



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL






4 December 2008

ENGLISH ONLY

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR THE ARAB STATES ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs), AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY
Cairo, Egypt, 14–18 December 2008

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 3)
 Weather Information (page 4)
 Currency Information (page 4)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

1. Opening and registration

The Capacity Development Workshop for the Arab States on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity, will be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 14 to 18 December 2008.

The meeting will be opened at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, 14 December. 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:

Shepherd Hotel
Corniche El Nile
Garden City
Cairo, Egypt
Tel.: +1-202-792-1000
Fax: +1-202-792-1010
Website:

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

3. Working language of the meeting

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

4. Documents



Documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NBSAPCBW-MENA-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: 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/.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue, upon request, invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

7. Health requirements

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers 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.

8. Hotel information

The Secretariat has booked rooms at the Shepherd Hotel for all participants in order to facilitate the workshop and, as such, is requesting that participants stay at the same hotel. Please be advised that participants may be required to work on exercises in the evenings, etc. *As accommodations have been reserved for participants at the Shepherd Hotel, the Secretariat will not reimburse the costs of other hotels.*

Shepherd Hotel
Corniche El Nile
Garden City
Cairo, Egypt
Tel.: +1-202-792-1000
Fax: +1-202-792-1010
Web-site:



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

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, according to UN rules, a portion of their DSA to cover supper and incidental costs. The costs of accommodation for sponsored participants, including breakfast and lunch, will be paid directly to the hotel by the organizers.

10. Field Trip

As a field visit is planned, participants are strongly advised to bring appropriate clothing and footwear. Participants may also wish to include some long-sleeved shirts or blouses that provide greater protection against possible insect bites. Participants are recommended to use insect repellent sprays and creams, as appropriate.

11. Official languages in Cairo, Egypt

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

12. Weather and time zone information



In December, temperatures in Cairo usually range between a maximum of +20°C in the daytime and a minimum of +10°C at night. The standard time zone will be GMT + 2 hours. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/059/c00248.htm>.

13. Electricity

220 volts, 50 Hertz. This two-wire plug is ungrounded and has two round prongs.



14. Currency



The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (EGP £). The current exchange rate is US \$1 = EGP \$5.53 and (Euro) € 1 = EGP £7.03.

15. 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.