



Dear Field Staff colleagues,

Is anyone else wondering where 2023 has gone? The Antarctic season is almost here and that means Polar Guide Week 2023 is just a few short weeks away!

Polar Guide Week is a five-day digital event designed to help field staff with pre-season preparations. From webinars and new online resources to your last-minute preparation checklist, it's an essential part of your pre-departure to-do list.

This Polar Guide Week, **beginning on September 25th**, we have something very special to share with you - the launch of the Antarctic Ambassadors Expedition Programme.

We've been listening to your valuable feedback, and that of your operators, and together with the new Antarctic Ambassadorship Committee, formed in April, have devised an expedition-based suite of tools aimed to support you in delivering the Ambassador concept to guests.

Expect presentations and expedition challenges which can be edited to your itinerary, guest certificates, post-expedition activities to send them home on the path to onward ambassadorship - and more.

Please save the date to your diary and keep an eye on your inbox for a more detailed agenda coming soon.

Lisa Kelley

Director of Operations & Government Affairs; Deputy Executive Director

Marine Debris Monitoring

Can you help scientists understand the extent of plastic pollution in Antarctica? The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctica Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has been coordinating a [marine debris monitoring project](#) since 1989 and has developed a reporting sheet for IAATO operators and staff to record opportunistic sightings of marine litter. If you see any, please record it on the sheet which you'll find in [Section 16 of the FOM](#) and send it to IAATO Operations.

Wildlife Entanglement Sightings

CCAMLR also wishes to record wildlife entanglement sightings this season – there's a form for that too! **Note:** Due to the risk of avian influenza, no attempt should be made to detangle wildlife this 2023-24 season. Please record sightings only.

Seals on Ice

Among the citizen science projects detailed in the FOM for which you can collect important data and involve guests, new this year is a collaborative project from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, British Antarctic Survey, University of California Santa Cruz and University of Exeter to [photograph seals on ice](#) to understand how they are responding to climate change.

State of Antarctic Penguins Report

As always, Oceanites State of Antarctic Penguins Report summarises the present status – population size and population trends – of Antarctica's five penguin species, continent-wide and in key regions. [Find the latest report here.](#)

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