



Antarctic Treaty Secretariat Newsletter

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From the Executive Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends from the Antarctic community and beyond,

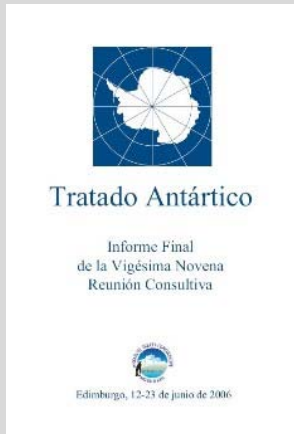
At the Secretariat, we are happy to start the new year with the publication of the Final Report of the 29th ATCM, which was held in Edinburgh in June 2006, behind us. After the English version was published in October, the French, Russian and Spanish are now being distributed to the Parties and the other participants of the meeting. See the article in the newsletter for more details about the electronic version and ordering extra copies.

In the next few weeks we will launch a redesigned Secretariat website, which will incorporate also the website of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP). If you are a frequent visitor of the CEP website, however, you don't have to make any changes: after the integration you will still be able to reach it at its old address:

www.cep.aq.

Best wishes for a happy and productive 2007!

Johannes Huber



Secretariat News

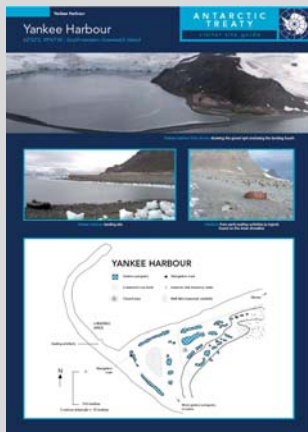
Final Report in French, Russian and Spanish

After the English version, which was published in October, the other three language versions have now appeared and are being distributed to more than 50 ATCM Parties, Observers and Experts. The report includes all the measures adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in [Edinburgh](#) between 12 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, under Final Report. This digital version is an exact copy of the printed version, only divided into four parts: Part I is the report of the meeting itself; Part II consists of the set of measures adopted by the meeting; in Part III and Part IV there are other reports, supplementary information and lists of contact points.

Each part of the book is individually downloadable.

New guidelines for visitors to Antarctica



In November, around 400 sets of guidelines for visitors to Antarctica – hard copy plus CD- were sent to Parties, Observers, Experts and Antarctic tour operators. This new edition includes site guidelines for visitors to Penguin, Barrientos, Cuverville, Goudier, Paulet, Petermann and Pléneau islands, plus Jougla Point, Hannah Point, Turret Point, Yankee Harbour and Neko Harbour. The guidelines have been printed on special paper suitable for outdoors use in a marine environment.

The set of 12 guidelines comes also in a CD including the four language versions (English, French, Russian and Spanish) plus the texts of Resolutions 5 (2005) and 2 (2006).

The guidelines are also available for free as PDF files in the Environment section of the Secretariat website www.ats.aq.

CEP Handbook – Updated, online and in four languages



The updated Handbook of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) is now available online in four languages at www.cep.aq. This version can be downloaded as a single PDF file in English, French, Russian or Spanish. For English readers, the book is also available in sections, ready to be downloaded and printed should only part of the book be needed.

This version of the Handbook follows Australia's proposal tabled at the 9th meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection: To make the Handbook available as an online resource easy to download and print.

Freedom of art vs. environmental protection?

The day after tomorrow

At the last ATCM, Germany informed the meeting of a decision by its administrative court to refuse to issue a permit in relation to the installation of a sculpture of bronze in Antarctica for an unlimited time period. This decision was based on an application from 2002, made to the competent German authority.

The authority did not grant the permit for the art project due to a specific provision under German domestic law implementing the Protocol which states that each permit "has to be restricted to a specific (time) period". The Administrative court of Berlin confirmed the authority's decision ruling that the art project as a whole constituted an "activity" within the meaning of the German legislation (and thus the Protocol). It rejected the argument of the plaintiff that only the transport of the sculpture to the location in Antarctica and its introduction into the snow should be considered as activities, but not the leaving of the sculpture in Antarctica. Instead, the court applied the above mentioned provision of the German Act Implementing the Protocol that the activity has to be limited to a specific period. The court also held the prohibition of the art project to be in line with German constitutional law granting the freedom of art on the one hand, and protecting the environment on the other.

Although this decision is based on a very specific domestic provision, it raises a lot of different issues, not only questions in respect of the environmental impacts caused by the planned activity, but also questions about the permanence of the activity, its influence on the wilderness values of Antarctica and possible imitations and their consequences. These questions are discussed in an article by Ms. Antje Neumann and Dr. Thomas Bunge which was published in the August issue of the journal [Environmental Policy and Law](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Launch of the International Polar Year (IPY)



The Opening Ceremony for IPY will take place on Thursday 1st March 2007 in Paris at 1000GMT. The launch will be attended by the IPY Joint Committee, members of the International Planning Office, and guests. An IPY international press release will be issued on Monday 26th February, as part of the lead up to the Opening Ceremony. For the latest news on what's happening in the IPY, see the IPY web site at <http://www.ipy.org/>

Atmospheric physics and space science - Heliosphere Impact on Geospace: Kick-off meeting

The kick-off meeting of the IPY project 63 "Heliosphere Impact on Geospace" will come about in Helsinki, Finland, from 5 to 9 February 2007. The meeting will take place in the facilities of the Finnish Meteorological Institute. The organisers anticipate 1-2 scientists from each of the 29 sub-projects to participate, and welcome attendance also from other parties planning to collaborate with the programme. Further information: http://www.ava.fmi.fi/ipyd63/ipyd63_kickoff.html



News from SCAR

Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) - first ocean cruise

Huge areas of sea floor (around 3,250 km) have been freed up by the collapse 4 years ago of the Larsen B ice shelf along the Antarctic Peninsula - leaving a blank spot on Antarctic maps.

Between December 14 2006 and January 24 2007, the Polarstern, the research flagship of the [Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research](#), will bring the scientists involved in [CAML](#) and other projects to this area to conduct the first major biological research in this "newly exposed" area, studying living communities from microbes to whales, including bottom fish and squids. The results will contribute to the global Census of Marine Life.

ANDRILL project delivers first results from the Ross Ice Shelf edge

Sediments extracted from the Antarctic seafloor show the world's largest ice shelf has disintegrated and reappeared many times in the past. Fluctuations of the Ross Ice Shelf are revealed by an early look at 600m of the sediment cores recovered by drilling near the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf.

ANDRILL contributes to the SCAR Scientific Research Project on Antarctic Climate Evolution (ACE). For more information see the ANDRILL web site at <http://www.andrill.org/>

Record ozone loss during 2006 over South Pole

Ozone measurements made by ESA's Envisat satellite show that the ozone loss of 40 million tonnes on 2 October 2006 exceeded the record ozone loss of about 39 million tonnes for 2000. For more information and a visualization of the ozone distribution see:

http://www.esa.int/esaEO/SEMQBOKKKSE_planet_0.html

SCAR fixes dates for XXX SCAR Meeting in Russia

The XXX SCAR Meetings including the 3rd Open Science Conference and the SCAR Delegates' Meeting will take place in 2008 as follows:

St Petersburg, Russia:

5 - 6 July 2008 - Standing Scientific Groups' business meetings

7 July 2008 - Science Workshops

8 - 11 July 2008 - Open Science Conference

Moscow, Russia:

14 - 16 July 2008 XXX SCAR Delegates meeting.



Clicking on a facility opens an information window:



Information window:

Mario Zucchelli

Operated by: Italy

Details

Location	(-74.60333333, 164.1166667)
Opened	1986
Landing Capability	Wheel and Ski
Status	Seasonal Station
Altitude	15 m
URL	www.comnap.aq/facilities
Peak Population	90
Location code	AQ-MZU
Max Runway Length	3000 m
Average Winter Population	0

News from COMNAP

View Antarctic Facilities in Google Earth...

Facilities operated in the Antarctic Treaty area by National Antarctic Programs can now be viewed in Google Earth. Clicking on a facility opens a window containing outline information for that facility.

Direct your Google Earth client to:

<http://www.comnap.aq/kml/facilities.kmz>

For more information, visit our Google Earth and Facilities pages at: <http://www.comnap.aq/kml> and <http://www.comnap.aq/facilities>

... and expect more to come

This is a small preview (some would say a teaser...) of a range of new services under development that will provide easy, flexible access to a range of information about National Antarctic Program infrastructure, operations and management and research activities.

These services are developed in parallel and liaison with projects such as Polarview (<http://www.polarview.aq>) or the Antarctic Treaty's Electronic Information Exchange System to ensure inter-operability and avoid duplication of efforts.

Two important components of these new developments of interest to the wider Antarctic community are:

- the collection of operational indicators for environmental monitoring and reporting(1); and
- the use of inspection checklists as a management tool(2).

Both the tools developed by COMNAP and the information contained in these new services will continue to be made available under alternative licences that facilitate and promote their use and re-use by others in a 'collaborative' manner, in line with the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty(3).

 (1)(2)(3) more information on these 3 projects can be found in sections 3.2 (1), 3.11 (2) and 3.18 (3) respectively of COMNAP's 2005/2006 activity report, available in the 4 Treaty languages at:

<http://www.comnap.aq/publications/annual-reports>