



Global Dialogue on Oceans

Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 8 to 9 June 2017

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION
FOR PARTICIPANTS**

1. The Global Dialogue

The Dialogue, organized with support from the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment), will focus on regional and international solutions to combat marine litter and other forms of pollution. This has become a tremendous threat to ensuring the health of our oceans. In the last 20 years, the increase of micro-beads and single-use plastic products has put our oceans on the brink of disaster. If we do not act now, our oceans will be filled with the leftovers of human consumption, affecting both their health and the world's food security and livelihoods.

Our intention is to bring together political leaders and high-level decision makers from the business sector and civil society to engage in a discussion on finding concrete solutions and actions to restore the health of our oceans.

2. Venue

HOTEL VILLA CALETAS
Pacifico Central
Puntarenas, Costa Rica
Tel: [+506 2630-3000](tel:+50626303000)
E-mail: sales@villacaletas.com
Website: www.villacaletas.com www.zephyrpalace.com

3. Registration of participants

Onsite registration of meeting participants will take place on Thursday, 8 June 2017 from 8 a.m. at the entrance of the main room. At the registration desk, conference badges will be issued to participants. A valid identity document must be presented to registration officials in order to collect your badge.

4. Access and Facilities for disabled person

All entrances to the Conference Areas are accessible to disabled persons. Hotel Villa Caletas offers rooms for guests with special needs.

Facilities include:

- Wheelchair-accessible doors (2 rooms)
- Roll-in showers with grab rails and a lowered sink/vanity (2 rooms)
- Toilets for the physically challenged offer easy access in Front Desk Area
- Easy access to Amphitheater Restaurant

5. Paperless Dialogue

The Dialogue will be paperless; printed documents will not be available at the meeting.

6. Languages

The Dialogue will be conducted in Spanish and English only.

7. Accommodation

It is the responsibility of participants to make their own arrangements for accommodation. The Secretariat encourages all parties to make such arrangements at the earliest possible opportunity. The Hotels will be offering preferential rates to the United Nations.

Hotel	Contact Person	E-Mail for Reservations (Please ask for: Dialogue on Oceans rates)	Phone number	Website
Villa Caletas	Mrs. Haslene Córdoba	corporativo@villacaletas.com	+(506) 22573653 +(506) 26303000	www.villacaletas.com
Villa Lapas	Mrs. Pamela Rivero	reservaciones@villalapas.com	+(506) 26370232 ext.203	www.villalapas.com
Los Sueños Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort	Mrs. Adriana Aguilar	adriana.aguilar@marriott.com	+(506)22980864	www.marriott.com/costarica
Hotel y Club Punta Leona	Mrs. Isis Bruno	corporativas@hotelpuntaleona.com	+(506) 25871026 +(506) 88416688	www.hotelpuntaleona.com

8. Dress Code: Casual

9. Passport and visa requirements

It is the responsibility of each participant to obtain the required entry visa for Costa Rica. Please note that all Visas must be obtained prior to arrival.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica offers special assistance in order to facilitate the visa procedure of persons who are invited to participate in the United Nations/Costa Rica “Global Dialogue on Oceans”.

Participants travelling with a diplomatic or service passport, please confirm your requirements sending a copy of your passport to visas@rree.go.cr

Those nationalities not listed on the list below do not require a visa to enter Costa Rica. Please inquiry with your closest Embassy/Consulate the passport requirements.

Delegates from the following countries traveling with an ordinary passport need a consular visa to enter Costa Rica:

Albania	Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa)	Liberia	Rwanda
Algeria	Djibouti	Libya	Saudi Arabia
Angola	Dominican Republic	Macedonia	Senegal
Armenia	Ecuador	Madagascar	Sierra Leone
Azerbaijan	Egypt	Malawi	South Sudan
Bahrain	Equatorial Guinea	Malaysia	Sudan
Belarus	Gabon	Mali	Swaziland
Benin	Gambia	Mauritania	Tajikistan
Bosnia Herzegovina	Georgia	Mongolia	Thailand
Botswana	Ghana	Morocco	Timor-Leste
Brunei Darussalam	Guinea	Mozambique	Togo
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Namibia	Tunisia
Burundi	India	Nepal	Turkmenistan
Bhutan	Indonesia	Nicaragua	Uganda
Cabo Verde	Jordan	Niger	Ukraine
Cambodia	Kazakhstan	Nigeria	United Arab Emirates
Cameroon	Kenya	Oman	United Republic of Tanzania
Central African Republic	Kosovo	Pakistan	Uzbekistan
Chad	Kuwait	Papua New Guinea	Viet Nam
Colombia	Kyrgyzstan	Peru	Yemen
Comoros	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Qatar	Zambia
Congo (Brazzaville)	Lebanon	Republic of Moldova	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire	Lesotho		

Delegates from the following countries traveling with an ordinary passport need a restricted visa to enter Costa Rica:

Afghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Iran	Palestine
Bangladesh	Eritrea	Iraq	Somalia
China	Ethiopia	Jamaica	Sri Lanka
Cuba	Haiti	Myanmar	Syria

Those nationals who require a consular/restricted visa are exempt of the Costa Rican entry visa if they meet one of the following situations:

a) The nationals of the countries that have already a multiple entry visa B1-B2 or D type visa to enter the United States of America, Canada, the countries of the European Union and /or Schengen visa, stamped in their passport and valid during the stay in Costa Rica, will be able to enter Costa Rica without a consular/restricted visa. The stay granted will be a maximum of 30 days. The passport can not expire within 6 months from the entry date to Costa Rica.

b) Nationals with permanent residence (not as a refugee), student visa, work visa in the United States and/or any country of the European Union and Canada, do not need a visa to enter Costa Rica. This type of visa must be stamped in the passport, and cannot expire within 6 months from the entry date to Costa Rica. The stay granted will be a maximum of 30 days. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the entry date to Costa Rica.

There are some exceptions for visa requirement for diplomatic/service passports. Please inquire with the closest Costa Rica Consulate.

For further inquiries regarding visas please contact the closest Costa Rican.

You may contact the Consular Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica e-mail: dpto-consular@rree.go.cr

Please see the following link to access the list of Embassies and Consulates of Costa Rica worldwide:

<https://www.rree.go.cr/?sec=politica%20internacional&cat=representaciones&cont=481>

10. Vaccination against yellow fever

By means of Executive Decree No. 33934-S-SP-RE, the Government of Costa Rica has declared compulsory vaccination against yellow fever, before entry into national territory, for persons coming from the geographical areas considered at risk for transmission of the disease.

By provision of said Decree, the zones and countries considered at risk are:

- Sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Sudan.
- South America: Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.
- Caribbean: French Guiana.

The compliance with the immunization requirement must be verified before the relevant authorities (ports, airports and border posts), through the "International Certificate of Vaccination against Yellow Fever", which will be valid ten (10) days after the date of the application of the vaccine. This document must be presented in its original form and must be valid.

However, the aforementioned Decree has established exemptions to the requirement of vaccination against yellow fever exempts persons that:

- On their way to Costa Rica, have been in transit through airports, ports and international border posts of the countries considered at risk (article 6, paragraph 1).
- Having been in a country considered at risk before entering national territory, have remained at least six (6) days in a country considered not at risk and have not developed the disease in this lapse (article 7).

Except the following contraindications from this vaccination (article 10):

- Absolute contraindications: persons younger than nine (9) months; severe egg allergy; immunosuppression; and current or history of having suffered from thymus disease.
- Relative contraindications, in which there must be a medical evaluation of the pros and cons of the vaccination: persons older than sixty (60) years; pregnancy; lactation; family history of adverse events associated with the vaccine against yellow fever; hypersensitivity to gelatin; and asymptomatic infection with HIV, with laboratory verification of adequate immune system function.

In all exceptional conditions, a medical certificate must be presented.

11. Insurance and health

It is strongly recommended that delegates take out international medical, accident and travel insurance. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all participants to ensure that they obtain adequate insurance prior to their travel to Costa Rica. All travelers are advised to get their routine immunizations updated.

12. Local transportation

The Hotels recommended are easily accessible from the Juan Santamaria Airport in San José, The overland journey takes about an hour and fifteen minutes from San Jose.

The Government of Costa Rica will provide local transportation for the participants.

Nevertheless, there are other options:

Airport Shuttle: Request a quote for a non-stop or shared shuttle from Juan Santa Maria Airport to Hotel Villa Caletas at: conciERGE@villacaletas.com

Airport Taxis - Taxis are always readily available from the airport and reservations are not necessary. Tip: Make sure to negotiate a fare with the driver before your departure.

Car Rental - There are several well-known car rental companies located inside of the Juan Santamaria Airport. A reservation is highly recommended. Hotel Villa Caletas offers parking spaces for self-parking.

13. Electricity

Participants are kindly requested to bring their own power adaptors.

Voltage: 120 volts

Frequency: 60 Hz



14. Emergency telephone numbers in Costa Rica

The following are telephone numbers to call in case of emergency:

- Medical emergencies 911
- Fire 118
- Police 117
- From the Resort dial 0

15. Banking and Currency Exchange Facilities

The currency of Costa Rica is the Colón (₡, CRC). Currency exchange facilities and ATMs are available in (Herradura town 10 minutes from Hotel Villa Caletas) and in Jaco town (20 minutes from Hotel Villa Caletas) and the airport.

16. Restaurants

Villa Caletas offers two restaurants.

Amphitheater Restaurant

Mirador Restaurant

Neighborhood Dining

Nearby towns offer many different additional dining options within 10 to 20 minutes of the hotel.

17. Other useful information

The surroundings:

- Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO)-1 hour 15 minutes / 53 miles Jaco Beach
- Marina Los Sueños-10 min/ 1.6 miles
- Los Sueños golf course -10 min/ 1.6 miles
- Herradura dining options-10 min
- Jaco dining options-20 min
- Rainforest Adventure Tram & Canopy Tour-20 minutes/ 7.5 miles
- Carara National Park-26 minutes / 13 miles
- Manuel Antonio National Park-1 hr 30 minutes / 51 miles

18. Weather

The central Pacific weather region runs from the western parts of the San Jose and Puntarenas provinces, extending south from the Tarcoles River to the mouth of the Baru River, which is just north of Dominical. This region also includes Puntarenas town, Jaco, Quepos, Manuel Antonio and Parrita.

Because of its location and its inclusion of coastal areas and mountains (up to 6,167 feet above sea level), this weather region has less continuity in climate than other parts of the country. Along the coast, average rainfall is 143 inches per year, but as you ascend into the mountains up to 2,500 feet above sea level, the rainfall almost doubles to 262 inches per year.

The dry season in this region lasts from January to March, with February being the driest month. The rest of the year is technically the wet season, October being the rainiest. There are typically five hours of sun during the rainy months, and eight hours of sun from January to April. The days begin sunny with clouds moving in during the early afternoon and rain during the afternoon and/or night.

The average temperature is 81 degrees on the coast and 63 degrees in the mountains. Average day time temperatures along the coast are at their highest between January and May, reaching 90 degrees, and generally, temperatures never drop below 71 degrees at night. While in the mountains the temperature can drop to 48 degrees.

The relative humidity is consistently at 85 percent. During January and February, it drops to between 75 and 80 percent humidity, and reaches its peak of 90 percent humidity in June, September and November. Winds from the south dominate the days, while the nights are usually calm with slight breezes from the east.

For more information about the country, please visit the following websites:

<http://essentialcostarica.com/>

<http://www.ict.go.cr/en/>