

# Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL






30 July 2018

ENGLISH

**LATIN AMERICAN TRAINING COURSE ON  
RISK ASSESSMENT OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS**  
Panama City, Panama, 20 - 24 August 2018

## INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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

 <p><b>Visa Information (page 2)</b></p>
 <p><b>Documents (page 2)</b></p>
 <p><b>Hotel Information (pages 3, 5)</b></p>
 <p><b>Weather Information (page 3)</b></p>
 <p><b>Currency Information (page 4)</b></p>

## 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 PANAMA CITY, PANAMA .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6. VISA INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>7. HOTEL INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ANNEX A – HOTEL LIST .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>12. CURRENCY .....</b>	<b>4</b>

## 1. Opening and registration

The Latin American Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms will be held in Panama City, Panama from Monday, 20 August to Friday, 24 August 2018.

The workshop will start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 20 August 2018, and registration will take place at the venue of the workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. the same day.

## 2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

### **Crowne Plaza Panama**

Ave. Manuel Espinosa Batista, at the financial & banking Area, Via España

Panama City. Panama

Phone: +5-07-2065500

Website: [https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/destinations/us/en/panama-hotels?dp=true& PMID=99504425&cid=25506&glat=SEAR&setPMCookies=true&gclid=EAiaIQobChMlh7un2v3J3AIV2FqGCh1hfQRtEAAAYASAAEgJkyvD\\_BwE](https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/destinations/us/en/panama-hotels?dp=true&PMID=99504425&cid=25506&glat=SEAR&setPMCookies=true&gclid=EAiaIQobChMlh7un2v3J3AIV2FqGCh1hfQRtEAAAYASAAEgJkyvD_BwE)

## 3. Working language of the training course

The training course will be conducted in Spanish.

## 4. Documents



In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the workshop and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the meeting documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the training course. Documents are available on the Secretariat's website at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CP-RARM-CB-2018-01>

## 5. General information on access to Panama City, Panama



Panama City is serviced by the Tocumen International Airport, which is about 25 km from downtown Panama City. Taxis are available at the airport for about US \$30.00, please use authorized taxis only, information available at the Arrivals Hall. More information about the airport can be found at <http://www.tocumenpanama.aero/>

## 6. Visa information



All participants must travel with passport with a minimum validity of 6 months from the date of entry into the country.

It is recommended that each participant contact the Embassy or Consulate of Panama in your country to complete visa requirements. Information on Embassies is available on the website of the Ministry of External Relations of Panama at: <https://www.mire.gob.pa/index.php/en/panama-en-el-exterior/embajadas> then click on 'embajada' and then 'direccion y horario' for the list of Embassies/Consulates in each country.

Information concerning visa requirements can also be found at the website of the of the Government Panama (Information available in Spanish only) at: <http://www.panamatramita.gob.pa/tramite/solicitud-de-visa-de-turista#Basicos> and [Panamá Tramita](#).

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

## **7. Hotel information**



Participants should make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible. A list of hotels near the workshop venue is provided in the Annex A below.

## **8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)**

The DSA will be disbursed to sponsored participants on the first day of the workshop in the form of a prepaid credit card. For identification purposes, these participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes. These will be photocopied and returned to participants during the workshop. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA.

## **9. Official language in Panama**

The official language in Panama is Spanish.

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



In August, temperatures in Panama City range between a maximum of +34°C in the daytime and a minimum of +21°C at night. Please bring some clothing and umbrella for rain (rainy season is from May to December). Current weather conditions can be found at:

<http://www.worldweather.org/076/c01221.htm>

The standard time zone will be the GMT/UTC -5 hours.

## 11. Electricity

The electrical currents in Panama are 110 Volts 60 Hertz (two-pin flat and vertical with a ground connection) as in the illustrations below.



## 12. Currency



The currencies used in Panama are the Panamanian Balboa (PAB) and the U.S. Dollar (US \$) both are used interchangeably and are of equivalent value. The current exchange rate as at 30 July 2018 is US \$1.00 = 1.00 PAB and € 1 = 1.17 PAB. It is recommended that you exchange money at the exchange counters at the airport.

## 13. Health Information

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers entering Panama coming from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and travelling to the provinces of Comarca Emberá, Darien, Kuna Yala (old San Blas) and Panama east of the Canal Zone, excluding the Canal Zone, Panama City and San Blas Islands.

The International travel, health and vaccination requirements for travel to Panama can be obtained from the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/panama>.

For more information, please consult a medical professional with regard to the vaccination requirements for your travel.

## 14. Disclaimer

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

Annex A – Hotel List

**LIST OF HOTELS WITH INDICATIVE ROOM RATES**  
(The rates are indicative and subject to change)

<b>HOTELS</b>	<b>ROOM RATES</b> (Rates on certain days may not be available)	<b>DISTANCE TO THE WORKSHOP VENUE</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
<b>1. Crown Plaza</b> Manuel Espinosa Batista Av., At The Financial & Banking Area, Via Espana, Panama. Phone Tel: +(507)-206 5500 Website: <a href="https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/panama-city/panhb/hoteldetail?qDest=Panama%20City,%20Panama&amp;qCiD=31&amp;qCoD=1&amp;qCiMy=62018&amp;qCoMy=72018&amp;qAdlt=1&amp;qChld=0&amp;qRms=1&amp;qWch=0&amp;qSmP=1&amp;qIta=99504425&amp;setPMCoOkies=true&amp;qRtP=6CBARC&amp;qAkamaiCC=US&amp;srb_u=1&amp;qRad=30&amp;presentationViewType=null&amp;qSrt=sBR&amp;qBrS=ic.ki.ul.in.cp.vn.hi.ex.cv.rs.va.cw.sb">https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/panama-city/panhb/hoteldetail?qDest=Panama%20City,%20Panama&amp;qCiD=31&amp;qCoD=1&amp;qCiMy=62018&amp;qCoMy=72018&amp;qAdlt=1&amp;qChld=0&amp;qRms=1&amp;qWch=0&amp;qSmP=1&amp;qIta=99504425&amp;setPMCoOkies=true&amp;qRtP=6CBARC&amp;qAkamaiCC=US&amp;srb_u=1&amp;qRad=30&amp;presentationViewType=null&amp;qSrt=sBR&amp;qBrS=ic.ki.ul.in.cp.vn.hi.ex.cv.rs.va.cw.sb</a>	USD 88 per night (average)	<b>This is the workshop venue</b>	Located in a financial district close to a metro station.
<b>2. Hotel el Panama</b> Via España, 111 Ciudad De Panamá Tel: +(507) 215-9000 Fax: +(507) 269-4179 E-mail: Website: <a href="http://www.elpanama.com/default-en.html">http://www.elpanama.com/default-en.html</a>	USD 105 per night (average)	500 meters. Walking distance to the workshop venue. (5 minutes)	Located in a financial district close to a metro station
<b>3. Continental hotel and casino</b> Via España and Ricardo Arias St, Panamá P.O. Box 05890-823, Panamá Phone: +(507) 395-8000 E-mail: <a href="mailto:reservations@continentalhotel.com">reservations@continentalhotel.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.continentalhotel.com/default-en.html">http://www.continentalhotel.com/default-en.html</a>	USD 71 per night (average)	600 meters. Walking distance to the workshop venue. (7minutes)	Located in a financial district close to a metro station
<b>4. Tryp Panamá Centro</b> Via Veneto, El Cangrejo Bellavista, Panamá City, Panamá Phone: +(507) 2650505 Website: <a href="https://www.tryphotels.com/en/our-hotels/panama/panama-city/tryp-by-wyndham-panama-centro/">https://www.tryphotels.com/en/our-hotels/panama/panama-city/tryp-by-wyndham-panama-centro/</a>	USD 54 per night (average)	500 meters. Walking distance to the workshop venue. (5 minutes)	Located in a financial district close to a metro station
<b>5. Hotel Clarion Victoria</b> El Cangrejo, Calle D Panamá Phone: +507 395-9000 Website: <a href="http://victoria-panama-city.hotel-ri.com/index.htm?lbl=ggl&amp;gclid=EAIaIQobChMI7-yGjP_J3AIVWFuGCh32SQsHEAAYAAAEgJ2avD_BwE">http://victoria-panama-city.hotel-ri.com/index.htm?lbl=ggl&amp;gclid=EAIaIQobChMI7-yGjP_J3AIVWFuGCh32SQsHEAAYAAAEgJ2avD_BwE</a>	USD 100 + 10%, per night (average)	600 meters. Walking distance to the workshop venue. (8 minutes)	Located in a financial district close to a metro station

HOTELS	ROOM RATES (Rates on certain holidays / special events may not be available)	DISTANCE TO THE WORKSHOP VENUE	REMARKS
<b>6. Hotel Riande Granada</b> El cangrejo; calle Eusebio a, morales, El cangrejo, Panama city Phone: +507 204-4444 E-mail: granada@riandehoteles.com Website: <a href="https://riandehoteles.com/granada/">https://riandehoteles.com/granada/</a>	USD \$81.40 per night (average)	800 meters. Walking distance to the workshop venue. (10 minutes)	Located in a financial district close to a metro station
<b>7. Hotel Torres de Alba (apartahotel)</b> calle Eusebio a. morales y calle 55, panamá City Phone: +507 300-7131 E-mail: reservas@torresdealba.com.pa Website: <a href="https://torresdealba.com.pa/">https://torresdealba.com.pa/</a>	USD \$99.00 + taxes per night (average)	400 meters. Walking distance to the workshop venue. (5 minutes)	Located in a financial district close to a metro station

-----