

24th Conference

of

The Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC24)

in

Paramaribo, Suriname

between

Tuesday 12 December and Friday 15 December 2023



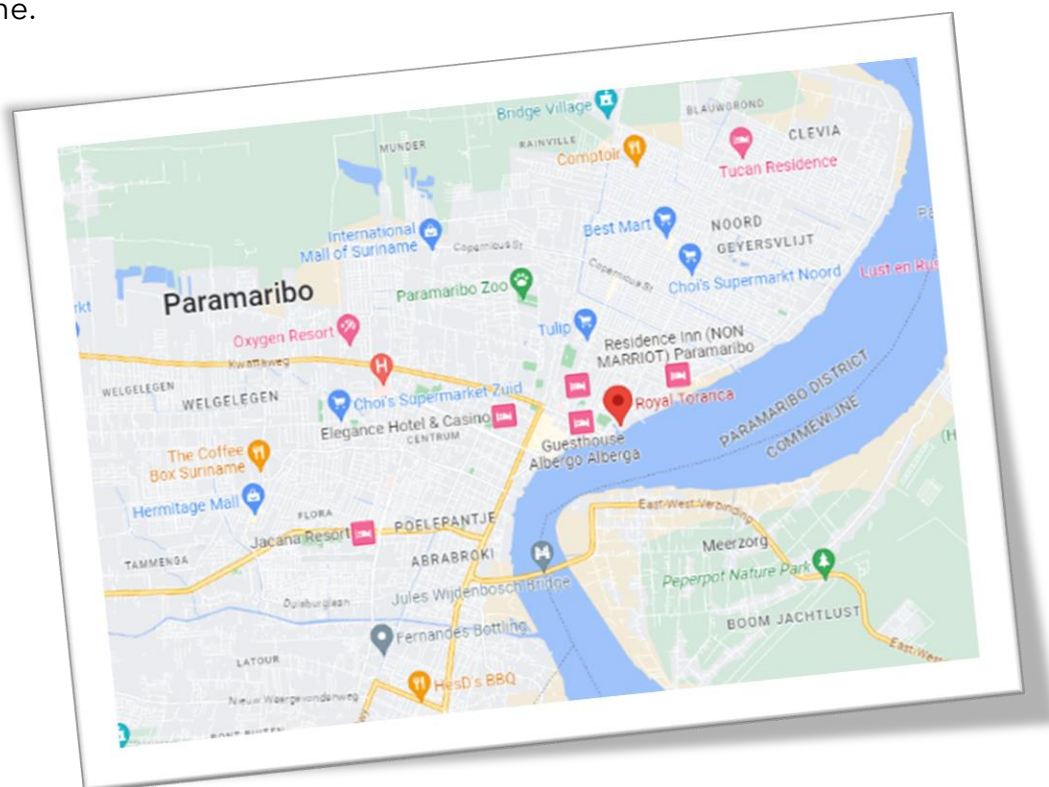
LOGISTICS INFORMATION



Date Amended: **21 September 23**

1. CONFERENCE VENUE:

The MACHC24 Conference will be taking place at **The Torarica Resort** in Paramaribo, Suriname.



The full address of the venue is:

The Torarica Resort
Mr. L.J Rietbergplein 1
Paramaribo
Suriname

[Exclusive, luxurious and prestigious hotel in Paramaribo | Royal Torarica Torarica Resort](#)

The hotel is located in the heart of Paramaribo's entertainment centre and is opposite the popular Cafe 't Vat, which is where you can enjoy the typical Surinamese ambience! The famous Paramaribo waterfront and historic centres are both listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and are located just a 10-minute walk away.

2. ACCOMMODATION:

The MACHC24 participants are recommended to stay in the same venue, Torarica Resort, as the meeting to promote networking (see details above). There are three hotels within the Torarica Group and you can stay in any. The hotels are: Torarica Resort; Royal Torarica (same location as Torarica Resort); or the Eco Torarica (2 minutes' walk from Torarica Resort).

Reservations can only be obtained by downloading, saving and then completing the Room Registration form in the link below. Once complete, please email your completed form to corporate@torarica.com and copy in dlecouvreur@mas.sr ; this is to be done by 1800 on Saturday 30 September at the very latest.

 [Room Registration form MAS 2023.pdf](#)

The hotel rate includes 1 breakfast voucher per room per day, as well as lunch. For guests that choose to stay at Eco Torarica, breakfast will be available in Torarica Resort (2 minutes' walk).

Participants must ensure that they make their hotel reservation by Saturday, 30 September 2023 at 1800 hours to receive the special rate. After that cut-off date the hotel may not be able to guarantee the special rate for MACHC24 participants.

The Torarica Resort has many amenities, these include:

- A swimming pool
- Saunas, Bubble Baths, Massage Rooms, Hair & Beauty Salons
- A Gym
- 2 tennis courts
- A volleyball court.
- A helipad
- Free high-speed internet in all areas
- Modern meeting rooms
- A cosy tropical garden
- A restaurant that serves international cuisine



3. **TRANSPORTATION:**

Getting to Suriname:

Airlines/Flights: Several airlines operate in and out of Suriname, these include:

Surinam Airways (SLM), the national airline, flies to Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), Aruba, Curacao, Georgetown (Guyana), and Belem (Brazil), where connections can be made with other airlines. SLM also flies to Miami via Aruba or Georgetown, Guyana. Fly Always, a local airline, offers flights to Curacao and the Dominican Republic.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and SLM also provide non-stop service between Amsterdam (the Netherlands) and Paramaribo.

American Airlines began direct flights in September 2021, with five flights a week from Miami to Paramaribo.

Panamanian COPA offers flights between Paramaribo to Panama City.

Caribbean Airlines also services Suriname from the United States via Trinidad and Tobago.

Gum Air and Blue Wing Airlines also offer service between Paramaribo and Georgetown; however, **private travel on Blue Wing Airlines is discouraged for safety reasons**. Official travel for U.S. Government personnel is prohibited.

Getting to the Hotel:

The Torarica Resort is approximately 1 hour 20 minutes from Paramaribo International Airport, however timings can vary depending on the traffic and road conditions.

The Hotel offers a bus transportation service to and from the airport for a fee. If you wish to use this service, please inform the reservations team when you book your room.

It is **strongly** recommended that you arrange a meet & greet service upon your arrival to Paramaribo Airport and that you use a trusted chauffeur or taxi service (such as the hotel's bus), rather than public transport wherever possible.

Taxis and Public Transportation:

Taxis are available at major hotels. However, if you hail a taxi on the street the likelihood is that you will be overcharged.

It is recommended to agree the taxi fare prior to departure.

Avoid using public minibuses.

Cars and Road Safety:

Traffic drives on the left in Suriname.

If you wish to drive, you must have an International Driving Permit. You will also need to obtain a local drivers' permit, you can obtain this in Paramaribo at the Head Office of the Surinamese Postal Service (payment will be required).

Road safety and conditions can vary greatly throughout Suriname. In Paramaribo, most roads are paved, however they do not have sidewalks forcing pedestrians and bicycles to share the road with motor vehicles.

Driving conditions may be hazardous during the rainy season (May to August and November to February).

4. **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:**

Dutch is the official language of Suriname, but almost all business contacts in the capital speak English as well. Other languages spoken include Sranan Tongo, Hindi, and Javanese.

5. **TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION:**

Passports:

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months.

Visas:

Business and non-tourism visitors require an e-visa to enter Suriname.

Visas for Suriname and the entry fee payment are only available via the official [website](#).

If you require a personalised invitation letter for the Visa application process and/or your internal national administrative purposes, please contact:

Mrs Daphne le Couvreur on dlecouvreur@mas.sr or +597 476733 on extension 239

6. **CURRENCY:**

The local currency in Suriname is the Surinamese Dollar (SRD); however, The U.S. dollar and the Euro are widely accepted. Use of credit or debit cards is generally limited to hotels and select businesses. DSB and Republic Bank ATMs also provide access to U.S. ATM networks.

7. **WEATHER:**

The month of December in Paramaribo is within its rainy season, and you will likely experience a mixture of rain and sunny spells.

Daily high temperatures are around 28°C.

Daily low temperatures are around 25°C, rarely falling below 23°C.

8. HEALTH:

Emergency Numbers

Dial 115 in all emergency situations (medical, police & fire).

Medical facilities and Insurance

Healthcare in Paramaribo is limited. **There is currently only one 24/7 medical facility, this is the Academisch Ziekenhuis in Paramaribo.**

Doctors and hospitals expect immediate cash payment for access to health services. This is payable in U.S. dollars or in the form of proof of adequate Travel Insurance.

You will likely need medical evacuation in case of serious illness or injury. Please ensure that your travel insurance includes coverage for medical evacuation and hospital stays.

Business travellers should consult their health insurance company for information about reimbursement of medical expenses incurred and, if advisable, obtain traveller's insurance. Airlines may require travellers to prove they have been vaccinated for yellow fever prior to travel.

Reliable Pharmaceutical services and supplies may be difficult to access in many areas. Drug counterfeiting is a significant risk therefore only use a reputable pharmacy that has been recommended by the hotel/host.

Where possible visitors should ensure that they bring enough of their own medication with them to last their entire trip. Visitors should always carry with them a copy of their prescriptions.

Health Risks and Infectious Diseases

Mosquitos are a concern and Paramaribo is classified as having a risk of Zika virus, Dengue, Chikungunya and Yellow Fever.

Proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is required upon check-in to hotels. This must be done at least 10 days before arrival to ensure validity and passing of any side effects. Please refer to Vaccination Information section below for further information.

Malaria is not present in Paramaribo but does appear in some parts of the interior. Anti-malarial prophylactics are highly recommended for overnight trips to certain sections of the interior. **Mosquitos are particularly present during the rainy season (May to August & November to February).** Please familiarise yourselves with the symptoms of the above diseases and take steps to avoid being bitten, eg, covering body, insect repellent.

Alongside the above, **Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, and Schistosomiasis** are also of particular risk in Suriname, and you must ensure that your vaccinations are up to date for these.

Vaccination Information - Important

For further information on the vaccination requirements/recommendations for entry to Suriname please visit the below websites:

https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/213/suriname#Vaccine_recommendations

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/suriname/entry-requirements>

9. **TOURIST INFORMATION:**

Suriname as a country is a real treasure. It is a rainforest that is part of the Amazon; 93% of the surface of Suriname is covered with jungle and we want to keep it that way.



Everyone is invited to come to Suriname and enjoy a holiday, but with the utmost respect for its nature and people.

Paramaribo is the capital of Suriname, with a population of 240,000 people. Most people that visit Suriname start off with a hotel stay in Paramaribo. Various hotels and resorts will welcome you with open arms. And there you will start your first taste of Suriname culture.

10. **INTERNET:**

The Torarica Resort has internet. Outside the hotel, internet access is possible via DSL, smart phone internet, and Wi-Fi internet connection. Telesur and ParboNet, a private company, provide wireless Wi-Fi connections, but the latter is expensive and can take up to a week to set up. Most hotels provide Wi-Fi connections for their guests.

11. **POWER:**

The standard voltage is 110 / 220 V and the frequency is 60Hz.

In Suriname the power plug sockets are of type A, B, C and F.



Type A: This socket has no alternative plugs



Type B: This socket also works with plug A



Type C: This socket also works with plug E and F



Type F: This socket also works with plug C and E

12. MACHC24 KEY CONTACTS:

If you have any further questions on travelling to the beautiful Suriname, please contact:

Mrs Daphne le Couvreur on dlecouvreur@mas.sr

or

Mrs Bernice Mahabier on bmahabier@mas.sr

If you have any questions regarding the organisation of MACHC24, please contact the MACHC Secretary:

Mrs Natalie Clatworthy-Cox on Natalie.clatworthy-cox@ukho.gov.uk