



# Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL






9 March 2015

ENGLISH ONLY

**CBD REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS (EBSAs) IN THE NORTH-EAST INDIAN OCEAN REGION, AND TRAINING SESSION ON EBSAs**  
Colombo, Sri Lanka, 22-27 March 2015

### INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

**QUICK LINKS** (Control + click on icons for web page, click on page number to directly access text in document)


<b>Visa Information (page 3)</b>

<b>Meeting Documents (page 2)</b>

<b>Hotel Information (page 3)</b>

<b>Weather Information (page 4)</b>

<b>Currency Information (page 4)</b>

### INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

<b>1. OPENING AND REGISTRATION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. VENUE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. DOCUMENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO COLOMBO, SRI LANKA .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6. VISA INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7. HOTEL INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION</b>	<b>4</b>

## 1. Opening and registration

The CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the North-East Indian Ocean region (23-27 March 2015), and Training Session prior to the workshop (22 March, 2015) will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Training Session of the workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, 22 March 2015, and registration will take place at the workshop venue at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

## 2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

### **Hotel Taj Samudra**

No. 25, Galle Face Centre Road

Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Tel.: +94-11 244 6622

Fax: +94-11 2437208

Mobile: +94-71430 6791

E-mail: [samudra.colombo@tajhotels.com](mailto:samudra.colombo@tajhotels.com)

Web site: [www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)

## 3. Working language

The workshop will be held in English.

## 4. Documents

Workshop documents will be available on the Secretariat's website at:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2015-01>.

In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the workshop and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own electronic or paper copies of the meeting documents as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop.

## 5. General information on access to Colombo, Sri Lanka



Colombo is serviced by the Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB/VCBI) (32 km from the city centre). Transfer to and from the airport can be reserved through the hotel by contacting Ms. Anjula Kurukulasuriya, [Anjula.Kurukulasuriya@tajhotels.com](mailto:Anjula.Kurukulasuriya@tajhotels.com). Prices are shown in the table below.

<b>Airport Transfers (Per Transfer )</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Car	USD \$45
Micro Van (6 Seater)	USD \$70
12 Seater Coach	USD \$103

## 6. Visa information



Participants requiring an entry visa to Sri Lanka are strongly advised to contact the nearest Sri Lankan diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.

General information on visa procedures is available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka at: <http://www.mea.gov.lk/index.php/en/consular-services/guidelines-for-visa-application->. Also, a listing of relevant Sri Lanka diplomatic/consular missions abroad can be found at the following link: <http://www.mea.gov.lk/index.php/en/component/content/13?task=section>. Kindly consult directly with the Embassy/Consulate in your country/region for the most up-to-date information on visa requirements.

All holiday or business travellers to Sri Lanka must have an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for entering into Sri Lanka. Please visit <http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/> for more information on procedures and eligibility to submit request electronically.

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

Should the visa application request the name of a local contact person, please include the following:

Mrs. R.H.M.P.Abeykoon  
Director  
Biodiversity Secretariat  
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment  
“Sampathpaya”, No 82, Rajamalwatta Road  
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka  
Tel.: +94-11-2883374  
Fax: +94-11-4443943  
E-mail: biodiversitysl@gmail.com

## 7. Hotel information

A block booking has been made at the Hotel Taj Samudra (workshop venue) on behalf of all sponsored participants according to your flight arrangements. The accommodation includes a single room, breakfast and the meeting package (lunch and coffee breaks). Any additional hotel services, such as international calls, room service, bar, laundry, local transportation or additional meals, must be paid by participants upon check-out.

**Self-funded participants** may avail themselves of the block booking by contacting the Hotel directly: Ms. Anjula Kurukulasuriya, [Anjula.Kurukulasuriya@tajhotels.com](mailto:Anjula.Kurukulasuriya@tajhotels.com). A special rate for a single room including breakfast is offered for self-funded participants at a daily rate of US\$ 135 (please quote UNEP/SCBD rate when booking). The hotel details are:

## **Hotel Taj Samudra**

No. 25, Galle Face Centre Road

Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Tel.: +94-11 244 6622

Fax: +94-11 2437208

Mobile: +94-71430 6791

E-mail: [samudra.colombo@tajhotels.com](mailto:samudra.colombo@tajhotels.com)

Web site: [www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)

Additional information regarding hotels in Colombo and other general information are available on website of the Ministry of Tourism of Sri Lanka at:

<http://www.srilanka.travel/>



### **8. Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)**

The relevant portion of the DSA will be paid to sponsored participants on the first day of the workshop. Sponsored participants are asked to present their passports, which will be photocopied and returned to them.

### **9. Official languages**

The two official languages of Sri Lanka are Sinhala and Tamil. English is widely spoken in hotels and restaurants.

### **10. Weather and time zone information**

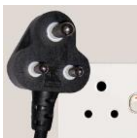


In March, temperatures in Colombo usually range between a maximum of 32°C in the daytime and a minimum of 24°C at night. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: <http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=227>.

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC +5:30 hours.

### **11. Electricity**

The electrical currents are 230 Volts, 50 Hertz. The two types of plugs shown in the illustration below are used in the country.



### **12. Currency**



The currency in Sri Lanka is the Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR). The current exchange rate as at 9 March 2015 is US \$1 = LKR 133.00 and € 1 = LKR 144.53 (rates are subject to change).

### **13. 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 that prior to departure, participants secure international medical, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation.

---