

**COUNTRY INFORMATION NOTE
FOR
PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE
AIMS SUB REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING
IN
SEYCHELLES, 17-19 JULY 2013**

Welcome

The Ministry of Environment and Energy with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes you to the Seychelles Islands. The aim of this information brochure is to help you make your preparation and stay in Seychelles a pleasant one. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Sabrina Renaud or Ms Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne. Their contact details are as follows:

Sabrina Phone: + 248 4670512

E-mail: s.renaud@env.gov.sc

Rebecca Phone: + 248 4283549

Email: rloustaulalanne@mfa.gov.sc

Venue for the meeting

The AIMS Regional Preparatory meeting jointly organized by UNDESA and the Republic of Seychelles will take place at the 'Kempinski Seychelles Resort' from 17 to 19 July 2013.

The address of the conference venue is as follows:

Kempinski Seychelles Resort

Baie Lazare

P.O.Box 1356

Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

<http://www.kempinski.com>

Health Breaks and Buffet lunch will be included on each of the days of the conference.

Visa Arrangements

Irrespective of the nationality of the visitor there are NO VISA requirements to enter Seychelles. However the following documents must be shown in order to obtain immigration clearance at the Seychelles International Airport.

- 1) A passport valid on the date of entry and exit from the Seychelles;
- 2) Return or onward ticket;
- 3) Proof of accommodation; including contact details;
- 4) Sufficient funds for the duration of the stay.

Presentation of all the above documents will grant you a 'Visitor's Permit' that will be issued upon arrival by the Seychelles Department of Immigration. The visitors permit is initially valid for the period of visit of up to one month. It can be extended for a period of up to 3 months from the date of issue.

Customs Formalities

The duty free allowance for all liquors (including wine, beer, stout, ale and port) perfumes and tobacco is:

- 200 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco
- 2 litres of Spirits and 2 litres of wine
- 200ml of Perfume or Eau de Toilette

All personal possessions intended to be re-exported on departure are exempt from tax. In addition to the duty free allowances listed above, each visitor may import tax-free a video camera, other camera, musical instrument, portable electronic or electric equipment, sports requisites and other leisure equipment.

Offensive weapons such as stun guns, mace, bows and arrows, knuckle dusters, daggers, swords, tear gas, whips, firearms and ammunition are prohibited imports unless the appropriate import permit or official authorization has been obtained in advance from the relevant authorities.

This also applies to spear guns, fireworks, pyrotechnic products and explosives of any kind. Pornography in the form of obscene articles, publications, video tapes and software is strictly forbidden.

The import of plants and parts of plants, animals and animal products, biological specimens, radioactive substances and apparatus, dangerous drugs, chemicals, medicines, pharmaceutical items and poisons is forbidden without the necessary import

permit or official authorization having been obtained in advance from the relevant authorities.

Where goods are imported in excess of allowances, payment of import tax is to be made in cash (or personal cheque drawn on a local account). Credit card facilities are not available for the payment of import tax.

Transport from Airport to Hotel

On arrival at the airport, please proceed to immigration and then through customs. Once outside the arrival building, the driver will be waiting with a sign board/name plate to greet you and take you to the hotel.

All participants that have confirmed their attendance with the contact persons will be greeted at the airport.

Hotel Arrangements

All delegates, including those sponsored by UNDESA, have to organize directly with the hotel their reservations. We have negotiated the following rates with the hotels and must be quoted when booking is being made;

Kempinski Resort (same venue as the conference)

<http://www.kempinski.com>

Special room rates have been negotiated at U\$250 per night (Bed and Breakfast). Reservations are to be made directly with the hotel by contacting

Ms Anna Pothin (Assistant Sales Manager)

Email 'anna.pothin@kempinski.com'.

Tel: +248 438 6628 (Direct)

Tel: +248 250 1879 (Mobile).

Le Meridien Barbarons (30 mins away by transport)

<http://www.lemeridien.com/barbarons>

Room rates are U\$200 per night (Bed and Breakfast). Reservations are to be made directly with the hotel by contacting

Ms Aline Prosper (Groups and Events Sales Executive)

Email: events.seychelles@lemeridien.com

Tel : +248 467 3340

Tel : +248 281 1393

Please note that a shuttle bus service will be made available from the Le Meridien Hotel to the Kempinski Conference venue in the morning and return in the evenings for all participants staying at Le Meridien. The shuttle service will only provide one trip in the morning and one trip in the evening.

Travel Details

For those funded by UNDESA, they will pay for your round-trip travel. Flight bookings will only be made upon receipt of your nomination. Delegates are required to confirm in writing their acceptance of the ticket details before a ticket can then be issued and ticket references emailed.

Should you NOT be able to attend the workshop/conference after your confirmation of attendance due to unforeseen circumstances, please inform us within 48 hours prior to travelling to facilitate cancelation of the ticket, without incurring any charges.

Languages

Seychelles has 3 official languages; Creole, English and French. The meeting will have simultaneous audio translation in English and French only, with limited translation of documentation.

Other Information about Seychelles

Weather and time zone

Seychelles enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate throughout the year. The country has two seasons: a warm humid summer extending from November to April and a relatively cool dry winter from June to September. There is relatively little seasonal variation in temperature (27 to 32 degrees celcius). The weather is generally pleasant and sunny.

Seychelles is 4 hours ahead of GMT, 3 hours ahead of British summer time and 2 hours ahead of European summer time. Visitors may enjoy almost 12 hours of daylight throughout the year with sunrise occurring just after 6am and sunset around 6:30 pm.

Electricity and Water Supply

Throughout Seychelles the voltage is 220-240 volts AC 50 Hz. Seychelles uses the British standard square three-pin, 13 amp sharp electric plug. Visitors from countries other than the United Kingdom are advised to bring their own adaptors.

Tap water meets W.H.O. (World Health Organization) specifications and is safe to drink nation-wide. Because tap water is chlorinated, visitors are advised to drink bottled water but there is no imperative to avoid soft drinks, alcoholic drinks and ice.

Money (Currency)

The local currency is the Seychelles Rupee (SCR) which is divided into 100 cents. Coins come in 5, 10, 25 cents, and 1 and 5 Rupee denominations. Notes come in 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500 Rupee denominations.

Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 8 am to 2pm, and Saturday 8am to 11am. All banks process traveller's cheques and foreign exchange transactions. Passports are required for visitors' transactions and nominal commissions may be charged.

ATM facilities exist at major banks on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue and at the airport on Mahé and Praslin. Please note that these provide cash in local currency.

Exchange rates of the EURO and the Dollar as at 02 May 2013 are:

	Buy (Notes) (SCR)	Sell (SCR)
Euro 1		
US Dollar 1		

Credit cards

MasterCard, Access and Visa cards are widely accepted while Diners Club and American Express cards are less accepted.

Health requirements

Health requirements for visiting in Seychelles are minimal. You will be asked to fill a small section on the arrival form that will be handed over at the airport immigration desk.

There is no yellow fever in Seychelles and as a precaution, a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers over 1 year of age who come from or who have passed through a partly or wholly infected area within the preceding 6 days. There is NO risk of contracting malaria in Seychelles given that the anopheles mosquito does not exist in Seychelles.

For additional health information you may link to the Ministry of Health website:-

<http://www.health.gov.sc/>

Clothing

Light clothing suitable for Seychelles' warm tropical climate is recommended and visitors should prepare themselves for the relatively hot, humid atmosphere.

Suits are not compulsory for meetings but long sleeve shirt and tie is recommended for formal occasions (opening and closing of the meeting and cocktail reception if attended by the President)