



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
7 November 2018

Original: English

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Seventeenth session

Georgetown, Guyana, 28–30 January 2019

Information for participants

The 17th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 17) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), hereinafter referred to as “the conference”, will be held from 28 to 30 January 2019 in Georgetown, Guyana. The present document contains general information which may be helpful to participants. Additional information will be provided in due course on the UNCCD website: <www.unccd.int>.

1. Secretariat

The secretariat of the UNCCD is headed by the Executive Secretary, Ms. Monique Barbut, and based in Bonn, Germany, at:

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Langer Eugen
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel.: +49 228 815 2800
Fax: +49 228 815 2898/99
Email: secretariat@unccd.int

2. Host country authorities

The Government of Guyana has established a national planning committee in charge of preparations for CRIC 17. For additional information, participants may contact:

Mr. Trevor Benn
Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer
Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
22 Upper Hadfield St., Georgetown
Guyana

* Unofficial copy for information purposes only.

Tel.: +592-227-4459 ext.1001
E-mail: trevor.benn@glsc.gov.gy

Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
Office of the CEO Secretariat
Email: ceooffice@glsc.gov.gy
Tel.: +592-226-0527-9/ 226-6490
Mobile/WhatsApp: +592-628-6290

3. Venue of the conference

The CRIC will convene its 17th session from 28 to 30 January 2019 at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) in Georgetown, Guyana, at the following address:

5 (E) Half Orchid Drive
Liliendaal
Greater Georgetown
Tel.: +592-222 7503
Email: acc@acc.gov.gy
<www.gicc.gov.gy>

Consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean, and Central and Eastern Europe will be convened on 27 January 2019 at ACCC in preparation for CRIC 17.

In addition to the Plenary Hall, meeting rooms will be made available at ACCC, without interpretation services, for informal meetings. Arrangements for such meetings should be made with the secretariat.¹ Working hours will normally be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

4. Admittance to the session

The provisions governing the Conference of the Parties (COP) apply mutatis mutandis to the proceedings of its subsidiary bodies. Participation in the conference is therefore open to Party delegations, United Nations specialized agencies and observers in accordance with the provisions of the UNCCD and the rules of procedure of the COP.²

¹ Consult the Official Journal of the session for relevant contacts.

² In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2 of the Convention, for each State or regional economic integration organization which ratifies, accepts, approves or accedes to the Convention after the deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention enters into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Consequently, the Parties at the opening of the conference on 28 January 2019 will be the States and regional economic integration organizations having deposited their instruments by 30 October 2018. States that deposited their instruments after 30 October 2018 but by 1 November 2018 will become Parties during the session. States that deposited their instruments after 1 November 2018 will not become Parties until after the session is closed but may participate in the session as observers. Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental and civil society organizations and observers that were accredited at the 13th session of the COP are listed in document ICCD/COP(13)/17. Relevant information on the status of ratifications is available on the UNCCD website: <www.unccd.int>.

Party delegations do not need to present credentials since the CRIC and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) are subsidiary bodies of the COP. However, an official list of delegation members should be forwarded to the UNCCD secretariat before the conference session for registration and security purposes. Observers already accredited to previous sessions of the COP should also comply with this requirement.

Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, that has not yet obtained observer status may be admitted to the conference upon the submission of an official request to the UNCCD secretariat, pending the decision on its accreditation as an observer by the COP at its next ordinary session. This request should state the competence or qualification of the body or agency in matters covered by the UNCCD.

5. Registration

Registration of participants to CRIC 17 will consist of the following steps:

Submission of request for registration online

A registration page has been designed to accommodate the participants' registration requests to the CRIC 17. They are invited to pre-register **from 22 November 2018 to 10 January 2019** at the following link: <www.unccd.int/cric-17-online-registration>.

In order to facilitate verification of requests for registration at the conference, all participants are required to upload an **accreditation, nomination or invitation letter**³ confirming their ability to attend the CRIC 17 session.

Participants are also required to upload a **standard passport photo** in order to accelerate on-site registration and badge collection.

Confirmation and validation e-mail

Once the request for online registration has been cleared, the UNCCD secretariat will validate and email a confirmation of pre-registration for CRIC 17 to the participants.⁴

On-site registration

Once pre-registered, delegates will be able to finalize their registration on-site and collect their badges at the Visitors' Centre Pavilion on the following days:

- Thursday 24 January from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 6 p.m.
- Friday 25 January to Sunday 27 January from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m.
- Monday 28 January to Wednesday 30 January from 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m.

Participants are requested to wear issued identity badges at all times since access to ACCC is allowed only upon presentation of badges.

³ In the event that one accreditation, nomination or invitation letter covers several participants, the same letter may be uploaded for every person mentioned in the document.

⁴ Participants are kindly requested to submit their personal email address for registration purposes.

6. How to reach the conference venue

International connections by air

Cheddi Jagan International Airport⁵ (formerly Timehri International Airport) is the national airport of Guyana. The airport is located on the right bank of the Demerara River in the area of Timehri, 41 kilometres (25 mi) south of Guyana's capital, Georgetown. It is the larger of the two international airports serving Georgetown. Direct international flights as well as a connecting service from [New York City](#), [Miami](#), [Toronto](#), Panama City, [Bridgetown](#), [Port of Spain](#), [Paramaribo](#), [Aruba](#) and [Curaçao](#) are in operation. All scheduled passenger jet services for Georgetown are operated via this international airport.

The second international airport is the Eugene F. Correia International Airport⁶ (formerly Ogle Airport), located six kilometres (3.7 mi) east of the capital, [Georgetown](#), in the [Demerara-Mahaica region](#) of [Guyana](#). [LIAT](#) operates non-stop scheduled passenger flights from Ogle with [ATR](#) regional propjet aircraft to [Port of Spain](#) and [Barbados](#) as well as direct to other Caribbean islands.

How to reach the Arthur Chung Conference Centre

The Arthur Chung Conference Centre is located approximately seven km from Georgetown city centre and 46 km from Cheddi Jagan International Airport. Participants will find restaurants, convenience stores, drug stores, banks and other services just a few minutes' walk away.

Taxi services

Official Airport Taxi Services are available at the airports. Airport taxi⁷ rates from Cheddi Jagan International Airport to Georgetown are USD 35 or GYD 7500. The taxi rate from Eugene F. Correia (Ogle) Airport to Georgetown is USD 7.

Taxis are readily available in Georgetown. Marked service cabs charge standard rates. Taxi drops in the city range from USD 3-5 while out of town the rate is USD 6 or more depending on the distance.

You are always entitled to negotiate with a taxi prior to accepting the service.

7. Press centre/information for the media

Online registration for representatives from the media will be available **from 22 November 2018 to 10 January 2019**. Afterwards, registration will be carried out at the accreditation and registration centre at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre during pre-registration and registration hours, upon presentation of a valid press card and photo ID. Journalists and representatives of media organizations will need to upload the following information⁸ to receive accreditation:

- One recent passport-sized photograph;
- A valid press card;
- A copy (picture and signature pages) of your passport (for foreign journalists) or national identity card (for local applicants);

⁵ For more information, visit the airport's website at: [<www.cjairport-gy.com/>](http://www.cjairport-gy.com/).

⁶ For more information, visit the airport's website at: [.<www.ogleairportguyana.com>](http://www.ogleairportguyana.com).

⁷ Taxi fares are usually accepted in Guyana Dollars (GYD) or United States dollars (USD).

⁸ The information should be uploaded to [.<www.unccd.int/cric-17-online-registration>](http://www.unccd.int/cric-17-online-registration) and [.<www.glscc.gov.gy/forms/media-accreditation-application/>](http://www.glscc.gov.gy/forms/media-accreditation-application/). Please click on: "Media Accreditation".

- A letter of introduction from the bureau chief or company sponsoring your travel to the session. For freelance journalists, a letter is required from the media organization assigning you to cover the Conference;
- A duly completed accreditation form.

The application form will be available for download from the media section of the host country CRIC 17 website⁹ and from the UNCCD media webpage.¹⁰

Visit the following link for more information on regulations relative to visa applications and bringing reporting equipment into Guyana: <<https://www.gra.gov.gy/24-traveller-s-information/86-arriving-passengers-information>>.

For inquiries about accreditation or coverage of the event, please contact:

Email: press@unccd.int

Fax: +49 228 815 2898/99

For media-related issues within the conference venue, please contact:

Ms. Wagaki Wischniewski

Tel.: +49 228 815 2820

Mobile: +49 173 268 7593 (roaming)

Email: wwischniewski@unccd.int and copy press@unccd.int.

For media-related issues outside the conference venue, please contact:

Mr. Royden James

Public Relations Officer

Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission

Email: rjames@glsc.gov.gy

Tel.: +592-226-0527-9, ext.: 1010

The above-mentioned conditions apply to both local and foreign applicants. Applicants in need of a visa are advised to apply for accreditation early. Pre-registration or early registration are recommended for anyone assigned to cover the opening session. After the conference opens, journalists may experience delays during on-site registration.

A dedicated press and media working space will be available at the conference venue.

Additional information and any media updates on the convention and CRIC 17 will be available on the host country CRIC 17 website¹¹ and the UNCCD media webpage.¹²

8. Transportation

Information on local transportation will be made available on the UNCCD CRIC 17 webpage¹³ before the opening of the conference and in the Official Journal during the conference.

⁹ See footnote 8.

¹⁰ Please check: <www.unccd.int/news-events?f%5B0%5D=news_type%3Aevents>.

¹¹ Please check: <www.glsc.gov.gy/forms/media-accreditation-application/>.

¹² Please check: <www.unccd.int/news-events?f%5B0%5D=news_type%3Apress_release>.

¹³ Please check: <www.unccd.int/convention/committee-review-implementation-convention-cric/cric17>.

Information desks will be set up at the airports for further information on transportation services and costs. Up-to-date information will be made available on the host country CRIC 17 website.¹⁴

9. Hotel accommodation

Hotel bookings can be made by participants via telephone, fax or email. It is highly advisable to make advance hotel reservations.

A list of hotels in Georgetown and the 2018 corresponding hotel rates can be found on the UNCCD CRIC 17 webpage.

10. Conference services and facilities at the venue

Paperless conference

CRIC 17 will be paperless. Accordingly, official conference documents and its Official Journal will not be printed and distributed but made electronically available on the UNCCD website.

A print-on-demand documentation facility will be made available to participants for the duration of the conference.

Intervention at official meetings

By its resolution 72/19 on the pattern of conferences and the report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (document A/72/611), the General Assembly reiterates its request to ensure the provision of high-quality conference services to Member States and other participants in official United Nations meetings.

In the interests of the smooth-running of the meetings, participants must maintain a normal speed when delivering speeches or making statements so that the provision of the required high-quality simultaneous interpretation services can be achieved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Side events and exhibition facilities

The CRIC 17 will not organize side events nor provide exhibition facilities.

11. Postal, telephone, telefax and Internet services

There is a Post Office in the ACCC complex

▪ Open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Courier mail service:

FedEx Office Guyana

125 Barrack Street

Georgetown

Open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Tel: +592 227-6976-9

¹⁴ Please check: <www.glsc.gov.gy>.

DHL Express

50 E Fifth Street,
Alberttown, Georgetown.
Open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tel: +592 225-7772 / 226-1967/226-2775 12.

12. Cafeteria and restaurants

There are several caterers within the ACCC, contracted to provide food and beverages for breakfast and lunch at a reasonable price as well as coffee break snacks for staff and visiting delegates. There are also several restaurants within walking distance of the ACCC.

13. Travel agency

The following travel agencies will provide assistance:

Connections Travel Service

6 Avenue of the Republic, Georgetown, Guyana.
Tel: +592 227 2810, 227 2832
Email: connections@connections.gy

Muneshwers Travel Service

45-47 Water Street, Georgetown
Tel: +(592) 227-6992 / 226-1487 / 227-8502/ 225-2947
Email: muneshwerstravel@yahoo.com
WhatsApp: +592 622 6645

Frandec Travel Service

129 Quamina & Carmichael Sts.
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: +(592) 226 3076
Email: kathryn.eytlemclean@frandec.com

14. Payment methods and banking services**Currency and exchange rates**

The official currency of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana is the Guyana Dollar (GYD).

The exchange rates as of October 2018 are:

1 US Dollar = approximately GYD 208.4

1 EUR = approximately GYD 239.3

Foreign currency can be exchanged in cambios in Georgetown, banks, bureaux de change and hotels.

Banks in major centres are open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Commercial Banks are closed on weekends.

The following currency exchange places are available in Georgetown:

- Confidential Cambio – 29 Lombard Street, Werk-en-Rust, Georgetown.
- A & N Sarjoo Cambio – 15-16 America Street, Georgetown.
- L. Mahabeer & Son Cambio – 124 King Street, Lacytown, Georgetown.
- Martina’s Cambio and Variety Store – 19, Hinck Street, Robbstown, Georgetown.
- Cambio Royale – 48 Robb Street, Lacytown, Georgetown.
- R. Sookraj Cambio – 108 Regent Street, Lacytown, Georgetown.
- F & F Foreign Exchange Enterprise Cambio – 25 ‘A’ Water Street, Georgetown.
- Commerce House Cambio – 93 Regent Street, Lacytown, Georgetown.
- Gobind’s Variety Store & Cambio – 96 Regent Street, Lacytown, Georgetown.
- Dollar Empire Inc. Cambio – Lot 20 Regent Street, Robbstown, Georgetown

ATMs

ATMs are available country-wide with 24-hour access.

Major international cards are accepted at:

Scotia Bank,
Guyana, Carmichael Street Branch,
Lamaha St, Georgetown
Telephone No. – (592) 223-4357 or 225-9305 Exts. 232, 221

Email: bns.guyana@scotiabank.com

Credit card fraud occurs in Guyana as in most other parts of the world. The usual precautions should be taken.

Travellers’ cheques

Travellers’ cheques are accepted at most banks, bureaux de change, hotels and stores in major malls.

Tipping is appreciated; however, most hotels and restaurants do include a service charge.

15. Immigration formalities and customs regulations

Health regulations

Travellers departing from or transiting through countries with risk of yellow fever will be subject to a yellow fever screening upon arrival in Guyana. It is advisable that travellers seek medical advice on the yellow fever vaccination if travelling or transiting from one of these countries. All travellers should carry their yellow fever card as required for entry to Guyana.

There is a risk of malaria throughout the year in Guyana, though the risk in Georgetown and the highlands is low. It is advised that you take precautions while travelling out of these areas.

Vaccination requirements and recommendations for international travellers, including yellow fever and malaria, can be found on the World Health Organization website.¹⁵

¹⁵ Please check: <www.who.int/ith/ith-country-list.pdf?ua=1&ua=1>.

Visa regulations

A valid passport with at least six months remaining is required for entry into Guyana. Passports must have a clean and full visa page for endorsement. Citizens from a number of countries¹⁶ must obtain a visa prior to arriving in Guyana from the Guyanese Embassies and High Commissions in the country of residence. For those who do not need a visa prior to departure, visas are readily obtained at the airport upon arrival.

Participants requiring visas must apply online by filling in the visa application form at: <staging.doc.gov.gy>¹⁷ and submitting a scanned copy of their passport bio-data page. Should participants encounter difficulties with the online process, the visa application form should be completed manually¹⁸ and submitted with a copy of their passport bio-data page and photograph to the secretariat by e-mail at: accreditation@unccd.int.

Application requirements for a free-of-charge visa for CRIC 17 participants are as follows:

- A letter of invitation to participate in CRIC 17 from the UNCCD secretariat;
- A valid passport (valid for six months from the date of entry);
- A completed application form;
- One passport photo.

For further information on the visa requirements, visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website <www.minfor.gov.gy/visa-entry-requirements-countries/>. Honorary consuls should visit <www.minfor.gov.gy/mission/>.

Contact details:

Tel. +592-226-1606/7/8, or

Email: minfor@guyana.net.gy

Customs regulations

For detailed information on the customs procedure, visit the Guyana Revenue Authority website at <www.gra.gov.gy/24-traveller-s-information/86-arriving-passengers-information>.

Further information on immigration formalities and customs regulations can be obtained from any Guyanese Embassy, Consulate or High Commission or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana website.¹⁹

16. General information about the conference venue

Information about Georgetown

Georgetown, the capital of Guyana, is the country's largest urban centre with a population of 118,363 recorded in the 2012 Guyanese census.²⁰ It is situated on Guyana's Atlantic coast, on the east bank of Demerara River estuary, and was nicknamed 'Garden City of the Caribbean'.

¹⁶ If you need a visa, visit: <www.minfor.gov.gy/visa-entry-requirements-countries/>.

¹⁷ Please note that the requisite guidance will be provided via the above-mentioned website.

¹⁸ The visa application form for Guyana can be downloaded at: <www.minfor.gov.gy/visa-application-form/>.

¹⁹ Please check: <www.minfor.gov.gy>.

²⁰ Please check: <www.statisticsguyana.gov.gy/census.html#comp>.

Tourism

General information about Guyana is available online at: <<http://exploreguyana.org/>> and <www.guyanatourism.com/>.

Climate

In the month of January, Georgetown experiences almost constant cloud cover with the sky overcast or mostly cloudy for around 71 per cent of the month. Minimum daily temperatures are around 24°C, rarely falling below 22°C or exceeding 25°C. Maximum daily temperatures are around 28°C, rarely falling below 27°C or exceeding 30°C. The weather in January is somewhat wet with some spells of rain. Over the course of January, the length of the day remains mostly constant in Georgetown.

Electricity

In Georgetown, the standard voltage is 110 V and the standard frequency 60 Hz. An adaptor to connect appliances and/or a transformer may be needed.

Local time

The standard time is GMT-4 hours.
