



# Antarctic Treaty Secretariat Newsletter

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## From the Executive Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends from the Antarctic community and beyond,

Our work on the Final Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> ATCM (in print) and on a totally revised website (coming soon!) has delayed our newsletter somewhat. Nevertheless, there are plenty interesting developments in connection with Antarctica, including the first visit by a UN Secretary-General, as you will see inside.

Johannes Huber



## New site guidelines for visitors

The two new site guidelines for visitors adopted by the 30<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, for the Brown Bluff and Snow Hill sites, have been printed and distributed to be used during this season and are available for download free of charge in the four Treaty languages from the ATS website ([www.ats.aq](http://www.ats.aq)) at *Topics, Other*.

In addition to Brown Bluff and Snow Hill, the whole set of site guidelines includes Penguin Island, Barrientos Island - Aitcho Island, Cuverville Island, Jougla Point, Goudier island (Port Lockroy), Hannah Point, Neko Harbour, Paulet Island, Petermann Island, Pléneau Island, Turret Point and Yankee Harbour. All of them are also available at [the website](#)

The use of site guidelines for visitors was established in 2005, taking into account the continuing increase of tourism activities in Antarctica and noting that certain specific sites constituted the principal focus for visitors. Such sites are, to varying degrees, visited frequently by tour operators, which increases the potential for visitor-related pressures.

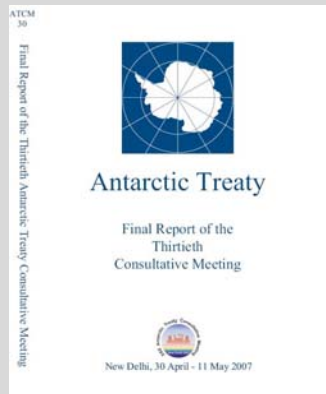
The site guidelines, first adopted during the 28<sup>th</sup> ATCM held in Stockholm, have been compiled in the belief that the management of visitor sites must be able to respond readily to changing circumstances such as increased tourist pressure, or demonstrable environmental impact.

Starting with only four, the list now comprises fourteen sites. People intending to visit these sites should follow the advices in the site guidelines.

One of the two new guidelines is devoted to Brown Bluff, a 1.5km long cobble and ash beach rising steeply towards towering red-brown tuff cliffs embedded with volcanic bombs. The cliffs are heavily eroded, resulting in loose scree and rock falls on higher slopes and large, wind eroded boulders on the beach. At high water the beach area can be restricted. Permanent ice and tidewater glaciers surround the site to the north and south occasionally filling the beach with brash ice.

The other guideline focuses on the wooden hut on Snow Hill Island, built in February 1902 by the main party of the Swedish South Polar Expedition led by Otto Nordenskjöld. This location was designated as Historic Site and Monument Number 38 in the framework of the Antarctic Treaty.

Hard copies of the guidelines for visitors have been distributed to Parties and among tour operators before the beginning of the season 2007-2008. Digital copies can be found at [www.ats.aq](http://www.ats.aq).



## Final Report in English, French, Russian and Spanish

After the English version, which was published in October, the other three language versions have now appeared and will be distributed to more than 50 ATCM Parties, Observers and Experts before the end of the year. The report includes all the measures adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting held in New Delhi between 30 April and 23 June 2006.

Online versions of the book are available free of charge in the Documents section of the Secretariat's website [www.ats.aq](http://www.ats.aq), under Final Report. This digital version is an exact copy of the printed version. It is divided into four parts: Part I is the report of the meeting itself; Part II consists of the set of Measures, Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the meeting; in Part III there are speeches and other reports (including the report of the Committee for Environmental Protection) and in Part IV there are supplementary information and lists of contacts.

Each part of the book is individually downloadable.



Valeria Savchenko

## First trainee from Ukraine

Valeria Savchenko came to the Secretariat after the 30<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting held this year in New Delhi (see the previous ATS Newsletter), in which she participated as a member of the Ukraine delegation.

Valeria works at the International Cooperation Department of the [National Antarctic Scientific Centre of Ukraine](#) and she started her work at the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat on 13 August.

Asked about her activities at the Secretariat, Valeria says: "So long as I am the first Russian-speaking person at the office, working at the Secretariat for more that 2 months, I have a lot of work to do."

"Since next year Ukraine is going to be the Host Country of the 31<sup>st</sup> ATCM, my first task at the Secretariat is to contribute to the preparation of the organizational manual for the ATCM. I feel great responsibility to obtain as much knowledge in this sphere of activity as possible.

Other projects I'm working on are the proofreading of the Final Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> ATCM, the digitization of the attachments of the [ATCM recommendations database](#) and the translation of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat [website](#) into Russian."

"In spite of such pressure of work I still have some time to study data from the national Antarctic programmes, [International Polar Year](#) programmes and ATCM documents. This is essential for the scientific research on the national, economic, strategic and geopolitical interests of the Antarctic Treaty Parties in which I'm engaged.

Throughout my work here I have felt and received patient and friendly assistance from my colleagues at the Secretariat. Thanks to everybody! All in all, it is an invaluable experience for me and the Ukrainian Antarctic Centre in gaining knowledge of the politics of the Antarctic Treaty System and a great help in my scientific research."





## Contacts up to date

Several improvements have been made to the Secretariat's contact database to take account of the Secretariat's own experience and comments received from delegates at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in New Delhi.

The information provided at [www.ats.aq](http://www.ats.aq) in the *ATCM Contact Points* section (Home, Antarctic Treaty, ATCM) and in the *Authorities and Members* section of the CEP website ([www.cep.aq](http://www.cep.aq)) is now provided directly by the contacts database.

Data can be added or edited by the Contact Administrator of each party, or persons authorized by them. For mutual benefit, please keep the database complete and up to date!



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Dr. José Retamales (back), Director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute. *Picture: M. L. Carvallo Cruz*

## UN visit to Antarctica

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Antarctica with the intention of underscoring the effects of global climate change.

On Friday, 9 November, Ban Ki-moon touched down on King George island, Antarctica. He became the first UN Secretary-General to visit the frozen continent. Landing at Chile's President Eduardo Frei Air Force Base, he immediately travelled to Collins Glacier on King George's Island by small plane. Upon landing on the glacier, he was briefed by the two Chilean scientists who had accompanied him: Claudio Bunster, Director of the Centre for Scientific Studies; and Chile's leading glaciologist, Gino Casassa, a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which won this year's Nobel peace prize for its work on the environment. Returning to the Chilean base, he was then transported to the Uruguayan research base, from where he travelled by inflatable boat to the Republic of Korea's Sejong research centre. At Sejong, the Secretary-General was briefed by the centre's chief, Sang Hoon Lee, on a glacier that has retreated by more than 1 kilometre in the last 50 years.



No alien species on your soles, right? *Picture: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

Throughout his Antarctica trip, the Secretary-General was accompanied by Ana Lya Uriarte, Chile's Minister of the Environment; Alberto van Klaveeren, Chile's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chile's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Heraldo Muñoz, Dr. José Retamales, Director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute, and other authorities.



Ban Ki-moon did not arrive alone: 27 people (UN staff, members of the Chilean government and press) landed with him. *Picture: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

The Secretary-General issued a [statement](#) and [spoke to reporters](#) at the Chilean base before returning to Punta Arenas, Chile. During that press encounter, he said he was not in Antarctica as a tourist, but rather as an early warning messenger on climate change. He added that, while what he had seen had been "extraordinarily beautiful", it had also been disturbing to see melting glaciers. Saying that Antarctica was the world's common heritage, he stressed that it must be managed in an environmentally sustainable way.

Back in Santiago, the Secretary-General delivered a [statement](#) alongside Chile's President Bachelet. He told reporters that he would discuss all that he had seen and learned in Chile and Antarctica when he visited Valencia, Spain, on 17 November, to release the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.



## News from SCAR

### SCAR President takes new appointment

As of 1<sup>st</sup> September, Chris Rapley, President of SCAR and Director of the British Antarctic Survey, took up the post of Director of the Science Museum in South Kensington, London. Chris is thrilled at the prospect of taking on the leadership of such a cherished national institution, especially as the task he has been set is to make it the most admired museum of its type in the world. This includes building the museum's international profile and reputation, strengthening its national position and being the benchmark for best practice. Chris will retire as SCAR president at the XXX SCAR Meeting in Russia, July 2008.

### New Executive Officer for SCAR

As from 2 July 2007, SCAR was joined by a new Executive Officer, Dr Mike Sparrow from the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, United Kingdom.

### Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) News

The Census of Antarctic Marine Life ([CAML](#)) is SCAR's contribution to a global Census of Marine Life ([CoML](#)). The Scientific Steering Committee of CAML and invited experts met in Bialowieza, Poland, from June 4-6, 2007, in conjunction with the [SCAR-MarBIN](#) Workshop on 7-8 June. Participants discussed a planned synthesis of CAML activities, in the context of the [International Polar Year](#). With 13 other census field projects, CAML presented the results from its initial year of fieldwork at the CoML [All Program Meeting](#) 12-18 November 2007 in Auckland, New Zealand. The synthesis will appear in an integrated series of scientific publications and media announcements, and significant scientific publications bearing CAML's imprimatur are appearing already.

The data for the synthesis are being collected during CAML's field work activity for IPY 2007/09. CAML is coordinating Antarctic biodiversity projects on 18 research vessels, together with data from tourist vessels, from the [Continuous Plankton Recorder programme](#), and from historical collections. For consistency in comparison, uniform sampling protocols and an expedition database have been developed in support of quantitative synthesis with a statistically-robust design. Special resources have been dedicated to barcoding and microbes. A CAML barcoding coordinator has been appointed, based at the British Antarctic Survey ([BAS](#)). The four-pronged approach to identification (voucher specimen, gene sequence, image, metadata) is coming together under plans for an Encyclopaedia of Antarctic Marine Life including "wikispecies" pages.

Venezuela has joined Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay in the Consortium of South American nations called Oficina Latinoamericana para el Census of Antarctic Marine Life (OLA-CAML). The Antarctic Institute of Perú ([INANPE](#)) recently completed a voyage on *Humboldt* 9 January-12 February from Punta Arenas, with a project on benthic biodiversity in Admiralty Bay.

Further details are available on the [CAML](#) website and the Antarctic data portal [SCAR-MarBIN](#).



## Meetings

### CCAMLR XXVI

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) held its annual meeting from 22 October to 2 November 2007 in Hobart, Australia.

CCAMLR meetings are only open to nominated representatives of CCAMLR members and to invited observers from other states and specific organisations.

The meetings of the Commission and its scientific committee are conducted in English, French, Russian and Spanish. More information on CCAMLR can be found at [www.ccamlr.org](http://www.ccamlr.org).

### Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica ([HCA](#)) of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) took place on 3-5 October 2007 at the Centro Naval in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The local organiser was the Servicio de Hidrografia Naval (SHN).

Additional information can be found at:

[http://www.iho.shom.fr/REG\\_HYD\\_COM/HCA/HCA.htm](http://www.iho.shom.fr/REG_HYD_COM/HCA/HCA.htm)

### Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information

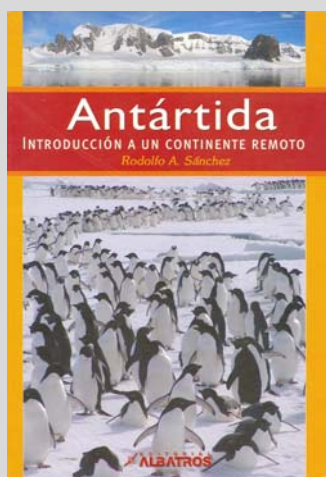
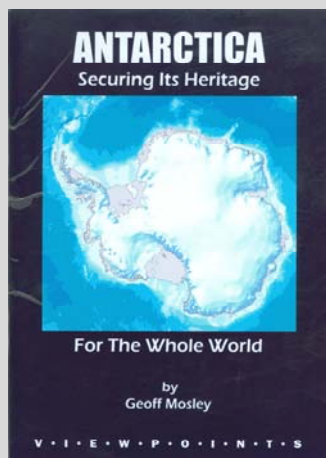
SCAR's Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information ([SC-AGI](#)) met in Buenos Aires from 8 to 10 October, 2007.

All work in Antarctica relies on a consistent geographic framework, and the main function of the new Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information is to manage and improve the geographic framework not only for Antarctic scientific research but also for other activities including operations, environmental management and tourism.

Further information on this meeting:

<http://www.antsdi.scar.org/eggi/meetings/scagi-intercessional-meeting-buenos-aires/index>





## Publications received

### Antarctica's heritage

*Antarctica: securing its heritage for the whole world*, by John Geoffrey Mosley. ISBN 9780858812208.

Other titles by the author are *Antarctica: our last wilderness* (1986) and *Australia's wilderness heritage: world heritage areas (1988)*, co-authored with Penelope Figgis.

Copies of this 30-page pocket book can be obtained from Geoff Mosley ([mosenett@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mosenett@optusnet.com.au)). *Antarctica: Securing its heritage for the whole world* was published in 2007.

### A close look into a distant continent

*Antártida: Introducción a un continente remoto* (Antarctica: An introduction to a remote continent), by Rodolfo Sánchez. 256 pages ISBN 978-950-24-1211-5. Publisher: Editorial Albatros, 2007.

This thorough and up to date guide of the white continent summarises the most outstanding features of Antarctica's nature and history. It provides detailed information on current human activities (from scientific research to fisheries and tourism) and environmental protection of Antarctica.

The author can be contacted at [rodolf@abaconet.com.ar](mailto:rodolf@abaconet.com.ar) (English translators are especially welcome!)

PUBLICATIONS ARE WELCOME AT: ANTARCTIC TREATY SECRETARIAT.  
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