

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**Distr.
GENERAL

30 September 2003

ENGLISH

**MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
OF WORK ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY**

Montpellier, France, 24 - 27 November 2003

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**1. Opening and registration**

The Meeting of the ad hoc technical expert group on the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity will be held in Montpellier, France, from Monday, 24 November to Thursday, 27 November 2003.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 24 November, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting at 9:00 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held on the premises of **Agropolis**, located at:

Agropolis International
Avenue Agropolis
F-34394 Montpellier Cedex 5
Telephone. +33 (0) 4.67.04.75.75
Fax. +33 (0) 4.67.04.75.99

3. Working languages of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English and French.

4. Documents

Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their copies of the documents, as they will only be available in Montpellier in very limited quantities.

5. Visas

Attached, as an annex I, is a list of countries whose citizens require an entry visa to France.

The Annex II shows a list of countries whose citizens do not require an entry visa to France when the total duration of the visit does not exceed three months.

For participants requiring a visa, an early contact with the consular authorities of the Government of France is advised to allow sufficient time for a visa to be issued as appropriate prior to departure.

To facilitate and expedite the issuance of visas, free of charge, a copy of the letter of nomination and of the invitation letter should be attached to the visa request. Information on visa procedure including a list of relevant French diplomatic missions abroad is available on the website of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs at:

<http://www.expatries.org/annuaires/annuaires.htm>

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/thema/dossier.asp?DOS=VISA>

For any difficulty or query on visa related issues, participants should contact directly Mr. Jean Pierre LE DANFF at:

Telephone : +33 (0)1 43 17 44 84

Fax : +33 (0)1 43 17 57 45

e-mail : Jean-pierre.LE-DANFF@diplomatie.gouv.fr

6. Services to Participants

Participants will be able to access their e-mails, free of charge, in workstations situated on the premises of the meeting venue.

Lunch meals and coffee breaks will be provided within the meeting venue, and a reception will be hosted on Monday, 24 November 2003 by the local organiser.

7. Access to Montpellier

Montpellier is serviced by the international airport “Montpellier-Méditerranée” (about 8 km away from the city centre).

Montpellier is also serviced by a high speed train (TGV). The train station is located in the city centre.

8. Access to Agropolis International and to the Heliotel:

a) From the airport

“TAXI BLEU” (telephone 04.67.03.2000) is readily available for hire (about 26 Euro during the day and 32 Euro at night);

b) From the city centre

From the train station located in the city centre, take Maguelone street to the left. Then catch the tramway direction «Mosson». Once in St Eloi station, take bus «La Valette» direction «Agropolis La Valette» and get off at the terminus. The oval shaped Agropolis building is in front of the terminus.

9. Hotel accommodation

It should be noted that a group of 30 rooms have already been pre-booked at the Hotel Heliotel by the host country on behalf of the participants.

Hotel Heliotel, which is located at about 300 meters from Agropolis, the meeting venue, is offering a special group room rate of 42.30 Euro plus breakfast (6 Euro) for single room.

As the option on the pre-booking expires on Monday, 17 November 2003, participants must forward, using the coordinates provided below, their booking requests directly to the Hotel Heliotel, no later than Thursday, 13 November 2003. For more information on Hotel Heliotel, please visit this web site: www.heliotel.fr.

Hotel Heliotel
Round-point Agropolis
34980 Montferrier S/LEZ
Telephone: + 33 (0) 4.67.41.54.00
Fax: + 33 (0) 4. 67.41.54.54
e-mail: heliot@wanadoo.fr

To benefit from the negotiated room rates, participants must indicate when making their hotel reservations that they are attending the “CBD” meeting. Please also indicate that Ms. Laurence Monin of Agropolis has made the pre-booking.

For assistance or any queries about hotel accommodation, participants are requested to contact directly Ms. Laurence MONIN of Agropolis at:

Telephone: +33 (0)4 67 04 75 73
Fax : +33 (0)4 67 04 75 99
e-mail : monin@agropolis.fr at:

10. Time zone

Montpellier in winter will be 1 hour ahead of GMT.

11. Weather

During the month of November in Montpellier, the average temperature is 10°C and can reach a maximum of 20°C and may drop to minus 5. For more information on weather available on the following site: <http://www.meteo.fr/meteonet/temps/france/clim/cli.htm>

12. Voltage

220 volts, 50 Hertz.

13. Excursion

The Government of France will organize an excursion on Wednesday, 26 November 2003 to Mont Aigoual. The purpose of the excursion is to show participants an example of biodiversity rehabilitation and restoration efforts on a degraded site in the Mont Aigoual.

Mont Aigoual is situated about 1500 m above sea level. **For the purposes of the excursion, participants should bring proper winter and warm clothing, boots or heavy-duty shoes.**

It is to be noted that rain is frequent on Mont Aigoual Average temperature in November is 0°C with a maximum of 15°C and a minimum of minus 15°C. For more information, please visit this web site : <http://www.meteo.fr/temps/monde/climats/station/251.htm>

14. Credit Cards

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels and restaurants in Montpellier.

Attached: Annexes I and II: List of countries with and without visa requirements (in accordance with the list provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France)

Visa Requirements

Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001

Listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement

1. Nationals of third countries on the list in Annex I shall be required to be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States.

2. Without prejudice to Article 8 paragraph 2, nationals of third countries on the list in Annex II shall be exempt from the requirement set out in paragraph 1, for stays of no more than three months in all.

<i>ANNEXE I</i>		
Common list referred to in Article 1(1)		
1) States		
A	J	T
Afghanistan	Jamaica	Tajikistan
Albania	Jordan	Tanzania
Algeria	K	Thailand
Angola	Kazakhstan	The Comoros
Antigua and Barbuda	Kenya	Togo
Armenia	Kiribati	Tonga
Azerbaijan	Kuwait	Trinidad and Tobago
B	Kyrgyzstan	Tunisia
Bahamas	L	Turkey
Bahrain	Laos	Turkmenistan
Bangladesh	Lebanon	Tuvalu
Barbados	Lesotho	U
Belarus	Liberia	Uganda
Belize	Libya	Ukraine
Benin	M	United Arab Emirates
Bhutan	Madagascar	Uzbekistan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Malawi	V
Botswana	Maldives	Vanuatu
Burkina Faso	Mali	Vietnam
Burma/Myanmar	Marshall Islands	Western Samoa
Burundi	Mauritania	Y
C	Mauritius	Yemen
Cambodia	Micronesia	Z
Cameroon	Moldova	Zambia
Cape Verde	Mongolia	Zimbabwe
Central African Republic	Morocco	
Chad	Mozambique	
China	N	
Colombia	Namibia	
Congo	Nauru	
Côte d'Ivoire	Nepal	
Cuba	Niger	
D	Nigeria	
Democratic Republic of the	North Korea	

Congo		
Djibouti	Northern Marianas	
Dominica	O	
Dominican Republic	Oman	
E	P	
East Timor	Pakistan	
Ecuador	Palau	
Egypt	Papua New Guinea	
Equatorial Guinea	Peru	
Eritrea	Philippines	
Ethiopia	Q	
F	Qatar	
Federal Republic of Yugoslav (Serbia-Montenegro)	R	
Fiji	Russia	
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Rwanda	
G	S	
Gabon	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Gambia	Saint Lucia	
Georgia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Ghana	Samoa	
Grenada	Sao Tome and Principe	
Guinea	Saudi Arabia	
Guinea-Bissau	Senegal	
Guyana	Seychelles	
H	Sierra Leone	
Haiti	Solomon Islands	
I	Somalia	
India	South Africa	
Indonesia	Sri Lanka	
Iran	Sudan	
Iraq	Surinam	
	Swaziland	
	Syria	

<i>ANNEXE II</i>		
Common list referred to in Article 1(2)		
2) States		
A	M	
Andorra	Malaysia	
Argentina	Malta	
Australia	Mexico	
B	Monaco	
Bolivia	N	
Brazil	New Zealand	
Brunei	Nicaragua	
Bulgaria	P	
C	Panama	
Canada	Paraguay	
Chile	Poland	
Costa Rica	R	
Croatia	Romania (*)	
Cyprus	S	
Czech Republic	Salvador	
E	San Marino	
Estonia	Singapore	
G	Slovakia	
Guatemala	Slovenia	
H	South Korea	
Holy See	U	
Honduras	United States of America	
Hungary	Uruguay	
I	V	
Israel	Venezuela	
J		
Japan		
L		
Latvia		
Lithuania		

(*) Cf. article 8, paragraph 2
