



**GCF Regional Dialogue with East and South Asia
14 -17 September 2026
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

VENUE

The **GCF Regional Dialogue with East and South Asia** will be held on 14-17 September 2026 at **Cinnamon Life at City of Dreams** in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Attendance to the event is by registration only.

Please note the venue location on [Google Maps](#).



VISA

All travellers are required to go through immigration clearance upon arrival into Sri Lanka. Please note the following basic entry requirements before they can be considered for entry into Sri Lanka:

- A passport with at least 6 months validity at the time of arrival
- Valid Sri Lanka visa or ETA, as applicable
- Sufficient funds for the intended period of stay in Sri Lanka
- Confirmed onward/return tickets
- Entry facilities to their onward destinations, if applicable e.g. visas.
- Completed Disembarkation Card
- Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate, if applicable (see further below).

The Government of Sri Lanka will facilitate gratis (fee-waived) Electronic Travel Authorizations (ETA) for participants attending the Regional Dialogue, subject to the timely receipt of the necessary information.

To facilitate the issuance process, participant information submitted through the event registration form will be shared with the relevant authorities of the Government of Sri Lanka for the purpose of arranging the necessary entry clearances and Landing Endorsements. Participants are therefore requested to ensure that all registration information is complete, accurate and consistent with their passport details. Passports should remain valid for at least six months beyond the date of entry into Sri Lanka.

In addition to the information supplied through the event registration form (at the time of registration), an additional request is communicated by GCF to all registered participants in order to confirm their arrival and departure dates for the purpose of the ETA processing. **This information, in addition to the completed registration, should be available to the GCF by 3 September 2026.**

Participants whose information will be received by the GCF in a timely manner will not be required to personally apply for an ETA. Instead, the Sri Lankan authorities will arrange a Landing



Endorsement for registered participants, which should be printed out individually and presented upon arrival in Sri Lanka.

Participants not able to supply the necessary information by 3 September may need to proceed with application for ETA personally. For more information please [Click Here](#).

Vaccination requirements:

Please note that proof of vaccination against yellow fever is required for passengers traveling from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission, as well as travelers having transited for more than 12 hours through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Please refer to the following list: <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/travel-and-health/countries-with-risk-of-yellow-fever-transmission.pdf>

Transit Visas

Please note that arranging any required transit visas is a responsibility of the participant. Letters of invitation issued by the Secretariat may be used in support of visa applications, including for transit visas.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Sponsored participants will be accommodated at the **Cinnamon Life at City of Dreams**, located at No 15 Justice Akbar Mawatha, Colombo 00200, Sri Lanka.

Self-supporting participants are responsible for their own hotel bookings and should contact the hotel of their choice directly. The following hotels are recommended for consideration:

Hotels	Contact email address	Single A/C rooms BB basis	Distance from Event Venue
		Rate (USD)	(km)
Cinnamon City of Dreams (Event Venue)	life-reservations@cinnamonhotels.com	122	0
Mandarina Colombo	info@mandarinacolombo.com	75	4.5 (15 min drive)
Sofia Colombo	info@sofiacolombo.com	77	2.7 (8 min drive)
Galle Face Hotel (Garden View)	Information@gallefacehotel.com	107	0.8 (3 min drive)
Taj Hotels	reservations.samudra@tajhotels.com	115	0.5 (3 min drive)
Cinnamon Grand	info@cinnamonhotels.com	130	1.2 (4 min drive)

While booking the rooms make sure to mention GCF Regional Event. Please note that the negotiated group rates with the hotel are applicable for stays for the event dates. For longer bookings, please contact respective hotels as per given email address in the table below with cc to Ishari.gabadage@iucn.org and Dinithi.samarathunga@iucn.org.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPONSORED PARTICIPANTS

Sponsored participants will be provided with flight tickets, accommodation, and a partial daily subsistence allowance (DSA) for the duration of their stay in line with the GCF travel policy. The DSA shall be paid to the eligible participants in the local currency due to prevailing restrictions imposed by local authorities. DSA calculation includes one-time terminal expense to cover miscellaneous costs such as visa fees, airport transportation and travel insurance that must be booked by participants themselves

A local bank is located within the City of Dreams Mall, where participants can exchange local currency into USD by producing the Passport. Participants can also use internationally accepted debit or credit cards to withdraw cash from ATMs.

Sponsored participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes for travel to Colombo to be collected by the Delivery Partner (IUCN) of the event in handing over DSA.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Taxi

Public taxis are available at the arrivals hall of Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), including standard metered cars, larger vans for groups, or premium luxury vehicles provided by the official airport taxi association. The cost of a metered or fixed-rate taxi from Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) to the meeting venue (City of Dreams / Cinnamon Life) is approximately LKR 7,000 – 9,000 (around \$23 - 30 USD). The journey typically takes 35–50 minutes via the E03 Colombo-Katunayake Expressway.

Ride-Hailing

PickMe and Uber apps are available. Support counters are available in the arrivals lobby. To meet the driver, follow the signs to the "Rideshare/App-Based Pickup Area" located just outside the main terminal (can be found at the furthest end of main terminal close to the car park towards the left). After requesting a ride, the app will provide step-by-step directions to the specific gate or parking bay.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Colombo is generally considered suitable for international business travel, with standard precautions advised. Travelers should protect against mosquito bites, and follow normal food and water hygiene practices. Maintain security awareness, keep valuables secure, and avoid large gatherings. Use reputable private transport and allow extra time for traffic. As September falls within the southwest monsoon period, monitor weather conditions for heavy rainfall and associated travel disruption. Ensure adequate travel insurance and awareness of emergency support contacts.

MISCELLANEOUS

Time Difference

Sri Lanka operates on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +5.30 hours.

Weather

September is within the Southwest Monsoon, and this generally characterized by high heat and the onset of afternoon/evening showers. Colombo is hot, humid and sunny, with temperatures ranging from 28–36°C (82–97°F). It is expected to have sunny mornings and significant chances for rain in the afternoons.

It is recommended to wear breathable and loose-fitting clothes and bring a compact umbrella in case of the sudden rain. A wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and high-SPF sunscreen are also suggested to help make things comfortable during the visit. Please check the weather forecast daily.

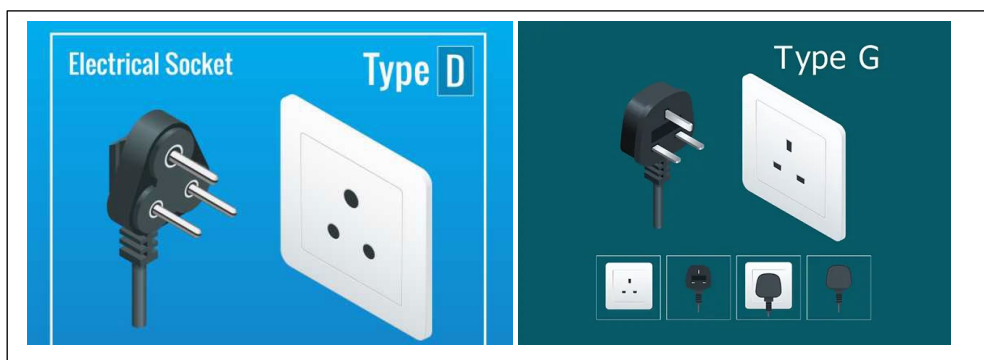
Currency

Sri Lanka's official currency is the Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR). As of 26 August 2026, the exchange rate is approximately USD 1 = LKR 328. Exchange rates may fluctuate, and the rate offered by banks or authorised money changers may vary.

Most hotels, shopping malls, supermarkets, and larger businesses accept internationally recognised credit and debit cards. However, smaller businesses, local shops, and some restaurants may accept cash only. Participants are therefore advised to carry some Sri Lankan Rupees in cash for small purchases and other incidental expenses.

Electricity

Power plugs and sockets (outlets) are of the **Type G** (which has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern, similar to the UK) and **Type D** (3 round pins). The standard voltage is **230V at 50Hz**.



Connectivity

Visitors can easily get a SIM card in Sri Lanka by presenting their passport at airport kiosks upon arrival, or at provider outlets, with Dialog and Mobitel offering the best coverage and dedicated tourist packages.

Tourist SIMs are pre-registered, usually prepaid, and offer high-speed data, with options to purchase eSIMs online before arrival.

Insurance

The organizers cannot accept liability for personal accident, including health-related concerns, travel inconveniences, as well as loss or damage to private property, which may be incurred as a result of participation in the events. Participants are advised to arrange appropriate insurance coverage prior to their travel.

**Emergency contacts**

- Police Emergency: 118 or 119
- Ambulance / Fire: 110
- Suwa Seriya (Fast Paramedic): 1990
- Tourist Police: 011 242 1052 (for foreigners or tourists)
- Government Info Center: 1919

Visiting Sri Lanka

For information regarding tourist attractions, please visit <https://srilanka.travel/heritage-discover-the-past>

DRESS CODE

Dress code for the event is smart casual.

EVENT CONTACT

With any queries for information not covered in this document, please contact the GCF events team at GCF-events@gcfund.org.

Sponsored participants are advised of the following contacts of the Delivery Partner for the event:

- Ms. Ishari Gabadage, +94 77 815 8295, Ishari.gabadage@iucn.org
- Ms. Dinithi Samarathunga, +94 70 235 0502, Dinithi.samarathunga@iucn.org.