



**XXXII SCAR Delegates' Meeting**

**Portland, USA, 23-25 July 2012**

Agenda Item:

2.1

Person Responsible:

Venezuela  
Rep.

# **Application of Venezuela for Associate Membership**



## Executive Summary

**Title:** Application of Venezuela for Associate Membership

**Authors:** Venezuelan authorities

**Important Issues or Factors:** From the SCAR Rules of Procedure:

Applications for Associate Membership:

1.3.1 are usually expected to precede application for full membership; and

1.3.2 shall be accompanied by a statement of what the applicant hopes to contribute to and/or gain from the Charity.

**Recommendations/Actions and Justification:** Delegates are requested to consider the Venezuelan application for Associate Membership of SCAR

**Budget Implications:** \$5,000 annual membership fee for Associate Membership



DVDCTI – 300 - 008

Caracas, 19 ENE. 2012

Prof. Malhon C. Kennicutt II  
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)  
President.

Dear Prof. Kennicutt,

Please consider the current letter to certify that the Fondo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (FONACIT), as a Member of the International Council for Science, appoints the Center of Oceanology and Antarctic Studies to represent Venezuela as an Associated Member in the Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR). The Center of Oceanology and Antarctic Studies is affiliated to the Ministry of Popular Power of Science, Technology and Innovation at the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC), and coordinates all activities related to Antarctic research in our country.

Sincerely yours ,



**Dr. Guillermo Barreto**

Viceministro para el Fortalecimiento de las Ciencias y las Tecnologías  
Decreto N° 8.665. Publicado en Gaceta Oficial N°39.815 de fecha 07/12/2011  
Presidente (E) Fondo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación  
Resolución N°016 de fecha 04/02/2011. Publicado en Gaceta Oficial N°39618 de fecha 17/02/2011

## MAIN ANTARCTIC ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY VENEZUELA:

- **First Venezuelan scientific expedition to the Antarctic Continent:** The 1st Venezuelan scientific expedition to the Antarctic continent was performed between February 10 and April 04 of 2008, with the collaboration from Uruguay Republic. It was integrated by 16 Venezuelan expeditionaries, who were established in the Scientific Base Artigas from Uruguay (Isla Rey Jorge / 25 de Mayo, South Shetland Islands Archipelago), from where, they performed their activities on land. Some members of the expedition also performed sampling work and data collection in the Antarctic Peninsula, with the cooperation of the authorities of the Antarctic Base Esperanza (Antarctic Peninsula), the Argentina Republic, who hosted them in its facilities.
- **Attendance to the working meeting: "South American Strategies for Antarctic Research":** this work meeting, an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil, took place between 12 and 14 May 2008 in Rio of Janeiro, Brazil. First contacts were made during this meeting with the Brazilian scientific program in Antarctica and it was agreed the collaboration between Venezuela and Brazil for the execution of the scientific project: "Characterization, mapping and monitoring of Cryosols and permafrost of Antarctica in a global warming scenario", and the participation of a Venezuelan expeditionary with the Brazilian Antarctic expedition, during the austral summer 2008-2009.
- **Participation in the IV Latin American Symposium on Antarctic Research:** This scientific event took place in Valparaíso, Chile between September 3-5 of 2008. Venezuela participated presenting the following papers, published in the Proceeding of IV the Latin American Symposium on Antarctic Research, edited and published by INACH in 2008:

"PRELIMINARY HISTOLOGY OF GONADES AND HEPATOPANCREAS IN *Nacella concinna* (Strebel, 1908) (Gastropoda: Patellidae) AS ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN MAXWELL BAY, ANTARCTICA", Neuberger-Cywiak, L., p. 24.

"PLANKTON AND BENTHIC BIODIVERSITY IN COLLINS, MAXWELL AND ESPERANZA BAY IN THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT. VENEZUELAN-URUGUAYAN PROYECT- CAML", Huck, E., p. 296.

"MULTI-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF SPOT IMAGES IN THE GLACIAR "BUENOS AIRES" ESPERANZA BAY, ANTARCTIC PENÍNSULA ", Yépez, S., p. 342.

"OCEANOGRAPHIC RECORD IN THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC VENEZUELAN EXPEDITION TO THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT", Abreu, E., p. 368.

“BIO-ÓPTICAL PROPERTIES OF SHALLOW WATERS IN KING GEORGE ISLAND AND ESPERANZA BAY”, Klein, E., p. 373.

“PRELIMINAR STUDY OF MARINE SEDIMENTS IN MAXWELL BAY, KING GEORGE ISLAND/25 DE MAYO”, Alfonso, JA., p. 472.

“DETERMINATION OF NATURAL STAGES OF VIBRATION AND ESTIMATION OF THE SEDIMENT THICKNESS KING GEORGE ISLAND/25 DE MAYO AND ESPERANZA BAY”, Rocabado, V., p. 475.

- **Attendance to the XXXI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting:** This meeting took place in Kiev, Ukraine on June 1-14 of 2008. Two Venezuelan representatives participated.
- **Second Venezuelan Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic Continent:** The 2nd Venezuelan Scientific expedition to the Antarctic continent was also performed in planning with the Oriental Republic of Uruguay (ROU). It was integrated by 21 expeditionaries.  
During the same austral summer 2008-2009, specifically in February-March of 2009, other two Venezuelan expeditionaries travelled to the Antarctic continent, one with the scientific expedition of Brazil and the other one with the scientific expedition of Ecuador, both within the framework of the development of research projects in collaboration with these countries.

**Venezuela – Noruega Polar Festival:** The Festival “Arctic-Antarctic Exploration, a Norway-Venezuela encounter”, took place in the Museum of Sciences in Caracas from May 22 to June 30 of 2009, in collaboration among the Museum of Sciences, the Ministry of Popular Power for the Culture, Venezuelan Antarctic Program, Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology and the Real Embassy of Norway in Venezuela. The Festival consisted of the exhibition of two selections: the national exhibition “Venezuela and Antarctica Science” and the exhibition of the Nordic country “Norway and the White Adventure”. Once retired the Norwegian selection, the national selection was extended and remained exposed in the rooms of the Museum of Science of Caracas for longer time.

- **First Work Meeting Venezuela-Ecuador on Antarctic issues:** This meeting took place in Caracas on August 13-14 of 2009. The main agreements from this meeting were:
  1. Submit to the Legal consultancy office of the Ministry of the Popular Power for the Science and Technology (MPPCT), the first draft of the Collaboration Agreement between the Venezuelan Antarctic Program and the Ecuadorian Antarctic Institute for review.
  2. Define the formal proposal including 3-4 main scientific research areas in the Antarctic continent of common interest (prioritized) for both countries.

3. Build the Binational Scientific Module (Ecuadorian-Venezuelan) in an area close by the Ecuadorian Scientific Station "Pedro Vicente Maldonado" in Greenwich island, South Shetland Archipelago, Antarctica.
  4. Design a binational program of training and building capacity on Hydrography and Antarctic navigation, as well as Antarctic flying and landing, according with the availability of advising from countries as Argentina, Chile, Brasil and Uruguay.
  5. Offer as soon as possible, through the Advanced Studies Center at IVIC, the admission of 5 Ecuadorian students under "international scholarship" at postgraduate level, these students will be chosen by SENACYT, Ecuador.
  6. Start the evaluations of feasibility to install phone and internet communication facility in the Scientific Ecuadorian Station "Pedro Vicente Maldonado" in Greenwich Island, South Shetland archipelago, Antarctica.
  7. Propose a developing plan including all infrastructure and logistic equipment needed, so both, Ecuador and Venezuela, convert the Scientific Ecuadorian Station "Pedro Vicente Maldonado" from temporal to permanent.
- **Attendance to the V Latin American Symposium on Antarctic Research:** This scientific event took place in Salinas, Ecuador, on September 2-4 of 2009. Ten Venezuelan papers were presented, and they were published in the Proceedings of V Latin American Symposium on Antarctic Research, edited and published by INAE in 2009:

"SPATIAL VARIATION OF CHEMICAL AND MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION OF LACUSTRINE SEDIMENTS, FILDES PENINSULA, KING GEORGE ISLAND/25 DE MAYO", Alfonso, J.A., Vásquez, Y., Silva, S., Handt, H., Bastidas, C., Shaefer, C.E., Ramírez, A., p. 31.

"BIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMISTRY ACTIVITY IN SEDIMENTS COLLECTED BY TWO LAKES IN KING GEORGE ISLAND. IMPLICATIONS OF CLOSENESS OF A GLACIER", Benzo, D., Flores, S., Chacón, N., Bezada, M., Silva, S., Palacios, D., p. 32.

"DIVERSITY AND ABUNDANCE OF INVERTEBRATES ASSOCIATED TO LOOSE ROCKS IN LOW TIDE IN MAXWELL BAY, KING GEORGE ISLAND, ANTARCTICA, WITH PRECISIONS ABOUT THE SUBSTRATE GEOLOGY", Caballer, M., Martin, A., Bezada, M., p. 33.

"MACROBENTHOS ASSOCIATED TO A *IRIDAEA CORDATA* IN COASTS OF MAXWELL BAY, KING GEORGE ISLAND/25 DE MAYO", Martin, A., Díaz, Y.J., Miloslavich, P., p. 34.

"STUDY ON TEMPORAL VARIATION OF CHEMICAL ELEMENTS OF INTEREST IN MACROALGAE AND MARINE SEDIMENTS, MAXWELL BAY, KING GEORGE ISLAND/25 DE MAYO", Alfonso, J.A., Vásquez, Y., Silva, S., Caballer, M., Azocar, J.A., Handt, H., Bastidas, C., Palacios, D., Ramírez, A., p. 34.

“DETERMINATION OF FECAL CONTAMINATION AND THEIR SOURCE IN LAKES, STREAMS AND MARINE ZONES CLOSE TO RESEARCH STATIONS IN ANTARCTICA”, Betancourt, W.Q., p. 45.

“DETERMINATION OF GAMMA SPECTROMETRY OF HIGH RESOLUTION AND RADON (*IN SITU*) IN SURFACE AREAS FREE OF ICE IN KING GEORGE ISLAND, ANTARCTICA”, Palacios, D., Ochoa, J., Alfonso, J.A., Sajo-Bohus, L., Chacón, N., Bezada, M., Ojeda, A., Silva, S., p. 60.

“CONTENT OF ORGANIC CARBON, BASAL RESPIRATION AND MICROBIAL CARBON AND PHOSPHOROUS IN SEDIMENTS COLLECTED ON LAKES ADJACENCIES IN KING GEORGE ISLAND. IMPLICATIONS OF CLOSENESS OF GLACIER”, Benzo, D., Chacón, N., Bezada, M., Silva, S., Palacios, D., p. 60.

“*HELICOBACTER* IN COASTAL WATERS OF MAXWELL BAY (KING GEORGE ISLAND, ANTARCTICA)”, García-Amado, M.A., Fernández, M., Contreras, M., Michelangeli, F., Suarez, P., p. 64.

“COMPARISON OF COMPOSITION OF SHELL OF *NACELLA CONCINNA* (STREBEL, 1908) FROM KING GEORGE ISLAND (ANTARCTICA) WITH OTHER PATELIDES FROM THE CARIBBEAN”, Azocar, J.A., Vásquez, Y., Caballer, M., Alfonso, J.A., p. 66.

- **Second Working Meeting Venezuela-Ecuador on Antarctic issues:** This meeting took place in Quito, Ecuador, on October 1-3 of 2009. The main agreements were:
  1. Discuss a draft paper on a future collaboration agreement.
  2. Perform the Third Venezuelan Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic continent with the collaboration of Ecuadorian Antarctic Institute.
  3. Discuss the formal proposal of the 3-4 main scientific research areas in the Antarctic continent of common interest between the two countries.
  4. The work base for the Third Venezuelan Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic Continent will be the Ecuadorian Base “Pedro Vicente Maldonado” in Greenwich Island, South Shetland island archipelago, Antarctica.
- **Work Meeting with authorities of Brazilian Antarctic Program:** This meeting took place in Brasilia, Brazil, on October 28-29 of 2009. The main agreements were:
  1. Continue the execution of the research project about Permafrost and sea masses in Antarctica. Discuss new research projects in collaboration.
  2. Discuss formal proposal on Antarctic flying and navigation for Venezuelan marines and pilots.
  3. Discuss formal proposals on Antarctic training for Venezuelan expeditionaries.



- **“Agreement of Cooperation on Antarctic activities between Venezuelan Bolivarian Republic and Ecuador Republic”.** The “Cooperation Agreement on Antarctic research between the Venezuelan Bolivarian Republic and Ecuador Republic was signed in La Havana, Republic of Cuba on December 14 of 2009, between respective Chancellors. This framework agreement of binational antarctic cooperation with term of five (5) years extendable, was signed under the following premises: i) considering the interest and impulse that in both countries is given to the presence in the antarctic territory within the purposes of encouraging peace, environmental cooperation and conservation of that continent; ii) by recognizing the increased importance of Antarctica for the scientific research, especially for the understanding of climate changes and aware of the need to improve the scientific production, considering the environmental protection, to cooperate in the planning of activities and trying to minimize the impact on Antarctic environment and associated ecosystems; iii) being aware of the convenience of complementing human resources, technician, scientists and materials from their countries, uniting efforts and research initiatives in the field of the Antarctic Treaty System.
- **Third Venezuelan Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic Continent:** The 3rd Venezuelan Scientific Antarctic Expedition was performed in planning with the Ecuador Republic. It was integrated by 5 Venezuelan expeditionaries, who stayed in the Ecuadorian Scientific Station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado”, in Greenwich island, South Shetland islands Archipelago, during February 1-24 of 2010.
- **“Specific Agreement for the Use of the Laboratory Module of the Ecuadorian Scientific Station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado”.** It was signed in Quito, Ecuador Republic on March 26 of 2012, with the goal of control and coordinate the use of the Laboratory Module of the Ecuadorian Scientific Station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado”, in Fort William Point, Greenwich Island, South Shetland islands Archipelago, in terms of the binational collaboration between the Ecuador Republic and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, through the Ecuadorian Antarctic Institute (INAE) and the Venezuelan Antarctic Program (PAV), respectively. The main agreements were: i) INAE will give accommodations and food in the station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado” for five (5) venezuelan expeditionaries per annual expedition; ii) IVIC, current base of PAV, will give accommodation, food, and academic waiving fee for five (5) Ecuadorian students in Postgraduate studies here; iii) both parts will conciliate the rules for the use and functioning of installations and the equipments of the Laboratory Module; iv) INAE will finish the building and equip of de Laboratory Module; v) PAV will acquire and maintain in the station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado” a vessel type Zodiac, a multipurpose tractor and a vehicle type Moto ATV; vi) both parts will encourage the execution of joined research projects.
- **Work Meeting Venezuela-Uruguay on Antarctic Issues:** This working meeting took place in Montevideo on May 17-19 of 2010. The main agreements from this meeting were:

1. Write a draft of the proposal of Scientific and Logistic Collaboration Agreement in Antarctic activities between Uruguay and Venezuela.
  2. The execution of two scientific research lines between the two countries in the Antarctic continent was conciliated.
  3. Conciliate formal proposal on logistic collaboration in the Antarctic continent between the two countries.
- **“Reglament on the common use of scientific equipment installed in the Ecuadorian Scientific Station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado”, located in the Antarctic Continent, between the Ecuadorian Antarctic Institute (INAE) and the Antarctic Venezuelan Program (PAV)”**. It was signed in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on July 06 of 2012del 2010, with the goal of establishing norms and procedures for the right use, maintenance and control of the scientific equipment of the Scientific Station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado”.
  - **“Specific Work Program for the Cooperation on Antarctic research between the Ecuadorian Antarctic Institute (INAE) of the Ecuador Republican and the Venezuelan Antarctic Program from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela”**. This document was signed in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on July 06 of 2010, establishing the binational execution of the following research lines and projects:
    - Antarctic Environment
      - i) Paleontological Studies in Dee island
      - ii) Study of Environmental Monitoring of toxic metals, radionuclides and biological indicators
      - iii) Submarine Antarctic Biodiversity
      - iv) Dynamics of marine mammal populations
    - Climatic Changes
      - i) Study of Mass Balance and Energetic of Glaciers, ice shells and Permafrost, associated to climatic change.
    - Applied Technology
      - i) Bioprospecting of Antarctic organisms
      - ii) Bioremediation
      - iii) Update of nautical chart in close areas to Fort William Point in Greenwich Island.
  - **Attendance to the Scientific Meeting of Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR)**: It took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on August 5-6 of 2010, and Dr. Juan A. Alfonso, Scientific Coordinator of the Venezuelan Antarctic Program participated. There was an exchange of experiences related to the scientific work in diverse areas of interest. In general, there was a fruitful exchange of ideas and proposals with latinamericans and international researchers.
  - **Attendance to the XXXI Meeting of the Delegates of Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR)**: This meeting took place in Buenos Aires,

Argentina on August 9-11 of 2010. Venezuela was invited to participate as an Observer, and two Venezuelans representative participated.

- **Attendance to the XXI Meeting of Administrators of Latinamericans Antarctic Programs (RAPAL):** The XXI RAPAL, took place in Galapagos Island, Ecuador, on September 20-25 of 2010. Two Venezuelan representatives participated.
- **Fourth Venezuelan Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic Continent:** the 4th Venezuelan Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic Continent was performed in planning with the Ecuador Republica. Nine Venezuelan expeditionaries participated; it took place within the framework of the “Cooperation Agreement on Antarctic activities between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Ecuador Republican”. This expedition was based on the Ecuadorian Scientific Station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado”, in Greenwich Island, South Shetland Islands Archipelago. The binational scientific work performed was successful, achieving a fruitful collaboration between the Venezuelan and Ecuadorian participants.
- **“Cooperation Agreement on antartic activities between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the oriental republic of Uruguay”.** This framework agreement of binational Antarctic collaboration was signed in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on January 27 of 2011. The term of this agreement is five (5) years extendable, it was signed under the following premises: i) considering the interest and impulse that in both countries is given to the presence in the antarctic territory within the purposes of encouraging peace, environmental cooperation and conservation of that continent; ii) by recognizing the increased importance of Antarctica for the scientific research, especially for the understanding of climate changes and aware of the need to improve the scientific production, considering the environmental protection, to cooperate in the planning of activities and trying to minimize the impact on Antarctic environment and associated ecosystems; iii) being aware of the convenience of complementing human resources, technician, scientists and materials from their countries, uniting efforts and research initiatives in the field of the Antarctic Treaty System.
- **Attendance to the XXXIV Consultative meeting of the Antarctic Treaty:** The XXXIV Consultative Meeting of Antarctic Treaty took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from June 20 to July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2011. Five Venezuelan representatives participated.
- **Work Meeting Venezuela-Uruguay on Antarctic Issues:** This meeting took place in Montevideo, Uruguay on September 13-14 of 2011. It was agreed to conciliate the execution of binational scientific projects and logistic collaboration.
- **Attendance to the XXII Meeting of Administrators (Coordinators) Latinamerican Antarctic Programs (RAPAL):** This meeting took place in

Lima, Peru on October 3-6 of 2011. Venezuela participated as Permanent Observer, and three Venezuelan representatives attended.

- **Fifth Venezuelan Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic Continent:** The 5th Venezuelan Scientific Antarctic Expedition is taking place in planning with the Ecuador Republic. It is integrated by 5 Venezuelan expeditionaries and left Caracas on January 6. According with planning, they will return to Venezuela the first week of February, and are performing activities in the framework of the “Cooperation Agreement on Antarctic activities between Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Ecuador Republic”. This expedition has work base the Ecuadorian Scientific Station “Pedro Vicente Maldonado”, in Greenwich Island, South Shetland Island Archipelago.