





CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr. GENERAL

4 December 2006

ENGLISH

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION Quito, 14-16 December 2006

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Venue

The meeting of the Capacity Building Workshop on *Networking and Information Exchange for National Focal Points and Indigenous and Local Communities in the Latin American and the Caribbean Region* will be held in Quito, Ecuador, from Thursday 14 December to Saturday 16 December 2006, at:

Hotel Dann Carlton Quito

Av. República del Salvador N34-377 e Irlanda Quito - P.O. Box 17-17-443 Tel.: +593 2 2249 008

Email: <u>info@danncarltonquito.com</u>
Web: <u>www.danncarltonquito.com</u>

The meeting will take place in the following conference rooms:

- Room Cambridge I (Thursday and Friday)
- Rooms Windsor and Manchester (Saturday)

Opening and registration

The meeting will be opened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday 14 December 2006. Registration will take place at the venue of the meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the same day.

Services to delegates

A business center is available and free wireless Internet access is available everywhere in the hotel. Coffee breaks and lunches during the meeting will also be provided free-of-charge.

Working languages of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English and Spanish.

Documents

The main pre-session documents for the meeting are accessible on the Secretariat's website www.biodiv.org. Please note that copies of the documents will be distributed during registration.

Hotel information

Accommodation arrangements have been made at the Dann Carlton Hotel for funded participants. Other participants are kindly reminded that they are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements. Information on hotels in Quito is available at the following web address:

http://www.ecuadorexplorer.com/html/quito hotels.html

Non-funded participants willing to benefit from the special room rate offered by the Dann Carlton Hotel (US\$ 80 + 22% tax) should contact Mr. Pablo Espinosa (<u>pabloe@danncarltonquito.com</u>) and indicate that they will be attending a CBD meeting.

Transportation from Quito International Airport

Quito's Mariscal Sucre international airport (www.quitoairport.com) is located about 8 km north of downtown Quito. Taxis and shuttle services are available. **Participants staying at the Dann Carlton Hotel will benefit from a free shuttle service to the hotel.** The hotel has been informed of the arrival of each participant.

Time zone

The time zone of Quito is UTC/GMT -5 hours.

Weather

Quito is located at a very high altitude of 2820m and enjoys mild days and cool nights almost year-round. In Quito the temperature ranges from 7 degrees C at night to 26 C at noon, and averages 15 C.

There are two seasons, wet and dry. The wet season is called winter and the dry is considered summer. Quito's summer lasts about 4 months, from the end of June to September. Quito sees its fair share of rain from October through May, though even during this period the climate supports a multitude of diversions.

Electricity

110 volts, 60 Hertz.

Telephone

Ecuador country code is 593 and Quito city code is 2.

Visas

Most nationals are exempt from tourist visa requirements, for periods up to 90 days in length.

Nationals of the following countries require a visa to enter Ecuador: Algeria, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestine Authority, Panama, People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

Official language

The official language is Spanish. English is understood and spoken in some hotels and restaurants.

Currency

The official currency in Ecuador is the US dollar.

Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels and restaurants in the city.

Further information

Other useful information on Quito can also be found at the following addresses:

- http://wikitravel.org/en/Quito
- www.quito.com.ec
