

## PENINSULA REGION INFORMATION SHARE 2020/21 SEASON

Country/NAP: ARGENTINA

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Attach your “special” season plans/protocols in the context of COVID-19 at end of this template.

**Who will be your station leader(s) for the upcoming season (Give station name and then the full name and contact email address for the station leader(s)/expedition manager/station manager(s) for each of your Antarctic stations or facilities). Also indicate any special medical capabilities at each station (such as COVID testing available, or oxygen concentrator, or is any/number of ventilators).**

Esperanza Station

Darío Gustavo LUCERO – baseesperanza@fuerzas-armadas.mil.ar

Doctor - dentist - nurse - 1 portable ventilator

Belgrano 2 Station

Maximiliano Ezequiel LUNA – basebelgrano2@fuerzas-armadas.mil.ar

Doctor - nurse - 1 portable ventilator

San Martín Station

Ramón Eduardo ARGÜELLO – basesanmartin@fuerzas-armadas.mil.ar

Doctor - nurse - 1 portable ventilator

Marambio Station

César Oscar LENCINA - basemarambio@fuerzas-armadas.mil.ar

Doctor - nurse - 1 portable ventilator

Orcadas Station

Esteban José Modesto MAMANÍ – baseorcadas@ fuerzas-armadas.mil.ar

Doctor - nurse -

Carlini Station

Fernando SOSA- radiocarlini@yahoo.com.ar

Doctor - nurse - hyperbaric chamber. Cyclor.

**Season Schedule Overview (start dates/end dates-note any that are provision/not yet confirmed, details of major activities and events and prepared protocols in the context of COVID -19).**

Activities will begin in mid-November with the first flights.

Logistic ships will arrive in Antarctica during the first fortnight of January.

The activities will end at the end of March with the return of the ships and completion of air flights.

In all cases, the protocol approved in our country will be used for the “AIR AND NAVAL TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL AND CARGO, TOWARDS AND ON THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT BEFORE PANDEMIC PRODUCED BY SARS - COV-2 (COVID-19)” (includes quarantine period, PCR tests, cargo disinfection, etc.)

**Ship Cruise Schedules & vessel-related information (include information on any helicopters operated to/from vessels), including for collaboration or for SAR purposes also in the context of COVID -19 (PLEASE INDICATE YOUR READINESS FOR MEDEVAC IN THE CASE OF SUSPECTED or CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION).**

The Argentine Antarctic Program will continue to serve SAR situations as a priority.

The Combined Naval Antarctic Patrol (Argentina- Chile PANC) will carry out its tasks as every year. Thus, an Argentine ship will take turns with its Chilean counterpart to deal with SAR situations.

Likewise, the national vessels made available to the Antarctic activities of the Argentine Antarctic Program (ARA Almirante Irizar, Aviso Bahía Agradable) may be used in SAR tasks during the Antarctic summer at the request of the SAR Coordination Centers of Ushuaia. The Icebreaker ARA Almirante Irizar has two Sea King helicopters on board.

MEDEVAC situations are still being evaluated. From a technical point of view, eventual requests for MEDEVAC could be attended by Argentina, as there are already sanitary protocols to ensure these air operations. In the case of MEDEVAC, the deployment time of a C-130 aircraft to Antarctica is expected to be between 24 and 72 hours, depending also on weather.

It is estimated that in the case of requesting MEDEVAC for non-Argentine personnel, the specific COVID protocol would be applied and the pertinent migratory steps would be taken. It is clarified that accurate information on this subject cannot be anticipated, as, to date, our borders are closed. In a case like that of a MEDEVAC of foreign personnel, exceptional immigration procedures could be applied. This would also be subject to the medical care capacity of the receiving cities (Río Gallegos, Ushuaia, etc). More information in this regard is being evaluated in order to provide more details during the presentation in the COMNAP virtual session on August 3.

*Also, in support of SOOS Due South and international collaboration opportunities, please go to: <https://data.aad.gov.au/duesouth/expedition/> to enter information on your upcoming marine science expeditions.*

*No marine science expeditions this year.*

**Aircraft Arrival and Departure Dates & air operations-related information (special requirements for other programmes in case of cooperation).**

Groups of up to four C-130 flights from Río Gallegos to Marambio Station are expected to take place from November 15, repeating every 20 days. All staff will comply with the protocols before each flight (quarantine, testing, etc.)

During the Antarctic summer, Marambio Station will have one DHC 6 Twin Otter aircraft and two Bell 212 helicopters, capable of carrying out intra-continental flights. During the Antarctic winter DHC 6 Twin Otter aircraft will be available. For intercontinental flights the station is supported from the American continent with a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

To date, no request has been received nor is cooperation related to air operations planned. Argentina would use its own aerial means and its runways and heliports.

### **Planned Cooperative International Activities (logistics/science support activities affecting other NAPs)**

In general terms, international cooperation will be affected this year.  
Logistical support activities for other Antarctic programs are not planned.  
Only minimal international scientific cooperation is under assessment and coordination in Carlini Station, subject to the protocols developed by our country.

### **High Profile Activities**

Logistics activities planned for this austral summer will be limited to those necessary to ensure the turnover of personnel in our overwinter stations and provide them with the necessary supplies for the following year. In the case of infrastructure maintenance, only urgent repairs would be carried out.

Summer stations will not be open.

As for scientific activities, to date it is analyzed to maintain, in the smallest possible proportion, those activities that represent: i) long-term monitoring tasks whose interruption would leave a gap of information that is impossible to recover and whose availability is committed to international cooperation . ii) Scientific activities carried out under the framework of international cooperation projects in force and with fixed deadlines. iii) Work related to the doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship plans that are in the final stages of said scholarships and with the commitment to their completion.

These plans could be modified based on the evolution of the situation in our country, with respect to COVID 19.

### **Non-governmental Activities**

DNA is in contact with the Argentine Antarctic tourism company and with staff from the private owners who intend to make leisure trips on yacht to Antarctica. The operators are analyzing the situation. Eventually DNA will receive EIAs but will analyze the current context during its evaluation. In this sense, one of the measures already taken by our Antarctic Program is that visits to our stations will not be authorized.

### **Use of Drones/RPAS or Balloons**

Balloons will be used for ozonesonde at Belgrano 2 station and Marambio station.  
A drone will be used for navigation aid in ice areas.  
At least 4 scientific projects would use RPAs.

### **2021 Winter-over SAR assets (helo, etc) and any special medical capabilities/equipment availability**

During winter, there will be air evacuation capacity with a Twin Otter aircraft to transfer to Marambio station from other stations and from there on C-130 to the city of Río Gallegos. All this limited to weather conditions, Twin Otter landing zones availability.  
Twin Otter is equipped with an EGA bag for trauma and airway assistance.

### **National Antarctic Programme Aircraft and Vessel Safety Statement**

Ships:

- Icebreaker A.R.A. "Almirante Irizar" with two (2) Sea King helicopters
- Transportation A.R.A. "Canal Beagle"
- A.R.A. Aviso "Bahía Agradable"

Aerial means:

- For flights between the American continent and Marambio Station: Aircraft C-130
- For flights between Stations and huts: Bell 212 Helicopter and DHC-6 Twin Otter Aircraft

Also please remind your AFIM representative, that they should log into the AFIM Data Dashboard and ensure your AFIM-related data and information is current for the upcoming season.

PLEASE ADD HERE YOUR ADAPTATION PLANS FOR COVID-19: **“AIR AND NAVAL TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL AND CARGO, TOWARDS AND ON THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT BEFORE PANDEMIC PRODUCED BY SARS - COV-2 (COVID-19)”** to be provided as soon as the national approval process is complete.

AND THE DATES WHEN YOU WILL MAKE CRITICAL DECISIONS-such as “go” or “no-go” for the Antarctic season. Meetings are ongoing between authorities involved in campaign planning, in a context in which the disease is still growing, which can lead to changes in planning.