

COMNAP UPDATE: May 2019

If you have any national Antarctic program news, photos, or other information you would like included in the next COMNAP Update send it to sec@comnap.aq by 1 July 2019.



COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019), Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 29–31 July 2019

Local Organising Committee (LOC): Christo Pimperiv, Dragomir Mateev, and Marta Blunt, from the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute

<https://www.comnap.aq/SitePages/AGM2019.aspx>

Plans are advancing for the COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXXI, hosted by the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute. The AGM will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Events will begin with a welcome function/icebreaker on Sunday 28 July. The AGM schedule includes a half-day workshop on Education & Outreach in the morning session on Wednesday 31 July, convened by Dragomir Mateev, COMNAP Expert Group Leader for Education, Outreach and Training. The Joint Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine will also hold a one-day meeting on 30 July.

On-line pre-registration is open by way of the Member's Only website (your username and password is required) and you are encouraged to make your accommodation arrangements as soon as possible.

Please note that there are visa requirements for some visitors to Bulgaria.

Refer to: <https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria> as soon as possible to ensure you make any required arrangements for the necessary visas to enter Bulgaria. If you require an invitation letter from our hosts, please make your requests for the letter as soon as possible.

Soon, the Regional Advanced Information Exchange Templates will be sent to all COMNAP NAPs so that they may be completed and exchanged in time for the AGM. It is important to be proactive and complete these templates as completely and fully as possible.

Three Vice Chairs complete their 3-year terms at the end of this AGM. Please consider candidates for these EXCOM positions from the list of MNAPs and DMNAPs and come prepared to elect three Vice Chairs.

Successful COMNAP Antarctic Search and Rescue (SAR) Workshop IV, 14–17 May 2019

Co-hosted by Antarctica New Zealand and JRCCNZ Maritime New Zealand

The fourth COMNAP Antarctic SAR Workshop was attended by 60 people across the two cities of Wellington and Christchurch, New Zealand. The workshop was an opportunity to explore the practical and technical challenges related to preparing for, and coordinating response to, SAR incidents in the Antarctic region. All presentations from the workshop are available by way of the COMNAP Member's Only webpage. The draft Final Report is currently with workshop participants for their review and is available for information on the COMNAP Member's Only webpage. The approved Final Report will be made available on 31 May 2019 and will also be submitted to the ATCM XLII (2019) as a COMNAP Information Paper. The key outcomes and messages from the SAR Workshop will be presented by Simon Trotter (Antarctica New Zealand) and Greg Johnston (JRCCNZ Maritime New Zealand) and discussed as part of the COMNAP AGM Safety Session.

REMINDER to all: ATCMXLII (2019) focused discussion on Air Activity, 5 July 2019

The ATCM XLII (2019) will hold a focused discussion on Antarctic air activity and has asked “COMNAP to provide an overview of aviation activity...to inform discussion”. The COMNAP overview has been submitted, it is ATCMXLII Information Paper 002 “Overview of Aviation Activity to inform ATCM discussions”.

COMNAP has also submitted Working Paper 008 “Challenges that might occur in relation to increased air operations in the Antarctic Treaty area: A national Antarctic program perspective” that contains eight important recommendations for the ATCM to consider. You may wish to discuss these recommendations with your ATCM Head of Delegation if you are not attending the ATCM so that there is understanding of the importance of these recommendations in support of safety in the Antarctic.

The COMNAP, IAATO, SCAR & WMO Fellowships and the CCAMLR Scholarship for 2019

<https://www.comnap.ag/SitePages/fellowships.aspx>

SCAR, COMNAP, and CCAMLR have been working together for many years to support talented early-career persons to strengthen international capacity. For 2019, we are joined by IAATO and WMO who will each support additional Antarctic-related fellowships. The 2019 application round is now open. Deadline for COMNAP and IAATO Fellowship applications is 10 June 2019.

If you know of an early career professional that might like to apply for the fellowships worth up to \$US15000 each, they may be interested in listening to or asking questions as part of an Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) Webinar scheduled for Monday 3 June, 7pm UTC/GMT which will talk about eligibility criteria for the Fellowships and give tips on how to prepare a great application.

To register for the webinar go to: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YXSIHApxTQalaW6VZ8FTCw

There are also archived APECS webinars available to assist:

In Spanish “Writing for Success! Preparing winning fellowship applications”:

<https://www.apecs.is/career-resources/webinars/webinar-archive/details/10/151.html>

In English “Writing for Success! Preparing winning fellowship applications”:

<https://www.apecs.is/career-resources/webinars/webinar-archive/details/10/125.html>

COMNAP Facilities List & Vessels List

Looking for easy access to the COMNAP Antarctic Facilities List?

Easy, public access is by way of the COMNAP website at: www.comnap.ag/Members/SitePages/Home.aspx

If you want the information in a format that can be used in a GIS, then you can also go directly to the US Polar Geospatial Center’s “GitHub” where a range of Antarctic-related data is made publicly available:

<https://github.com/PolarGeospatialCenter/comnap-antarctic-facilities>

<https://github.com/PolarGeospatialCenter/comnap-antarctic-vessels>

If you are looking for contact details for all current MNAPs and DMNAPs, that is always available from the very top of the Member’s Only webpage (username and password is required).

The data held in the COMNAP database is only good and current if you update it regularly.

Please check your programme’s data on the webpage, in the AFIM, in the ATOM, and on the Facilities and Vessels Lists, send any updates or changes to the COMNAP Secretariat at any time.

COMNAP Project Updates

COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS)

Project Leader: Robb Clifton, EXCOM Oversight: John Guldahl

The COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS) was used successfully for the 2018/19 Antarctic summer season. There are currently no National Antarctic Program vessels reporting positions south of 60°S latitude at this time. At the recent COMNAP Antarctic SAR Workshop IV, it was reported that the CATS contained information on 68 active assets for the period 29 November 2018 through 1 May 2019. Of those 68 active assets: four were helicopters, thirty-two were fixed-wing aircraft and thirty-two were vessels. This is well below the actual number of aircraft and vessels that operated in the Antarctic during that period. The CATS website had over 4200 page views over that time period.

Review of NNS Checklists for Supply Chain Managers (jointly with SCAR)

Project Leader: Michelle Rogan-Finnemore, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszezwska

The update of the English-language version of the COMNAP / SCAR “Checklists for supply chain managers of National Antarctic Programmes for the reduction in risk of transfer of non-native species” is now complete. The next step is to convert the updated text into the Checklists brochures and posters. As we did with the 2011 Checklists, we invite anyone who wishes to translate the Checklists into other languages to do so and we will share those on the COMNAP website along with the English-language version. SCAR has also drafted a second Checklist focussing on “intra-regional” transfer prevention. These have been reviewed initially by COMNAP but they have not been finalized. They will be presented for discussion at the upcoming COMNAP AGM.

Non-native Fly: Survey of Antarctic Stations

Project Co-Leaders: Anoop Tiwari and Hyoung Chul Shin, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszezwska

Results from the survey of stations have been used to inform COMNAP Information Paper 38 which has been submitted to the CEP Meeting that will be held in July. You can download the paper now through the Head of your country’s ATCM delegation from the ATCM website, or a copy of all COMNAP submitted papers are available from the Member’s Only area of the COMNAP website.

Antarctic Sunlines

Project Leader: Adele Jackson, EXCOM Oversight: Michelle Rogan-Finnemore

Many of the solar/pinhole cameras have been returned to the project leader and she has begun to process the results. It is hoped that a general introduction to the project and some preliminary images will be shown as an exhibition on the margins of the upcoming ATCM in Prague, Czech Republic. A full update on the status of the project will be presented at the COMNAP AGM.

Efficiency Taskforce: Peninsula

Project Leader: Antonio Quesada, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszezwska

Since the meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in September 2018, several on-line meetings have taken place and progress is being made. The group has developed a draft template to track international exchanges of operations and logistics. An update on progress will be presented at the COMNAP AGM.

National Antarctic Program News

New President of the Uruguayan Antarctic Institute

Rear Admiral (ret) Daniel Núñez left his position as President of the Uruguayan Antarctic Institute. The UAI notes their appreciation for the management carried out by Daniel over the last three years when significant changes were made inside of the Antarctic National Program, laying the foundations for the new administration. The new President is Rear Admiral (ret) Manuel Burgos. In addition to his naval studies, Manuel studied Computer Science, Social Psychology, and has a PhD in Mathematics. He has been the Dean of the Engineering Faculty at the Uruguay Catholic University. **Welcome to Manuel! Best wishes to Daniel!**

Updates from Institut Polaire Français Paul Emile Victor (IPEV)

The new IPEV directorship wishes to launch an important investment of the institute in technological innovation. For that purpose, we have just created a new IPEV department in charge of strategy and innovation. The Director of this new unit is Patrice Bretel. Patrice will therefore be the main contact point for any IPEV item related with innovation.

Concerning the department of polar infrastructures and logistics, there are two contact persons, each one being in charge of one of the main activities of this department:

1. For Antarctic operations handled from our headquarters and in the field (Logistics, position of Operation Head and IPEV representative in the Antarctic field), it is Gaëlle Sellin;
2. The responsibility of Dumont d'Urville infrastructures is provisory led by Patrice Godon, under interim contract with IPEV.

Administratively speaking, the interim Director of this department covering the two main activities is Claire Le Calvez, who will transfer the Concordia technical projects to Mr Rémi Foletto (contracted by IPEV). Anthony Vendé remains in charge of the global coordination of traverses (logistic and scientific).

An Update from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS)

Simon Garrod has been appointed as Director of BAS Operations. ***Congratulations Simon!***

Other information

From the International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)

The 20th Meeting of the IICWG will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 23–27, 2019, at the Danish Meteorological Institute.

From the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

The 13th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Science (ISAES 2019) will be held 22–26 July 2019, Incheon, Republic of Korea. The symposium aims to bring together Antarctic earth scientists from different areas in order to gather and highlight their outstanding expertise and ideas. For further information: Jongkuk Hong (jkhong@kopri.re.kr) or Sunhwi Kim (sunhwikim@kopri.re.kr).

SCAR has begun the “Antarctic Science Horizon Scan 5-year Review Project” to judge if, to date, the Horizon Scan was useful, effective and impactful. The review will inform a peer-reviewed paper to be published in September 2019. Birgit Njåstad from the Norwegian Polar Institute is lead author for the “Impact, Uptake and Delivery” section of the review and the COMNAP Executive Secretary has been asked to join Birgit’s writing team and contribute to the section in the context of the COMNAP Antarctic Roadmap Challenges project, to National Antarctic Program uptake, and society impact in general. In addition to Birgit and Michelle, Marcelo Leppe (INACH), Cassandra Brooks (University of Colorado) and Chandrika Nath (SCAR), join the section writing team.

From The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat

The XLII ATCM and the XXII CEP Meeting will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 1–11 July 2019. Included in the ATCM schedule is the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Seminar on Thursday 4 July and the Aviation Safety discussion on Friday 5 July 2019. Information can be found on the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat website www.ats.aq. The joint SCAR/CEP Workshop on “Furthering Developing the Antarctic Protected Area System” will be held on 27 and 28 June 2019 in Prague, Czech Republic.