



Tourism and Land-based Facilities in Antarctica: Analysis of a Questionnaire Distributed to Antarctic Treaty Parties at XXXII ATCM

An ASOC paper presented to the CEP Tourism Study 2009-2010

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1. Overview

At ATCM XXXI Japan noted that it “would welcome IAATO and ASOC to come to ATCM XXXII with as much information as possible and an analysis of land-based facilities.”² Japan also requested all Parties involved “...to verify such information and to provide supplementary information.”³ Responding to this request, at ATCM XXXII ASOC submitted IP023 *Tourism and Land-based Facilities in Antarctica*. XXXII ATCM/IP023 focused on Antarctic land-based facilities used to support and/or manage tourism, whether by Antarctic Treaty Parties or private interests, both commercial and non-commercial. Based on the comments received by some Parties ASOC submitted a revised version (XXXII ATCM/IP023 rev.1).⁴ A hard copy of the questionnaire appended to XXXII ATCM/IP023 rev.1 was distributed by among all Parties during XXXII ATCM at the Tourism Working Group.

This document analyses the questionnaire appended to XXXII ATCM/IP023 rev.1. The questionnaire aims to obtain information on the tourism use of land-based facilities based on the experience and observations of Antarctic Treaty Parties active in the Antarctic. The analysis is based on the responses received by ASOC between May and November 2009.

An overview of the respondents’ profile is included in Appendix 1 (the respondents have been kept anonymous). The questionnaires responses are summarized in Appendix 2. A revised version of the questionnaire is attached to this document as Appendix 3.

2. Questionnaire respondents’ profile

There are 28 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties operating in Antarctica, and two Non-Consultative Parties that operate research stations, whether individually or jointly.

Seven Antarctic Treaty Parties responded to ASOC’s questionnaire. This represents 25% of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, 23% of all Parties operating in Antarctica (both Consultative and Non-Consultative Parties), and 11% of the national program operators of all Antarctic facilities.⁵

Overall, the respondents are broadly representative of the global spread of Antarctic nations; of operators in most Antarctic regions; and of the total number of Antarctic facilities.

3. Questionnaire responses

Question 1 - Does your program have a policy for tourism use of your land-based facilities?

When analysing responses to the questionnaire it became apparent that the phrasing of this question was somewhat ambiguous so that the question could be interpreted in two ways:

- **Meaning 1:** Literally, it may mean whether or not a Party has a policy for tourism visits at its land-based facilities, regardless of the content of this policy. For instance, some Parties may have a policy of limiting the annual number of visits at its stations; other Parties may not have any policy on tourism visits as its stations are outside the tourism circuit.
- **Meaning 2:** The question can also be interpreted in the sense of whether or not a Party is encouraging or supporting tourism at its facilities in some way.

¹ Lead author R. Roura

² Final Report XXXI ATCM, paragraph 251.

³ Final Report XXXI ATCM, paragraph 251.

⁴ ATCM Final Report paragraphs 165-166; CEP XII Final Report, paragraphs 53-54.

⁵ On the basis of COMNAP’s list of facilities (www.comnap.aq) accessed October 2009.

In all but one of the responses received it was possible to ascertain which interpretation the respondents used, based on accompanying comments. A revised version of the questionnaire has been produced for Parties that have not answered the original questionnaire yet. The new version hopefully resolves this ambiguity (Appendix 3).

The answers to the this question were as follows:

- On the basis of Meaning 1, two Parties responded that they have a tourism policy for their stations, while the remaining five did not;
- On the basis of Meaning 2, six Parties responded explicitly or implicitly that they do not support tourism. In one case the intent of the response was uncertain;
- No Party expressed support for Parties encouraging or supporting tourism, whether implicitly or explicitly;
- One Party noted that they do not have a policy on tourism but are strongly opposed to tourism at their stations and are drafting a policy in this regard; and
- Another Party expressed its position on tourism in a separate note, stating that in its view governments should not actively encourage or promote Antarctic tourism, let alone organise tourism activities in Antarctica themselves.

Question 2 - Please list the use or uses by tourists and/or tour operators of land-based facilities operated by your program:

- Three Parties responded that tourists did not use their facilities. However, one of these Parties noted that air tourism transfers were “possibly” taking place “in cooperation with other nations” and provided further verbal information. This answer was analysed under Question 4;
- Four Parties responded that tourists used their facilities for basic hospitality, use of gift shop and post office, or the stamping of passports; and
- The question was not applicable to the case of one Party.

Question 3 - Are these facilities used by tourists and/or tour operators on commercial bases (excluding purchases at gift shops and use of postal services)?

- Six Parties responded that the use of their facilities by tourists, as in the previous question, was not conducted on a commercial basis (excluding purchases at gift shops and use of postal services).
- The question was not applicable to the case of one Party.

Question 4 - Are you aware of land-based facilities (not belonging to your program) that are used for tourism purposes in your area of operations?

- No Party responded positively to this question;
- Five Parties responded that they are not aware of land-based facilities from other National Antarctic Programs being used for tourism purposes. However, one of these Parties noted under Question 2 that air tourism transfers were “possibly” taking place “in cooperation with other nations” and provided further verbal information;
- One Party did not answer “yes” or “no” to this question, but suggested checking a nearby station, which it identified by its name and operator; and
- The question was not applicable to the case of one Party.

Question 5 - Any other comment about this topic?

- One Party provided additional written comments stating its position on tourism.
- One Party provided additional verbal comments about possible air transfers of tourists.

4. Closing remarks

Although the questionnaire distributed by ASOC was responded to by a relatively small number of Parties, the respondents were representative of all Antarctic Treaty Parties that run Antarctic facilities.

None of the respondents provides any support to tourism other than free basic hospitality. Most respondents opposed the notion of Parties being involved in tourism operations.

Two of the seven responses indicated that one or more National Antarctic Programs possibly transport and/or accommodate tourists.

ASOC would appreciate the inputs of all Parties to the questionnaire circulated at XXXII ATCM, and requests Parties that have not done so to respond to the questionnaire included in Appendix 3, whenever possible prior to XXXIII ATCM in April 2010. Responding to the questionnaire is one way of obtaining the information that has been requested by several Parties at the ATCMs⁶ and by observers conducting inspections under Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty and Article 14 of the Protocol.⁷

⁶ Final Report XXXI ATCM, paragraph 251; Final Report XXII ATCM paragraph, 166.

⁷ Australia, Peru, and United Kingdom 2005, p. 10.

Appendix 1 – Respondents’ profile

Table 1 – Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and Non-Consultative Parties operating in Antarctica

	ATCPs		NCPs		Total	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Total	28	100	2	100	30	100
Total responded	7	25	0	0	7	23
Total did not respond	21	75	2	100	23	77

Table 2 – Respondents’ region of origin

Region	Total		Responded	
	N°	% total	N°	% of category
Americas	9	30	2	22
Asia	4	13	1	25
Europe	14	47	3	21
Other	3	10	1	33
Total	30	100	7	

Table 3 – Respondents’ main region of operation

Region	Total		Responded	
	N°	% total	N°	% of category
Several regions	6	20	2	7
Antarctic Peninsula	13	43	2	15
East Antarctica	3	10	2	33
Ross Sea	2	7	0	0
Queen Maud Land	6	20	1	33
Total	30	100	7	

Table 4 – Number of facilities operated in Antarctica

Based on www.comnap.aq, accessed September 2009

Facilities operated in Antarctica	N°	%
Total facilities	111	100
Facilities operated by respondents	11	10
Facilities operated by non respondents	100	90

Table 5 – Type of facilities operated in Antarctica

Facilities operated by respondents are in brackets

	Seasonal	Year-round	Temporarily closed	Total
Camp	16	1	0	17
Depot	3	0	0	3
Refuge	10 (1)	0	0	10 (1)
Station	36 (6)	39 (4)	6	81 (10)
Total	65 (7)	40 (4)	6	111

Appendix 2 - Questionnaire on the use of land based facilities in Antarctica by tourists and/or tour operators

Question 1. Does your program have a policy for tourism use of your land-based facilities?	N°	% of respondents
Meaning 1 – Literal response		
Yes	2	29
No	5	71
Total	7	100
Meaning 2 – Interpretation of response		
Supports tourism – implicit	0	0
Supports tourism – explicit	0	0
Uncertain response	1	14
Does not support tourism - implicit	2	29
Does not support tourism - explicit	4	57
Total	7	100

Question 2. Please list the use or uses by tourists and/or tour operators of land based facilities operated by your program:	N°	% of respondents
Basic hospitality (i.e. brief station visits)	1	12.5
Gift shop	1	12.5
Post office	1	12.5
Bar/canteen services	0	0
Overnight accommodation in buildings	0	0
Camping	0	0
Airstrip use	0	0
Jetty use	0	0
Tourism transfers e.g. fly-sail	0 ^(*)	0
None	3	38.5
Other (specify)	1	12.5
Not applicable	1	12.5
Total	8^(**)	100

(*) One respondent noted that tourism transfer by other operators were possible. This answer was included under Question 4.

(**) One respondent provided both gift shop and post office services.

Question 3. Are these facilities used by tourists and/or tour operators on commercial bases (excluding purchases at gift shops and use of postal services)?	N°	% of respondents
Yes	0	0
No	6	86
Other (specify)	0	0
Not applicable	1	14
Total	7	100

Question 4. Are you aware of land-based facilities (not belonging to your program) that are used for tourism purposes in your area of operations?	N°	% of respondents
Yes	0	0
No	4	57
Not applicable	1	14
Possibly ^(*)	2	29
Total	7	100

^(*) This option was not listed in the original questionnaire but it was implicit in two of the responses.

Question 5. Any other comment about this topic? Please include in a separate sheet.	N°	% of respondents
Provided additional comments	1	14
Did not provide additional comments	6	86

**Appendix 3 - Questionnaire on the use of land based facilities in Antarctica
by tourists and/or tour operators – Revised version (November 2009)**

See next page.

ASOC'S QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE USE OF LAND BASED FACILITIES IN ANTARCTICA BY TOURISTS AND/OR TOUR OPERATORS (REV.1 – NOVEMBER 2009)

Institution name:

Address:

Officially represented by:

Position

Phone:

E-mail:

1. Use of land-base facilities

a. Does your program have a policy for tourism use of your land-based facilities?

Yes

No

Not yet

Please provide details in a separate sheet.

b. Does your program encourage or support tourism use of your land-based facilities (other than allowing brief visits, purchases at gift shops, and use of postal services)?

Yes

No

Please provide details in a separate sheet.

2. Please list the use or uses by tourists and/or tour operators of land based facilities operated by your program:

- Basic hospitality (i.e. brief station visits)

- Gift shop

- Post office

- Bar/canteen services

- Overnight accommodation in buildings

- Camping

- Airstrip use

- Jetty use

- Tourism transfers e.g. fly-sail

- None

- Other (specify)

Please provide details in a separate sheet.

3. Are these uses provided to tourists and/or tour operators on commercial bases (excluding purchases at gift shops and use of postal services)?

Yes

No

Other (specify)

4. Are you aware of land-based facilities (not belonging to your program) that are used for tourism purposes in your area of operations?

Yes

No

Possibly

Please provide details in a separate sheet.

5. Any other comment about this topic? Please include in a separate sheet.

Thank you in advance. Please send the questionnaire to: ASOC Secretariat, 1630 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009 USA; fax: 1-202-387-4823; Claire.Christian@asoc.org.