



Regional coastal and marine forum 2024

April 23 – 26, 2024



Hôtel Dunia, Bissau

Information note

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The 11th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum will be held from **23 to 26 April 2024 at the Dunia Hotel**, in Guinea Bissau, under the theme "**Conservation, resilience and sustainable development of the West African coastline in the face of global change**".

The meeting will bring together more than 400 participants from the 7 countries of the West African coastal and marine zone (Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Cabo Verde) and from other regions of the world.

To help participants prepare for the meeting and enjoy their stay, we have compiled below some information on this major event and the conditions under which it is being organised.



1 – About Guinea Bissau



Guinea-Bissau is a tropical country on the Atlantic coast of West Africa. It is known for its rich and varied wildlife, with a large network of protected areas.

The sparsely populated wooded Bijagos archipelago is a protected biosphere reserve. It is the second most important site for migratory birds in West Africa.

Guinea-Bissau owes its name to its capital, Bissau, and covers an area of 36,125 km². The old city centre features Portuguese colonial buildings.

In April, Bissau enjoys very good sunshine of around 9 hours a day, with an estimated 1 day of rain for the month, so you need to be dry!

Average temperatures are between 23°C and 34°C, but depending on the year, they can fall as low as 18°C and rise as high as 40°C

2. Date and venue of the Forum

The 11th Regional Marine and Coastal Forum for West Africa will take place from **23 to 26 April 2024 at the Dunia Hotel in Bissau**

3. Welcome

All international flights arriving in Bissau land at Osvaldo Vieira International Airport.

A welcome committee will be on hand at the airport to help you with the usual formalities. A shuttle service will be available at the airport to take participants to their respective hotels.

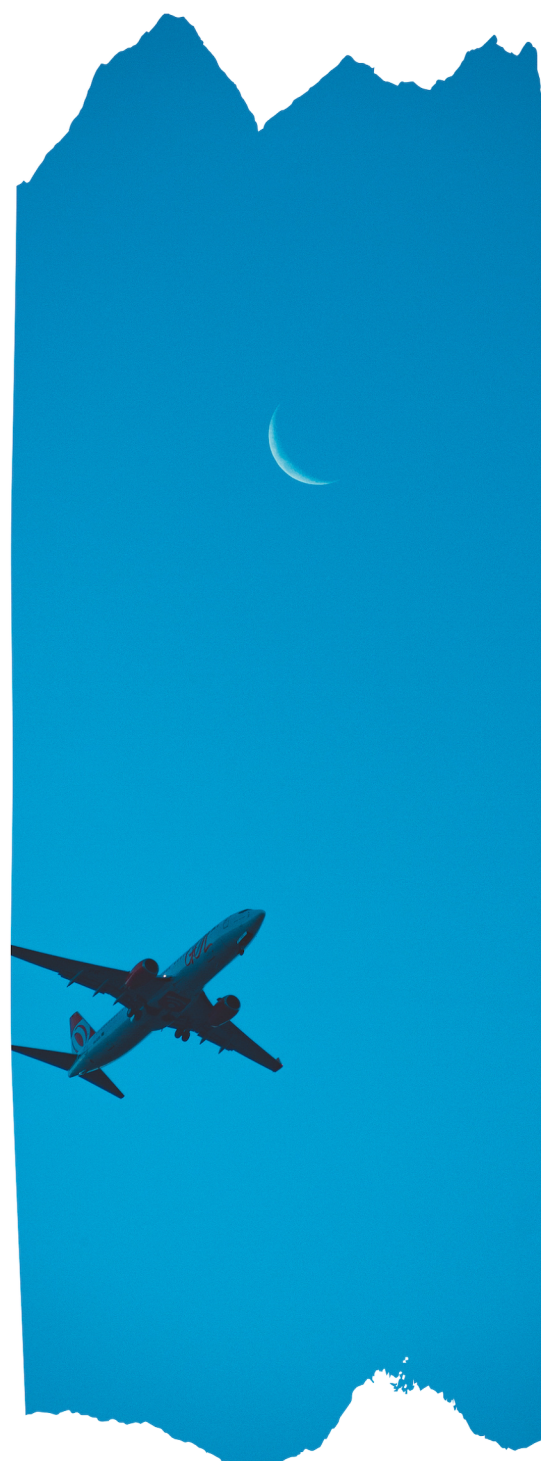
There are no currency exchange offices at the airport. For your transactions, it is advisable to bring some cash in advance.

4. Currency

The local currency is the CFA franc. The exchange rate on 1 April 2024 is as follows:

- **1 euro is worth XOF 655.957**
- **1 USD is worth XOF 593.487**

Services are available at banks and currency exchange can be carried out at certain hotels and in town. Credit cards are accepted for payment at the hotel (Visa International, Mastercard, etc.).



5. Visas

Visas to enter Bissau are collected at the airport. Participants from ECOWAS member countries are not required to have a visa to enter Guinea Bissau.

Participants who may require a visa on arrival can send the following documents to forum@prcmarine.org

- Itinerary
- Your passport

An official document will then be sent to you to make it easier to obtain the visa in Bissau. Please note that the cost of the visa is **XOF 55,000 (84 euros)**.

Participants sponsored by the PRCM will be reimbursed for their visa costs upon presentation of the payment receipt.

6. Opening and registration

Registration of participants will begin on **Monday 22 April 2024 at the Dunia Hotel from 2 p.m.** in the areas indicated to you at the hotel.

Those who have not paid their registration fee by bank transfer may do so on site during registration in local currency (CFA). They are distributed as follows:

- Participants who are not PRCM members: **XOF 95,000**
- Participants who are members of the PRCM: **XOF 65,000**
- Students and participants from Guinea Bissau: **XOF 32,500**

A welcome cocktail will be offered to all participants on **Tuesday 23 April 2024 from 6pm.**

The official opening of the Forum will take place on **Tuesday 23 April from 9.00am.**



7. Accommodation and DSA

Participants sponsored by the PRCM will receive DSAs on arrival in Bissau to cover costs not included in the accommodation package. Please keep your boarding tickets. They will be required by the accounting department for payment of your DSA.

Participants sponsored by the PRCM will be hosted at the Dunia Hotel or other nearby hotels. Hotel accommodation covers the cost of the room and breakfast only. Lunches and coffee breaks will be provided by the Forum organisers for those registered for the Forum. Other extras (drinks, meals, laundry, etc.) must be paid directly to the hotel by the participants.

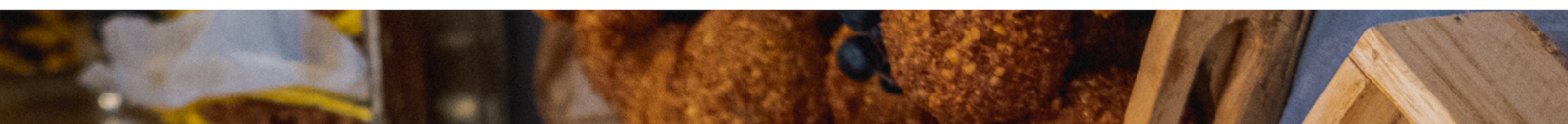
For those not covered by the PRCM, a list of hotels is available on the Forum website <http://forum.prcmarine.org/hotels/>. You can make your own reservation by contacting the hotels.

For any assistance from the organising committee, please contact Ms **Sokhna Ndiaye** at sokhna.ndiaye@prcmarine.org.

For further information, please contact the Forum secretariat at forum@prcmarine.org

8. Catering

The Dunia hotel has a restaurant service. There are also a number of restaurants outside the hotel offering a variety of choices, with the option of paying by VISA card.



9. Working languages

The Forum will be conducted in **French, English and Portuguese**, with simultaneous translation for the plenary sessions only.

10. Stand et excursions

The Forum offers the opportunity for interested organisations to have exhibition stands. Please contact the organising committee at forum@prcmarine.org if you are interested.

The price of a stand is **XOF 45,000 (69 euros)**. It includes a 3 x 3m tent, a table, two chairs, electrical sockets and a carpet. A charge will be made for any additional equipment.

Following the Forum, excursions to mangrove sites (**Cacheu in the north of Bissau and the Mansoa region in the south**) are planned for **27 April 2024**. Participants in these excursions will be asked to pay **XOF 30,000 (around €50)** to cover their travel and catering costs. For each of these two excursions, **the number of participants will be limited to 20**.

Another excursion **to the Bijagos Islands will be organised on 27 and 28 April 2024**. Due to limited transport capacity at sea and accommodation on the islands, the number of participants in this excursion **is limited to between 15 and 20 people**.

This excursion will be reserved, as a priority, for partners from outside the sub-region who do not often have the opportunity to come to Guinea Bissau. Interested participants are invited to contribute **XOF 100,000 (around 150 euros)** towards the cost of the excursion, including accommodation in a local hotel (1 night), meals during the two days and transport by speedboat.

If you are interested in the excursions open to all participants or the one reserved for guests from outside the sub-region, please register with **Mr Demba Marico** at marico@prcmarine.org before **15 April 2024**.



11 – Health measures

Guinea Bissau is a tropical country. We recommend that you take the necessary precautions against malaria and carry your yellow fever vaccination booklet with you. It will be given to you by the airport health service when you get off the plane.

Participants are responsible for their own health insurance. However, if you need assistance in this matter, please contact the Forum organising team.

For further information, please contact the Forum secretariat at forum@prcmarine.org

COVID 19

Restrictions relating to COVID 19 have been lifted in Guinea-Bissau. No test or vaccination certificate required.

12 – Forum agenda

The Forum agenda is currently being drawn up. It will be shared with all participants and posted on the Forum website when it is ready. It will contain all the information on the times and places of the activities.

13– Other information

In addition to the forum, a number of meetings will be organised by technical and financial partners. The organisers will get back to you with details of the exact dates, venues and other practical information

Looking forward to meeting you in Bissau!

Welcome to



PRCM

Partenariat Régional pour la Conservation
de la zone côtière et Marine