



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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GENERAL






4 February 2010

ENGLISH ONLY

ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING REGIONAL  
CONSULTATIONS FOR THE PACIFIC  
Auckland, New Zealand, 15 - 16 February 2010

## Information Note for Participants

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## 1. Opening and registration

The Access and Benefit-sharing Regional Consultations for the Pacific will be held in Auckland, New Zealand from Monday, 15 to Tuesday, 16 February 2010.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 15 January 2010, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

## 2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

Mercure AUCKLAND Hotel  
8 Customs Street  
P.O. Box 106660 Auckland City Post Shop  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Tel.: + 649 377 8920  
Fax: + 649 307 3739  
E mail: [h1721-re01@accor.com](mailto:h1721-re01@accor.com)  
Web site: [www.Mercure.co.nz](http://www.Mercure.co.nz)

## 3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

## 4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents for the meeting as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. Documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSRC-PAC-01>

## 5. General information on access to Auckland, New Zealand



The city of Auckland is serviced by the Auckland International Airport, which is about 20 km south of the city centre in the suburb of Mangere. New Zealand is serviced by several international airports: Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. More information about the Auckland international airport can be found at: <http://www.tocumenpanama.aero/index.php?cccpage=index>

### **Bus**

The Airbus airport-to-city service departs every 15 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes during the evening. It runs 24 hours a day. The adult fare on the Airbus is NZD \$16 one way or NZD \$23 return. The trip takes about 1 hour. Reservations are not required for the Airbus. Tickets are available from the driver. For more information visit: [www.airbus.co.nz](http://www.airbus.co.nz).

## Shuttle

A shuttle service is offered to travel into the city the cost is approximately NZD \$26 for one person and NZD \$32 for two, discounts apply if two or more people are travelling together (approximately NZD \$6 per additional person). The trip takes about 1 hour. Shuttles are normally shared with other passenger groups and travelling time depends on traffic conditions and the number of stops along the way. Allow plenty of time to reach the airport for departing flights.

## Taxi

Taxis are available at the airport and a trip to the city centre costs approximately NZD \$50 to NZD \$60. The journey to the city centre takes about 30 minutes but can take considerably longer during peak traffic periods and may cost up to \$80 at these times. If you are travelling to the airport by taxi, make sure you allow plenty of time.

## 6. Visa information



Participants from countries listed below **do not** require an entry visa for New Zealand. Participants from all other countries and are strongly advised to contact the nearest New Zealand diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.**

### **Countries that have a visa waiver agreement with New Zealand**

Andorra	Holy See	Oman
Argentina	Hungary	Poland
Australia	Iceland	Portugal
Austria	Ireland	Qatar
Bahrain	Israel	Romania
Belgium	Italy	San Marino
Brazil	Japan	Saudi Arabia
Brunei Darussalam	Korea, Republic of	Singapore
Bulgaria	Kuwait	Slovak Republic
Canada	Latvia	Slovenia
Chile	Liechtenstein	South Africa
Cyprus	Lithuania	Spain
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Malaysia	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	United Arab Emirates
Finland	Mexico	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
France	Monaco	United States of America
Germany	Netherlands	Uruguay
Greece	Norway	

Information on visa procedures can be found on the web site of the Tourism Board of New Zealand at the following link: [http://www.newzealand.com/travel/getting-to-around-nz/getting-to-nz/passports-visas/passports-visas\\_home.cfm](http://www.newzealand.com/travel/getting-to-around-nz/getting-to-nz/passports-visas/passports-visas_home.cfm). A list of relevant New Zealand diplomatic/consular missions abroad is available at the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as follows: <http://www.nzembassy.com/>.

Participants requiring assistance obtaining a visa should contact Ms. Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching or Pauline Fruean at the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) whose coordinates are listed below.

Rosanna : [rosannag@sprep.org](mailto:rosannag@sprep.org), Ph: +685 21929 ext 240

Pauline: [paulinef@sprep.org](mailto:paulinef@sprep.org), Ph: +685 21929 ext 225

To facilitate the issuance of visas, SPREP will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

## 7. **Hotel information**

Participants are kindly reminded that **they have to make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible**. However, a block booking has been made on behalf of sponsored participants for **Monday, 15 February** at the Mercure Hotel. Sponsored participants are kindly asked to confirm their arrival and departure dates to the hotel directly and reserve for additional nights if needed. Breakfast & dinner plus any extras, such as telephone, room upgrade, bar, laundry, e-mail, restaurant, etc. are at participants own cost and must be settled upon checking out. The information regarding the hotel is as follows:

Mercure AUCKLAND Hotel  
8 Customs Street  
PO Box 106660 Auckland City Post Shop  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Tel.: + 649 377 8920  
Fax: + 649 307 3739  
E-mail: [h1721-re01@accor.com](mailto:h1721-re01@accor.com)  
Web site: [www.Mercure.co.nz](http://www.Mercure.co.nz)

Below is an indicative list of hotels (**Annex A**) located in the vicinity of the Mercure Auckland Hotel. Further information on hotels near the meeting venue is available at the following web site:

<http://www.newzealand.com/travel/International/>



## 8. **Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)**

Sponsored participants will receive the relevant portion of their DSA on the first day of the meeting.

## 9. **Official languages in New Zealand**

The official languages in New Zealand are: English, Maori and New Zealand Sign Language.

## 10. **Weather and time zone information**



In February, which is the summer season, temperatures in Auckland range between a maximum of 24°C in the daytime and a minimum of 16°C at night. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/046/c00538.htm>.

The standard time zone will be GMT/UTC +13 hours.

## 11. Electricity

The electrical current in New Zealand is 240 Volts, 50 Hertz (this plug has a grounding pin and two flat prongs forming a V-shape) as shown in the illustration below.



## 12. Currency

The currency used in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD). The current exchange rate as at 4 February 2010 is US \$1.00 = NZD \$1.45 and € 1 = NZD \$1.99.

## 13. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibilities for medical, accident and travel insurances, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other losses that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants will secure international medical, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.

**Current Rate of exchange:**  
 US \$1 = NZD \$1.45 and €1 = NZD \$1.99

**Annex A – Hotel listing**

**LIST OF HOTELS WITH INDICATIVE ROOM RATES IN NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS**

**RATES ARE INDICATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Name of Hotels	Approximate room rates	Distance to the meeting venue	Remarks
<b>Mercure Windsor Hotel</b> 58-60 Queen Street, 1001 Auckland, New Zealand Tel : (+64)9/3099979 Fax : (+64)9/3099978 E-mail: <a href="mailto:h4976-re01@accor.com">h4976-re01@accor.com</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.mercure.com/gb/reservation/liste_hotels.shtml">http://www.mercure.com/gb/reservation/liste_hotels.shtml</a>	Standard Room (NZD\$109.00) Deluxe Room (NZD\$129.00)	5-10 mins	Deluxe room has a kitchen  Contact: Brendan Graham +649 309 9979
<b>Formule 1</b> 20 Wyndham St, Auckland 1010, Auckland, New Zealand E-mail: <a href="mailto:reservations@allseasonsauckland.co.nz">reservations@allseasonsauckland.co.nz</a> Web site <a href="http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-6487-all-seasons-auckland/index.shtml">http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-6487-all-seasons-auckland/index.shtml</a>	Standard Room (Studio) (NZD\$75.00)	5-10 mins	Contact: Jae Choi +649 308 9140