

africacarbonforum

COLLABORATIVE CLIMATE ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

28 – 30 June, 2017

Cotonou - Benin

Hosted by



INFORMATION SHEET



MEETING VENUE

The **Africa Carbon Forum (ACF) 2017** will be held from 28 to 30 June 2017 at the:

Palais Des Congrès of Cotonou
Boulevard de la Marina, Cotonou, Benin

Tel. : +229 21 31 30 91
: +229 21 32 18 63

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REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Registration on-site will start on **Wednesday, 28 June 2017 from 08:00 to 09:00 a.m.** at the venue. Please note that pre-registration using the online facility on the official ACF website is mandatory:

<http://www.africacarbonforum.com/>. A confirmation notification will be issued to all participants upon completion of the online registration.

TRAVEL

Participants are responsible for their own travel bookings to Benin. There are many international flights arriving at the main airport in Cotonou.

VISA

Important note on visa requirements

All visitors to the Republic of Benin must have a valid passport (at least for six months after date of departure). The participants are also recommended to check if they require a transit visa.

Forum's participants will be granted a free courtesy visa, upon arrival at the Cardinal GANTIN International Airport.

In order to facilitate the courtesy visa, please provide your itinerary to Mr. Cedric AQUAREBURU (aquerfr@yahoo.fr) and to Mr. Armel ZOUNON (armel.zounon@yahoo.fr)

For any specific issue, please contact Mr. Moubarak MOUKAILA via e-mail at mmoukaila@boad.org or via telephone at: 00229 95 94 32 00 or 00228 90 72 24 72.

TRANSPORTATION

All participants are responsible for arranging their own travel from the airport to the hotel and to the venue. Many hotels arrange transportation from/to the airport, which may incur in a fee that each participant will have to settle individually. Please contact the hotel of your choice directly for more information.

The best way to move around Cotonou is by car or taxi, due to the distance between places of interest in the city.

There are two (02) main taxi companies in Cotonou: **Africab**, which can be reached at 00229 62 86 33 33 or 00229 65 65 04 04 and **Soft Taxi**, which can be reached at 00229 63 40 40 13.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be responsible for making their own hotel bookings, contacting directly the hotel of choice.

Participants are also responsible for the payment of their reservations and/or for the settlement of eventual cancellation/no show fee, as applicable according to the hotels policies. Special rates have been negotiated by

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the Government of Benin for the participants attending the Forum. Use the code **ACF17COT** when making your reservation in order to access these rates.

A comprehensive list of hotels (with rates) is included in annex.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

With respect to health requirements and precautions to be taken by participants travelling to Benin, all participants should consult and seek medical advice from their physicians/doctors and take medical precautions as advised.

There are certain diseases and illnesses that can be dangerous in Benin. Participants are required to contact either the Beninese diplomatic mission in their countries or to consult a doctor before departing to ensure having gotten the proper vaccinations and immunizations.

It is recommended that all participants are vaccinated against **yellow fever** at least ten (10) days prior to travel to Benin. *Please note that some airlines request an updated International Certificate of Vaccination to allow passengers on board and that the updated International Certificate of Vaccination against yellow fever is required to enter the country.*

You are additionally strongly advised to obtain an international travel and medical insurance to cover the period of your departure for the meeting until the time of your return as indicated above.

GENERAL INFORMATION DURING YOUR STAY IN BENIN

CLIMATE

Cotonou lies 7 meters above sea level and it has an equatorial climate with high humidity. Alternating dry seasons (from November to March and from mid-July to mid-September) and rainy seasons (April to mid-July and mid-September to October). Annually, temperatures do not have much fluctuation: the maximums vary between 28 and 32 ° C and the minimums between 23 and 26 ° C. The annual rainfall in this city is 1245 mm.

WORKING HOURS

Working hours are usually from 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Banks open Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and close at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Street shops tend to close at noon on Saturday and only re-open on Monday. Shopping malls normally open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. Some malls are also open on Sundays, although not all the stores may be open. It is also possible to find 24-hour stores and small markets that are open even on Sundays.

CURRENCY

Benin's currency is the "Franc CFA" (The CFA franc is the currency of several African countries constituting part of the franc zone). Fixed rate (rounded): 100 F.CFA = 0.15 €, 1 € = 655 F.CFA.) and 1 USD = around 600 F.CFA; Banknotes are easy to distinguish from each other as they have different colors and their values are obviously inscribed.

Benin is largely a cash economy and credit cards are not widely accepted, but major banks in Cotonou will give cash advances against Visa credit cards and most major foreign currencies can be exchanged in the city. The

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best banks for changing money are Financial Bank, Bank of Africa, BTCL and Ecobank, which also often have ATMs.

ATM

Participants will find automated teller machines in hotels (VISA, MASTERCARD, etc.) and in neighboring shopping centers.

HELPFUL HINTS

Electric current in Benin is 220 volts; C Type and E Type of electrical outlet plugs are the most commonly used.

TOURISTIC SERVICES

Tourist trip could be organized to OUIDAH or PORTO NOVO, if the work program allows it. Registration lists will be available at the hotels.

DRINKING WATER

In Cotonou, the tap water is safe to drink but is treated with chlorine which some people may be sensitive to. Bottled mineral water is recognized to be safe for drinking in Benin.

SECURITY

Benin is a peaceful country and the people are very kind and generous, but muggings and robberies occur everywhere no matter how peaceful the place, so be on guard. If you are a victim of a crime, contact the Gendarmerie (Police) immediately.

LANGUAGE

The official language is French. Native African languages such as Fon and Yoruba are spoken in the south, Bariba and Dendi in the north, and over 50 other African languages and dialects are spoken in the country. English is on the rise.

TELEPHONE COUNTRY CODE: +229

TIME ZONE: GMT+1

INTERESTING PLACES TO VISIT IN BENIN

Benin under the rule of the Dahomey kings was a major center of the slave trade, and the Route des Esclaves in Ouidah, terminating at the beachside Point of No Return monument is a memorial to those who were kidnapped, sold, and sent off to the other side of the world. Ouidah's local museum, housed in a Portuguese fort, unsurprisingly focuses on the slave trade, in addition to other facets of local culture, religion, and history, and is a real must see for anyone passing through the country.

Abomey was the capital of the Dahomey Empire, and its ruined temples and royal palaces, now a UNESCO World Heritage site, are one of the country's top attractions. The ruins, their bas-reliefs, and the Abomey Historical Museum in the royal palace (which contains all sorts of macabre tapestries and even a throne of

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human skulls) are a testament to the wealth brought to the Dahomey kings from the slave trade, and brutality with which they oppressed their enemies, fodder for human sacrifice and bondage.

Ganvie, home to 30,000 whose ancestors fled the brutal Dahomey kings by building their town on stilts right in the center of Lake Nokoué, is without question a fascinating and naturally beautiful locale, and a popular stop as one of the largest of West Africa's lake towns. But it has been to an extent ruined by the unpleasant relationship between locals and tourism.

While manic Cotonou is the country's largest city and economic center, Porto Novo, the capital, is small and one of West Africa's more pleasant capitals. Most of the country's major museums are located here amidst the crumbling architectural legacy of French colonial rule. Grand Popo is the other popular city for tourists to relax, but not for the city itself as much as the beaches.

In the north, you'll find a very different sort of Benin from the mostly crowded, polluted cities of the south, of which Cotonou is such a prominent example. Pendjari National Park and W National Park (which Benin shares with Burkina Faso and Niger), is considered West Africa's best for wildlife viewing, and are set in beautiful, hilly highlands.

The unique and eccentric mud and clay tower-houses, known as tata, of the Somba people in the north, west of Djougou near the Togolese border, are a little-known extension into Benin of the types of dwellings used by the Batammariba people of Togo just west. Virtually all tourists to this area flock to the UNESCO-designated Koutammakou Valley across the border; the Benin side has the advantage of being even off the beaten path.

LINKS

- [Office de Tourisme d'Abomey et Région](#) - Official site of the tourist information of Abomey and the region with much info about history, vodun, thematical city tours, excursions, hotels, etc., plus the possibility to make online-reservations of all products.
- [Office de Tourisme de Ouidah](#) - Official site of the tourist information of the old coastal town of Ouidah with information about where to stay, to eat, what to do, historical background, etc.
- [Parc National de la Pendjari and Maison Pendjari](#) - Information about the Pandjari National Parc and possibility of online-reservations via the Maison Pendjari, the tourist information based in Tanguiéta.
- [Bénin Découverte](#) - Local tour operator hotelier who offers also measured tours through the neighbouring countries.

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CONTACTS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

**Commissariat Central
Commissariat de police
Rue 400 • +229 21 30 30 25**

**Commissariat De Police Du 4eme - Sodjèatinmé
Commissariat de police
+229 21 33 15 62**

The emergency number for the police is 17 and for an ambulance it's 18

Ministry of Planning and Development - Cotonou:

Mr. Alastaire ALINSATO
Director General Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs
Telephone No: +229 21 32 18 63
Mobile: +229 66 34 29 81
Email address: alastaires@yahoo.fr

OR

Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development – Cotonou

Mr. Martin Pépin AÏNA
Director General of Environment and Climate
Telephone No: +229 21 31 05 34
Mobile: +229 96 61 39 36
Email address: marnickson@yahoo.fr

We additionally advise participants to take note of the contact details of the diplomatic representation of their respective countries in Cotonou for any necessary consular assistance. A list of embassies and consulates can be found through the two web pages below:

https://www.embassypages.com/benin_fr

or

<http://www.izf.net/contact/liste-des-ambassades-accr-dit-sau-benin>

ANNEX

HOTELS FOR THE AFRICA CARBON FORUM*

HOTELS	CONTACT
BEST WESTERN	reception@bwplusnobilaairportohotel.com +229 97 96 40 00 +229 21 30 42 52
NOVOTEL	H1826-RE@accor.com +229 95 32 19 75
BENIN MARINA HOTEL SHERATON	pfassinou@benin-marina-hotel.com +229 96 33 03 39
AZALAI	rmc.benin@azalaihotels.com +229 64 94 06 06
BENIN ROYAL HOTEL	c.commercial@beninroyalhotel.com +229 97 73 04 03
IBIS	H1826-RE@accor.com +229 95 32 19 75
MYOSOTIS	resamyosotishotel@gmail.com +229 21 31 16 78

*Reservations may be subject to rooms availability