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Y LA ALIMENTACION

منظمة  
الغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم  
المتحدة

SAFR/DM/SWIO2/04 INF 1 E

**FOURTH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION ON THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES  
COMMISSION**

**Mahe, Seychelles, 13 – 16 July 2004**

**NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

1. The fourth Inter-governmental Consultation on the establishment of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission will be held at Berjaya Mahe Beach Resort, Mahe, Seychelles from 13 – 16 July 2004. The venue is located some 15km km away from the capital, Victoria and very well served by buses.
2. Registration will start at 08.30 hrs on Tuesday, 13 July 2004, followed by the formal opening of the Session at 09.30 hrs. The normal working hours will be 09.00 to 12.30 hrs and 14.00 to 17.00 hrs.

**WORKING LANGUAGES**

3. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French.

**ENTRY FORMALITIES**

4. Seychelles is widely accessible as a tourist destination and linked by major airline companies such as British Airways, Kenya Airways and Air Mauritius. The national carrier is Air Seychelles with routes to South Africa, Mauritius, Maldives, Singapore, Dubai, Paris, London, Rome and Frankfurt.
5. All travellers arriving in Seychelles should have a valid passport and a return ticket. Seychelles entry visas are not required for nationals of a number of countries. Participants are therefore advised to ascertain whether or not they are exempt from the Seychelles entry visa requirement. For nationals of countries that require a visa, arrangements should be made in advance with the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Marine Resources in collaboration with Passport and Immigration services of the President's Office, providing documentation showing that they are designated representatives to the Consultation.

6. Participants are requested to inform the Liaison Officer of their arrival times so that facilities can be made available to meet them at Seychelles International Airport and for transport to the hotel and venue.
7. Travellers arriving from yellow fever infected areas require an inoculation certificate. There is no malaria in Seychelles. Expect your aircraft to be sprayed, as a precautionary measure against malaria-carrying mosquitoes, on arrival at Seychelles International Airport.

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

8. The Republic of Seychelles consists of some 115 islands dispersed across over a 1 million km<sup>2</sup> Exclusive Economic Zone in the South West Indian Ocean. The population of around 80,000 people are of mixed African, French, Indian, Chinese, English, Arab, and Portuguese origin. English, French and Creole are official languages. The administrative language is English
9. Most of the population live on granitic, high-relief islands located at the center of a large submerged mid-oceanic plateau. Mahe, the main island, is 17 miles long and 3-4 miles wide. Across its length, hills and peaks rise rapidly up to 945m. Victoria, the capital, is the seat of government, the centre of business and location of harbour and fishing port facilities.
10. The climate is monsoonal. The southern monsoon (May to October) is characterised by a cool steady south easterly breeze, little rain and choppy seas. Temperatures range from 24 C to 31C with relative humidity of 80%.
11. The local currency is the Seychelles Rupee (SCR) with a current exchange rate of 5.5 for one US\$ and 6.5 for one Euro. Most banks and hotels accept major credit cards and exchange U.S. dollars. Most hotels require payment in foreign currency.
12. The electrical power supply is 240 volts. Plugs are of the three-pronged British type. Tap water is generally safe to drink but bottled water is widely available.
13. As a consequence of their small size and long geological isolation, the islands of the Seychelles have a fascinating, mostly endemic and benign flora and fauna – there are no stinging nettles, poisonous snakes or crocodiles. The usual care afforded to all tropical coral reefs must be taken when swimming, snorkelling and diving. Small, safe, secluded beaches abound. A few have rip currents at certain times of the year. They are identified by beachside notices that should be heeded. The Seychelles are outside the cyclone belt and there are no volcanoes, earthquakes or earth tremors.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

14. For further information on the Inter-Governmental Consultation please contact :

Aubrey Harris  
Senior Fisheries Officer,

FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa,  
P.O. Box 3730, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel : (263-4) 791407, 253655, 253657  
Fax : (263-4) 700724, 703497, 703496  
Email : [aubrey.harris@fao.org](mailto:aubrey.harris@fao.org)

For information related to accommodation, visa and other local arrangements please contact:

Mrs Jacqueline Payet  
Liaison Officer  
Seychelles Fishing Authority  
PO Box 449  
Fishing Port  
Mahe, Seychelles  
Tel : (248) 670311/12  
Fax : (248) 224508  
Email : [management@sfa.sc](mailto:management@sfa.sc) ; [jpayet@sfa.sc](mailto:jpayet@sfa.sc)

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

15. Participants are advised that the Berjaya Mahe Beach Resort (<http://www.southtravels.com/africa/seychelles/berjayamahe/>) or [www.seychelles.net/berjaya](http://www.seychelles.net/berjaya) is providing special concessionary rates for participants to the Inter-governmental consultation. The host country will organise transport between this hotel and Seychelles International Airport.

Located on the West Coast of Mahe, 15 km from the capital town, Victoria and 16 km from Seychelles International Airport, Berjaya Mahe Beach Resort reigns supreme. Situated directly adjacent to the Indian Ocean, the hotel was designed to resemble a luxury cruise ship with all rooms enjoying spectacular ocean views. Relax in peaceful tranquility surrounded by 20 acres of tropical sculptured gardens.

Other general info on the Seychelles islands can be found at <http://www.seychelles.com/> or <http://www.seychelles-tourism.com/> .

Standard room, Single US\$85, Double US\$ 105. Inclusive of all taxes and breakfast. Reservations could be made by email to [bmsm@seychelles.net](mailto:bmsm@seychelles.net) quoting SWIOPC meeting or by fax: +248 378117; Tel: 385385

16. Participants are kindly required to book and confirm reservations directly, as early as possible and inform the organisers on the following attached information sheet. Confirmed reservations should be respected and participants are advised that they will be responsible for the settlement of their hotel bills.

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THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**Mahe, Seychelles, 13 – 16 July 2004**

**INFORMATION ON PARTICIPANTS  
(Please print)**

Family Name Dr/Mr./Ms ..... Given Name .....

Country or organisation.....

Official designation .....

Nationality.....Passport No.....

Date and Place of Issue.....Valid Until.....

Mailing Address .....

Fax No.....Tel. No.....E-mail Address.....

Name of Accompanying person (s), if any .....

Arrival date..... At.....Hours By Flight .....

Expected date of departure .....At.....Hours By Flight.....

Hotel Accommodation required ► / Already booked ►

From ..... To ..... At .....  
(date) (date)

Single occupancy ► Double occupancy ► Twin sharing with ..... ►

Date ..... Signature .....

Participants are requested to forward the completed forms to each of the following:

(i) Jacqueline Payet  
Liaison Officer  
Seychelles Fishing Authority  
PO Box 449  
Fishing Port  
Mahe, Seychelles  
Tel : (248) 670311/312  
Fax : (248) 224508  
Email : [management@sfa.sc](mailto:management@sfa.sc),  
[jpavet@sfa.sc](mailto:jpavet@sfa.sc).

(ii) Grace CHAGONDA  
Programme Assistant  
FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern  
Africa,  
P.O. Box 3730, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel : (263-4) 791407, 253655, 253657  
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