



Global Research Council Africa Regional Meeting

16 – 17 November 2015

Strand Hotel, Swakopmund, Namibia

Logistical Information Brief

Arrival Notice Shuttle Services

For all funded participants who will be arriving at the Walvis Bay Airport, Namibia, a shuttle service has been organised to take you to the Strand Hotel, Swakopmund. Ms Maxie Westhuizen is responsible for reservations at +264 811 260 447; mvdwesthuizen@ncrst.na. A shuttle driver will be waiting at the arrivals hall holding a placard with the name of the Meeting (i.e. GRC African Meeting).

In cases of flight delays and cancellations, please don't hesitate to contact the NCRST staff: **Ms Maxie Westhuizen (+264 811 260 447), Ms Mwangala Nalisa (+264 812 931 584).**

About the venue

The meeting will be held at Strand Hotel, Swakopmund: Physical address: Molen Weg, on the Mole, Swakopmund, Namibia. The hotel is uniquely located on the iconic and historic Swakopmund Mole and surrounded on three sides by the Southern Atlantic Ocean. See map on the following link <http://www.strandhotelswakopmund.com/directions.html>

Accommodation and meals

Rooms have been reserved (on full board) for all sponsored participants at the Strand Hotel, from 15 to 17 November 2015 for delegates attending the GRC meeting and 15 to 19 November for delegates attending the GRC and Science Granting Council meeting.

- All participants funded by NCRST, DFG and NRF, kindly confirm your travel dates with Ms Maxie Westhuizen (Email: mvdwesthuizen@ncrst.na).
- All funded delegates should be in contact with their sponsor for travel arrangements.
- Accommodation payments will be made directly to the hotel.

Travel

By air: You can fly directly to Walvis Bay Airport or alternatively, Air Namibia has several flights a week between Windhoek's Eros Airport and Walvis Bay, from where you can easily catch a bus or taxi to Swakopmund. The organisers will have regular scheduled shuttles from Walvis Bay airport to hotels for your convenience.

By road: There are several weekly buses between Windhoek and Swakopmund (around N\$230, five hours) on the Intercape Mainliner. You can easily book your tickets in advance online. Also consider Town Hopper, which runs private shuttle buses between Windhoek and Swakopmund (N\$270), and also offers door-to-door pick-up and drop-off service.

Entry Visa to Namibia

Participants must be in possession of a passport valid for at least 6 months. Most travellers will need Visas to enter Namibia. Please check with the Namibian Embassy in your respective country whether you need a visa to enter the country and apply accordingly in advance.

Security

The Hotel management will provide a 24 hour general perimeter security. You are, however, advised to observe general security measures such as asking for a safe at the hotel to lock away valuables during the day while out of your rooms if one has not been provided already. Do not leave your handbags, phones, laptops or any items of value anywhere unattended. Please ensure that you have your identification with you at all times and produce it on request by the law enforcement personnel. Most visits to Namibia are trouble-free, however, participants should take precautions such as keeping valuable possessions out of sight, to avoid crimes such as mugging.

Banks and Currency

Vendors in Namibia only use local currency, the Namibian dollar (N\$) and South African Rand (ZAR). Hence, for the purchase of incidentals, you are advised to change your currency to N\$ or ZAR. If you need to change money, please either change in the arrivals lounge at the Airport, at the bank or at the hotel. For the currency exchange rates, please check online at <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>. Banks are open from Monday to Saturday, from 08:30 to 15:30 during weekdays and 8h30 -11h30 on Saturday.

Electricity Requirements

The Namibian electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 Hz. Limited electrical adapters are available on request at the reception but it is advisable for participants to bring their own universal plugs.

Climate

Surrounded by the Namib Desert on three sides and the cold Atlantic waters to the west, Swakopmund enjoys a mild desert climate. The average temperature ranges between 15°C (59°F) to 25°C (77°F). Rainfall is less than 20 mm per year, making gutters and drainpipes on buildings a rarity. The cold Benguela current supplies moisture for the area in the form of fog that can reach as deep as 140 km (87 mi) inland. Fogs that originate offshore from the collision of the cold Benguela Current and warm air from the Hadley Cell create a fog belt that frequently envelopes parts of the Namib desert. Coastal regions can experience more than 180 days of thick fog a year.

Health Formalities

The government of Namibia *requires* proof of yellow fever vaccination **only** if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. This does **not** include the US. If you are traveling from a country other than the US, check this list to see if you may be required to get the yellow fever vaccine: [Countries with risk of yellow fever virus \(YFV\) transmission](#).

For more information on recommendations and requirements, see [yellow fever recommendations and requirements for Namibia](#). Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans. Please see following link for more details <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/namibia>