

Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program Visiting Scientist and Student Fees

Conducting Scientific Research on Bioko Island

The staff of the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP) welcomes visiting research scientists and students. As part of the academic partnership between Arcadia University and the National University of Equatorial Guinea (UNGE), we are eager to facilitate your research and educational agenda. However, Equatorial Guinea is a very expensive country in which to work, and there is relatively little infrastructure. For example, bank transfers are slow and difficult, credit cards are not yet accepted by (any) hotels, restaurants or retail establishments, and obtaining travel or research permits can take weeks. The charges and services listed below reflect these realities.

In certain circumstances, even professional visitors might find it easier to contact one of the facilitators (Besari or Chris Kennedy) listed in the “tourism” section of the BBPP Website (www.bioko.org). However, if you have serious scientific or educational needs, and want to be certain that you have gone through all “official” channels, we will be happy to work with you. To begin your collaboration with BBPP, English-speakers should contact Gail Hearn (BBPP Director at hearn@arcadia.edu), and Spanish-speakers should contact Jose Esara (Chairman, UNGE Department of Environment at jomae@yahoo.es).

BBPP Services for Visiting Scientists & Students

The BBPP Visiting Scientist/Student fees listed below include the following services by English-speaking, USA-educated, BBPP staff:

- Project facilitation, including: advance planning with an English speaking BBPP representative; arrangements for a letter of invitation (required for non-US citizens, additional fee will apply), airport pick-up, arranging transportation, permits to travel on Bioko and within protected areas, assistance hiring research technicians or guides, and arranging CITES export permits (additional fee will apply).
- Lodging at BBPP facilities in Malabo, or Moka. Private, double or triple rooms (single beds) according to availability.
- Bedding & towels.
- By hand clothes-washing service/facilities (Moka) and use of washing machine (Malabo). Laundry soap, clothes drying, folding, and ironing not included. Drying lines available.
- Kitchen facilities (No refrigeration available in Moka).
- Cold running water
- Use of 220 V electricity when available but not guaranteed (usually ~24 hours per day in Malabo, ~ 6 hours per day in Moka).
- Work space
- Use of Internet facilities at the Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial, Malabo, when available (but not guaranteed).

BBPP Fees for Services

Fees charged for BBPP services depend on the nationality (foreign country or EG citizen) and the academic status (professional or student) of the visitor. All agreements require a simple contract and an advance, partially-refundable (depending on the effort expended by BBPP), payment of approximately half of the minimum charge.

The in-advance payment:

| Visitor Status | Advance Payment | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | USD | Fcfa* |
| Foreign Scientist (non-student) | \$385.00 | 177,000 |
| Foreign Student | \$350.00 | 161,000 |
| National (EG) Scientist (non-student) | \$175.00 | 80,000 |
| National (EG) Student | \$140.00 | 64,000 |

* Exchange rate calculated as the current rate (including all bank fees) of 460 Fcfa/\$1.00

We have three options, depending on the length of stay.

- Flat charge (“minimum payment”) for all stays of less than 14 days (equivalent to 14 days at the “30 days or less daily fee”):

| Visitor Status | Total Minimum Payment* | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| | USD | Fcfa |
| Foreign Scientist (non-student) | \$770.00 | 354,200 |
| Foreign Student | \$700.00 | 322,000 |
| National (EG) Scientist (non-student) | \$350.00 | 161,000 |
| National (EG) Student | \$280.00 | 128,800 |

* Includes the advance payment in the table above. Balance due on arrival in EG.

- Daily charge for all stays of 30 days or less (after minimum charge for first 14 days):

| Visitor Status | Daily Rate (<30 days) | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| | USD | Fcfa |
| Foreign Scientist (non-student) | \$55.00 | 25,300 |
| Foreign Student | \$50.00 | 23,000 |
| National (EG) Scientist (non-student) | \$25.00 | 11,500 |
| National (EG) Student | \$20.00 | 9,200 |

- Daily charge for all stays of 30 days or more (recalculated to first day after 30 days in country):

| Visitor Status | Daily Rate (>30 days) | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| | USD | Fcfa** |
| Foreign Scientist (non-student) | \$45.00 | 20,700 |
| Foreign Student | \$40.00 | 18,400 |
| National (EG) Scientist (non-student) | \$15.00 | 6,900 |
| National (EG) Student | \$10.00 | 4,600 |

Potential Additional Fees and Expenses

- **Meals:** Food is readily available both in Malabo and the village of Moka, although the selection in Moka is much more limited. Malabo has several well stocked supermarkets, and plenty of local markets that sell fresh produce. Moka is known for its fresh vegetables, and local stores also stock food such as rice, spaghetti, canned tomatoes, canned/powdered milk, sugar, canned meat, frozen meat, eggs, margarine, coffee, cookies, and canned beverages.
- **Restaurants:** In Malabo, simple “rice with beans” lunches can be had from around 1000 Fcfa (the ubiquitous “Hay Comida”), but entrees in nicer restaurants (“Pizza Place”) are relatively expensive (5,000 to 7,000 Fcfa).
- **Letter of Invitation:** Although BBPP can arrange for a letter of invitation, the charge for this document from local authorities is around 30,000 Fcfa. BBPP will also add a charge of 70,000 Fcfa for this time-consuming, and sometime difficult, service.
- **Transportation:** Transportation (car, bus, or pick-up truck) outside of Malabo, arranged through the National University, is 20,000 Fcfa per trip plus gasoline. However, University vehicles and drivers are not always available. Taxis within Malabo cost 500 Fcfa per trip. Taxis between Malabo and the airport cost 3500 Fcfa per trip.
- **Field Assistant / Guide:** 10,000 Fcfa per day.
- **Communication:** A local cell phone can be purchased for 30,000 Fcfa, including 5,000 Fcfa of credit. Local phone calls cost around 200 Fcfa per minute. International calls cost 1-2,000 Fcfa per minute.
- **CITES Export Permit:** Depending on the number of samples, and the duration of the permit, a CITES permit costs around 50,000 Fcfa when obtained through UNGE (National University of Equatorial Guinea). Independently arranged CITES permits are 50,000 Fcfa for each sample.
- **DHL Shipments (3-5 day):** Shipments out of Malabo start at around 75,000 Fcfa. Shipments to Malabo begin at around \$100.
