



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers
of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**
Bridgetown, Barbados

5 - 6 November 2019

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.2019/Inf. 1

3 October
Original: English

Information Note for Participants

INFORMATION ON BARBADOS

Barbados is located at Latitude 13° 10' N and Longitude 59° 32' W and it is the most easterly island in the Lesser Antilles archipelago. The island measures 166 square miles with the highest point recorded at 1,100ft (336m) above sea level at Mount Hillaby in St Andrew. Barbados' population is estimated to be approximately 277,821 (2010) and growing.

Barbados is geographically divided into eleven (11 Parishes): St. Lucy, St. Peter, St. James, St. Thomas, Christ Church, St. Michael, St. Joseph, St. Andrew, St. John, St. George and St. Philip. In addition, there are four main towns: Oistins, Bridgetown, Holetown and Speightstown. The capital, **Bridgetown is located in the parish of St. Michael** and is the commercial centre of Barbados. Steeped in rich [history](#) and culture, Bridgetown today reflects a mix of the old and the new, with historic sites and buildings sitting amongst modern structures such as multi-storey offices, financial institutions and shopping malls.

The island is largely surrounded by [coral reefs](#) which extend in some areas approximately 3 metres seaward. This phenomenon protects our coastlines and has resulted in the fine, white sand [beaches](#) the country possesses. The island is comprised of about 85% coral limestone while the remaining 15% is comprised of clay, sandstone and shale and exists on the Eastern side of the island known as the Scotland District. The island is also home to several [caves](#), the most famous being **Harrison's Cave** and the **Animal Flower Cave**.

There is always something happening in Barbados at any time of the day or night. Barbados caters to everyone, from the intellectually inclined in search of history, heritage and a deeper understanding of Caribbean ethos, to those who wish to visit our beautiful beaches to relax or to engage in water sport activities and/or pleasure boat cruising; to the those seeking excitement through music, dance, song, culture and epicurean extravagance. Barbados welcomes you with something special to discover and enjoy for the duration of your stay.

Weather

The weather in Barbados is generally warm and sunny all year round (daytime high: 30°C / 86°F, nighttime low: 24°C / 75°F). The prevailing northeast trade winds blow steadily so that although it is bright and sunny, it is not unbearably hot. The nights are usually slightly cooler. The dry season lasts from January to June.

Currency

The currency of Barbados is the Barbados dollar (BBD). The BBD is converted at the rate of BBD\$2 to US\$1. The BBD is fixed to the U.S. dollar and does not fluctuate. On your travels around Barbados you will find that U.S. currency is accepted across the island and most stores and restaurants accept major credit cards. Barbados banknotes are issued in the following denominations: 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 dollars. Barbados coins are issued as 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents and 1 dollar.

Health

Meeting participants shall travel in good health conditions or carry with them their regular medications. In case of medical emergency, the participant must have an international health insurance or defray their expenditures.

Participants should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. There is no risk of yellow fever in Barbados. The government of Barbados requires proof of yellow fever vaccination, only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. This does not include

the US. If you are traveling from a country other than the US, check this list to see if you may be required to get the yellow fever vaccine: [Countries with risk of yellow fever virus \(YFV\) transmission](#).

Security in Barbados

The island of Barbados is safe, but extra precaution is always advised. Participants are encouraged to exercise caution and good judgment at all times. Take all the usual precautionary measures when out of your hotel and venue. Avoid walking alone at nights and keep in lighted areas. Should you decide to leave the hotel premises, please ensure that you take only taxis clearly marked, or you can arrange for a hotel taxi to pick you up. Do not carry around large amounts of cash and other valuables on your person, especially when you're travelling outside of the hotel premises.

Additional Information

Electricity in Barbados is 110 volts/50 cycles. The standard plug types in Barbados are:

- Flat blade (2 flat blades)
- Flat blades with round grounding pin

If traveling from North America you should be able to use your appliances without any problems, however if travelling from UK & Europe you may need adapters and transformers. Most [Barbados hotels](#) can provide adapters and transformers for hair dryers and other appliances - please check with your [Barbados accommodation](#) to be sure.

TRAVELLING TO BARBADOS

Request for Visa to enter Barbados

Participants attending the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, who are in possession of a **Diplomatic or Official passport will not require a Visa for entry into Barbados.**

Arrival and Airport Transfers

Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA) is only thirty (30) minutes from the Hilton Hotel.

Accommodation

Please note that rooms have been blocked to accommodate all participants at the HILTON BARBADOS RESORT where the Meeting will be held. UNEP/ROLAC will provide the sponsored participants with the full DSA for Barbados. Each participant will therefore be required to pay for his/her accommodation. To facilitate payment a group code will be provided to allow participants to pay for their accommodation at a preferential tariff of US\$168.00, breakfast included, (taxes not yet included). It is important that you complete your registration with UNEP/ROLAC, as soon as possible, so that your name can be forwarded to the hotel to reserve your room.

It is highly recommended that all participants stay at the HILTON BARBADOS RESORT since no transportation to or from other hotels to the venue of meeting will be provided by the organisers.

Financed participants

Participants with funding confirmed by the United Nations Environment Programme will receive their itinerary and electronic ticket with confirmation code issued in economy class in advance. They will receive full Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for Barbados per slept night (US\$ 425 as per September 2019 rates) as well the sum of \$188 to cover transportation to/from airport and all other expenses they may occur, through Swiss Value Cash Cards (VCCs)-Mastercard. Each participant will be responsible for paying their own rooms, dinners and other costs associated with their travel.

Further instructions on the use of the VCCs will be provided in Bridgetown. To facilitate the distribution of the DSA in accordance with United Nations regulations, it is necessary for participants to submit the following documentation to UN Environment, preferably during the first day of the meeting in Barbados.

- Copy of the passport (biometric page)
- Original boarding passes (arrival flight to Bridgetown)

*Please note that DSA delivery will not be feasible unless all requirements are met.

ABOUT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**Venue**

HILTON BARBADOS RESORT
Needhams Point, St. Michael, Barbados, BB 11000

Registration

The meeting will begin on Tuesday, 5 November 2019 at 10.00am
 Registration will start at 9.00 am.

Documents

The documents for the meeting will be available in the following link:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/intersessional-meeting-forum-ministers-environment-latin-america-and>

Please note that UN Environment is doing its best to make this event a Green Meeting. In this sense, there are some tips to take into consideration:

- This meeting will be almost paperless (printing will be minimal). We will prepare paper documents only when absolutely necessary.
- We encourage participants to bring their laptops to download presentations or working files that will be made available during the meeting.
- We are kindly requesting all participants to bring their own pens and paper (if needed).
- Turn off lights and equipment when not in use.
- Reuse room linen and towels as much as you can.

Dress code

For this meeting business attire is recommended.

Please keep in mind the temperature at the venue of the meeting which will be around 31° C.

Additional information

For any additional information you may contact Ms. Veronica Bleau: veronica.bleau@un.org and telephone number Tel.: +507-305-3135.

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