

QUESTIONNAIRE

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

ADVANCE NOTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR ACTIVITIES IN ANTARCTICA



**Finnish Institute of Marine Research/
Finnish Ministry of the Environment
Norwegian Polar Institute**

Swedish Polar Research Secretariat

Questionnaire

Advanced Notice and Initial Environmental Evaluation Scientific Activities

The *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty* came into force in January 1998. The Nordic countries (Finland, Norway and Sweden) have adopted national regulations pertaining to the Antarctic environment:

- Finland: Regulations for Conservation of Antarctic Environment, February 13, 1998
- Norway: Regulations Relating to Protection of Environment in Antarctica, May 5, 1995
- Sweden: Swedish Antarctica Act (1993:1614), April 1, 1994

Those responsible for an activity in Antarctica must notify their respective authorities in advance of the start of the activity. Generally, an *advanced notice* should be forwarded as soon as the planning of an activity is initiated.

The advanced notice must state, *inter alia*, who is responsible for the activity, the purpose and scope of the activity, the plans made for waste management, and it must include an evaluation of the impacts the activity may have on the environment in Antarctica (*Initial Environmental Evaluation, IEE*). In order to facilitate the advanced notification process, the Finnish Institute of Marine Research, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, the Norwegian Polar Institute and the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat have developed a questionnaire which, when completed, is regarded as an Advanced Notice and an Initial Environmental Evaluation in accordance with the respective national regulations.

The environmental evaluation process should be initiated at an early stage of a project development so as to become an integral part of the planning of the activity. Communication with the authorities is encouraged during the planning process. The Environmental Officers will be happy to assist with any questions you might have during this process. It is also recommended that you keep a copy of the questionnaire completed. A post-activity report will be required, and it might be useful to refer to the information in this form.

Further information can be obtained at:

- Finnish Institute of Marine Research (+358) 9 613 941 sandler@fimr.fi
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment (+358) 9 1991 9739 paula.kankaanpaa@vyh.fi
- Norwegian Polar Institute (+47) 77 75 05 00 njaastad@npolar.no
- Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (+46) 8 673 96 00 anders.modig@polar.se

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Antarctica is designated as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science. The fundamental framework for protection in Antarctica is the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

Activities in the Antarctic shall be planned and conducted to have the least possible effect on the environment in Antarctica, in particular the activities should avoid leading to:

- effects on air or water quality
- changes in the atmospheric, terrestrial, glacial, limnetic or marine environment
- changes in the distribution, occurrence or productivity of species or populations of animals or plants
- risks to endangered or threatened species or population of such species
- risk of damage to areas of biological, scientific, historical or esthetical importance, or of significance to the region's characteristic as a wilderness
- damage or other degradation of historical sites and cultural monuments

1.2 Specific Provisions of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty

- The taking of or harmful interference with flora and fauna, including harmful traffic, is prohibited unless specific permit has been granted.
- Plants or animal species can only be introduced pursuant to permission
- It is prohibited to leave waste in Antarctica, and open burning of waste is not allowed
- Special permission is required to enter or engage in activity in Antarctic Specially Protected Areas
- People planning to stay in Antarctica are obliged to ascertain which areas have been designated Specially Managed Areas
- Historical sites and monuments shall not be damaged, removed or destroyed

2. General information about the project and personnel

2.1 Project

Project title

.....

Scientific category
(quaternary geology, verte-
brate zoology etc.)

2.2 Project leader

Name

Address

.....

.....

Telephone

Telefax

E-mail address

2.3 Time period in Antarctica (south of 60°S)

Date of entry to Antarctica

Date of departure from Antarctica

2.6 Transport and Accommodation

Indicate what kind of transportation vehicles that will be used (in addition to ships and aircraft).

Snow mobiles (number _____)

Helicopters (number _____)

Zodiacs (small boats) (number _____)

Tracked vehicles (number _____)

Others:
.....
.....
.....

Will the field party establish separate field camps? If yes, indicate the expected maximum amount of days spent in one and the same field camp.

3. Description of the project

Give a short description of the project and its scientific purpose.

4. Environmental Impacts

4.1 General evaluation

What kinds of impact on the environment are anticipated (e.g. emission to the atmosphere from generators/engines, impact on snow free areas from walking, impact due to transportation, disposal of chemicals, etc.)?

Will the project involve contact with especially sensitive environments (e.g. vegetated areas, lakes, bird and seal colonies) or an environment with aesthetic values and/or historic values? If yes, specify.

4.2 Chemicals

Will the following be brought to Antarctica (if yes, please specify in the chemical table included in Attachment A attached to this questionnaire).

Harmful chemicals Yes No

Radioisotopes Yes No

Will the project involve disposal of chemicals to ice, soil, water or air? If yes, specify.

4.3 Flora and fauna

Will the project involve contact with animals or plants (e.g. walking on vegetated areas, water- or bottom sampling, catching of fish or birds)? If yes, specify.

Do you intend to use explosives or guns in a way that might disturb birds or seals? If yes, specify.

If helicopters/small aircraft are to be utilised in the project, will it be necessary to land closer than 2 000 meters to known bird or seal colonies? If yes, specify.

4.4 Waste Management

Do you anticipate any problems related to handling of waste in accordance with the procedures set out in the Nordic Antarctic Waste Management Handbook? If yes, specify.

4.5 Degree of environmental impact

What degree of direct or indirect environmental impact is expected as a consequence of the project¹?

- Less than minor or transitory
- Minor or transitory
- More than minor or transitory

4.6 Detection of environmental impact

If you anticipate large environmental impacts, how will these be detected and recorded? How will the impact be monitored?

¹ The three definitions are stipulated in the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty*.

4.7 Prevention of environmental impact

How will environmental impacts be avoided or minimised?

What kind of preparedness will you have for an accident/emergency situation (e.g. oil spill, accidental release of harmful chemicals/radioisotopes)?

4.8 Alternatives

Could the project (or procedures) be carried out in alternative manners or areas in order to avoid or minimise environmental impact (e.g. geographic area, method, time, extent and length of period)? Consider impacts, monitoring and prevention for all alternatives compared to the planned activity (cf. 4.1-4.7).

5. Special permits

5.1 Antarctic Specially Protected Areas

Will the field party visit/engage in activity in any SPA/ASPA or SSSI? If yes, state where and when.

State the purpose with the visit, e.g. scientific studies, collecting material for museums, etc.

Is it possible to carry out the activity in a non-protected area? If no, are there any alternatives to the way of conducting the project, especially with regard to method, extent and timing:

5.2 Fauna and Flora

Specify any samples of biological material needed².

Species	Number/amount	Purpose	Method

Are you in the opinion that the animals or plants you intend to collect can be replaced by natural reproduction during the following reproductive season?

² For Norwegian projects: When the projects involve sampling of fauna, approval from *Forsøksdyruttvalget* is required. Copy of approval is to be attached to this form or forwarded to the Norwegian Polar Institute as soon as possible.

5.3 Import of fauna and flora

Import of fauna and flora to the area under restriction of the Antarctic Treaty can be conducted only with special permit. If you intend to import living animals or plants to Antarctica, do these species occur naturally in Antarctica? Specify species, amount and purpose.

6. Report

Be aware that within three months after completion of the journey a post-visit report giving details and changes to the activity should be submitted to your national authority. The post-activity form can be acquired from the authorities. The data required in the post-activity form should be carefully compiled during the journey. It is also recommended that you keep a copy of the completed questionnaire. It might be useful to refer to this information in the report.

Date _____

Signature _____