



## **2018 Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)**

### **Asia Regional Nodes Meeting**

17- 18 September 2018

Kathmandu, Nepal

#### **1. VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION**

The meeting on 17 September 2018 will take place at ICIMOD. For participants coming from outside Kathmandu, accommodation has been arranged at the **Hotel Greenwich Village** for the duration of the meeting. Contact details and the location map of the hotel are as follows:

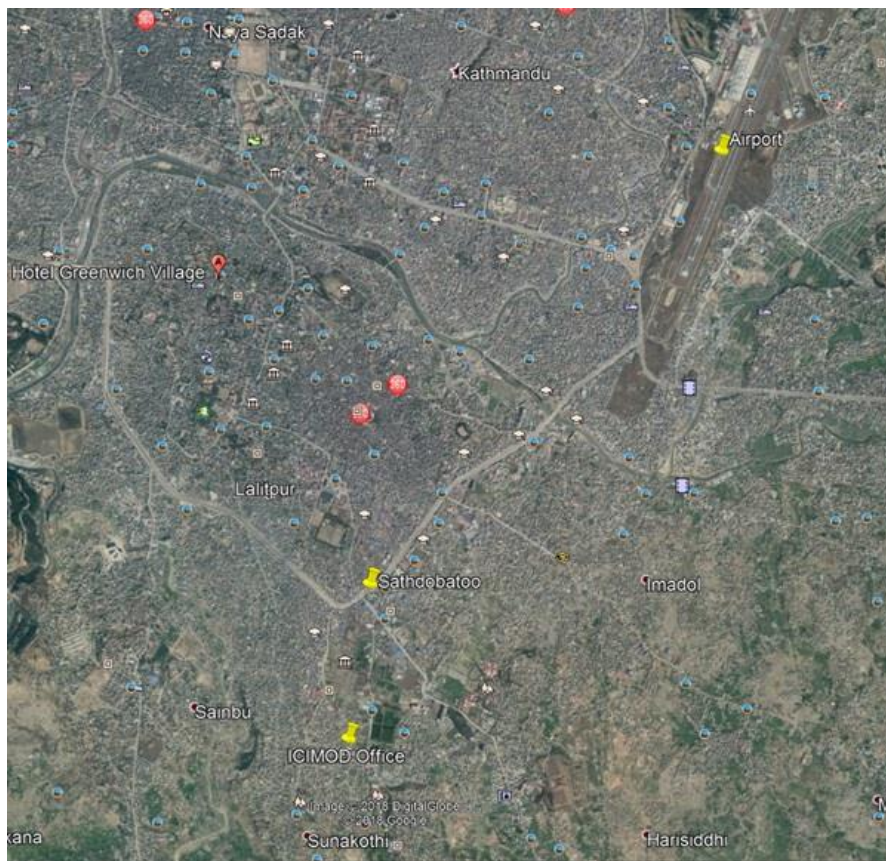
##### **Hotel Greenwich Village**

Kupondole, Kathmandu

Telephone: (977-1) 5521780, 5522399

Email: [hotel@greenwichnepal.com](mailto:hotel@greenwichnepal.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/greenwichvillagehotel/>





The organizer will shoulder the cost of food and accommodation for the duration of the meeting. Participants will need to settle the cost of any personal expenses (i.e. telephone bills, mini-bar, additional meals, laundry, etc.) directly with the hotel. Should participants wish to extend their stay in the hotel, expenses will be at their own cost.

## 2. TRANSPORTATION

There will be an airport pick up by the Hotel. Participants with the same arrival time are group picked up from the Tribhuvan International Airport to Hotel Greenwich Village.

*Please note that local transportation (from point of origin to airport) and visa expenses will not be reimbursed.*

## 3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING

### Venue and Registration.

- Registration will take place at **9:00 am** outside the **main hall** of the new building at ICIMOD.

### Working language and Dress code/attire.

- The working language of the meeting will be in **English**. Participants are requested to wear **formal smart casual attire** for the meeting.

## 4. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Time

- Nepal Time (NPT) is 5:45 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

### About Kathmandu

Kathmandu is the capital city of Nepal. It is the largest metropolis in Nepal, with a population of nearly 5 million across the Kathmandu Valley. The city stands at an elevation of approximately 1,400 metres (4,600 feet) above sea level. The valley is historically termed as "Nepal Mandala" and has been the home of Newar culture, a cosmopolitan urban civilization in the Himalayan foothills. The city was the royal capital of the Kingdom of Nepal and hosts palaces, mansions and gardens of the Nepalese aristocracy.

Kathmandu is and has been for many years the centre of Nepal's history, art, culture and economy. It has a multiethnic population within a Hindu and Buddhist majority. Religious and cultural festivities form a major part of the lives of people residing in Kathmandu. Tourism is an important part of the economy as the city is the gateway to the Nepalese Himalayas. It is home of seven world heritage sites



which include Durbar Squares of Hanuman Dhoka, Patan and Bhaktapur, Stupas of Swayambhunath and Baudhanath and temple of Pashupati and Changu Narayan.

### Climate

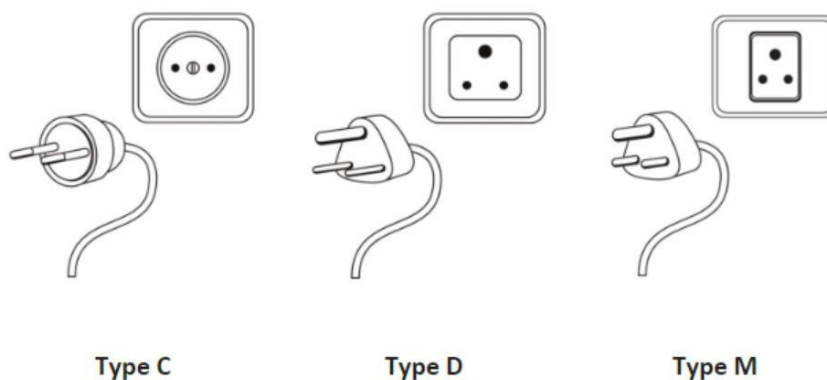
Kathmandu Valley is in the *Warm Temperate Zone* (elevation ranging from 1,200 to 2,300 metres), where the climate is fairly temperat. The average summer temperature varies from 28 to 30 °C (82 to 86 °F). The average winter temperature is 10.1 °C (50.2 °F). June to August is the typical monsoon season which records about 65% of the total rainfall in Kathmandu. Mid-September is the end of the monsoon season. Yet, some light rainfall (for few hours) can be expected. Normally, temperature remains at the range of 20-28 °C. Carrying light summer dresses and an umbrella is advised.

### Currency

The Nepalese rupee is the official currency of Nepal. The exchange rate of 1US\$ is equivalent to approximately 110 (as of August, 2018). Currency exchanges are available at the airport, hotel and banks. US dollar is also accepted at Hotel Greenwich Village.

### Electricity

For Nepal there are three associated plug types, types C, D and M. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins, plug type D is the plug which has three round pins in a triangular pattern and plug type M has three round pins. Nepal operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.



### Telephone Services

Nepal Telecom (Namaste) and Ncell are two network operators in Kathmandu. SIM cards are available at the airports and lots of shops in town. You will need an unlocked GSM 900-compatible phone to use local Nepali networks. Unlike using a landline, you need to dial the local area code when making a local call on a mobile.



## 5. PLACES FOR SITE SEEING ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

### ICIMOD Knowledge Park

The ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari, on the southern slopes of the Kathmandu Valley, was set up in March 1993, following the generous provision of 30 hectares of land by Government of Nepal in November 1992. The site was originally named the ‘Godavari Trial and Demonstration Site’, and was intended for testing and demonstration of various methodologies related to integrated mountain development and sustainable farming practices on the sloping land of the mid-hills of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. The site provides a practical pendant to the often more theoretical activities of the Centre – a place where different technologies and farming and other practices useful for sustainable development can be tested, selected, and demonstrated; where farmers and those who work with them can be trained; and which can serve as a repository for plant germplasm resources and associated floral and faunal biodiversity.

At the time it was handed over, a large part of the site was heavily degraded and the initial activities focused on the rehabilitation of degraded land systems. Since then, a considerable part of the degraded forest and shrubland has been gradually restored to semi-natural forest. Selected slopes have been converted to crop-bearing terrace land using contour hedgerows of nitrogen-fixing plants; orchards of different types of fruit trees have been established; demonstration sites for various agricultural technologies, income generating activities, and water harvesting techniques have been set up. Demonstration models of various renewable energy technologies have been introduced in collaboration with local NGOs; a wetlands development site has been established; and a training centre has been built. The number of approaches being tested and demonstrated has increased over time, with the aim of covering all the different aspects involved in a genuinely integrated approach to mountain development and agriculture.

### Patan Durbar Square

Patan Durbar Square is situated at the centre of the city of Lalitpur in Nepal. It is one of the three Durbar Squares in the Kathmandu Valley, all of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One of its major attraction is the ancient Royal Palace where the Malla Kings of Lalitpur resided. This concentrated mass of temples is perhaps the most visually stunning display of Newari architecture to be seen in Nepal. Temple construction in the square went into overdrive during the Malla period (14th to 18th centuries), particularly during the reign of King Siddhinarsingh Malla (1619–60).

Reconstruction of temples affected by the 2015 earthquake will continue for several years, so safety



fencing and scaffolding is to be expected. However, all restorations are well underway and the Royal Palace housing the museum is open.

### Thamel

Thamel is a commercial neighbourhood located in Kathmandu. It has been the centre of the tourism industry in Kathmandu since 1970s, when hippies in the region discovered it. It is probably is the best place to enjoy night-life when one is in Kathmandu. Thamel is known by its narrow alleys crowded with various shops and vendors. Commonly sold goods include trekking gear, walking gear, music, DVDs, handicrafts, souvenirs, woolen items, clothes and food. Travel agencies, small grocery stores, budget hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs also line the streets. Cars, cycle rickshaws, two-wheelers and taxis ply these narrow streets alongside hundreds of pedestrians. Thamel is an easy walk from anywhere in central Kathmandu.

## **6. CONTACT PERSONS**

For further information and assistance, participants may contact the following through email:

### **Ms. Rekha Rasaily**

Email: [Rekha.rasaily@icimod.org](mailto:Rekha.rasaily@icimod.org)

Phone no. 9841290951

### **Ms. Pratikshya Kandel**

Email: [Pratikshya.kandel@icimod.org](mailto:Pratikshya.kandel@icimod.org)

Phone no. 9841276451

### **Dr Nakul Chettri**

Email: [Nakul.chettri@icimod.org](mailto:Nakul.chettri@icimod.org)

Phone no: 9841516138

## **7. DISCLAIMER**

The organizers shall not be responsible for medical, accident and travel insurance; compensation for death or disability; loss of or damage to personal property; and any other loss that may be incurred during the period of travel or the actual meeting. In this context, it is strongly recommended that all participants and guests, to secure, prior to departure, international travel and medical insurances for the period of travel and participation.