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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE GAMBIA FOR THE DONOR CONFERENCE

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**JUDICIAL SECRETARY**

**18/10/2021**

This document contained basic information about the Gambia. This document will enable visitors to understand The Gambia environment in order to ease their daily routine and transactions while in The Gambia. The document will equally assist visitors and guide them through some basic information they need to know about The Gambia during their stay. Basic information like electricity voltage, local language, hotels, temperature and climate change, etc. These are basic information our visitors should know, particularly the OIC conference Hall where the event will be hosted.

## **COUNTRY SIZE, LOCATION AND POPULATION**

The Gambia is the smallest Country in West Africa with its capital city in Banjul. It has an area of 11, 295 square kilometres and has a short coastline on the Atlantic Ocean but is otherwise completely surrounded by Senegal.

The Gambia is commonly known as the smiling coast of Africa and is mainly flat and low-lying strip of land bisected by the river Gambia. It has rocky hills to the east and many sandy beaches along the coast.

According to World Population Review, the population of The Gambia is about 2,466,593 million as of 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021.

## **CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATE**

The official currency of the Republic of The Gambia is the **Gambian Dalasi (GMD)**, which is subdivided into 100 bututs. The Gambia currency (the dalasis) was first adopted in 1971, when it replaced the British pound sterling.

### **Official exchange rate**

| <b>Currency</b>        | <b>Rate</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|
| US Dollar              | 51.21       |
| EUR                    | 60.15       |
| GBP                    | 70.00       |
| SWISS FRANC            | 54.22       |
| CFA FRANC (5000)       | 529.98      |
| SWEDISH KRONER (100)   | 438.51      |
| NORWEGIAN KRONER (100) | 532.46      |
| DANISH KRONER (100)    | 772.67      |
| WAUA                   | 73.42       |

**Please peruse the official website of Central Bank of The Gambia for current official rates**

[www.cbg.gm](http://www.cbg.gm)

### **ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND LANGUAGE**

English is the official language of The Gambia but French is spoken quite widely. In addition, some staff in hotels, restaurants and excursion agencies speaks other languages as well including German, Italian, Dutch, French and the Scandinavian languages. There is religious diversity and tolerance in The Gambia. In addition, Islam and Christianity has remained the most common practice faith in The Gambia.

The Gambia is one of the most religious tolerant and peaceful nations in the world. Indeed, most people are inter-related, regardless of their religious backgrounds; it is not uncommon to find Muslims and Christians married to each other, or closely connected. Religious days and feasts- both Christians and Muslims are celebrated nationally. This has been the case since time immemorial, and continues today. Muslims account for 85% of the population. The other 15% is comprised of Christians and practitioners of other African tradition religious.

Approximately, there are 8 tribes in the Gambia namely;

- Mandinka
- Wolof
- Fula
- Jola
- Serahule
- Aku
- Manjago
- Serere

### **ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**

Tourism is a major industry in The Gambia. Aside from the tourist industry, the country also has other industries such as agriculture, agro processing, fisheries, livestock and manufacturing.

## **CLIMATE**

The Gambia lies within the tropical sub-humid eco-climatic zone with rainfall range between 800 and 1200mm annually. The climate is characterised by two seasons, wet season (between June and October) and a dry season (between November to April). The dry season is a 6-7 months of no rains. During the dry season, the climate is dominated by dry and dust-laden winds blows from the Sahara Desert in the northeast. These north-easterly winds are locally known as 'Harmattan'. The early part of the dry season November through February is generally cooler with minimum temperature of less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit common occurrence.

## **TEMPERATURE RANGES**

The average temperatures in The Gambia range from 18 to 28 degrees Celsius (65 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit) in January to 23 to 36 degrees Celsius (75 to 97 degrees Fahrenheit) in June. Higher temperatures are recorded as one travels east with mean maximum in summer months reaching 43 degrees Celsius around Basse Santo Su. Highest temperature ever recorded in the Gambia was 45 degrees Celsius (113 degree Fahrenheit) and the lowest temperature recorded was 9 degree Celsius (48 degrees Fahrenheit).

Temperature in Banjul and Kombo are moderated by Atlantic Ocean with less seasonal and daily variability in daytime temperature. In an average year temperatures exceed 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) for only 34 days in Banjul compared to 112 days in Basse Santo su. During the Harmattan season, (December through March) temperatures fall below 18 degrees Celsius (65 degrees Fahrenheit) for no more than 10 in Basse Santo Su compared to 56 days in Banjul and Kombo.

Climate change and the fluctuation of the weather have devastating effect on human and natural resources. However, during the raining season, agricultural activities such as farming usually benefit from the raining season due to the heavy down pour which is a boost to the growth of farm products.

## **ELECTRICITY VOLTAGE**

The standard electricity voltage in the Gambia is 230 Volts and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Gambia if your country's standard voltage is between 220-

240 Volts (as in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). Manufacturers take these small deviations into account. If the standard voltage in your country is in the range of 100 V-127 V (as in the US, Canada and most South American countries), you can also consider a combined power plug adapter/voltage converter.

It is not advisable to use your appliances if the frequency in the Gambia (50 Hz) differs with that of your country. Be careful with moving, rotating with time related appliances like clocks, shaver or electric fan heaters. Check the label on the appliance because some appliances never need a converter. If the label states 'INPUTS: 100-240V, 50/60Hz' the appliance can be used in all countries in the world; this is common for chargers of tablets/laptops, photo cameras, cell phones, toothbrushes, etc

### **MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICE**

Kindly be informed that there is availability of medical service at the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital in Banjul and within the Senegambia area ( the location of the conference)

**For emergency purpose, you may contact the following numbers;**

**Name:**

**Hospital:**

**Number:**

**Name:**

**Hospital:**

**Number:**

### **GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR MOBILE COMMUNICATION (GSM) OPERATORS**

The Gambia has four (4) GSM operators, namely:

1. Gamcel
2. Comium

3. Africell
4. Qcell

Gamcel is the only national GSM Company and the rest are privately owned entities. The Headquarters of most of these GSM companies are located around Kairaba Avenue. Guests are at liberty to make use of their services.

### **LOCAL LANGUAGES**

The most spoken local languages within Banjul and Kanifing Municipality are basically Wollof, Mandinka and Fula. However, other languages are mainly common in other Regions of the country.

The common way of greeting in the Gambia is "Assalaamu Alaykum", which is an Arabic word meaning "peace be with you". The reply is "Wa Alaykum Salaam", which is also an Arabic meaning "and peace be upon you"

Few basic words in Wollof and Mandinka are highlighted below

| <b>ENGLISH</b>      | <b>WOLLOF</b>  | <b>MANDINKA</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Farewell            | Be Benen Yon   | Foo Watido      |
| Good morning        | Naka Subasi    | Esama           |
| Good afternoon      | Naka bechek bi | Etinyang        |
| Good evening        | Naka ngonsi    | Ewulara         |
| Good night          | Fanan Jamma    | Sutoyediya      |
| How are you?        | Naka nga deff  | Koritenante     |
| How is it?          | Nakam          | Kairabe         |
| I am fine           | Mang fi rek    | Tenante         |
| How is your family? | Naka wakerr gi | Sumoo lee       |
| They are fine       | Nyunchi jamma  | Sumolu Kontou   |
| What is your name?  | Nakaga tuda?   | Etondi?         |

|                          |                       |                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| My name is Modou         | Sama Tur Modou La     | Nto mu Modou le ti  |
| Where are you going to?  | Foi dem?              | Eka ta minto le?    |
| Where do you come from?  | Fan ngajogey?         | Ebata minto le?     |
| I come from Banjul.      | Mangeyjogey Banjul    | Nbota Banjul le     |
| I am going to the beach. | Mangey demsi beach bi | nkataa beach joo to |
| No                       | Dedet                 | Hani                |
| Yes                      | Waaw                  | Ha                  |
| Thank you                | Jerejeff              | Abaraka             |

## **HOTELS**

### **1. SENEGAMBIA BEACH HOTEL**

#### **Contact Address:**

Mr. Adama Ndure

Front Office Manager

The Senegambia Beach Hotel

Kololi/P.O.Box 2373/ Serekunda/ The Gambia

Superior Room: <http://gm.woow360.com/hotels/kololi/senegambia-hotel-superior-standard-rooms-p-2999.html>

Deluxe: <http://gm.woow360.com/hotels/kololi/Senegambia-hotel-deluxe-suites-p-3000.html>

Tel : +2203438747

Tel: +2202298450

## **2. COCO OCEAN RESORT AND SPA**

The Coco Ocean Resort and SPA is an excellent choice for its proximity to the Conference Centre. The hotel guest rooms offer a flat screen TV, a minibar, and air conditioning, and Coco Ocean Hotel makes getting online easy as free Wi-Fi is available. The hotel also offers concierge and room service. In addition, guests can enjoy a pool and free breakfast during their visit. There are a range of Room type at the Coco Ocean Junior, deluxe, superior, junior penthouse, senior penthouse, Royal penthouse, Royal Suite, Beach Club Villa Partial Sea View, Beach Club Villa Sea Facing, Beach House and President Villa. The corporate rates range from £154 to £1,900 per person. The Euro rates are converted to local currency at the time of billing. Rates include full a la carte breakfast. The average Rates for a Standard Room is GMD 5,011- GMD 10,942.

### **Contact Address:**

Bijilo, West Coast Region, The Gambia

Further enquiries please contact:

Mr. Babucarr Camara

+2207479102/+220710004

Email: [frontoffice@cococean.com](mailto:frontoffice@cococean.com)

Website: [www.cococeanresort.com](http://www.cococeanresort.com)

## **3. BAOBAB HOLIDAY RESORT**

Baobab Holiday Resort (Gambia, Bijilo) formally known as Baobab Lodge, the place is on the edge of the Kombo Coastal road in Bijilo. At Baobab there are 12 bungalow apartments with own shower rooms & WC as well as a small kitchenette for self-catering. There is also a Double bed, seating area, ceiling fans, A/C (Air Conditioning) in 6 rooms, cable satellite TV, room cleaning. Accommodation is D1, 800 per Night per person.

### **Contact Address:**

Bijilo

The Gambia, West Africa.

Tel: +2207327336/+2207721033

Email: [baobabbookings@hotmail.com](mailto:baobabbookings@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.baobabresort.net](http://www.baobabresort.net)

P.O Box 2997 Serekunda.

#### **4. BIJLO INN**

**BIJLO GUEST HOUSE THE GAMBIA** is located in Banjul. The property has a garden and free private parking. The vacation home comes with 4 bedrooms 6 bathrooms a fat-screen TV with satellite channels a dining area a fully equipped kitchen and a patio with garden views. The vacation home provides a terrace. The room rates range from D1000 to D1500 per room.

#### **Contact Person:**

Ms.Ya Ellen

Tel: +2207841132

#### **5 KAIRABA BEACH HOTEL**

#### **Contact Person**

Bakary Cham

Tel: 7088801

Email: [info@kairabahotel.com](mailto:info@kairabahotel.com)

#### **6. TAMALA RECEPTION**

#### **Contacts:**

Email :[info@tamalaresort.com](mailto:info@tamalaresort.com)

Tel: +2202096512

Tel : +2207327777

## **7. AFRICAN PRINCESS**

### **Contact Address:**

Bakery Njie

Front Office Manager

Email : [reservations@africanprincesshotel.com](mailto:reservations@africanprincesshotel.com)

Website: [www.africanprincesshotel.com](http://www.africanprincesshotel.com)

Tel : +2207495003

Tel: 3678325

Telephone: +2204462426

## **8. BAMBOO VILLAGE RESORT**

### **Contact Address:**

Website: [www.bamboovillage.gm/webmail](http://www.bamboovillage.gm/webmail)

Email: [info@bamboovillage.gm](mailto:info@bamboovillage.gm)

Tel: +2204466540/ +2204466542/

Tel: +2204466543

## **VENUE OF THE DONOR CONFERENCE**

The venue for the donor conference is Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center also called the OIC conference. The Conference Center is located around Senegambia. It has a plenary Hall with a capacity of 1,031 persons on 2 floors with other facilities. It has 4 thematic meeting rooms with 180 seats each, 11 bilateral meeting rooms with 32 seats each, 10 office space, 4 press rooms with 53 seats each, 32 translations rooms, 5 lounges and a Banquet Facility.

### **Kindly Note that:**

- Smoking is only permitted outside the building near the flowers.
- Tea and lunch break is served at the Banquet Hall located at the ground floor.

- The room for the donor conference is **thematic conference room 1 & 2** located at the ground floor of the OIC Conference Center.
- For further Information on how to locate various places within the OIC conference can be obtained in the map sketch attached at the last two pages of this document.

We kindly urge you to peruse our map sketch (zoning) attached at the last two pages of this document for direction and location of specific areas within the OIC Conference Hall particularly the Banquet Hall, Thematic Conference Room 1 & 2, toilets and etc.

For further information, please contact:

The Gambia OIC Secretariat,

Office of The President,

Petroleum House, Brusubi.

TEL: +220441-0793

TEL: +220441-0794

EMAIL: [Info@oicgambia.org](mailto:Info@oicgambia.org)

**DONOR CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT JUDICIARY**

Email: [infodonorconference@judiciary.gov.gm](mailto:infodonorconference@judiciary.gov.gm)

Judiciary website- [www.judiciary.gov.gm](http://www.judiciary.gov.gm)

Omar Jammeh

Protocol

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7981794

Njammeh J. Jallow

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Judiciary

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Muhammed Ndure

Legal Reasearcher

Judiciary

7130149

Awa A. Cham

Intern

Judiciary

3480008/2896625

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4. Country Reports, " *Gambia, The Geography*" available at <https://www.counntryreports.org/country/thegambia/geography.htm>
5. The Gambia OIC Secretariat, " *Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center*" available at <https://www.oicgambia.org>