



## Strengthening the Antarctic Governance through Science

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ATS Resilience  
under  
Anthropocene

# 1. Antarctic governance structure

Antarctic governance is based on:

- ✓ **Consultative /Non-Consultative status**
- ✓ **Consensus** of all Consultative Parties (CP)
- ✓ **Art. IV of the Treaty**: Claimant states (7); basis-claiming states (2); and all other non-claimant states (47, including all Asian countries)

## Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCM)

- ✓ Annual meetings of the CPs (Art. IX(1))
- ✓ ATCM hosts in alphabetical order of CPs:  
2017 China .... 2023 Finland, 2024 India, 2025 Italy, **2026 Japan**, 2027 Korea ....



May 2023

Africa

Western Europe and others

Asia-Pacific

Eastern Europe

Latin America and Caribbean

Consultative Parties  
(29)



Non-Consultative Parties  
(27)





## 2. Governance Challenges



- Scrap the veto?
- Slow law-making: cf. approval process of Liability Annex VI
- Science-based decision-making obstructed by consensus?



**All relates to the role of consensus in Antarctic governance**



## 2. Governance Challenges

### Rationale for “Double Consensus”

- ✓ Approval ATCM measures to become effective (Art. IX (4)).
- ✓ Adoption at the Meeting of ATCM measures (Rules of Procedure)



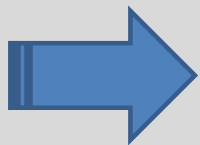
**Consensus is to ensure effective Antarctic governance based on Art.IV, and this implicates collective responsibility of CPs.**



# Science-based decision making in ATCM

The ATS has been considered as one of the most robust governance regimes in implementing the science-based decision making, particularly with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) “as a nonpolitical, international, professional scientific body...(making) it possible for science to play a strong political role within the treaty without becoming politicized or compromising its scientific integrity”.

James H. Zumberge (1986)



**Antarctic Treaty has long been hailed as the best model for science diplomacy (governance) !**

# Science-based decision making in ATCM

## Science diplomacy within ATCM

### (1) Governance for Antarctic science: the role of **CEP**

#### Paris Declaration 2021

6. Appreciate the significant contribution of the Committee for Environmental Protection as a fundamental source of the best available advice on environmental stewardship to inform decisions of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings;

### (2) Science in Antarctic governance: role of **SCAR** and **COMNAP**

#### Paris Declaration 2021

11. Reinforce the value of the engagement of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) in providing scientific advice; and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) in providing advice and assistance on issues relating to Antarctic operations to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings;



# Science-based decision making in ATCM

## Good Example:

## 2021 SCAR Environmental Code of Conduct for Geosciences Field Research

**Scientific work:** SCAR's broad consultation with scientists, and with COMNAP



**Environmental assessment:** CEP to assess environmental risks of geoscience field research



**Policy recommendation:** ATCM to encourage CPs to consider this Code in EIA, and their researchers to abide by the Code.

### Resolution 1 (2021)

#### SCAR Environmental Code of Conduct for Geosciences Field Research Activities in Antarctica

*Welcoming* the development by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research ("SCAR") through broad consultation, including with the input of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs ("COMNAP"), of the SCAR Environmental Code of Conduct for Geosciences Field Research Activities in Antarctica ("SCAR Code of Conduct") that Parties can apply and use, as appropriate, to assist with meeting their obligations under the Protocol;

*Recalling* Article 3 of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty ("the Protocol"), which requires that "activities in the Antarctic Treaty area shall be planned and conducted so as to limit adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems";

2. encourage the consideration of the SCAR Code of Conduct during the environmental impact assessment process for geoscience field research activities within Antarctica and encourage their researchers, to the best of their ability, to abide by the contents of the SCAR Code of Conduct in conducting geosciences field research activities in Antarctica; and

**Excellent collaboration with clear demarcation of responsibilities amongst SCAR, COMNAP, CEP and ATCM.**



# Science-based decision making in ATCM

## Science diplomacy within ATCM

### (3) Science for (cooperative) Antarctic governance:

◆ **Scientific cooperation (among Antarctic scientists) also promotes policy cooperation at Antarctic governance level**

◆ **Science may also be “weaponized” to disrupt Antarctic governance cooperation**

**Scientific work:** SCAR's report based on best available science

**Procedural objections:** CEP considers interpretation and application of its own guidelines

**Scientific objection :** ATCM considers a parallel paper doubting the scientific recommendation of SCAR

# Looking towards 2026 ATCM: Some Homework to do

**Thank you for listening  
and look forward to welcoming you in Japan in 2026**



**Photo : January 2017  
Adelie penguins at  
Japanese penguin  
research field,  
Mizukukuriura,  
East Antarctica**