REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (ABS)
PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING INTERIM AND LONG-TERM MEASURES FOR ABS IMPLEMENTATION, NOUMEA

ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING UNDER NAGOYA PROTOCOL
Noumea, New Caledonia 15-17 April 2020.

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. **OPENING AND REGISTRATION**

The regional workshop “PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING INTERIM AND LONG-TERM MEASURES FOR ABS IMPLEMENTATION” will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia from 15-17 April 2020.

The workshops will start **at 8.30 am on Wednesday, 15 April** and registration will take place at the venue of the workshops prior to the commencement of the workshop on 15/04/20 outside the meeting room.

Registration is an important task for all the participants. This will allow you to collect your **ID passes** to access the meeting room and other official venues during the workshop, copies of the final program for the workshop, any resource materials prepared for the workshop and other necessary information deemed necessary.

2. **VENUE**

The workshop will be held at:

**French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)**

Centre IRD de Nouméa- BP A5 98845
Nouvelle-Calédonie
Tél. + 687260738 GSM: + 687 86 39 75
Website: [https://nouvelle-caledonie.ird.fr/](https://nouvelle-caledonie.ird.fr/)

3. **WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop will be held in English.

4. **MEETING DOCUMENTS**

Participants will be provided relevant documentations during the time of registration. There will be a resource centre to make extra copies of any workshop documents at the site of workshop, although it is kindly advised to minimise the use of paper as much as possible. All meeting documents and PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the SPREP ABS Page on the following link: [www.sprep.org/abs](http://www.sprep.org/abs). More information on this will be made daily during the workshop.

5. **GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA**

Nouméa, the capital city of New Caledonia. Situated on the main island, Grand Terre, it’s known for beaches and its blend of French and native Kanak influences. Nouméa features a tropical wet and dry climate with hot summers and warm winters. Temperatures are warmer in the months of January, February and March with average highs hovering around 30 degrees Celsius and cooler during the months of July and August where average high temperatures are around 23 degrees Celsius. Nouméa's international airport is La Tontouta International Airport, 50 kilometres (31 mi) from the city.
Manage your arrival and departure - Tontouta- Nouméa Airport or Magenta Airport. There is a shuttle system from La Tontouta-Nouméa or Magenta airport to accommodation in Noumea. The shuttles have an associated cost, which will need to be booked and covered by participants.

6. **VISA INFORMATION**

Participants are required to make their own arrangements for the visa. A letter (where sponsored) shall be made available to the participants upon request to facilitate issuance of visa. Participants are encouraged to use the link below to find out their visa entry requirements and if needed contact the nearest New Caledonian (French) diplomatic or consular mission as soon as possible in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

More information available at the following link:
https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexteArticle.do;jsessionid=6B62AB9311D0A159184221C22C391B0A.tplgfr38s_1?idArticle=LEGIARTI000036931101&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000024395508&dateTexte=20180809

7. **TRAVEL LOGISTICS**

Limited funding is available to countries. As such participants to the workshop are selected to attend the ABS workshop if they are already attending the 10th Nature Conference on Protected Areas (https://www.pacificnatureconference.com/) and have pre-purchased return ticket to Noumea SPREP will pay subsistence allowance to these participants in order for them to attend the three day ABS workshop including any charges incurred to amend their tickets. In special circumstances where participants are seeking to be fully funded by the SPREP, a request letter must be sent to SPREP in advance of a month. Although all efforts will be made to secure funding, please note that due to lack of availability of funds funding is not guaranteed.

For partial or fully funded participants SPREP will pay full subsistence allowance. In case where an approval was made for a participant to be fully funded, the participant will receive a fully funded round the trip economical tickets purchased by SPREP. Once the nomination form is received SPREP will contact the participants directly to liaise on their travel itinerary. **ALL** participants are to confirm travel itinerary within 2 days of having received the itinerary to secure their travel. Any costs related to amendments done on the travel itineraries undertaken by the participants without SPREP’s knowledge will have to be borne by the participants. This includes missing the flight, extending stays or purchasing any upgrades.
8. **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for **New Caledonia**: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, yellow fever, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia and influenza. Shot lasts 2 years. For more information, please consult a medical professional about the vaccination requirements for your travel.

9. **HOTEL INFORMATION**

The participants will get a discounted rate if booked through IRD (the rates are attached at the end) or discount rates are available if booked using the nature conference codes (see nature conference website). Participants are free to choose other accommodation options in the nearby areas if they wish to. A list of hotels with approximate daily room rates is attached at the end of this document. **ALL** accommodations are to be booked by participants directly and the organisers take no responsibility on the passenger pick up or drop offs from the hotel to the airport.

Please do note that the organisers do not take responsibility of making reservations for anybody and participants are encouraged to book their own accommodation as early as possible as most rooms will be sold out soon since the nature conference expects to attract hundreds of participants.

10. **PAYMENT OF THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES (DSA)**

Sponsored participants will receive the relevant DSA daily during the workshop. A SPREP official will distribute DSA’s during dedicated times of the meeting and participants are encouraged to take note of the time for collection of their DSA’s. Further information on the collection of DSA will made available on the first day of the workshop.

11. **OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN NEW CALEDONIA**

The official language in New Caledonia is French (though 28 distinct Kanak languages are spoken here as well). However some are able to converse in English too.

12. **WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION**

The average **temperatures** you’ll face in **April** would be between 22.0°C and 29.0°C, with exceptional possible peaks as low as 16°C and high as 37°C The **standard time zone will be GMT + 11 hours**.
13. **ELECTRICITY**

In New Caledonia the standard voltage is **220 V** and the frequency is 50 Hz. and the plug type and is shown below.

![Plug Type](image)

14. **CURRENCY**

The New Caledonia money is the South **Pacific Franc** or Cour de Franc Pacifique, abbreviated **CFP** or **XPF**.

15. **CONTACT DETAILS**

The contact for DSA, travel itinerary or any other general business is

**ABS Regional Project**

Email: absproject@sprep.org

Telephone: +685 21929 ext 242

P. O Box 240, Apia Samoa

16. **DISCLAIMER**

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.