



Antarctic Treaty Secretariat Newsletter

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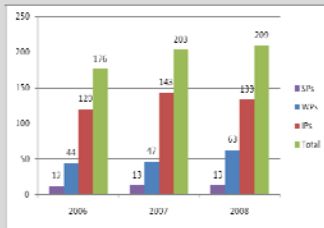
From the Executive Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends from the Antarctic community and beyond,

Following a decision of the 30th ATCM in Kyiv, this month the Electronic Information Exchange System, which has been in development for three years, will start operations. The EIES will provide the Treaty Parties and the ATCM with an important tool to gather information about Antarctic activities and the state of the Antarctic environment.

It seems we have just returned from Kyiv, and already the preparation of the 32nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting is in full swing. This is a very special meeting, of course, since 2009 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty! It is fitting, therefore, that the ATCM will return to the United States. The meeting will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, but a special session at the beginning of the conference will take place in Washington, where the Treaty was signed in 1959. It will be a great occasion to reflect on the accomplishments of the Antarctic Treaty system in these fifty years and on the challenges that confront us in the twenty-first century!

Johannes Huber



The number of documents keeps soaring

ATCM XXXI

The 31st ATCM set (again!) new records for the number of documents. The meeting dealt with almost 200 papers! 63 of them were working papers (WP), 133 information papers (IP) and 13 secretariat papers (SP). In 2007, the meeting handled 47 WPs and 143 IPs (further information in the table to the left).

The main decisions taken by the meeting in Kiev were:

- [Southwest Anvers Island](#) and Palmer Basin were designated as an Antarctic Specially Managed Area.
- [Mount Harding](#), [Amanda Bay](#) and the [Marion Nunataks](#) were designated as Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.
- The meeting also adopted revised management plans for the summit of [Mount Melbourne](#), [Barwick and Balham Valleys](#), [Cape Crozier](#), [North-east Bailey Peninsula](#), [North-west White Island](#), [Linneaus Terrace](#), [Botany Bay](#), [Cape Evans](#), [Frazier Islands](#) and [Terra Nova Bay](#).
- The "[Environmental Domains Analysis for the Antarctic Continent](#)" was adopted to be used together with other tools agreed within the Antarctic Treaty System as a dynamic model for the identification of areas that could be designated as Antarctic Specially Protected Areas ([ASPAs](#)).
- Through Resolution 2 (2008), the meeting adopted four [new site guidelines for visitors](#) for the following sites: Shingle Cove, Devil Island, Whalers Bay and Half Moon Island. The use of [site guidelines](#) for visitors was established in 2005, when the Treaty Meeting recognised the continuing trend in the increase of tourism activities in Antarctica and noted that certain specific sites were frequently visited by tour operators, increasing the potential for visitor-related pressures.
- The ATCM also agreed the procedure for selection and appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat. Nationals of a Consultative Party may apply for the post only to their national authority.
- The Meeting directed the Executive Secretary to begin operation of the Electronic Information Exchange System ([EIES](#)) and asked the Secretariat to make the information submitted to the EIES publicly available through the Secretariat website as soon as practicable.
- Organised by SCAR, a [lecture](#) on space weather and its effects was given by Dr Louis J. Lanzerotti, of the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Because the Earth's magnetic field runs into the Earth at the poles, measurements of the strength of the magnetic field and of particles guided along the magnetic field can be made most easily on the ground at the poles, especially in Antarctica where there is land around the pole, so enabling us to understand this outer space environment without visiting it.

A seminar on the importance of hydrographic activities in Antarctica was held on 9 June. It was introduced by the Chairman of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO/HCA), Captain Hugo Gorziglia, and presentations were made by Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff, United Kingdom National Hydrographer; Rear Admiral Manuel Catalán, Technical Secretary of the Spanish Polar Committee and Chairman of the COMNAP SHIPOPS committee; Dr Hans-Werner Schenke of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research; Yves Guillam, Head of Plans, Policy and External Relations of the French Hydrographic Service SHOM; and Commodore Rod Nairn, the Australian Hydrographer and Vice Chair of the HCA. The complete set of [lectures](#) is available from the ATS website.



The CEP met at Hotel Rus in central Kiev.



Sectional view of the rooms in the main building of the new Chinese station.

CEP XI

The 11th Meeting of the [Committee for Environmental Protection](#) took place between June 2 and 6, chaired by Dr. Neil Gilbert from New Zealand. The Committee considered a large amount of documents: 44 Working Papers, 64 Information Papers and 5 Secretariat Papers dealing with an important and varied agenda related to protection of the Antarctic Environment.

Among the most important matters considered, the Committee discussed a draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE) prepared by China for the proposed construction and operation of the new Chinese Dome A Station in Antarctica which was endorsed for consideration by the ATCM. Taking into consideration the comments made by CEP members, the [Final CEE](#) was released by China on 20 August 2008.

Thirteen revised management plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas ([ASPAs](#)) and one management plan for a new Antarctic Specially Managed Area ([ASMA](#)) were discussed and proposed for consideration of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting together with new four [site guidelines](#) for visitors. On the other hand the Committee proposed for consideration by the Antarctic Treaty Meeting the final report from New Zealand on its development of an Environmental Domains Analysis (EDA) for meeting the Systematic Environmental Geographic Framework (SEGF) requirements of Annex V to the Protocol.

The Committee considered the [advice of SCAR](#) with respect to its revised assessment of the status of southern giant petrels, and supported SCAR's recommendation on that analysis does not support listing of the species as specially protected.

Other important issues discussed at the 11th CEP meeting were the adoption of an Electronic Information Exchange System for complying with the requirements of Article 17 of the Environmental Protocol, continuing discussions on operations and strategy for the CEP in the coming five years, inspection reports, cooperation with other organizations, etc.

Dr Neil Gilbert, from New Zealand was re-elected as [CEP Chair](#) and Mr Ewan McIvor, from Australia was elected as Second Vicechair. The Committee thanked the work done by Ms Tania Brito, from Brazil, for the work done as Vicechair during the last two years.

Electronic Information Exchange System

At the end of September the Electronic Information Exchange System (EIES) went online. The EIES, which the ATCM decided to develop in Decision 10 (2005), is a system to collect the information provided by the Parties to the Antarctic Treaty according to the requirements of the Treaty and the Protocol and make it available through a central database maintained by the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

Although information exchange has been an essential part of Antarctic Treaty cooperation from the start, practical use of this information has been hampered by the fact that up to now the data provided were contained in twenty-eight different national reports either in hard copy or on different websites. Compilation of the annual report is also a burdensome task, especially for smaller Antarctic programmes. The EIES is designed to address both problems, facilitating the supply of data by the Parties and making the data collected more readily available to the ATCM and the CEP and the general public.

Information exchange between the Antarctic Treaty Parties has its origin in Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty, which provides that Each Contracting Party shall, at the time when the present Treaty enters into force for it, inform the other Contracting Parties, and thereafter shall give them notice in advance, of

- (a) all expeditions to and within Antarctica, on the part of its ships or nationals, and all expeditions to Antarctica organized in or proceeding from its territory;
- (b) all stations in Antarctica occupied by its nationals; and
- (c) any military personnel or equipment intended to be introduced by it into Antarctica

These provisions are intimately connected with the other subject of Article VII, which is the obligation of Parties to allow their facilities to be inspected by the other Parties. Information exchange and inspections have the same aim: to ensure complete transparency of all activities carried out in Antarctica.

Before the adoption of the Environment Protocol in 1991 the ATCM adopted 26 different measures in which the general provisions of Article VII were implemented in specific requirements on a range of items. The Standard Format for the Annual Exchanges of Information adopted with Recommendation VIII-6 (1975) includes a list of fifteen different items, some divided into up to six sub-items, of information ranging from "names, locations, and dates of opening of the Party's bases" to "intended use of scientific research rockets" to "numbers of each species killed or captured in the Antarctic Treaty Area", to pick some of them at random. Significant is also number X: "Notice of any expeditions to Antarctica not organised by the Party but organised in, calling at, or proceeding from the Party's territory (including tourism)". Even before the adoption of the Environment Protocol, information exchange had already gone far beyond information related to disarmament, which was the main motivation at the beginning, to cover a wide range of subjects concerning Antarctica, its natural environment and the human activities taking place there, whether through national expeditions or through private trips.

(Continues on the next page)

This trend was strengthened by the Environment Protocol, which in its Article 17 calls on Parties to “report annually on the steps taken to implement this Protocol” and also to make these reports, the specification of which are included in specific provisions in the Protocol and its Annexes, publicly available.

In 2001 the 24th ATCM adopted a new list with a more systematic restatement of the information exchange requirements, generally dividing the various items into three categories: Operational, Scientific, Environmental and Other Information, to be provided in three kinds of reports: Pre-season, Annual, and Permanent. At the same time, Parties were encouraged to provide this information to a central website, which was at first maintained by Argentina and which was transferred to the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat at its establishment in 2004. The list of requirements adopted in 2001 provided the framework for the EIES database, which has now gone operational.

Introducing Juliet Munn



Juliet had visited Buenos Aires in 2006.

As part of the ATS traineeship program, Juliet Munn, from the United Kingdom, joined the Secretariat on 4 August. She will stay at the office until the beginning of November.

-What is your link to Antarctica?

-I got an undergraduate degree in geography at [Durham University](#), specialising in my final year in Antarctic studies, a course that I then followed with a law degree.

-How did you end up applying for a traineeship at the Secretariat?

-When I received the chance to start work in London six months later than I'd originally planned, I looked for an opportunity which would allow me to combine the different interest that I'd gained from my studies. The [Antarctic Treaty Secretariat](#) seemed like the perfect place. It was an even bigger bonus that the Secretariat is located in Buenos Aires, a city that I'd already visited in January 2006 -during the austral summer-, and absolutely loved!

-What is your task at the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat?

-Since I arrived I've mainly been working on drawing up both legislative and historical summaries of the Antarctic Specially [Protected Areas](#). I've also been working to identify any gaps that currently exist in the [Antarctic Treaty database](#) in relation to the French records of the ATCMs, as well as spending time on an ongoing research project. We have also just started proofreading the final report of [ATCM XXXI](#), a task that should see me through the first half of my traineeship.

So far being a Trainee at the Secretariat has been exceptionally interesting and rewarding and has given me an invaluable insight into the workings and the development of the Antarctic Treaty and the [ATCMs](#).



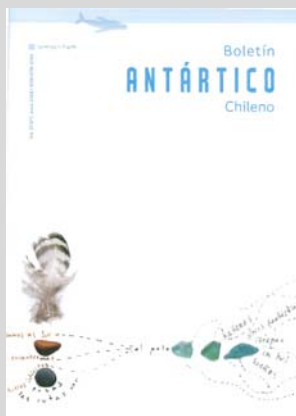
Publications Received

Environmental domains of Antarctica

Environmental domains of Antarctica version 2.0 Final report, by Fraser Morgan, Gary Barker, Craig Briggs, Robbie Price and Harry Keys.

This publication was prepared for [Antarctica New Zealand](#), Department of Conservation, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Ministry for the Environment.

Environmental domains is available [for free](#) from the ATS Documentation Centre.

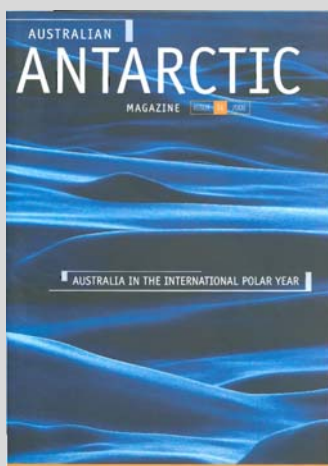


Boletín Antártico Chileno

Vol. 27, no. 1 (June 2008) of the Chilean Antarctic bulletin. ISSN 0716-0763. This 36-page publication is produced by the [Instituto Antártico Chileno](#) (INACH).

In this issue, readers will find a series of articles devoted to Antarctic cetaceans and a poster with illustrations by Uko Gorter and picture by Jordi Plana.

It includes summaries in English and can be [downloaded](#) free of charge from the INACH website.



Australian Antarctic Magazine

Issue 14 of the Australian Antarctic Magazine is devoted to Australia in the International Polar Year. It covers a wide range of subjects, from the results of the Collaborative East Antarctic Marine Census ([CEAMARC](#)) to the Sea Ice Physics and Ecosystem Experiment ([SIPEX](#)).

Australian Antarctic Magazine is produced twice yearly by the Australian Antarctic Division, which manages Australian government activity in Antarctica.

This magazine can be viewed online: <http://www.aad.gov.au/magazine>, *no. 1 (June 2008)* of the Chilean Antarctic bulletin. ISSN 0716-0763. This



News from SCAR

SCAR elects new officers

At the XXX SCAR Delegates meeting, in Moscow on July 16, 2008, Delegates elected Mahlon 'Chuck' Kennicutt (USA) as the new President, and Rasik Ravindra (India) and Ad Huiskes (Netherlands) as new Vice Presidents. They will join continuing Vice Presidents Antonio Meloni (Italy) and Sergio Marensi (Argentina), and Past President Chris Rapley (UK) to form the SCAR Executive Committee. Delegates bid a fond farewell to former Past President Jörn Thiede (Germany), and to former Vice President Zhanhai Zhang (China). Now that SCAR has independent legal status as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and is a Charity under UK Law, the officers of SCAR are also Directors of SCAR as a Company, and Trustees of SCAR as a Charity.

SCAR accepts new members

At the XXX SCAR Delegates meeting, in Moscow on July 14, 2008, Delegates endorsed Malaysia's application to change from Associate to Full Membership of SCAR, Romania's application to become an Associate Member, and the International Astronomical Union's application to become a Union Member. On July 16, former President Chris Rapley was elected an Honorary Member.

Oslo IPY Science Conference, June 2010: Call for session ideas

The next large IPY Conference will take place in Oslo, June 8-12th, 2010. Please consider shaping this conference by proposing a session idea - this could be in the form of traditional presentations, workshops, interactive discussions, visual displays, or other creative ideas to bring out the best of IPY. Deadline for session proposals is 24th October, 2008. For more information, visit the [conference website](#) or contact Kristen Ulstein (email: ku@forskningsradet.no)

Obituary for Past SCAR President George Knox

SCAR regrets to announce the recent death of George Knox, a New Zealand marine biologist who was Secretary of SCAR from 1974-78, and President of SCAR from 1978-82.



George began a long-term marine biology Antarctic research programme in association with the Zoology Department, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, in 1960, and directed this successful team for 12 years from 1971 to 1983. He participated in 13 field parties to the Antarctic. He showed a special interest in Antarctic Conservation and was involved in strategy proposals for the conservation of Antarctic seals, and proposals for the designation of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and sites of special scientific interest. He was much involved in SCAR's 10-year BIOMASS programme and in issues relating to the potential mineral exploitation of Antarctica.

George published over 100 scientific papers, 25 on the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, and wrote or edited eight books, with several still in the pipeline. His most recent book, the 1000-page Biology of the Southern Ocean, published by Cambridge University Press, has just been reproduced in a 2nd revised Edition and is the standard international reference work on the biology of the oceans surrounding Antarctica.

Ozone's Influence

In recent decades, the westerly winds of the southern hemispheric jet stream have accelerated on the poleward side of the jet; this acceleration has been attributed to a combination of effects from increasing greenhouse gas concentrations and decreasing amounts of stratospheric ozone, and this strengthening has been predicted to continue. Son et al. in a recent article in Science ([p. 1486](#)) find differently. A recent set of models, which include fully interactive stratospheric chemistry, project that the summer tropospheric westerly winds in the Southern Hemisphere will decrease on the poleward side of the jet, owing to the gradual diminution of the ozone hole through the year 2050. This would have important consequences for climate in the Southern Hemisphere, and highlights the importance of stratospheric ozone recovery as an agent of climate change.

Seas Likely to Rise Faster This Century

Based on an article by Richard A. Kerr, ScienceNOW Daily News, 4 September 2008. A report in "Science" suggests that global warming will cause sea levels to rise much faster by the end of the century than officially projected. The rising temperatures will cause the oceans to swell with melted glacial ice, the study finds, likely flooding substantial portions of Florida and Bangladesh, as well as many other low-lying, densely populated areas of the world. Warming glaciers raise sea level by adding more water both as they melt and when icebergs break off. Glaciologist W. Tad Pfeffer of the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his colleagues calculated how fast glaciers would have to flow in order to raise sea level by a given number of metres and then considered whether those flow rates were plausible. They calculated Greenland ice loss through specific rock-bounded "gates". For West Antarctica the gates are not well defined, so they used approximations of how flow might respond to rising temperatures. The resulting "improved estimate" of sea-level rise ranges from 80 centimetres to 200 centimetres by the end of the century. That is significantly higher than the estimates of the IPCC (February 2007). Rises of this order would threaten coastal people in many parts of the world.



News from COMNAP

COMNAP Constitution – refocused purpose and strategic objectives

A “National Antarctic Program” is the entity with national responsibility for managing the support of scientific research in the Antarctic Treaty Area, on behalf of its government and in the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty.

Twenty nine National Antarctic Programs have chosen to become a member of COMNAP, where they work together to develop and promote best practice in managing the support of scientific research in Antarctica.

COMNAP adopted in July at its 20th annual meeting a new Constitution. The text can be found at www.comnap.aq

COMNAP – A new way of working

COMNAP resolved in July at its 20th annual meeting to adopt a new way of working to be better placed to address new, upcoming challenges.

COMNAP will now be a more strategic, project-oriented organisation, defining a small number of strategic projects and each time finding the best people to deliver a result within a defined timeframe.

Transition to this new way of working is underway.

Improved Search and Rescue (SAR) – a successful workshop

COMNAP convened in August in association with the Chilean SAR authorities a very successful workshop Towards Search and Rescue Coordination and Response in the Antarctic. It brought together:

- National delegations of SAR authorities and National Antarctic Programs from Argentina, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, France, the USA and the UK
- COMNAP members from Germany, Japan and Uruguay
- Representatives from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- the Chair of the joint IMO and International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) committee on Search and Rescue.

The workshop was very positive and productive and agreed on a range of practical recommendations to take forward. It includes a number of actions to undertake ahead of the coming 2008/2009 season. The report of the workshop will be circulated in the coming weeks.

Workshop participants thanked COMNAP for its initiative and recommended that it reconvene a second workshop next year. It should be held late July 2009 in Argentina.

This newsletter can be downloaded from: [here](#)