An electronic guide to the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty systems and information sources

Contents

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The Secretariat website

The website of the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty is the main source of information concerning the Antarctic Treaty System.

The website is organized into four main sections: Antarctic Treaty, Environment Protocol, Information Exchange and Tools & Resources.

The site has been developed in such a way that almost all areas are directly and openly accessible from the home page.

Most pages include introductory and explanatory texts. At the bottom of many pages there are boxes containing shortcuts to additional documentation, databases and related sites.

Much of the information provided by the website is freely accessible. All sections with restricted access contain an explanation on how to obtain entry credentials if appropriate.

Link: http://www.ats.aq or http://www.antarctictreaty.org

Basic Treaty information

Parties to the Antarctic Treaty System and their status

A list of all Consultative and non-Consultative Parties together with their Treaty, CEP (Committee for Environmental Protection), CCAS (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals) and CCAMLR (Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and/or Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) status, as well as links to their websites.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/ats_parties.aspx?lang=e

Key documents of the Antarctic Treaty System

This section provides access to two publications:

Compilation of key documents of the Antarctic Treaty System: This publication includes the Antarctic Treaty itself, the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS) and the main regulations for the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty.

Rules of Procedure of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and the Committee for Environmental Protection: Updated annually, this publication also includes listings of the Antarctic Meetings and of the countries that participate in the Antarctic Treaty System.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/e/ats_keydocs.htm

Treaty Database

This is the legal database of the Treaty and contains the texts of all Recommendations, Measures, Decisions and Resolutions, and other measures adopted by the ATCM (Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting) together with their attachments and information on their legal status.

Its contents are continuously updated by the Secretariat staff, based on information received from Parties and the Depositary Government of the Antarctic Treaty.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/info_measures_list.aspx?lang=e

Inspections

This database contains details of all inspections carried out by Parties since 1962 under Article VII of the Treaty and Article 14 of the Protocol, as well as links to the available inspection reports and other documents discussed at the ATCM in relation with the inspections.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/ats_governance_listinspections.aspx

Contact Management

Contact Points

Recommendation XIII-1 (Brussels, 1985) distinguishes two main types of contact points: One to deal with Treaty matters (referred to in Paragraph 3 of the Recommendation) and one to deal with scientific data (Paragraph 5). The Environment Protocol establishes a third main contact known as the CEP Representative.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/ats_meetings_contacts.aspx?lang=e

The system has been incorporating more sectors/roles such as experts on Tourism, Legal & Institutional matters, SAR, etc. These can be assigned using the Contacts Database (below).

Contacts Database

This restricted database contains the contact information of all participants in the Antarctic Treaty System and allows authorized users to browse contact information of all parties, and manage contact data and assign access permissions for contacts of their own party. In order to access this data you need an individual username assigned by your party's Contact Administrator.

Each Party or organization designates one or more Contact Administrators who are entitled to modify data in the Antarctic Treaty Contacts Database. They are also responsible for the assignment of access levels and roles of other users in their own Party or organization.

User Manual: http://www.ats.aq/documents/ie/ContactsDatabaseUserGuide.pdf

Link: https://contacts.ats.aq

Past Meeting Information

List of Past Meetings

A list of all the past meetings of the Treaty including Diplomatic Conferences, Meeting of Experts and Consultative Meetings (ATCM and SATCM). By clicking on each meeting you can access the Working Documents submitted and the Final Report, Measures, Decisions and Resolutions produced at that meeting.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/ats_meetings.aspx?lang=e

If there is an Upcoming Meetings section already established you will be able to access it by clicking on the meeting name.

Final Reports

A list of all Final Reports from the meetings.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/info_finalrep.aspx?lang=e

Meeting Documents

A searchable database of all the working documents submitted to the meetings.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/ats_meetings_doc_database.aspx?lang=e&menu=2

Upcoming Meeting Information

If the Upcoming Meetings section is already established for the next meeting (usually four months in advance) you will be able to access it from the home page or from the list of meetings.

Look for the **Information for Delegates** link which will give you access to discussion documents (Working Papers, Information Papers, Secretariat Papers, Background Papers) already submitted. This section also contains the Delegates list and the Secretariat Notes from the Host Country Secretariat. All of these sections are password protected and login details are distributed to delegates and contact points.

Registration

Three months in advance of each meeting, online registration becomes available in the Upcoming Meetings section. Only the Contact Administrators of each Party or organization can register delegates for the Meeting.

Paper Submission

Documents should be sent to the specific email address established by the Secretariat prior to every Meeting. Please read the Manual for the submission of documents included in the Upcoming Meetings section. This Manual explains the different types of documents and includes templates and tips on how to handle styles and illustrations. It also provides a reminder of deadlines and basic information you should not forget to include in your paper.

Information Exchange

EIES (Electronic Information Exchange System)

Article VII of the Treaty requires each Party to freely exchange information about its activities. All information provided by the Parties is publicly available in the Information Exchange section of the website. It is divided into three categories: Permanent Information, Pre-Season Information and Annual Reports.

Under the direction of the ATCM the Secretariat has developed the Electronic Information Exchange System (EIES) as a central repository for this information.

Usernames and passwords for entry into the EIES should be assigned by the Contact Administrators of each country, using the AT Contact Database.

User Guide: http://www.ats.aq/documents/ie/eies_userguide.pdf

Link: http://eies.ats.aq

Reports

There is also a Summarized Reports section which provides cross-party reports on various categories.

Link: **http://www.ats.aq/e/ie.htm**

Environmental Protection content

EIA Database

This database contains information on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) conducted and publicly distributed by Parties. To submit information to the database you need an EIES username and password.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/ep_eia_list.aspx?lang=e

APA Database (Protected Areas and Historic Sites and Monuments)

This database contains the texts of the management plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas as well as their legal status, location in the Antarctic continent, and a brief summary of the purpose of designation. The database also contains information related to the list and location of Historic Sites and Monuments in Antarctica.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/devPH/apa/ep_protected.aspx?lang=e

Committee of Environmental Protection

Workspace: This section contains relevant information for CEP members or persons authorized by the CEP Representative of each Party or organization.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/e/cep_workspace/cep_workspace.htm

Rules and Guidelines:

Link: http://www.ats.aq/e/cep_rop.htm

Handbook:

Link: http://www.ats.aq/e/cep_handbook.htm

Tourism and non-governmental activities

Site Guidelines for Visitors

A list of specific guidelines for the Antarctic sites most visited by tourists, issued by the ATCM and updated regularly every year.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/e/ats_other_siteguidelines.htm

SAR – Contact details of national competent authorities

The Antarctic Treaty Parties provide regularly information regarding contact details of national competent authorities and details of relevant Maritime Rescue Co-ordintation Centres in order to bring this information for non-governental visitors to the Antarctic.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/documents/ATCM35/ww/atcm35_ww006_e.pdf

Other Guidelines

The following are the main ATCM regulations and guidelines for tourists and expedition organizers:

Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic 1994 (Attachment to Rec. XVIII-1)

Tourist Guidelines 2004 (Attachment to Res. 4 (2004))

General Guidelines for Visitors to the Antarctic (Attachment to Resolution 3 (2011)

Yachting guidelines for Antarctic cruises (2014)

Forums

The Secretariat maintains two discussion forums (one for the ATCM and one for the CEP) on which parties conduct intersessional work. Each Party or organization is assigned a specific username and password to access these forums.

Links: http://forum.ats.aq and http://forum.cep.aq

Document services

Documentation Centre

The Documentation Centre provides an online catalogue of the publications in the Secretariat library and a digital set of documents concerning Antarctic legislation, policy and programs.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/e/info_doccenter.htm

Glossary of ATCM terminology

This glossary contains the set of ATCM approved terms in the four official languages of the Antarctic Treaty. Link: http://glossary.ats.aq

How to contact the Secretariat

Please refer to the contact information provided in the About Us section of our website if you would like to contact one of our staff directly. Otherwise please contact us at ats@antarctictreaty.org. Phone and fax numbers and our postal address can also be found in the About Us section.

Link: http://www.ats.aq/e/about.htm