**Climate Change and Protected Areas in West Africa Project (UNEP-WCMC)**

**Title: Inception Meeting Logistics Institution: UNEP-WCMC**

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# Budget = $55,000

# Capital Cities

Bamako, Mali

Banjul, Gambia

Lome, Togo

Freetown, Sierra Leone

N'Djamena, Chad

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

# Flights

**Togo**

ASKY Airlines based in Lomo, Togo: fly to Banjul, Freetown, N’Djamera, Ouagadougou, and Bamako. Part of Ethiopian Airlines.

Bamako, Mali (£380 return, 1 stop, 4 hrs)

Banjul, Gambia (£500 return, 2 stops, 5 hrs)

Freetown, Sierra Leone (£460 return, 1 stop, 4 hrs)

N'Djamena, Chad (£500, 1 or 2 stops, 4 ½ hrs +)

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (£250, 2 hrs, 0 stops)

London, UK (£630, via Addis Ababa, overnight)

Brussels Airlines fly indirectly to Togo from London Heathrow, via Brussels airport. Flight time 9hrs at least.

BA and Virgin both fly to nearby Accra in Ghana.

[Air Burkina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Burkina): Ouagadougou

[Air France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_France): Paris-Charles de Gaulle

[Air Mali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Mali): Bamako

[Brussels Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brussels_Airlines): Brussels

[Ethiopian Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopian_Airlines): Addis Ababa, Ouagadougou

Ethiopian operated by [ASKY Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASKY_Airlines): Bamako, Banjul, N'djamena, Ouagadougou

[Toumaï Air Tchad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Touma%C3%AF_Air_Tchad): N'Djamena

**Sierra Leone**

Lungi airport

[Arik Air](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arik_Air): Banjul

[ASKY Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASKY_Airlines): Bamako, Banjul

[BMI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BMI_%28airline%29): London-Heathrow

[Elysian Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elysian_Airlines): Banjul

[TACV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TACV): Banjul

**Gambia**

[Arik Air](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arik_Air): Freetown

[Brussels Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brussels_Airlines): Brussels

[Elysian Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elysian_Airlines): Freetown

[Ethiopian Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopian_Airlines) operated by [ASKY Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASKY_Airlines): Lomé

[Spanair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanair): Barcelona

[TACV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TACV): Freetown

Thomas Cook Airlines: London Gatwick

# Foreign Office Travel Advice

**The Gambia**

* You should not travel by road from The Gambia to the Casamance region in southern Senegal.  It remains affected by incidents involving presumed separatist groups and by incidents of banditry.  See the [Local Travel](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/gambia-the#Local Travel) section of this advice and the Travel Advice for [Senegal](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/senegal/) .
* Most visits to The Gambia are trouble-free.  25 British nationals required consular assistance in The Gambia in the period 01 April 2009 – 31 March 2010 for the following types of incident; deaths (9 cases); hospitalisations (5 cases); and arrests, for a variety of offences (6 cases). During this period assistance was also requested with regard to lost or stolen passports (16 cases).
* Care should be taken when driving or walking on roads, particularly at night, due to unpredictable driving standards and lack of street lighting.
* Malaria is common in The Gambia.  See the [Health](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/gambia-the#Health) section of this Travel Advice.
* There is an underlying threat from [terrorism](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/gambia-the#terrorism). Attacks, although unlikely, could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.
* We recommend that you obtain comprehensive medical and travel insurance before travelling.  See the [General (Insurance)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/gambia-the#Insurance) section of this Travel Advice.

**Mali**

* **We advise against all travel to the northern provinces of Mali. This includes the provinces of Kidal, Gao, Koulikoro (north of Mourdiah), Ségou (north of Niono), Tombouctou (including the city of Tombouctou (Timbuktu)), Mopti, and areas bordering Mauritania east of Nioro in the Kayes province.**
* **There is a high threat from terrorism in Mali. Terrorists have been involved in kidnaps in the region and we believe that further attempts are likely. Two hostages have been murdered by Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQ-M) after being held for several months in the Malian desert, including a British national.**
* **There have been reports of kidnap threats against westerners attending festivals in Mali. You should be aware that the “Festival in the Desert”, planned for January 2011, has previously taken place in an area of northern Mali to which we currently advise against all travel.**
* **Travel in Mali can be difficult and conditions are poor for overland travel.  You should take all necessary safety precautions, especially outside of main urban areas, have confidence in your security arrangements and maintain a high level of vigilance. See Safety and Security -** [**Terrorism**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/mali#terrorism) **and Safety and Security -** [**Local Travel**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/mali#localtravel)**and our** [**Rally Racing page**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/your-trip/rally-racing)**.**
* **We are not aware of any British nationals requiring consular assistance in Mali in the period 01 April 2009 – 31 August 2010. You should register on** [**LOCATE**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/Locate/) **so that we are able to contact you in an emergency. See the** [**General**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/mali#general) **section of this Travel Advice.**
* **You should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling. See the General -** [**Insurance**](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/mali#general)**.**

**Sierra Leone**

* Transport infrastructure is poor. None of the options for transferring between the international airport at Lungi and Freetown are risk-free. You should study the transfer options carefully before travelling, especially if you plan to arrive at night. Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff operate a policy of informed choice and presumed competence within certain parameters. Wherever possible, they use water modes by day and, if they choose to travel, helicopter at night. They do not travel on the hovercraft.  See Safety and Security - [Local Travel (Getting to Freetown from the airport)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/sierra-leone#localtravel).
* You should take precautions and avoid demonstrations, especially in urban areas.  See Safety and Security - [Local Travel (Travel outside the capital)](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/sierra-leone#outsidecap).
* Petty crime is common. You should exercise caution when travelling in Freetown, particularly in the Eastern area of the city and in the central commercial district.  You should take precautions and maintain a high level of vigilance in public places.  See Safety and Security - [Crime](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/sierra-leone#crime).
* Travel outside the Western Area can be difficult, as roads and infrastructure are poor.  See Safety and Security - [Local Travel](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/sierra-leone#localtravel).
* There is an underlying threat from global [terrorism](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/sierra-leone#terrorism). Attacks, although unlikely, could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.
* 22 British nationals required consular assistance in Sierra Leone in the period 01 April 2009 – 31 March 2010.  See General - Consular Assistance Statistics.
* There are few health facilities in Sierra Leone and medical care is poor. You should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling, including for medical evacuation.  Most health care providers will expect payment before treatment.  See General - [Insurance](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/sierra-leone#insurance) and [Travel Insurance](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/travel-insurance/) .

**Chad**

* We advise against all but essential travel to the capital, N’Djamena. We advise against all travel to the rest of Chad. See [Political Situation](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/chad#politicalsituation) and [Safety and Security - Local Travel](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/chad#localtravel).
* There is an underlying threat from [terrorism](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/chad#terrorism) and kidnapping. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. There have been a number of kidnappings in eastern Chad involving NGO workers and business people. You should exercise a high level of vigilance and extreme caution at all times.
* There is no British Embassy in Chad. There is currently no Honorary Consul in Chad. In an emergency, you can obtain consular assistance through the British High Commission in Yaoundé, Cameroon. If you are not registered with the British High Commission you should register online at [LOCATE](https://www.locate.fco.gov.uk/locateportal/) or contact the main switchboard, 00 237 22 22 05 45.
* You should carry identification at all times (either a residence permit and/or a certified copy of your passport). Failure to produce such identification can lead to detention by the police, or delays with nationality identification should you have to leave the country.
* The area bordering Libya remains heavily land-mined and the border is subject to closure. The borders with Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) are also subject to closure at little or no notice.
* You should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling. See the General - [Insurance.](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/chad#insurance)

**Togo**

* There is no formal British representation in Togo.  In case of an emergency you should contact the British High Commission in Accra, Ghana. There is an Honorary Consul in Togo, but he can only offer limited consular assistance.  See General - [Contact Details](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/togo#contactdetails).
* There have been demonstrations and strikes in Lomé since 22 June due to a rise in fuel prices. Some of the demonstrations have been violent. Security forces have been deployed to deal with the protestors and tear gas has been used. You should avoid all large crowds and public gatherings. You should exercise caution in downtown areas or roads with traffic jams. Presidential Elections were held in Togo on 04 March. See Safety and Security - [Political Situation](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/togo#political).
* Presidential Elections were held in Togo on 4 March. You should avoid any large public gatherings (including political rallies and demonstrations) which may appear peaceful but could have the potential to turn violent. See Safety and Security - [Political Situation](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/togo#political).
* There is a low threat from [terrorism](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/togo#terrorism).  But you should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate attacks, which could be in public areas, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.
* You need a visa to enter Togo. Overstaying on your visa without proper authority is a serious matter and can lead to detention or refused permission to leave the country until a fine is paid.  See [Entry Requirements - Visas](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/togo#entry).
* Local authorities have warned of a rise in violent robberies and car-jacking incidents and motorists have been warned to only stop for individuals in uniform, particularly after dark.
* You should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling. See the General - [Insurance](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/togo#insurance)

**Burkina Faso**

* There is no British High Commission in Burkina Faso. In case of an emergency you should contact the [British Embassy in Accra, Ghana.](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/find-an-embassy/sub-saharan-africa/ghana/)  There is an [Honorary Consul](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso#honoraryconsul) in Burkina Faso, but he can only offer limited consular assistance.
* There is a general threat from terrorism. There is a risk that kidnap activity may cross the northern borders from Mali and Niger. We advise against all travel to the area of Burkina Faso north of the town of Boulsa, 25 km north of the capital Ouagadougou, particularly those areas bordering Mali and Niger.
* You should avoid all travel by road from Ouagadougou to Po. See Safety and Security - [Local Travel](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso).
* On 22 July 2010 Mauritanian forces with French technical assistance confronted a terrorist encampment in northern Mali. Al Qaada in the Islamic Maghreb (AQ-M) may conduct retaliatory attacks on Western targets in the near future.
* Most visits to Burkina Faso are trouble-free. Consular services provided to British nationals in the past have included assistance with lost and stolen passports.
* Before travelling, you should seek medical advice and ensure that all appropriate vaccinations are up to date. See [Health](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso#health).
* You should carry some form of identification with you at all times.
* You should take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling.  You should check any exclusions and that your policy covers you for all the activities you want to undertake. See General - [insurance](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/travel-insurance/) .