WP 9– THE ARCTIC RESORT
WP 9.2 Reviewing existing tourism policies and regulations from an Indigenous and local Peoples’ perspective

Nature’s best 6 principles
Ways forward

Workshop in Kiruna December 2021
- Invite sameby members

Workshop in Kiruna February 2022
- Invite the Sami parliament and organisations
The Arctic Resort

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Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators
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WHAT IS AN AECO EXPEDITION CRUISE?

OUR COMMITMENTS
- Sustainable, responsible, safe & environmentally friendly tourism
- Mutual benefits for operators and destinations
- Ban on Heavy Fuel Oil
- Ban on recreational use of drones
- Work against illegal trade of animals

VESSELS AND OPERATIONS
- Vessels of mostly 12 - 500 guests
- Propulsion: MGO, sail & hybrid technology
- Low infrastructure & harbour needs
- Highly flexible itineraries

THE EXPEDITION CRUISE EXPERIENCE
- Follow strict guidelines, educates guest and leave minimal impact
- Nature landings, wildlife, cultural remains and local communities
- Destination immersion and learning experience
- Small groups (maximum size)

GUIDELINES
- 20:1 Max guest to staff ratio
- Guides with local knowledge and experience

STANDARDS
- Guides must pass competence assessment
- Coordinating itineraries & post visit report
- Incident reporting and knowledge sharing
- Must accept AECO observer
- Vessels have a vessel tracker

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WILDLIFE
- BIOSECURITY
- YACHTS
- Operational
- Vegetation
- Visitors
- Cultural remains
- Community specific
- Site specific
- Clean seas
Aim of WP: Educating the tourists and tourist operators

a) Generate greater awareness of the sensitivity of the Arctic to disturbance;
b) Value this unique environment; and
c) Ensure sustainable tourism.

• Work with tour operators to identify what additional educational resources would be beneficial and to identify and potentially refine any existing best practices for reducing impacts on the environment.
• Consider if measures and tools used to ensure sustainable tourism can be applied to research activities to ensure sustainable practices in station management (in collaboration with WP2).
Aim of WP: Educating the tourists and tourist operators

- AECO plans to develop a template for Field Station-Specific Tourism Guidelines
  - Will allows the station and the surrounding area to present themselves to tourists and outline what considerations visitors should take when visiting.
  - Guidelines that are developed will be communicated and made recommendatory for all AECO members.
Progress: Tourism Survey

1. Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?
   - Yes
   - No

2. Is access for tourism possible?
   - Yes
   - No

   a. What is preventing access?

3. Is tourism normally occurring?
   - Yes
   - No

   a. Why not?

4. Potential benefits/challenges

5. What types of tourism are occurring

6. What are the benefits and impacts

7. What needs to be communicated to tourists
Q2 Overall, when thinking generally about tourism at your station, do you consider tourism to be a benefit or a challenge for your station?

Answered: 27  Skipped: 6
Tourism Survey Results

Q3 Is it possible for tourists to access the station area?

Answered: 30  Skipped: 3

Yes

No
Q3 Is it possible for tourists to access the station area?

Answered: 30  Skipped: 3

- Yes
- No

Why?
- Location/inaccessibility (71%)
- Protected areas (e.g. permit required) (57%)
Progress: Tourism Survey

Q2: Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?

Q3: Is access for tourism possible?
   - NO
   - YES

Q4: What is preventing access?

Q5,6,7: Is tourism normally occurring?
   - YES

Q8: Why not?
   - NO
   - YES

Q9,10: Potential benefits/challenges

Q11,12,13: What types of tourism are occurring

Q14,15: What are the benefits and impacts

Q16: What needs to be communicated to tourists
Q7 Does the station area normally/typically have tourism (i.e. not considering 2020)?

Answered: 25   Skipped: 8

- Yes: 75%
- No: 25%
Q7 Does the station area normally/typically have tourism (i.e. not considering 2020)?

Answered: 25   Skipped: 8

Yes

Why not?
- Lack of tourism infrastructure (67%)
- Unwillingness to have tourism (67%)
- Safety issues/hazards (50%)
- Lack of site guidelines or guides (50%)
- Station resources needed to handle tourism (50%)

No
Q11 Please elaborate on what type of tourism activities occur at the station area? (check all that apply)

Answered: 18  Skipped: 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cruise ship tourism</td>
<td>27.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package tours</td>
<td>27.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent groups and individuals</td>
<td>94.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents: 18</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Tourism Survey Results

Q12 Approximately how many visitors typically visit the station area each year?

Answered: 16  Skipped: 17

- Mainly in Summer (100%)
- Some in Fall (39%) and Spring (33%)
- A few in Winter (17%)
Progress: Tourism Survey

1. Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?
2. Is access for tourism possible?
   - NO
     - What is preventing access?
   - YES
     - Is tourism normally occurring?
       - NO
         - Why not?
       - YES
         - What types of tourism are occurring
           - What are the benefits and impacts
             - What needs to be communicated to tourists

Potential benefits/challenges

Tourism Survey

INTERACT
Tourism Survey Results

Q14 What benefits does the station area experience from tourism? (check all that apply):

Answered: 18  Skipped: 15

• Education and creating awareness (72%)
• Income to local communities (50%)
• Income for the station (33%)
Tourism Survey Results

Q15 In your opinion, which impacts are experienced at the station area as a result of tourism? (check all that apply)

- Tourist pollution (e.g. litter) (53%)
- Station resources need to be allocated to handle tourism activities (47%)
- Guests accessing off-limit areas (35%)
- Erosion (from human or vehicle tracks) (29%)
- Physical interferences with equipment (29%)
- Interruption of research activities and/or scientific instruments (29%)
- Safety concerns (29%)
Progress: Tourism Survey

- Q2: Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?
  - Q3: Is access for tourism possible?
    - Q4: What is preventing access?
    - Q5,6,7: Is tourism normally occurring?
      - Q8: Why not?
        - NO: Potential benefits/challenges
          - Q9,10
        - YES: What types of tourism are occurring
          - Q11,12,13
            - Q14,15: What are the benefits and impacts
              - Q16: What needs to be communicated to tourists

Tourism Survey Results

Q16 What type of information is important to communicate to tourist visiting the station area of the station that you manage? (check all that apply):

- General information about the station and surrounding area, including local communities, climate, flora and fauna (83%)
- Safety information (67%)
- Map over the area with restricted areas, attractions, tourism infrastructure, etc. (58%)
- Rules and regulations (relevant laws, executive orders, etc.) (58%)
- Expected behavior (50%)
- Period open for tourists (41%) and max number of visitors (37%)
Next Step:
Draft template for Specific Tourism Guidelines

INTERACT station specific tourism guidelines

Guidelines for development of Station Specific Guidelines

Developing Station Specific Guidelines

AECO – the Association of Eco-Expedition Guide Operators – allows site visits to planning and provides training among the interchanges eco-travel operators in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. AECO’s objectives are to improve environmental awareness and promote sustainable tourism. Through INTERACT, AECO aims to foster development of community involvement and sustainable tourism in the North Atlantic. AECO’s Specific Guidelines are intended for specific areas, which could include a wide range of destinations. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the successful implementation of sustainable tourism at the station. The guidelines for development of Station Specific Guidelines aim to identify key areas of concern and provide recommendations for sustainable tourism development at the station. These guidelines are designed to provide a framework for developing sustainable tourism and ensuring the protection of the natural environment.

Content

- Station name and the historical background of the station.
- Latitude and longitude position.
- A site map of the station.
- An overview of the station, including the history of the station and the natural environment.
- A description of the facilities available at the station.
- A description of the services offered at the station.
- A description of the activities available at the station.
- A description of the equipment available at the station.
- A description of the recycling and waste management system at the station.
- A description of the safety and health regulations at the station.
- A description of the local community involvement at the station.
- A description of the local culture at the station.
- A description of the local wildlife at the station.
- A description of the local flora at the station.
- A description of the local fauna at the station.
- A description of the local climate at the station.
- A description of the local weather at the station.
- A description of the local economy at the station.
- A description of the local government at the station.
- A description of the local religion at the station.
- A description of the local language at the station.

Template

This template is designed to be used as a guide for developing Station Specific Guidelines. It provides a framework for developers and operators to follow when developing guidelines for sustainable tourism. The template is designed to be adaptable and can be modified to fit the needs of each individual station. The template includes sections for station information, station activities, station facilities, station services, station equipment, station safety, station recycling, station health, station education, station involvement, station culture, station wildlife, station flora, station fauna, station climate, station weather, station economy, station government, station religion, and station language. The template is designed to be used by station developers and operators to ensure that sustainable tourism is achieved at the station.
Requirements from others
Do you want to be involved in the pilot project?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Place name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Origin of place name</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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Illustrative cover photograph of site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Detailed Map with Relevant Features Highlighted</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guideline: [Concise Guidelines for Site in Bullet Point Format]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tip: [Tip to Add to Activity Experience]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Image from Site Illustrating Feature in Guideline</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legend</td>
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