



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

10 February 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Third Meeting

Salinas, Ecuador, 18-21 February 2002

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The third regional workshop on sustainable use of biological diversity in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in the city of Salinas, Ecuador, in the Barceló Miramar Hotel, from 18 to 21 February 2002. The official opening will be at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 18 February 2002. Registration of participants will take place on Sunday, 17 February 2002 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will continue from 9:00 a.m. the following day.

Venue

Barceló Colón Miramar Hotel
Malecón, entre la 38 y la 40
Salinas, Guayas, Ecuador
Tel.: +593 4 2771 610/ + 593 4 2771 620
Fax: +593 4 2773 806/+593 4 2773 476
E-mail: barcemir_ec@sl.telconet.net. Att. Ms. Marcella Abad

Access to Salinas

Salinas is located on the Pacific coast approximately 120 km west of Guayaquil.

The transfer from the Simon Bolivar airport in Guayaquil to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport will be provided to all participants. Please advise the hotel management (see contact above) as well as the Ecuador Government focal point Mr. Hector Ayon of time of arrival at the following coordinates:

Mr. Hector Ayon
Ministry of the Environment
Quito, Ecuador
Fax: 593-2-2564-037
e-mail: mma@espoltel.net

Accommodation in Salinas

The Government of the Republic of Ecuador has arranged for block-booking of a number of rooms in Barceló Miramar Hotel in Salinas. A special room rate has been negotiated by the

Government of Ecuador. In order to guarantee this special rate, participants should specify, while making their reservation, that they will be attending the Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity.

The following are negotiated **special discount rates** for the group at Barceló Colón Miramar Hotel in Salinas, where the workshop will take place.

City view room ALL INCLUSIVE : US\$ 90.00

Ocean view room ALL INCLUSIVE: US\$ 108.30

Participants are reminded that hotel reservations are the responsibility of participants independent of the Secretariat.

Time zone

Greenwich Mean Time - 5

Weather

February is the rainy season in Salinas, with generally sunny days and heavy showers. The average temperature is 26-32°C by day and 24-26°C at night.

Electricity

110 volts, 60 Hz (American standards)

Telephone

International direct dial (IDD) and phone cards are available at the Barceló Colón Miramar Hotel. Internet/E-mail services are also available.

Visas/Customs

All travellers must have a passport valid for at least six months before arriving in Ecuador. They must also have a return ticket to their country of origin or to another destination.

The consulate of Ecuador in Montreal advises that citizens of the following countries require a visa to enter Ecuador: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Lybia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine Authority, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Vietnam and Yemen. **It is important for participants to obtain visas from the Ecuador embassies/consulates before traveling.** To enter the country, visitors must fill in an international embarkation - disembarkation form. It is important to keep it with your passport. Travelers should have their passports with them during their stay in Ecuador. A copy is not acceptable. Those who wish to stay longer in the country have to do the corresponding paperwork in an Ecuadorian Consulate. To obtain the list and coordinates of all Ecuador missions in the world, please visit this site: <<http://www.ecuaservice.com/embajada.html>>. If more information is required, please contact the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Direction for Immigration, at e-mail address: dgasumig@impsat.net.ec

Please be advised that the Government of Ecuador has just informed the Secretariat of its intention to arrange for the issuance of visa at the airport in Guayaquil, Ecuador (except for the citizens of the following countries: China, Cuba, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Viet Nam and Panamá).

Airport Tax

A departure tax of US\$ 25 is payable by all departing passengers on international flights.

Official Language

The official language in Ecuador is Spanish.

Currency

Ecuador official currency is the United States Dollar.

Bank/Credit Cards

Most cash dispenser machines accept Visa, American Express and Master cards.
