



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



## REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE SEEA EXPERIMENTAL ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Santiago 13 - 16 April 2015

### GENERAL INFORMATION



UNITED NATIONS



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held on 13 to 16 April 2015.

This document is intended to provide delegates with useful information to facilitate their work at the meeting.

The meeting coordinators will be available to answer any questions concerning logistical or organizational matters that you may wish to ask before or during the event.

### **1. General information on Chile**

#### **Geographical location**

Chile is located in the extreme south-west of South America. Its capital city is Santiago and the country has a total population of more than 17 million. Chile lies between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes mountains and its long, thin territory is divided into 15 administrative regions.

#### **General information on Santiago**

Santiago is a city with a population of about 6 million. It has a Mediterranean climate and well-defined seasons, with rainy winters with temperatures as low as 0°C (May to September) and dry summers, when daytime temperatures hover around 30°C (November to March). Relative humidity is low and evenings are cool.

Buses, taxis and five subway lines serve the city's transport needs. Taxi fares are metered and, in general, drivers do not expect tips.

Tap water is safe to drink but the change of flora can upset foreign visitors, who are therefore advised to drink bottled water.

As in all big cities, it is advisable to avoid wearing expensive jewellery and to be careful with handbags and briefcases.

#### **Climate**

Northern Chile has a dry, hot, desert climate; the south is cooler and wetter, while the central zone has a Mediterranean climate. Precipitation falls mainly during the winter months.

In most of Chile, the four seasons are clearly marked:

- Summer: 21 December - 21 March
- Autumn: 21 March - 21 June
- Winter: 21 June - 21 September
- Spring: 21 September - 21 December

#### **Useful information**

<b>LOCAL CURRENCY</b>	The national currency is the Chilean peso (\$). The exchange rate is approximately 619 pesos to the dollar (March 2015).
<b>LOCAL TIME</b>	UCT/GMT -3 (at the date of the meeting)
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	220 volts, 50 Hertz (AC).
<b>AIRPORT TAX</b>	Airport tax is included in ticket prices.
<b>TIPPING</b>	Tipping is usual practice in Chile, as in many other parts of the world. It is customary to leave a tip of 10% of the total bill in restaurants.

## 2. Meeting venue

The Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in the Enrique V. Iglesias conference room at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), located at Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, Vitacura, Santiago, tel (+56) 2 2210 2000.

## 3. Meeting coordination

The meeting is being organized by the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), ECLAC, the Ministry of Environment of Chile and UNEP with funding from the Government of Norway.

Questions on substantive and operational matters relating to the meeting may be addressed to Leila Rohd-Thomsen, from the UN Statistics Division/DESA.

- Email: [rohd-thomsen@un.org](mailto:rohd-thomsen@un.org)
- Phone (Office-New York): +1-212-963-6985
- Cell Phone: +1-646-327-2637

## 4. Visas and entry requirements for Chile

Participants must be in possession of a passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond the date of entry into Chile.

Delegates from countries whose citizens require a visa to enter Chile should apply in advance for a visa at their nearest Chilean embassy or consulate.

To find out whether you require a visa, go to the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile and click on the name of your country: <http://chileabroad.gov.cl/consulados/>.

## 5. Transport from the airport to Santiago

The companies Transvip and Transfer Delfos operate minivan services from the airport, offering passenger transport to the different areas of the city. Each van can carry 10 to 12 passengers, at an approximate cost of US\$ 15 per person. Visitors preferring to take a taxi are advised to use the firms Taxi Oficial or Transvip, which are also located at the airport. Normal taxi fare from the airport to the district where the hotels are located varies between US\$ 40 and US\$ 45.

## 6. Registration

Registration will take place in the lobby of the Enrique V. Iglesias conference room, from 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 13 April. To facilitate the registration process, please send the attached registration form to Ms. Leila Rohd-Thomsen ([rohd-thomsen@un.org](mailto:rohd-thomsen@un.org)) by 9 April 2015.

## 7. Timetable

The opening session will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 13 April 2015.

## 8. Internet

Delegates will have access to a wireless Internet connection (Wi-Fi) in the conference room and in open areas. Participants will receive the name of the network and the access code when they register at the conference.

## 9. Languages

The meeting will be conducted partly in Spanish and partly in English. Simultaneous interpretation between both languages will be provided.

## 10. Payment of DSA

The Meeting Participants will receive a DSA (Daily Subsistence Allowance) of USD 269.00 and an additional DSA to cover transportation costs. Therefore participants will receive a total amount of USD 1,614 (USD 1,345 for those leaving on 16 April evening) through cheques. There will be a possibility to cash the cheques.

The payment will be made directly to each participant by UNDP Country Office on the first day of the workshop. The local contact person is:

**Laura Cagnola**

**Finance Assistant**

United Nations Development Programme

Dag Hammarskjöld 3241, Vitacura.

Santiago, Chile

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Phone: ( + 56-2) 6541007. Fax: (+56-2) 6541099

## 11. Facilities and services at ECLAC

<b>Travel agency</b>	Flight reservations and confirmations and other travel formalities are handled by Carlson Wagon Lits travel agency, located in the basement of the ECLAC building (office 1S7).
<b>Bank</b>	A branch of Banco de Chile is located on the first basement level. It is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Foreign currency may be exchanged from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
<b>Restaurants</b>	ECLAC has a cafeteria and a canteen, which are open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. These services must be paid for directly by participants.
<b>Medical Service</b>	The ECLAC Medical Service is available to participants requiring medical assistance. It is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Shops</b>	The “One World” shop, located in the central foyer on the ground floor, next to the spiral staircase, offers a wide range of attractive gifts, souvenirs and other items.

## 11. Places of interest in Santiago

<b>Pueblito Los Dominicos</b>	This is a craft village located in the foothills of the Andes in Santiago. It provides a very varied array of traditional and contemporary crafts. Of particular interest are its furniture, textiles and paintings.
<b>Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes</b>	This is one of the main visual art centres. It is located in the area of the Parque Forestal in the commune of Santiago.
<b>Museo de Arte Precolombino</b>	This museum was a pioneer in Latin America in terms of the stewardship, dissemination and study of the artistic heritage of the Pre-Colombian peoples of the Americas. It harbours a large collection of art of ancient civilizations, such as the Incas and the Diaguitas. It is located in the heart of Santiago.
<b>Teatro Municipal de Santiago</b>	Declared a national monument, this theatre is outstanding for its architectural value. Constructed in 1857, it is one of the leading cultural centres in Chile where opera, ballet and musical concerts are held.
<b>Palacio de La Moneda</b>	The seat of government, this building is located in the commune of Santiago and is of architectural interest. It is the only building in the Americas belonging to the pure Italian neo-classical style. It houses the Palacio La Moneda Cultural Centre, which presents visual and audiovisual art exhibitions from at home and abroad.
<b>Plaza de Armas</b>	Located in the heart of Santiago, this was the civic centre of the city in colonial times. The Cathedral is of particular interest: it was declared a national monument and boasts an interesting museum whose chief attraction is its library, which houses manuscripts relating to important characters in the history of

Chile. Also of historical interest in the Plaza de Armas are the Town hall of Santiago and the Central Post Office.

### **Barrio Bellavista**

This typical urban neighbourhood combines a highly varied commercial clothing and craft sector with numerous restaurants offering international cuisine and various specialities. It is located between the north bank of the Mapocho river and the Cerro San Cristóbal. Its exotic architecture gives it the aspect of an open-air museum, where art galleries, theatres and lapis lazuli jewellery shops can be found alongside restaurants and parks and the local zoo.