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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

**The role of forests and wildlife in building resilience and recovery from
crises and threats**

Kinshasa - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 22-26 August 2022

INFORMATION NOTE

I. VENUE

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Twenty-third Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC23) will be held in Kinshasa, capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 22nd to 26th August 2022. The Session will be held simultaneously with the Seventh African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW7).

2. The AFWC23 and the AFWW7 will be held at Beatrice Hotel. The Opening Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, 22nd August, at 09.00 hours and a gala dinner will be offered at 18.00 hours.

3. An optional field visit will be organized on Thursday, 25 August 2022, by the government of the DRC. For this purpose, two tourist sites have been selected close to Kinshasa for two groups of participants:

- Those interested in forestry: The Kisantu Botanical Garden is a reserve located 130 km from the city center (two-hour drive). Participants should budget approximately \$60 which includes transportation, access to the site, food and tour guide fees; and
- Those interested in wildlife: The Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary for Bonobos located 27 km from the city center (1-hour drive). At this site visitors can watch, in the wild, the most intelligent great ape on the planet. The DRC is the only place in the world where this species that shares 99% of humans' DNA, lives. For this visit, plan to spend about \$50, which includes transportation, access to the site, food and tour guide fees.

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at

www.fao.org

II. REGISTRATION

4. Registration for the AFWC23/AFWW7 is open and ongoing. Participants are invited to register online via the following link : AFWC Registration here
5. Delegates are encouraged to register online, however a priority registration desk will be open on Sunday, August 21, 2022 starting at 2:00 pm at the Beatrice Hotel.

III. DOCUMENTS

6. The session documents will be made available to participants in English and French and will be posted on the Commission website: <https://www.fao.org/forestry/afwc/en/>. Delegates are kindly requested to take their own documents to the meeting and not request additional copies since very few will be made available during the session to minimize the environmental impact.

IV. USEFUL INFORMATION

Flights

7. Participants are encouraged to book flights to Kinshasa as early as possible. The N'djili International Airport is located in the N'sele Municipality, about 30 km from the Gombe Municipality (downtown).
8. An AFWC23 Session information counter will be set up in the arrivals hall of the N'djili airport for participants. Up-to-date airport shuttle and transfer information will be made available to the participants.
9. Neither FAO nor the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will make any special arrangements to facilitate shuttles from the airport to the places of accommodation. It is advisable to anticipate around US\$45¹ per trip, for the shuttle between the airport and the Hotel.
10. Please note that there is a US\$55 airport tax to be paid upon departure from the DRC by all passengers.

Visas

11. All delegates' passports must be valid for at least three months beyond the intended date of departure from the DRC and should contain at least three unused visa pages when presenting the passport for purposes of endorsing a visa.
12. Participants from countries that are not exempted from visas to the DRC must acquire valid visas before leaving their home countries.
13. Where visa applicants come from countries where the DRC does not have a Mission, arrangements have been made with the Direction Générale de Migration (DGM) to facilitate the obtaining of on-arrival and courtesy visas.

Kindly contact: Ms. Marie-Josée Bunsama, Liaison Officer in charge of coordinating local services and organizing the session. Tel: +24382 416 4195, +243898933104, Email: gracebunsana@gmail.com with a copy to the AFWC Secretariat Email: afwc@fao.org

14. Immunization for yellow fever is a requirement for entering the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

¹ Price obtained on Jeffery Travels (<https://www.jefferytravels.com/>)

15. Travelers entering the Democratic Republic of Congo must also present their Covid-19 vaccination certificate. Otherwise, a test is mandatory upon arrival, for a forty-five US dollars (US\$ 45) fee.

V. HOTEL BOOKING

16. It is recommended that delegates book their rooms at one of the hotels listed in the table below.

17. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations at the hotel of their choice. All participants will have to pay for their own accommodation upon departure from the hotel. Dinner, room service, telephone, bar, and other additional costs etc. will be paid individually upon checking out from the hotel. The DRC and FAO cannot be held liable for any such costs incurred.

18. For information on costs and room availability, please contact the hotels listed below:

Name of hotel	Address	Contact information
Fleuve Congo Hotel	119 Boulevard Colonel Tshatshi, Kinshasa - Gombe	Tel: +243 808500600 / +243 815090153 Email: reservations@fleuvecongohotel.com Website: www.fleuvecongohotel.com
Hotel Memling	5 D, Avenue de la République du Tchad, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +243 817001 111 / +243 997002000 Email: info@memling.net Website: www.memling.net
Pullman Hotel	4, Avenue Batetela, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +243 81 5553002 Email: h9635@accor.com Website: www.pullmanhotels.com/all.accor.com
Hotel Belle Vie	16 Ave Tombalbaye, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +243976050000 Email: tombalbaye@hotelbellevie.com Website: www.hotelbellevie.com/
Hotel le Royal	3, Avenue Kitona, Kinshasa	Tel: +243 81 55 55 666/ +243 85 55 55 666 Email: info@hotelroyaldrc.com ; reservations@hotelroyaldrc.com Website: www.hotelroyaldrc.com
Hotel le Voyageur Elaïs	Avenue Ngongo Lutete, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +243 81 70 05 070/ +243 99 99 39 697 M Email: reception@voyageurhotel.com Website: www.voyageurhotel.com
Hotel Béatrice	1, Avenue Isiro, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +24381 25 35 000 Email: info@beatricehotel.com Website: www.beatricehotel.com
Léon Hotel	Boulevard du 30 juin (ex Regina) 41, Luambo Makiadi, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +243 993 847 711/ +243 811076773 Website: www.hotel-leon-kinshasa.com
Kin Piazza Arjaan Rotana Hotel	88, Croisement des Avenues de la Justice et Ouganda, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +243 818978 888 Email: res.kinplaza@rotana.com Website: www.rotana.com
Hotel Selton	Croisement Avenues Col. Ebeya & Kitona, Kinshasa - Gombe	Tel: +243819197646 Email: direction@hotelselton.com Website: www.hotelselton.com
Hotel Relax	01, Avenue Col Ebeya, Kinshasa- Gombe	Tel: +243899905185 Email: hotelrelaxdrc@gmail.com

19. Please note that no arrangements will be made to convey participants from their hotels to the conference venue.

VI. HEALTH

20. As in the entire Democratic Republic of Congo in general, malaria is prevalent in Kinshasa. Therefore, participants are advised to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites. In case of malaria, please contact the Session Secretariat.

21. For emergencies, a 24-hour contact number will be available to participants. For more information, please contact:

Ms. Marie-Josée Bunsama, Liaison Officer in charge of coordinating local services and organizing the session. Tel. : +243 82 416 4195, +243898933104, E-mail : gracebunsana@gmail.com.

VII. BANKS, AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES AND CURRENCIES

22. The Congolese franc (FC) is the official currency of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but the US dollar is also frequently used. The exchange rate is approximately US\$1 USD for FC2,000.

23. Major credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, etc. are accepted by several banks in the DRC, including Ecobank, Equity BCDC, Rawbank etc. ATMs are operational 24 hours a day. Currency exchange offices are usually located along major roads, and next to hotels, or even inside.

VIII. TIME ZONE

24. The time zone for Kinshasa is GMT/UT+1.

IX. ELECTRICITY

25. The voltage of power supply in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is 220V. Most outlets are C/D/E with round pins. Participants are advised to bring their own adapter.

X. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

26. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is located in Central Africa, with a 43 km long coastline bordering the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It is bordered by Zambia and Angola (to the south), Congo (to the west), the Central African Republic and Sudan (to the north), Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania (to the west). The DRC is the largest country in Central Africa, with a surface area of 2,345,409 km², and an estimated population of over 90 million.

27. The DRC is a multi-ethnic nation with a wide variety of cultures, languages and religions. It has four national languages: Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo and Tshiluba. French is the official working language.

28. In the DRC, there are two types of climate: (i) equatorial: hot and humid all year round without a dry season, in the central zone crossed by the equator; and (ii) tropical: hot all year round but with an often short dry season. The country is largely covered by the majestic Congo River basin and its tributaries.

29. The capital city of Kinshasa is located in the western part of the country, about 300 meters above sea level, and at 4 degrees south latitude. Temperatures are generally high and relatively stable throughout the year, but from June to August they become more pleasant. Currently, temperatures average between 23 and 24°C with no rain.