



Antarctic Treaty Secretariat Newsletter

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From the Executive Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends in the Antarctic community and beyond,

The big event since our last issue was, of course, the 28th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting which took place in Stockholm from 6 to 17 June, with the final agreement after thirteen years of negotiation on a Liability Annex to the Environmental Protocol (see below).

Back in Buenos Aires, we are busy preparing the publication of the Final Report.

We hope to produce the English version in October and the other language versions soon after.

In this issue, you will find a new item: "News from SCAR". The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research is an essential part of the Antarctic Treaty System, even predating the ATCM, and as part of our close cooperation we have agreed with the SCAR Secretariat to exchange news items on a regular basis in our respective newsletters.

Finally, to emphasize our connection with Antarctica, we are moving to the Antarctic domain on the Internet: you can now find our website at www.ats.aq. Our email addresses will also move to the new domain, but don't worry: the old addresses (with ats.org.ar) will remain valid for some time, so your emails (and, hopefully, contributions to our newsletter!) will reach us, whichever domain name you use.

Johannes Huber



Welcome to the delegates (Photo from www.sweden.gov.se/atcm)

The 28th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

ATCM XXVIII was held in Stockholm, Sweden from June 7 to 16.

The meeting took place in unusual surroundings: not a conference center, but a building adjacent to the Technical Museum, one of three museums located in a beautiful verdant park area close to the center of Stockholm. Inside the long, low-slung building, the former Telecommunications Museum, converted with great ingenuity into a conference site, the atmosphere was one of intensive meetings, negotiations and, especially on the part of the secretariat, and the translation and printing sections, frantic efforts to keep up with the ever increasing streams of documents. We were only kept going by plentiful supplies of good coffee, *kanelbulle* (a truly addictive pastry) and wonderful cookies provided by our generous hosts.

Right outside our windows all was peace and quiet and green nature. The meeting place had been cleverly chosen so as to make us have brisk walks along the Djurgårdsbrunn Canal early in the morning and late at night, and in the few short moments of rest, it was wonderful to snatch a lunch in one of the terraces on the green grass outside the museum buildings...

The main item on the ATCM's agenda was the Liability Annex. We had been looking forward to this with increasing expectation for the last few years, but even after we had gathered in Stockholm a successful outcome of the negotiations was not sure. It took a sustained process of hard negotiation, both inside the meeting room and in the corridors and the personal involvement by the Chair of the ATCM, Ambassador Hans Corell, to give the final push. There was an enormous sense of relief and accomplishment in the entire meeting when the valiant efforts of Ambassador Don Mackay and the hard working negotiators finally paid off and we could celebrate the adoption of the Annex with a glass of champagne on the evening of June 15.

For the Secretariat, this meeting was our first big test, and it was not an easy one. All systems were new and untested, and the 28th ATCM received more Working Papers and Information Papers than any ATCM before, and took more decisions: 22 Measures, Decisions and Resolutions were adopted at this meeting, as compared to an average of 11 for the last four ATCM's. Measure 2 (2005) broke all records by dealing with Management Plans for 2 new and no less than 12



Ambassador Hans Corel and the Chair of the Working Group on Liability, Ambassador Don Macay (Photo from www.sweden.gov.se/atcm)

existing Antarctic Specially Protected Areas in one Measure. All this meant a lot of documents and a heavy load. Everybody involved in one of the most productive ATCM's ever, whether as delegate or as staff, can be proud of the results.

A Liability Annex for the Environmental Protocol

When the Antarctic Treaty Parties concluded the Environmental Protocol in Madrid in 1991, they undertook in Article XVI of the Protocol to elaborate "rules and procedures relating to liability" arising from Antarctic activities, to be included in "one or more Annexes." In Stockholm, fourteen years later, countless meetings, extensive and sometimes meandering academic and ideological discussions, and, in the last few years, ever more intensive negotiations came to fruition when an Annex on Liability Arising from Environmental Emergencies (Annex VI to the Protocol) was finally agreed. The complexity and difficulty of the negotiations were well expressed by Ambassador Don Mackay, when he presented the final draft to the ATCM. He said that he was quite sure that not one of the 28 delegations would be truly happy with the text. But, in the true Antarctic cooperative spirit, all Parties decided in the end that they could live with it, and so it was approved.

Once the Annex has entered into force, an operator active in Antarctica who fails to take "prompt and effective response action to environmental emergencies arising from its activities" shall be liable for the cost of the response action taken by another party. The conditions and procedures under which this provision will be effectuated are demanding and complex (a lot of the negotiations concerned the details of these conditions) but this basic rule will mean a big step forward in the effectiveness of the Antarctic environmental regime.

For the Annex to come into effect, however, each of the 28 Consultative Parties will have to approve Measure 1 (2005), to which the Annex is attached. Let us hope that the approval procedures will not take too much time, so that the liability regime will be applied as soon as possible. We will keep you posted on the progress.

CEP VIII

One of the most important parts of the ATCM was of course the meeting of the Committee on Environmental Protection. CEP VIII dealt with a heavy agenda and a very large number of documents.

The Committee approved and proposed to the ATCM the adoption of a new Antarctic Specially managed Area in Deception Island (South Shetland Islands), two new Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and two new Historic Sites and Monuments. One of the new Monuments creates a unique precedent: The exact location of Historical Monument No. 80, Amundsen's Tent, is unknown at this time, but the ATCM went ahead and declared it an official historical monument anyway, to ensure its protection if and when it is found! In addition, twelve revised Management Plans for existing ASPA's were also dealt with.

Two Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations were discussed. Both concerned the construction of new Antarctic research stations: Halley VI (United Kingdom) and Neumayer III (Germany).

Among many other important matters the CEP also discussed its strategic direction and working practices, in order to prepare the Committee to face new challenges facing environmental protection in the Antarctic in a more coordinated, thematic, focused way. Discussions on this issue started at the CEP VII and will



Ives Frenot, Tony Press and Anna Carin Thomer (Photo www.sweden.gov.se/atcm)

continue in a workshop to be held in Edinburgh prior to the 9th meeting of the Committee.

Anna Carin Thomer (Sweden) was re-elected and Yves Frenot (France) was elected Vice Chair of the CEP.

Under the Chairmanship of Dr. Tony Press (Australia) the work of the Committee will continue during the intersessional period through the Intersessional Contact Groups, which are tasked to deal with important issues such as the analysis of new and revised Management Plans for Protected Areas, Monitoring and State of Antarctic Environment Reporting, and review of the Site Guidelines for Visitors in Antarctica.



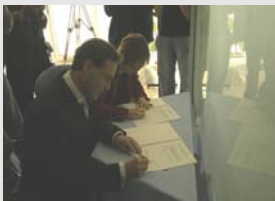
Tourists landing at Penguin Island
(Photo R. Sánchez)

The Site Guidelines for Visitors

Antarctic tourism has been an important issue for the ATCM for many years, especially since the establishment of the Tourism Working Group by the 27th ATCM in Cape Town. A new step was taken by the 28th ATCM with the adoption, following a proposal from the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States, of *Guidelines for Visitors*. The aim of these guidelines is to provide specific management prescriptions for the most frequently visited Antarctic sites. This includes practical guidance for tour operators and guides on how they should conduct visits in those sites, taking into account their environmental values and sensitivities.

The first set of guidelines adopted by the ATCM concern *Penguin Island* (Lat. 62° 06'S; Long. 57° 5'4"W); *Aitcho Islands* (Lat. 62° 24'S; Long. 59° 47'W); *Cuerville Island* (Lat. 64° 41'S; Long. 62° 38'W); and *Jougla Point, Wiencke Island* (Lat. 64° 49'S; Long. 63° 30'W).

These guidelines can be found at:
www.ats.aq/docarch.htm



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

New Secretariat Office Opened in Hobart for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

On the 22 July 2005 a joint Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments to provide a headquarters for the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

The signing of the MOU was conducted as part of the official opening of the new Secretariat's office, which is located in the Salamanca district of Hobart, Tasmania. The opening was witnessed by delegates to ACAP's first Advisory Committee meeting, which was held in Hobart from 20-22 July 2005.

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is a multilateral agreement which seeks to conserve albatrosses and petrels by coordinating international activity to mitigate known threats to populations of these endangered seabirds. ACAP has been developed under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

ACAP came into force on 1 February 2004 following the ratification of five Parties (Australia, New Zealand, Ecuador, Spain and the Republic of South Africa). France, Peru and the United Kingdom have since ratified while Argentina, Brazil

and Chile have signed the agreement but have yet to ratify it.

A Headquarters Agreement is being negotiated between the Parties to ACAP and the Australian Government. This will hopefully be concluded following the second Meeting of the Parties in late 2006, but there already is an interim Secretariat, to which the Australian Government (AAD) has committed staff and resources for up to two years. The Tasmania Government has undertaken to provide the headquarters for the Secretariat for up to eight years (including the two years that the Secretariat is expected to operate on an interim basis).

Contact details for the ACAP Secretariat are:

ACAP Secretariat, Suite 25-26 Salamanca Square, GPO Box 824, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7001

Phone: +61 3 6233 3123, Fax: +61 3 6233 5497

Email: warren.papworth@acap.aq or barry.baker@acap.aq

ACAP website: www.acap.aq

Contributed by Warren Papworth: warren.papworth@aad.gov.au



The Meeting of Managers of Latin-American National Antarctic Programs (RAPAL)

The Meeting of Managers of Latin-American Antarctic Programs (RAPAL in Spanish) is a regional forum that aims to coordinate the scientific, logistic and environmental issues and activities in which the Latin-American Antarctic Programs are involved. This forum had its origin in 1987, but it was not until 1990 that it consolidated as such. Current members of RAPAL are Argentina, Chile, Uruguay (founder members), Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

The objectives of RAPAL are:

- To encourage and facilitate cooperation, mutual assistance and exchange of information on scientific, technical and logistic issues of the Latin-American Antarctic Programs, so as to coordinate efforts and optimize the use of their resources, in parallel with the principles and objectives of the Antarctic Treaty System.
- To strengthen the presence and common interests of the Latin-American countries in the Area of the Antarctic Treaty.
- To exchange information on the legal framework of their members, regarding Antarctic activities.
- To coordinate their members' actions, so as to adopt, as far as possible, common positions within COMNAP.
- To contribute to the protection and conservation of the Antarctic environments and their dependant and associated ecosystems.
- To recover historical aspects associated to the work of the Latin-American countries in Antarctica.

The RAPAL members meet annually, once in each country, according to a pre-established sequence. Their work is based on the presentation of documents and on the functioning of four groups of specialists on Logistics, Environment, Science and History, whose results are presented to the Plenary, which is in charge of formulating Recommendations on these issues. The RAPAL Final Report is annually circulated to COMNAP Meetings.

Contributed by Rodolfo Sánchez: rsanchez@dna.gov.ar

JCADM-9

The 9th annual meeting of the SCAR-COMNAP Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management (JCADM) will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from September 12 to 15, 2005. The Second Latin American Workshop on Antarctic Data National Centers will be carried out at the same time. These meetings are organized by the Argentine Antarctic Institute of the National Antarctic Directorate of Argentina.

During the meeting, the representatives of the National Antarctic Data Centers will report on their activities and the problems they are facing. The recommendations from the JCADM review recently carried out by the Executive Committees of SCAR and COMNAP will be analyzed and a five-year strategic plan for JCADM will be discussed, taking into special consideration that the International Polar Year will take place within this period.

International experts will also give presentations about the history and current situation of JCADM and its relationship with SCAR and COMNAP. Practical examples will be given of the organization of National Antarctic Data Centers (NADCs), and the collection and forwarding of metadata.

Contributed by Sergio Marensi: smarensi@dna.gov.ar

New Belgian law on the implementation of the Environmental Protocol

On 7 April the King of the Belgians promulgated the new Belgian law on the implementation of the Environmental Protocol, replacing the existing law on the protection of Antarctic fauna and flora of 12 January 1978. The new law contains provisions tracking the relevant articles of the Protocol and requires a prior written license from the Ministry of the Environment for Antarctic activities planned from Belgium. According to the law, any emergencies threatening the Antarctic environment should be immediately notified to the Ministries of the Environment and Foreign Affairs.

News provided by Mr. Alexandre de Lichtervelde, alexandre.delichtervelde@health.fgov.be. The text is available in French and in Dutch from the Secretariat.

SCAR NEWS



Peter Clarkson receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from SCAR President Jörn Thiede.

SCAR has a new Vice-President, Prof. Zhanhai Zhang, Director-General of the Polar Research Institute of China.

SCAR is now planning its 29th meeting, which will take place in Hobart, Tasmania, in July 2006. The SCAR science meeting will take place from July 9 -11; the SCAR Open Science Conference, with the theme "Antarctica in the Earth System", will take place from July 12-14; and the SCAR Delegates will meet on July 17-19.

The SCAR International Biology Symposium takes place every 4 years. The Symposium brings Antarctic biologists together to develop networks and collaborative projects, and helps to stimulate the development of future generations of Antarctic biologists. This year the 9th such meeting, with the

theme "Evolution and Biodiversity in Antarctica", took place in Curitiba, Brazil, from July 25-29. This was the first time that the Symposium has been held in South America. 32 countries were represented, and 350 people attended, significantly more than at previous symposia. There were 246 presentations including around 100 posters.

In August, SCAR awarded 4 new research fellowships of up to \$10,000 each to 4 postgraduate students to enable them to pursue their Antarctic studies in a major institution in another country. David Schneider (USA) will go from the University of Washington to the Australian Antarctic Division to work on ice cores to determine proxies for the Southern Annular Mode. Narelle Baker (NZ) will go from Victoria University of Wellington to Bristol University, UK, to work on the evolution of the Ross Ice Shelf. Veronica Fuentes (Argentina) will go from the University of Buenos Aires to the Institute Sciences de la Mer at Rimouski, Canada, to work on nutrients and the ecosystem. Simone Brandao (Brazil) will go from the University of Hamburg in Germany to the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Science to work on a molecular study of Antarctic ostracods.

Following e-mail consultation with national committees and delegates, the SCAR Executive Committee, meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, July 11-13, 2005, approved the SCAR Communications Plan, which can be downloaded from the SCAR web site at: <http://www.scar.org/communications/> .

Finally, after 16 years of service, Peter Clarkson retired as Executive Secretary (see photo).

Contributed by the SCAR Secretariat, contact cps32@cam.ac.uk

Upcoming Meetings

JCADM

The 9th meeting of the Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management of SCAR and COMNAP will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 12 to 16 September 2005.

For additional information contact the JCADM Chief Officer, Taco de Bruin: bruin@nioz.nl

Web site: www.jcadm.scar.org

Argentine Contact: Mrs. Celia E. Izquierdo, Argentine JCADM Representative, Argentinean National Antarctic Data Center Manager. celeiz@dna.gov.ar / (+54-11)4812-2086 / 4815-4064

22nd International Polar Meeting

The 22nd International Polar Meeting of the German Society of Polar Research will be held in Jena, Germany from September 18 – 24, 2005. It will be hosted by the University of Jena.

During the meeting, a "Workshop on Human Impact on Terrestrial Habitats in the Antarctic" will be held on Friday 23 September 2005.

For additional information contact Dr. Hans-Ulrich Peter:

Hans-Ulrich.Peter@uni-jena.de

Website: http://www.uni-jena.de/22nd_International_Polar_Meeting-lang-en.html

RAPAL

The 16th meeting of RAPAL will be held in Lima, Perú between September 19th and 22nd, 2005. The Instituto Antártico Peruano (INANPE) is responsible for the organization of this event.

More information about this Meeting is available at: www.inanpe.gob.pe, or through e-mail at: secrerapal@rree.gob.pe.

2nd Symposium on Activities and Scientific Research in Antarctica

Organized by the Uruguayan Antarctic Institute, the Symposium will be held at the Centro de Conferencias de la Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo.

October 11, 2005. Montevideo, Uruguay.

For additional information contact:

rppp@iau.gub.uy / simposio@iau.gub.uy

Website: <http://www.iau.gub.uy/simposio.htm>



Publications Received

Hemmings, Dr. Alan, and Rogan-Finnemore, Michelle, editors, Antarctic Bioprospecting: Proceedings from the Bioprospecting in Antarctica Workshop (Gateway Antarctica Special Publication 0501), Christchurch, New Zealand: Gateway Antarctica, the Centre for Antarctic Studies and Research of the University of Canterbury, 2005, 351 pp, ISBN 0-476-01647-9. Price NZD 65, contact gateway-antarctica@canterbury.ac.nz

The ATS Newsletter can be downloaded from: www.ats.aq/news.htm