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Dear Senator Lightfoot

**ENQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF FUNDING FOR AUSTRALIA'S ANTARCTIC PROGRAMME**

Many thanks for your letter regarding the above.

With regard to the administration of the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP), you are advised as follows:

**1) ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, UNIVERSITIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHERS IN SANAP**

SANAP falls under the South African government Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), and is managed and administered by this Department's Directorate: Antarctica and Islands. As from 1 April 2004, the management of SANAP's science component has been transferred to the South African government Department of Science and Technology (DST), whilst the logistics and operations remains with DEAT. DST has delegated the administration of the scientific research to the National Research Foundation (NRF), a parastatal research support agency.

Other government Departments which render assistance to SANAP are:

- National Department of Public Works (construction and base maintenance)
- - Department of Foreign Affairs (international collaboration and satellite communication system)
- Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs - DMEA (geological and mineral aspects, e.g. continental shelf claim, and seismology stations)
- South African Defence Force (Surgeon General's Office - provide medical supplies, equipment and advice, first aid training, medical examination of expedition members and medical doctors for ship (research and supply vessel, mv SA Agulhas) & Chaplain General's Office - provide self-development courses for expedition members and Chaplains for relief voyages)

- South African Air Force (helicopter support, fire fighting and cooking classes for expedition members, provide chefs for relief voyages)
- South African Navy (rendering of ad hoc support/assistance in transporting cargo and personnel)

Another parastatal/agency (such as the NRF above) which is closely affiliated with SANAP, and which used to form part of DEAT, is:

- South African Weather Service (provide weather reports for voyages, meteorologists for overwintering expeditions, undertake weather buoy deployments and install/ service Automatic Weather Stations, etc.)

The following South African Universities conduct SANAP-supported research projects at the various bases (SANAE IV in Antarctica, on Marion (and/or Prince Edward) and/or Gough Islands and/or in the Southern Ocean from the SA Agulhas):

- University of Pretoria - Potchefstroom University
- University of Cape Town
- Rhodes University
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of the Western Cape
- University of Natal (Durban)
- University of Fort Hare
- Other institutions receiving SANAP-support for research are:
  - Council for Geoscience (falling under DMEA)
  - Marine and Coastal Management (falling under DEAT - CCAMLR obligations)
  - Hartbeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Private organisations which render assistance to SANAP are: CHC Helicopters (Africa) – helicopter support
- Smit Marine - ships managers for the SA Agulhas

As regards other organizations, SANAP provides lectures at schools, universities, etc. on request, deals with queries from private individuals/institutions, and liaises with various other companies for the provision of fuel, equipment, supplies, clothing, food, etc. for expeditions.

## 2) STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR FACILITATING SANAP

See attached organogram.

## 3) WAYS IN WHICH SANAP PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Project leaders at the various universities are encouraged to collaborate with international scientists, and often do so, either participating in overseas ventures or inviting their colleagues to participate in SANAP voyages - currently we are collaborating (on a scientific and logistic level) with Germany (AWI), UK (BAS), USA, Poland, New Zealand, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden, etc. SANAP also renders logistic support (no research collaboration) to India, Finland, Russia, Japan, France, etc. Details available on request.

4a) HOW THE BUDGET OF SANAP IS ALLOCATED (SCIENCE, OPERATIONS & LOGISTICS)

The science budget of R3.5 million has been transferred to DST - this Department has added R1.5 million to this budget for 2004/05 (i.e. from 1 April 2004 - 31 March 2005). The operations and logistics budget is R17 million. This is only the DEAT component and excludes the ship's budget, which is ± R24 million. The NPWD budget is in the same ball park but fluctuates seriously from year to year.

4b) ARE THERE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR "NEW" SCIENCE? With the transfer of the science component to DST/NRF it is intended to advertise the "call for proposals" more widely than has been done in the past. Even so, over the past few years, a number of new projects in the fields of biological, earth, oceanographic and physical sciences have been funded, and a number of new projects have been undertaken in the entirely new field of engineering.

As regards your request for any views on how Australia conducts its Antarctic Programme, I would cannot sensibly comment as I do not have enough exposure to the Australian Programme.

I hope that you will find the above of use. Best wishes with your enquiry.

Kind regards

(signed)

**HENRY VALENTINE  
FOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL: DEAT**