



**NEW: See N° 10. SANITARY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES**

**Fourth Africa-Asia Forum on Combating Desertification
Theme: Agroforestry and Soil Conservation
Cotonou, Bénin
(24 to 27 of June 2003)**

INFORMATION NOTE

1. VENUE

Centre International de Conférence
Tél. : (229) 30 45 41
Fax : (229) 30 45 42
Cotonou, Bénin

2. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Tentative arrangements have been made for all participants. Participants will pay for their own accommodation. The hotel offers accommodation in two different price classes (equivalent to deluxe and standard), and budget as shown in the table below. All are located in the comparable distance. All have suite bathrooms and all rates include a buffet breakfast. The host country provides a shuttle service to and from the Conference Centre to the hotels.

Hotels	Negotiated rates for bed and breakfast	
	Tourist Price	Budget Price
Novotel	60, 000	60, 000
Hôtel du Lac	35, 000	30, 000
Hôtel Akwaba	15, 500	12, 550
Sun Beach hôtel	16, 500	16, 500
Le Cyclope	12, 500	11, 500
Le Cyclope (chambres ventilées)*	7, 000	6, 500

* No air conditioning is available.

Delegates are requested to confirm their bookings with the local organisers in Benin by the 15th of June 2003, to ensure that they receive the negotiated prices. Delegates will be responsible for their own lunches and dinners. In addition, each participant is will have to pay 500 CFA francs per day for taxes.

3. VISAS



Participants are responsible for obtaining any transit visa and the entry visa in Benin for their travel. For delegates that do not have a Benin Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence, the local authorities will arrange visas to be issued upon arrival at the airport in Cotonou. Delegates are therefore strongly advised to send to the local organisers in Benin with

copies to the UNCCD Secretariat, by the 10th of June 2003 a photocopy of their passports with the following information:

- Full names,
- Passport numbers,
- Country of origin,
- Date of issue and expiry
- Details of their travel itinerary
- Place and date of birth

4. ALLOWANCES

Allowances /DSA shall be paid on the first and second day of the conference to participants sponsored by the UNCCD Secretariat, in accordance with the United Nations Rules and Regulations, enabling participants to cover incidental expenses during their stay in Benin, to cover the costs of accommodation and meals. In addition, UNCCD sponsored delegates will receive terminal allowances from which transport and visa charges will be covered. Should the participants change their plan and leave Benin, earlier than originally authorised, the UNCCD Secretariat shall reserve the right to reclaim the portion of the allowance payment beyond the entitlement to their stay in Cotonou.

5. AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Cotonou is served by an international airport which is with less than two kilometers of the place of the meeting. Arrangements will be made by the host country to meet participants at the airport and assist them with immigration issues. Transfer of participants from Airport to hotels will be borne by the local authorities.

6. CURRENCY

The local currency of Benin is CFA Franc. One (1) dollar US is equivalent to 597.577 CFAF (Rate on 31 Mai 2003). Please, be informed that the rate can undergo light fluctuations.

7. CLIMATE

Benin has a wet tropical climate. In June-July, it is the rain season. The temperatures vary between 22 and 30 degrees C

8. LANGUAGE



The official language is French

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Health requirements: A course of anti-malaria tablets is strongly advisable. Participants must carry their health certificate due to control of yellow fever vaccination at the airport.

Insurance: The organisers shall not be responsible for health insurance coverage and participants must have adequate insurance to cover any medical services required.

10. SANITARY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The Ministry of Public Health of Benin is requesting all participants to take necessary precautions against the following infections:

Malaria: a preventive treatment is strongly advised for persons coming from zones free of the malaria parasite

Yellow fever: valid vaccination obligatory

Meningitis: The period of the meeting is not favorable to an epidemic outbreak. A vaccination with tetravalent vaccine (ACY W 135) is however advisable.

Viral hepatitis: The specific vaccination (B, in this case) is advisable

Severe Acute Respiratory

Syndrome (SARS): All participants coming from risk areas (China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Hong-Kong, Canada (Toronto), etc. should provide proof (medical certificate) that they are not infected, otherwise a quarantine with strict surveillance will be imposed on them.

Taking all these measures will facilitate your entry into Benin. Whatever the case, all those who do not conform with these precautionary measures will undergo sanitary measures put in place by the Benin authorities.

11. ORGANIZERS' CONTACT

The Host Government of Benin

M. Jules Gontran Capochichi

Directeur de l'Aménagement du Territoire
(MEHU)

Tél. : (229) 31 14 80

Fax : (229) 31 14 80 / 31 50 81

Cell. : (229) 90 50 82

E-mail : jcapochichi@mehubenin.net

UNCCD Secretariat**Bonn Headquarters**

Fax: 49-228-815-2898/99

Africa Unit**Mr. Boubacar Cisse**

Tel. : (+49 228) 815 28 18

E-mail : bcisse@unccd.int**Ms. Susan Lakop**

Tél. (+49 228) 815 2817

E-mail: slakop@unccd.int**Asia Unit****Mr. Masanori Kobayashi**

Tel: 49-228-815-2829

E-mail: mkobayashi@unccd.int**Ms. Rosemary Ng'ombe**

Tel: 49-228-815-2823

E-mail: rng'ombe@unccd.int**Africa Regional Coordination Unit in****Cotonou, Benin**

Fax: (229) 31 14 80 / 31 50 81

Mr. Moïse Aklé

Tél.: (229) 31 14 80

Cell.: (229) 06 45 14

E-mail: jcapochichi@mehubenin.net**Ms. Lydie Atchouké-Vinou**

Tél.: (229) 31 14 80

Cell.: (229) 08 81 50

E-mail: fchetangni@mehubenin.net