


March 2020

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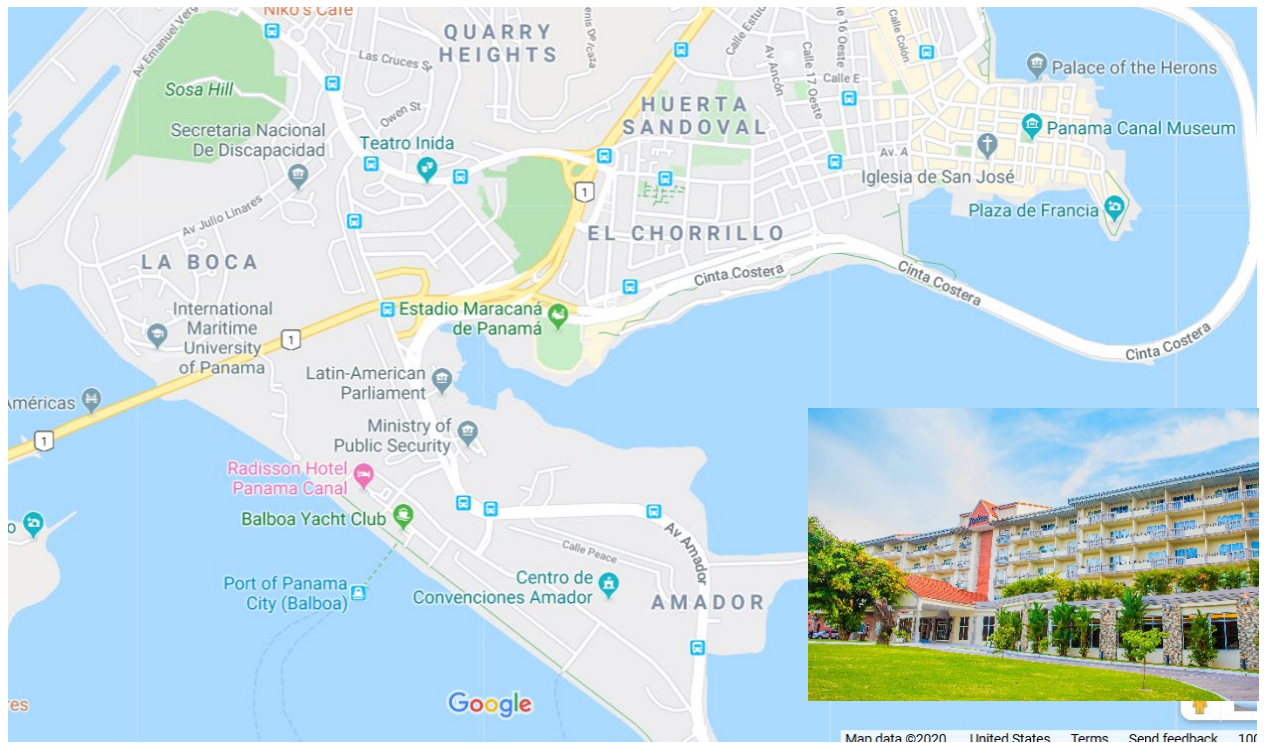
	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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<b>WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG)</b>
<b>Panama, 16-18 March 2020</b>
<b>Logistic note</b>

### LOCATION AND DATES

The hotel accommodation for FAO supported participants will be the Radisson Panama Canal (Panama City, Panama). Non-financed participants are encouraged to contact the secretariat before booking a hotel accommodation, to ensure that FAO can arrange their transport between their hotel and the meeting venue.

The FDS-WG meeting will be held from Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 March 2020 daily from 08:30 am – 17:30 pm. The Regional data workshop will be held from Thursday 19 March through Friday 20 March 2020 from 08:30 am – 17:30 pm. Both the FDS-WG and Regional data workshop will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Panama Canal (Amador Avenue, Panama City, Panama; 507 211-4500).



## LANGUAGES

The meeting will be conducted in English and Spanish.

## Administrative arrangements and other information

Administrative arrangements for the meeting will be handled by the WECAFC Secretariat at the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean (SLC), in close collaboration with CRFM, OSPESCA, and the WECAFC-FIRMS phase III project. This will include the selection of participants, travel arrangements and other matters before and during the meeting.

Enquiries concerning administrative arrangements should be addressed to the FAO Programme Clerk, Ms Sonya Thompson at the following contact address:

Ms Sonya Thompson

Programme Clerk

Tel: (246) 426-7110/11; Ext. 244

E-mail: [Sonya.Thompson@fao.org](mailto:Sonya.Thompson@fao.org)

## HEALTH CERTIFICATION

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Immunization is not required unless coming from an infected area.

## FLIGHTS/TRAVEL

The primary airport in the city of Panama City is the Tocumen International Airport (<http://www.tocumenpanama.aero/>). Major airlines that fly to Panama are United, **Delta**, American, **Copa**, **Spirit**, Mexicana, Taca and **KLM** from Amsterdam and **Air France**. All individuals travelling by air or sea will require a valid passport or other accepted official form of identification to enter the island.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

There are a number of countries that require visas to travel to Panama (<https://www.anywhere.com/panama/travel-guide/panama-entry-requirements>). If in doubt, please check with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your country or visit website – [www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com) – for visa information. The FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean is willing to assist with obtaining entry visas for Panama, once the required documentation is received at least three (3) weeks in advance of the meeting.

## BANKING AND EXCHANGE RATE

The currency of the island is Panaman Balbo dollar (BBD). The Balbo dollar is pegged about one to-one to the US Dollar (as of this date). The US Dollar is widely accepted throughout the island, but it is always best to enquire. Most credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, etc.) are accepted in hotels, restaurants and major stores.

Commercial banks are open Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Panama City is a modern city framed by the Pacific Ocean and man-made Panama Canal. Casco Viejo, its cobblestoned historic center, is noted for colonial-era landmarks like the neoclassical Palacio Presidencial and bougainvillea-filled plazas lined with cafes and bars. The Miraflores Locks offers views of ships traversing the canal, an essential shipping route linking the Atlantic and Pacific.

**Panama has** a tropical maritime climate with a hot, humid, rainy **season** (May through to December) and a short dry **season** (January through to May). Even with two distinct **seasons**, temperatures in **Panama** rarely change more than 20 degrees no matter what elevation you are at.

Average *Weather in Panamá Panama*. In *Panamá*, the wet season is overcast, the dry season is windy and partly cloudy, and it is hot and oppressive *year round*. Over the course of the *year*, the temperature typically varies from 75°F to 90°F and is rarely below 74°F or above 93°F.

## DENGUE AND CHIKUNGUNYA

**Panama** has confirmed recent cases of **Dengue**. The most affected provinces include Colon, Herrera, **Panama** Norte, Cocolé, **Panama** Metro, and San Miguelito. Risk is present throughout **Panama** and year-round with peak transmission during the rainy season, usually from May to December.

We do advise that you travel with insect repellent, in an effort to prevent the contraction of Chikungunya or Dengue fever, which are two mosquito-borne illnesses.

## ELECTRICITY

Panama typically uses **110 volt** electricity, same as the US. However, there are unpredictable variations with some sockets that are 220 volts. Ask the hotel before plugging in your devices. Most hotels and the meeting rooms make use of American style sockets. If your appliances have other plugs, please bring along an adapter

## IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION

The Tocumen International Airport is about 30 minutes or 17 miles from the Hotel.

Taxi fare from the Airport to the Hotel is approximately USD \$30.00 and can be paid in USD or local currency (<https://www.rome2rio.com/s/Tocumen/Radisson-Hotel-Panama-Canal-Panama-City>).