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IAATO Climate Change Working Group: Report of Progress

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Summary

Following ATME 2010 IP003 *IAATO's Climate Change Working Group* and ATCMXXXIV IP103 *IAATO's Climate Change Working Group: Report on Progress*, IAATO is pleased to report on additional developments. This includes additional efforts towards raising awareness of climate change in the Antarctic resulting from human activities worldwide and a list of ways in which IAATO member operators manage their carbon emissions.

Background

IAATO has discussed climate change implications for Antarctica at its last six annual meetings. This had led to a range of specific measures¹ to enhance IAATO operations. However, at IAATO's annual meeting in 2009, Members unanimously acknowledged that modern climate change is a significant threat to the Antarctic environment. They also agreed to establish an IAATO working group on climate change, with the aim of developing strategic actions that will raise awareness of climate change in Antarctica and mitigate its effects.

The key objectives of this group are to:

- Raise awareness amongst IAATO clients on the effects of climate change on the Antarctic environment through various mediums, to help create a ground-swell of interested stakeholders in all Treaty Party countries;
- Conduct work to assess Member operator's carbon footprints within the Antarctic Treaty area;
- Review the current efforts that individual Members are making in terms of carbon offsetting;
- Research ways that IAATO Members can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and further support scientific research on climate change in Antarctica.

Report on Progress

As reported in ATCM XXXIV IP103, IAATO was very pleased to collaborate with SCAR in the development of an information sheet on Climate Change in the Antarctic, summarising the findings of SCAR's *Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment Report 2009*. IAATO will update this information sheet taking into account the new information provided by SCAR in 2013.

Additionally, prior to the 2012/13 season, IAATO produced a PowerPoint lecture, sponsored by IAATO Member Cheeseman's Ecological Safaris, which tells the story of Climate Change and its effect on Antarctica. SCAR kindly reviewed the lecture and provided important feedback and comments. The lecture PowerPoint, and accompanying notes have been distributed to all IAATO Member operators.

The Information Leaflet, PowerPoint slideshow and related material are all publically available at <http://iaato.org/climate-change-in-antarctica>.

¹ During IAATO 18, 2007, a recommendation was made for operators to use spark-ignited marine outboard engines in Antarctica that comply with California emission standards, star label 3. At the same meeting IAATO encouraged its Members to measure their carbon footprint with a view to developing ways to reduce or offset emissions.

Assessing Member Operators Carbon Footprint:

As noted in ATCM XXXIVIP103, in 2009 IAATO conducted a survey among the membership to assess the views and efforts made by members on climate change issues. The survey of 2009 has provided a baseline figure for all walks of IAATO Member activities which can be used in future assessments to measure the change in CO2 levels, for example every five years.

Reviewing current efforts to manage CO2 footprint:

A fact sheet of the operational measures that some Member operators are already taking to minimise their CO2 footprint was presented at the recent IAATO 24th Meeting, April - 2013. The list included actions related to itinerary planning, vessel operations, hotel department operations and other suggestions. It should be noted that these actions are taken on an operator choice basis and while they do not reflect IAATO policy on these operational matters, they are a good example of how individual operators sharing information on their individual practices can benefit the IAATO community as a whole.

[Examples of the operational measures included are given in the Appendix below].

As before, IAATO will continue to provide feedback to CEP and to ATCM on this work, and welcomes comment or feedback from both these forums.

Appendix:**Examples of current Carbon Emission Reduction Measures used by IAATO Member Operators****1. *Improve efficiency in voyage planning.***

- Plan voyage using the most efficient speeds
- Organise the itinerary in such a way as to reduce the distance travelled between landings.
- Spend more time at each landing site, i.e. use a base camp type approach where there are different activities at sites close by and at peer sites
- Involve the expedition leaders in the fuel planning and requiring them to report on fuel usage in their end of voyage reports to encourage efficient itinerary planning.
- Designing itineraries to run on one engine, where possible

2. *Operations of vessels – increasing fuel efficiency*

- Optimize engines to improve fuel efficiency.
- Polish propellers to increase in fuel efficiency.
- Adjust ballast to trim ship for optimum hydrodynamics.
- Track and monitor fuel usage daily by Ship Operation's department.
- Assess fuel usage weekly to determine how best to improve efficiency on future voyages.

3. *Hotel departments*

- Close curtains to reduce heat loss.
- Turn off lights to reduce power consumption. Encourage passengers to turn off lights when they leave their cabins.
- Retrofit light bulbs from the conventional incandescent lights to compact fluorescent lights.
- Allow passengers the choice of when they want their towels laundered to save on energy and water consumption.
- Allow passengers the choice of whether to leave lights on or to have lights left off at turn down in the evenings.
- Make sure that doors are closed to reduce heat loss and to reduce the need for air-conditioning/warming.

4. *Other suggestions*

- Change the philosophy of staff and internal operations of the companies to become more aware of energy usage and potential fuel and carbon savings. This will encourage them to identify means to reduce their impact.
- Have internal incentive schemes on ways to reduce carbon emissions.