

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

17 August 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

EXPERT WORKSHOP ON ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA AND BIOGEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS OF MARINE AREAS IN NEED OF PROTECTION

2 - 4 October 2007, Azores, Portugal

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Opening and registration

The Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems of Marine Areas in Need of Protection will be opened on Tuesday, 2 October at 9 a.m. and registration will take place at the meeting venue on the same day at 8.30 a.m. The Workshop is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 4 October 2007.

2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

Hotel Marina Atlântico ****

Avenida Infante D. Henrique

São Miguel

9500-150 Ponta Delgada

Telephone (reservations): +351 296 307 900

Fax: +351 296 301 881/2

Email: reservas@bensaude.pt

Web site: <http://www.bensaude.pt/bensaude/hoteis/ver.aspx?hotel=7&lingua=3>

3. Working language

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 can be retrieved from the Secretariat's web site:

<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=EWSEBM-01>

5. Visas

A list of countries whose nationals require a visa to enter Portugal is attached as annex hereto.

Participants requiring an entry visa to Portugal should contact, **as early as possible**, the diplomatic/consular missions of Portugal to allow sufficient time for a visa to be issued sufficiently in advance before departure.

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

6. Health Requirements

There are no vaccination requirements for any international traveller.

7. General Information on Access to São Miguel Island

The city of Ponta Delgada is serviced by **João Paulo II** Airport, which is about 2, 5 km from the city centre. The journey to the hotel Marina Atlântico by taxi takes approximately 10 minutes. The fares are approximately 10 Euros (approximately 13 US\$).

The duration of flights from Lisbon and North America (Boston, Toronto etc.) to Ponta Delgada is about 2 and 5 hours, respectively. The main airlines flying to Azores are SATA (Air Azores) and TAP (Air Portugal). For more information, please visit SATA's web site: www.sata.pt . Details on flights to Ponta Delgada from Boston (USA), Toronto (Canada) and European cities can also be retrieved from: www.tap.pt (TAP Air Portugal). There are several charter flights operating between the eastern parts of North America (Boston, Toronto etc), European cities and Ponta Delgada.

It is usually easier to reach Ponta Delgada via Lisbon, mainland Portugal, especially when one is planning to visit Lisbon prior or after the workshop. There are 4 to 5 daily (direct) flights Lisbon/Ponta Delgada/Lisbon, starting early morning up to around 8 p.m.

8. Hotel accommodation

A block booking has been made on behalf of all participants at the **Hotel Marina Atlântico**, the venue for the workshop (see full address under heading 2 above).

The negotiated room rates with breakfast are as follows:

- Single room with breakfast included 67 € (approx. 86 US\$)
- Double room with breakfast included 77 € (approx. 98 US\$)

When making reservation, please quote this reservation code "112402 WORKSHOP IMAR".

For any query or assistance on hotel accommodation, please contact Ms. Maria dos Remédios whose email and phone number are as follows:

- Her e-mail : remedios.ribeiro@bensaude.pt
- Central Reservations ++ 351 296 301 880

It should be noted that participants **must confirm directly** with the hotel their reservations **no later than 24 September 2007**. Past this deadline, rooms that have not been confirmed will be freed automatically and the 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, bar, laundry, e-mail, restaurant, etc. are at their own costs and must be settled upon checking out.

9. Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)

The sponsored participants by the CBD Secretariat will receive the relevant DSA on the first day of the workshop.

10. Official language

The official language in Portugal is Portuguese. However, English is widely spoken and understood in hotels and restaurants.

11. Currency and rate of exchange

The official currency of Portugal is the Euro. The current exchange is approximately US \$1 = EUR 0.78. Facilities in currency exchange are readily available in banks and hotels.

12. Credit Cards

Major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) are accepted in most hotels and restaurants in mainland Portugal as well as in the Azores.

13. Time zone

Portugal is GMT – 1 hour; Azores is GMT – 2 hours.

14. Weather conditions

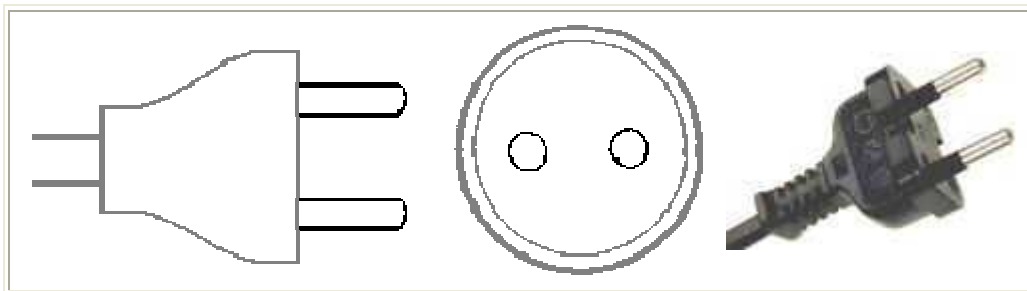
In general the weather in the Azores is mild. The weather is much localised - it can be hot with bright sunshine on the coast, whilst up in the hills and mountains only a few miles away it can be several degrees cooler with rain and mist. It is not unusual to experience four seasons in one day. Rain can suddenly start and as just as suddenly stop. The best approach to take is to dress in layers and add on or take off as necessary. Temperatures are hotter and more humid during the summer months (June-October) when it can reach 25 degrees Centigrade. Rain never lasts long in the summer months. Winter (December to March) is cooler and this is when storms occur, however January can be mild (16 degrees daytime on the less exposed islands) and a good month for walking. In February and March it tends to drizzle. Spring and autumn can be pleasant, with less humidity. For more information about the weather, go to:

<http://portuguese.wunderground.com/global/stations/08512.html>

Information about Portugal/Azores Island can be found at : <http://www.portugal-info.net/azores/index.htm> and <http://www.azores.com/>

15. Electricity Voltage

Voltage and frequency in Portugal is 220-230V, 50Hz.



16. 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

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE NATIONALS REQUIRE A VISA TO ENTER PORTUGAL

(Provided by the host country)

COUNTRY	COUNTRY	COUNTRY	COUNTRY
Afghanistan	Dominica	Mariana Islands	Seychelles
South Africa	Egypt	Marshall Islands	Syrian Arab Republic
Albania	Ecuador	Morocco	Somalia
Angola	Eritrea	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Antigua and Barbuda	Ethiopia	Mauritania	Sudan
Saudi Arabia	Fiji	Micronésia (Federated States of)	Suriname
Algeria	Philippines	Mozambique	Swaziland
Armenia	Gabon	Republic of Moldova	Thailand
Azerbaijan	Gambia	Montenegro	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Bahamas	Ghana	Mongolia	Tajikistan
Bangladesh	Georgia	Namibia	Tanzania, United Republic of
Barbados	Grenada	Nauru	Timor-Leste
Bahrain	Guyana	Nepal	Togo
Belarus	Guinea	Niger	Tonga
Belize	Guinea-Bissau	Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
Benin	Equatorial Guinea	Oman	Tunisia
Myanmar	Haiti	Palau	Turkmenistan
Bolivia	Yemen	Papua New Guinea	Turkey
Bosnia and Herzegovina	India	Pakistan	Tuvalu
Botswana	Indonesia	Peru	Ukraine
Burkina Faso	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Kenya	Uganda
Burundi	Iraq	Kyrgyzstan	United Arab Emirates
Bhutan	Jamaica	Central African Republic	Uzbekistan
Cape Verde	Djibouti	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Vanuatu
Cameroon	Jordan	Dominican Republic	Viet Nam
Cambodia	Kiribati	Rwanda	Zambia
Qatar	Kuwait	Russia	Zimbabwe
Kazakhstan	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Solomon Islands	
Chad	Lesotho	Samoa	
China	Lebanon	Saint Lucia	
Colombia	Libéria	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Comoros	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sao Tome and Principe	
Congo	Madagascar	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Malawi	Senegal	
Côte d'Ivoire	Maldives	Sierra Leone	
Cuba	Mali	Serbia	
