



ANTARCTIC TREATY
XXI CONSULTATIVE MEETING

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XXI REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XXIe REUNION CONSULTATIVE

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
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ANTARCTIC TOURISM: A RESOURCE FOR SCIENCE

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ANTARCTIC TOURISM -- A RESOURCE FOR SCIENCE

(Agenda item 12)

(Submitted by IAATO)

Antarctic Tourism -- a Resource For Science And Conservation

Among IAATO's objectives, is cooperation with national Antarctic programs, including support of logistics and research. A summary of collaboration during the 1996-1997 season is presented in the IAATO Report (XXIATCM/IP108). In the spirit of cost-effective, collaborative solutions to the challenges of science and logistics in the Antarctic, IAATO draws the attention of the Meeting to tourism as a resource for science and conservation.

IAATO welcomes proposals from accredited researchers with national Antarctic programs and nongovernmental organizations to support science, logistics and conservation in the Antarctic. Itineraries, operators and vessels are substantially similar from year to year, which facilitates long term planning.

Proposals can be made to individual operators or through the IAATO Secretariat:

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I. OFFER OF SUPPORT AS A RESOURCE FOR SCIENCE

A. Regularly Scheduled Transport to the Antarctic Peninsula

- (1) With more than 100 departures on 15 vessels, commercially-organized tourism provides regular and cost-effective transport to the South Shetland Islands and western side of the Antarctic Peninsula for researchers and personnel during the months of November to March. Several expeditions each year also visit the Ross Sea and other sectors of the continent.
- (2) Over 100 researchers have been carried annually over the past several seasons. A modest standard per diem of \$50 U.S. has been charged to cover costs.

B. Cargo and Resupply Capability

- (1) A number of vessels -- especially the converted Russian oceanographic research vessels -- have the expertise, cranes and cargo space to contribute to resupply efforts and other needs for transport of cargo.
- (2) Vessels have carried cargo to Vernadsky Station and retrograded debris from Arctowski and Bellingshausen Stations in recent years.

- (3) These vessels are sometimes available for charter to science programs before or after the regular tourist season, obviating the need to pay for a charter from a distant port.

C. Ships of Opportunity for Research

- (1) Much science can be conducted by researchers traveling aboard tour vessels, including, for example, observational data on seabirds, seals, whales and oceanography, brief population censuses ashore and site surveys.
- (2) IAATO particularly welcomes proposals from researchers engaged in studies of the potential impacts of tourism activities and those who are collecting data on the reference state of visitor sites. Over the past three years, researchers with the Antarctic Site Inventory have used tour vessels as a productive transportation platform.
- (3) Experienced expedition staff, many trained as researchers, can collect data following standard protocols at no cost to national Antarctic programs and Antarctic organizations. IAATO members are particularly interested in contributing to CCAMLR surveys of beached marine debris. Members have contributed navigational intelligence to the International Hydrographic Organization in the past year and reported on whale and seabird sightings and transects.

C. Polar Logistics

- (1) Founding IAATO-member Adventure Network International is developing an initiative for the cost-effective support of science and logistics in Dronning Maud Land. Polar Logistics, the logistical arm of Adventure Network International, plans a regular air service from Cape Town to this underserved sector of the Antarctic.
- (2) Adventure Network International provides occasional air service to King George Island for researchers and personnel associated with national Antarctic programs.
- (3) ANI has also supported research at its seasonal base camp in Patriot Hills in the Ellsworth Mountains. The company has specifically solicited proposals from the Canadian research community for the full support of a researcher next season. In addition, ANI supported a meteorologist from the Uruguayan air force for the duration of the Antarctic season.

II. ANTARCTIC TOURISM -- AN OVERVIEW

Scope, frequency and intensity

- (A) Commercially organized tours have visited Antarctica every year from 1966, carrying a total of more than 75,000 people to date. The overwhelming majority (+/- 90 %) of tourism is ship-based -- and the actual time spent ashore is less than 1 % than that of scientific and support personnel. In the 35-year history of regular Antarctic tourism, tour operators have established no permanent infrastructure.
- (B) Visits are concentrated at ice-free coastal zones in the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula over the five-month period from November to March. Landings via inflatable boat are of short duration (+/- 3 hours), of moderate intensity (< 100 people), and of variable frequency.
- (C) About 100 commercially-organized voyages, the great majority departing from Ushuaia, are scheduled each year by IAATO members-- providing the opportunity for regular transport from South America to the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula.
- (D) These expeditions have visited 150 sites in the region, many regularly. A list of sites visited since 1989 is included (ATTACHMENT A).

III. ANTARCTIC TOURISM -- IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

PURPOSE AND VALUE

1. *Political support* -- tourism builds a constituency of informed ambassadors for the conservation of Antarctica and support of national Antarctic science programs.
2. *Logistical Support* -- tour vessels provide regular transport of personnel and supplies.
3. *Scientific Support* -- tour vessels carry scientists engaged in research. Examples of useful research that can be conducted aboard tour vessels include seabird transects, photographic identification of whales, beach litter surveys, collection of meteorological data, and breeding censuses.
4. *Intellectual Support* -- experienced tour operators provide detailed information on landing sites, access routes, features and other data necessary to create rational management plans.

Antarctica Peninsula Sites Visited, 1989-1996*As reported by tour operators to IAATO and NSF.**Coordinates from Geographic Names of the Antarctic (1995).**NOTE: This list excludes active stations, which should be reported by base name (not geographic coordinates). Please use these names for reporting -- and advise IAATO of any corrections or additions, especially if duplicate names are being used for the same landing.*

Adelaide Anchorage	67°47'S, 068°57'W
Admiralty Bay, KGI	62°10'S, 058°25'W
Admiralty Sound	64°20'S, 057°10'W
Aitcho Islands	62°24'S, 059°47'W
Alcock Island	64°14'S, 061°08'W
Andersen Island	67°26'S, 063°22'E
Andvord Bay	64°50'S, 062°39'W
Antarctic Sound	63°20'S, 056°45'W
Arago Glacier	64°51'S, 062°23'W
Argentine Islands	65°15'S, 064°16'W
Astrolabe Island	63°17'S, 058°40'W
Atka Iceport	70°35'S, 007°51'W
Baily Head	62°58'S, 060°30'W
Barcroft Islands	66°27'S, 067°10'W
Berthelot Islands	65°20'S, 064°09'W
Blaiklock Island	67°33'S, 067°04'W
Bone Bay	63°38'S, 059°04'W
Brown Bluff	63°32'S, 056°55'W
Challenger Island	64°21'S, 061°35'W
Charcot, Port	65°04'S, 064°00'W
Charlotte Bay	64°33'S, 061°39'W
Cierva Cove	64°09'S, 060°53'W
Cormorant Island	64°48'S, 063°58'W
Coronation Island	60°37'S, 045°35'W
Crystal Hill	63°39'S, 057°44'W
Crystal Sound	66°23'S, 066°30'W
Curtiss Bay	64°02'S, 060°47'W
Cuverville Island	64°41'S, 062°38'W
Dallmann Bay	64°20'S, 062°55'W
Damoy Point	64°49'S, 063°32'W
Danco Island	64°44'S, 062°37'W
Danger Islands	63°25'S, 054°40'W
Detaille Island	66°52'S, 066°48'W
Devil Island	63°48'S, 057°17'W
Dorian Bay	64°49'S, 063°30'W
Dubouzet, Cape	63°16'S, 057°03'W
Dundas, Cape	60°44'S, 044°24'W
Duthiers Point	64°48'S, 062°49'W

Enterprise Island	64°32'S, 062°00'W
Errera Channel	64°42'S, 062°36'W
Ezcurra Inlet	62°10'S, 058°34'W
False Bay	62°43'S, 060°22'W
Fish Islands	66°02'S, 065°25'W
Foyn Harbor	64°33'S, 062°01'W
Evensen, Cape	66°09'S, 065°44'W
Gage, Cape	64°10'S, 057°05'W
Gaston Islands	64°28'S, 061°50'W
Georges Point	64°40'S, 062°40'W
Gibbs Island	61°28'S, 055°34'W
Gin Cove	64°03'S, 058°25'W
Girard Bay	65°08'S, 064°00'W
Gosling Islands	60°39'S, 045°55'W
Goudier Island	64°50'S, 063°30'W
Half Moon Island	62°36'S, 059°55'W
Hannah Point	62°39'S, 060°37'W
Hanusse Bay	66°57'S, 067°30'W
Heim Glacier	67°28'S, 066°55'W
Heywood Island	62°20'S, 059°41'W
Hope Bay	63°23'S, 057°00'W
Hovgaard Island	65°08'S, 064°08'W
Huemul Island	63°40'S, 060°50'W
Hydrurga Rocks	64°08'S, 061°37'W
Intercurrence Island	63°55'S, 061°24'W
Jonassen Island	63°33'S, 056°40'W
Kinnes, Cape	63°22'S, 056°33'W
Kjellman, Cape	63°44'S, 059°24'W
Lagarrigue Cove	64°39'S, 062°34'W
Lemaire Channel	65°04'S, 063°57'W
Lockroy, Port	64°49'S, 063°30'W
Lookout, Cape	61°16'S, 055°12'W
Macaroni Point	62°54'S, 060°32'W
Marian Cove	62°13'S, 058°48'W
Martel Inlet	62°05'S, 058°22'W
Maxwell Bay	62°15'S, 058°51'W
Melchior Islands	64°19'S, 062°57'W
Melville, Cape	62°02'S, 057°37'W
Metchnikoff Point	64°03'S, 062°34'W
Mikkelsen Harbor	63°54'S, 060°47'W
Murray Harbor	64°21'S, 061°35'W
Murray Island	64°22'S, 061°34'W
Neko Harbor	64°50'S, 062°33'W
Norvegia, Cape	71°20'S, 012°18'W
Scotia Bay	60°46'S, 044°40'W
Orne Harbor	64°37'S, 062°32'W

Orne Islands	64°40'S, 062°40'W
Palaver Point	64°09'S, 061°45'W
Paulet Island	63°35'S, 055°47'W
Pendulum Cove	62°56'S, 060°36'W
Penguin Island	62°06'S, 057°54'W
Petermann Island	65°10'S, 064°10'W
Petrel Cove	63°28'S, 056°13'W
Pitt Islands	65°26'S, 065°30'W
Pléneau Island	65°06'S, 064°04'W
Portal Point	64°30'S, 061°46'W
Prospect Point	66°01'S, 065°21'W
Riiser-Larsen Ice Shelf	72°40'S, 016°00'W
Robert Point	62°28'S, 059°23'W
Rongé Island	64°43'S, 062°41'W
Rosamel Island	63°34'S, 056°17'W
Schollaert Channel	64°30'S, 062°50'W
Shingle Cove	60°39'S, 045°34'W
Signy Island	60°43'S, 045°38'W
Skontorp Cove	64°54'S, 062°52'W
Small Island	64°00'S, 061°27'W
South Bay	62°40'S, 060°28'W
Southwind Passage	65°18'S, 065°20'W
Spigot Peak	64°38'S, 062°34'W
Spring Point	64°18'S, 061°03'W
Stonington Island	68°11'S, 067°00'W
Suárez Glacier	64°56'S, 062°56'W
Telefon Bay	62°56'S, 060°40'W
Torgersen Island	64°46'S, 064°05'W
Turret Point, KGI	62°05'S, 057°55'W
Useful Island	64°43'S, 062°52'W
Valentine, Cape	61°06'S, 054°39'W
View Point	63°33'S, 057°22'W
Waddington Bay	65°16'S, 064°05'W
Wauwermans Islands	64°55'S, 063°53'W
Whalers Bay	62°59'S, 060°34'W
Wiggins Glacier	65°14'S, 064°03'W
Wild, Point	61°06'S, 054°52'W
Wilhelmina Bay	64°38'S, 062°10'W
Yalour Islands	65°14'S, 064°10'W
Yankee Harbor	62°32'S, 059°47'W