GOOS South American Regional Workshop and GOOS 7th Steering Committee meeting

INVEMAR, Santa Marta, Colombia
June 12-15th, 2018

LOGISTICS

Santa Marta is the capital city of the department of Magdalena in the north of Colombia. It is located between the Santa Marta bay in the Caribbean Sea and the mountains of the Sierra Nevada which rise up to ~5700 m above sea level. It was the first Spanish settlement in Colombia and one of the oldest in South America. The local Santa Marta economy is based on tourism, trade, port activities, fishing and agriculture. The weather is tropical warm with a daily mean of ~28 °C (24-33 °C), and an average of 9 rainy days for the month of June. Humidity is above 70% throughout the year. Santa Marta is a gateway for trips to the Tayrona National Natural Park which has coral reefs, seagrass beds and extensive mangrove forests, and for multiday guided treks to the Lost City (Teyuna) archaeological site in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains.

General information about visiting Santa Marta is available at: http://www.colombia.travel/en/where-to-go/caribbean/santa-marta


Travel to Santa Marta

The Simón Bolívar International Airport (Spanish: Aeropuerto Internacional Simón Bolívar) (IATA: SMR, ICAO: SKSM), known locally as Santa Marta Airport is located 14 km (8.7 mi) south of Santa Marta. It is operated by a variety of airlines, domestic and international including American Airlines, Avianca, and LATAM Airlines Group among others.

To get to the hotel from the airport, we recommend you take a taxi. They can be found just near the exit door, yellow cars with "taxi" signs. The cost will be approximately 6 Euros/8 Dollars.

Please note that yellow fever vaccination is advised, though not required, for this area.

Meeting Venue

The workshop will be held at INVEMAR - Institute for Marine and Coastal Research/ INVEMAR - Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (http://www.invemar.org.co/).

Address: Calle 25 No. 2-55, Playa Salguero, Santa Marta D.T.C.H, Colombia

Local contact is Paula Sierra-Correa: paula.sierra@invemar.org.co

Wifi in meeting venue

WIFI name: Events
Accommodation

We have secured a block of rooms at the Estelar Santamar Hotel from the 11th to the 16th of June at a rate of US$89/night (https://www.estelarsantamar.com/). The rate includes breakfast. The hotel is 3 km from INVEMAR, about 7-10 minutes by car depending on traffic. Walking takes about 45 minutes (and not advised due to the heat).

Address: Santa Marta, Urb Plenomar, Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia (Phone: +57 1 6088080)

Important information:

Except when previously agreed with GOOS/IOC, room reservations must be made by individual attendees directly with Eduardo Julio. Please note that you are part of the INVEMAR/GOOS group. To secure the rooms and rate, reservations must be made before Friday May 18th, 2018.

You can book your reservation using the INVEMAR/GOOS reference for the negotiated rate by email to Eduardo Julio (eduardojulio@hotelesestelar.com) with copies to reservas.caribe@hotelesestelar.com and dennis.hoyos@hotelesestelar.com
Phone reservations: +57 (5) 432 8181

**Local transportation**

For transportation in Santa Marta you can use either bus or taxis. Buses have a cost of ~US$ 5 (Colombian Peso – COP 1600). Taxis are trust-worthy and the minimum tariff is ~US$ 2-3 within the city limits (COP 6000 during the day and COP 7000 during the night). Taxi from the airport to the city is around ~US$10 (COP 25000). From the Estelar Hotel to INVEMAR a taxi may cost around US$ 5.

**Visa to enter Colombia**

To enter Colombia, you need to have a valid passport for at least 6 months. Please check if you require a visa at: [http://www.colombiafacil.com/en/faq/do-i-need-a-visa-for-colombia/](http://www.colombiafacil.com/en/faq/do-i-need-a-visa-for-colombia/)

Visitors from some countries will require a visa to travel to Colombia. You can check the specific requirement of your country and procedures to obtain a visa on the website of the Cancillería (Foreign Ministry, site in Spanish). If you need a supporting invitation letter from a local institution for your visa application, please contact Ingrid Alejandra Granados at INVEMAR (ingrid.granados@invemar.org.co).

**Language and translation**

English/Spanish translation services will be provided during the GOOS Regional Workshop, but slides should be presented in English.

**Meals**

Breakfast will be provided at the Estelar Santamar. A cold lunch will be provided during the workshop and SC meeting, and INVEMAR will host a group dinner on the 12th of June. Please let us know if you have any allergies or special dietary requirements.

**Power outlets**

Voltage is 110 or 120 volts. Plug types as in figure below.

![Plug Type A: 2 parallel flat prongs - “American” type](image1)

![Plug Type B: Similar to A but with an earth connector](image2)

**About safety**

Most of the city areas are safe, however, please take precautions as you would in any large city. Avoid carrying too much cash, jewelry, expensive watches, and exposing your mobile phone and/or laptop. Leave your valuables at the safe in the hotel including your passport and carry a photocopy of your passport with you. Carry handbags and backpacks zipped and in front/across your body, rather than at your rear. Do not leave any belongings unattended. Avoid walking alone, large crowds and solitary places.