



Convention on Biological Diversity

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21 December 2009

ENGLISH ONLY

EXPERT CONSULTATION ON THE REVISION
AND UPDATING OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN
OF THE CONVENTION
London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
18–20 January 2010

Information Note for Participants

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1. Opening and registration

The Expert Consultation on the Revision and Updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention will be held in London, United Kingdom from Monday, 18 to Wednesday, 20 January 2010.

The meeting will start on the morning of Monday, 18 January 2010. Registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. at the venue of the meeting the same morning. The meeting will close at latest 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 20 January 2010.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

Hotel Russell, London

1-8 Russell Square, Bloomsbury

London, WC1B 5BE

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Tel: +44 (0) 207 520 1806

Fax: +44 (0) 207 837 2857

Web site: <http://www.principal-hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/hotel-russell>

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

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 during the meeting. Documents will be made available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EM-StratPlan-01>

5. General information on access to London

London is serviced by London Heathrow Airport (28 km from central London). Taxis are available at the airport and will take half an hour to an hour depending on traffic and costs between £40 and £70. The Heathrow Express train makes the trip to Paddington train station in 15 minutes. More information on railway services is available at the following web site: <https://www.heathrowexpress.com/>.

The nearest tube (underground) station to Hotel Russell is Russell Square, which is on the Piccadilly Line. The Piccadilly line runs from Heathrow Airport, serving all terminals. Tickets for the tube can be bought at tube stations (including Heathrow), and one single journey to Russell Square will cost £4.50. More information on travelling on the tube including printable tube maps and information on fares can be found at: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>

6. Visa information

Participants from countries listed in **annex A** below require an entry visa for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and are strongly advised to contact the nearest United Kingdom 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 application procedures, including a list of relevant United Kingdom diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the web site of the U.K. Border Agency at: <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/>.

Participants who require an entry visa are strongly advised to apply for a Visit Visa (Business) and to accompany the application with a confirmation letter from their respective Government that they are attending the International Workshop. Furthermore, to facilitate the issuance of visas, the Conference Secretariat will also issue supporting (invitation) letters for participants to attach to their visa applications.

7. Hotel information



Accommodation has been block booked at the Hotel Russell in central London.

Hotel Russell, London

1-8 Russell Square, Bloomsbury
London, WC1B 5BE
United Kingdom

<http://www.principal-hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/hotel-russell>

Self-funded participants need to contact Hotel Russell directly to confirm arrival and departure dates. The deadline for this is Friday 8 January 2010. Please use the reference 'Defra Rate' when contacting Hotel Russell and provide your credit card payment details in order to reserve and guarantee your accommodation.

Hotel Russell Telephone number: +44 (0) 207 520 1806

Hotel Russell Contact E-mail Address: Marie-Eve.Lamarre@principal-hayley.com

8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

Sponsored participants will receive their DSA on the first day of the meeting.

9. Official language in the United Kingdom

The official language in the United Kingdom is English.

10. Weather and time zone information



In January, temperatures in London usually range between a maximum of 8°C and a minimum of 3°C. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/010/c00032.htm>.

The time zone will be GMT 0 hours (same as Greenwich Mean Time).

11. Electricity

In the UK, the power points are three pronged and are generally 230 Volts, 50 Hertz – examples are shown below. Adapters will be required to use any electrical equipment you may be bringing with you.



12. Currency



The currency in the United Kingdom is the British Pound (£). The current exchange rate as at 21 December is US \$1 = £0.62 and (Euro) € 1 = £0.89 and £1 = US \$1.61 and £1 = €1.12.

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 insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

Annex A

Citizens of the following countries and territories require a visa to **visit** or **transit** the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Visa nationals are those who need a visa for every entry to the United Kingdom (UK).

Afghanistan	Georgia	Pakistan
Albania	Ghana	Peru
Algeria	Guinea	Palestinian Authority
Angola	Guinea Bissau	Philippines
Armenia	Guyana	Qatar
Azerbaijan	Haiti	Russian Federation
Bahrain	Holy See (service & emergency passports only)	Rwanda
Bangladesh	India	Sao Tome & Principe
Belarus	Indonesia	Saudi Arabia
Benin	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Senegal
Bhutan	Iraq	Serbia
Bolivia**	Ivory Coast	Sierra Leone
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Jamaica***	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Jordan	South Africa*
Burundi	Kazakhstan	Sri Lanka
Cambodia	Kenya	Sudan
Cameroon	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	Suriname
Cape Verde	Kuwait	Swaziland*
Central African Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Syrian Arab Republic
Chad	Lao, People's Democratic Republic of	Tajikistan
China, People's Republic of	Lebanon	Tanzania, United Republic of
Colombia	Lesotho*	Thailand
Comoros	Liberia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Togo
Congo, Republic of	Madagascar	Tunisia
Cuba	Malawi	Turkey
Cyprus	Mali	Turkmenistan
Djibouti	Mauritania	Uganda
Dominican Republic	Moldova	Ukraine
Ecuador	Mongolia	United Arab Emirates
Egypt	Montenegro	Uzbekistan
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	Venezuela**
Eritrea	Mozambique	Viet Nam
	Myanmar	Yemen
Ethiopia	Nepal	Zambia
Fiji	Niger	Zimbabwe
Gabon	Nigeria	
Gambia	Oman	

* Since 1 July 2009, nationals of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland need a visa to enter or transit through the UK.

** Since 18 May 2009, nationals of Bolivia and Venezuela need a visa to enter or transit through the U.K. Venezuelan nationals holding valid biometric passports containing an electronic chip issued since 2007 will be exempt from the visa requirement.

*** Since 3 March 2009, nationals of Jamaica need a visa to enter or transit through the U.K.
