

# COMNAP UPDATE: September 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](mailto:sec@comnap.aq) by 1 December 2019.

## Successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Delegates enjoyed the warm and friendly hospitality of our Bulgarian Antarctic Institute hosts and an efficient AGM was the result of three days of discussion that included a half-day Education and Outreach Workshop. The draft Final Report of the COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019) was made available to all AGM delegates on 19 August 2019 and is also available for review by way of your username and password to the COMNAP Member's Only webpage here: [AGM XXXI \(2019\) Draft Final Report](#).



COMNAP AGM XXXI delegates outside of the Grand Hotel Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 30 July 2019.

## New leadership for some of the COMNAP Expert Groups

With the election of new COMNAP Vice Chairs, EXCOM has agreed to some new oversight roles for the various Expert Groups. We also welcome some new leaders and co-leaders to the groups. Here is the list of Expert Groups and the current leadership and oversight roles.

Expert Group	Leader/Co-Leaders	EXCOM Oversight
Air Operations	Paul Sheppard	John Guldahl
Advancing Critical Technologies	Pavel Kapler & Patrice Bretel	Uwe Nixdorf
Environmental Protection	Ceisha Poirot	Ho Il Yoon
Joint Expert Group Human Biology and Medicine	Anne Hicks	Kelly Falkner
Safety	Simon Trotter	Agnieszka Kruszewska
Science Facilitation	Robb Clifton	Kelly Falkner
Marine Platforms	Miguel Ojeda	Sergio Gago Guida
Education, Outreach & Training	Dragomir Mateev	Agnieszka Kruszewska

If you are not already part of one or more of these Expert Groups and if you wish to be included in any to share information, ideas and expertise, just email [sec@comnap.aq](mailto:sec@comnap.aq) to say what group you would like to be included in and you will be added to that Expert Group email list.

More information: <https://www.comnap.aq/Groups/SitePages/Home.aspx>

## **COMNAP Project Updates**

### **COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS)**

**Project Leader: Robb Clifton, EXCOM Oversight: John Guldahl**

Just a reminder that the Ship Position Reporting System (SPRS) will stop working on 31 December 2019.

That means that any vessel that is reporting its positions while south of 60°S by way of email to [sprs@comnap.aq](mailto:sprs@comnap.aq) will:

- Receive an error message on 1 January 2020.
- The vessel position will not be reported.
- The vessel will not receive an email reply with the other vessel positions.

It is important for all National Antarctic Programs to contact their vessel captains or contractors to let them know that SPRS will stop working this Antarctic summer season. Now is the time for all vessels to ensure they are set up to send their positions automatically to the COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS). There are many vessels not reporting into CATS yet. There are also vessels that have not used SPRS nor CATS. Contact James Cusick ([james.cusick@aad.gov.au](mailto:james.cusick@aad.gov.au)) to get CATS position reporting set up. There are also technical requirements here: <https://apps.aad.gov.au/comnap/datafeed>. We encourage all aircraft to automatically report their positions in to CATS as well, so there is a complete picture of activity.

### **Antarctic Sunlines**

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

The majority of the solargraph cameras set up at Antarctic stations have now been returned to the artist and she is currently processing the paper images into digital images. The exhibition of one image, from New Zealand's science facility at Arrival Heights, Ross Island, Antarctica, will take place at the Christchurch Art Gallery in celebration of the 2019 Antarctic summer season opening, from 1 October 2019. Adele is on target with designing the light box set-up that uses solar power to display the digital images and the opening exhibition of six images will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, as part of our SCAR COMNAP 2020 meetings. Dutch artist Udo Prinsen visited the COMNAP Secretariat on 12–13 August and gave a presentation of his range of Arctic works, with a focus on his work using solargraph cameras.

### **Peninsula Taskforce: Optimizing the results of efficiency taskforce**

**Project Leader: Antonio Quesada, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszewska**

As reported in AGM Meeting Paper 8.9, the initial Taskforce project goals were completed and the group applied to the COMNAP AGM for a new Taskforce project to "Optimize the results of the efficiency taskforce". AGM Meeting Paper 8.10 outlined the funding request and the goals of this new project and EXCOM approved the request on 13 September 2019. This new project will:

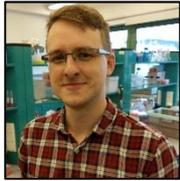
- Implement the barter system designed by the 5 countries in a pilot program, during activities in the 2019/2020 season.
- Introduce the template of policy for users also including manual of the tool.
- Implement an information exchange digital program, as a tool for the barter system.
- Evaluate the system, identify gaps and failures, and propose amendments.
- Evaluate potential increase of international scientific collaborations, based on this resource sharing scheme.
- Report on the pilot experience at COMNAP 2020.

### **Other Updates**

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

More information: <https://www.comnap.aq/SitePages/fellowships.aspx>

COMNAP and IAATO jointly announced on 30 July, the recipient of the COMNAP Antarctic Fellowship 2019 and the co-recipients of the inaugural IAATO Fellowship 2019. Congratulations to:

**COMNAP Fellow 2019**

Mikolaj Dziurzynski

From Poland currently completing his PhD at the University of Warsaw. He will take up the Fellowship at the University of Florence, Italy.

**IAATO Fellow 2019**

Daniela Cajiao Vargas

From Ecuador currently completing her PhD at the Autonomous University of Madrid. She will take up the Fellowship at North Carolina State University, USA.

**IAATO Fellow 2019**

Martina Mascioni

From Argentina currently completing her PhD at the University of La Plata. She will take up her Fellowship at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, USA.

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**Reunión de Administradores de Programas Antárticos Latinoamericanos (RAPAL) 30**

RAPAL promote cooperation, mutual support and exchange of information on scientific, technical and logistic aspects of Latin American countries, with Antarctic activities, in order to combine and coordinate efforts, optimizing the use of resources, in accordance with the principles and objectives established in the Antarctic Treaty System. This year's RAPAL Meeting "RAPAL 30" will take place from 29 September through 2 October 2019, in Viña del Mar, Chile. More information: <http://www.inach.cl/rapal30/>

**The 10th Symposium on Polar Science**

The National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR), will host the Symposium on Polar Science from 3-5 December 2019, Tachikawa, Japan. The objective of the Symposium is to promote a wide variety of polar scientific research and interdisciplinary studies. There will be a special session to consider the next phase of the Japanese Antarctic Research Project (2022–2028) and beyond. This session features keynote lectures on present status and prospects of Antarctic research, presentations of research proposals from various scientific fields including interdisciplinary studies, and discussions toward the next six years of the Japanese Antarctic Research programme. More information: <https://www.nipr.ac.jp/symposium2019/>

**Women in Antarctica Celebrating 50 years of Exploration**

The Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University, USA, will convene a symposium that celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first all-women research team in Antarctica on 17–18 October 2019. The symposium will look at women's past, present, and future in science, research, discovery, and leadership. More information: <https://byrd.osu.edu/celebrate-women>

**From the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)**

SCAR has just completed the "Antarctic Science Horizon Scan 5-year Review Project" to judge if, to date, the Horizon Scan was useful, effective and impactful. Results of the review will be published on 20 September 2019 in the article "Sustained Antarctic Research: A 21st Century Imperative" in the journal *One Earth*.

## From the International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)

The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IICWG will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 23–27, 2019, at the Danish Meteorological Institute. More information: <https://nsidc.org/noaa/iicwg/meetings.html>. Some of the sessions will be live streamed (the schedule is below). To join any of the webcasts, go to <https://www.prosonas.com/dmi> and scroll down to the live transmission screen. No login is required.

Local Time (Copenhagen)	UTC time	Session Title
<b>TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24</b>		
09:00–12:00	0700z–1000z	Session 1: Actions to Address User Needs Surveys
13:00–14:40	1100z–1240z	Session 2: In-Situ and Airborne Observations to Support Improved Ice Charting
15:45–17:00	1345z–1500z	Panel Discussion: Scalable Ice Charts - User Needs and Technical Challenges with Ice Charts as an Example
<b>WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25</b>		
09:00–12:15	0700z–1015z	Session 3: Automated Detection of Sea Ice and Icebergs
13:15–17:00	1115z–1500z	Panel Discussion: Incorporating Automated Products into Operational Production of Ice Information
<b>THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27</b>		
13:00–14:30	1100z–1230z	Session 4: Climate Change and the Implications for Ice Services

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## In Memorial

### **Andres Pivcevic Rajcevic**

Received from the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH)

It is with great sadness that the Chilean Antarctic Institute announces the passing of Mr. Andrés Pivcevic Rajcevic, today in Punta Arenas. Andrés Pivcevic was a key figure in the polar development of the country, especially for his contribution from the private sector.

In 1980, together with his father and brother, he founded Aerovías DAP, the oldest private airline in the country. He was also a leading actor in the development of tourism in Magallanes.

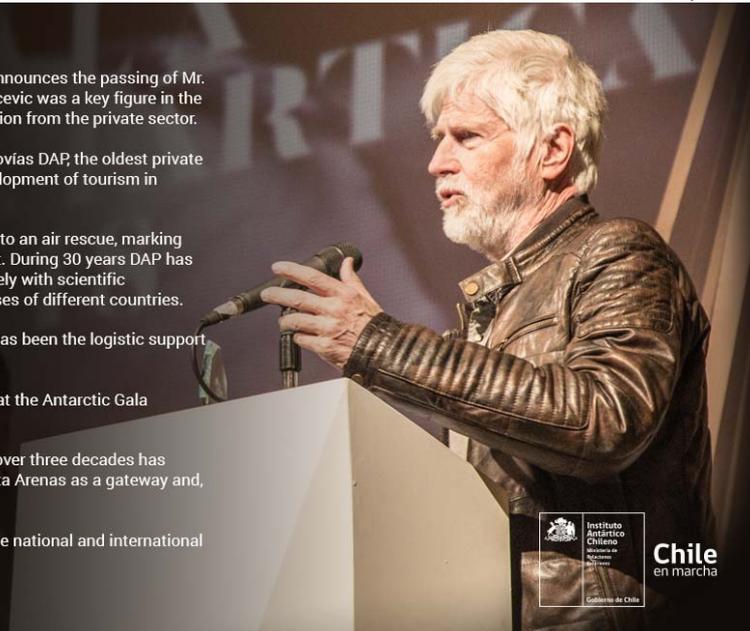
On February 12, 1989, DAP made its first Antarctic flight due to an air rescue, marking with this the beginning of its activities in the White Continent. During 30 years DAP has transported thousands of tourists and has collaborated closely with scientific institutions such as INACH and with the personnel of the bases of different countries.

In 2004, DAP Mares was founded, a shipping company that has been the logistic support for numerous scientific expeditions.

In 2018, Andrés Pivcevic received the Antarctic Spirit Award at the Antarctic Gala organized by INACH.

Andrés Pivcevic, with his vision, consolidated a service that over three decades has helped bring Antarctica closer to people and strengthen Punta Arenas as a gateway and, properly, as a polar city.

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to his family, co-workers and the national and international Antarctic community in this time of sorrow.



**Chile**  
en marcha

Gobierno de Chile

**Adrian Dahood-Fritz**

Received from Dr Kelly K Falkner US NSF Office of Polar Programs



On behalf of all of us in NSF's Office of Polar Programs, I wish to express our deepest sorrow at the untimely loss of our former colleague and co-worker, Adrian Dahood-Fritz. Adrian and her husband, Andrew, were among those whose lives were cut short by the dive-boat fire off California's Santa Cruz Island earlier this week.

Adrian served with us in the Office of Polar Programs from 2010 to 2014. We shall always remember her fondly for her can-do attitude, professional competence, irrepressible sense of humor, and passion for protecting Antarctica's environment. We were delighted that Adrian followed her time with us by earning her doctoral degree and then taking her considerable talent to a position as a senior environmental scientist with the Ocean Protection Council, under the California Natural Resources Agency. She made tremendous positive impact with her many polar contributions in her short time.

Thank you to all of you who have reached out to us regarding this tragic news. We are all so fortunate to have had her touch our lives and she will be sorely missed.