

INFORMATION MANUAL PANAMA

31st Conference of Parties of the
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)



Hotel: Las Americas Golden Tower Panama
Hall: Great Titanium: Gran Titanio

Introduction

The 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-31) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) will be held on June 21 and 22, 2023, in Panama City, Panama, according to *Decision XXX/10* adopted by the 30th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-30) of the IAI, Montevideo, and by videoconference, June 2022.

For further clarification or additional details about the content of this guide, feel free to reach out to Anabella Vásquez Fábrega. You can email her at avasquez@senacyt.gob.pa or contact her via telephone or WhatsApp at +50769490415.

Key Information About Panama:

Official Name: Republic of Panama

Capital City: Panama City

Population: Approximately 4,279,000 inhabitants

Total Land Area: Approximately 75,517 square kilometers

Official Language: Spanish

Currency

The official currency of Panama is the Balboa, which maintains parity and nominal equivalence with the United States Dollar. Most commercial establishments nationwide readily accept major credit cards such as Visa, Master Card, and American Express. For your convenience, ATMs that operate 24 hours a day are available at the host hotel and its surrounding area.

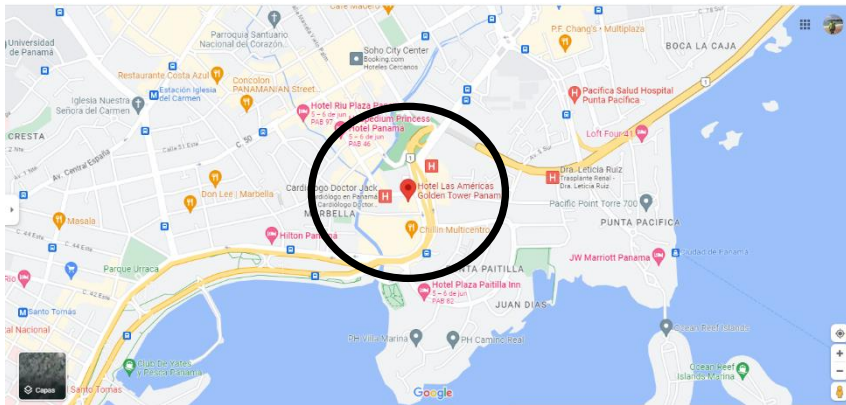
Time Zone

Panama operates in a time zone 5 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-5 GMT).

Meeting Venue and Climate

The Republic of Panama, known for its tropical, hot, and humid climate, has an average annual temperature of 23 ° and 27 °C in coastal areas. However, the temperature drops to around 19°C in the country's interior regions with higher altitudes. The rainy season typically spans May through December.

The 31st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-31) is scheduled for June 21 and 22, 2023, in Panama City. The Great Titanium Hall of the Hotel Las Americas Golden Tower Panama will be the venue for all sessions and side events.



Airport and Transportation

For Party delegates and the Science Advisory Committee and Science Policy Advisory Committee members, the IAI Secretariat team will facilitate international air travel arrangements to and from the participating countries. Patricia Puertas (patricia@dir.iai.int) will serve as the contact person.

Participants will land at Tocumen International Airport and can utilize the airport-hotel shuttle service run by SENACYT. We request early itinerary confirmation to ensure seamless participant reception at the airport and subsequent transfer to the hotel. Participants can utilize the hotel taxi service or Uber for individual transportation within Panama City.

Accommodation and Meals at Hotel Las Americas Golden Tower Panama

Party delegates from low and middle income countries and the Science Advisory Committee and Science Policy Advisory Committee members will be lodged in Hotel Las Americas Golden Tower Panama. SENACYT Panama will bear the cost of their accommodations (except for delegates from high income countries). However, additional charges incurred, such as telephone calls, laundry services, minibar use, accompanying person lodging, etc., will be the participant's responsibility.

Important Information Regarding COVID Restrictions

As of the latest update, all COVID-19-related restrictions or requirements have been lifted. There is no need to present a negative test, proof of vaccination, or a declaration form. Masks remain mandatory in public transportation, for individuals handling food, and within public or private healthcare facilities.

Masks and alcohol will be provided at the conference venue.

Immigration Requirements

To meet the immigration requirements, attendees must possess a valid passport, have sufficient financial resources, and hold a return ticket to their country of origin or residence, where applicable, based on the immigration category. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs determines these requirements. For individuals hailing from countries eligible to enter Panama with a pre-stamped visa, there are two alternatives: obtain the visa from the Panamanian Consulate in their home country and arrive in Panama with the visa already stamped in their passport, or if their country falls under the 'visa only' category, they must apply for the visa in advance at the Panamanian Consulate. All visitors must fulfill other entry prerequisites, including providing proof of financial solvency, having a passport with a minimum of three months validity, and presenting a return ticket to their home country.

Visas

Panama, as a rule, maintains an open-access policy. Most countries across the Americas and Western Europe do not need a tourist visa to enter Panama. A maximum stay of 90 days is permitted. For longer stays or visits with objectives other than tourism (e.g., business, education, work, etc.), individuals must obtain the relevant visa from Panamanian consulates in advance.

Citizens of the following countries in Latin America need a visa: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela.

Telecommunications

The international dialing code for Panama is +507.

Emergency Contact Information

911 – Ambulance Services
311 - Citizen Services
103 – Fire Department
104 – National Police
507-5600 – Santo Tomas Hospital
526-7000 – Tourism Authority

Electrical System

The standard electrical voltage in Panama City is 110 volts. Generally, type A and B plugs and sockets are in use. Attendees are advised to carry the necessary adapters for their electronic devices.



Tipo A: Clavijas japonesas A se pueden utilizar en los USA pero a menudo no al revés



Tipo B: A veces válido para clavijas A

CONTACTS

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