

# ANTARCTIC TREATIES ACT NO. 60 OF 1996

[ASSENTED TO 24 OCTOBER, 1996]  
[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 1 FEBRUARY 1997]

*(English text signed by the President)*

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## ACT

**To provide for the application of certain treaties relating to Antarctica; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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**1. Definitions.**—In this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise—

“**Antarctica**” means the area to which a particular treaty applies;

“**Contracting Party**” means a Contracting Party to any treaty, and “another Contracting Party” means a “Contracting Party” other than the Government of the Republic;

“**Department**” means the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;

“**Director-General**” means the Director-General: Environmental Affairs and Tourism;

“**Minister**” means the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;

“**regulation**” means any regulation made under this Act;

“**this Act**” includes the regulations;)

“**treaty**” means an international agreement (howsoever described) relating to Antarctica which in terms of this Act and the Constitution forms part of the law of South Africa and which is mentioned in Schedule 1, and includes any annexure to such international agreement.

**2. Application of Act.**—This Act shall apply in Antarctica to—

- (a) a South African citizen;
- (b) a person who is not a South African citizen, but who is ordinarily resident in the Republic, except if that person is—
  - (i) on board any ship, vessel or aircraft that is operating, whether exclusively or not, in support of any expedition organised by the government of another Contracting Party; or
  - (ii) a citizen of another Contracting Party, while that person is in any part of Antarctica for the purpose of exercising his or her functions, whether as an inspector, observer or other official or exchange scientist contemplated in a treaty;
- (c) a citizen of another Contracting Party, if immunity of that person has been waived by that Party;
- (d) any person, whether a South African citizen or not, who is a member of or is responsible for organising an expedition which has been organised in the Republic to visit Antarctica, but not an expedition organised by the government of another Contracting Party;
- (e) companies, close corporations or other juristic persons registered as such under the laws of the Republic, operating or using any ship, vessel or aircraft registered in the Republic.

**3. Application and publication of treaty.**—(1) Subject to this Act, the treaties mentioned in Schedule 1 shall form part of the law of the Republic.

(2) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after the promulgation of this Act, cause to be published in the *Gazette* the texts of the treaties mentioned in Schedule 1.

(3) The Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* amend Schedule I to reflect the number and date of a *Gazette* in which the treaties were published.

**4. Powers of Minister where Antarctic environment is damaged, endangered or detrimentally affected.**—(1) If any person to whom this Act applies performs any activity or fails to perform any activity in contravention of a treaty as a result of which the Antarctic environment is or may be seriously damaged, endangered or detrimentally

affected, the Minister may in writing direct that person, within a period specified in the direction—

- (a) to cease that activity; or
- (b) to take such steps as the Minister may deem fit with a view to eliminating, reducing or preventing the damage, danger or detrimental effect.

(2) The Minister may in writing direct the person referred to in subsection (1) to perform any activity or function, at the expense of that person, with a view to repairing or rehabilitating any damage caused to the Antarctic environment.

(3) If the person referred to in subsection (2) refuses or fails to comply with the direction of the Minister, the Minister may take the necessary steps in order to repair or rehabilitate the damage, and the Minister may authorise any person to take all steps required for that purpose.

(4) The Minister may recover any expenditure incurred in the performance of any function contemplated in subsection (3) from the person who refused or failed to comply with a direction under subsection (2).

(5) This section also applies, with the necessary changes, to acts relating to animals and plants in Antarctica.

**5. Inspectors, observers and other officials.**—(1) The Minister may—

- (a) subject to the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), designate posts in the Department, the incumbents of which shall be inspectors, observers or other officials contemplated in any treaty;
- (b) by notice in the *Gazette* and with the concurrence of the Minister of Defence designate a particular rank or ranks in the South African Navy, the incumbents of which shall be inspectors, observers or other officials contemplated in any treaty; and
- (c) by notice in the *Gazette* designate any other person as an inspector, observer or other official contemplated in any treaty.

(2) The incumbent of any post or rank designated under subsection (1) (a) and (b), as well as any person designated under subsection (1) (c), shall be furnished by the Director-General, or any other officer designated by the Director-General for that purpose, with an identity card prescribed by regulation, and whenever the incumbent or designated person exercises any power or performs any duty in terms of this Act or any treaty, he or she shall, at the request of any person affected thereby, produce that identity card to that person for inspection.

**6. Regulations.**—(1) The Minister may make regulations with regard to—

- (a) the qualifications and functions of persons applying this Act or a treaty, including a person authorised in terms of section 4 (3) and the incumbent of a post or rank or any other person designated in terms of section 5 (1);
- (b) the issuing of permits contemplated in any treaty; and

(c) generally, any matter which may be necessary or expedient to prescribe in order to achieve the objects of this Act or any treaty.

(2) A regulation made under subsection (1), may provide that any person contravening a provision thereof or failing to comply with a provision thereof, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

**7. Delegation.**—The Minister may on such conditions as he or she may deem fit, delegate or assign any power or duty conferred upon or assigned to him or her by this Act, excluding the power to make regulations, to any officer or employee of the Department.

**8. Jurisdiction.**—For the purposes of the application of this Act, Antarctica shall be deemed to be situated within the magisterial district of Cape Town.

**9. Offences.**—Any person who contravenes a provision of a treaty mentioned in Column I of Schedule 2 shall, subject to the particular treaty, be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding the period mentioned in Column 2 of that Schedule opposite the number of that provision.

**10. Saving.**—Nothing in this Act shall affect the rights or the exercise of the rights of any country under international law with regard to the high seas within Antarctica.

**11. Application of Act to Prince Edward Islands.**—Where, by virtue of the definition of “Antarctica”, a treaty is applicable to the Prince Edward Islands, referred to in section 1 of the Prince Edward Islands Act, 1948 (Act No. 43 of 1948), this Act shall also apply to those islands.

**12. Application of Act in event of conflict with certain other laws.**—In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Act and those of the Prince Edwards Islands Act, 1948 (Act No. 43 of 1948), the South African Citizens in Antarctica Act, 1962 (Act No. 55 of 1962), the Sea Birds and Seals Protection Act, 1973 (Act No. 46 of 1973), the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988), and the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

**13. State bound.**—This Act shall bind the State except in so far as criminal liability is concerned.

**14. Short title.**—(1) This Act shall be called the Antarctic Treaties Act, 1996, and shall come into operation on a date fixed by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) The date contemplated in subsection (1) shall be a date after the publication of the treaties in terms of section 3 (2).

### **Schedule 1**

[Schedule 1 amended by Government Notice No. R.678 of 16 May 1997.]

I Antarctic Treaty, published in *Government Gazette* No. 17655 of 3 January 1997.

II Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, published in *Government Gazette* No. 17655 of 3 January 1997.

III Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Seals, published in *Government Gazette* No. 17655 of 3 January 1997.

IV Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, published in *Government Gazette* No. 17655 of 3 January 1997.

### Schedule 2

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
I. Antarctic Treaty	
(a) Article I (Use of Antarctica for purposes other than peaceful purposes)	Five years
(b) Article V (Nuclear explosions and disposal of radio-active waste material)	Twenty years
II 1. Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	
(a) Article 3 (Activities damaging the Antarctic environment)	Two years
(b) Article 7 (Mineral resource activities)	Five years
2. <i>Annex II to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty: Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora</i>	
(a) Article 3 (Taking of or harmful interference with animals or plants)	One year
(b) Article 4 (Introducing foreign animals or plants into Antarctica)	Two years
3. <i>Annex III to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty: Waste Disposal and Waste Management</i>	
(a) Articles 2 to 6 (Disposal or storage of waste)	One year
(b) Article 7 (Introducing a prohibited product in Antarctica)	One year
4. <i>Annex IV to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty: Prevention of Marine Pollution</i>	
(a) Article 3 (Discharge of oil or oily mixture into the sea)	Five years
(b) Article 4 (Discharge of noxious liquid or chemical substance into the sea)	Five years
(c) Article 5 (Disposal of garbage into the sea)	Two years
(d) Article 6 (Discharge of sewage into the sea)	Two years
5. <i>Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty: Area Protection and Management</i>	

(a) Article 3 (Entry into Antarctic Specially Protected Area)	One year
(b) Article 8 (Damaging, removing or destroying a historic site or monument)	Two years
III Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals	
(a) Article 2 (Capturing or killing of seals)	Two years
IV Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	
(a) Article II (Harvesting of marine living resources)	Five years

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