TOURISM AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Introductory note

Commercial tourism

Until 1966 virtually all expeditions to the Antarctic had been organized by governments or had some measure of governmental backing. In that year there appeared in Antarctica for the first time a commercially organized, ship-borne tourist expedition. In subsequent years commercial tourism increased, using ships and aircraft. The area most frequently visited by sea was the Antarctic Peninsula. Regular airborne tourism began in 1977 and developed using long range passenger aircraft flying from Australia and New Zealand. Almost all of these flights overflew parts of Antarctica and returned home without landing. Airborne tourism diminished considerably following the tragic crash on Mount Erebus, Ross Island, on 28 November 1979 with the loss of 257 lives.

Non-governmental non-tourist expeditions

Such expeditions also began to appear in the Antarctic in 1966. The preparedness of such expeditions has varied; the consequent requests for assistance from governmental expeditions have sometimes caused disruption to scientific programs. A major aim of the consideration engendered by these expeditions within the Treaty fora has been to encourage such private expeditions to be adequately prepared and fully self-sufficient.

Antarctic Treaty Recommendations

XXI: Resolution 3 (1997)

Standard Form for Advance Notification and Post-Visit

Reporting on Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in Antarctica

The Representatives,

Recalling Resolution 3 (1995) which agreed that there would be an advantage in standardized reporting of information on tourism and non-governmental activity in Antarctica;

Noting that Attachment A to Recommendation 1 (1994) outlines the requirements for Advance Notice of tourism and non-governmental activities, and that Resolution 3 (1995) outlines requirements for post-activity reports;

Recalling that Parties agreed at ATCM XX to trial a standard form for Advance Notification and Post-Visit Reporting during the 1996/97 Antarctic season.

Recommend that:

A standard form be used for Advance Notifications and Post-Visit Reporting on tourism and

non-governmental activities in Antarctica in order to obtain consistent information that will facilitate analysis of the scope, frequency and intensity of tourism and non-governmental activities.

ANNEX J: TRIAL REPORT FORM FOR TOURISM AND NGO ACTIVITIES IN ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA

ADVANCE NOTIFICATION

Tourist and non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic

This information is requested in compliance with Antarctic Treaty Recommendation XVIII-1 and Resolution XIX-3.

Please submit to the appropriate national authority prior to the Expedition taking place.

A. Tour/Expedition Organizer

Company name:	Contact person:
Company address: International phone: International fax:	National registration of Company: Total number of Expedition Staff[1]:

B: Details of transport and equipment to be used for the Tour/Expedition

(Complete these panels only once if all Tours/Expeditions planned do not vary in their use of transport or equipment: where these vary, complete the panel for every Tour or Expedition)

B.1 Vessel/aircraft used for transport to/from Antarctica

Vessel/aircraft registered name: National registration:	Vessel/aircraft type: Vessel/aircraft passenger carrying capacity: Vessel ice rating (if applicable):
☐Ship ☐Yacht ☐Aircraft (check)	Vessel/aircraft fuel capacity: Vessel/aircraft fuel type:
Intended use of vessel/aircraft:	Vessel/aircraft call sign: INMARSAT number/fax: Radio frequency:

Captains'/commanders' name(s):	Total number of crew[2]:

B.2 Equipment to be used within Antarctica

Number and types of aircraft to be used: Number Type Use	Numbers and types of other vessels or vehicles (e.g. small boats, snowmobiles) to be used: Number Type Use

[1] Staff: Expedition personnel, guides, lecturers, small boat drivers (exclude crew serving these functions)

[2] Crew: Vessel's captain and officers, helicopter pilots, crew and hotel/catering staff (exclude Staff, Passengers and Observers)

C: Contingency Planning

Type and amount of insurance cover, including name of insurer(s):
Arrangements for self-sufficiency and contingency plans, including for medical evacuations and search and rescue in the event of an emergency:

D: Expedition details (complete one of these panels for every separate cruise/expedition you are organizing)

Planned port of embarkation:	Planned date of embarkation:
Planned port of disembarkation:	Planned date of disembarkation:
Planned Cruise/Flight number or Voyage Name:	Estimated number of Passengers[1] to be carried:

ADVANCE NOTIFICATION (continued)

Activities to be undertaken and purpose:
Intended itinerary – places to be visited, giving estimated dates:

[1] Passengers: Members of the Expedition that are not Staff or Crew, excluding Observers/National Representatives.

Signature:_____*Tour/Expedition Organizer*

Date:_____

POST-VISIT REPORT: PART 1 – Tour Record

Instructions

The Tour Record is completed for every tour or non-governmental expedition. This information is requested in compliance with Antarctic Treaty Recommendation XVII-1 and Resolution XIX-3(1995).

A: Expedition details

Company name:	Cruise/Flight number:
Expedition Leader(s) name:	Vessel name/aircraft registration:
☐Ship ☐Yacht ☐Aircraft (check)	Captain's/commander's name:
Port and date of embarkation:	Port and date of disembarkation:
Actual itinerary travelled – please provide description of route, giving dates Note: If you consider the Site Visit Record (SVR) provides an adequate description of the itinerary simply write "See SVR":	

B: Observers

Name:	Name:	Name:
Affiliation:	Affiliation:	Affiliation:

C: Record of Expedition numbers by nationality

Nationality	*Number of*			*Nationality*	*Number of*			*Nationality*	*Number of*		
	Pax[1]	*Staff*[2]	*Crew*[3]		*Pax*[1]	*Staff*[2]	*Crew*[3]		*Pax*[1]	*Staff*[2]	*Crew*[3]

[1] Pax (Passengers): Members of the Expedition that are not Staff or Crew.

[2] Staff: Expedition personnel, guides, lecturers and small boat drivers.

[3] Crew: Vessel's captain and officers, aircraft pilots, crew and hotel/catering staff (excluding above).

D: Report on Expedition by Expedition Leader (please be brief, but use additional sheets if necessary)

1. Has a meteorological report been submitted to the World Meteorological Organization? ?Yes ?No ?Don't Know
2. List any unusual incidents affecting people or the environment:
3. If there were any unusual incidents, has or will an incident report be prepared? ?Yes ?No ?Don't Know
4. To whom has or will the incident report be provided?
5. Any other comments or observations (e.g. observations of disturbance to wildlife or the physical environment, changes from expedition Advance Notification, etc.):

Signature:_____Expedition Leader or Vessel Captain Date:_____

POST-VISIT REPORT: PART 2 – Site Visit Record

Instructions

One line of the Site Visit Record should be completed per site wherever Expedition members disembark or journey beyond base or camp.

Tour Company or Name:_____ Vessel Name:_____ Cruise/Flight Number:_____

Date(s)	Site visited	Site latitude /longitude	Duration of visit from time first passengers left vessel/aircraft/base/camp	Duration of passenger activities at site visited	Number of people making site visit			Activities at site (List all codes that apply)
					Pax[1]	Staff[2]	Crew[3]	

Date(s)	Site visited	Site latitude /longitude	Duration of visit from time first passengers left vessel/aircraft/base/camp	Duration of passenger activities at site visited	Number of people making site visit			Activities at site (List all codes that apply)
					Pax[1]	Staff[2]	Crew[3]	

1 Pax (Passengers): Members of the Expedition that are not Staff or Crew.

2 Staff: Expedition personnel, guides, lecturers and small boat drivers.

3. Crew: Vessel's captain and officers, aircraft pilots, crew and hotel/catering staff (excluding above).

Activity codes

Small boat landing:	BL	Aircraft landing:	AL	Helicopter landing:	HL	Station Visit:	SV
Small boat cruising:	ZC	Aircraft flight:	AF	Helicopter flight:	HF	Camping:	CP

XX: Resolution 2 (1996)

The Representatives,

Noting that Antarctica has been the subject of significant works of art, literature and music;

Recognising that the unique character of Antarctica itself represents an inspiration for protecting its values;

Recommend:

Promotion of understanding and appreciation of the values of Antarctica, in particular its scientific, aesthetic and wilderness values, including through:

a) Educational opportunities, in particular for young persons, and
b) The contribution of writers, artists and musicians.

XIX: Resolution 3(1995)

Reporting of Tourism and non-Governmental Activities

The Representatives:

Considering that there would be an advantage in standardised reporting of information on tourism and non-governmental activities;

Noting that Attachment A to ATCM Recommendation XVIII-1 outlines the requirements for advance notice of tourism and non-governmental activities but does not outline requirements for post-activity reports;

Acknowledging that there are obligations of national legislation such as environmental impact assessment and reporting that must be met by tourist and non-governmental operators.

Recommend that:

Tourist and non-governmental operators when reporting on visits to Antarctica should provide the following information to the relevant national authorities:

1. Name, details and state of registration of each vessel
2. Name of captain or commander of each vessel
3. Name and organisation of observer/Government representative (if present)
4. Actual itinerary
5. Number and nationalities of passengers, staff and crew
6. Places, dates and duration of ship landings, small boat cruises and/or flights, and the number of visitors landed
7. WMO meteorological report (yes/no)
8. Action taken in the event of an emergency

9. Comments (e.g., impacts observed, changes to planned itinerary)

XVIII-1: Tourism and non-Governmental Activities

The Representatives,

Reaffirming the exceptional character of the Antarctic environment given in particular the fragility of its fauna and flora and of the setting which the Antarctic offers for the conduct of scientific activities;

Acknowledging the increase in the development of tourist activities in the Antarctic;

Noting that those who visit the Antarctic and organise or conduct tourism and non-governmental activities in the Antarctic are currently subject to legally binding obligations pursuant to national legislation implementing the Antarctic Treaty and associated legal instruments;

Noting further that such visitors or organisers will be subject to additional legally binding obligations upon entry into force of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty;

Recognizing the need for visitors and organisers to have practical guidance on how best to plan and carry out any visits to the Antarctic;

Recalling the Final Act of the Eleventh Special Antarctic Treaty the Protocol was adopted, in which the Consultative Meeting, at which signatories of the Final Act decided that the Annexes of the Protocol should be applied in accordance with their legal systems and to the extent practicable;

Desiring to ensure that those who visit the Antarctic carry out their visits or tours strictly in accordance with existing obligations and in so far as is consistent with existing national law, in accordance with the Protocol, pending its entry into force;

Desiring further to facilitate the early entry into force of the Protocol and of the implementation of its provisions in relation to those who visit or 41 organise tours to the Antarctic.

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. They circulate widely and as quickly as possible the Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic, and the Guidance for Those Organising and Conducting, Tourism, and, Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic annexed to this Recommendation.
2. They urge those intending to visit or organise and conduct tourism and non-governmental activities in the Antarctic to act in accordance with the attached guidance consistent with the relevant provisions of their applicable national law.

ATTACHMENT

Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic

Activities in the Antarctic are governed by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and associated

agreements, referred to collectively as the Antarctic Treaty system. The Treaty established Antarctica as a zone of peace and science.

In 1991, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, which designates the Antarctic as a natural reserve. The Protocol sets out environmental principles, procedures and obligations for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Consultative Parties have agreed that, pending its entry into force, as far as possible and in accordance with their legal system, the provisions of the Protocol should be applied as appropriate.

The Environmental Protocol applies to tourism and non-governmental activities as well as governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. It is intended to ensure that these activities do not have adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment, or on its scientific and aesthetic values.

This **Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic** is intended to ensure that all visitors are aware of, and are therefore able to comply with, the Treaty and the Protocol. Visitors are, of course, bound by national laws and regulations applicable to activities in the Antarctic.

A) PROTECT ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE

1) Taking or harmful interference with Antarctic wildlife is prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by a national authority.
2) Do not use aircraft, vessels, small boats, or other means of transport in ways that disturb wildlife, either at sea or on land.
3) Do not feed, touch, or handle birds or seals, or approach or photograph them in ways that cause them to alter their behavior. Special care is needed when animals are breeding or moulting.
4) Do not damage plants, for example by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered scree slopes.
5) Do not use guns or explosives. Keep noise to the minimum to avoid frightening wildlife.
6) Do not bring non-native plants or animals into the Antarctic (e.g. live poultry, pet dogs and cats, house plants).

B) RESPECT PROTECTED AREAS

A variety of areas in the Antarctic have been afforded special protection because of their particular ecological, scientific, historic or other values. Entry into certain areas may be prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority. Activities in and near designated Historic Sites and Monuments and certain other areas may be subject to special restrictions.

1) Know the locations of areas that have been afforded special protection and any restrictions

regarding entry and activities that can be carried out in and near them.

2) Observe applicable restrictions.

3) Do not damage, remove or destroy Historic Sites or Monuments, or any artefacts associated with them.

C) RESPECT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Do not interfere with scientific research, facilities or equipment.

1) Obtain permission before visiting Antarctic science and logistic support facilities; reconfirm arrangements 24-72 hours before arriving; and comply strictly with the rules regarding such visits.

2) Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental study sites, field camps, or supplies.

D) BE SAFE

Be prepared for severe and changeable weather. Ensure that your equipment and clothing meet Antarctic standards. Remember that the Antarctic environment is inhospitable, unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

1) Know your capabilities, the dangers posed by the Antarctic, environment, and act accordingly. Plan activities with safety in mind at all times.

2) Keep a safe distance from all wildlife, both on land and at sea.

3) Take note of, and act on, the advice and instructions from your leaders; do not stray from your group.

4) Do not walk onto glaciers, or large snow fields without proper equipment and experience; there is a real danger of falling into hidden crevasses.

5) Do not expect a rescue service; self-sufficiency is increased and risks reduced by sound planning, quality equipment, and trained personnel.

6) Do not enter emergency refuges (except in emergencies). If you use equipment or food from a refuge, inform the nearest research station or national authority once the emergency is over.

7) Respect any smoking restrictions, particularly around buildings, and take great care to safeguard against the danger of fire. This is a real hazard in the dry environment of Antarctica.

E) KEEP ANTARCTICA PRISTINE

Antarctica remains relatively pristine, and has not yet been subjected to large scale human perturbations. It is the largest wilderness area on earth. Please keep it that way.

1) Do not dispose of litter or garbage on land. Open burning is prohibited.

2) Do not disturb or pollute lakes or streams. Any materials discarded at sea must be disposed of

properly.

3) Do not paint or engrave names or graffiti on rocks or buildings.

4) Do not collect or take away biological or geological specimens or man-made artefacts as a souvenir, including rocks, bones, eggs, fossils, and parts or contents of buildings.

5) Do not deface or vandalise buildings, whether abandoned, or unoccupied, or emergency refuges.

Guidance for those Organising and Conducting Tourism and Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic

Antarctica is the largest wilderness area on earth, unaffected by large scale human activities. Accordingly, this unique and pristine environment has been afforded special protection. Furthermore, it is physically remote, inhospitable, unpredictable and potentially dangerous. All activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, therefore, should be planned and conducted with both environmental protection and safety in mind.

Activities in the Antarctic are subject to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and associated legal instruments, referred to collectively as the Antarctic Treaty system. These include the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS 1972), the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR 1980) and the Recommendations and other measures adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties under the Antarctic Treaty.

In 1991, the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. This Protocol sets out environmental principles, procedures and obligations for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Consultative Parties have agreed that, pending its entry into force, as far as possible and in accordance with their legal systems, that the provisions of the Protocol should be applied as appropriate.

The Environmental Protocol designates Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science, and applies to both governmental and non-governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. The Protocol seeks to ensure that human activities, including tourism, do not have adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment, nor on its scientific and aesthetic values.

The Protocol states, as a matter of principle, that all activities are to be planned and conducted on the basis of information sufficient to evaluate their possible impact on the Antarctic environment and its associated ecosystems, and on the value of Antarctica for the conduct of scientific research. Organisers should be aware that the Environmental Protocol requires that "activities shall be modified, suspended or cancelled if they result in or threaten to result in impacts upon the Antarctic environment or dependent or associated ecosystems."

Those responsible for organising and conducting tourism and non-governmental activities must comply fully with national laws and regulations which implement the Antarctic Treaty system, as well as other national laws and regulations implementing international agreements on environmental protection, pollution and safety that relate to the Antarctic Treaty Area. They

should also abide by the requirements imposed on organisers and operators under the Protocol on Environmental Protection and its Annexes, in so far as they have not yet been implemented in national law.

KEY OBLIGATIONS ON ORGANISERS AND OPERATORS

1) Provide prior notification of, and reports on, their activities to the competent authorities of the appropriate Party or Parties.
2) Conduct an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of their planned activities.
3) Provide for effective response to environmental emergencies, especially with regard to marine pollution.
4) Ensure self-sufficiency and safe operations.
5) Respect scientific research and the Antarctic environment, including restrictions regarding protected areas, and the protection of flora and fauna.
6) Prevent the disposal and discharge of prohibited waste.

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY ORGANISERS AND OPERATORS

A) When planning to go to the Antarctic

Organisers and operators should:

1) Notify the competent national authorities of the appropriate Party or Parties of details of their planned activities with sufficient time to enable the Party(ies) to comply with their information exchange obligations under Article VII(5) of the Antarctic Treaty. The information to be provided is listed in Attachment A.
2) Conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with such procedures as may have been established in national law to give effect to Annex I of the Protocol, including, if appropriate, how potential impacts will be monitored.
3) Obtain timely permission from the national authorities responsible for any stations they propose to visit.
4) Provide information to assist in the preparation of contingency response plans in accordance with Article 15 of the Protocol; waste management plans in accordance with Annex III of the Protocol; and marine pollution contingency plans in accordance with Annex IV of the Protocol.
5) Ensure that expedition leaders and passengers are aware of the location and special regimes which apply to Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (and on entry into force of the Protocol, Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas) and of Historic Sites and Monuments and, in particular, relevant management plans.
6) Obtain a permit, where required by national law, from the competent national authority of the

appropriate Party or Parties, should they have a reason to enter such areas, or a monitoring site (CEMP Site) designated under CCAMLR.

7) Ensure that activities are fully self-sufficient and do not require assistance from Parties unless arrangements for it have been agreed in advance.

8) Ensure that they employ experienced and trained personnel, including a sufficient number of guides.

9) Arrange to use equipment, vehicles, vessels, and aircraft appropriate to Antarctic operations.

10) Be fully conversant with applicable communications, navigation, air traffic control and emergency procedures.

11) Obtain the best available maps and hydrographic charts, recognising that many areas are not fully or accurately surveyed.

12) Consider the question of insurance (subject to requirements of national law).

13) Design and conduct information and education programmes to ensure that all personnel and visitors are aware of relevant provisions of the Antarctic Treaty system.

14) Provide visitors with a copy of the Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic.

B) When in the Antarctic Treaty Area

Organisers and operators should:

1) Comply with all requirements of the Antarctic Treaty system and relevant national laws, and ensure that visitors are aware of requirements that are relevant to them.

2) Reconfirm arrangements to visit stations 24-72 hours before their arrival and ensure that visitors are aware of any conditions or restrictions established by the station.

3) Ensure that visitors are supervised by a sufficient number of guides who have adequate experience and training in Antarctic conditions and knowledge of the Antarctic Treaty system requirements.

4) Monitor environmental impacts of their activities, if appropriate, and advise the competent national authorities of the appropriate Party or Parties of any adverse or cumulative impacts resulting from an activity, but which were not foreseen by their environmental impact assessment.

5) Operate ships, yachts, small boats, aircraft, hovercraft, and all other means of transport safely and according to appropriate procedures, including those set out in the Antarctic Flight Information Manual (AFIM).

6) Dispose of waste materials in accordance with Annex III and IV of the Protocol. These annexes prohibit, among other things, the discharge of plastics, oil and noxious substances into the Antarctic Treaty Area; regulate the discharge of sewage and food waste; and, require the removal of most wastes from the area.

7) Co-operate fully with observers designated by Consultative Parties to conduct inspections of

stations, ships, aircraft and equipment under Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty, and those to be designated under Article 14 of the Environmental Protocol.

8) Co-operate in monitoring programmes undertaken in accordance with Article 3(2)(d) of the Protocol.

9) Maintain a careful and complete record of their activities conducted.

C) On completion of the activities

Within three months of the end of the activity, organisers and operators should report on the conduct of it to the appropriate national authority in accordance with national laws and procedures. Reports should include the name, details and state of registration of each vessel or aircraft used and the name of their captain or commander; actual itinerary; the number of visitors engaged in the activity; places, dates and purposes of landings and the number of visitors landed on each occasion; any meteorological observations made, including those made as part of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Voluntary Observing Ships Scheme; any significant changes in activities and their impacts from those predicted before the visit was conducted; and action taken in case of emergency.

D) Antarctic Treaty System Documents and Information

Most Antarctic Treaty Parties can provide, through their national contact points, copies of relevant provisions of the Antarctic Treaty system and information about national laws and procedures, including:

- The Antarctic Treaty (1959)
- Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (1972)
- Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (1980)
- Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (1991)
- Recommendations and other measures adopted under the Antarctic Treaty
- Final Reports of Consultative Meetings
- Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty System (1994)
- Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty System (in Spanish, 1991 edition)

ATTACHMENT A

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN ADVANCE NOTICE

Organisers should provide the following information to the appropriate national authorities in the format requested.

1) name, nationality, and contact details of the organiser;

2) where relevant, registered name and national registration and type of any vessel or aircraft to be used (including name of the captain or commander, call-sign, radio frequency,

INMARSAT number);

3) intended itinerary including the date of departure and places to be visited in the Antarctic Treaty Area;

4) activities to be undertaken and purpose;

5) number and qualifications of crew and accompanying guides and expedition staff;

6) estimated number of visitors to be carried;

7) carrying capacity of vessel;

8) intended use of vessel;

9) intended use and type of aircraft;

10) number and type of other vessels, including small boats, to be used in the Antarctic Treaty Area;

11) information about insurance coverage;

12) details of equipment to be used, including for safety purposes, and arrangements for self-sufficiency;

13) and other matters required by national laws.

XVI-13 Tourism and non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area

The Representatives,

Bearing in mind that the XVth Consultative Meeting agreed that a comprehensive review of tourism and non-governmental activities was required;

Noting that the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its Annexes apply to tourist and non-governmental activities in Antarctica;

Recalling that the XIth Special Consultative Meeting asked the XVIth Consultative Meeting to address the issue of tourism and non-governmental activities;

Acknowledging that the Protocol constitutes the framework for further progress in Antarctic environmental protection;

Concerned about the possible effect of increased tourism and non-governmental activities in Antarctica;

Conscious of the need to ensure that the presence of tourists and other visitors in Antarctica be regulated so as to limit adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. An informal meeting of the Parties be convened with a view to making proposals to the XVIIth Consultative Meeting on the question of a comprehensive regulation of tourist and non-governmental activities in Antarctica in accordance with the Protocol and taking into account the proposals made at the present XVIth Consultative Meeting, including proposals for a future

Annex to the Protocol on Environmental Protection;

2. Prior to the convening of that meeting and in order to ensure due preparation of its work, proposals should be prepared by them taking into account the list of issues stated below, which meeting should, inter alia, primarily address:
   a) environmental issues
      - implementation of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its Annexes
      - number of tourists / carrying capacity
      - homologation of standards relating to vessels
      - permanent infrastructure for tourists
      - concentration / dispersal of tourist activities
      - access to unexplored areas
   b) operational issues
      - notification and expansion of information to be exchanged
      - system for granting permission to visit stations
      - self-sufficiency
      - insurance, including search and rescue insurance
      - information obligation of Parties
      - preparation and training of tour guides, and visitors' guides
      - examination of the need for specific kinds of control and monitoring
      - requirements for organizational procedures
3. The meeting shall begin its work in Venice on 9 November 1992.
4. Representatives of the WTO, IUCN, IAATO, IMO, ASOC, PATA, SCAR and COMNAP be invited to attend the Meeting as observers.

Extract from Report of XIIth ATCM

The Meeting discussed the implications of the increase of tourism and non-governmental expeditions in Antarctica. It was agreed that the isolation of the region meant that assistance by national programs to such activities was expensive, disruptive to research programs and sometimes hazardous to life and equipment.

The Meeting agreed that emergency assistance was a humanitarian obligation, but that the risks and costs involving other assistance in Antarctica might best be reduced by Consultative Parties urging upon private expeditions and tour operators the need for careful and thorough planning and for self-sufficiency in their operations. In accordance with Article X of the Antarctic Treaty, the Meeting emphasized the importance of ensuring that non-governmental expeditions to the Antarctic Treaty Area observed the principles and purposes of the Antarctic Treaty and the relevant measures adopted under it. To this end it was agreed that Consultative Parties should do their best to ensure that such expeditions were made aware of these provisions. It was also agreed that Consultative Parties should keep each other fully informed about commercial or private expeditions being planned in their countries.

It was noted that non-governmental expeditions and tour operators should be covered by adequate insurance and by some form of guarantee that would demonstrate their responsibility

for their activities. A view was also expressed that responsibility for compliance by non-governmental expeditions with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty and Recommendations adopted at the Consultative Meetings should be placed upon those States whose physical or juridical persons organize such expeditions or participate in them. Since there was no agreement as to where responsibility for non-governmental expeditions should lie, the draft Recommendation which had been tabled was withdrawn.

It was agreed that the ideas expressed in the previous paragraphs might be followed up and that further consideration be given to them at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

XI-3: Air Disaster on Mount Erebus

The Representatives,

Recalling with respect that in the years of exploration and research many have travelled to and worked in Antarctica and not returned;

Noting that on 28 November 1979 two hundred and fifty-seven people of several nationalities lost their lives when the aircraft in which they were travelling crashed into the slopes of Mount Erebus, Ross Island, Antarctica;

Aware that in spite of the determined and courageous action of members of the New Zealand and United States Antarctic expeditions the bodies of some of those who died could not be recovered;

Aware, too, that no permanent memorial may be placed on the ice slopes at the site of the tragedy;

Express their deep sympathy with the relatives of those who died and with the Government and people of New Zealand; and

Recommend to their Governments that the site on the northern slopes of Mount Erebus where the accident took place be declared a tomb and that they ensure that the area is left in peace.

X-8: Effects of tourists and non-government expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area

The Representatives,

Recalling that Annex A to Recommendation VIII-9 was to be discussed at the Ninth Consultative Meeting and that a draft text of a Statement of Accepted Practices and the Relevant Provision of the Antarctic Treaty was referred from the Ninth to the Tenth Consultative Meeting;

Recognizing that, in addition to the statement referred to in the previous paragraph which is primarily intended for the organizers of tourist expeditions, it would be helpful to the organizers of such expeditions to be able to provide to individual visitors a brief guide to good conduct in the Antarctic;

Noting that adventurous individuals organizing non-governmental expeditions to Antarctica may seek help or advice from offices administering Antarctic programs;

Recognizing, also, that in considering responses to requests for help from such expedition, an important concern is the possibility that such expeditions may, in cases of emergency, involve the offices administering Antarctic programs in financial or material loss;

*Recognizing t*hat suitably qualified guides accompanying commercially organized Antarctic tours would both benefit the tourists and help to ensure that the conservation and environmental measures adopted by the Consultative Parties were observed;

Reaffirming the traditional principle in the Antarctic of rendering all assistance feasible in the event of an emergency request for help, but noting that commercial overflights of Antarctica are operating in a particularly hazardous environment, where aircraft operation systems normally available elsewhere in the world are at a minimum, and where emergencies could arise which are beyond the capacity of permanent Antarctic expeditions to respond adequately;

*Recommend t*o their Governments that:

I. Statement of accepted Practices and the Relevant Provisions of the Antarctic Treaty

They insert the attached statement of Accepted Practices and the Relevant Provisions of the Antarctic Treaty into Annex A to Recommendation VIII-9 for the purposes set out in operative paragraph 1 of that Recommendation.

II. Non-Governmental Expeditions

If a non-governmental expedition approaches a Consultative Party for help or advice, that Consultative Party should inform the Contracting Party where the expedition to Antarctica is being organized and may request all relevant information about the expedition.

They urge non-governmental expeditions to carry adequate insurance cover against the risk of their incurring financial charges or material losses in the Antarctic Treaty Area.

III. Tour Guides

To the extent practicable, they encourage commercial tour operators to carry tour guides with experience of Antarctic conditions, who are aware of the considerations which underlie the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora and for the protection of the Antarctic environment.

IV. Commercial Overflights in Antarctica

They notify commercial aircraft operators that the present level of tourist overflight activity:

i) exceeds existing capabilities for air traffic control, communications and search and rescue in the Antarctic;
ii) may interfere with normal operational flights in support of expeditions engaged in ongoing scientific programs in the Antarctic;
iii) exceeds the capacity of their Antarctic operations to respond adequately to an unplanned emergency landing.

Extract from Report of Xth ATCM

The Working Group on Tourism had before it a paper from the SCAR Working Group on Logistics entitled 'Tourist and Private Expeditions to the Antarctic', a draft statement of accepted practices together with the relevant provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, and a draft containing practical guidance for visitors to Antarctica for inclusion in Annex A of Recommendation VIII-9. These material had been forwarded to the Tenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting owing to lack of sufficient opportunity for their consideration at the Ninth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

Extract from Report of IXth ATCM

A draft statement of accepted practices and the relevant provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, together with a draft containing practical guidance for visitors to the Antarctic, was considered for inclusion in Annex A of Recommendation VIII-9 but, owing to lack of time for full discussion, the matter was referred to the Tenth Consultative Meeting. No action was taken to list or define areas of Special Tourist Interest for inclusion in Annex B of Recommendation VIII-9.

VIII-9: Effects of tourists and non-governmental expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area

The Representatives,

Recognizing that tourists and other persons not sponsored by Consultative Parties are visiting the Antarctic Treaty Area in increasing numbers;

Acknowledging that tourism is a natural development in this Area and that it requires regulation;

Recalling Recommendation VII-4, and particularly the need to avoid increasing interference with natural ecological systems which are not yet sufficiently understood;

Recognizing the necessity to restrict the number of places where large numbers of tourists may land so that the ecological effects may be monitored;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. They use their best endeavours to ensure that all those who enter the Antarctic Treaty Area, both those sponsored by Governments and those not so sponsored, are aware of the Statement of Accepted Practices and the Relevant Provisions of the Antarctic Treaty in Annex A to this Recommendation;

2. They request all organizers of tourist groups, except in an emergency, to:
   a) visit only those Antarctic stations for which permission has been sought and granted in accordance with Recommendation IV-27;
   b) land only within the Areas of Special Tourist Interest listed or defined in Annex B to this Recommendation;

3. When granting permission for tourist groups to visit Antarctic stations which they maintain,

Consultative Parties shall require tour organizers to report their activities within the Treaty Area. These reports shall be made at the end of the season to the Consultative Parties whose stations they have visited, in accordance with the requirements listed in Annex C to this Recommendation. The Consultative Parties shall transmit any such reports received by them to the next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting;

4. They keep Annexes A, B and C to this Recommendation under review at successive Consultative Meetings.

ANNEX A

Statement of accepted principles and the relevant provision of the Antarctic Treaty

Introduction

The following statement is intended for the guidance of all those who visit the Antarctic. The Antarctic Treaty was negotiated in Washington in 1959 by the states which had established scientific stations in the Antarctic during the International Geophysical Year (1957-58) in order to perpetuate the close scientific co-operation which had marked that period. It provides, inter alia, that the Antarctic shall be used for peaceful purposes only and that any measures of a military nature shall be prohibited; that there shall be freedom of scientific investigation and that the results of such investigation shall be made freely available; that any nuclear explosions and the disposal of radioactive waste material in the Antarctic is prohibited; that notification of an expedition to the Antarctic shall be provided in advance; and that each of the Antarctic Treaty Contracting Parties shall exert appropriate efforts to the end that no one engages in any activity in the Antarctic contrary to the principles or purposes of the Antarctic Treaty.

Recommendations of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings

The Treaty requires that meetings shall be held from time to time to consider and recommend measures in furtherance of its principles and objectives. Amongst these are measures of which all those who enter the Antarctic Treaty Area, both those sponsored by Governments and those not so sponsored, should be aware. The following notes indicate the nature of these measures and the reader is referred to the Recommendations of successive Consultative Meetings for the details.

Protection of the Antarctic environment

The ecosystem of the Antarctic Treaty Area is particularly vulnerable to human interference and the Antarctic derives much of its importance from its uncontaminated and undisturbed condition and the effects it has on adjacent areas and the global environment. For these reasons the Consultative Parties recognise their special responsibility for the protection of the environment and the wise use of the Treaty Area.

Conservation of wildlife

Animals in the Antarctic are in almost all cases tame and are therefore peculiarly vulnerable. Both animals and plants are living under extreme conditions and great care has to be taken to avoid upsetting the natural ecological system. They are protected by the following five mechanisms under the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora:

i) *Protection of native fauna.* The killing, wounding, capturing or molesting of any native mammal or native bird is prohibited except in an emergency or in accordance with a permit issued under the authority of a Participating Government. Any attempt to do any of these things is also prohibited under the same conditions.

ii) *Harmful interference.* Every effort shall be made to minimize harmful interference with the normal living conditions of any native mammal or bird.

iii) *Specially Protected Species.* Two species of seal, Fur Seals and the Ross Seal have been designated as Specially Protected Species and permits may only be issued in relation to these species in accordance with certain restrictive criteria.

iv) *Specially Protected Areas.* Certain area of outstanding scientific interest have been designated as Specially Protected Areas in order to preserve their unique natural ecological system (see Annex I). No person may enter such an Area except in accordance with a permit issued under the authority of a Participating Government. Such permits may only be issued in accordance with certain restrictive criteria.

v) *Introduction of non-indigenous species, parasites and diseases.* No species of animal or plant not indigenous to the Antarctic Treaty Area may be brought into the Area except in accordance with a permit issued under the authority of a Participating Government. Special precautions have to be taken to prevent the accidental introduction of parasites and diseases into the Treaty Area.

Pelagic sealing

The Consultative Parties, having regard to the possibly damaging ecological consequences that might arise from the exploitation of Antarctic seals for commercial purposes, negotiated the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals. This Convention entered into force on 11 March 1978.

Waste disposal

In addition to the measures for the conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora outlined above, the Consultative Parties have prepared a Code of Conduct for Antarctic Expeditions and Station Activities including, inter alia, recommended procedures for waste disposal (see Annex II).

Protection of Historic Monuments

Every effort should be made to prevent damage or destruction to any historic monuments. The Consultative Parties have listed a number of such monuments for special protection (see Annex III).

Facilitation of scientific research: Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are many scientific investigations being carried out in the Antarctic which could suffer from accidental interference. For example, long term studies of the population dynamics of a penguin colony may require that visitors be kept to an absolute minimum. Intensive scientific work in one area may require that a nearby ecologically similar area be kept undisturbed and uncontaminated for reference purposes. Again, certain electromagnetically 'quiet' areas, where sensitive instruments have been installed for recording minute signals associated with upper atmosphere studies, may require that visits to the site should be kept to a minimum.

For these and similar reasons the Consultative Parties have designated certain Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Antarctic (see Annex IV). Each Site is subject to a management plan designed to protect the particular scientific investigations being undertaken. Persons wishing to visit Sites of Special Scientific Interest should, well in advance, consult the national office responsible for the administration of a permanent Antarctic scientific expedition or, if this is not possible, should consult the station commander of the scientific station nearest the site which it is intended to visit.

Tourism and non-governmental expeditions to the Antarctic Treaty Area

An important feature of the Antarctic Treaty is that co-operation under it is facilitated by the prior exchange of information about planned activities. The Treaty commitment covers any expedition organised in or proceeding to the Antarctic from any state which is a Contracting Party to the Antarctic Treaty. A consolidated list of the information to be exchanged is attached at Annex V.

It is a traditional principle that expeditions render all assistance feasible in the event of an emergency. There is in the Antarctic a number of unoccupied huts and refuges which may be used by any expedition in an emergency, in which case the authorities who maintain the hut or refuge should be informed of what use has been made of it.

Special Measures relating to tourist and non-governmental expeditions

The number of non-governmental expeditions to the Antarctic is steadily increasing and there is a tendency for these expeditions to concentrate on the more easily accessible parts of the Antarctic. Frequent visits to scientific stations or undue dependence on the facilities of such stations can prejudice their scientific work. It is therefore required that the organizers of a tourist or non-governmental expedition should furnish notice as soon as possible, through diplomatic channels, to any other Government whose station the expedition plans to visit. Any such Government may refuse to accept a visit to a station which it maintains or may lay down conditions upon which it would grant permission including inter alia, that:

i) reasonable assurance be given of compliance with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, measures adopted under it and the conditions applicable at stations to be visited;

ii) tour organizers should ensure that prior to the commencement of the tour or expedition, procedures and systems for adequate telecommunications have been confirmed with the offices administering the Antarctic stations to be visited;

iii) final arrangements to visit any station be made with that station between twenty-four and seventy-two hours in advance of the expected time of arrival;

iv) all tourists and other visitors comply with any conditions or restrictions on their movements which the station commander may stipulate for their safety or to safeguard scientific programs being undertaken at or near the station;

v) visitors must not enter Specially Protected Areas and must respect designated historic monuments;

vi) tour organizers should report to the Governments whose stations they have visited, after completion of the tour, the name and nationality of the ship, the name of the captain, the itinerary of each separate cruise, the number of tourists accompanying

each cruise and the places and dates at which landings were made in the Antarctic Treaty Area, with the number of persons landed on each occasion.

Annex I Specially Protected Areas.

(Annex B to Recommendation III-8.)

Annex II Extract from the Code of Conduct for Antarctic Expeditions and Station Activities relating to Waste Disposal

(Annex to Recommendation VII-11.)

Annex III List of Historic monuments

(Annex to Recommendation VII-9.)

Annex IV Sites of Special Scientific Interest

(Management Plans attached to Recommendation VIII-4.)

Annex V Standard format for the Annual Exchange of Information

(Annex to Recommendation to VIII-6.)

GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS TO THE ANTARCTIC

Antarctic and its surrounding islands are one of the few places in the world that are still relatively unchanged by man's activities. Scientists still know very little about the ecological situation in the Antarctic. At the present early stage in research on these matters, some restrictions and precautions may seem unnecessarily harsh, but preliminary studies indicate the need for great caution. By following a few very simple requests, you can help preserve the unique environment of this region.

1. Avoid disturbing wildlife, in particular do not:
   - walk on vegetation;
   - touch or handle birds or seals;
   - startle or chase any bird from its nest;
   - wander indiscriminately through penguin or other bird colonies.
2. Litter of all types must be kept to a minimum. Retain all litter (film wrappers, tissue, food scraps, tins, lotion bottles, etc) in a bag or pocket to be disposed of on board your ship. Avoid throwing tin cans and other trash off the ship near land.
3. Do not use sporting guns.
4. Do not introduce plants or animals into the Antarctic.
5. Do not collect eggs or fossils.
6. Do not enter any of the Specially Protected Areas and avoid Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

7. In the vicinity of scientific stations avoid interference with scientific work and do not enter unoccupied buildings or refuges except in an emergency.
8. Do not paint names or graffiti on rocks or buildings.
9. Take care of Antarctic historic monuments.
10. When ashore, keep together with your party.

ANNEX B: Areas of Special Tourist Interest

[No Areas of Special Tourist Interest have yet been designated]

ANNEX C: Matters to be reported by tour organizers

1. Name and nationality of ship
2. Name of captain
3. Itinerary of each separate cruise
4. Number of tourists accompanying each cruise
5. Places and dates at which landings were made in the Antarctic Treaty Area, with the number of persons landed on each occasion

VII-4: Effects of tourists and non-governmental expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area

The Representatives,

Noting the increase in the Antarctic Treaty Area in the number of visitors who are not sponsored by Consultative Parties;

Considering that both Governments and such visitors would benefit from having available to them an agreed statement:

a) of accepted practices in the Treaty Area including, *inter alia*, the need for self sufficiency and prior notification of intended arrival at a station, which such visitors would be expected to follow (to which could be appended the particular conditions imposed by each government for a visit to any one of its stations); and
b) of the relevant provisions of the Antarctic Treaty and of the Recommendations made under it;

Recalling Recommendations VI-7 and VI-11 concerning the possible harmful effects of such visitors on scientific programmes and on the Antarctic environment; Convinced of the need to avoid unnecessary interference with natural ecological systems which are not sufficiently understood and continue to be the subject of research;

Conscious that the Treaty Area contains many unique features of historical, scenic and general scientific interest;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. They keep under review, in the light of existing Recommendations, the effects in the Treaty Area of tourists and other visitors who are not sponsored by Consultative Parties;

2. They consider drawing up at the Eighth Consultative Meeting a statement of those accepted practices and relevant provisions about which all visitors to the Treaty Area should be aware;

3. They consult each other well in advance about the possibility of designating at the Eighth Consultative Meeting an adequate number of areas of interest to which tourists could be encouraged to go, and about the criteria to be used to determine such areas;

4. They use their best efforts to ensure that the provisions of the Treaty and subsequent Recommendations relating to the conservation of Fauna and Flora are applied in practice to all visitors who are not sponsored by Consultative parties, as well as to tourists.

VI-7: Effects of Tourists and non-government expeditions to the Antarctic Treaty Area

The Representatives,

Noting the increase in recent years in the number of tourists and also in the number of visitors who are not sponsored by the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty Area;

Considering that the activities of such visitors can have lasting and harmful effects on scientific programmes, on the Antarctic environment, particularly in Specially Protected Areas, and on historic monuments;

Desiring to ensure that such visitors are afforded the best view of stations in the Antarctic compatible with the research programmes being undertaken;

Recalling paragraph 5 of Article VII and Article X of the Antarctic Treaty and Recommendations I-VI and IV-27;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. They should exert appropriate efforts to ensure that all tourists and other visitors do not engage in any activity in the Treaty Area which is contrary to the principles and purposes of the Antarctic Treaty or Recommendations made under it;

2. They should inform, in so far as they are able, those responsible for expeditions to the Treaty Area which are not organized by a Consultative Party but organized in, proceeding from, or calling at, their territory, of the following:

a) that final arrangements to visit any station be made with that station between twenty four and seventy two hours in advance of the expected time of arrival;
b) that all tourists and other visitors comply with any conditions or restrictions on their movements which the station commander may stipulate for their safety or to safeguard scientific programmes being undertaken at or near the station;
c) that visitors must not enter Specially Protected Areas and must respect designated historic

monuments;

3. Advance notice of all expeditions to the Treaty Area not organized by a Consultative Party, but organized in, proceeding from or calling at that Party's territory, shall be given, in so far as is possible, to the other Consultative Parties. Such notice shall include the relevant information listed in Recommendation I-VI;

4. Until such time as this Recommendation becomes effective in accordance with Article IX of the Antarctic Treaty, it shall be considered, as far as feasible, as a guideline.

IV-27: Effects of Antarctic tourism

Recognizing that the effects of tourist activities may prejudice the conduct of scientific research, conservation of fauna and flora and the operation of Antarctic stations,

The Representatives recommend to their Governments that:

1. The Government of a country in which a tourist or other non-scientific expedition is being organized furnish notice of the expedition as soon as possible through diplomatic channels to any other Government whose station the expedition plans to visit;

2. A Government provide on request information as promptly as possible regarding the conditions upon which it would grant permission for tourist groups to visit Antarctic stations which it maintains; and

3. Such permission be withheld unless reasonable assurances are given of compliance with the provisions of the Treaty, the Recommendations then effective and the conditions applicable at stations to be visited.