



**GFCS LDCS/SIDS AND CANADA PROJECT WORKSHOPS
(31 March - 4 April 2014)
Crown Beach Resort, Arorangi
Rarotonga, Cook Islands**

DRAFT INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

(as of 10 march)

1. TRAVEL:

Those who are funded by WMO through SPREP, air ticket is processed on the most direct and economical fare. Itineraries will be circulated early next week for your final endorsement and to assist with any visas to/from Cook Islands. Please note that tickets are issued on special fares and if for any reason you would like to make changes, you are welcome to do so at your own expense.

2. ACCOMMODATION:

All funded participants will be staying at the Edgewater Resort. Direct payment will be made from SPREP for your room for the duration of your stay in Cook Islands. This will be taken out of your per diem.

Hotel Room Rate:

Single/double occupancy: NZ\$185.00 per day

Double Occupancy:

Please identify if you wish to share rooms with a colleague or participants attending the workshop. Let us know whom you will be sharing with once both have agreed. Also let us know if you don't wish to share a room.

Airport transfers:

The hotel will organize for your arrival & departure transfers. The cost is NZ\$35.00

Accommodation while transiting:

Please note that you are responsible for arranging your accommodation.

Contact:

Edgewater Resort Hotel

PO Box 21, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Phone: (682) 25435 Fax: (682) 25475

Email: res1@edgewater.co.ck

Website: www.edgewater.co.ck

For non funded participants/partners, please contact the Local Organising Committee if assistance is needed for hotel bookings

3. DAILY SUBSITENCE ALLOWANCE:

DSAs will be distributed to the funded participants on the first day of the meeting. This allowance is to cover for any incidentals during your stay in Cook Islands.

4. VENUE

The Conference for GFCS will be held at the Windjammer Conference Centre, Crown Beach Resort Hotel, Arorangi, Rarotonga, Cook Islands from the 31st March to 2nd April 2014. The LDCS/SID, Canada Project workshops, FINPAC Inception Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting will be held on the 3rd April and 4th of April 2014 at the same venue.

5. OPENING AND REGISTRATION

The opening of the Workshop will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, 31 March 2014. Registration will take place at the venue of the Workshop from 8 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. of the same day. We will also have a Registration Area set up at the Edgewater Hotel on Sunday, 30th March at 6:00pm.

6. WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop will be held in English only.

7. DOCUMENTS

The documents will also be accessible at the GFCS web-site at: <http://gfcs-climate.org/content/regional-consultation-gfcs-small-island-developing-states-pacific>

8. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT RAROTONGA

The island of Rarotonga is serviced by the Rarotonga International Airport, Cook Islands. It is located in the southern part of the Cook Islands with 7 other islands and is the main island for entry.

8.1 Shopping around Rarotonga

Rarotonga provides you with a wealth of shopping experiences from attire to jewelry. Black pearl is a common site on the island and it might pay to window shop first before buying, with some assistance from the outlets. Try also the market in town and the odd local delicacies for a bite. The market opens on Saturdays from 5am until about 2pm.

8.2 Getting Around Rarotonga

Taxis in Rarotonga are available and you may stop them on the road. Public bus is also available and for a fare of \$5, you can travel around the island either in a clockwise to anticlockwise direction. Scooters and cars are also available to rent from 4 rental properties.

8.3 Dining

Restaurants are almost limitless. A complete range of local and international culinary delights are available in Avarua and around the island.

8.4 Spouse Activities

The Cook Islands Meteorological Service (CIMS) has offered to organise activities for spouses who are attending the meeting. If your spouse is attending and wish to be part of these activities, you can contact the Local Organising Committee (section 13)

6. AIRPORT ACCESS INFORMATION (INCLUDE IN HOTEL INFO)

All international flights arrive at Rarotonga International Airport. Most hotels on Rarotonga rely on a pick up and drop off service by a local bus company. The company provides you with a welcome neck garland ('ei' in the Rarotonga language) upon arrival and drop off to your hotel in an air-conditioned relaxing atmosphere.

7. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Participants from countries listed below do not require an entry visa to the Cook Islands. All others are advised to contact the NZHC or consular mission nearest them **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa, prior to departure.

Citizens of the following countries **do not** require a visa to enter the Cook Islands for a stay of up to 1 month:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania (United Republic of), Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the WMO Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to accompany the visa applications.

8. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

No vaccination certificate is required but it is recommended to bring some mosquito repellent for the evenings.

9. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN COOK ISLANDS

The official languages in the Cook Islands is Cook Islands Maori and English.

10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION

In March and April, temperatures in Rarotonga usually range between a maximum of 30°C in the daytime and a minimum of 19°C at night. The latest information on weather can be found at: <http://www.cookislands.pacificweather.org>.

11. ELECTRICITY

The mains electrical supply in Cook Islands is 240 volts, 50 Hertz and the power adaptors are as indicated below.



12. CURRENCY

The currency in Rarotonga is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD \$). The current exchange rate as at February 2014 is NZD \$1.00 = US \$0.8382. Foreign currencies can be converted to NZ Dollars at the ANZ Bank, CI Bank and Westpac Bank in town between 9am and 3pm, Mondays to Fridays. Western Union can also be used in town. ATM are available for ANZ, WBC and CIBC in town. A WBC ATM is located at the airport.

13. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

For any further local information, please contact the Local Organizing Committee :

- 1) Mr. Arona Ngari
Director
Cook Islands Meteorological Service
Telephone: + (682) 20603
Mob: + (682) 55748
Fax : + (682) 21603
Email: angari@met.gov.ck

- 2) Mr Kake Ioane
Acting Operations Manager
Cook Islands Meteorological Service
Telephone: + (682) 20603
Fax : + (682) 21603
Email: ops1@oyster.net.ck and cc Arona Ngari

14. INSURANCE

The Secretariat will not be responsible for medical, accident and travel insurance, compensation for death or disability compensation, loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation at the GFCS Meeting and/or other meetings. In this context, it is strongly recommended that all participants secure necessary medical insurance for the period of participation prior to departure from your home countries.

15. CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Henry Taiki (henryt@wmo.int) and Salesa Nihmei (salesan@sprep.org); for FINPAC - Christina Leala-Gale (christinal@sprep.org) and Luisa Taufatofua (luisat@sprep.org); for general travel logistics Joyce Tulua (joycet@sprep.org)

SPREP OFFICE:

Tel: +685 21929

Mobile: +685 7576938 (CC Division)
