



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

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**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: FRENCH**

Sixty-fourth session

Cotonou, Republic of Benin, 3–7 September 2014

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

### **LOCATION AND CLIMATE**

Benin is a tropical West African country located between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer. It is bounded to the north and separated from the Republic of Niger by River Niger; to the northwest by Burkina Faso; to the west by Togo; to the east by Nigeria; and to the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Benin has a surface area of 112 622 square kilometres. It measures 700 km from north to south and its width varies from 125 km (along the coast) to 325 km (at latitude Tanguiéta-Ségbana). It is a fairly flat country with five natural regions. Cotonou, the country's political capital and venue of the Sixty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee, is located in a low-lying and sandy coastal strip surrounded by lagoons.

The south of the country has a very humid equatorial climate, with alternating dry seasons (from November to March and from mid-July to mid-September) and rainy seasons (from April to mid-July and from mid-September to October).

The temperature range in Cotonou is low. Maximum temperatures vary from 28°C to 32°C and minimum temperatures from 23°C to 26°C. The city has an annual rainfall of 1245 mm.

The Republic of Benin gained independence on 1 August 1960. The country's Constitution, voted on 10 December 1990 through a referendum, provided for all the democratic institutions such as the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, with a separation of the Executive and Legislative powers. After experiencing a long period of socio-political instability followed by a Marxist-Leninist regime from 1972 to 1990, Benin entered a democratic era beginning with the "*Conférence des Forces Vives de la Nation*" (Conference of the Vital Forces of the Nation) under President Mathieu KEREKOU. Benin's political and economic stability recognized by the international community has resulted in great diversity and significant economic development, with a 3.8% growth rate in 2013. Benin has a population of about ten million. It mobilizes resources from several technical and financial partners in all development sectors.

The Sixty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa is the first meeting of African Ministers of Health to be organized in Cotonou with the technical and financial support of the WHO Regional Office for Africa. This important meeting will take place from 1 to 5 September 2014 at the Conference Centre located two km from the MGR Bernardin Cardinal GANTIN International Airport and three km from downtown Cotonou. Shuttle buses will transport participants from the airport to their respective hotels and from their hotels to the Conference Centre.

For further related information, please visit the following web sites:

French: <http://www.afro.who.int/fr/soixante-quatrieme-session.html>

English: <http://www.afro.who.int/en/sixty-fourth-session.html>

Portuguese: <http://www.afro.who.int/pt/sexagesima-quarta-sessao.html>

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

### **ELECTRICITY**

In Benin, the power-supply voltage is 220V and the AC supply frequency is 90 hertz. Power supply is unstable in the city on the whole, but stable in the Cotonou hotels selected for the meeting. Each of the hotels has a high-capacity generator.

### **LANGUAGES**

Benin is a particularly interesting country on account of its linguistic and cultural diversity. More than 50 national languages, some of them more colourful than others, are used in the country alongside French which is the official and most commonly spoken language in towns. About 20 national languages are most commonly spoken. Among them, Fon is by far the most important as it is spoken by 24% of the population. It is followed by Yorouba (8%), Bariba (7.9%), Adja (6.2 %), Goun (5.5%) and Ayizo (3.9%). Next in line are Ditamari, Cabé, and Pila.

### **CURRENCIES**

The official currency used in Benin is the CFA Franc (CFAF) available in denominations of 10 000, 5000, 2000, 1000 and 500. The exchange rate of the CFAF to the US dollar (US\$) and the Euro (€), the two foreign currencies most widely used in the country, is approximately:

- US\$1 = CFAF 479.887 (as at 2 July 2014);
- €1 = CFAF 655.957

CFAF coins are also used.

### **BANKING SERVICES**

Banking and foreign exchange services will be provided during the meeting period. Measures have been taken to facilitate access by participants to secured banking services. To that end, there will be a shuttle service between the bank and the Conference Centre. Participants are advised to avoid road-side currency exchange transactions as they are illegal and present great security risks.

### **PASSPORT AND ENTRY VISA REQUIREMENTS**

All nationals of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) travelling to Benin will be authorized to enter the country without a visa. The same applies to holders of United Nations LAISSEZ-PASSER (UNLP). The other delegates are required to apply for visas in their countries if they have Beninese embassies.

Participants' passport copies should be sent to Mr Pascal KORA BATA (address in the contact list), Ministry of Health, Benin, through the WHO country office to facilitate the arrangements for the issuance of entry visas.

An official letter will be prepared and sent by the Government of Benin to all participants on the list forwarded by WHO to facilitate travel and issuance of entry visas upon arrival at the Cadjèhoun MGR Cardinal Bernardin GANTIN International Airport.

## **VACCINATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

Participants are required to have a valid international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever.

Malaria is endemic in Benin throughout the year. Consequently, malaria prophylaxis, if needed, should start one week before the date of travel to Cotonou and end two weeks after returning from the Republic of Benin.

The national health authorities, in collaboration with WHO, have taken ad hoc measures for on-the-spot provision of medical care to participants in need during the meeting at the Conference Centre and nearby recognized hospitals or clinics. Medical teams and ambulances will be available 24 hours a day.

## **IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES**

CFAF five hundred thousand (CFAF 500 000), the equivalent of approximately one thousand US dollars (US\$1 000), is the maximum amount each foreign traveller is legally authorized to carry out of the country, except travellers who had declared and documented a larger amount on their arrival.

## **CUSTOMS FORMALITIES**

Travellers entering the Republic of Benin usually undergo customs checks and are requested to declare the type of goods they are bringing along with them, including items subject to customs duty. However, delegates to the Sixty-fourth session of the Regional Committee will be provided special assistance for the entry of their working tools. The list of tools to enter the country should be sent in advance to the WHO country office in Benin to enable it to ensure prior clearance.

Assistance will be provided to all participants to facilitate arrival and departure formalities.

## **BAGAGE COLLECTION AND CARRIAGE**

Baggage collection and carriage are normally done by travellers themselves and/or with the assistance of protocol staff dully designated for that purpose by the Organizing Committee. Travellers will receive the needed assistance upon their arrival at the airport until they check in at their hotels. Similar assistance will be provided during their departure from Cotonou.

## **SECURITY**

According to the United Nations system assessment, the security risk level in Cotonou is currently quite acceptable. However, minimum security measures are recommended. Participants are strongly advised to deposit their valuables and money in the safe in their hotel rooms or hand them over to the reception, to refrain from walking alone in the street late in the evening, to avoid hiring taxis or motorbikes and to always carry an identification paper.

## **HOTELS**

The list of the major hotels selected for accommodation of participants is attached to this information bulletin. Participants are requested to reserve their rooms through the RC64 Secretariat.

The contact persons of the RC64 Secretariat are:

- Mrs Marie-Paule RUTABUZWA, [rutabuzwai@who.int](mailto:rutabuzwai@who.int)
- Mr Lionel Nkounkou, [nkounkoul@who.int](mailto:nkounkoul@who.int)
- Mr Andry RAZAKAMANANTSOA, [razakamanantsoaa@who.int](mailto:razakamanantsoaa@who.int)

The contact persons in Benin are:

- Dr Adictoulaye ADEOTHY, [adouke25@yahoo.fr](mailto:adouke25@yahoo.fr)
- Dr Aristide SOSSOU - [soossou@who.int](mailto:soossou@who.int)

## **RESTAURANTS**

The list of restaurants and maquis is attached to this information bulletin.

Assistance will be provided at all the hotels. In case of need, do not hesitate to contact the protocol assistants on your arrival in Benin.

## **CONTACTS**

## **HOSPITALS**

The following hospitals have been selected should there be need for medical evacuation:

1. CNHU HKM: (+229) 95 36 11 03
2. CNHU HKM: (+229) 90 90 30 02
3. DISPENSAIRE NU: (+229) 96 59 80 81

## **MEDICAL SERVICE CONTACT PERSONS**

Professor Martin CHOBLO, telephone: (+229) 95 36 11 01

Dr Liva RAKOTOMAGA, telephone: (+229) 96 59 80 81

Dr Aristide R. SOSSOU, telephone: (+229) 97 60 40 95

Dr Orou YOROU, telephone: (+229) 95 60 48 73

Dr Christian CHAFFA, telephone: (+229) 97 68 69 38

## **SECURITY OFFICERS**

Commissaire Hugues-Alain ADJOVI, telephone: (+229) 97 06 15 57

Mr Sylvain DAVI, telephone: (+229) 96 38 07 50

**RESOURCE PERSONS AT THE WHO COUNTRY OFFICE, COTONOU, BENIN**

Dr Youssouf GAMATIE, WR/Benin, (+229) 21 30 17 53 [gamatiey@who.int](mailto:gamatiey@who.int)  
Dr Raoul SAÏZONOU, MNT/NTD Adviser (+229) 97 08 40 30 [saizonour@who.int](mailto:saizonour@who.int)  
Mr Issaka YODOMA, Operations Officer (+229) 97 97 23 75 [yodomai@who.int](mailto:yodomai@who.int)  
Dr Aristide Roch SOSSOU, IVE Adviser, (+229) 97 60 40 95 [sossoua@who.int](mailto:sossoua@who.int)

**RESOURCE PERSONS AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

Dr Moufalilou ABOUBAKAR, Deputy Director of Cabinet [moufaliloua@yahoo.fr](mailto:moufaliloua@yahoo.fr)  
Dr Evelyne AKINOCHE, Adviser to the Minister of Health  
(+244) 90 91 20 25 [eakinocho@yahoo.fr](mailto:eakinocho@yahoo.fr)  
Mr Justin SOSSOU, Assistant Secretary-General of the  
Ministry of Health [sossoujustinadanmavokin@yahoo.fr](mailto:sossoujustinadanmavokin@yahoo.fr)  
Mr Pascal KORA BATA, Adviser to the Minister of Health [serokbp@yahoo.fr](mailto:serokbp@yahoo.fr)  
Dr ADEOTHY Adicatoulaye, Personal Assistant to the  
Minister of Health [adouke25@yahoo.fr](mailto:adouke25@yahoo.fr)

**LIST OF HOTELS****RC 64 LIST OF IDENTIFIED HOTELS**

Exchange Rate: EUR 1 = CFAF 655.957

Dollar = depends on the current market rate

No.	Hotel	Type of Room	Rate (CFA)	Observations	Breakfast	Credit Card	Safe	Presence of an Automatic Teller Machine
1	<b>BENIN MARINA HOTEL</b> Boulevard de la Marina, 2 minutes from Cotonou Airport, 01 BP 1901, Cotonou - BENIN Tel. (+229) 21 30 01 00/ 21 30 11 55 Email: <a href="mailto:info@benin-marina-hotel.com">info@benin-marina-hotel.com</a>	Ministerial suite	185 000		Including breakfast	Visa, Master Card, American Express	Yes, in the room	- SGBB, - ECOBANK, - American Express, - Master Card
		Bungalow	105 000					
		Standard room	55 000					
2	<b>BENIN AZALAI HOTEL</b> Ganhi Neighbourhood, 5.7 km from Cotonou Airport 05 BP 347 COTONOU-BENIN (+229) 21 30 56 77 ; +(229) 21 31 72 69 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cominterne.benin@azalahotels.com">cominterne.benin@azalahotels.com</a>	Standard room with a view of the sea	75 500	RC negotiated rates	Including breakfast	Visa, Master Card	Yes, in the room	- BOA, - SGBB, - SGBB, - ECOBANK, - Master Card, - Maestro
		Standard room with a view of the city	62 500					
3	<b>ATLANTIC BEACH HOTEL</b> 03 BP 4137 (+229) 21 30 19 39 ; (+229) 21 30 72 00 E-mail: <a href="mailto:beninatlanticbeachotel@yahoo.fr">beninatlanticbeachotel@yahoo.fr</a>	Senior suite	100 000		Including breakfast	Visa, Master Card		
		Junior suite	80 000					
		VIP room	60 000					
		Standard room	40 000					

4	<b>SUN BEACH HOTEL</b> Carrefour du Calvaire, Fidjrosse Neighbourhood 08 BP 1052 (+229) 21 30 26 90 / 97 91 98 59 (+229) 21 30 23 61 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sunbeach.hotel@yahoo.fr">sunbeach.hotel@yahoo.fr</a>	Suite / Triple	70 000	<b>RC negotiated rates</b>	Including breakfast	<b>Visa, Master Card</b>	<b>No</b>	
		Standard room/single	41 000					
5	<b>HOTEL MYOSOTIS</b> BP 2504 COTONOU (+229) 21 31 16 78 (+229) 21 31 17 47 E-mail: <a href="mailto:resamyosotishotel@gmail.com">resamyosotishotel@gmail.com</a>	VIP 2-room apartments	90 150	Possibility of a 10% reduction	Including breakfast	<b>Visa, Master Card</b>	<b>Yes, in the room</b>	<b>- ECOBANK - Master Card - Visa</b>
		2-room apartments	82 500					
		Standard room	77 000					
		Senior one-room apartments	69 000					
6	<b>RESIDENCE LES COCOTIERS</b> (+229) 21 30 66 49 / 21 30 66 36	Standard room	31 000	<b>RC negotiated rates</b>	Including breakfast	<b>Visa</b>		
7	<b>MAISON ROUGE</b> Bld de la Marina - Villas de la CENSAD (LAICO) 1.1 km from Cotonou Airport 08 BP 0847 Benin 01 57 32 32 74 (+229) 21 30 09 01 / 97 97 61 8808 BP 0847 COTONOU – BENIN E-mail: <a href="mailto:contact@maison-rouge-cotonou.com">contact@maison-rouge-cotonou.com</a>	Suite	161 000		Including breakfast	<b>Visa, Master Card</b>	<b>Yes, in the room</b>	
		Suite	151 000					
		Suite	127 000					
		Standard room with a view of the sea	90 000	<b>RC negotiated rates</b>				
8	<b>RESIDENCE CELINES</b> c/1810 Fidjrosse NKpota 03, 2.2 km from the Airport 04 BP 213 - COTONOU-BENIN (+229) 21 30 79 18 (+229) 21 30 79 19 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@residenceceline.com">info@residenceceline.com</a>	F3 Apartment	60 000	<b>RC negotiated rates</b>	Including breakfast	<b>Visa Master Card</b>		
		F4 Apartment	80 000					
		Standard room	50 000					
9	<b>BENIN ROYAL HOTEL</b> 05 BP 640 COTONOU-BENIN (+229) 21 32 79 09 / 97 73 04 03 (+229) 21 32 79 18	Privilege room	59 000					
		Prestige room	71 000					
10	<b>RESIDENCE SEA VIEW</b> (+229) 21 03 16 88 / 96 35 30 35 E-mail: <a href="mailto:benin_seaviewhotel@yahoo.fr">benin_seaviewhotel@yahoo.fr</a>	VIP room	41 000	<b>RC negotiated rates</b>	Including breakfast	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	
		Comfort room	36 000					
11	<b>CHANT D'OISEAU</b> 04 BP 578 COTONOU – BENIN (+229) 21 30 29 30 / 64 41 73 44 (+229) 21 30 99 62 E-mail: <a href="mailto:chantdoiseau@hotmail.com">chantdoiseau@hotmail.com</a>	VIP room	37 000	<b>RC negotiated rates</b>	Including breakfast	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	
		Standard room	20 000					

**LOCATION OF HOTELS ON THE MAP OF COTONOU**



**LIST OF MAQUIS AND RESTAURANTS**

<p><b>MAQUIS DU PORT</b> 1 B.P: 5838, Cotonou, Zone Portuaire, Bd. de France prolongé Tel: (229) 21 31 14 15</p>	<p><b>MAMAN BENIN</b> 2 B.P: 2171, Cotonou ScoaGbéto, C/166, Rue 201 A, Zongo, Cotonou, Benin Tél : (299) 21 32 33 38</p>
<p><b>CHEZ CLARISSE</b> Zone Résidentielle, Lot N° 126, Rue 234 Tel: (229) 21 30 60 14 Fax: (229) 21 30 60 14</p>	<p><b>MAQUIS LE TATA</b> 04 B.P: 497, Cotonou Cadjèhoun, C/ 1189</p>
<p><b>MAQUIS DU MILLENAIRE</b> 04 B.P: 0143 Cotonou Cadjèhoun, Bd. du Canada Cel : (229) 97 77 94 87 / 90 90 85 84</p>	<p><b>RESTAURANT BERLIN</b> 🏠 06 B.P 2535 - COTONOU – BENIN ☎ (229) 21 31 74 78 - 21 31 63 12 📠 (229) 21 31 63 12 ✉ restaurantberlin@yahoo.fr</p>
<p><b>TITANIC BAR</b> 6 B.P: 2535, Cotonou, Xwlacodji, Rue 840 Cel : (229) 95 95 07 08 Fax: (229) 21 33 86 02</p>	<p><b>RESTAURANT CHEZ PAPRI</b> 🏠 03 BP.793 - COTONOU - BENIN ☎ (229) 21 33 41 12 - 90 02 04 20</p>
<p><b>RESTAURANT CASANOVA</b> 🏠 01 B.P 7080 - COTONOU - BENIN ☎ (229) 95 81 74 12</p>	<p><b>RESTAURANT JARDIN DE CHINE</b> 🏠 01 B.P 3133 - COTONOU - BENIN ☎ (229) 21 30 25 21</p>
<p><b>RESTAURANT LE PRIVE</b> 🏠 GANHI TOUR NOTRE DAME - COTONOU - BENIN ☎ (229) 21 31 46 76</p>	<p><b>RESTAURANT SORRENTO</b> 🏠 04 B.P 756 - COTONOU - BENIN ☎ (229) 21 30 37 79 📠 (229) 21 30 37 79</p>
<p><b>RESTAURANT L'ORIENTAL</b> 🏠 06 B.P 2662 - COTONOU - BENIN ☎ (229) 21 30 18 27 - 21 30 78 10</p>	<p><b>INDIANA</b> Cotonou, Bénin Tel. 21 30 03 20 Cuisines : <b>asiatique</b></p>
<p><b>RESTAURANT LA MARIELLE</b> 🏠 02 B.P 360 - COTONOU - BENIN ☎ (229) 21 30 21 93 📠 (229) 21 30 22 77 ✉ restaurant@lamariellegrill.com 🌐 www.lamariellegrill.com</p>	<p><b>MAQUIS LE PILI PILI</b> 🏠 Rue du Révérend Père KittiZongo COTONOU Carré 342 BENIN ☎ (229) 21 31 29 32</p>

<b>TOURIST SITES IN COTONOU AND ITS ENVIRONS</b>	
<p><b>FONDATION ZINSOU (ZINSOU FOUNDATION)</b>            🏠 Quartier Cadjehoun, Cotonou, Bénin            📞 (+229) 21 30 99 25  <a href="http://www.fondationzinsou.org/">http://www.fondationzinsou.org/</a></p>	
<p><b>CENTRE DE PROMOTION DE L'ARTISANAT DE COTONOU VILLAGE ARTISANAL (COTONOU HANDICRAFT PROMOTION CENTRE HANDICRAFT VILLAGE)</b>            🏠 Boulevard Saint Michel COTONOU - BENIN</p>	
<p><b>MARCHE DE DANTOKPA (DANTOKPA MARKET)</b>            🏠 Boulevard Saint Michel COTONOU - BENIN</p>	
<p><b>FIDJROSSE BEACH</b>            🏠 Quartier Fidjrossè</p>	
<p><b>GANVIE VILLAGE LACUSTRE (GANVIE LAKESIDE VILLAGE)</b></p>	
<p><b>CENTRE SONGHAI DE PORTO NOVO (PORTO NOVO SONGHAI CENTRE)</b></p>	
<p><b>MUSEE HISTORIQUE DE PORTO NOVO (PORTO NOVO MUSEUM OF HISTORY)</b></p>	
<p><b>ROUTE DES ESCLAVES OUIDAH (OUIDAH SLAVE ROUTE)</b></p>	
<p><b>PORTE DU NON RETOUR ET DU RETOUR OUIDAH (OUIDAH GATE OF NO RETURN AND RETURN)</b></p>	
<p><b>TEMPLE DES PYTHONS OUIDAH (OUIDAH TEMPLE OF THE PYTHON)</b></p>	
<p><b>FORET SACREE OUIDAH (OUIDAH SACRED FOREST)</b></p>	