

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

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ENGLISH ONLY

WORKSHOP ON THE APPLICATION OF THE
ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO PROTECTED
AREAS IN SMALL ISLANDS
12-16 December, Bangkok, Thailand

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

The Workshop on the Application of the Ecosystems Approach to Protected Areas in Small Islands will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 12 to 16 December 2006. The Workshop will take place at UNCC (UNESCAP) for the period of 12 to 15 and at the Royal Princess Hotel on Saturday, 16 December 2006.

The Workshop will start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 12 December, and registration will take place at the registration counter, located on the ground floor of the UNCC at 8.30 a.m.

2. Venues

The Workshop will be held as follows:

▪ **From Tuesday, 12 to Friday, 15 December 2006 at:**

United Nations Conference Centre
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Telephone: + 66 (0) 2-288-1234

Fax: + 66-(0) 2-288-1000

E-Mail: likitnukul.unescap@un.org

Website: <http://www.unescap.org/uncc>

▪ **On Saturday, 16 December 2006 at:**

The Royal Princess Hotel
269 Larn Luang Road
Pomprab
Bangkok 10100
Thailand
Telephone: +66 (0) 2 281 3088
Fax: +66 (0) 2 280 1314
E-mail: taninee@dusit.com

It should be noted that for security reasons, the display of name badges is mandatory for admission to the UNCC premises. Participants are requested to have their valid passports and identification cards with photographs for entry into the UNCC.

3. Working language of the Workshop

The workshop will be held in English only.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the Workshop.

Pre-session documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=WSEAPASI-01>

5. Services to participants

5.1. Medical

First-aid and medical services are available at the Medical Centre, located on the fourth floor of the Service Building, during weekdays. The ESCAP doctor is available from 7.30 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. with a lunch break between 12 and 12.45. Appointment should be made through the nurse at extensions 1352 and 1761. The United Nations buildings are smoke-free areas. Participants are allowed to smoke only in the designated areas outside the buildings.

NB. Yellow fever vaccination is required for participants from endemic countries. Participants are recommended to have had vaccinations against food-borne diseases such as, hepatitis A, tetanus and typhoid. Please see heading 8 below on health requirements.

5.2 Postal

Postal services are available at the Post and Telegraphic Office, UN Branch, located on the ground floor, UNCC. The working hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

5.3 Catering

Catering services are available at the Cafeteria located on the fourth floor of the Service Building, and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Refreshment Lounge situated on the ground floor of UNCC, is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. And the Canteen located on the ground floor of the Service Building, opens from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition, a snack bar serving sandwiches, pastries, coffee/tea and soft drinks is located at the Coffee Corner, level 1, UNCC. It is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

6. Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)

CBD Secretariat's sponsored participants will receive the portion of their DSA on the first day of the Workshop.

7. Visas

Visa requirements and lists of countries whose nationals require or do not require a visa to enter Thailand are outlined in the **Annex A** attached hereto.

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

Information on visa related issues is also available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand at: <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/12.php>.

Participants experiencing difficulties to access this web site and/or requiring any visa-related assistance are requested to directly contact the designated Thai Government focal point, namely Ms. Patama Domrongphol whose coordinates are as follows:

Ms. Patama Domrongphol
Environmental Official
Biological Diversity Division
Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning
60/1 Soi Phibun Wattana 7 Phayathai
Bangkok 10700
Thailand
Telephone: + 66 (0) 2-265-6640
Fax: + 66-(0) 2-265-6640 + 66-(0) 2-265-6638
E-mails: pimdomrongphol@yahoo.com

8. Health Requirements

The Ministry of Health has laid down regulations that applicants who traveled from or through the countries which have been declared yellow fever infected areas (**Annex B**) must provide an International Health Certificate indicating that they have received a yellow fever vaccination.

The International Health Certificate must be submitted together with the visa application form. The traveler will also have to present the said certificate to the Immigration Officer upon arrival at the port of entry in the Kingdom.

For more information on health requirements, please contact the traveler's clinic or the Thai diplomatic representation in your country of residence.

9. General information on access to Bangkok

The city of Bangkok is serviced by Bangkok International Airport (BKK). Taxis with meters start at Thai Baht (TB) 35 (approx. US\$ 0, 93 US\$) plus TB 50 from (but not to) the airport (which is not indicated on the meter). Depending on destination, fares from the airport to town will be about 200 TB plus the aforementioned additional charges (plan on approx. TB 350 = US\$ 8 to 9).

NB. There is an additional fee (paid by yourself or through the driver, and not indicated on the meter) for using the expressway (recommended) of TB 40-80 (approx. US\$ 1-2)

It is not recommended to use un-authorized taxis and they normally charge more. Authorised taxis are easily recognized and located at the official taxi stand at the airport.

For more information on Bangkok International Airport and taxis, please go to: <http://www.hotelthailand.com/airportmap2.html>.

It should be noted that participants will have to pay, **in local currency**, upon departure an airport tax of TB 500.

10. Hotel information

A block booking at the Royal Princess hotel has been made on behalf of all participants in the Workshop.

For more information on the hotel, please go to: <http://bangkok-larnluang.royalprincess.com/>. Full address for the hotel is indicated under heading 2 above.

The arrangements made with the Royal Princess Hotel are as follows:

10.1 Special room rates

- Superior Single room: TB 2,000.-net / room/ night (approx. 53 US\$)
- Superior Twin room: TB 2,200.-net / room /night (approx.58 US\$)
- Deluxe Single room: TB 2,200.-net / room/ night (approx. 58 US\$)
- Deluxe Twin room: TB 2,400.-net / room /night (approx. 64 US\$)

10.2 Special privilege

- Room rate are inclusive of buffet breakfast.
- Welcome drink, fruit and flower
- Daily Newspaper
- 10% discount for Food and Beverage at the hotel restaurant
- 10% discount for Traditional Thai Massage

10.3 Free shuttle service

Royal Princess hotel will be providing a free shuttle Van service to/from United Nations Conference Centre (meeting venue) from Tuesday, 12 to Friday, 15 December 2006.

The above rates are net, inclusive of service charge and VAT.

It should be noted that participants **must confirm directly** to the hotel their reservations **no later than 6 December 2006**. Past this deadline, rooms that have not been confirmed will be freed automatically and Royal Princess Hotel will not guarantee availability and room rates.

The CBD Secretariat will settle the hotel accommodation on behalf of the sponsored participants. All extras, such as telephone, laundry, e-mail, restaurant, etc. are at their own costs and must be settled upon checking out.

11. Official language

The official language in Thailand is Thai. However, English, and some Chinese, are spoken and understood in most larger hotels and restaurants and by most doctors. Bangkok has a special police unit to help tourists (marked as “Tourist Police”) who are approachable for assistance and are usually more proficient in English.

12. Weather and time zone information

The weather in Bangkok is warm and humid. Light tropical clothing will be appropriate. The conference room where the meeting is to be held is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 23-24 degrees Celsius (72-73 degrees Fahrenheit). The standard time zone is GMT + 7 hours.

13. Electricity

220 volts, 50 Hertz [two-pin, flat and vertical, connection].

14. Currency

The Thai currency is the Thai Baht (TB). The current exchange rate is approximately 37.58 Thai Baht to 1 US\$. Facilities in currency exchange are readily available in banks and major hotels (and are located at Airport Arrivals). A passport identification may be requested when changing currency.

Major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard) are accepted in most major hotels and restaurants in Bangkok as well as major shopping outlets – but not by smaller enterprises. Note: if using credit card, check if an additional charge is levied by the vendor.

15. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability, 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 prior to departure international medical insurance for the period of participation.

Annex A

Nationals of the following 41 countries and 2 special administrative regions who hold ordinary passport may enter and stay in Thailand for a maximum period of 30 days or 90 days without a visa. However, if the duration of their stay is expected to exceed the maximum period, an appropriate entry visa must be obtained in advance from Thai diplomatic or consular missions:

30 Days (37 Countries with 2 Special Administrative Region)

1	Austria	21	Macao, China*
2	Australia	22	Malaysia
3	Bahrain	23	Netherlands
4	Belgium	24	New Zealand
5	Brunei Darussalam	25	Norway
6	Canada	26	Oman
7	Denmark	27	Philippines
8	Finland	28	Portugal
9	France	29	Qatar
10	Germany	30	Singapore
11	Greece	31	South Africa
12	Hong Kong, China*	32	Spain
13	Indonesia	33	Sweden
14	Ireland	34	Switzerland
15	Israel	35	Turkey
16	Italy	36	United Arab Emirates
17	Japan	37	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
18	Kuwait		
19	Luxembourg	38	United States of America
20	Lao People's Democratic Republic	39	Viet Nam

* Special Administrative Region

90 Days (4 Countries)

1	Brazil	3	Republic of Korea
2	Chile	4	Peru

In addition to the above, nationals holding valid diplomatic or official passport of the following countries may enter and stay in Thailand for the period specified in each visa waiver agreement between Thailand and the country concerned.

30 Days (Diplomatic Passport only)

- 1 Cambodia

30 Days (Diplomatic or Official Passport)

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 China | 4 Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| 2 Mongolia | 5 Viet Nam |
| 3 Myanmar | |

90 days (Diplomatic or Official Passport)

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Austria | 17 Mexico |
| 2 Argentina | 18 Nepal |
| 3 Belgium | 19 Netherlands |
| 4 Brazil | 20 Peru |
| 5 Bhutan | 21 Philippines |
| 6 Chile | 22 Poland |
| 7 Croatia | 23 Oman |
| 8 Czech Republic | 24 Romania |
| 9 Germany | 25 Russian Federation |
| 10 Hungary | 26 Republic of Korea |
| 11 Israel | 27 Singapore |
| 12 Italy | 28 South Africa |
| 13 India | 29 Switzerland |
| 14 Japan | 30 Slovak Republic |
| 15 Luxembourg | 31 Tunisia |
| 16 Malaysia | 32 Turkey |

Nationals of the following 13 countries may apply and be granted by the Thai immigration authority at Bangkok International Airport, a visa for a stay not exceeding 15 days upon arrival, conditional on meeting certain requirements.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Bhutan | 8 Maldives |
| 2 China | 9 Mauritius |
| 3 Cyprus | 10 Poland |
| 4 Czech Republic | 11 Russian Federation |
| 5 Hungary | 12 Saudi Arabia |
| 6 India | 13 Ukraine |
| 7 Kazakhstan | |

The requirements are:

(a) The applicants must be in possession of a valid passport or an appropriate travel document recognized by the Government of Thailand.

(b) The applicants must be in possession of an air ticket valid for return journey within 15 days.

(c) The applicants must provide two passport-size photographs and a visa fee of approximately Baht 1,000 (approx.27 US\$)

Participants from countries other than those listed above **are requested to obtain appropriate entry visa from the Thai diplomatic or consular missions at the point of origin or en route prior to entering Thailand.**

Holders of a United Nations laissez-passer **are required to bring their national passports with them.** If they are not nationals of countries that are eligible for waiver of visa, they shall obtain appropriate entry visa prior to entering Thailand.

Only in an exceptional case where obtaining appropriate entry visa prior to entering Thailand is not possible or uncommonly difficult, UNLP holders could obtain visa waiver for the entry to Thailand for the maximum stay of 15 days (not extendable) with special arrangement from UNESCAP Protocol Office. Any UNLP holder opting for this special arrangement must contact Mr. Krishna Sutheero, Protocol Office, at sutheero@un.org, extension 1771, for a request form that need to be completed and sent back to the UNESCAP Protocol Office by the participant. This arrangement must be made at least two weeks in advance prior to their departure to Bangkok.

Annex B

FOLLOWING ARE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE DECLARED YELLOW FEVER AREAS:

A

Angola

B

Benin

Bolivia

Brazil

Burkina Faso

Burundi

C

Cameroon

Central African

Republic

Chad

Colombia

Congo

Cote d'Ivoire

E

Ecuador

Equatorial Guinea

Ethiopia

F

French Guyana

G

Gabon

Gambia

Ghana

Guinea-Bissau

Guinea

Guyana

K

Kenya

L

Liberia

M

Mali

Mauritania

N

Niger

Nigeria

P

Panama

Peru

R

Rwanda

S

Sao Tome & Principe

Senegal

Sierra Leone

Somalia

Sudan

Suriname

T

Tanzania

U

Uganda

V

Venezuela

Z

Zaire
