



ENG

Agenda Item: CEP 10c
Presented by: United Kingdom,
Germany, IAATO
Original: English
Submitted: 11/5/2021

Second Edition of the Wildlife Awareness Manual

Second Edition of the Wildlife Awareness Manual

Information paper submitted by the United Kingdom, Germany and IAATO

Summary

This Information Paper is submitted by the United Kingdom, Germany and the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), to inform Parties about the publication of the Second Edition of the Wildlife Awareness Manual.

The Wildlife Awareness Manual

Production of the First Edition of the Wildlife Awareness Manual (WAM) (published 2006) was an initiative undertaken by the United Kingdom, in recognition of the potential for helicopters to disturb wildlife in Antarctica. Helicopters typically operate at lower elevations than fixed-wing aircraft and also have greater flexibility in where they can land.

The WAM provides aircraft pilots operating in the Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetland Islands, and South Orkney Islands with a practical guide to the main wildlife breeding site locations in a form suitable for field use. The manual enables pilots to plan and fly missions avoiding, as far as practical, sites of elevated wildlife sensitivity.

The Second Edition (2021)

The First Edition of the WAM found a broader audience than originally anticipated, including with scientists, tourists, expedition leaders and station personnel. This new Second Edition was jointly commissioned by the United Kingdom, Germany and IAATO with the aim of supporting this broader audience.

While still focused on its primary purpose of providing guidance for helicopter pilots, the Second Edition also includes a wider range of information that will be of use to other users. Additional information is included on sites with Visitor Site Guidelines, Important Bird Areas, and hydrography (recognising that most users are likely to be ship-based).

In this new edition the base maps have been comprehensively revised, with more detail provided on wildlife, offshore islands, topography and geographical names. New maps have been included for a number of areas not previously covered, and new protected areas have been added. The second edition also includes some guidance on the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) near wildlife.

The WAM refers users to the Guidelines for the Operators of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica (Resolution 2 (2004)) as well as the Environmental Guidelines for Operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica (v1.1) (Resolution 4 (2018)) and COMNAP's Antarctic Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Operator's Handbook (v.25 Oct 2019).

The Second Edition of the WAM will be available on the website of Environmental Research and Assessment (ERA) Ltd. (<http://www.era.gs/resources/wam/>).