

SECURITY ASSESSMENT

AFRINIC CONFERENCE

POINTE NOIRE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO



OCTOBER 2015



SALAMA FIKIRA

Salama Fikira is an African risk management consultancy headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, with regional offices throughout East, Central and West Africa. The company supports multi-sector industries in the land and maritime dimensions, creating business assurance in complex and difficult environments for private, corporate and government entities. Since 2005, Salama Fikira has been providing risk management and commercial land based security operations across Africa and on the high seas. From its four divisions, Salama Fikira is able to offer a range of services tailored to fit each client's unique requirement. The divisions secure assets, facilitate business, build assurance and help encourage sensible and managed entry, expansion and growth into the African market.

Salama Fikira (SF) has been contracted by Afrinic to conduct a security assessment of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo, for their upcoming conference which is to be held at the Azur Le Gilberts Hotel in November/December 2015. As requested by Afrinic, a number of hotels, restaurants and bars in addition to the Azure Le Gilberts were assessed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **threat rating** in Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo is assessed to be **LOW**.
- Crime levels are relatively low when compared to other similarly sized cities in the region.
- The above notwithstanding, opportunistic crime is endemic in the city. Basic mitigation measures (discussed below) should be implemented by all conference attendees.
- Protests occur frequently, however these do not commonly turn violent. No incidents that may incite civil unrest are foreseen for the duration of the conference.
- Organised and violent crimes are not frequent occurrences in Pointe Noire.
- Terrorism does not pose a specific threat in Pointe Noire at present. A global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks remains.

HOTEL AZUR LE GILBERTS

Due to significant Oil & Gas investment in the area, which has created employment and infrastructure, the Government have made crime prevention in Pointe Noire a priority in order to attract investment. The frequency of criminal activities is especially low in the beach front area around the Azur le Gilberts, where the conference activities will be located.



As the Hotel Azur le Gilberts is adjacent to the Pointe Noir residence of the President of the Republic of Congo, a discreet security force presence exists in the area. Other high-net-worth individuals also reside along the beach front in close proximity to the hotel, resulting in frequent police patrols. During daylight hours, walking from Hotel Azur le Gilberts to the “Twiga 2” restaurant along the beach is assessed to be safe. It is advised that a taxi is used to travel in this area during the hours of darkness.

LOCAL RESTAURANTS & BARS

The following restaurants and bars are assessed to be safe for attendees to visit:

- La Pyramide, Blvd Dr Jaques Bouiti
- Metis, Rue de Mougali
- Yes Club, Blvd Dr Jaques Bouiti
- Twigi Beach 1, Blvd Dr Jaques Bouiti
- Sea Club Restaurant, Blvd Dr Jaques Bouiti
- Kaktus, Blvd Charles de Gaulle
- Le Punch Coco, Ave Moe Vangoula
- Le Kas Bar, Ave de Mafouka
- Le Brasserie De La Mer Exoming, Ave Ngueli Ngueli
- Café Torino – Cave de Rois Nightclub, Ave Fayette Tchitembo

PERSONAL SECURITY & THREAT MITIGATIONS

Crime:

- Travel to east of the city centre, the “Grand Marche”, and areas past the estuary south of the beach bars is strongly advised against. Gangs are known to operate in these areas.
- The beach along boulevard Dr Jaques Bouiti is considered safe during the day. However, pick pockets are known to frequent the area. Maintain vigilance whilst in the area and do not carry large sums of money or valuables.
- Visiting the beach during hours of darkness is advised against.
- When possible, travel as part of a group. Whilst crime levels are considered low, individuals present easier targets to prospective criminals.



Medical advice:

- All attendees should have up-to-date, comprehensive medical insurance. Salama Fikira advise that those seeking medical advice should use CMC Medico on Rue Limbou.
- There is a 24-hour pharmacy on Avenue Charles de Gaulle, called “Pharmacie Mavre”.
- Only bottled water should to be drunk.
- Malaria is common in the Republic of Congo; normal malaria precautions should be taken, including the use of mosquito repellent, a mosquito net and the taking of antimalarials.
- Adequate sun protection to be used; i.e. hat and sunscreen.
- Rabies is present in the Republic of Congo; exercise caution around stray dogs.

Emergency contact details:

	POLICE	MEDICAL
Telephone	117	CMC Medico: +242 06 679 3911
Address	Pointe Noire Police Head Quarters located 15km from conference	Rue Limbou, Pointe Noire

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THIS REPORT OR ANY OTHER COMPANY DELIVERABLES, PLEASE CONTACT:

INFORMATION & ANALYSIS TEAM

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