

Information Note for Participants

WMO Workshop on Strategic and Implementation Planning for Sustainable Observations

From 13 to 16 April 2026 in Pretoria, South Africa



1. Introduction

At the kind invitation of the Republic of South Africa, duly represented by the South African Weather Service (SAWS); the Workshop on Strategic and Implementation Planning for Sustainable Observations, will take place from 13 to 16 April 2026 in Pretoria, South Africa.

2. Venue and accommodation

This workshop will be held at **The Centurion Hotel** located in Centurion, Pretoria. The physical address is: 1001 Lenchen Avenue North, Centurion Central, Centurion, 0046.

Kindly be advised that all the invited participants sponsored by the WMO will be pre-booked for accommodation at this venue, with SAWS to make all accommodation payments directly to the hotel, on behalf of the participants thereof.

Other accommodation (nearby recommended hotels)

There are other accommodation options in Centurion Pretoria including luxury hotels, mid-range hotels, budget hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs, self-catering apartments, luxury villas and rentals, and eco-lodges and boutique hotels. They mostly include basic amenities with bedding, towels, Wi-Fi, daily house-keeping, and basic toiletries, depending on the accommodation option considered. The hotel options are within the Centurion precinct and can be explored on the link below:

<https://tinywebs.site/sqrQeY>

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3. Travel Information

3.1. Visa Requirements including links:

- Travelers to South Africa may need a visa depending on their nationality. It is therefore advised that prospective travelers should consult with the South African embassies or consulates in their respective countries for guidance and/or the application process where necessary.
- It must be highlighted that applicants may require a completed visa application form, valid passport, proof of travel itinerary, accommodation details, and sufficient funds for the visa application process.
- Prospective travelers are also encouraged to consult the website of the South African Department of Home Affairs for the latest information on visa requirements, through the link provided herein: [Department of Home Affairs - Exempt Countries \(dha.gov.za\)](https://www.dha.gov.za)

3.2. Specific border entry requirements and restrictions:

- South Africa has specific border entry requirements and restrictions for travelers. Passport validity must be at least 30 days beyond departure, and travelers with minors must present a birth certificate, proof of guardianship, and consent.
- Yellow fever vaccination certificates are required for travelers from countries with yellow fever risk.
- COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, but ongoing health requirements should be checked.
- At border entries certain items are prohibited, including narcotics, agricultural products, and firearms. Excessive alcohol and tobacco use may incur duties and taxes.

Furthermore, it must be highlighted that the South African government does not make provision for visa on arrival.

4. Local Transportation

4.1. Airport transfer:

SAWS will make transport arrangements for airport transfers (return trip), inclusive of the venue cost for all WMO sponsored participants. The details will be shared with all delegates in due course, through the WMO Secretariat.

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4.2. Public transportation (taxis, car rentals, bus etc.)

In Centurion, Pretoria there are various public transportation options, including the Gautrain and its bus services; City of Tshwane bus services; e-hailing services including Uber and Bolt; train services through Metrorail; and Minibus Taxis. The Gautrain and City Buses are reliable and efficient options for tourists, while Uber and Bolt are popular choices for quick and easy transportation. Metrorail is cost-effective but may pose safety concerns, so it is best to avoid it but if circumstances compel, it should be used during daylight hours. More information can be found on the link provided upon arrival at the Airport.

Shuttle services have been arranged between the O.R. Tambo International Airport and Centurion Hotel. Thus, it is recommended to share your respective flight details to ensure alignment.

5. Country Information

5.1. Time, currency, languages, phone codes, power-plug types, telecommunications, etc

Telecommunications:

South Africa offers mobile network operators like Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, and Telkom Mobile in Pretoria, offering prepaid and postpaid plans for data, voice, and SMS services; with Sim Cards available within the Airport stores. Wi-Fi is also available in many hotels, cafes, and restaurants, while broad-band services are available from various internet service providers.

Phone codes:

South Africa's country code is +27, while Pretoria's area code is +27 (0)12. To call Pretoria from within South Africa, dial +27 12 followed by the seven-digit number. For international calls, dial 27 and the local number.

Languages:

There are twelve official languages in the Republic of South African; with the City of Pretoria being a mostly multi-lingual community wherein various indigenous languages such as Tswana, Sotho, Venda, Afrikaans, Xhosa, and Zulu are found. **However, the English language is widely spoken and understood by majority of the community within Pretoria, in case where you may require assistance from any citizen when in South Africa.**

Currency:

Currency exchange services are available at the Johannesburg O.R. Tambo International Airport. Additionally, please be advised that most businesses, tour operators, airlines and hotels accept major credit cards and American Express traveler's checks (VAT is 15%).

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The local currency is the South African Rand (ZAR), and the average exchange rate is as follows:

1 Euro = 19.23 ZAR

1 US\$ = 16.73 ZAR

1 GBP = 22.27 ZAR

Please take note that updated exchange rates can be found on <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/what-we-do/statistics/key-statistics/current-market-rates>

Plugs and Sockets

Please be advised that the most commonly used plugs in South Africa are the two provided below. **Delegates are advised to bring along universal adapters, as conference venues and hotels do not supply them.**



3 Pin round Plug



3-Pin Red Plug with a flat top

The 3-pin plugs used in South Africa are primarily the "M and N Type" The "M Type" is a grounded 15Amp rating 230Vac and frequency of 50Hz with the outer pins diameter of 7.06mm (0.28") and the length of 18.6mm (0.73"), the pin spaced 25.4mm (1") apart and the earth pin centered with a 28.6mm (1.13") vertically from the others and the pin diameter 8.7mm (0.34") at a length of 28.6mm (1.13"). The "N Type" is like the European plug standard but with different pin dimensions as described.

5.2. Weather/climate conditions in November:

The weather in Pretoria around April is normally the autumn season, characterised by some scattered rains, chilly mornings and evenings; however mostly remaining sunny during the day. It is therefore advisable to check the latest weather information, through **the South African Weather Service website** on: <https://www.weathersa.co.za/>

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5.3. Vaccinations:

Kindly consult with a healthcare provider about recommended vaccinations before traveling and verify the requirements with the South African missions in your respect countries.

5.4. Tourist attractions

The City of Pretoria is the Executive and Capital City of the Republic known for its most prominent attractions such as the Union Buildings; Voortrekker Monument; Kruger Museum; Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History; Pretoria National Botanical Gardens to name but a few.

More insights to these and more can be found on the website below:
https://www.tripadvisor.co.za/Attractions-g312583-Activities-Pretoria_Gauteng.html

6. Relevant contacts

6.1. Emergency (hospital, fire deopt)

Emergency services in Pretoria include police, fire, ambulance, fire department, hospitals like Netcare Unitas Hospital; Centurion Day Hospital (Pty)Ltd; Pretoria Central hospital; Steve Biko Academic Hospital. To contact emergency services, dial 112 or 10111, and follow instructions from the operator. Keep emergency contact information saved on your phone for quick access. During the workshop, the conference venue will also assist with these emergency services, in consultation with the SAWS coordinators.

6.2. Other contacts (SAWS, WMO, hotel)

For any further information please contact the Local Organising Committee (LOC) at the following contact details:

a) Local Organising Committee Member

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c) Local Organising Committee Member

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