



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND NORTH AFRICA ON UPDATING NBSAPS:  
FOCUS ON EXAMINATION OF ASSOCIATED INDICATORS  
Muscat, Oman, 27 - 30 August 2012

## INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

**QUICK LINKS** (Control + click on icons for web page, click on page number to directly access text in document)


<b>Visa Information (page 2)</b>

<b>Meeting Documents (page 2)</b>

<b>Hotel Information (page 3)</b>

<b>Weather Information (page 3)</b>

<b>Currency Information (page 4)</b>

## INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

<b>1. OPENING AND REGISTRATION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. VENUE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. DOCUMENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO MUSCAT, OMAN .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6. VISA INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>7. HOTEL INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>

## 1. Opening and registration

The Regional Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa on Updating NBSAPs: Focus on examination of associated indicators will be held in Muscat, Oman from Monday, 27 August to Thursday, 30 August 2012.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 27 August 2012 and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting at 8:00 a.m. the same day.

## 2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

### **The Crowne Plaza Hotel - Muscat**

P.O. Box 1455

Ruwi 112

Muscat, 112 Oman

Tel/Fax: +(968)24-660-660

Web site: <http://www.crowneplaza.com/hotels/us/en/muscat/mschc/hoteldetail>

## 3. Working language

The meeting will be held in English with Arabic interpretation.

## 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. Pre-session documents will be on the Secretariat's web site as they become available:



CBD

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RWNBSAP-MENA-03>

## 5. General information on access to Muscat, Oman



Muscat is serviced by the Muscat International Airport and is located about 40 km from the city centre. Taxis are available at the airport and cost approximately OMR 10 and the journey takes about 20-30 minutes.

## 6. Visa information



Participants from countries requiring an entry visa for Oman and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Omani diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

Information on visa procedures can be found at the following link: <http://www.mofa.gov.om/mofanew/index.asp?id=105>, and a list of relevant Omani diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman at: <http://www.mofa.gov.om/mofanew/omanmissionabroad.asp>

Kindly send a copy of your visa requirements/needs to Mr. Maroun Abi-Chahine at [maroun.abichahine@cbd.int](mailto:maroun.abichahine@cbd.int) for assistance in obtaining your visa.

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

## 7. **Hotel information**

A block booking has been made on behalf of all participants at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Muscat (venue of the meeting).

Please note that a prepaid block booking has been made for CBD sponsored participants. The hotel booking has been made according to flight itineraries made by or provided to the Secretariat. Meals and coffee breaks will be provided by the Secretariat.

Non-sponsored participants may wish to avail themselves of the block booking and are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations.

The hotel details are as follows:

### **The Crowne Plaza Hotel - Muscat**

P.O. Box 1455

Ruwi 112

Muscat, 112 Oman

Tel/Fax: +(968)24-660-660

Web site: <http://www.crowneplaza.com/hotels/us/en/muscat/mschc/hoteldetail>

Further information on hotels and tourism in Oman is available at the following web site:

<http://www.omantourism.gov.om/wps/portal/mot/tourism/oman/home>



## 8. **Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)**

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

## 9. **Official language**

The official language in Oman is Arabic. English spoken in some hotels and restaurants.

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



In August, temperatures in Muscat usually range between a maximum of +36°C in the daytime and a minimum of +28°C at night. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at <http://www.worldweather.org/030/c00112.htm>.

The standard time zone will be GMT/UTC +4 hours.

## 11. Electricity

The electricity voltage in Oman is 240 Volts/ 50 Hertz. The plugs and sockets used are shown below.



## 12. Currency



The currency in Oman is the Omani Rial (OMR). The current exchange rate as at 10 August 2012 is US \$1 = OMR 0.38 and € 1 = OMR 0.47.

## 13. 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, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.

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