



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA ON THE UPDATING AND REVISION
OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CONVENTION
FOR THE POST-2010 PERIOD
Cairo, Egypt, 10–11 January 2010

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 3)
 Meeting Documents (page 2)
 Hotel Information (page 4)
 Weather Information (page 5)
 Currency Information (page 5)

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPENING AND REGISTRATION	2
2. VENUE	2
4. DOCUMENTS	2
5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO CAIRO, EGYPT	2
6. VISA INFORMATION	3
7. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.....	3
8. HOTEL INFORMATION.....	4
11. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION	5

1. Opening and registration

The Regional Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa on the Updating and Revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the post-2010 period, will be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 10 to 11 January 2010.

The meeting will be opened at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, 10 January. 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:

Headquarters of the League of Arab States (LAS)
1 Tahrir Square, P.O. Box 11642
Tel: 202 25752966 / 25750511
Fax: 202 25740331 / 25761017
Cairo, Egypt

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English, with interpretation into Arabic and vice versa.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the meeting as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. Documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSSP-2010-MENAFR-01>

5. General information on access to Cairo, Egypt



Cairo is serviced by the Cairo International Airport which is located in Heliopolis (22 km from central Cairo). Taxis are available at the airport and there is a shuttle-bus service every 30 minutes.

Taxis and limousines are readily available for hire just outside the terminal to Downtown Cairo. Also, there is a shuttle bus service available in the airport which can take you to several locations in the area, including downtown. The price for shuttle bus service for groups or single passengers to downtown Cairo is as follows:

Destination	Shuttle per passenger	For Groups (from 1 to 7 passengers) or Private use
Downtown	35 EGP	70 EGP

6. Visa information

Participants from the following countries are required to be in possession of a visa prior to arrival in Egypt: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and all African countries.

Participants requiring an entry visa for Egypt are strongly advised to contact the nearest Egyptian 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, including a list of relevant Egyptian diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the website of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: http://www.mfa.gov.eg/MFA_Portal/en-GB/Services/Rules+and+Regulations/.

The Secretariat will provide participants with a letter to assist with the issuance of required visas for travel to Egypt.

7. Health requirements

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 1 year of age coming from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission. The following countries and areas are regarded as countries with risk of yellow fever transmission; Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia. America: Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela. Air passengers in transit coming from these countries or areas without a certificate will be detained in the precincts of the airport until they resume their journey. Information can be found on the web site of the World Health Organization at: <http://apps.who.int/tools/geoserver/www/ith/index.html>

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

8. Hotel information

Participants who have not already booked their hotel accommodation at the Shepherd Hotel or Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel through the offices of UNEP-Cairo or LAS-Cairo will have to make their own bookings in person. As participants may be required to work on exercises in the evenings, etc., they are encouraged to stay at one of these two hotels, both of which are in close proximity to the workshop venue.

Shepherd Hotel

Corniche El Nile, Garden City

Cairo, Egypt

Tel.: 202-792-1000

Fax: 202-792-1010

Website:

http://www.hotelsclick.com/indexc.php?country=Egypt&city=Cairo&hotel=Shepherd_Hotel&hotel_id=1593&language=en&gclid=CIGluqTmn5cCFQxKGgodTx2i-Q



Cairo Semiramis Intercontinental

Corniche El Nil, Garden City

Cairo, 11511 Egypt

Tel.: 202-27957171

Fax: 202-27963020

Other information on Egypt may be found at the web site of the Egyptian tourist authority web site at: <http://www.egypt.travel/?flashinstalled=2>.

9. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

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

10. Official languages in Cairo, Egypt

The official language in Egypt is Arabic, English and/or French are generally understood.

11. Weather and time zone information



In January, temperatures in Cairo usually range between a maximum of +20°C in the daytime and a minimum of +9°C at night. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/059/c00248.htm>.

The standard time zone will be GMT + 2 hours.

12. Electricity

The electrical currents are 220 volts, 50 Hertz and it is shown in the illustration below.



13. Currency



The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (EGP). The current exchange rate as at 18 December is US \$1 = EGP \$5.499 and (Euro) € 1 = EGP 7.874.

14. 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.
