



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

7 April 2015

ENGLISH ONLY

**CBD REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE
THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY
SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS (EBSAs) IN
THE NORTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN AND
ADJACENT GULF AREAS,
AND TRAINING SESSION ON EBSAs
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 20-25 April 2015**

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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

 Visa Information (pages 3, 6)
 Meeting Documents (page 2)
 Hotel Information (page 3)
 Weather Information (page 4)
 Currency Information (page 4)

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPENING AND REGISTRATION.....	2
2. VENUE	2
3. WORKING LANGUAGE	2
4. DOCUMENTS	2
5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO DUBAI	2
6. VISA INFORMATION	3
ANNEX A – VISA INFORMATION	6
7. HOTEL INFORMATION	3
10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION	4

1. Opening and registration

The CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas from **Monday, 20 to Saturday, 25 April 2015, preceded by a training session on EBSAs on Sunday, 19 April 2015**. The workshop and training session will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The training session preceding the workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, 19 April 2015, and registration will take place at the workshop venue at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The training session and workshop will be held at:

The City Seasons Suites Dubai

8th Street,
Port Saeed District,
Deira City Center
United Arab Emirates
P.O. Box 182002
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel.: +971 4 2955583
Fax: +971 4 2942714

E-mail: reservations.css@cityseasonshotels.com & sales.css@cityseasonshotels.com

Web site: <http://www.cityseasonsdubai.com/>

3. Working language

The workshop will be held in English with interpretation into Arabic.

4. Documents



The workshop meeting documents will be available on the Secretariat's website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2015-02> as they become available.

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 as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop.

5. General information on access to Dubai



The city of Dubai is serviced by the Dubai International Airport (10 km from the city centre). The City Season Suites provides a free shuttle service to participants staying at their Suites.

- **For Funded Delegates:** For air-tickets provided by the Secretariat, the Secretariat will provide the hotel with your flight details and arrange for your transfer. If you deviate from the booked flight at the last minute, please inform the hotel directly by Email to:

reservations.css@cityseasonshotels.com
sales.css@cityseasonshotels.com

- **For Non-Funded Delegates:** Please include your flight details when booking the hotel directly by email to:

reservations.css@cityseasonshotels.com
sales.css@cityseasonshotels.com

Metered taxis are available at the arrivals and cost about AED 40 depending on size of vehicle. The journey takes about 10-15 minutes.

6. Visa information



To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat has asked those who require a visa to provide us with a scanned copy of their passport, which has been forwarded to the appropriate UAE Government ministry. **Once approved, visa letters are being sent to participants. Print out this letter and take it with you to show to the authorities upon arrival in Dubai.** No further action is required, as this letter serves as the visa.

Those who require further information on visas will find it in **annex A** below. Participants requiring an entry visa for the United Arab Emirates and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Emirati diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.**

General information on visa procedures is available on the web site of the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: http://www.mofa.gov.ae/mofa_english/portal/79e01fed-3501-4ebb-accd-9e27950433a7.aspx. Also, a listing of relevant Emirati diplomatic/consular missions abroad can be found at the following link: http://www.mofa.gov.ae/mofa_english/portal/2c7ff8a6-c6fa-4418-95a8-db64287fab26.aspx. Kindly consult directly with the Embassy/Consulate in your country/region for the most up-to-date information on visa requirements.

Visa application form:

http://www.mofa.gov.ae/mofa_english/portal/5e13ef1b-1bc2-486a-a606-33b291e29bcc.aspx

7. Hotel information

A block booking has been made at the City Seasons Suites (workshop venue) on behalf of all **sponsored** participants according to your flight arrangements. Any additional hotel services such as international calls, room service, bar, laundry, local transportation, additional meals etc. must be paid upon check out. **Kindly note that if you have NOT been issued a funding letter that indicates that you are being funded by the Secretariat, you will need to pay for your hotel and other local expenses, except for lunches and coffee breaks (from Sunday to Friday), which are being provided by the Secretariat.**

Self-funded participants may avail themselves of the block booking by contacting the hotel directly. A special rate for an executive suite/single room, including breakfast, is offered for self-funded participants at rate of 575 AED plus taxes (US \$160). Kindly send your booking request with your required dates and mention the name of the meeting to obtain the special rate to the following e-mails: reservations.css@cityseasonshotels.com, sales.css@cityseasonshotels.com. Also, if you wish to arrange for the free shuttle service from the airport, kindly request it with your room booking and provide your flight number with arrival time.

The City Seasons Suites
8th Street,
Port Saeed District,
Deira City Center
United Arab Emirates
Tel.: +971 4 2955583
Fax: +971 4 2942714
Web site: <http://www.cityseasonsdubai.com/>

Additional information regarding hotels in Dubai and other general information are available on the City of Dubai web site:

<http://www.definitelydubai.com/>



8. Payment of the daily subsistence allowances (DSA)

The relevant portion of the DSA will be paid to the participants funded by the Secretariat on the first day of the workshop. These participants are asked to present their passports, which will be photocopied and returned to them.

9. Official language

The official language in the United Arab Emirates is Arabic. English is spoken in some hotels and restaurants.

10. Weather and time zone information



In April, temperatures in Dubai usually range between a maximum of 32°C in the daytime and a minimum of 20°C at night. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: <http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=1190>.

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC +4 hours.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents are 240 volts, 50 Hertz. The plugs used are as shown in the illustration below.



12. Currency



The currency in the United Arab Emirates is the Emirati Dirham (AED or UAE dirham). The current exchange rate as at 31 March 2015 is US \$1 = AED 3.67 and € 1 = AED 3.95 (rates are subject to change).

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.

Annex A – Visa Information

General information on visa procedures from the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

Documents required for Visa:

1. Visa Application form duly completed.
2. Passport copies (applicant and companions).
3. A letter to specify sponsor, whether from the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs or its diplomatic mission.
4. Specifying the type of required permission (tourist, business, etc.).
5. Permission classification (short term, long term, multiple entries, complementary).
6. Please ensure that the passport is valid (for at least 6 months)
7. A clear passport photo.

National citizens from other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries do not require a visa to visit the United Arab Emirates. Produce your GCC country passport or ID card upon arrival at the point of entry into the United Arab Emirates. GCC countries are as follows: Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Participants from countries listed below (holders of national passports) are exempted from visas in the United Arab Emirates.

Andorra	Germany	New Zealand
Australia	Greece	Norway
Austria	Holy See	Poland
Belgium	Iceland	Portugal
Brunei Darussalam	Ireland	Romania
Bulgaria	Italy	San Marino
Canada	Japan	Singapore
Croatia	Korea, Republic of	Slovakia
Cyprus	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Estonia	Malaysia	Switzerland
Finland	Monaco	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
France	Netherlands	United States of America

It should be noted that these lists may vary slightly from time to time and it is therefore best to check with your local UAE embassy and the airline that you are using to fly to the United Arab Emirates.

If you do NOT fall into one of the above categories, you will require a visa and a sponsor for your visit. The sponsor normally applies for the visa on your behalf.
