

4th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

15 – 19 September 2008, Antananarivo, Madagascar

“Flyway Conservation at Work – Review of the Past, Vision for the Future”

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE 4TH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO AEWA (MOP4)

Host country

The fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA will take place on 15 – 19 September 2008 in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

The Republic of Madagascar is an island nation in the south-western Indian Ocean opposite Mozambique. Stretching more than 1,500 km from north to south and 500 km from east to west it covers an area of 581,540 km², which makes it the world's fourth-largest island. Because of its isolation most of the plants and mammals, and more than a third of the ca. 280 recorded bird species are endemic to Madagascar. Although Madagascar seems to be off the usual Palearctic-African flyway system, a number of waterbirds covered by the Agreement occur on the island, e.g. the Madagascar Pratincole (*Glareola ocularis*), the Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*), the Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*), the Madagascar Pond-Heron (*Ardeola idae*) and the Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*).



Capital



The Capital City Antananarivo
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Antananarivo is the capital of Madagascar and the largest city in Madagascar with a population of 1,390,800. The name of Antananarivo stands for "The city of thousands" ("arivo" means "thousand" in Malagasy). This high-altitude city was founded in the 1600s as a walled citadel. Antananarivo is located in the central highlands; its altitude is 1,468 meters above the sea level.

Venue

The meeting will take place at the Hotel Carlton, which is located in the centre of Antananarivo.

Hotel Carlton

Rue Pierre Stibbe Anosy
PO Box 959
Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
Tel: 00261 20 22 260 60
Fax: 00261 20 22 260 51
Website: <http://www.carlton-madagascar.com/index.php?lang=en>

Registration upon arrival

Participants will be able to register for MOP4 at the Secretariat's registration desk which will be open at the Carlton hotel on 14 September 2008 from 5.00 to 8.00 p.m. and on 15 September 2008 from 8.00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Participants will, among other things, receive a meeting badge. Please be aware that for security reasons only delegates wearing a badge will be allowed to access the meeting rooms and offices. Delegates should therefore wear their badges at all times during the meeting.

Documents

Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their (electronic) copies of the meeting documents in order to keep the production of hardcopies as low as possible and to help preserve the environment. The meeting documents, draft Resolutions and Information documents can all be downloaded at http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/mop4.htm

Internet

Delegates will have the possibility to use the computers and internet connection at the MOP4 Internet café at Hotel Carlton.

Transportation

The host government will arrange a pick-up service for delegates arriving at the international airport of Antananarivo. Transfer buses will, moreover, be arranged for the daily transport between the hotels Colbert, du Louvre and Tana Plaza and the venue; more information on exact departure times of the daily transport will be displayed in the respective hotel lobbies.

Visa

All foreigners coming into Madagascar are required to be in possession of entry visas. Passports are, moreover, required to be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of entry into the country.

Mid-conference excursion

On the fourth day of the meeting, on 18 September 2008, a one-day excursion will take place. Participants will be invited at the registration desk to choose between the following four optional excursions:

1. Anjozorobe forest

This site is located 100km north of Antananarivo. Vegetation is of mid-altitude evergreen rainforest situated at about 1200 to 1400m high from the sea level. The forest is home to 88 bird species. It is easy to watch the serpent eagle, *Eutriorchis astur*, the rufous-headed ground roller *Atelornis crossley*, the pita-like ground roller *Atelornis pittoides*, the brown mesite *Mesitornis unicolor* and the yellow-bellied sunbird asity *Neodrepanis hypoxantha*. Nine species of lemur are present, 4 diurnal (*Indri indri*, *Propithecus diadema*, *Eulemur fulvus*, *Hapalemur griseus*) and 5 nocturnal (*Avahi laniger*, *Lepilemur mustelinus*, *Cheirogaleus* cf. *crossleyi*, *Microcebus* cf. *rufus*, *Microcebus* cf. *lehilahytsara*). This forest is managed by a Malagasy association Fanamby.

<http://www.fanamby.org.mg/en/anjozorobe.htm>

2. Angavokely forest station

Located at 35km east of the capital the Angavokely massif is the highest mountain in the vicinity of Antananarivo with 1787 m. The scenery is magnificent. Angavokely is a forest station of 740 ha wide but more than half is with pines and Eucalyptus species. Actually, there are three types of natural vegetation, high altitude rainforest, shrub and high altitude prairie. A part from the small remaining forest of Ambohimanga, Angavokely is the closest natural vegetation to the Capital Antananarivo. For any scientific study, this is a good station to study the effect of fragmentation and long time isolation for birds or mammals species. The main characteristic of the site is its richness in orchid species (117) and the occurrence of the grass *Pseudechinolaena madagascariensis*, endemic to this station. There are 38 bird species in the station, including the pita-like Ground roller, *Atelornis pittoides*, a couple of peregrine falcon which nests in a cliff in the station and the rock thrush *Monticola sharpie*. Cracks and caves shelter several bat species, actually the name Angavokely means “where there are small bats” and “Angavobe” the name of the second highest peak in the station, means “where there are big bats” (*Eidolon dupreanum*, Pteropodidae). This forest is managed by the forestry department of the Direction General des Eaux et Forêts.

3. Tsarasaotra/ Croc farm/ Lemur Park

The RAMSAR site of Tsarasaotra known also as “Alarobia Lake”

Until now, this is the only private RAMSAR site in the world. This site of 27 ha wide is 4 km from the centre of Antananarivo; it is located 1270 m above the sea level. Two lakes with a total of 5 ha wide are occurring. The largest lake is bordered with tall *Eucalyptus* on the south and *Eugenia jambolana* (both Myrtaceae) in the west. On the East of the larger lake, there is a thick patch of *Cyperus madagascariensis*. The second lake is bordered in one side by rice fields. The lake is very fishy with species of the introduced cichlid *Tilapia*, also the snake-headed fish *Ophiocephalus striatus* (Chanidae). Sixty four species of bird with 28 waterbirds have been counted here, including the Madagascar pond heron *Ardeola idea*, the meller’s duck *Anas melleri*, the Madagascar harrier *Circus macroceles* and the Madagascar sparrow hawk *Accipiter madagascariensis*. This site is a refuge for waterfowl during the hunting period. This site is also a nesting site of the Madagascar pond Heron *Ardeola idae*.

<http://www.boogiepilgrim-madagascar.com/boogie/tours/18/detail/Tsarasaotra.html>

Croc farm

<http://www.madagascar-library.com/r/647.html>

Lemur's park

<http://www.lemurspark.com/>

4. Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tsimbazaza/ Ambohimanga

Tsimbazaza

<http://www.refer.mg/edu/minesup/organe/pbztbien.htm>

Ambohimanga

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/950>

Post-conference excursions

Possible post-conference excursions can be viewed at

http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/mop4_excursions.html

Time zone

Madagascar is EAT (UTC +3hrs).

Climate

Madagascar generally has a tropical climate with two seasons: a hot, rainy season from November to April and a cooler, dry season from May to October. In September the temperature in Antananarivo ranges between approximately 15 and 20 C°.

Languages

The official languages in Madagascar are Malagasy, French and - since 2007 - English.

Important telephone numbers

- **International dialling code:** +261
- **Dialling code for Antananarivo:** 020 22 or 23 or 24 + 5-digit number
- **Police/ emergency:** 17 or 22 357 09 or 22 227 35
- **Fire brigade:** 18 or 22 225 66 or 22 570 03 or 22 250 18
- **Ambulance:** 22 625 66 or 22 606 72

Currency and cash money

The ariary (1 € = 2,426.70 ariary*) is the official currency in Madagascar. However, also Malagasy francs (1 € = 13,497.80 francs*) are still used and prices may still be quoted in francs (take care!). The Malagasy franc is no longer legal tender but will remain exchangeable at banks until 2009.



*As of 29 August 2008.

Money could be changed or obtained from a cash machine with Visa credit card (only!) at the venue Hotel Carlton. Cash machines can moreover be found e.g. at the international airport of Antananarivo as well as next to the Hotel Le Louvre.

Taxi

There are two types of taxis; the white taxi-be is much more comfortable and generally a lot quicker than the cheaper yellow taxi-brousse (bush taxi). Please be sure to carefully note whether the price is quoted to you in ariary or francs to avoid overpaying by using the wrong currency (this is a well-known trick used by some taxi drivers!).

Communication

It is important to note that not all mobile phone providers have roaming capabilities in Madagascar. The main local operators are Celtel Madagascar (also known as Madacom) and Orange Madagascar. Please also be aware that there is very limited mobile coverage outside Antananarivo.

Health

General information on vaccination requirements and health risks is available on the WHO website:

<http://www.who.int/ith/countries/mdg/en/>

Power sockets used in Madagascar

Please follow the following link: <http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm> to view the types of power sockets available in Madagascar.

For more information on MOP4 please do not hesitate to contact the AEWAs Secretariat:

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