

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE CENTRAL EASTERN ATLANTIC

Eighth Session Scientific Sub-Committee

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 22–26 October 2018

INFORMATION NOTE

Introduction

The Eighth Session is being convened under the provisions of Article VI-2 of the FAO Constitution. It is open to all members of the Committee and observers. The meeting will be conducted in English and French. This is a scientific meeting to review the available information and to formulate recommendations for the consideration of CECAF on management advice for the sustainable use of fisheries resources.

The objective of this note is to provide participants to the meeting with all the necessary information to guide them during their travel and arrival in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, as well as their stay in Palm Club Hotel.

The session begins with Nansen's Programme Meeting from 23 to 24 October 2018, followed by the CECAF meeting. The normal working hours of the session will be 09:30-12.30 hours and 14:00-17:30 hours. The Provisional Agenda will be circulated later.

Formalities for entry into the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

All visitors to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire must hold valid passports. Visas are required from all nationalities with the exception of ECOWAS citizens - visitors should obtain these beforehand at the appropriate Republic of Côte d'Ivoire diplomatic or consular offices abroad. UN Laissez-Passer holders are not required to obtain visas. Application for visa should be done early enough because issuance of Ivorian visa could take up to three (3) weeks. Residents of countries where there is no diplomatic or consular office should contact the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in the nearest country. Those in need of assistance for the acquisition of visa, should please forward their names to Bivoko.Kouame@fao.org.

Travellers arriving in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire require a valid international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever. The Yellow Fever vaccination card is a mandatory requirement for travellers upon arrival in Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire is a malaria endemic area with a high malaria transmission. Before departure, it is appropriate to seek advice from a Doctor or a tropical diseases centre in your country. A preventive prophylaxis treatment is recommended for anyone from a non-endemic area. In any case, during your stay, personal protective measures against mosquito bites is highly recommended (repellents, insecticides, treated mosquito nets, etc.) Preventive measures remain in force upon arrival at the airport Felix Houphouët-Boigny: i) completion of a health declaration form; ii) temperature measurement using infrared thermometers; iii) hand disinfection. A medical service is available at the airport.

Altitude

Abidjan is located at latitude 5 ° 18'34" North and longitude 4 °00'45" West of the Gulf of Guinea and about 10 meters above sea level .

Weather**Weather and Time Zone**

The climate is the tropical type. Over the year, the average temperature in Abidjan is around 27 ° Celsius. It falls on average 1784 mm of rain per year. The country is on UTC /GMT.

Voltage

The voltage in Côte d'Ivoire is 220/240V AC, 50/60 Hz. The electrical sockets (outlets) are one of the European standards with 2 pins.

Customs

Visitors are allowed limited amounts of duty free items. Visitors carrying goods in quantities exceeding duty free allowances or prohibited or restricted goods must contact customs officer on duty immediately. All such goods must be declared. Prohibited and restricted goods among others include firearms and ammunition; pornographic materials; plants originating in infected areas; gaming machines; pure alcohol (denatured); animals or any parts of animals or animal products without the corresponding certificates; dangerous medicines or foodstuffs; fiscal or postal stamps or valuables.

Foreign exchange and banking, communication facilities, and travel/tourist office

The amount and kind of foreign currency which may be imported to Republic of Côte d'Ivoire is under regulations and could be made available to delegates upon request to the Government Liaison Officer. Declaration to the customs on arrival is obligatory. Banks and FOREX bureaus will provide the necessary information on exchange rates. Information on where to change foreign currency into local currency will be provided to participants during the meeting. The monetary unit of Côte d'Ivoire is the franc CFA (XOF). The exchange rate was approximately 571 FCFA to 1 United States Dollar. Credit cards and travellers cheques are not widely used in Côte d'Ivoire.

Accommodation and Meeting Venue

The Palm Club Hotel is situated in Cocody, 04 BP 2430 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. It is around 20 minutes' drive from Felix Houphouet Boigny airport. The hotel location is within 4 km from Abidjan city center. (Tel +225 22 40 53 00; Email: Website: www.hotelpalmclub.com). Airport Transfer: the hotel Palm Club shuttle will be available at the airport for your pick-up. The meeting will be held at the same venue.

Working Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French. The documentation will be in English and French.