

Participant Information Sheet

CMS COP12 Regional Preparatory Workshop for Africa – *Their Future is Our Future*

9-11 August 2017

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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1. ABOUT ETHIOPIA AND ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia is situated in the Horn of Africa, close to the equator. With a population of over 100 million, it is the second most populous country in Africa and one of its oldest states. Spectacular views, rich cultural diversity and impressive historical heritage make Ethiopia a distinctive and fascinating place to discover and explore.

Known for its medieval churches, castles and fortresses, Ethiopia also offers a wide variety of landscapes, ranging from the lush green vegetation of the Ethiopian highlands to the alien-looking sulphur lakes in the Danakil Depression, one of the hottest places on Earth. Lake Tana in the northwestern part of the country is the birthplace of the Blue Nile, where it begins its journey to the Mediterranean. The country also has an impressive biodiversity, including rare Gelada Baboons, Ethiopian Wolves and Walia Ibex. Simien Mountains National Park, home to several endangered species, has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1978. In total, Ethiopia hosts nine UNESCO world heritage sites! It is also a prime place for coffee lovers, boasting a rich coffee tradition.

Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia, its largest city and home to more than 3 million people. Nested among the hills, the city of Addis Ababa has seen significant growth and development in the latest years. Nowadays it is peppered with high-rise buildings and its streets are filled with busy urban life. Addis Ababa hosts a great number of international organizations and diplomatic missions, including the headquarters of the African Union, which was established here in 2001. But the city also lets its visitors take a glimpse into the past, sometimes spanning over millions of years – the National Museum of Ethiopia is the new home to Lucy, the fossilized pre-human hominid sometimes called “the grandmother of humanity”.

2. PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

All visitors to Ethiopia except **Kenya** and **Djibouti** nationals require a visa. Nationals of the following countries can obtain tourist visas on arrival at the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, People’s Republic of China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

All other foreign nationals must secure their visa at their nearest Ethiopian Embassy or Consulate. However, the CMS Secretariat is working with our Ethiopian partners on the possibility of organizing visas on arrival for all delegates. We will contact the participants as soon as the information becomes available.

The passport must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry into Ethiopia. Please note that the visas are valid from the date of issue.

3. ARRIVAL TO ADDIS ABABA

Located approximately 5.5 kilometers from the workshop venue, **Addis Ababa Bole International Airport** is the gateway to Addis Ababa and the largest airport in Ethiopia. Most international flights arrive to and depart from Terminal 2. Foreign exchange service is available at the arrivals lounge. WiFi is also available in the airport, but it can be unreliable.

Elilly International Hotel provides an airport **shuttle service** to guests staying at the hotel. Please contact the hotel for additional information. This service might also be offered by other hotels you could choose, so please make your enquiries during the reservation.

If your hotel doesn't offer shuttle services, it is possible to use a **taxi**. Yellow or slightly cheaper blue and white vehicles, the Addis Ababa taxis can be found at the airport entrance with fares starting from 200-250 birr. However, the taxis do not have fixed rates and it is advisable to negotiate the fare before departure.

The cheapest option is the public blue and white **minibuses**, but they tend to be crowded and it can be difficult to navigate the public transportation system without being somewhat familiar with the city and speaking the language. Therefore, we advise you to arrange a transfer with the hotel or to take a taxi.

4. ACCOMMODATION

The CMS Secretariat has made a reservation for funded participants for **the duration of the workshop** in the following hotel:

Elilly International Hotel

Kazanchis, Kirkos Sub city 17/18,

PO Box 29228

Addis Ababa

Tel: +251 115 587 777 / 70

Fax: +251 115 585 200

Email : info@elillyhotel.com

Website: www.elillyhotel.com

The participants who did not receive financial support from the CMS may choose to make a reservation in one of the following hotels, located at a reasonable distance from the workshop venue:

Radisson Blu Hotel, Kazanchis Business District, Kirkos, Addis Ababa

Rooms from 207\$

<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-addisababa>

Jupiter International Hotel Cazanchis, Tito Street, Kirkos, Addis Ababa

Rooms from 125\$

<http://jupiterinternationalhotel.com/cazanchis>

The Residence Suite Hotel, Africa Avenue, Kirkos, Addis Ababa

Rooms from 84\$

<http://www.theresidenceaddis.com/>

Caravan Hotel, Mike Leyland Street, Bole, Addis Ababa

Rooms from 60\$

<http://www.caravanaddis.com>

Bow Hotel B&B, 211 Woreda 02, Kirkos, Addis Ababa

Rooms from 42\$

<http://www.bowaddis.com/>

5. PAYMENT OF THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE (DSA)

For the funded participants, the hotel including all three meals, is covered by CMS. Funded participants will also receive the relevant portion of their DSA at the beginning of the Workshop to cover other travel costs such as visa fees, local travel and terminal expenses. To assist with quick issuance of the DSA, please have your boarding pass and your passport ready for photocopying.

6. PRE-COP12 VENUE

The pre-COP workshop will be held in the conference room of the Elilly International Hotel:

Elilly International Hotel

Kazanchis, Kirkos Sub city 17/18,

PO Box 29228

Addis Ababa

Tel: +251 115 587 777 / 70

Fax: +251 115 585 200

E-mail: info@elillyhotel.com

Website: www.elillyhotel.com

The Workshop will start at 8:45 on 9 August. The registration will be open at the meeting venue from 8:30 on the same day.

7. WORKING LANGUAGES

The pre-COP12 Workshop for Africa will be conducted in English with French interpretation.

8. DOCUMENTS

The documents for the meeting are available on the workshop [webpage](#).

Please note that the CMS Secretariat will not distribute copies of the documents during the meeting. Therefore, the participants are kindly advised to bring their own copies of the documents for the workshop.

9. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN ETHIOPIA

While Ethiopia has more than eighty languages, the official language is Amharic. English is the most widely spoken foreign language.

Here is how you can say *Thank you!* in Amharic - አመሰግናለሁ

(pronounced “AH-mah-say-guh-NAH-loh”)

10. TIME ZONE

Due to elevation - Addis Ababa is located at 2300 m above sea level – the city has a temperate climate, with temperatures in August ranging from 10°C to 20°C. The high altitude also causes a big variation in day and night temperatures, so the evenings can be quite cool.

In Addis Ababa, the wet season runs from June to September. August is, on average, the month of the rainfall peak, so do not forget to bring a raincoat and/or an umbrella.

Lowland regions of the country are arid and semi-arid with substantially higher temperatures often reaching 30-35°C. The Danakil Depression in northern Ethiopia is one of the hottest places on the planet in terms of year-round average temperatures!

More information on the current weather conditions in Addis Ababa can be found [here](#).

The time zone in Addis Ababa, and Ethiopia in general, is East Africa time, UTC+03:00

11. GENERAL INFORMATION ON HEALTHCARE/HEALTH ISSUES

VACCINATIONS:

Yellow fever: Prior to entry, visitors arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission should be in possession of a valid health certificate for yellow fever.

Vaccination against **cholera** might be required for visitors who have visited or transited a cholera-infected area within six days prior to arrival in Ethiopia.

Hepatitis A, typhoid and **meningococcal meningitis** vaccinations are recommended.

Malaria is common in areas of the country below 2,000 meters. Therefore, if you are planning to leave Addis Ababa for high-risk lowland areas, it is advisable to consult your doctor beforehand about the suitable antimalarial tablets. There is no risk in Addis Ababa.

FOOD AND WATER: The safest is to consume bottled or boiled water while traveling in Ethiopia. Additionally, it is advised to consume cooked meat, fish, and vegetables, or produce

that has been washed with bottled or treated water.

12. ELECTRICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Electricity: In Ethiopia, the power sockets are of type C, E, F and L (see below). The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.



Phone: The international dialing code for Ethiopia is +251.

Internet: Most big hotels and a few cafés and restaurants in Addis Ababa's city centre have WiFi connection.

13. CURRENCY

The official currency of Ethiopia is the birr (ETB). As of 25 June 2017, the exchange rate was 22.9 birr for 1 USD.

Foreign currency should be exchanged only at authorized banks and hotels, and a receipt should be obtained for every transaction. It is advisable to retain those receipts as they might be required to exchange any surplus birr before departure. It is illegal to enter or exit Ethiopia while carrying more than 200 birr.

Major credit cards can only be used in several hotels in Addis Ababa, and while there is a growing number of ATM machines in the city, including a few in the airport, it is still advisable to

bring sufficient amount of cash.

14. SAFETY AND SECURITY

The emergency numbers are:

Police/Emergency: **911**

Fire brigade: **939**

Ambulance: **907**

15. DISCLAIMER

The CMS Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, compensation for death or disability compensation, loss of or damage to personal property and any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the duration of the meetings/workshop. In this context, **it is strongly recommended to secure international medical and travel insurance for the period of travel and participation at the meetings/workshop, prior to departure from home country.**

Have a nice trip and enjoy your stay in Addis Ababa!