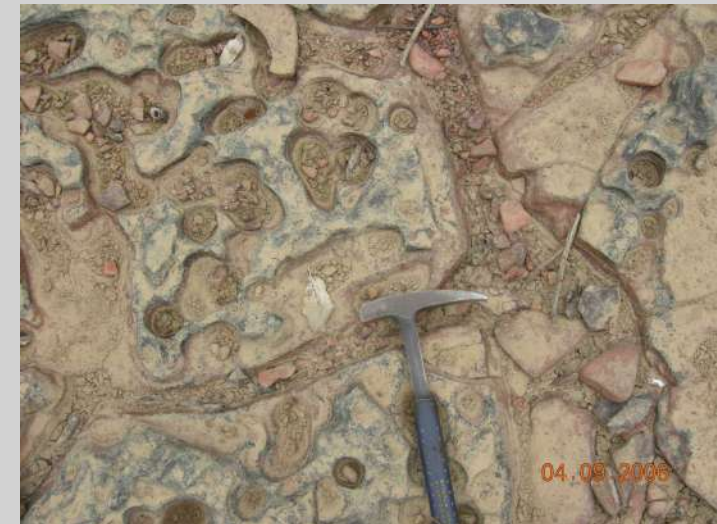


always a very peaceful setting  
with kind people





## OUTCROPS



Préat A./Gabon 2006





OUTCROPS  
AGAIN  
  
DESCRIBING  
STUDYING  
SAMPLING  
  
...



they came out of nowhere!



Préat A./Gabon 2006









In Gabon, the timber industry ...  
Wood is exported....



... is a national activity



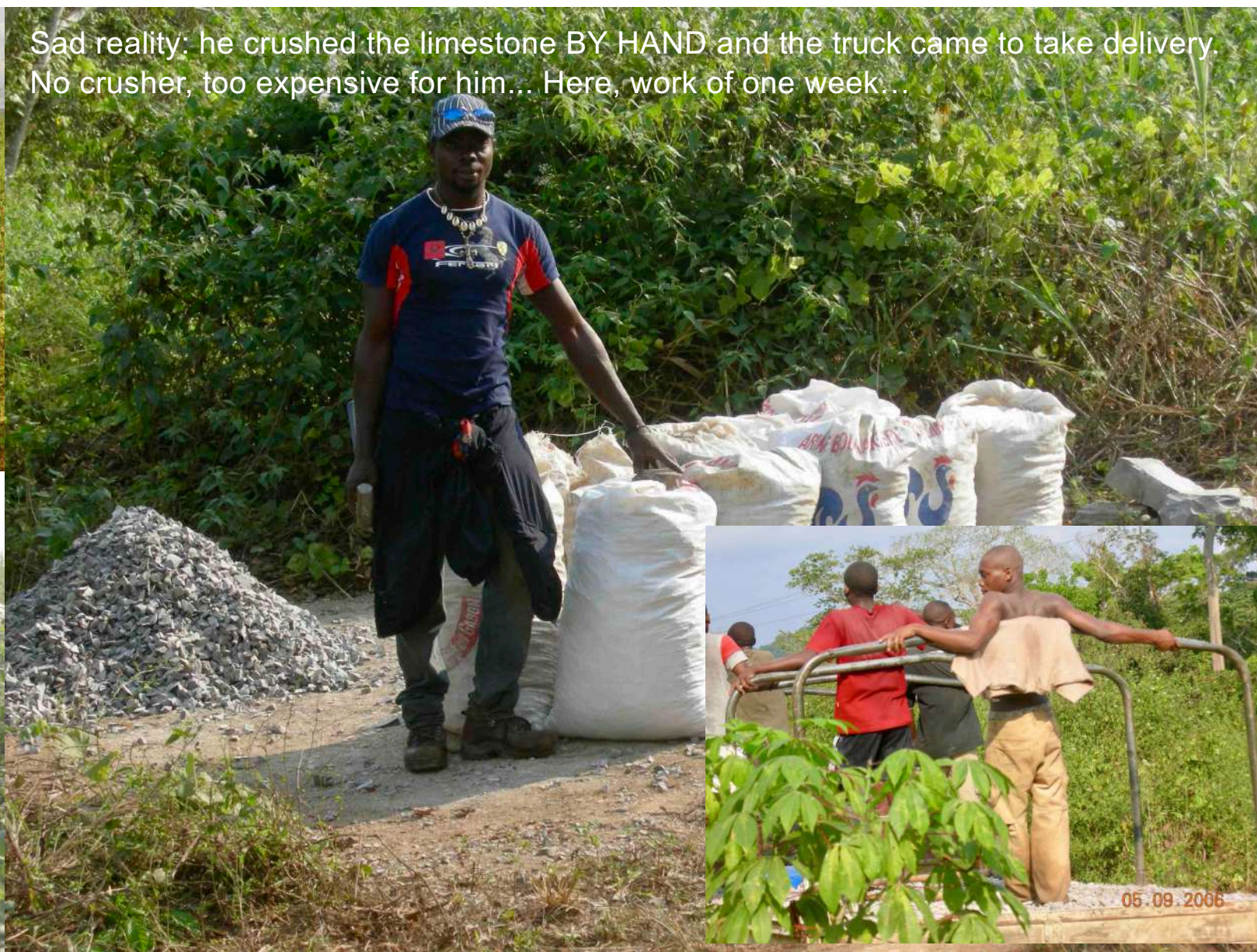
Cap Carbonates, 635 million years old

Our helpers don't enter in the cave  
(spirits can cast a spell on them)

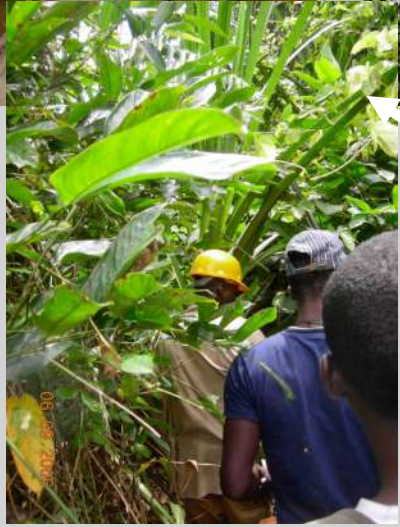




Sad reality: he crushed the limestone BY HAND and the truck came to take delivery.  
No crusher, too expensive for him... Here, work of one week...







sharp plant



manioc



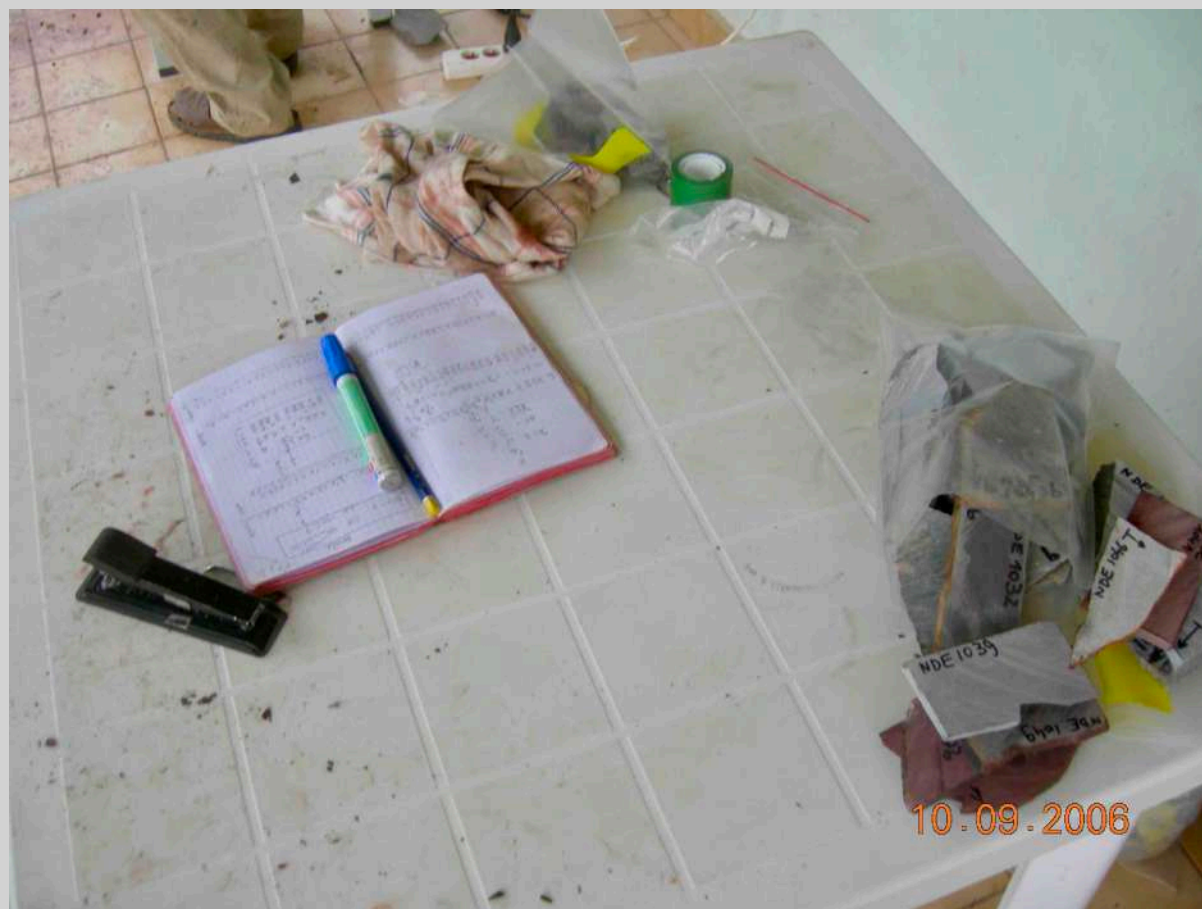
elephant track







Return to Lebamba base camp  
Sawing of samples and packaging etc.







# LEBAMBA CITY

everything you need  
is here  
(also free parking!)





# On the road to new outcrops





## Bushfire, very good for geology ...







Passing over bridges....  
always tricky



Crossing logging trucks  
is even trickier  
= red dust (laterite)  
for > 10 minutes



Ancient Neoproterozoic  
marble quarrying/sawing  
(for us = sampling)



Preat A./Gabon 2006





## MARKET DAY







Outcrops all the way up....  
humidity 100%,?  
warm and hot....





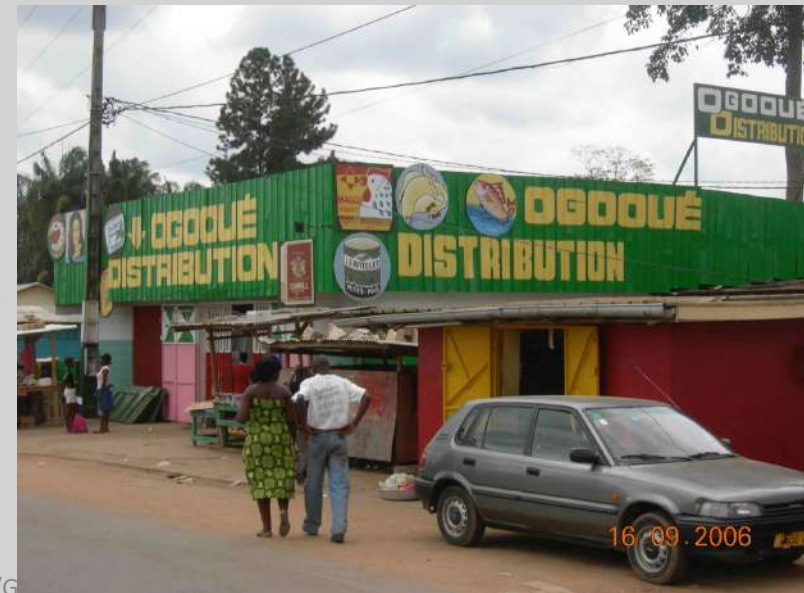
Stop to help this truck.... No suitable 'crick'....







## Village along the River Ogooué







Python caught and killed.  
Sold the same day  
in a 'restaurant'.



## Back to Libreville Sawing/Photographs/Study/Sample packaging



h 2006



# NOT YET FINISHED



## Coming soon: other field missions