



AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Forests and Wildlife: Africa's diversity for shared prosperity and security

Skukuza - Mpumalanga, South Africa, 9 - 13 March 2020

INFORMATION NOTE

I. VENUE

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Twenty-second Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC22) will be held in Skukuza, Mpumalanga, South Africa, from 9 to 13 March 2020. The Session will be held simultaneously with the Sixth African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW6).
2. The AFWC22 and the AFWW6 will be held at Skukuza, Kruger National Park at the Nombolo Mdhluli Conference Centre. The Opening Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, 9 March 2020 at 09.00 hours and a reception dinner at 18.00 hours.
3. An optional field visit will be organized on Thursday, 12 March 2020 by the host Government for interested participants : (i) Forestry: to Tweefontein (Sabie) which is a small forestry town located on the banks of Sabie River Kruger Lowveld, 65 km from Kruger National Park and (ii) Wildlife: several options will be provided within the Kruger National Park.

II. REGISTRATION

4. Formal registration will take place on Monday, 9 March 2020 from 07.00 to 08.30 hours at the Nombolo Mdhluli Conference Centre. However, delegates are encouraged to register upon their arrival in Skukuza, Mpumalanga on Sunday, 8 March 2020 from 15.00 hours.

III. DOCUMENTS

5. The session documents will be made available to participants in English and French. They will be posted on the Commission's website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/afwc>. Delegates are kindly requested to take their own documents to the meeting since very few copies will be made available during the session.

IV. HOW TO REACH THE SESSION VENUE

Flights

6. Participants are encouraged to book their flights to Skukuza as early as possible. Skukuza airport is located at Mpumalanga; it can be reached by connecting flights from Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International airport and Cape Town international airport.

7. An AFWC22 information counter will be set up for participants in the arrivals hall of Skukuza airport. Up-to-date Airport shuttles and up-to-date transfer information will be made available to participants.

8. FAO or the Government of South Africa will not facilitate travel by road for delegates.

Visas

9. Delegates' passports must be valid for at least 30 days beyond the intended date of departure from the Republic of South Africa and should contain at least two unused visa pages when presenting the passport for purposes of endorsing a visa.

10. Participants from countries that are not exempted from visas to the Republic of South Africa must acquire valid visas before leaving their home countries.

11. Kindly note where applicants originate from countries where South Africa has no Mission, the visa application should be couriered or posted by registered mail to the Mission as per the list communicated by the South African's Department of Home Affairs presented in the Appendix A.

12. For information on visa requirements and list of country category (Visa exempted Countries, Countries requiring visa granted upon arrival paying the fee of USD 50, Referred Visa Countries where prior approval by the Ministry of Immigration is required), please visit: <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/apply-for-a-south-african-visa>

13. Immunization for yellow fever is an entry requirement if the journey starts or entails passing through the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America. The immunization must be done ten days prior to arriving in South Africa. Please refer to the website : www.dha.gov.za for further information.

V. GENERAL INFORMATION

14. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations directly with the hotel of their choice. All funded and self-funded participants will have to pay for their accommodation when checking-out of the hotel. All extra costs, including dinner, room service, telephone, bar etc., will have to be paid by the individual conference participant directly upon departure. The Government of South Africa and FAO cannot be held liable for any such costs incurred.

Accommodation within Kruger National Park : *Skukuza Safari Lodge and Skukuza camp*

15. Delegates are urged to book one of the accommodation available at the Conference venue, : *Skukuza Safari Lodge* or *Skukuza rest camp* , managed by the South African National Parks (SANPARKs).

16. Bookings can be done directly by contacting Kruger National Park Conference Coordinator at Tel: + (27) 013 735 4332/4165, Email:Nosipho.Mkize@sanparks.org, Tel. + (27) 012 426 - 5025 Email - traveltrade@sanparks.org / neleni.ndala@sanparks.org and Tel: +(27) 012 426 5111, Email: constance.masimola@sanparks.org.

17. Block booking for the AFWC22/AFWW6 delegates has been arranged. When contacting SANPARK for your booking , please quote reference no.R6621647 otherwise you will be told the camp is fully booked.

Rates

18. Reduced rates have been negotiated with the South African National Parks. Hotel Accommodation costs on Bed/Breakfast basis at the Conference venue are as follows :

- *Skukuza Safari lodge* : ZAR1 550 (single standard room) and ZAR2 330 (double room)
- *Skukuza rest camp* : ZAR1 435 (single standard room) and ZAR1 595 (double room). An additional fee of ZAR 160 might be required for every additional delegates who would be sharing a room at *Skukuza camp*.

19. For any additional information about the rates and availability, contact SANPARKS¹.

Accommodation outside the Kruger National Park

20. Accommodation outside the park at Protea Hotel Kruger gate are available and range from ZAR 1 450 for bed and breakfast (single room) and ZAR 2 900 for 3 people sharing a chalet. Bookings can be done by contacting Cornelius.bam@proteahotels.com, Tel +(27) 0137355671. Business hours: Monday to Friday: from 7.30 to 17.00 hours - Visit : www.proteahotels.com/krugergate for more information.

21. Please note that there will be no transport to the meeting venue for participants who opt to stay outside the Kruger National Park.

VI. Airport Transfer

22. The Government of the Republic of South Africa will facilitate transport from and to Skukuza Airport. The taxi or shuttle company will meet you with the conference sign “AFWC” upon arrival. Please note that you might be sharing airport transfer with other participants who are arriving at the same time.

23. Please ensure that you register yourself to AFWC22 Session information counter at Skukuza airport and provide your flight information, including arrival and departure dates and times, and flight numbers. This information will be used for the airport transfer arrangements.

24. If anything should happen or if you are delayed, and you find that there is no shuttle waiting for you at the airport, please inform AFWC22 Session information counter.

Health and Medical Care

25. Medical services in South Africa are of a high standard. However, the availability of most services is restricted to the main towns. There are other high standard medical facilities close by and top private hospitals in Nelspruit, which is approximatively 130 km away from Kruger National Park. Please see contacts below:

- Dr Visser & Dr Dabrowski: 7.30 - 16:00 hours Skukuza +(27) 013 735 5638

¹ <http://www.sanparks.org/>

- Hazyview Clinic: 7.00 - 16.00 hours ; +(27) 076 560 5321; 45 km away
- Medi Clinic Nelspruit: 24 hours ; +(27) 013 759 0500 ; 123 km away
- Kiaat Private Hospital: 24 hours ; +(27) 013 590 9150 ; 112 km away
- Lowveld Hospital: 24 hours ; +(27) 013 752 7576 ; 121 km away

Vaccinations

26. Vaccination against Yellow Fever is mandatory and proof of vaccination must be produced at entry for all travellers, not just those travelling from areas where Yellow Fever is prevalent.
27. Malaria is prevalent in Skukuza. Delegates are advised to take precautionary measures to protect themselves against mosquito bites. Any cases of malaria can be reported at malaria@krugerdoctors.co.za or julia@krugerdoctors.co.za.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

28. For any emergency please contact: + (27) 013 735 4325, available 24 hours.

Safety Information

29. Please wear appropriate clothing for the field trips. Kruger Camp has bats, spiders, snakes, scorpions and protect yourself from mosquito bites.

Some facts and figures

30. South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa (RSA), is located at the southernmost region of Africa, with a long coastline that stretches more than 2,500 km and along two oceans (the Indian Ocean to the southeast and the Atlantic Ocean to the southwest). South Africa is bordered by Namibia to the northwest, by Botswana and Zimbabwe to the north, and by Mozambique and Eswatini (Swaziland) to the northeast and east. Lesotho, an independent country, is an enclave in the eastern part of the Republic. South Africa is the largest country in Southern Africa and the 25th largest country in the world by land area and, with over 57 million people, is the world's 24th most populous nation.

31. South Africa is a multi-ethnic society encompassing a wide variety of cultures, languages, and religions. South Africa has 11 official languages, namely Afrikaans, Southern Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Swazi, Northern Sotho (Sepedi), Southern Sotho (Sesotho), Tswana, Tsonga, Venda and English. South Africa is often referred to as the "rainbow nation" to describe the country's multicultural diversity.

32. South Africa has three cities that serve as capitals: Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial). Skukuza, located 57 km east of Hazyview at the confluence of the N'waswitshaka and Sabie Rivers in Mpumalanga, is the administrative headquarters and the "Capital city" of the Kruger National Park, South Africa.

33. Kruger National Park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa. It covers an area of 19,633 square kilometres in the provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga in northeastern South Africa, and extends 360 km from north to south and 65 km from east to west. The administrative headquarters are in Skukuza. Areas of the park were first protected by the government of the South African Republic in 1898, and it became South Africa's first national park in 1926. It is also the largest rest camp of the park and is South Africa's number one game viewing destination and is the most popular game reserve in the country.

34. South Africa has a generally temperate climate, due in part to being surrounded by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans on three sides. Due to this varied topography and oceanic influence, a great variety of climatic zones exist. The climate in South Africa ranges from desert and semi-desert in the north west of the country to sub-tropical on the eastern coastline. The rainy season for most of the

country is in the summer, except in the Western Cape where the rains come in the winter. Winter temperatures hover around zero, summers can be very hot, more than 35° Celsius (95°F) in some places. The South African Weather Service provides up-to-date weather information, forecasts and satellite imaging.

35. Skukuza has a Subtropical highland climate with a dry winter and warm summer, typical of much of northeastern South Africa. In March, the temperature is likely to be in the range of 19-31°C (66-88 °F). Average precipitation in Skukuza in March is 66mm (2.6 inches). Visitors going on night-drives will require warm clothing.

System of Government

36. Provincial legislature, Executive authority (Premier and MEC's)

Religion

37. Mixture of different religions Christianity, Islamic and others

Bank, ATM and Currency

38. The South African Rand (ZAR) the official currency of South Africa. The exchange rate is approximately US\$1.00 = 14.75ZAR. The most up-to-date exchange rate can be obtained from XE.com Online Currency Converter.

39. Major credit cards are widely accepted in South Africa. If you need to exchange money (USD or Euro); this can be done directly at the First National Bank inside the camp. Business hours : 9.30 - 15.30 hours; Telephone : +(27) 013 735 5635.

40. Besides the First National Bank (only open Monday to Friday and Saturday morning) and an ATM at Skukuza, no cash withdrawal facilities are available in the Kruger National Park.

Time Zone

41. The time zone for South Africa is: GMT/UTC + 2 hours.

Thinks to do in Skukuza, Mpumalanga Tourism

42. For guided bushwalks, game drives and things to do in Mpumalanga Kruger Lowveld & Kruger National Park: please visit <https://www.tours-tickets.co.za/>. Spa is available at AM Spa Kruger².

43. Further information on the Republic of South Africa can be accessed by contacting South African Tourism³, e-mail: travel@southafrica.net, tel: +27 (0) 11 895 300.

Education

44. There are public primary, secondary and tertiary institutions in all the major towns throughout the country and several private establishments in the main centres.

Economy

- Mining 3%
- Manufacturing 12%
- Forestry 3.7%

² <https://www.amluxury.co.za/am-spa/>

³ <https://www.southafrica.net>.

- Agriculture 3%
- Construction 3%

Electricity

45. The South African electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 HZ. Most plugs are 15 amp 3-prong or 5amp 2-prong, with round pins. It is advisable for participants to bring their own adaptor.

APPENDIX A

SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION/EMBASSY IN AFRICA

The following list provided by the Department of Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa can be subject to change without prior notice.

COUNTRIES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONS/EMBASSIES

Angola ; Benin ; Botswana ; Burkina Faso ; Burundi ; Cameroon ; Comoros ; Congo ; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo ; Egypt ; Equatorial Guinea ; Eritrea ; Eswatini ; Ethiopia ; Gabon ; Ghana ; Guinea ; Guinea-Bissau ; Kenya ; Lesotho ; Liberia ; Madagascar ; Malawi ; Mali ; Mauritania ; Mauritius ; Morocco ; Mozambique ; Namibia ; Niger ; Nigeria ; Senegal ; Sudan ; Tanzania ; Uganda ; Zambia ; Zimbabwe.

COUNTRIES WITH NO SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONS OR EMBASSIES

Country without South African Mission/Embassy*	Nearest South African Mission/Embassy where the visa request should be forwarded by registered mail
Cabo Verde	→ Senegal
Central African Republic	→ Cameroon
Djibouti	→ Ethiopia
Seychelles	→ Mauritius
Sierra Leone	→ Ghana
Somalia	→ Ethiopia
Togo	→ Benin
The Gambia	→ Senegal