



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY TROPICAL FORESTS

Quito, Ecuador, 21-24 July 2010

GENERAL INFORMATION NOTES

The International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests is an initiative under the Biennial Work Programme for 2010-2011 of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). It is being organized by ITTO under the patronage of the Government of Ecuador and in close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, IUCN, Conservation International (CI-Ecuador) and the Fundación Natura.

Information about Ecuador and its capital, Quito, is included in the Annex.

CONFERENCE DATES AND VENUE

The Conference will be held from 21 to 24 July 2010 at the following hotel:

Hilton Colon Quito Hotel

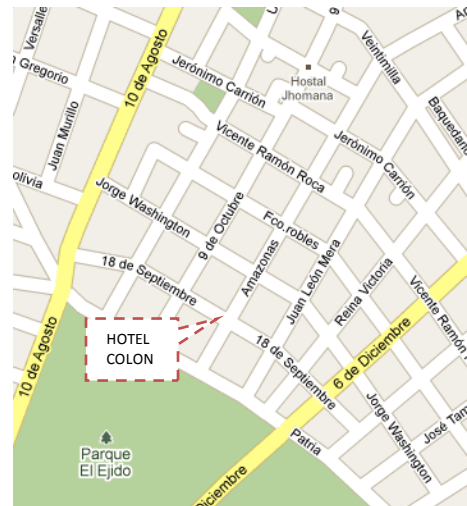
Amazonas N1914 y Patria Avenida 1

Tel: (593-2) 256-0666

Fax: (593-2) 256-3903

URL: <http://www.quito.hilton.com>

A post-Conference field visit to Cotopaxi National Park will be organized on Saturday, 24 July 2010. Please refer to the separate note for the programme and information about this field visit.



REGISTRATION AND CONTACTS

Participants who wish to participate in this International Conference are requested to complete and submit the Registration Form and submit it to the addresses indicated in the form **not later than 21 June 2010**.

A registration fee of US\$30 will be charged for participation in this Conference. This fee includes conference materials, stationeries and coffee breaks during the three days of the Conference and a cocktail reception. The registration fee is to be paid on the first day of the Conference. The cost for the field visit to Cotopaxi National Park (on Saturday, 24 July 2010) is specified in the separate Information Notes about this visit.

For more information, please contact Ms. Lorena Coronel by e-mail to: loronel@fnatura.org.ec or at the following address during working hours (8.30 to 17.00 hrs. – Ecuador time):

Fundación Natura

Tel. (593-2) 331-7457 / (593-2) 227-2863 (ext. 302)
(593-9) 509-8774

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The Conference will be held at the Hilton Colon Quito Hotel. Participants sponsored by ITTO will be accommodated in this hotel and will be advised accordingly. Other participants can also make reservation at the same hotel or at other hotels which are close to or not too far to the conference venue. The rates stated are based on information provided by the hotels and include tax and services charges. However, the Organizer is not responsible for any change in rates or room availability. In general, the rates indicated include breakfast.

Participants are advised to contact the hotels directly to make reservation for their accommodation.

Hilton Colon Quito Hotel – Conference Venue

Amazonas N1914 y Patria Avenida 1 Room Rate: US\$81.30 (single or double)
Tel: (593-2) 256-0666
Fax: (593-2) 256-3903
E-mail: tatiana.cabrera@hiltoncolon.com
URL: <http://www.quito.hilton.com>

Hotel Sebastián

Diego de Almagro 822 y Luis Cordero Room Rate: US\$81.30 (single)
Tel: (593-2) 222-2300 / (593-2) 222-2400
E-mail: reservaciones@hotelsebastian.com
sistemas@hotelsebastian.com
URL: <http://www.hotelsebastian.com>

Hotel Quito

Av. González Suárez N27 142 Room Rate: US\$72.76 (single)
Tel: (593-2) 254-4600
E-mail: reservaciones@hoterlquito.com
URL: <http://www.hotelquito.com>

Hostal de La Rábida

La Rábida 227 y Santa María Room Rate: US\$67.88 (single)
Tel: (593-2) 222-1720
URL: <http://hostalrabida.com>

Hostal La Casa Sol

José Calama 127 y Av. 6 de Diciembre (La Mariscal) Room Rate: US\$43.92 (single)
Tel: (593-2) 223 0798 (Only limited number of rooms available)
Fax: (593-2) 222 3383
E-mail: info@lacasasol.com
URL: <http://www.lacasasol.com>

Participants may wish to refer to the following website for information on other hotels in the same area: http://www.quito.com.ec/index.php?option=com_service&scc=78&sct=70&scz=19&kss=&Itemid=511

Notes: As regards food, Quito has endless numbers of options close to the Hilton Colon Quito Hotel. The costs for dinner could vary depending on the place. In the following website you can find a list of a number of restaurants in the city <http://www.quito.restaurantes.com.ec>

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Nationals of most countries can enter Ecuador for a stay of up to 90 days without a visa. Chinese and Colombia citizens are recommended to check the current requirements at the Ecuadorian Consulate or Embassy in their countries. All visitors are required to be in possession of your national passport which is valid for at least 6 months after the date of arrival in Ecuador.

Nationals of the countries which are members of CAN (Comunidad Andina) can enter without a passport but with a valid document, please check the required valid documents at the following website: <http://www.comunidadandina.org/normativa/dec/D503.htm>

Colombia citizens will be requested to present the criminal record.

Upon arrival at Quito Mariscal Sucre airport, you must fill the tourist card, which is to be presented with your passport to the immigration officer. Please ensure that the card is stamped and shows the number of days that you intend to stay in the country. Also be sure to keep a copy of these documents, because you have to give it back when you leave the country.

It is suggested to take photocopies of all your travel documents before you make your trip to Ecuador. This will facilitate application and issuance of replacing documents in case the documents are lost or stolen.

Upon leaving Quito, after check-in for your flight and when you have obtained your boarding pass, you will have to pay the departure tax of US\$40.80.

EMBASSIES

Addresses and contacts of the embassies and consulates in Quito may be found at the following website: <http://www.in-quito.com/uio-kito-qito-kyto-qyto/spanish-uio/embajadas-consulados.htm>

Annex

Information about Ecuador and its capital, Quito

ABOUT ECUADOR

Ecuador is a rather small country; however it is considered one of the 17 mega-diversity countries around the world. Ecuador is located in a privileged place in the globe, in northwest of South America, it is situated over the equatorial line, that is why its territory is in both hemispheres. The country is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural with a population of over the 13.5 million people.



Ecuador, a country of contrast, is divided by its geography into four regions: Costa, Sierra, Amazonia and Galapagos. It contains 44 natural state-protected reserves and extensive tropical forests that are home to approximately 1,640 species of birds; 4,500 species of butterflies, 345 species of reptiles, 358 species of amphibians, and 258 species of mammals, amongst others. The Sangay and Galapagos National Parks, as well as the Galapagos Marine Reserve, have been declared UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites.

CAPITAL	Quito
AREA	256,370 km ²
CURRENCY	U.S DOLLAR
POPULATION	13.5 millions
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Spanish
TIME ZONE	GTM/UTC-5
CALLING CODE	+593

ABOUT QUITO

Quito, a World Cultural Heritage Site, is the capital of the country. It is located in an inter-andean valley close to Pichincha volcano. Quito is located 2850 meters above sea level, and maintains the balance between the modern and colonial, having the most preserved old town in Latin America.



For more tourist information about the city, please visit the following websites:
<http://www.quito.com> (in English) or <http://www.quito.com.ec> (in Spanish).

TAX AND TIPS

Tips are common in Ecuador, as in other places around the world. Apart from the restaurants and hotels, where a 10% extra charge for services and other taxes are added to the bill, these other services are legally obligatory. Nevertheless, every person who gives you a personal service, like guidance, drivers, etc., they always expect a tip. In restaurants it is customary to give an extra tip in addition to the 10% and extra charge tax.

CURRENCY

The currency in Ecuador is the United States Dollar. Credit cards like Master Card, Visa, Diners and American Express are accepted in most restaurants, hotels and large stores.

BANKS

Banks are generally open from 9.00 to 16.00 hours. However, there are extended schedules at ATM in shopping malls and cash dispenser points which are open 24 hours.

COMUNICACION

Telephone is available for both local and international calls. The country calling code is "593", and the city code for Quito is "2". The mobile calling system is GSM.

Most hotels provide wireless internet service.

TAXIS

Quito has taxi services around the city, and 24 hours service, the cost is charged and shown on a programmed taximeter. To the airport, most of the cooperatives have a fixed rate. The cost for a taxi ride from the airport to the Hotel Colon is approximately US\$10.

At the exit of the airport, there are windows that offer transportation services, you pay there and a taxi is assigned to transport you to your destination. Also, many hotels offer transfer from the airport, the cost can vary and sometimes could be free of charge upon specific schedules.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage system in Ecuador is 110-120 with neutral phase and ground connection (3 connectors). It is recommended to bring an adaptor to plug in your laptop in your room or the conference room.

HEALTH CARE

Ecuadorian law does not require any vaccinations to enter to the country, nevertheless it is necessary to take some precautions. Avoid not to drink water from the tap but always take bottled water and also beware of taking ice with your beverages as the origin of the water of the ice could be contaminated.

As sunshine in Ecuador is very strong, always use sun block, sunglasses and hat in places with sun exposure. In Ecuador, the sun is something that you always have to take care of, even on cloudy days.

If you have any medical prescription, be sure to bring enough for all your stay, also bring a copy of the prescription. If you use glasses, it is advisable to bring an extra pair.

Special Attention:

If you have any kind of disability and require special attention, please don't hesitate to contact the organizers (see information below). Also, if you are allergic to any food substance, don't forget to inform the organizers to facilitate co-ordination and organization of lunches and coffee breaks.

CLIMATE

The temperature in July can vary between 18°C and 25°C during the day and between 9°C and 12°C at night. During this season, the climate is generally sunny but with cold wind and a slight probability of rain.

CLOTHING

Participants are recommended to bring warm clothes (sweaters or coats) to protect them from the cold especially in the evening and at night. It is also recommended to include hiking clothes (hat, gloves, protective rain-wind jacket, and hiking shoes) if you intend to join the field trip to Cotopaxi National Park (on Saturday, 24 July 2010).

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information, please contact:

Fundación Natura

Tel. (593-2) 331-7457 / (593-2) 227-2863 (ext. 302)

(593-9) 509-8774

From 8.30 to 17.00 hours (Ecuador time)

Attention: Ms. Lorena Coronel

loronel@fnatura.org.ec

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