



Convention on Biological Diversity

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WORKSHOP FOR INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES, TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY IN FOREST
ECOSYSTEMS – WORKSHOP III: FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Panama City, Panama, 6 - 8 April 2010

Information Note for Participants

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1. Opening and registration

The Workshop for Indigenous and Local Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean on Information Technologies, Tourism and Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems – Workshop III: Forest Ecosystems will be held in Panama City, Panama from Tuesday, 6 to Thursday, 8 April 2010.

The workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 6 April 2010, and registration will take place at the venue of the workshop at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

Country Inn & Suites Hotel Panama Canal

Amador & Pelicano Avenue

City of Panamá, Panamá

Tel.: +(507) 211-4500

Fax: + (507) 211-4501

Web site: <http://www.panamacanalcountry.com/amador/>

Contacts in Panamá:

Ms. Jevguenia Selene Berdiales

UNEP, Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean

Tel: +507-305-3111

Fax: +507-305-3105

E-mail: selene.berdiales@unep.org

Mr. Alex Pires

Oficial de Programa - Punto Focal AMAs Biodiversidad

UNEP, Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean

E-mail: alex.pires@unep.org

3. Working language of the workshop

The workshop will be held in Spanish.

4. Documents

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



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSTOURIDG-03>

5. General information on access to Panama City, Panama



Panama City is serviced by the Tocumen International Airport, which is about 27 km from downtown Panama City and about 55 km from the hotel. More information about the airport can be found at <http://www.tocumenpanama.aero/index.php?cccpage=index>

A shuttle service from the airport to the hotel (and back) will be provided for sponsored participants. A representative from the shuttle service will hold a “PNUMA – UNEP” identification sign and will meet sponsored participants at the exit of the immigration area at the airport.

Non-sponsored participants may also avail themselves of the hotel shuttle service at a cost of US \$28.00 per one-way trip. .

In cases where many participants arrive at the same time, there may be a short waiting period between the shuttle pick-up services at the airport.

6. Visa information



All participants must travel with valid passport (minimum 6 months). It is recommended that all participants contact the Embassy or Consulate of Panama in his/her country to verify visa requirements. For information on Consular offices of the Republic of Panama in your country, you may access the following link as reference point: www.migracion.gob.pa. Information concerning visa requirements may also be found on the web site of Panama’s Secretary of the Presidency for Government Innovation at: [Panamá Tramita](#) (Information available in Spanish only).

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the CBD Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications. Participants requiring further assistance obtaining a visa should contact Ms. Selene Berdiales whose coordinates are listed under heading 2 above.

7. Hotel information

Sponsored Participants

A block booking has been made by UNEP ROLAC on behalf of sponsored participants at the hotel which includes a standard room during the meeting and the night before the meeting. In addition to the room, all sponsored participants will be provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner during the meeting. Any extras, such as telephone, room upgrade, bar, laundry, restaurant, etc. are at participants own cost and must be settled upon checking out. The information regarding the hotel is as follows:

Country Inn & Suites Hotel Panama Canal

Amador & Pelicano Avenue

City of Panamá, Panamá

Tel.: +(507) 211-4500

Fax: +(507) 211-4501

Web site: <http://www.panamacanalcountry.com/amador/>

Participants are required to send their registration forms (attached as **Annex A**) directly to the designated contact people: Ms. Selene Berdiales, whose coordinates are provided under heading 2 above. Registration forms must be sent **no later than 29 March 2010**, in order to secure the required accommodation in a timely manner.

The hotel accommodation bill will be settled by the contact person Ms. Selene Berdiales on behalf of all sponsored participants.

Non-sponsored Participants

Non-sponsored participants may also wish to avail themselves to the block booking made by the host at the **Country Inn & Suites Hotel Panama Canal**. Please complete the form in **Annex A** and return to Ms. Selene Berdiales in advance with the dates of arrival and departure.

8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

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

9. Official language in Panama

The official language in Panama is Spanish. English is the language of business and administration, and is widely spoken and understood in Panama City.

10. Weather and time zone information



In April, temperatures in Panama City range between a maximum of 35°C in the daytime and a minimum of 19°C at night. Current weather conditions can be found at:

<http://www.worldweather.org/076/c01221.htm>

The standard time zone will be the Eastern Time Zone -5 GMT or UTC.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents in Panama are 110 Volts, 50 and 60 Hertz, Panama City uses 110 Volts, 50 Hertz a (two-pin flat and vertical plug with a ground connection).



12. Currency



The currencies used in Panama are the Panamanian Balboa (PAB) and the U.S. Dollar (US \$) both are used interchangeably. The current exchange rate as at 20 March 2010 is US \$1.00 = 1.00 PAB and € 1 = 1.35 PAB. It is recommended that you exchange money at the exchange counters at the airport.

13. Health Information

The Ministry of Health of Panama has reassessed the measure established on August 5 2008 regarding the vaccine application against yellow fever, and has established:

1. That the vaccine application against yellow fever, as from November 1st 2008 will be a RECOMMENDATION and not a requirement for travellers coming from or travelling to countries with transmission risk of this disease.
2. The Health Ministry of Panama, after analyzing the epidemiologic situation of Yellow Fever of countries with transmission risk, recommended the vaccine application against Yellow Fever for travellers coming from or travelling to the following countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in South America.
3. For travellers coming from said countries, at their arrival to the country instructions will be given containing signs and symptoms of yellow fever and in case of having one of these, he/she must contact phone number 800 – 8743.

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

14. 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.

Annex A

REGISTRATION FORM FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

**Workshop for Indigenous and Local Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean on
Information Technologies, Tourism and Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems –
Workshop III: Forest Ecosystems**

6-8 APRIL 2010, PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

Name:		
	(as appears on your passport)	
Mr. /Ms /Dr:		
Country:		
	(and Nationality, if different)	
Passport number:		
Date of Birth:		
	(Date-Month-Year)	
Organization:		
Address:		
Tel. No.:		
Fax. No.:		
E-mail Address:		
FLIGHT DETAILS		
Date of Arrival:	Flight No:	Time of Arrival:
Date of Departure:	Flight No:	Time of Departure:
Please specify special dietary requirements, if any:	(For e.g. vegetarian, no pork, etc.)	

Please return your completed form via fax or e-mail by no later than 29 March 2010 to:

Ms. Selene Berdiales

Fax: +507-305-3105

E-mail: selene.berdiales@unep.org
