



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL






29 November 2013

ENGLISH ONLY

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE REGIONAL
WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING BIOSAFETY
INTO NATIONAL MEASURES
Batumi, Georgia, 16-20 December 2013

Information Note for Participants

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1. Opening and registration

The Central and Eastern Europe Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Biosafety into National Measures will be held in Batumi, Georgia from 16 to 20 December 2013.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 16 December 2013, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting from 8:30 a.m. the same day at the venue.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

Sheraton Batumi Hotel

28 Rustaveli Street

Batumi, Georgia

Tel: +995-422-229000

Fax: +995-422-229029

E-mail: reservation.batumi@sheraton.com

Web site: <http://www.sheratonbatumi.com/>

3. Meeting organizers in Georgia:

Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze

Head of Biodiversity Protection Service

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection

6 Gulua Street, Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 2727231

Mob: +995 595 119795

E-mail: s.kartsivadze@moe.gov.ge, s.kartsivadze@yahoo.com

Ms. Teona Karchava

Chief Specialist of Biodiversity Protection Service

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection

6 Gulua Street, Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 2727231

Mobile: +995 593 141391

E-mail: teonakarchava@yahoo.com

4. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Russian.

5. Documents

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



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSRWMB-CEE-01>

6. General information on access to Batumi, Georgia



The city of Batumi is serviced by the Batumi International Airport which is about 8 kms from the city centre and should take about 10-15 minutes. Taxis are available at the arrivals hall and cost about 20 GEL (US \$12) agree on price before trip. Buses are also available to the city centre, Bus No. 10 Airport/Batumi Centre stops in front of terminal and takes about 20 mins at a cost of about 0.80 GEL (US \$0.48).

Staff from the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia will meet participants at Batumi airport and provide you with the assistance and transfer to the hotel. Please, watch out for a sign “CBD WORKSHOP”. Bus trip takes approximately 20 minutes from Batumi airport.

In order to organize pick-up service please send the following travel details to the meeting organizers in Georgia (indicated in section 3 above) by 10th December 2013:

Name:

Arrival Date and time:

Flight N° at arrival:

Departure Date and time:

Flight N° at departure

7. Visa information



Participants requiring visas are strongly advised to contact the nearest Georgian 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 some airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.

Kindly verify if you require a visa at the web site containing information on visa procedures at the following web site: http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=96.

The visa form is available at the following link:
http://www.mfa.gov.ge/files/96_10474_831716_VisaGeo.pdf

A list of relevant Georgian diplomatic/consular missions abroad is available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia:
http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=38.

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

Should it not prove feasible to get a visa in advance, you will be able to obtain a Georgian visa upon arrival at the international airports. The visa fee is 50 GEL. In order to obtain entry visas at the airport, please fill in the relevant section of the registration form. That would provide the hosts with all necessary information at least one week before arrival and you will then receive a letter from the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia indicating that you will receive the entry visa upon arrival.

Should you have any questions or problems, please contact the meeting organizers in Georgia (contact information is given in section 3 above).

A number of participants may need to spend a night in Istanbul on their way to or from Batumi. Please check if you need a visa for Turkey on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' web site: <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>. You will find the list of Turkish representations abroad: <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkish-representations.en.mfa>, or you may be able to obtain a visa online through the e-consulate at: http://www.e-konsolosluk.net/Visa/Visa_Welcome.aspx.

8. Hotel information



A list of recommended hotels in the vicinity of the meeting venue can be found in Annex A below. Participants are requested to make their own hotel reservations.

Further information on hotels and tourism can be found at the following web site: http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=82 (several links can be found at the bottom of the page).

9. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

The DSA will be paid to sponsored participants by the Secretariat on the first day of the meeting.

10. Official languages in Georgia

The official language in Georgia is Georgian. Some other languages spoken in the country are. Russian, English.

11. Information about Georgia and Adjara Autonomous Republic

Georgia has a very rich history reflected in its cultural heritage which the country is so proud of. There are 12 000 historical monuments in Georgia, 5 000 of them are protected by the Government and 4 of them are on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. These monuments are Mtskheta - ancient capital of Georgia, Gelati - architectural complex and Bagrati - cathedral in Kutaisi, and village Ushguli in Svaneti.

Batumi is a sea-side, nice town, having quite a unique charm. The part of the city called “Old Batumi” is nearly 150 years old, where mostly 2-3 story buildings create an old atmosphere. The other parts are being rapidly developed, where you can find high rise buildings, some modern architectural solutions, nice parks and places you can relax and enjoy your time. This pretty city, permeated with the aroma of the sea, magnolias and acacias, is attractive and fascinating all year round.

Please visit the following web-sites to find more information on Georgia and Adjara.

<http://www.ajara.gov.ge/eng/>

<http://www.tourismadjara.ge/new/?lang=eng>

<http://www.georgia.travel/>

12. Site Excursion

Wednesday, 18 December, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia is offering a half-day excursion to the [Batumi Botanical Garden](#)

Those who plan to participate in the excursions are kindly asked to have comfortable shoes (waterproof sport shoes would be the best choice) and warm clothes.

Lunch will be provided during the excursion.

13. Weather and Time Zone information



In December, temperatures in Batumi range between a maximum of 13°C and minimum of 5 C. Please bring appropriate clothing for cold weather conditions. Current weather conditions can be found at <http://www.theweathernetwork.com/weather/georgia/-/batumi> and <http://meteo.gov.ge/index.php?l=2&ct=1&cm>.

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC + 4hours

14. Electricity

The electrical currents in Georgia are 220 volts, 50 Hertz. The power plugs used in are shown below.



15. Currency



The currency in Georgia is the Georgian Lari (GEL), the common use is Lari. The current exchange rate as at 25 November 2013 is US \$1.00 = GEL 1.69 and (Euro) € 1 = GEL 2.28. VISA, MASTER and American Express cards are commonly accepted in Georgia. Branches of many Georgian Banks are located in vicinity of the meeting venue: www.tbcbank.ge, <http://bankofgeorgia.ge/retail/en>, <http://procreditbank.ge/>.

The Sheraton Hotel and Intourist Hotel cooperate with the Bank of Georgia and there are ATM machines and branches of the Bank of Georgia in both hotels. The maximum amount which can be taken from an ATM machine during 24 hours is 1000 GEL. No fee will be charged during withdrawal from ATM, however 2.5% will be charged by Bank offices.

An ATM machine of BTA Bank is located in the Radisson Blu Hotel.

16. Disclaimer

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

Annex A – Hotel Listing

LIST OF HOTELS WITH INDICATIVE ROOM RATES IN GEL or US \$

RATES ARE INDICATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Hotels	Approximate room rates	Distance to the meeting venue	Remarks
1. Mgzavrebi 10, Abashidze Street, Batumi, Georgia Tel.: (+995) 579 44 44 76; (+995) 222 7 44 17; (+995) 574 52 15 15 E-mail: hotelmgzavrebi@mail.ru Web site: http://mgzavrebi.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=9	Standard room: 70-80 GEL	700 m	Rates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wi-fi <p>To get this rate, you should mention in the e-mail, that you're attending the meeting of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia</p>
2. Chao Z. Gorgiladze str. #75, Batumi, Georgia Tel.: + 995 591 62 62 77; +995 599 55 50 75; +995 422 22 24 00 E-mail: info@hotelchao.ge Web site: http://www.hotelchao.ge/eng.htm	Single room: 72 GEL	1 km	Rates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast; Dinner • Wi-fi • To get this rate, you should mention in the e-mail, that you're attending the meeting of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
3. Brighton Georgia, Batumi, Nodar Dumbadze St. №10 Tel.: + +995 (422) 27-41-35; +995 (557) 68-28-28 E-mail: info@brighton.ge Web site: http://www.brighton.ge/index.php?lang=en	Double room : 130 GEL	500 m	Rates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Wi-fi
4. Sheraton Batumi Hotel Tel.: +(995)(422) 2 29000 Fax.: +(995)(422) 2 2 9029 E-mail: reservation.batumi@sheraton.com Web site: http://www.sheratonbatumi.com/	Single room: USD 100.30 per night erti ghamo Double rooms: USD 123.60	Meeting Venue	Rates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Wi-fi <p>To get this rate, you should mention in the e-mail, that you're attending the meeting of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in your e-mail to Ms. Nino Margalitadze: nino.margalitadze@sheraton.com</p>
5. Era Palace Z.gorgiladze str.77, Batumi, Georgia Tel.: + 995 222 20000/ 78221 / 79333 E-mail: erapalace@gmail.com Web site: http://www.erapalace.ge/	Standard room with one double bed– 150 GEL Family room with one double and one single room – 200 GEL	1 km	Rates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Wi-fi
6. Intourist Ninoshvili Street 11 Batumi, Georgia Tel.: + + 995 422 27 55 25; + 995 422 21 78 78; + 995 422 27 66 08 E-mail: info@intouristpalace.com Web site: http://www.intouristpalace.com/hc/	Single room – 105 USD Double room – 140 USD		Rates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Wi-fi