

CMJA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
8-12 September 2024



KIGALI, RWANDA
The Land of A Thousand Hills



“ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE”



Murakaza neza i Kigali - Welcome to Kigali

CONFERENCE BROCHURE

www.cmja.biz

Kigali Rwanda

Rwanda is renowned for its beautiful scenery and is often referred to as 'The Land of a Thousand Hills.' It is an ideal place to visit to appreciate the natural world, including the endangered mountain gorillas and the diversity of wildlife. The impressive volcanic mountain ranges offer a lifetime's worth of experiences.

Kigali, the capital, boasts rolling hills and valleys, and its cleanliness is unmatched. It has been the economic, cultural, and transport hub since Rwanda gained independence from Belgium in 1962.

While the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi saw over a million people killed, Rwanda has made enormous strides to 'Remember, Unite, and Renew' and has become the vibrant country it is today, with a modern capital city.

WELCOME MESSAGE The Hon. Chief Justice of Rwanda

On behalf of the Rwandan Judiciary, and on my own behalf, I am pleased and yet honoured to extend a warm welcome to all our esteemed delegates to Rwanda for the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association Conference in September 2024. We are delighted that Rwanda was chosen to host this 2024 CMJA Conference.

The theme for the Conference, **Environmental Justice**, is timely considering the three intertwined environmental crises – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – the world is currently grappling with. It is admitted that one of the ways to address these challenges is to set up an effective justice system that provides for effective enforcement of environmental law and the peaceful resolution of disputes in a transparent, prompt and equitable manner. This is essential for building a robust environmental rule of law.

Hence, the 2024 Conference is an appropriate forum for Judges and Magistrates to discuss on different legal and institutional elements to enhance the administration of and access to justice in relation to environment and our Judiciaries' pivotal role in upholding environmental justice. Through various presentations and panel discussions, delegates will have opportunities to share experiences, bench mark from each other and forge lasting carrier relationships.

It is my hope that delegates will have a memorable stay while enjoying our warm hospitality, numerous exciting side events to attend and various tourist sites across the country not forgetting the neatness of Kigali city.

I look forward to welcoming you to Kigali in September 2024.

Murakaza neza - Welcome

The Hon. Chief Justice Faustin Ntezilyayo
Chief Justice of Rwanda

Aims and Objectives of the Conference

- To promote better understanding amongst judicial officers of all ranks and from all parts of the Commonwealth of judicial independence issues and to explore the approach to those issues in different parts of the Commonwealth;
- To promote greater awareness amongst the magistrates and judges of the Commonwealth, of international treaties and law relating to the development and access to justice, and to consider the practical application of that body of law;
- To enhance networking within the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association on judicial developments.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

(This Programme is subject to change)

Sunday 8 September 2024

All Day - Council Meeting (by invitation only)
Morning Chief Justices' Meeting (by invitation only)
Registrations start at 2pm
Evening: Welcome Reception

Monday 9 September 2024

Session 1:
Opening Ceremony

Session 2:
Keynote Speech:
"Environmental Justice"

Session 3: Concurrent Panel Session:
3a: *"Private Remedies in trans-boundary pollution"*
3b: *"Public and Private law rights to a better environment"*
3c: *"Sentencing in Wildlife smuggling cases"*

Session 4: Visits
Kigali Genocide Memorial / or
Nyanza-Kicukiro Genocide Memorial

Evening: Free

Tuesday 10 September 2024

Session 5: Panel Session:
"Restorative justice after conflict"

Session 6: Panel Session:
"Ensuring our Courts can handle disputes about the Environment"

Session 7: Concurrent Panel Session:
7a: *"ADR – Reciprocal enforcement with the New York and Singapore Conventions"*
7b: *"Case management: Reducing backlogs through problem-solving courts, plea bargaining and using part time judiciary"*
7c: *"Creating an association of employment/industrial judges"*
7d: *"Commonwealth Military Justice systems"*

Session 8: Gender Section Meeting
"Gender Committee: A fireside chat"

Evening: Reception (tbc)

Wednesday 11 September 2024

CMJA Endowment Fund
UNODC Global Judicial Integrity Network

Session 9:
Panel Session
"Fighting corruption in the judiciary"

Session 10: Breakout Discussion Groups:
"Can the judiciary say or do anything in public?"

Session 11: Concurrent Panel Sessions:
11a: *"Sports Regulation"*
11b: *"Demonstrating IT systems in paperless courts"*
11c: *"Cross-border disputes in private family law"*
11d: *"Empowering prisoners in their own cases"*

Session 12: Learning Session
"Admissibility of computer-generated evidence"
EVENING: GALA DINNER

Thursday 12 September 2024

OPTIONAL DAY OUT
The day out will include:

A Visit to
The King's Palace in Nyanza

A Visit to
Rwesero Museum, Nyanza

ACCOMPANYING GUEST PROGRAMME

The LOC has arranged an interesting programme for accompanying guests which will include

Monday: 9 September 2024

Tour of Kigali to include some of the older suburbs of Kigali, the Sainte Famille Church (built in 1912) amongst other interesting sites around Kigali

Tuesday: 10 September 2024:

A full day behind the Scenes Visit to the Ellen De Generis Campus for the **Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund** with a senior member of staff, to gain a greater understanding of the multifaceted work being done to protect the gorillas in Rwanda.

Wednesday 11 September 2024

Half Day visit to **The Agaseke Center** is a newly established organisation in Kigali, Rwanda. It is part of the Kigali Cultural Village project, aimed at promoting cultural tourism in Rwanda. The AGASEKE CENTER is dedicated to preserving and fostering Rwandan culture and heritage through various activities such as selling traditional Rwandan products, entertainment events, and traditional education.

VISITS TO COMMEMORATE GENOCIDE

2024 marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda. The CMJA has included in the Programme, an official visit to one of the Memorial sites situated in Kigali.

KIGALI GENOCIDE MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

This is recommended for anyone who has not had the opportunity to previously visit Rwanda in the last thirty years.

The Kigali Genocide Memorial is the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the Genocide. It is an important place of remembrance and learning. The memorial comprises exhibitions, memorial gardens, educational facilities and the Genocide Archive of Rwanda. There are three permanent exhibitions at the memorial. The main exhibition explores the history of Rwanda during its slide into genocide, the 100 days of genocide against the Tutsi itself, and the aftermath. "Our future lost" is an exhibition about the experiences of children during the genocide, and "Wasted Lives" looks at the Holocaust and other genocides through the 20th Century.

NYANZA- KICUKIRO MEMORIAL

This is recommended for those who have already visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

Nyanza-Kicukiro Genocide Memorial is home to more than 105,000 victims, many of whom were killed from different parts of Kigali City. This memorial is a reminder of the failure of the International community where UN peacekeepers abandoned civilians in the hands of the killers. The memorial includes also "The Garden of Memory". It symbolizes life, rebirth after the Genocide, and the protection offered by nature during the 1994 Genocide. In the garden, there is a foundation stone, that serves as a link and remain a permanent conversation between the past, the present and the future.

ACCOMMODATION

Discounted Rates have been negotiated with the following hotels:

Radisson Blu (next to the KCC) www.radissonhotels.com

Rates from US\$180 (until 3 May 2024) thereafter US\$ 200 until 30 June 2024. Thereafter the costs will revert to the rack rates. Please use the following link to book with the Radisson: [CMJA24](#)

Lemigo Hotel (3mns, 1.1km) www.lemigohotel.com:

Rates from US\$120 a night. Airport pickup is complementary as per shared full flight details (Flight name, number and time). Email address to make booking is reservation@lemigohotel.com and booking code to benefit the special discount is "**CMJA Conference**"; Contact telephone Number: (+250) 78 40 40 924

Beausejour Hotel (5mns- 2.2 kms) www.beausejourhotel.rw: - Single standard room is 70\$ (Bed & breakfast); The pick-up and drop-off from the airport are free services. For the reservation, guests can reserve through this email info@beausejourhotel.rw or they can use this number +250788388885 (WhatsApp & call); The contact person is HABARUGIRA Aloys: +250783283144.

Hotel Chez Lando (7mns, 2.5 kms) www.chezlando.com:

Hotel accommodation starts from US\$90 (single bed and breakfast) or US\$110 (double bed and breakfast) contact for reservations at: info@chezlando.com, Tel: +250 788 385 300/+250 252 510 000

M Hotel (10mns 5km) www.mhotelkigali.com:

Rates start at US\$185/night single occupancy.

The room rate is inclusive of breakfast and access to the gym and swimming pool. Shuttle to/from the airport is US\$35 per person. The booking code can be **SCR24** for easy and smooth coordination.

Contact person: Bertrand Mugenga, phone: +2507883862646, email: Bertrand.mugenga@mhotelkigali.com

Onomo Hotel (10mns 5.4kms) www.onomohotels.com: Offer a discounted rate of US\$110 bed and breakfast and Transport shuttle 15per day. The contact person is MUGABI DERRICK, Sales & Marketing Manager, sales.kigali@onomohotel.com, Tel: (+250) 252 554 700 T: (+250) 78 3701 403

Hotel des Mille Collines (13mns 5.5kms) see www.millecollines.rw:

Accommodation Rooms (Discounted rates) start from around US\$150 (RWF180,750)

Transport to and from the airport costs US\$30 each way. **Contact person** : Mr. Vincent Kamegeri, e-mail address: Reservations@millecollines.rw. +250 788192000 | Tel +250 788 19 2016/17

Ubumwe Grand Hotel (13 mns from KCC 5.7 kms) see www.ubumwegrandehotel.com:

Accommodation starts at US\$200 per night. The rates include bed and breakfast and access to the facilities and all taxes An additional rate of USD 40 is added for an extra adult per night and USD 30 will be charged for an extra bed per night. One-way Airport transfer is US\$ 25 per Person (Hotel shuttle service) and US\$40 (Luxury car services).

Contact person is OLGA KAMANZI: +250788383606

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DETAILS

The Conference will take place at the Kigali Convention Centre (KCC). Complete the registration form online at www.cmja.biz . Places are **ONLY SECURED ON PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES**. If we do not receive the payment at the time of registration or within 15 days, your place will be forfeited and made available to new registrants. Places at the Conference are made on a first come first served basis. We would therefore urge you to **BOOK AND PAY NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.** www.cmja.biz

	EARLY DISCOUNT RATE (until 1 May 2024)	STANDARD RATE (After 1 May 2023)	LATE RATE (after 1 September 2024)
CMJA Individual Member Fee	£475	£575	£750
Non CMJA member Delegate Fee	£625	£725	£850
Rwanda Local Delegate Fee	£475	£475	£475
Day Delegate (Local delegates) limited number available	£200	£200	£200
Accompanying Guest Fee	£400	£400	£400
Day Out (Optional)	£75	£75	Not Applicable

- **Early Discount rate:** To qualify for the early discount rate your Registration and Payment must be received by **1 May 2024**. All registrations will be acknowledged within 3 working days of receipt by email. If you do not receive confirmation please advise the CMJA.

- **CMJA Individual Member Fee:** Current paid up Individual Members of the CMJA who have paid a membership fee prior to 8 August 2024 are eligible for the CMJA Members discount. New Members who join for three years or more will benefit from the discount if joining at the time of registration. Apart from the discounted fee for registration, Member benefit from all benefits of Non-Members Delegates Rate (see below) as well as a certificate of attendance, sent after the conference.

Join the CMJA now as an Individual Member for 3 years or more and benefit from the Discount as well as the benefits that come with membership!

Go to <http://www.cmja.org/joinus.html>, or contact info@cmja.org for details.

- **Non-Member Delegate Fee includes:**

Attendance at opening ceremony; entrance to all conference sessions; receipt of Conference documentation, access to the Delegates Area on the Conference Website (www.cmja.biz) for papers distributed during the event-available at the Conference; lunch and refreshment breaks on 9, 10, 11 September 2024; attendance at welcome reception on 8 September 2024, evening functions and closing dinner; post conference papers (accessible online on the CMJA's conference website: www.cmja.biz, accessible from the beginning of the Conference-the password will be provided at the Conference itself and not before).

- **Day Delegate Fee: Includes:**

Attendance at the Conference sessions on the Day of the Conference, Access to the Delegates Area on the Conference website for the papers distributed during the event and lunch and refreshment breaks on the day registered. This is only open to delegates from Rwanda.

- **Accompanying Guest Fee includes:**

Attendance at Opening ceremony; Attendance at welcome reception, evening functions and closing dinner; Participation in the accompanying guest's programme of tours and lunches where specified.

- **Day out on 12 September 2024:**

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) and Steering Committee (SC) have arranged an interesting visit to the King's Palace in Nyanza, a reconstruction of the traditional royal residence, a beautifully-crafted thatched dwelling shaped like a beehive. At the back live a few long-horned Ankole cattle, descended from the king's herd, whose keepers carefully tend and sing to the herd. The LOC have also organised a visit to the Rwesero Museum. Built as a palace for King Mutara III Rudahigwa, it was never used as such as the King died before he could occupy it. It has been a court house and is now a Museum showcasing the history and development of Rwanda.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAYMENT

All registration fees need to be paid **IN ADVANCE TO THE CMJA** in **British Pound Sterling (GBP £)**. Places are **ONLY SECURED ON PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES**. If we do not receive the payment at the time of registration or within 15 days, your place will be forfeited and made available to new registrants. All bank charges are the responsibility of the payee and must be paid at source. Any shortfalls will be charged on site if not covered in the original payment. If paying by bank transfer, please include the **NAME OF THE DELEGATE OR CMJA INVOICE NUMBER** on the copy of the transfer instructions.

CONFERENCE CANCELLATION AND NO-SHOW POLICY

All cancellations must be received in writing (by email or post). If you have paid your registration fee but do not participate in the Conference for whatever reason (see Disclaimer below), you will be deemed to have cancelled your participation and no refund will be given.

The following is the CMJA cancellation policy:

BEFORE 8 June 2024 full refund less admin fee of £70

BEFORE 8 July 2024 less cancellation charge of £120

AFTER 8 JULY 2024— no refund

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

The nearest airport is **Kigali International Airport** and there are number of flights options available. Kindly check with your travel agent for the best route from your home country. RwandAir, KLM, Brussels Air, Turkish Air, Ethiopian Airways, Egyptair fly into Kigali. The LOC have also negotiated a 15% discounted rate on RwandAir. Please quote the following code when booking through RwandAir: **CMJA24**. Please go to RwandAir website and insert the code at the point of booking. See below for discounted rates for RwandAir.

LAND TRANSPORT

The LOC will be not providing transportation to and from the airport for arrival and departures. Most hotels have shuttle services that can be used for transport to/from the Airport. You will need to arrange this when booking your hotel.

TRANSPORT TO/FROM THE CONFERENCE VENUE

Transport during the Conference to and from the Conference venue will be provided from the Conference hotels.

PASSPORT AND VISA

Visas on arrival are available to all Commonwealth citizens and citizens of the African Union and Francophonie. For further information on requirements please see: <https://www.migration.gov.rw/visa-on-arrival>. If you are travelling via a third country to Rwanda please ensure that you also have the relevant visas for any country you transit through. **THE CMJA CANNOT HELP WITH VISA APPLICATION OR ISSUES ARISING FROM VISA APPLICATIONS .**

LETTER OF INVITATION

Letters of invitation will **ONLY BE ISSUED** after payment is received from registered participants. Please note that such an invitation is intended to help potential participants raise travel funds or obtain a visa. It is not a commitment on the part of the conference or the CMJA to provide financial support or a guarantee that the host nation will issue the necessary visa.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Please advise the organisers of any special requirements on the registration form and note that some requirements may be subject to charges.

COVID 19 REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the delegates to ensure that they are compliant with all requirements in the host country in relation to vaccinations, social distancing and testing for COVID 19 pre travel to/from the United Kingdom and via any transiting country. The CMJA and Local Organising Committee will make every effort to ensure safety during the Conference. Please ensure that you comply with the regulations of any third country you are travelling through. The CMJA cannot assist with any requirements for transiting passengers.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

The certificates will be sent after the conference to all paid up CMJA Individual Members who participate. If you are interested in Individual Membership, please join online at: www.cmja.org/individuals/

DRESS CODE

During working sessions, dress code will be lounge suit. National dress/lounge suit is appropriate for evening functions including the Gala Dinner. During the Accompanying Guest programme and Day Out casual clothes and are recommended.

INSURANCE

The organisers will not assume responsibility for possible accidents or incidents at the conference or for travelling to/from the conference or for any cancellations or postponement of flights due to travel restrictions imposed for COVID 19 or other reasons, including visa issues. Participants must obtain travel insurance (medical, personal and luggage) in their home countries prior to departure.

PRIVACY POLICY

The CMJA complies with UK dataprotection legislation. The privacy policy of the CMJA is available on the CMJA's

Conference website at: <https://cmja.biz/privacy-policy>

CURRENCY

The currency of Rwanda is the Rwandan Franc. Payments for hotels will be charged in US\$. Please check the exchange rates on www.xe.com or with your bank.

TEMPERATURES DURING SEPTEMBER

Temperature in Kigali at this time of the year is between 16°/26°C or 61°/79°F.

TOURIST INFORMATION

For information on tourist attractions, places to eat/drink and events taking place in Kigali, Rwanda <https://www.visitrwanda.com/>

DIGNITY AND RESPECT POLICY

At its events, the CMJA seeks to create a safe and productive environment for everyone, irrespective of race, gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation or disability. Participants in the Conference are expected to comply with the CMJA's Dignity and Respect Policy (see [Dignity-and-Respect-Policy-2022.pdf \(cmja.biz\)](#) for the full policy).

DATA PROTECTION/ PRIVACY POLICY

The CMJA makes every effort to protect the data it holds on delegates and accompanying persons in the run up and during the Conference. This information will be held by the CMJA for up to 4 months following the Conference in order for it to complete all its administrative and financial requirements of the Conference including the issuance of certificates of attendance.

The CMJA will also be producing a list of delegates and accompanying guests (title, name, country and position only). This will appear in the secure area of the Conference website at the beginning of the Conference and will remain on that website for up to 100 days after the conference. Thereafter all details will be deleted from the website. In accordance with UK law, the CMJA will not share your personal details with any third parties other than people directly associated with the conference (which may include the organisers of events held during the Conference) and the Immigration Services for entry requirements. Please ensure you answer **all boxes** on the Registration form to ensure that the CMJA is able to comply with data protection information. The CMJA's privacy policy is available on the CMJA's website at: [Privacy Policy | CMJA Conference](#)

DISCLAIMER

Please note that space is limited at the Conference venue, Accompanying Guest Tour and Day Out so Registrations will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and on the basis of receipt of fees. The organisers will not assume responsibility for any visa refusals or delays that lead to the cancellation of attendance or non- appearance at the Conference and no refunds will be issues in this case. The organisers will **not** assume any responsibilities for any changes to travel restrictions or for cancellations due to positive testing due to COVID 19. The organisers reserve the right to amend or cancel the event or amend the terms and condition of registration where it is deemed necessary. They also reserve the right to withdraw any invitation to attend the Conference. The CMJA also reserves the right to change /or substitute events advertised in the programme. In the event of cancellation of the conference, a full refund of any registration fees less admin cost will be paid but the organisers will accept no further liability.

DISCOUNTED RATES ON RWANDAIR

The Local Organising Committee have also secured discounted rates on flights on RwandAir. If booking flights on RwandAir please quote **Promo code CMJA24** which will give you a discount of 15% (Standard Fare only). This cannot be used with any other discounted fare. The discount applies until 12 September 2024 for the period of travel between 21 August and 26 September 2024. Further details are available on the CMJA's conference website at: www.cmja.biz PLEASE NOTE THIS DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY TO ALREADY DISCOUNTED RATES.