



INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Final Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature-based Solutions

9th – 13th October 2023

United Nations Office Nairobi, Kenya



Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
VISITORS TO KENYA.....	5
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	5
JOMO KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JKIA) IN NAIROBI	5
TIME ZONE	5
VISAS.....	5
HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION	6
SECURITY.....	6
WEATHER	7
ELECTRICITY.....	7
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.....	7
MONEY AND BANKING CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATES.....	7
UNON COMPLEX.....	9
ABOUT THE UNON GIGIRI COMPLEX	9
ACCESS TO THE COMPLEX.....	9
UPLOADING OF PHOTOGRAPH.....	9
ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND BADGING	10
DELEGATES BASED IN NAIROBI.....	10
A SUSTAINABLE, SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCT-FREE EVENT	10
VEHICLES AND FIRE-ARMS	10

WI-FI	11
CANTEEN SERVICES AND RESTAURANTS.....	11
POSTAL/ COURIER SERVICES.....	11
MEDICAL SERVICES	12
OTHER INFORMATION	13
TRAVEL TO NAIROBI – AIRLINES AND TICKETING	13
ACCOMMODATION IN NAIROBI	13
SHUTTLE AND TAXI SERVICES	13
TOURS AND EXCURSION	14
MEDICAL AND TRAVEL INSURANCE.....	14
EMERGENCY NUMBERS	14

INTRODUCTION

The final round of [intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions](#) is scheduled to take place on 9th – 13th October 2023 at the United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya. These consultations were called for in [UNEA Resolution 5/5](#) on Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development, passed at UNEA 5.2 in Nairobi in March 2022. In her letter of 31st October 2022, the President of UNEA, Dr Leila Benali, appointed H.E. Giovanna Valverde Stark, Ambassador of Costa Rica to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN Habitat, and Ms Sikeade Egbuwalo, Senior Forestry Officer in the Nigerian Ministry of Environment and Nigerian National Focal point to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as Co-Chairs of these consultations.

The consultations have thus far comprised a virtual global consultation, held on 15th – 16th May 2023, and a series of 5 regional consultations – one for each of the UN regions, held throughout June and July 2023 – reflecting the Resolution's request for the consultations to be conducted in a regionally balanced manner. The first global meeting was attended by 327 people, and the regional meetings by a total of 298 people. The summaries of the first [global](#) and [regional](#) consultations can be accessed through these hyperlinks.

This final round of consultations will comprise both regional and global sessions, and will be held in an **in-person format** only at the United Nations Office of Nairobi (UNON), Kenya. This final round of consultations will build on the issues raised by Member States and Stakeholders during the previous rounds, seeking to address common concerns, contribute to building a shared understanding of nature-based solutions, and support the implementation of nature-based solutions for sustainable development.

Following the final round of consultations, the Co-Chairs will prepare a summary of the entire consultation process, which will be presented to UNEA 6 in the form of an InfDoc.

VISITORS TO KENYA

General Information

The Republic of Kenya is located on the Eastern coast of Africa and is bisected by the Equator. It is a land of strikingly beautiful landscapes, ranging from snow-capped Mount Kenya to rich farmlands in the highlands of the central region and the western flanks of the Great Rift Valley, barren deserts in the north, savannahs home to elephants, lions and giraffes reaching across the country, and tropical sandy beaches on the western Indian Ocean coast and the shores of Lakes Turkana and Victoria.

Kenya borders Somalia to the Northeast, Ethiopia and South Sudan to the North, Uganda to the West, Tanzania to the South, and the Indian Ocean to the East. Kenya's capital city is Nairobi, with a population of about 4.5 million. Other major cities are Mombasa, which is the main seaport on the Indian Ocean, and Kisumu on the Lake Victoria front. Kenya is one of the world's most popular tourism destinations, attracting millions of tourists over the past years. The country is endowed with attractive tourist sites, rich culture, biological diversity, striking geographical diversity and landscapes ranging from beautiful beaches to wildlife and forest reserves and archaeological sites. Its people are hospitable and welcoming to visitors.

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi

The Airport is in the Embakasi suburb, 15 kilometers from Nairobi's central business district and 25 kilometers from the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri.

JKIA telephone numbers:

- + 254 (0)20 682 2111
- + 254 (0)20 661 1000
- + 254 (0)20 661 2000
- + 254 (0)722 205 061/8

Time Zone

The time zone in Kenya is GMT + 0300 hours.

Visas

It is the delegate's own responsibility to obtain a visa for Kenya prior to departure. The information provided here acts only as guidance. A valid passport, not expiring for at least six months from date of arrival, is required for entry into Kenya.

A valid entry visa is required for visitors from most countries and may be obtained in advance online. Please see visa options from this [website](#). A small number of countries are not eligible for online visa application and must visit a Kenyan embassy to apply. Please consult the list at the previous link to see the requirements for your country. For online visa application, please visit the following link: <https://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>. Delegates should apply for the relevant visa type for their needs **no less than two weeks in advance of their outbound travel date** (for online applications).

Health-related information

COVID-19 protocols

Kenya is no longer requiring passengers to present either a vaccination certificate or negative test for COVID-19. Only passengers experiencing flu-like symptoms at the time of arrival will need to complete a passenger locator form and take COVID-19 tests. When departing from Kenya, passengers should follow the rules of their destination country. More information can be found [here](#).

Other health guidelines

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required if you are arriving in Kenya from a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Please seek further advice from your travel agent or doctor in your home country, who should have information on vaccination requirements for visitors into Kenya. For advice on other vaccinations recommended for visitors to Kenya, please contact the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) Joint Medical Service <https://medical.unon.org/>. Useful information can also be obtained from the WHO website <https://www.who.int/travel-advice>.

Malaria is common throughout the year in many parts of Kenya. Nairobi, the capital city, is generally malaria-free, but this does not preclude the need to stay safe from mosquito bites. It is recommended to consult your doctor about malaria prophylaxis if travelling into Kenya and beyond Nairobi. Adequate safeguards against mosquito bites are advised (insect repellent, bed nets, clothing with long trousers and covering the arms).

Food and waterborne diseases including diarrhea are common – depending on the hygiene standards of the places you visit. Drinking water directly from the taps is not advisable. Drink only bottled water with unbroken seals. Avoid raw foods other than fruits and vegetables that you have peeled off yourself. Wash hands frequently with soap and water or sanitizers at designated spots in eateries and restaurants.

Medical costs incurred in Kenya will be directly borne by the participant. It is therefore strongly recommended that you arrange for your own travel health insurance prior to departure from your country and arrival in Kenya.

The **UNON Joint Medical Service** will be available in cases of emergency during the consultations. The clinic is located on ground floor behind the UN SACCO Offices.

Tel. +254 20 762 1267, +254 20 762 2267, +254 20 762 2268. The emergency contact line is: +254-724255378.

Security

The **United Nations Office at Nairobi** and the Kenyan Authorities are working closely together to ensure that all precautionary measures are taken for delegates' safety and security. Participants are, however, personally responsible for their movements outside the UN Complex.

Weather

October is the beginning of the summer in Kenya. The average temperature in Nairobi at this time of year is between a high of 26°C (79°F) and a low of 14°C (58°F), with an average of 5 days' rainfall.

Current weather conditions in the area can be found [here](#).

The average daily UV index is 5 in October, and visitors are advised to take precautions to avoid direct exposure to potentially harmful UV radiation from the sun during midday hours by seeking shade and/or using protective clothing, full-spectrum sunscreen, sunglasses with UVA and UVB protection, and/or other UV-protecting products.

Electricity

The electrical currents in Kenya are 220 - 240 Volts, 50 Hertz, using the 13A 3 [square] wall switch socket outlet – the same as are used in the UK.

Official Languages

The official language of the Republic of Kenya is English and the national language is Swahili.

Money and Banking Currency and exchange rates

The official currency of the Republic of Kenya is the Kenya Shilling (KES). The current exchange rates are approximately: **1 US Dollar = KES 145 and 1 EUR = KES 158**. As exchange rates fluctuate, kindly click [here](#) for more up-to-date information.

Foreign currency can be changed at JKIA, which has 24-hr banks and foreign currency exchange bureaus. Banks with ATM services in major centres across the city are open from 09:00 to 16:00hrs Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 12:00hrs on Saturdays. Some ATMs can dispense cash in US Dollars.

Some malls have banks that operate on Sundays and public holidays. ATM services are widely available at designated booth locations in the various malls, selected convenience stores at gas/petrol stations.

The following places are available near the UNON compound in Nairobi for currency exchange. Most ATMs accept several different debit and credit cards – Mastercard, Visa etc:

- **Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB)** is located on the ground floor in the UNON complex, next to the Delegates Lounge. Another KCB ATM is located at the Gigiri Square.
- **Standard Chartered Bank** may also be available in the complex, located opposite KCB Bank, subject to reopening of the office (currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic).
- **Emerald Gardens' Bureau de Change:** walk from the main gate of the United Nations, cross the road, turn right and walk about 200m. You will find a Chinese Pagoda building to your left, where the Forex Bureau de Change is located on the first-floor houses and other banking facilities. There is also National Bank of Kenya in this complex.

- **Warwick Center** from the main gate of the United Nations, cross the road, turn left and walk about 100 m. The building will be to your right, in a complex of shops, banks, restaurants and offices. There are Stanbic Bank located here and two ATMs.

- **Gigiri Square is** Next to Warwick Center, but before the Cedar's Restaurant, on the same side of the road, housing Kenya Commercial Bank, Equity Bank, and I&M Bank.

- **Village Market** Is a shopping complex and a 3-minute taxi drive from the main gate of the United Nations. There are several banks and forex bureau at Village Market. It is also a popular exotic eatery with an assemblage of food courts. It has two food courts which are very popular with different cuisines.

ATMs

ATMs are available country-wide with 24-hour access. Within the UNON complex there are four ATMs on the lower concourse; two next to the Kenya Commercial Bank, one is near the UNFCU (United Nations Federal Credit Union) and the last one is next to Standard Chartered Bank. There are also two ATMs (KCB and UNFCU) at the UN Commissary on the northern end of the UN Gigiri Complex.

Major international cards are accepted. Credit card fraud occurs in Kenya as in most other parts of the world, therefore the usual standard precautions should be taken.

Travelers' Cheques

Travelers' cheques are accepted at most banks, foreign currency exchange bureaus, hotels and stores in major malls.

UNON COMPLEX

About the UNON Gigiri Complex

Under normal circumstance, the Gigiri complex accommodates more than 4000 staff members inclusive of the service coordinators. During major conferences, the population at the Gigiri complex can exceed 6,000 people.

The 57-hectare (140-acre) **UN Gigiri complex** is a peaceful place, adjacent to the famous Karura Forest, where the Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wangari Maathai, sought refuge and sanctuary when this green asset was a subject of land sub-division by the Kenya Government at the time.

The **Karura Forest complex** (about 2,000 hectares/4942 acres) is a unique public area under the management of the Kenya Forest Service. Well-demarcated nature trails, jogging lanes and cycling paths provide a lovely environment for recreational activities. The forest offers a chance to observe local wildlife such as red duikers, squirrels, marsh mongoose, Sykes monkeys and olive baboons. Several bird species can be spotted, including crowned cranes, Egyptian geese, crested eagles, green pigeons and hoopoes. Colourful butterflies and animals, such as reptiles and amphibians, are frequently sighted.

While at the UN Complex in Gigiri, please refrain from feeding the Sykes monkeys. They are wild animals and should not be fed with any left-over food meant for human consumption, to avoid acquiring food snatching habits and causing conflicts with humans.

The UN Gigiri Complex has a variety of unique natural habitats and thematic artefacts. It also boasts of an ecologically balanced environment, with a set of constructed wetlands filled with reed-beds and artificial water features, to support its primary wastewater treatment.

Access to the complex

Access to the UN Gigiri Complex is via UN Avenue – off Limuru Road. Pedestrian access is through the Pavilion, north of the main vehicle access gates opposite the United States Embassy. Vehicles can drop off their passengers at a drive-in space in front of the gate.

N.B. - all participants must be registered and approved online via the Indico platform prior to the meeting to be allowed access. Pre-registered participants will be screened on arrival at the UN complex, and are not allowed to bring any form of weapons, ammunition, flammable items or sharp objects. Participants will be issued with conference photo badges according to their approved category of registration, and are advised to wear the badge visibly at all times during their visit to the complex. The main vehicle access gate is located opposite the United States Embassy. Only vehicles with an official UN decal will be allowed into the complex through the main vehicular entrance and are subject to screening.

Uploading of photograph

Registrants must upload to their Indico profile a colour photo which clearly shows their face in a recognisable way, to facilitate on-site identification for confirmation of registration status and badge issuance.

On-site registration and badging

Once delegates have pre-registered online and received written confirmation, delegates will receive an event ticket, which will be used to finalize their registration on-site and collection of their badges at the Visitors' Center Pavilion. To avoid long queues on the day of meetings, delegates are recommended to arrive early.

Delegates Based in Nairobi

Although delegates based in Nairobi who already have a pass issued by UNON can use this pass during the consultations, it is strongly advised that they also register online as a delegate and be issued with an event badge for the consultations. This provision includes all Permanent Representatives / Deputy Permanent Representatives and other representatives based in Nairobi as members of their delegations.

A sustainable, single use plastic product-free event

Supporting UNEP's work to reduce waste and pollution, the consultations will be a sustainable event that aims to deliver several tangible commitments to reduce its environmental footprint.

PaperSmart - Participants and delegates are encouraged to bring laptops or ipads and smartphones, as all pre-session documents will be available [here](#), and in-session documents will be made available on [the consultation website](#). **No hard copies will be provided.**

Single-use Plastic products-free event

To combat pollution and support the Clean Seas campaign, the UNON compound now uses glass water bottles instead of plastic containers. Restaurants within UNON are not serving food or beverages in single-use plastic products. **Participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles**, to be filled at water dispensers available in the conference rooms.

Vehicles and firearms

Only vehicles with pre-existing UNON Decals will be allowed access.

The United Nations office at Nairobi (UNON) remains a weapons-free zone except for authorized UN Security Officers and others who have sought and received prior authorization from the Chief of Security (UNDSSKenya@un.org Cc to Fletcherm@un.org). Any request must be accompanied by relevant facts at least 48 hours in advance. All external firearms must be reported, declared and deposited with UN Security for safe custody during the sessions of the consultations. For further clarification, contact Inspector Andrew Bakhoya bakhoya@un.org or Lt. Peter Mwongera mwongera@un.org or Lt Kennedy Moguche moguche@un.org least 48 hours in advance with the following information:

- Fire-arm type and serial number
- Body-guard name and ID number

Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi facility will be available in the UNON complex and all meeting rooms. Select the wireless network connection named 'VISITORS' or 'DELEGATES' to access internet, including to access meeting information and documentation prepared for the consultations. However, delegates are **strongly recommended to limit the number of personal gadgets** that require constant connecting to the internet, to allow for accessible and efficient internet for all participants.

Canteen Services and Restaurants

There are several caterers within the UN compound contracted to provide food and beverages for breakfast, lunch and snacks for staff and visiting delegates. In addition, there are several restaurants and bars within walking distance of the UN complex (listed here in the order of proximity from the main UN gate):

- **Warwick Centre.** Directions: From the main gate of the United Nations, cross the road, turn left and walks about 100m. The building is on your right. Tel: +254(0)712-291-124
- **Asian Garden.** Directions: From the main gate of the United Nations, cross the road turn left and walk for 100m. You will find the restaurant to your right immediately after the US Embassy, and within the Warwick Centre Complex. TEL: +254 712-848-770
- **China Garden.** Directions; From the main gate of the United Nations, cross the road and turn right and walk for 50m. You will the building next to the Morocco Embassy
- **Cedars Restaurant** – Lebanese food – is located further on past the Warwick Centre on the right hand side. Tel: +254(0)789269841 / +254(0)705269841
- **Java Coffee House** – Sandwiches, salads, main meals and beverages. Directions: From the main gate turn left and walk to the end of the UN Avenue. Turn left on Limuru Road. It is next to Kenol petrol station on your left. Website: <http://javahouseafrica.com/> Tel: +254 (0) 721-425-403
- **River Café** located inside the Karura Forest – is a scenic setting ideal for special treats – especially early morning breakfasts and late evenings. Tel: +254 (0) 725-969-891
- **Domino's Pizza** - Directions: From the main gate turn left and walk to the end of the road. The restaurant is across the street on your right at Rubis petrol station. Website: <https://www.dominos.co.ke/> Tel: +254 (0) 730-165-111
- **Cold Stone** - Directions: From the main gate, turn left and walk to the end of the road. The restaurant is across the street on your right at Rubis petrol station. Tel: +254 (0) 730165011
- **Village Market** – Food courts and a variety of restaurants – It is a 3 minutes taxi drive. Website: <http://villagemarket-kenya.com/> Tel: +254 (0) 20 712248890
- **Tribe Hotel** - It is 5 minutes taxi drive. Website: <http://www.tribe-hotel.com/> Tel: +254 (0) 2072-000-000 / Tel: +254 (0)732186000
- **Rosslyn Riviera Mall** – It is 8 minutes taxi drive. Website: <http://www.rosslynrivieramall.co.ke/> Tel: +254 (0) 20 700 362 654
- **Two Rivers Mall** - Direction: From the main gate its 5km to your right and it's located in Runda along Limuru Road. It's about 10 minute's taxi drive. It features food courts and variety of restaurants. Tel: +254 20 228 6000. Website: <http://tworivers.co.ke/> Tel: +254 (0) 20709190 508

Postal/ Courier Services

The Post Office is available in the UNON complex, located at the lower concourse next to KCB Bank. Open Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 17:00hrs Tel: +254 (0)20 7622453

DHL courier mail service, Village Market Complex, near Tribe Hotel. Open Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 18:00hrs. Tel: +254 0711017133

Medical Services

The **UNON Medical Clinic emergency and first aid assistance** available, including on-call (24-hour) ambulance services. On-site medical assistance is available during all meetings, conferences and events. The UNON clinic also offers general medical assistance, vaccinations and a broad range of medical services.

Location: Block F, Room 117

Contacts:

+254 (0)20 762 2267, +254 20 762 2268

Emergency lines: +254 (0)20 7625999, +254 724 255 378

Email: unon-jms-medical@un.org, unon-jms-medical@un.org

Opening hours Monday – Thursday: 10:00 to 12:30hrs and 14:00 to 16:00hrs Friday 10:30 00 to 13:30hrs and during meeting hours.

No service is available on weekends.

OTHER INFORMATION

Travel to Nairobi – Airlines and Ticketing

Participant Travel to Nairobi (Non-UNEP Funded)

Participants who are funding their own way to the consultations either: 1) organise and book their own travel; or 2) use the travel agent at UNON to book travel and other services.

For participants who would like to use a travel agent to book flights, reserve a hotel, and arrange airport transfers, UNON's travel agency, Hemingways, is available to assist. Inquiries can be made at emergency.un@hemingways.co.

Accommodation in Nairobi

All participants are kindly requested to make own hotel reservations for their stay in Nairobi. A list of hotels and guest houses in Nairobi that have been cleared by the UN Department of Safety and Security in Nairobi with suggested rates can be found in annex to this document.

Participants who choose to use other forms of accommodation are advised to be vigilant about selecting safe and appropriate accommodation.

Shuttle and Taxi Services

Many hotels provide courtesy shuttle services to/from airport and in some cases from the hotel to the UNON complex. Visitors should advise their hotels in good time of their transportation needs. In the absence of a courtesy bus, visitors may use reputable taxi companies. Recommended taxi companies are listed below:

Jaycab Taxis
+254 (0)20 721 0510

Jatco
+254 (0)72 528 0000 or +254 (0)73 377 7425

Jimcab
+254 (0)71 433 3777 or +254 (0)73 733 3222

Kenatco
+254 (0)70 964 2000

Self-funding participants are strongly encouraged to purchase air tickets far in advance of the start of the consultations to take the most advantage of the special fares and ensure availability of flights.

UNEP-Funded Participant Travel to Nairobi

Travel for participants eligible for travel support will be facilitated by UNEP and the UNON Travel Unit, including return air-tickets (economy travel) and the daily subsistence allowance (DSA) of \$260 USD per day for the duration of the meetings, and terminal expenses covering transport to and from departure and arrival airports.

All participants/delegates who are sponsored by UNEP are required to provide hard copies of their boarding passes and passports to the secretariat on arrival at UNON.

DSA will be provided by means of Swiss Bankers Cards. Delegates who already have a Swiss Bankers Card, and input its number while requesting travel support on Indico, must bring this card with them to UNON in order to receive their DSA.

DSA can be collected after arrival at UNON. Please consult the agenda for specified windows for DSA collection.

Please note that **participants whose travel is sponsored by UNEP are still responsible for booking their own accommodation and applying for their own visa.**

Tours and Excursion

Participants may wish to take advantage of local attractions or travel out of town to experience the natural beauty of Kenya. In either case, participants can contact UNON's travel agent, Hemingways for information and to book tours, excursions, safaris, etc. Airport transfer services are also offered. For more information, contact emergency.un@hemingways.co.

Medical and Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance is not provided by the United Nations and all participants are encouraged to purchase such insurance coverage, including those self-funding their travel arrangements.

Emergency numbers

Participants attending the consultations are not covered by insurance for any illness or injury resulting from any situation or action not connected to their participation at the consultations. All participants are strongly encouraged to ensure that they have appropriate medical insurance coverage for the full duration of their stay in Kenya.

NAIROBI	
UN Security Operation Centre (SOC)	0207622053/2116, 0707722503, 0707722505
UN Security Control Room	0207626666, 0720629999, 0733629999
Joint Medical Service	+254-724255378 (emergencies), +254 20 762 1267, +254 20 762 2267, +254 20 762 2268
Diplomatic Police (DPU)	0708589522, 0731170666
Kenya Police	999, 112, 020272 4154
St. Johns Ambulance	(+254) 0721225285(Ambulance) (+254) 0721611555
E-plus Ambulance	0700395395; 0738395395
AAR Ambulance	0725225225; 0202717375
Aga Khan University Hospital	0203740000; 0711092000; 0722204146
Nairobi Hospital	0202845000; 0703082000; 0722204116
COAST/MOMBASA	
Tourist Police – Bamburi	0724 227594, 0725 487 871
Tourist Police -Diani	0722 271 480
COAST Tourist Police	0721 379 727
DPU Liaison Officer (Coast)	072178 1093
KK Fire	0728999900; 0728999901
Aga Khan Hospital (Mombasa)	0415051000; 0412161000; 0722205110; 0733641020
Mombasa Hospital	0412312191