

Site Guidelines for Visitors Checklist

Prior considerations

For existing sites, reviewers should examine the existing guidelines prior to visiting the site and identify site-specific aspects that should be examined prior to the site visit. The information to compile may include:

- Level of visits during the last five years and identified trends of growth, decrease, stability. (IAATO data on visitor numbers, and any information held by national programmes/governments as appropriate).
- Report of incidents/ accidents during the last five years (any information held by national programmes/governments as appropriate).
- Type of visitor activities that have been carried out in the area (guided walk, small boat cruising, kayak, etc)

For new sites, reviewers should compile information on the site ahead of a visit. The information to compile may include (in addition to the above):

- Information about the environmental values present in the area (information held by national programmes/governments as appropriate: scientific papers, travel guides, etc.)

Questions		Reviewers Comments
Latitude/Longitude Position Include GPS coordinates specifying the place where it was referenced (ex: xx°xx'xx" S, xx°xx'xx" W – landing area or HSM Point, etc)		
Key Features What are the key features of the site? Why would someone wish to visit the site? Try to stick to two or three features.		
Topography and geology A physical description of the site. Background material can be used to describe the wider site but reviewers should note the specific nature of the site.	Overview of site	
	Description of landing beach(es)	
	Description of the site geology	

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Questions		Reviewers Comments
<p>Wildlife</p> <p>List all fauna identified. Where possible, identify whether species are breeding there. Use common and scientific names.</p>		
<p>Vegetation</p> <p>List all flora present at the site. Use common names.</p>		
<p>Historical/ Cultural/ Scientific activities</p> <p>List of all human presence with specific location and details of condition.</p>	<p>Any HSM should be noted with specific reference to condition.</p>	
	<p>Historical and archaeological remains that aren't HSMs.</p>	
	<p>National Programme activity <i>ie</i>, rehouse or stores.</p>	
	<p>Scientific equipment present at site, incl. what it is and who it belongs to, if known.</p>	
<p>Visitor Impact</p> <p>Is there any obvious evidence of visitor impact? For example damage/graffiti to Historic sites; erosion caused by paths; abandoned waste; marks left on geology.</p>		

Questions		Reviewers Comments
<p>'Visitor Pressure' descriptions</p> <p>Where on the site are there likely to be visitor pressure impacts? This could be a path or landing zone too close to fauna or flora; path impacts; non-permanent installations impacts; use of UAVs impacts; or dangerous areas.</p>	Risks to the Environment	
	Risk to visitor safety	
<p>Landing area (with GPS coordinates)</p> <p>Safe, appropriate. Is it accessible?</p>	Approach, are there rocks/shoals?	
	Is there a heavy concentration of wildlife on the beach?	
	Is there an appropriate route from the landing beach to the primary visitor area?	
<p>Restricted zones</p>	Are any areas inappropriate for visitors to enter?	
	What is the rationale for this exclusion?	
	What is the exact area and how can it be identified? GPS data.	
	Are any ASPAs/ASMAs located nearby? (Are the	

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Questions		Reviewers Comments
	boundaries easily identifiable?)	
Seasonality Are any seasonal factors likely to affect visits to the site? (<i>ie</i> , wildlife breeding season, snow accumulation in early season)		
Visitor Numbers What does the suggested visitor number limit mean for the number of ships (and ship capacity) visiting per day?	Does the size of the site limit visitor numbers?	
	Does the concentration and/or spread of wildlife limit visitor numbers?	
	Do geological considerations limit visitor numbers?	
	Would visitors disrupt scientific activities?	
	Would the number of visitors per day impact an HSM?	
	What would a reasonable number of visitors to the site be per day?	
Distances from flora and fauna Should additional restrictions (beyond the standard 5 metres) be imposed?		

Questions	Reviewers Comments
<p>Proposed walking routes</p> <p>Are there specific routes that should be taken or avoided across the site? Free roaming and guided areas.</p>	
<p>Behaviour ashore</p> <p>Are there any site-specific issues that should be noted in site guidelines?</p> <p>Are there any cautionary notes to highlight?</p> <p>Considerations should include the protection of visitors, <i>ie</i>, health and safety concerns as well as protection of the site and its flora/fauna.</p>	
<p>Site Map</p> <p>The majority of information mentioned in the guidelines should be included in the map, including GPS data of the landing area.</p> <p>For existing sites, reviewers should assess the accuracy of the existing map. For example, are restricted areas and wildlife areas accurately marked? Do additional details need to be added? Is all relevant detail in site guidelines included in the map? Is it consistent with other more recent site guideline maps?</p>	
<p>Photographic evidence</p> <p>Illustrated photo-maps should be used to assist in on-site interpretation of the provisions of the Site Guidelines.</p> <p>For existing sites, appropriate, up-to-date photos of the site should be taken and where appropriate added to the guidelines. New photos should not replace old photos if the older versions provide a better representation of the site.</p>	

Site-specific review for existing sites

Reviewers should examine the existing guidelines prior to visiting the site and identify site-specific questions that should be examined.

Questions	Reviewers Comments