

Non-Native Species in the Antarctic: A Workshop

Christchurch, April 2006

Aim:

To bring together relevant national and international experts to discuss the protection of Antarctica from non-native (animal and vegetal) species, in order to contribute to development of guidance for New Zealand officials and ultimately the Antarctic Treaty Parties on matters such as:

- best practice for Antarctic operations;
- consideration of the potential for introduction of non-native species during the environmental impact assessment process;
- controls or conditions placed on permitted activities by National Parties; and
- definition of key research requirements.

A paper on the outcomes of the workshop is to be prepared for ATCM XXIX in Edinburgh, 2006.

Convenors:

Dr Neil Gilbert	Environmental Manager, Antarctica New Zealand
Dr Maj de Poorter	Coordinator, Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, University of Auckland
Prof. Bryan Storey	Director, Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury

Key questions:

1. State of knowledge:
 - How complete is the understanding of non-native species in Antarctica?
 - What are the gaps in knowledge?
 - What are the research priorities?
2. Non-native species threats:
 - What are the key characteristics of successful invasive species?
 - Which species, diseases or groups pose the greatest threat in Antarctica? (including current identified diseases)
 - Which environments or ecosystems are most at risk?
 - What are the transport processes / pathways?
 - How do we distinguish between natural and human-assisted invasions? And how do we respond?
 - Genetics threats? (Which may result from exchanges of individuals between sites in Antarctica).
3. Management of threats:
 - Are existing controls adequate?
 - If not, what are the gaps and how might these be addressed?
 - Are there any precautionary measures that should be put in place?
 - How are similar risks managed elsewhere?
 - Are these practices applicable in Antarctica, or are there unique factors in the Antarctic context?
 - Can the same practices be applied Antarctic-wide or are there regional differences?
 - Does management need to be specific to different types of activity?
 - Two management strategies: eradication vs control of invasive species.

4. Future considerations:

- What new activities may develop, and what risks might these involve?
- What impact might a changing Antarctic climate have?
- Can we evaluate the risks associated with allowed activities (such as hydroponic cultures, importation of fresh vegetables etc.)? If yes, what are some recommendations to mitigate/avoid the risks?

Day One: UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT

Aims:

- introduce the current state of knowledge regarding biological invasions in Antarctica, and in a global context
- provide background for key questions 1 and 2

12:30	Registration\Deposit posters	
1:00	Welcome and introductions	Bryan Storey
1:10	Opening	Jim Sutton (or representative), Minister for Biosecurity
1:20	Keynote: Biodiversity and the threat of invasive species	TBC
2:20	Biological invasions in the Antarctic: Extent, impacts and implications	Yves Frenot, Deputy Director, IPEV
3:00	Afternoon tea\Posters	
3:30	The state of knowledge: Non native species in the Antarctic marine environment	Chad Hewitt, Foundation Chair, National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation, Victoria Australia
4:00	Non native species in the Antarctic terrestrial environment - presence, sources, impacts and predictions	Dr Peter Convey, Biological Sciences Division, British Antarctic Survey
4:30	Discussion	
5:00	Closing remarks	
5:15-6:45	Poster session	
7:00	Workshop dinner	

Day Two: MANAGING THE RISKS

Aims:

- identify priorities and possibilities for managing the threat of biological invasions in Antarctica
- provide background for key questions 3 and 4

8:30	Poster Session	
9:00	Welcome & recap	Bryan Storey
9:10	Lessons from the Australian Antarctic Division: an update on quarantine initiatives	Tom Maggs, Environmental Manager, Australian Antarctic Division
9:40	Tools for risk assessment and management	Hamish Cochrane, University of Canterbury
10:10	Legal tools (internal ATS and external) available for controlling risk and management of non-native species.	Bill Mansfield
10:30	Morning Tea\Posters	
11:00	The Challenges of dealing with alien species in the international context of the Antarctic Treaty System.	Maj de Poorter, Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, University of Auckland
11:30	The NZ perspective	Barry O'Neill, Biosecurity NZ
12:00	Instructions for working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key questions • Powerpoint templates 	Neil Gilbert
12:15	LUNCH\posters	
1:00	Working groups	Assigned facilitators
3:00	Afternoon tea/posters	
3:30	Working groups	Assigned facilitators
5:30	Close	

Day 3: REPORT BACK

8:30	Working Groups (preparation of reports)	
10:00	Report back from working group 1 (20 minutes + 10 for questions)	
10:30	Report back from working group 2	
11:00	Morning Tea\posters	
11:30	Report back from working group 3	
12:00	Report back from working group 4	
12:30	Closing remarks and summary	
13:00	End of Workshop	
	Posters available to view until 4pm	