



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE ON ACHIEVING AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 11 AND 12
Minsk, Belarus, 14-17 June 2016

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 (page Error! Bookmark not defined.)

Meeting Documents (page Error! Bookmark not defined.)

Hotel Information (page Error! Bookmark not defined.)

Weather Information (page Error! Bookmark not defined.)

Currency Information (page 4)

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPENING	2
2. VENUE	2
3. WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE WORKSHOP	2
4. DOCUMENTS	2
5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO MINSK, BELARUS	2
6. VISA INFORMATION	2
7. HOTEL INFORMATION	3
8. PAYMENT OF THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES (DSA)	4
9. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN BELARUS	4
10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION	4
11. ELECTRICITY	4
12. CURRENCY	4
13. DISCLAIMER	4

1. Opening

The Capacity-building workshop for Central and Eastern Europe on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 will be held in Minsk, Belarus from Tuesday, 14 to Friday, 17 June 2016.

The workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 14 June 2016 and registration will take place from 8:30 a.m.

2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

IBB Johannes Rau International Centre for Education and Exchange

Prospect Gazety Pravda, 11

220116 Minsk

Belarus

Telephone: +375 17 270 5959

Web site: <http://ibb.by/>

3. Working language of the workshop

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

4. Documents



Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the workshop as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop. Pre-session documents will be available on the Secretariat's web site at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=PAWS-2016-02>

5. General information on access to Minsk, Belarus



Minsk is serviced by the Minsk National/International Airport (Minsk-2) which is approximately 42 km outside the city centre. Taxis are available at the airport at an approximate cost of US \$25-40 and the journey takes about 30-40 minutes. There are buses available to the city centre (Central bus station) about every hour during the day and every 2 hours during night hours, the cost is about BYR 24,000 and the journey takes approximately 50 minutes. There are also minibuses available (№1400-TC and №1430-TC), the cost is about BYR 40,000.

6. Visa information



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

A list of relevant Belarusian diplomatic/consular missions abroad is available at: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/belarus>.

Information on visa procedures for Belarus can be found on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at following link: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/> (in English) and

<http://www.mfa.gov.by/visa> (in Russian). A Visa application form for Belarus can be found at the following link: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/info/visa-applications.html>.

The following documentation is required to complete the visa application.

1. Application form duly completed
2. One recent passport-sized photo affixed to the form
3. Original passport with 2 blank pages
4. Visa support documents (i.e. invitation)

Countries that do not require a visa to enter Belarus:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (provided that there is a private invitation or tourist voucher), Republic of Moldova, Montenegro (for a term not exceeding 30 days provided that there is a private invitation or tourist voucher), Russian Federation, Serbia (for a term not exceeding 30 days), Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Countries that require a visa to enter Belarus:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

All foreign nationals (except British foreign nationals) visiting Belarus must hold medical insurance. All foreign nationals must register their passports at the local police station within three days of their arrival; if staying at a hotel, reception will do this automatically.

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

7. Hotel information



A block booking of rooms was made at the IBB Hotel, the hotel attached to the conference centre where the workshop will take place.

IBB Hotel

Prospect Gazety Pravda
220116 Minsk
Belarus
Tel: + 375-17-270-7004 / 3994
E-mail: hotel@ibb.by
Web site <http://ibb.by/en/hotel>

Participants need to make their own hotel reservation by calling the hotel manager, Ekaterina Dushenina, at +375-17-2703995 or + 375-17-2707004, or by sending an e-mail to hotel@ibb.by as soon as possible.

The following discounted prices will apply if the code word “CBD” is mentioned while booking the room:

- Single room without breakfast: €38/night
- Double room without breakfast: €51/night
- Breakfast buffet: €10.50/person or “Continental” breakfast: €6.50/person

8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

Sponsored participants will receive their DSA during the workshop.

9. Official languages in Belarus

The official languages in Belarus are Belarusian and Russian. English is understood in some hotels and restaurants.

10. Weather and time zone information



In June, temperatures in Minsk, Belarus range between a maximum of 21°C in the daytime and a minimum of 11°C at night. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/106/c00205.htm>.

The standard time zone in Belarus is GMT/ UTC +3 hours.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents in Belarus are 220 Volts, 50 Hertz, the plugs are as shown in the illustrations below.



12. Currency



The currency in Belarus is the Belarusian Ruble (BYR). The current exchange rate as at 16 May 2016 is US \$1 = 19,268 BYR and € 1 = 21,828 BYR.

13. 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.