

# CITES INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP

Practical information for participants

## 1. Date, location, venue:

**7-10 May 2024**

Boulevard Room B2 & B3 combined  
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre  
Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets  
South Bank, Brisbane  
Queensland Australia

Web site: [Home - Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre \(bcec.com.au\)](http://bcec.com.au)

## 2. Visa information:

Participants will require an entry visa for Australia. All are strongly advised to contact the nearest Australian diplomatic or consular mission as soon as possible to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

All passport holders must apply for an Australian visa before departing for Australia. Information on visa requirements can be found on the web site of the Australian Department of Home Affairs at: [Australian Government Department of Home Affairs](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

Current advice from the Australian Department of Home Affairs is that the most likely visa options for workshop attendees will be:

- **Visitor (subclass 600) Business stream visa**

This stream will most likely be for attendees from the Pacific Islands and Africa. For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/business-visitor-stream>

- **Electronic Travel Authority – ETA (subclass 601)**

This stream will most likely be for attendees from nations such as the USA, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>

- **eVisitor (subclass 651) Business stream visa**

This stream will most likely be for attendees from the EU. For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651>

Please note that this is guidance only. For information on visas to enter Australia, attendees should seek the most up-to-date information from the [Australian Government Department of Home Affairs](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will provide a supporting letter for each visa applicant to confirm the purpose of their visit. Attendees are responsible for confirming that they meet the eligibility requirements for an Australian visa.

Information on the list of relevant Australian diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the web site of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: [Our embassies and consulates overseas | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](https://dfat.gov.au/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas).

### **3. Health requirements:**

The Australian Government does not currently have any COVID-19 requirements in place for travellers entering and departing Australia. COVID-19 however continues to pose a health risk in Australia and overseas. It is suggested that you always carry proof of vaccination while travelling. Caution is required where risk for COVID-19 infection is high, such as in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces or personal risk from COVID-19 is high. Preventive measures such as keeping up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, practicing hand hygiene, and using face masks are strongly advised.

The international travel, health and vaccination requirements and recommendations for travel to Australia can be obtained from the web site of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/australia>

Tap water is safe to drink in Brisbane and throughout Australia. Bottled water is also readily available.

For more information, please consult a medical professional regarding vaccination requirements for your travel.

Please ensure that you have travel insurance.

### **4. Hotel arrangements:**

All participants are requested to make their own hotel arrangements. Please confirm the room rates with the hotel directly.

Hotels close to the venue include:

- a. Mantra South Bank Brisbane
- b. Rydges South Bank Brisbane
- c. Novotel Brisbane South Bank
- d. Ivy & Eve Apartments by Clix.

### **5. Weather and time zone information:**

Temperatures in Brisbane in May are pleasant, with daily temperatures in the mid to high 20°C and overnight lows of around 15°C.

Please bring appropriate clothing for weather, including cool evenings. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at:

<https://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=320>

The standard time zone will be Australian Eastern Standard time (AEST) which is equivalent to GMT/UTC +10 hours.

### **6. Electricity:**

The electrical current in Australia is 220-240 volts, AC 50Hz.

The adapter required for Australia is Type 1 Australia plug.

Australian plugs have a minimum of two flat metal pins, forming an inverted 'V' shape. There may be a third pin in the centre, as shown below.



**7. Currency:**

The currency in Australia is the Australia Dollar (AUD). The current exchange rate as at 26 March 2023 is US \$1 = AUD \$1.53 and €1 = AUD \$1.66.

Currency exchange facilities are available at Brisbane Airport, at banks in major centres (open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm) and at most major hotels.

ATM machines are readily available country wide. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

**8. General safety:**

Brisbane is a safe city. However, as in any metropolitan area, one should be vigilant, remain alert and be conscious of your surroundings when going about your activities. Normal safety precautions should be exercised, such as being alert to your surroundings and securing valuables in the hotel safe.

If you need urgent assistance or to report a crime, you can:

- a. In an emergency, call '000' (triple zero) to be connected to Police, Fire or Ambulance. This number works throughout Australia.
- b. For non-urgent crime or accidents, call Policelink on '131 444'. This number is for Queensland Police only.

**9. Access to the venue:**

Brisbane is serviced by Brisbane Airport (14 kms from the Brisbane city centre). The meeting venue is in Southbank, on the banks of the Brisbane River and close to the city centre.

The distance from the airport to Southbank is about 18 kms and takes approximately 30 minutes in non-peak times.

There are a number of transport options from the airport into Brisbane City:

- a. Airtrain services run every 15 minutes in peak periods and every 30 minutes in off-peak periods. It takes approximately 20 minutes from the airport to Brisbane City. The Airtrain has several stops throughout the city, including at Southbank. Timetables and ticket information can be found at <https://www.airtrain.com.au/>
- b. Taxis are available 24/7 from sheltered ranks outside the Domestic and International Terminals. At the Domestic Terminal, the taxi rank is located centrally in the front of the Terminal building. At the International Terminal, you will find the cab rank in front of the Terminal on the Level 2 Arrivals Road, through the doors and out to the left.

Brisbane has two taxi companies:  
13cabs: 13 22 27  
Black & White Cabs: 133 222

A one-way trip to Brisbane City from the airport is estimated at AU\$45-55 and will take approximately 20 minutes outside of peak periods.

- c. Rideshare and shuttle bus options are also available; more information is available at <https://www.bne.com.au/passenger/to-and-from/transport-options>

**10. Workshop registration and badges:**

Workshop registration starts on **Tuesday 7 May at 8.00am**. You will receive your workshop badges in the foyer outside Boulevard Rooms B2/B3. Please bring your passport and priority pass for workshop registration.

**11. Sponsored participants (payment of daily subsistence allowance):**

The DSA will be disbursed to sponsored participants on Tuesday 7 May 2024 in the form of a bank transfer. In addition to their passport for registration, these participants are kindly requested to bring their boarding passes which will be copied and immediately returned to participants. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they receive their DSA bank transfer.

**12. Workshop start and end timings:**

The workshop starts on Tuesday 7 May at 9.00 am (please note that registration will be at 08.00 am). From Wednesday 8 May to Friday 10 May, the workshop will commence at 9.00 am. The workshop closes on Friday 10 May at 5.00 pm.

**13. WIFI access:**

Wifi is accessible throughout the venue.

**14. Catering:**

Tea and coffee are provided throughout the day by the entrance to the meeting room (Boulevard Rooms B2/B3). Fresh water is available at dispenser stations – please bring your own bottle with you! Tap water in Australia is also safe to drink.

Additional catering (at the participants own cost) is available at the venue as follows (<https://www.bcec.com.au/visit/cafes-restaurants/>)

- Olio (Main Cafeteria)
- Merivales (Delegates Dining Room).

**15. Relevant contacts:**

UNEP-WCMC: [pauline.julou@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:pauline.julou@unep-wcmc.org) (please cc [species@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:species@unep-wcmc.org))

**16. Disclaimer:**

The CITES Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.