

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 Desember 2021

- Invite sameby members

Workshop in Kiruna February 2022

- Invite the Sami sarliament and organisations

WP 9 - The Arctic Resort

Melissa Nacke, Environmental Specialist
Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators
Email: melissa@aeco.no



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



WHAT IS AN AECO EXPEDITION CRUISE?

Guides with local knowledge and 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)

20:1

Max guest to staff ratio

THE EXPEDITION CRUISE EXPERIENCE

EXCURSIONS



PRODUCT FOCUS



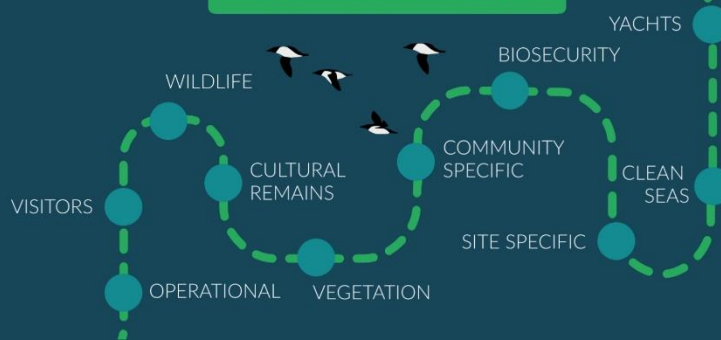
DESTINATIONS



GUEST MANAGEMENT



GUIDELINES



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

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators **AECO!**



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 allow 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

Q2

Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?

Q3

Is access for tourism possible?

Q4

What is preventing access?

NO

YES

Q5,6,7

Is tourism normally occurring?

Q8

Why not?

NO

YES

Q11,12,13

What types of tourisms are occurring

Q14,15

What are the benefits and impacts

Q9,10

Potential benefits/challenges

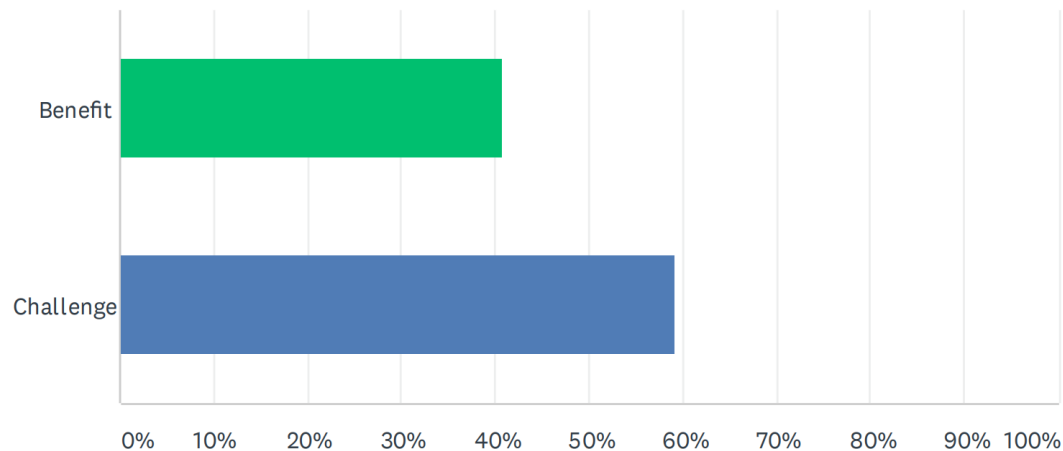
Q16

What needs to be communicated to tourists

Tourism Survey Results

Q2 Overall, when thinking generally about tourism at your station, do you consider tourism to be a benefit or a challenge for your station?

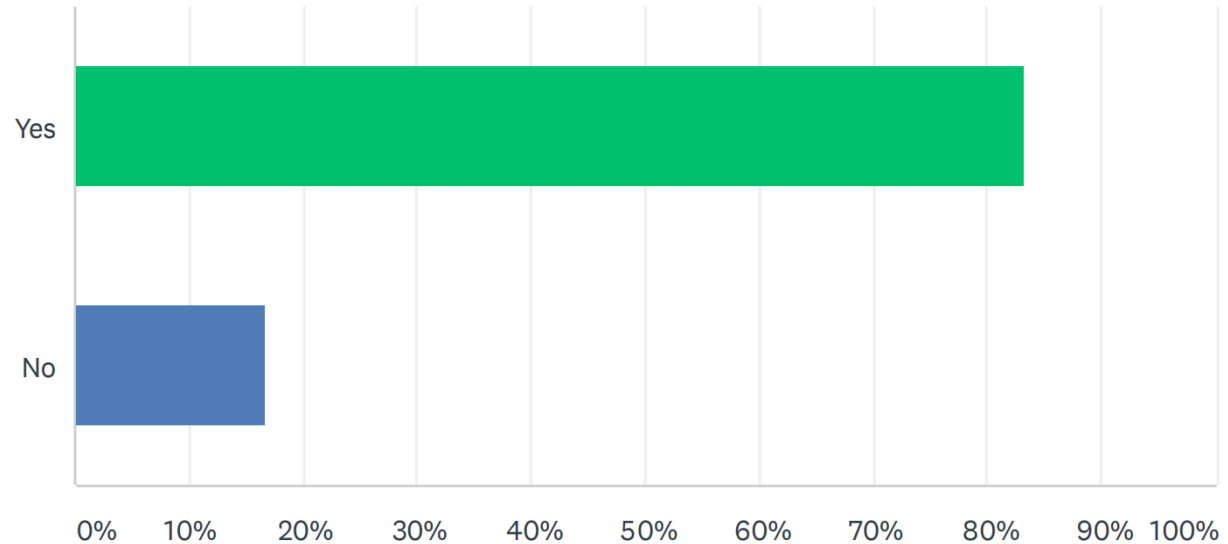
Answered: 27 Skipped: 6



Tourism Survey Results

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

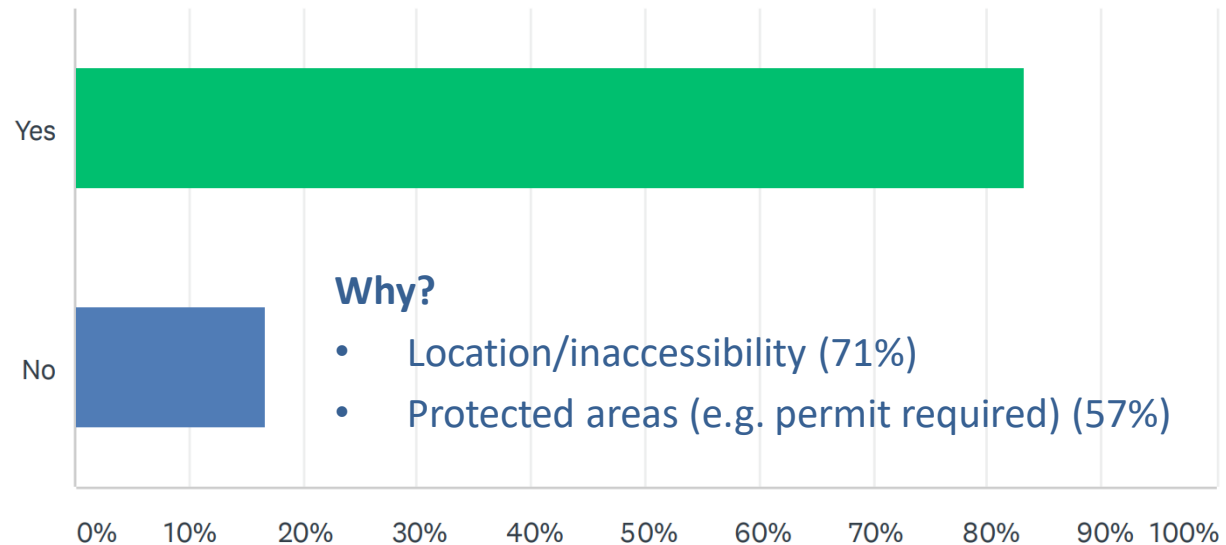
Answered: 30 Skipped: 3



Tourism Survey Results

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

Answered: 30 Skipped: 3



Progress: Tourism Survey

Q2

Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?

Q3

Is access for tourism possible?

Q4

What is preventing access?

NO

YES

Q5,6,7

Is tourism normally occurring?

NO

YES

Q8

Why not?

Q11,12,13

What types of tourisms are occurring

Q14,15

What are the benefits and impacts

Q9,10

Potential benefits/challenges

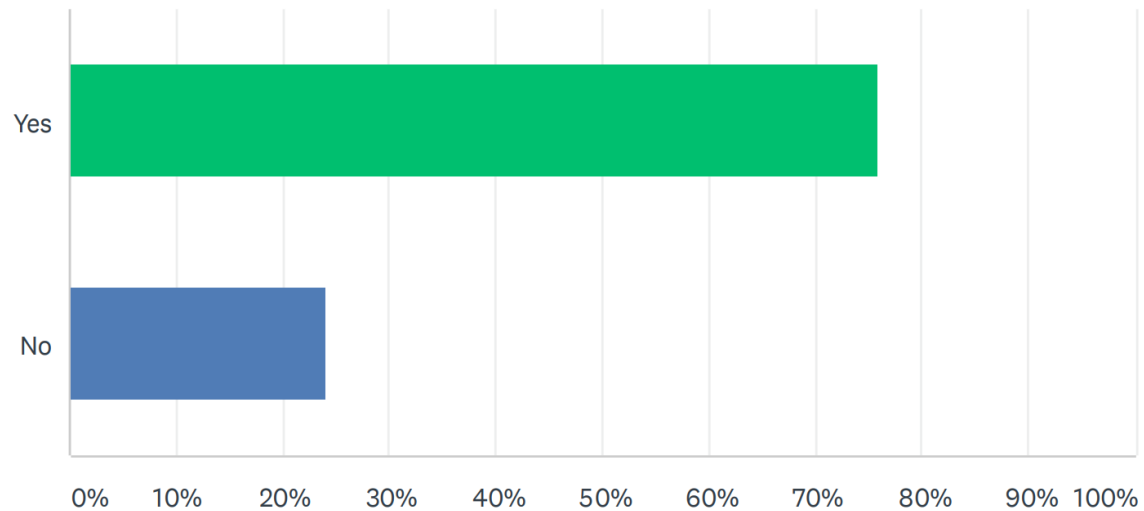
Q16

What needs to be communicated to tourists

Tourism Survey Results

Q7 Does the station area normally/typically have tourism (i.e. not considering 2020)?

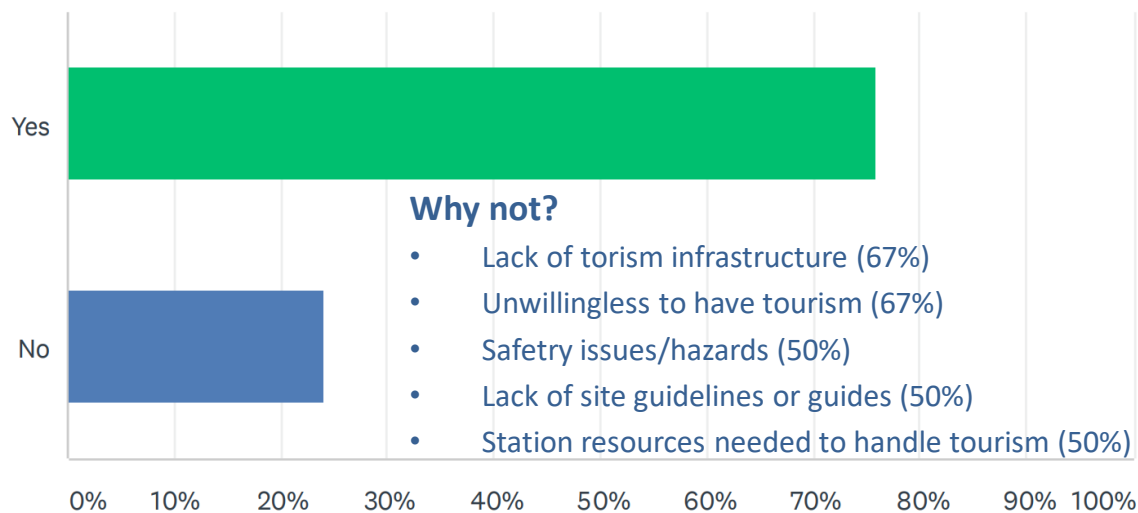
Answered: 25 Skipped: 8



Tourism Survey Results

Q7 Does the station area normally/typically have tourism (i.e. not considering 2020)?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 8



Progress: Tourism Survey

Q2

Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?

Q3

Is access for tourism possible?

Q4

What is preventing access?

NO

YES

Q5,6,7

Is tourism normally occurring?

Q8

Why not?

NO

YES

Q11,12,13

What types of tourisms are occurring

Q9,10

Potential benefits/challenges

Q14,15

What are the benefits and impacts

Q16

What needs to be communicated to tourists



Tourism Survey Results

Q11 Please elaborate on what type of tourism activities occur at the station area? (check all that apply)

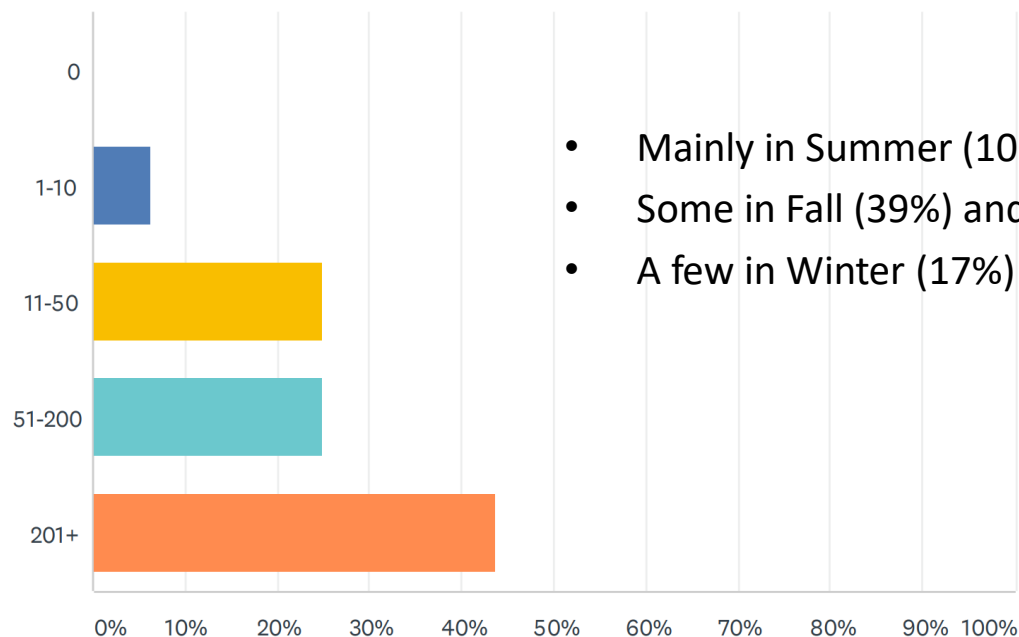
Answered: 18 Skipped: 15

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Cruise ship tourism	27.78%
Package tours	27.78%
Independent groups and individuals	94.44%
Total Respondents: 18	

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

Q2

Tourism generally a challenge or benefit?

Q3

Is access for tourism possible?

Q4

What is preventing access?

NO

YES

Q5,6,7

Is tourism normally occurring?

Q8

Why not?

NO

YES

Q11,12,13

What types of tourisms are occurring

Q14,15

What are the benefits and impacts

Q9,10

Potential benefits/challenges

Q16

What needs to be communicated to tourists



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)

Answered: 17 Skipped: 16

- 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?

NO

YES

Q5,6,7

Is tourism normally occurring?

Q8

Why not?

NO

YES

Q11,12,13

What types of tourisms are occurring

Q14,15

What are the benefits and impacts

Q9,10

Potential benefits/challenges

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):

Answered: 24 Skipped: 9

- 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 AECO

INTERACT station specific tourism guidelines



Photo: South Sound Photo Services Inc. 198
Copyrighted by Travis Jacobson, AECO

Guidelines for development of Station Specific Guidelines

Developing Station Specific Guidelines

AECO – the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators – strives to set the highest possible operating standards and promote best practices among most of the 60 expedition cruise operators in the North Atlantic and High Arctic regions. AECO's objectives are to ensure environmentally friendly, safe and considerate tourism. Through INTERACT III, AECO is working on interfacing education for tourism with station management, surrounding communities, ensuring sustainable development and minimum environmental impact. INTERACT Station Specific Guidelines provide visitors with specific information, which could include special cautions and considerations that visitors should be aware of in that locale. In addition to conveying this information in an easily-understand way, the Guidelines can be used to enhance the general knowledge of the area, including the types of research conducted at the Station, the importance of this research and the history of the Station, along with specifics on fauna and flora inhabiting the area.

The first step in developing guidelines is to conduct a vulnerability assessment, including impact to the natural environment and the research infrastructure. Following this, having an open dialogue with representatives of visitors, such as local tourist agencies and/or tourist development organizations, is advised. These organizations can advise on development opportunities to create mutual benefits.

The station manager can update the guidelines at any time. It is recommended to update the guidelines every two years. Updated guidelines must be forwarded to relevant stakeholders.

For stations visited by AECO members, if guidelines are to be considered mandatory for all AECO members, AECO should be consulted and included in the development of guidelines.

INTER=ACT Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators **AECO**

INTERACT STATION SPECIFIC TOURISM GUIDELINES AECO

Content

Below is a list with what may be useful to include in a site specific guideline:

- with "INTERACT Station Specific Guidelines".
- Site name and the historic background of the station.
- Latitude and longitude position.
- A small map of the region with insert that shows where the station is located.
- As introduction, a large representative picture of the Station. Remember to include photo credits.
- A descriptive header to the introductory text.
- A brief description of the research topics focused on at the station.
- An introductory text presenting some general information about the station, the scientific history, and the surroundings, such as fauna and flora, when relevant.
- An introductory text presenting some general information about the station, the scientific history, fauna, flora, other, when relevant.
- Photographs to illustrate the above is helpful.
- A map drawing of the area visitors are likely to walk. On this map, indicate the places of significance and interest, delineate places that have been deemed too sensitive, dangerous, or otherwise not allowed to walk nearby. Mark areas which visitors would be interested in seeing – e.g. attractions, view-points, or human installations.
- The Guidelines: Include a more detailed description of the station including where, what, and why the guidelines are in place. Local legislation for the area may of appropriate.
- Add opening hours and contact information if appropriate.
- Add services that are available and/or perhaps some that may not be (i.e. accommodation, toilets).
 - Are there costs associated with the service in question?
- Add expected behavior from visitors if appropriate.
- A "helpful tips" section of the guidelines can be a way of directing guest's attention to something that is not on the map or described in the guidelines.
- Add year of production and year of latest update.
- Add credits to who created, funded, approved and/or endorsed the guidelines if appropriate.
- Add disclaimer if appropriate.
- Updating the guidelines.

Template The next two pages feature the final layout ready to be completed with details from the preliminary work →

Funded by **INTER=ACT** Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators **AECO** www.aeco-interact.org

Requirements from others

Do you want to be involved in the pilot project?

"STATION" GUIDELINES "AREA"

"GPS POSITION"

"Place name"

"Origin of place name"

Site location map with specific area insert

Illustrative cover photograph of site

"PHOTO CREDIT"

"CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF HIGHLIGHTS BE IT SCIENTIFIC, NATURAL, HISTORIC, OR OTHER"

VEGETATION "EXPERT STATEMENT ON VEGETATION IN THE AREA"

FAUNA "EXPERT STATEMENT ON FAUNA IN THE AREA"

CULTURAL REMAINS "EXPERT STATEMENT ON CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE AREA"

INTER=ACT

"STATION" GUIDELINES "AREA"

"DETAILED MAP WITH RELEVANT FEATURES HIGHLIGHTED"

"MAP SYMBOLS AND LEGENDS"

GUIDELINES "CONCISE GUIDELINES FOR SITE IN BULLET POINT FORMAT"

TIP "TIP TO ADD TO ACTIVITY EXPERIENCE"

"IMAGE FROM SITE ILLUSTRATING FEATURE IN GUIDELINE"

"IMAGE FROM SITE ILLUSTRATING FEATURE IN GUIDELINE"

"IMAGE FROM SITE ILLUSTRATING FEATURE IN GUIDELINE"

"PHOTO CREDIT"

"IMAGE LEGEND"

"PHOTO CREDIT"

"IMAGE LEGEND"

"PHOTO CREDIT"

"IMAGE LEGEND"

Funded by INTER=ACT

Developed in year
Latest update in year

www.eu-interact.org



Melissa Nacke
Email: melissa@aeco.no