

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XII REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XII REUNION CONSULTATIVE



CANBERRA
13-27 SEPTEMBER
1983

ANTARCTIC TREATY
XII CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ
ANT/XII/7
13 September 1983

AGENDA_ITEM_6: MAN'S IMPACT ON THE
ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT
(Draft recommendation submitted by Australia)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION (Submitted by Australia) - MANS'S IMPACT ON
THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT (Item 6)

The Representatives,

Recalling Recommendation VIII-11;

Desiring to draw attention to the potential environmental
impacts of Antarctic expeditions and station activities;

Noting a general increase amongst ATCPs in awareness of the
potential impacts of waste disposal in the Antarctic region;

Recommend to their Governments that to the greatest extent
feasible they observe the code of conduct annexed to this
Recommendation at their stations and for their activities in the
Antarctic Treaty Area.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS AND STATION ACTIVITIES

(Item 6)

(Submitted by Australia)

(Suggested changes are underlined)

1. Waste Disposal

The following are recommended procedures:

(a) Solid Waste (*Note: reference to batteries has been deleted)

(i) Non-combustible, including chemicals.

These materials should be returned to the operator's country to the greatest extent possible. Alternatively, those containing non-harmful chemicals may be disposed of at sea either in deep water or, if this is not possible, at specified sites in shallow water.

(ii) Combustibles

- Wood, wood products and paper should be incinerated, the ash being returned, to the extent possible, to the operator's home country. Alternatively the ash should be disposed of at sea;

- Lubricating oils may be burnt, except those containing harmful additives which should be removed from the Treaty Area;

- Carcasses and materials associated with imported experimental animals should be incinerated;
- All plastics and rubber products should be removed from the Antarctic Treaty Area.

(b) Liquid Waste

(i) Human waste, garbage and laundry effluents should receive the highest degree of treatment practicable, with maceration and flushing into the sea as a desirable minimum.

(ii) Large quantities of photographic liquids should be treated for the recovery of silver and the residue should be flushed into the sea.

(c) The above procedures are recommended for coastal stations. Field sites supported from coastal stations should, where feasible, use the facilities of their supporting station. Inland stations should concentrate all waste in deep pits. Except as stated for inland stations, waste should not be buried.

(d) Waste containing radio-isotopes should be removed from the Antarctic Treaty Area.

(e) Every effort should be made to reduce the plastic packaging of products imported into the Antarctic Treaty Area.

(f) If possible the use of leaded fuels or fuels containing ethylene bromide and ethylene chloride should be avoided.

(g) When incinerators are used it is desirable to monitor the effluents.

2. Introduction_of_alien_species

Procedures to safeguard against the introduction of alien species are covered by Article IX of the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora.

3. Disturbance_of_breeding_colonies_and_concentration_of_birds_and_mammals

Procedures to minimise such disturbances are covered by Article VII of the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora.

4. Guidelines_for_Antarctic_operating_organizations_planning_major_Antarctic_Projects

(a) In the planning of major operations in the Antarctic Treaty Area an evaluation of the environmental impact of the proposed activity should be carried out by the Antarctic operating organisations concerned. Such an evaluation should include:

(i) A description of the proposed action and an assessment of its potential benefits and its possible impact on the relevant ecosystems.

(ii) A consideration of alternative actions which might alter the pattern of benefits versus adverse environmental effects expected to result from the action.

(b) These evaluations may be circulated for information through SCAR channels to all the states engaged in Antarctic activities.