

# Information Note

**UNEP**

**Cartagena Convention COPs**

**Oranjestad, Aruba**

**3 - 5 October 2023**

Twelfth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA/COP12) of the Wider Caribbean Region, **3 October**.

Sixth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS COP6) of the Wider Caribbean Region, **4 October**.

Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventeenth Conference of Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (IGM20/COP17), **5 October**.



Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and  
Food Quality of the Netherlands



Ministry of Transport, Integrity,  
Nature and Senior Affairs

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# 1. Introduction

**This document provides key background information on logistics and arrangements for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat's 2023 intergovernmental meetings in Aruba. Delegates are highly recommended to take note of these guidelines before undertaking travel to the meeting venue.**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention Secretariat will convene the following biennial intergovernmental meetings from 3–5 October 2023 in Oranjestad, Aruba:

- Twelfth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW COP12) of the Wider Caribbean Region, 3 October.
- Sixth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS COP6) of the Wider Caribbean Region, 4 October.
- Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventeenth Conference of Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (IGM20/COP17), 5 October.

The Secretariat thanks the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their generous support in hosting these meetings.

This is the first time that intergovernmental meetings will be held face-to-face, following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The Provisional Agenda and other meeting documents can be downloaded from the respective meeting page of each event on the Secretariat's website:

- 12th SPAW COP: <https://www.unep.org/cep/events/conference-parties-cartagena-convention-cops/spaw-cop12>.
- 6th LBS COP: <https://www.unep.org/cep/events/conference-parties-cartagena-convention-cops/lbs-cop6>.
- 20th IGM and 17th COP: <https://www.unep.org/cep/events/conference-parties-cartagena-convention-cops/igm20cop17>.

Participants are encouraged to access these documents online in order to minimize the environmental footprint of the meetings and in line with UNEP's policy towards greener meetings. No hardcopies will be provided.

The Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) convenes its Conferences of Parties (COP) every two years to review achievements, approve the next work plan and budget, and make key decisions on its work.

The Convention is a regional legal agreement for the protection of the Caribbean Sea and was ratified in 1986. The Convention is supported by three technical agreements or Protocols Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS). The Convention and Oil Spills Protocol have been ratified by 26 countries.

The meetings will commence with the 12th COP to the SPAW Protocol during which contracting Parties to this Protocol will review and endorse the 2023-2024 work plan and budget of the Sub-Programme; in addition to discussing the protection and upgraded listing of species under the SPAW Protocol, inter alia.

These discussions will be followed by the 6th COP to the LBS Protocol which has been ratified by 15 countries in the Wider Caribbean. Parties will review and endorse the 2023-2024 work plan and budget for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution Sub-Programme, discuss proposed work on wastewater discharges, marine litter management, monitoring and assessment, knowledge management, inter alia.

The 20th IGM and 17th COP to the Convention will focus on reviewing the status of activities undertaken by the Secretariat and Contracting Parties in the last biennium, the review and approval of the 2023-2024 work plan and budget of the Secretariat, and adopting the Decisions of the 12th SPAW COP and 6th LBS COP.

The Secretariat is located in Kingston, Jamaica at 14-20 Port Royal Street.

## 2. General Information



Aruba is an island in the mid-south of the Caribbean Sea, north of the Venezuelan coast. It is one of the four countries that make up the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



[Click here to view location on Google Maps.](#)

### i. Meeting Venue and Accommodation

The meetings will be held at the Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort.

*Address and contact information:*

L. G. Smith Boulevard 82, Oranjestad, Aruba

Tel.: +297 583 6000 ext. 6183

E-mail: [asantiago@arubarenaissance.com](mailto:asantiago@arubarenaissance.com)

Website: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/auabr-renaissance-wind-creek-aruba-resort/overview/>.

The Secretariat will make arrangements for flights and hotel accommodation for funded participants.

Non-funded participants are expected to fund the full cost of their participation in the meetings.

### ii. Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

Funded participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance equivalent to forty-six percent (46%) of the UN rate for Aruba. Seventy-five percent (75%) is expected to be advanced via electronic funds transfer three (3) days before the meeting date, time permitting. Delegates must ensure that accurate banking details are provided to the Secretariat. Boarding passes for the return leg of the trip should be sent by e-mail to the Cartagena Convention Secretariat at [unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org](mailto:unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org) within three (3) business days after completion of travel, to facilitate submission of expense reports and payment of the balance of DSA. Any other related receipts in conjunction with forced overnight stays will also be paid following receipt of the return boarding passes.

For any queries related to travel and the daily subsistence allowance (DSA), participants may contact the Secretariat focal point below:

Mr. Terrike Brown

E-mail: [unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org](mailto:unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org)

### **iii. Registration and Identification Badges**

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. before the start of each meeting. Funded participants are expected to submit their inbound boarding passes and any related receipts at registration.

Badges will be issued to all meeting participants and observers at registration. Delegates are required to wear the issued badges while in the conference room and during meetings.

### **iv. Working languages of the Meeting**

The working languages of the meetings are English, French and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation in the three working languages will be provided. All working documents will be available in English French, and Spanish.

### **v. Internet**

Wireless internet access will be available during the meeting. Standard internet service is free for all guests and can be accessed in all hotel rooms, the conference area and in public areas.

## 3. Visitors to Aruba

### i. Reina Beatrix International Airport

This is the main international airport in Aruba, located in the capital, Oranjestad.

#### **CONTACT**

ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

AEROPUERTO INTERNACIONAL REINA BEATRIX

ORANJESTAD, ARUBA

TEL.: +297 524 24 24

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.AIRPORTARUBA.COM/](https://www.airportaruba.com/).

The airport is approximately 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) from the Renaissance hotel. The driving time from the airport to the hotel is usually around 10-15 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. Participants are expected to make their own arrangements from and to the airport. A terminal allowance will be provided to UNEP-sponsored participants, payable after the meeting upon approval of the expense report.

### ii. Official language

Dutch and the local language of Papiamentu are the official languages of Aruba.

### iii. Time Zone and Weather

The time zone in Aruba is GMT-4.

Aruba has [tropical weather](#), with temperatures averaging in the low 80s year-round, and higher numbers recorded between May and October, while lower temperatures are recorded between December and March. [Click here for a live weather cam.](#)

### iv. Visas

It is the delegate's own responsibility to obtain transit visas and a visa for entry to Aruba and a, if required, prior to departure. The information provided here acts only as guidance.

A valid passport is required for entry into Aruba. A valid entry visa is also required for some countries. Please visit the following website to find out if you need a visa to visit Aruba: <https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/caribbean-visa>.

All visitors (including children) spending more than 24 hours in Aruba are required to complete the online [ED Card immigration form](#) to be permitted entry. The Aruba ED Card (Embarkation/Disembarkation) is a mandatory step for every passenger entering Aruba. For more information, please visit <https://edcardaruba.aw/>.

#### **v. Health-related information and disclaimer**

Each delegate is responsible for ensuring that they meet the health requirements for entry into Aruba. This includes obtaining any vaccinations that may be required. As at March 2022, travelers are no longer required to present a COVID-19 negative test result or proof of vaccination.

All visitors are required to comply with arrival health procedures as mandated by the Aruba Airport Authority and the Government of Aruba. This includes, but is not limited, any public health instructions issued by the government during the period of the meetings.

[Click here for more details on traveler health requirements.](#)

The United Nations Environment Programme disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation.

In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants secure, prior to departure, international medical insurance for the period of participation and to endeavour to safeguard all personal belongings while attending the meeting.

#### **vi. Electricity**

Aruba operates on voltage: 110 Volts, 60 hertz.

#### **vii. Currency**

Aruba's official currency is the Aruban Florin, however, U.S. dollars are widely accepted. The Aruban florin is pegged to the U.S. dollar at a rate of Afl. 1.79 = US\$ 1.00.

[Click here for more details on exchange rates.](#)



### viii. Hotel and conference location

The Renaissance hotels are across from the Renaissance Convention Center where the COP Cartagena Convention will take place. The nearby Renaissance Marketplace has a variety of restaurants to enjoy during lunch and other free time. Please find a map of the relevant venues for the conference.

[Click here for the list of restaurant options at the Renaissance Marketplace](#)



### ix. Transportation options

Taxi's can be easily accessed at the Renaissance hotels in order to visit other areas of Aruba during free time. Taxi's accept US dollars both cash and ATM cards.

[Click here for the current pricelist for taxi rates.](#)

The public bus system, Arubus N.V., is also an option if so desired.

[Click here for routes and schedules – Arubus N.V.](#)

**Should you have queries concerning the information provided in this document, please contact the Cartagena Convention Secretariat at [unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org](mailto:unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org).**