

EXPÉDITION BIOSPÉLÉOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE

Win-Timdouine 2008  
Maroc 10 juillet-10 août 2008

Win-Timdouine 2008 is an expedition of the association



Under the sponsorship of Michel Siffre  
The man of the experience "Out of Time"

Price Lombard 2007

INTERNATIONAL  
BIOSPELEOLOGICAL  
EXPEDITION

10<sup>TH</sup> JULY-10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2008

# Win-Timdouine 2008

Morocco, Western High-Atlas



*Because of the difficulties inherent in moving along underground, close collaboration between speleologists and scientists is essential.*

The Win-Timdouine 2008 expedition is in three part:

- ☀ Inventory of Bats and of subterranean Win-Timdouine ecosystems species
- ☀ Exploration and map of the karstic network
- ☀ Program of awareness and involvement of the local population concerning the subterranean aquatic ecosystems.

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Financial partners





## Win-Timdouine 2008 is the most ambitious mission to explore networks and ecosystems exploration, ever organised in Morocco.

More than thirty systematicians, hydrogeologists, speleologists and climbers from France and Morocco, will come from 10th July to 10th August and will combine their skills in order to study the largest karstic network of the African continent: "Win-Timdouine" or "the Cave of Lakes".

This subterranean monster holds 19 km of galleries with a majestic river flowing 100 m below the Tasroukht plateau.



During this modern adventure, in the heart of the occidental High-Atlas, 70 km north of Agadir, a cohort of scientists and explorers, will try to map the bowels of this African Leviathan and to inventory its biodiversity which is as yet unknown.

The data collected will be stocked in a database linked to a Geographical Information System, shared by the French and Moroccan Institutions.

Transversal goals are: to interest local population in the protection of their area's biodiversity and to manage their resources and to teach them: Moroccan students will be associated with each module.

This 2008 Win-Timdouine expedition is placed under the aegis of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, the Universities Cadi Ayad of Marrakech and Ibn Zohr of Agadir, The Speleological and Sports Association of Agadir and is sponsored by the French Federation of Speleology.



*The underground biodiversity is still largely unknown.  
As well as the description of species new to Science, their inventory will further the understanding of how this remarkable ecosystem functions.*



### The expedition in a few figures:

#### The 36 members

15 biologists, 4 Moroccan students (Master 2 level), 1 hydrogeologist, 11 speleologists, 2 climbers, 1 informatician, 1 graphics-photographer, 1 press contact, 4 national scientific and speleology institutions, 8 speleology clubs (FFS, Morocco and Club Alpin Français).

#### The Dates

- From 11<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July: bats specialists team.
- From 20<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> August: team of speleologists and subterranean biologists.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August: educational Program team.

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