



INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF AMCEN

20 to 25 JUNE 2010

Bamako, Mali

No formal editing

Information Note for Participants

13th session of AMCEN

The minister responsible for the environment of the Republic of South Africa is the President of the African Ministerial Conference of the Environment. The minister responsible for the environment of Mali is the incoming President of AMCEN.

According to paragraph 1 of article 9 of its constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years. An offer by the Government of Mali to host the thirteenth session was accepted by AMCEN at its twelfth session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 7 to 12 June 2008.

Pursuant to that offer, it was agreed that the thirteenth session would be held in Mali from 20 to 25 June 2010. The session would consist of an expert group segment from 20 to 23 June 2010 and a ministerial segment from 23 to 25 June 2010. It is worth noting that the third meeting of the African high level expert panel on climate change will be held on 20 June 2010. The experts preparatory meeting for the high level segment will be from 21 to 23 June 2010. A provisional timetable for the 13th session is attached as an annex to this information note.

The main objective of the session is to provide a platform for environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa that must be tackled in the context of desertification, continuing negotiations on climate change and biodiversity.

The highlight of the thirteenth session of AMCEN will be the ministerial dialogue on climate change, biodiversity and desertification. Some of the products expected from the dialogue will be updated African common position on climate change; streamlined regional coordination mechanism for the climate change negotiations; African common position (or at least common understanding) on access and benefits sharing of genetic resources vis-à-vis COP10 to be held in Nagoya, Japan; and a President's summary of the ministerial dialogue.

Four side events will be held during the 13th session and these include (i) EIA and SEA based networking in Africa; (ii) Chemicals and hazardous substances management; (iii) Climate change adaptation (EBA as the main thrust); and (iv) Carbon market and innovation – Arabic gum. UNEP is responsible for only one of the side events, namely climate change adaptation.

General Information

Participants from countries that are not exempted from visas to Mali must acquire valid visas before leaving their home countries even though Mali would endeavour to issue visas upon arrival at the ports of entry for many countries. Please take special care to cross-check which category your country falls under. Nevertheless it is advisable to obtain a valid visa before leaving your home country. In addition, yellow fever certificates are required if the journey starts or entails passing through designated yellow fever belt. A recommended list of hotels and their contact details can be found on AMCEN's website at <http://www.unep.org/roa/amcen/>

Please cross-check at the website periodically since some hotels have given prior notification about their willingness to provide us with negotiated rates for the duration of the 13th session of AMCEN.

Venue

The 13th session of AMCEN will be held at L'Hôtel de l'Amitié in Bamako, Mali.

Registration

All participants are requested to register on arrival at L'Hôtel de l'Amitié. Registration will commence from 8am to 5p.m. on Sunday 20 June and will continue on Monday 21 June from 8 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.

No formal editing

Badges will be issued to participants upon registration. For security reasons, participants are reminded that they should wear their name badges at all times during the meeting.

Services to delegates

L'Hôtel de l'Amitié offers a variety of services to delegates. It has the latest state-of-the-art facilities with in-house facilities providing digital subscriber lines and wireless Internet broadband connectivity (Wi-Fi) as well as satellite broadcasting and conferencing facilities.

Hotel reservations, airport transfers and transport for delegates

Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations. A list of recommended hotels in Bamako is available on the AMCEN website. The Government of Mali will set up a desk at the arrival section of the airport. Transfers from the Airport to the hotels might be **at a cost**. For logistical arrangements, participants should send information on flights, dates of arrival and departure together with the name of hotel they intend staying in, to Ms. Esther Njenga (E-mail: amcensec@unep.org or esther.njenga@unep.org), and copy Ms. Teresa Khasakhala (E-mail: teresa.khasakhala@unep.org) as well as Mr. Peter Acquah (E-mail: pcacquah@hotmail.com).

Some Facts and Figures

The total surface area of Mali is 1.24 sq. km. French is the official language of the country. The climate is subtropical to arid. There are three main seasons: the rainy season (June-October); the dry, cool season (November-February), when temperatures can drop to 15°C in January (in the evening); and a dry, hot season (March-June), with temperatures reaching 45°C. Local flooding can occur during the rainy season. Dust storms and sand storms frequently occur.

Voltage, Frequency and Plug/Outlet Type in Mali

Electricity in Mali is 220 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second. If you travel to Mali with a device that does not accept 220 Volts at 50 Hertz, you will need a voltage converter

Mali Plug Adapters and Outlet Shapes

Outlets in Mali generally accept 1 type of plug:



Two round pins .

If your appliances plug has a different shape, you may need a plug adapter (**credit Treehouse City guide**)

Contacts and any further information

For further information on the 13th session of AMCEN please do not hesitate to contact AMCEN Secretariat on Tel (254 – 20) 762 42 87 / 762 4279 or Fax: (254 20) 762 3928 - Email: amcensec@unep.org and copy esther.njenga@unep.org, peter.acquah@unep.org, pcacquah@hotmail.com

For any further information on Mali please contact Dr. Amadou Maiga (E-mail: adoumaiga@yahoo.fr) and copy Ms. Assetou Bakayoko (E-mail: assetou@yahoo.com)

No formal editing