



FACT SHEET

THE COUNTRY GHANA

Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, is a country on the West Coast of Africa. It has often been referred to as an "island of peace" in one of the most unsettled regions on earth. It shares boundaries with Togo to the east, Cote d'Ivoire to the west, Burkina Faso to the north and the Gulf of Guinea to the south.

Ghana has several tourist attractions such as the castles and National Parks. Most of the major international airlines fly into and from the international airport in Accra. Domestic air travel is thriving and the country has a vibrant telecommunications sector, with seven cellular phone operators and several internet service providers.

Climate

The climate of Ghana is tropical. Temperatures vary with season and elevation. Except in the north two rainy seasons occur, from April to July and from September to November. Annual rainfall ranges from about 1,100 mm (about 43 in) in the north to about 2,100 mm (about 83 in) in the southwest. The harmattan, a dry desert wind, blows from the northeast from December to March, lowering the humidity and creating hot days and cool nights in the north. In the south, the effects of the harmattan are felt in January.

Temperatures

Whole country - average low: 20.5C (69F), average high: 26C (79F). The coolest time of year is between June and September when the main rainfall occurs. In most areas the highest temperatures occur in March, the lowest in August. Variations in temperature both annually and daily are quite small. The minimum temperature is around 23C (73F) warm and comparatively dry along the southeast coast; hot and humid in the southwest; hot and dry in the north. In Accra itself, there is very little variation in temperature throughout the year. The mean monthly temperature ranges from 24.7 °C (76.5 °F) in August (the coolest) to 28 °C (82.4 °F) in March (the hottest), with an annual average of 26.8 °C (80.2 °F). It should be noted, that the "cooler" months tend to be more humid than the warmer months.

Accra

The city of Accra has been Ghana's capital since 1877, and contains fine public buildings reflecting its transition from a 19th century suburb of Victoriaburg to the modern metropolis it is today. Spreading along the Atlantic coast, the city is well endowed with luxury as well as great value hotels, excellent restaurants and night clubs. There are a range of absorbing museums and fine public monuments, modern business and commercial areas, as well as busy markets and tree-lined residential suburbs.



The beaches of Accra are popular with visitors and Ghanaians alike. La Pleasure and Bojo Beach, just 25km west of Accra, are particularly popular at weekends. Among the highlights of Accra are the National Museum, with its splendid display of exhibits that reflect the heritage of Ghana from prehistoric to modern times; the National Theatre with its distinctive modern architecture, the Centre for National Cultural Centre, Independence Square, the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum; the fishing port at James Town and *Makola* Market.

MEETING VENUE

The AEWA Technical Committee meeting (27th - 30th August) will take place at the Miklin Hotel, East Legon, Accra. The hotel is 15-20 minutes drive from the airport.

Miklin Hotel - Accra

P. O. Box 17191, Accra, Ghana
Tel.: +233 0302 500708, 502386, 502387
Cell: +233 (0)243 690 239 / (0)243 690 240
+233 (0)243 690 346
Fax: +233 0302 544161, 500558
E-mail: miklin@miklin-gh.com

Location

No. 7 Ako Adjei Street
Shiashi, East Legon, Accra

Registration on arrival

On arrival, delegates are required to register for AEWA TC11 at the Meeting registration desk, which will be set up in the hotel reception.



Accommodation

Delegates will be accommodated at the Miklin Hotel, which will also be the venue. All rooms have a working desk, chair, table-top fridge and a TV. A bar and a swimming pool are available on the premises.

Telephone: Telephone services are available for local and international calls at the meeting venue. The cost of international calls varies between USD 1-2 per minute. SIM cards (MTN, Airtel, Vodafone, Glo, Tigo, and Espresso) for mobile phones are also available and can be purchased from vendors. You need your passport to be able to register the SIM.

Internet

Delegates will have free internet access (wireless) at the Miklin Hotel for the entire period of the meeting.

Transport

There will be a bus shuttle service provided by the Miklin Hotel to pick up delegates on arrival at the Kotoka International Airport to the hotel, and from the hotel to the airport on the day of departure. The hotel personnel will display the *AEWA TC* logo and will be stationed immediately outside the arrival hall.

Meeting Documents

To help preserve the environment, participants are urged to download and print the meeting documents from the AEWA website. **Photocopying during the meeting will be kept to an absolute minimum**

AEWA – 11th Technical Committee Meeting: http://www.unep-awa.org/meetings/en/tc_meetings/tc11/tc11.htm

Language

The meeting will take place in English only.

Food

The Miklin hotel will provide breakfast, lunch and supper plus two tea/coffee breaks for the period of the meeting. The hotel will also take care of delegates with special diet requirements.

CONFERENCE TOUR

There will be a one-day field visit to **Kakum National Park** on Thursday 30th August 2012. Delegates are required to register for the field visit during registration on arrival at the hotel.

The Kakum National Park

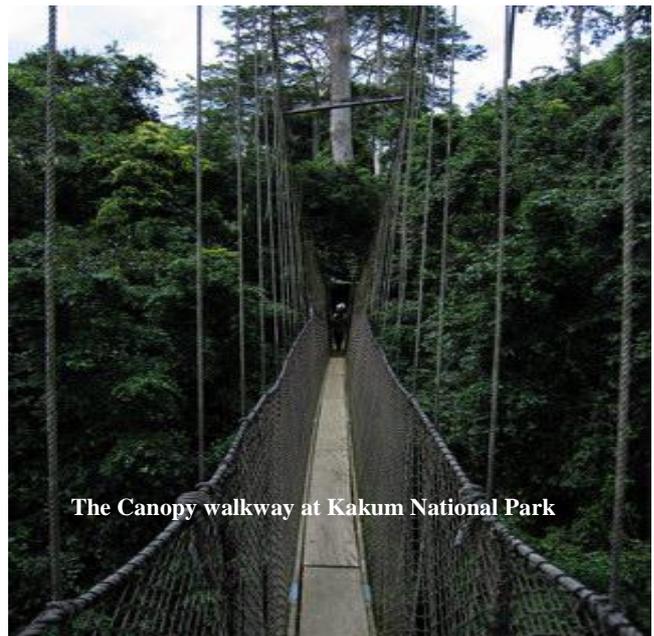
Situated 33km north of Cape Coast, Central Regional capital and about 170km from Accra, the Kakum National Park is a priority area for conservation in Ghana. The Park covers an area of 350km² (including Assin Attandanso Resource Reserve) with mostly undisturbed virgin moist evergreen rainforest. With light cotton clothing, long trousers, sturdy footwear, a water bottle, snacks, binoculars and a camera, the wonders of this vanishing leafy-green world are open for your exploration.

“Hidden Connections”: Provides exhibits that interpret the complexities which underlie tropical rainforest diversity, the interdependencies among species, and the numerous biological connections which make the rain forest a "web of life". It also highlights the cultural connections that the people of southern Ghana have with the natural world that make them part of this "web". Visitors have to spend time to experience the exhibit as it prepares them to enter the rainforest and to notice more of the scents, sights and sounds unique to the forest environment.

Canopy Walkway: The Kakum Canopy Walkway, Africa's first and only rainforest walkway, is composed of 350 meters of suspended bridge and six tree platforms that reach the height of 30 meters above the forest floor. From the tall hardwood treetops, 65m high, visitors experience a unique and spectacular view of the rainforest ecosystem and have the opportunity to see flora and fauna, which could never be viewed from the ground. Hundreds of species of butterflies and birds can be viewed from the Walkway early in the morning and if visitors are lucky, they may catch a glimpse of the Spot-nose, Campbell's and Columbus monkeys. The tree-top walkway and a multi-purpose visitor center, have accounted for the Park's status as an irresistible destination for eco-tourism.

Sun bird Trail: Visitors with a special interest in birds have a trail that is specially developed to incorporate three ecosystems: the rainforest, the secondary forest and a pond environment. Visitors can use this trail to search for more than 200 bird species found on the Kakum bird checklist - parrots, bee-eaters, blue plantain-eaters, hornbills, kingfishers and many more. The dense vegetation provides cover for globally endangered species such as the forest elephant and elusive bongo antelope, as well as various types of monkeys. Chances of viewing wildlife are increased by allowing time to sit quietly in the forest staying at one of the free-standing camps.

Note: To be able to sight more birds in the morning hours, delegates will depart from Miklin Hotel at 5:30 am. Travel time is estimated as 2½ hours. Please come along with binoculars and other necessary field gear (including a rain-proof coat) as appropriate.



The Canopy walkway at Kakum National Park

GENERAL INFORMATION

Travel documents and visas: All visitors to Ghana must possess valid passports issued by their home governments, except nationals of any member country of the ECOWAS who may produce travel certificates in lieu of passports. All non-ECOWAS citizens require visas at a fee before entry (See Annex 1). Exceptions may be granted. Contact the nearest Ghana Mission or Embassy/High Commission in your home country or near you for visa application. The Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission will provide the immigration authorities with a list of delegates to avoid any problems or delays at the airport. In addition all delegates will be provided with an official letter of invitation.

Currency: The Cedi (¢) is the monetary unit used in Ghana. Visitors entering Ghana with more than US\$5,000 in cash are required to declare the amount upon entry into Ghana. Currency exchange is available at the Miklin Hotel, most banks and at licensed foreign exchange bureaus. The Cedi comes in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 bills. There are also coins.

Exchange Rates as at 11/06/2012		
Currency	Buying (GH¢)	Selling (GH¢)
Euro	2.3210	2.3691
USD	1.8567	1.8953
GBP	2.8681	2.9284
CHF	1.9325	1.9719

Credit cards: The Miklin Hotel and many places take major international credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

Banking Hours: 08.30am-16:00 GMT (09:00-14:00 GMT on Saturdays); Not all banks operate on Saturdays. Most banks operate Automatic Teller Machines (ATM). For cash advances, Barclays Bank accepts VISA and MasterCard.

Language: The official language of Ghana is English.

Clothing: Wear light summer clothing preferably in cotton. Avoid synthetic fabric in all seasons.

Health Information: Yellow fever: Ghana requires all visitors to have a valid certificate of immunization against yellow fever. **Malaria: Risk** (predominantly *P. falciparum*) exists throughout the year in the whole country. Medicines that protect against malaria in this area include mefloquine (Lariam), doxycycline or atovaquone/proguanil (Malarone).

Insurance: Delegates are advised to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover (health, personal belongings, etc.) during their stay in Ghana for the Meeting. The host country (Ghana) or meeting organisers are not responsible for any insurance cover.

Electricity: Voltage is 220-240V with British style plug sockets; please bring adaptors for your use should you require them.

Time Ghana time is GMT

Useful Telephone numbers

Access codes: Country calling: +233
International call prefix: 00

Emergency telephone numbers:

Police: **191**
Fire Service: **192/999** / Ambulance: **193**

For further information please contact:

Field visit / Emergency in GHANA

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Annex 1

Guidelines on the application procedure for a Ghanaian Visa

ALL VISA APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS AND PASSPORTS FOR VISAS TWO WEEKS TO ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE INTENDED DATE OF TRAVEL.

1. Types of Visas issued by the Embassy are:
 - A - Diplomatic
 - B - Official
 - C - Business
 - D - Tourist
 - E - Student
 - F - Other
2. An applicant shall complete a visa application form in duplicates (2 or 4¹ copies) and attach **two (2 or 4) passport size photographs** which were taken not more than three (3) months from the date of submitting the application.
3. An applicant should possess a return air ticket, **which should be submitted upon request, in the case of an application for tourist visa.**
4. An application for an official, business and student visa **shall be submitted together with a letter of invitation from the principals in Ghana.**
5. An application for a visa shall take not more than seven (7) business days to process.
6. In the case of **journalist and or film crew who are covering an event or shooting a film in Ghana, the application shall take two weeks (14 days) for processing.** In addition, such an applicant shall complete another form to indicate the nature of coverage and equipment to be taken to Ghana. Upon arrival in Ghana, such applicant shall call at the Information Services Department for accreditation.
7. When an application for a visa is turned down, the visa-issuing officer is not obliged to offer any explanation. An applicant may however re-apply for a review.

NOTE: APPLICANTS MUST INCLUDE THEIR PASSPORTS AS PART OF THEIR APPLICATIONS, AS ALL VISAS, IF ISSUED, ARE INSERTED INTO THE PASSPORTS.

8. **Visa Fees**

Money order, Cashier's check or Certified bank check made payable to the Embassy of Ghana.

Note: Personal and company checks are not accepted.

Cash payments: Please do not mail cash.

¹ This may vary from country to country depending on the responsible authority

Citizens of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Gratis

- Single Entry Visa (must be used within 3 months from date of issue) \$60.00
- Multiple Entry Visa \$100.00
- Single Expedited \$100.00
- Multiple Visa Expedited \$200.00

An expedited/emergency service will take 72 hours.

NOTE: If mailed a visa might take longer than twenty-four (24) hours to reach the applicant.

- i. Visa application fees are non-refundable.
- ii. In accordance with INTERNATIONAL SANITARY REGULATIONS all persons entering Ghana are requested to have a valid certificate of immunization against yellow fever. Do not submit your certificate together with visa application form. Keep it and present it at the port of entry in Ghana.
- iii. Submit the following documents:
- iv. Completed visa application form [- [Download Form](#): http://www.ghanaembassy.org/uploads/files/Visa_Application_Form.pdf or pick a visa application form from Ghana Consular/Embassy/High Commission in your home country or near you].
 - Valid passport for at least six (6) months (Before Expiration)
 - Evidence of financial support or letter of invitation from host in Ghana
 - Visa Fee - money order, postal order, cashier's check or certified bank check
 - Two passport-size photographs of applicant. Should be taken at least within the last three months (Very Important)
 - Affix each photograph with glue on the top right corner of the application form.
 - Applications submitted by mail must be accompanied by **prepaid self-addressed overnight, trackable envelope (FEDEX) for return of passports. Only requests accompanied by certified prepaid return envelopes will be processed.**
 - Send the completed application to **the Consular Section or Ghana Embassy in your home country or near you.**
- v. These guidelines are subject to change as may be directed by the competent authorities in Ghana and apply to the Consulate General Office in your home country.