POLAR EXPEDITIONS CLASSIFICATION SCHEME (PECS)

DEFINITIONS AND RULINGS

The Polar Expeditions Classification Scheme is a grading system for extended, unmotorised polar expeditions, crossings or circumnavigations, collectively referred to as Journeys. Polar regions, modes of travel, start and end points, routes and types of support are defined under the scheme and give expeditioners guidance on how to classify, promote and immortalise their journey.

PECS uses three tiers of Designation to grade, label and describe polar journeys - a Label (made up of Label Elements), a Description and a MAP Code. Tiers are only an indication of information density.

PECS does not discriminate between Modes of Travel. Each Mode is classified under the scheme allowing same-mode journeys to be compared while allowing for superficial cross-comparison. PECS is able to accommodate new modes of unmotorised travel as they develop without impacting on labelling or definitions. Journeys using engines or motors for propulsion, for any part of the journey, are not covered by PECS.

PECS concentrates primarily on journeys of more than 400km in Antarctica, Greenland and on the Arctic Ocean however journeys in other polar areas and of less than 400km one-way linear distance that do not include the Poles or significant features on their line of travel may be classified on an informal basis under this scheme. Journeys choosing to use PECS must abide by PECS terminology. Shorter journeys should be labelled accordingly ie. Last Degree South Pole or Double Degree North Pole etc.

All rulings and determinations are at the discretion of the PECS Committee.

CONTENTS

1. GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

Antarctica / South Pole

Antarctica is recognised by the Antarctic Treaty System as 'the area below 60° South Latitude, including all ice shelves'. Ice shelves are an extension of Antarctic land ice and part of Antarctic geography and their outer perimeters, which are fronted by sea or annual sea ice, form part of the Antarctic coastline.

South Pole as an objective is not a requirement under this scheme however a journey must travel at least 50% of its distance south of the 74th parallel.

Image: © National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

All margins are approximate
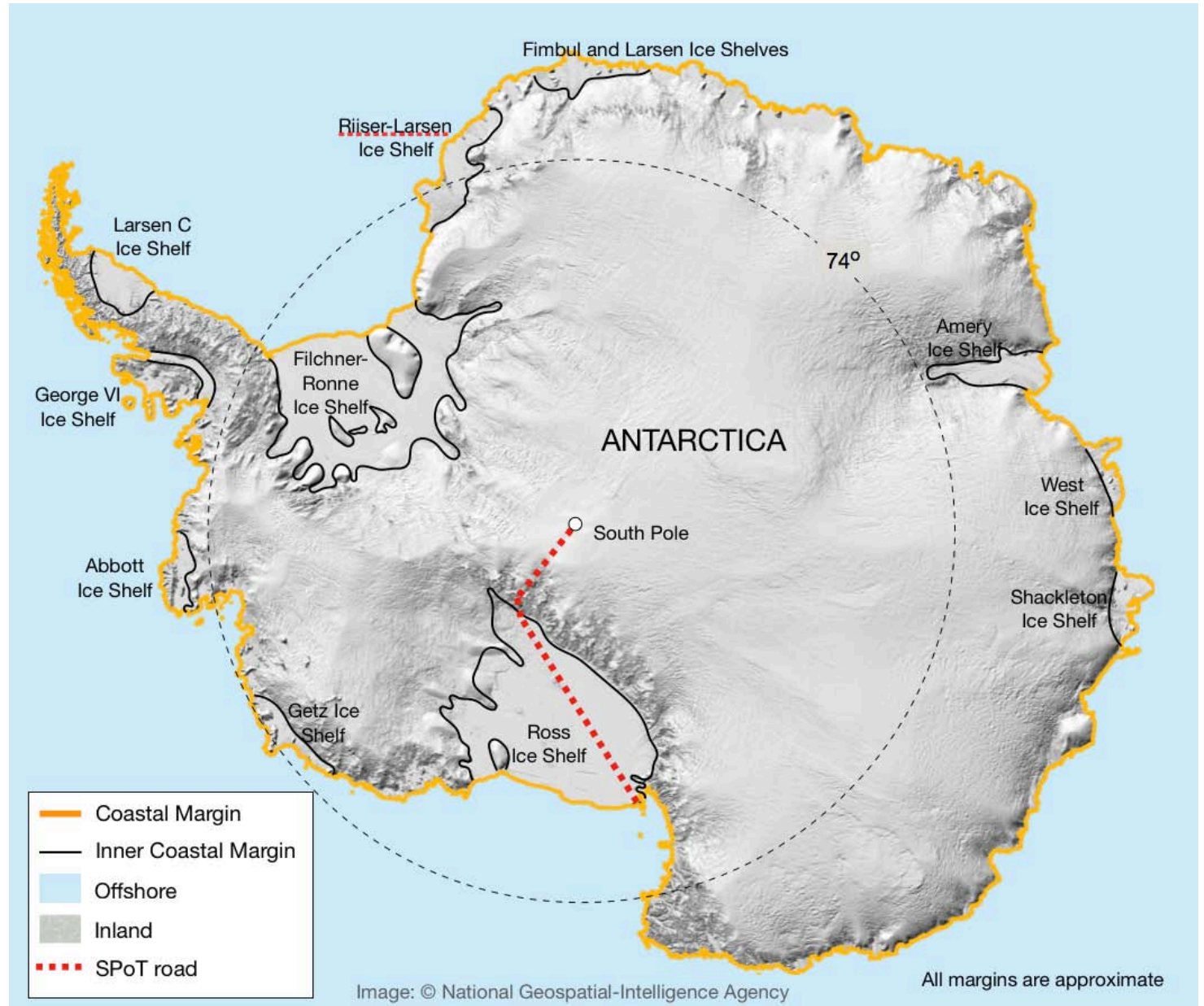
Arctic Ocean / North Pole

Located mostly in the Arctic north polar region in the middle of the Northern Hemisphere, the Arctic Ocean (sometimes referred to as the Arctic Sea) is almost completely surrounded by Eurasia and North America. Arctic Ocean journeys must travel primarily north of the Arctic Circle.

North Pole as an objective is not a requirement under this scheme however a journey must cross the 86th parallel, unless it is a circumnavigation in which case it must cross the 84th parallel.

Greenland - *Kalaallit Nunaat*

Greenland is the world's largest island, located between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans. Three-quarters of Greenland is covered by the world's second largest ice sheet.

Only Greenland crossings and expeditions covering a minimum 400km linear distance and travelling 50% of their distance above 2000m elevation are covered under this scheme.

1000m elevation

Kalaalit
Nunaat
Greenland

—	Coastal Margin
—	Ice Margin
	Ice
	Inland
	Offshore

All margins are approximate
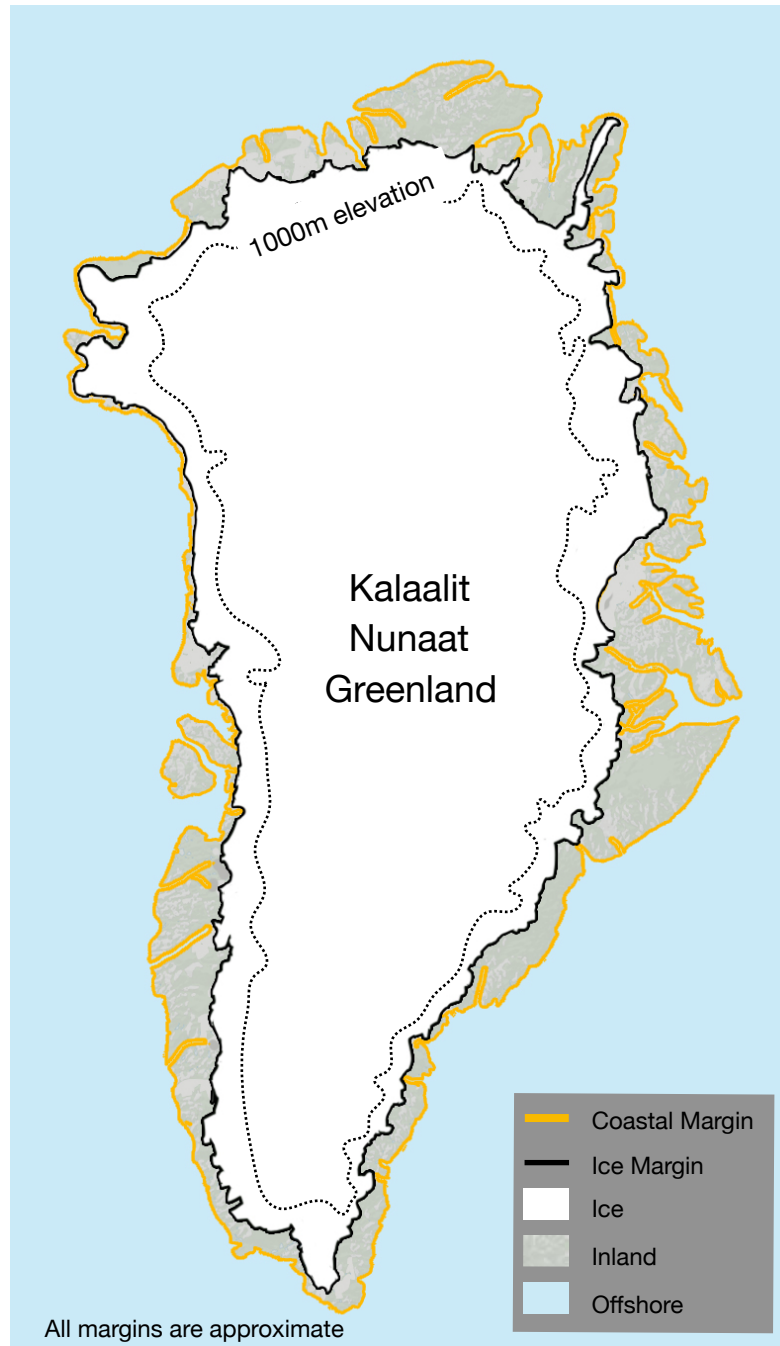
2.   DESIGNATION TIERS

Designation Tiers are levels of information density.

Tier 1: The M.A.P Code
The MAP Code is a quick-reference tool used to compare a journey with past and current journeys, within their own Mode of Travel and geographical region.

Tier 2: The Label
A Label is both an amalgamation of Label Elements (Full, Unsupported, Ski, Expedition, Antarctica etc) and an abbreviated Description. The Label can be used to promote a journey and is the most commonly used and widely distributed tier. A Label gives relevant information by both the use of accepted Label Elements and the absence of accepted Label Elements. For example, **Solo Ski Crossing Of Antarctica**. Using accompanying definitions, it can be determined by this label that: *a manhauler on skis will cross Antarctica alone using an inner coastal start and/or finish and will use the support of resupplies and/or the SPoT road.*
The purest journeys in terms of start/end (Margins) and denial of support (Aid) are awarded the highest classification and may adopt the Elements **Full** and **Unsupported** in their label if they satisfy criteria.
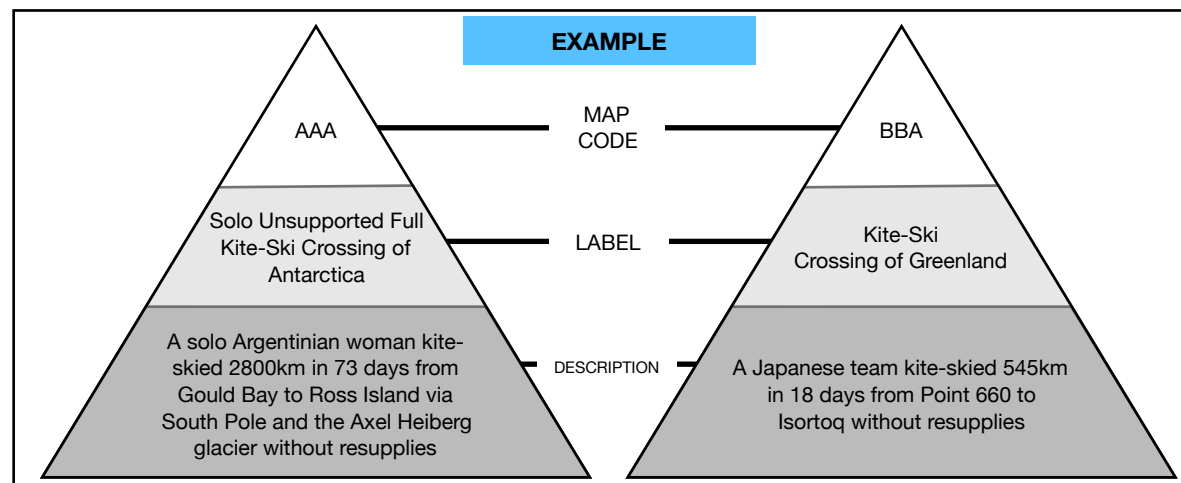Journeys that do not satisfy criteria are acknowledged by the absence of Full and/or Unsupported in their label.

Tier 3: The Description
A Description is a detailed narrative of the journey that includes team size, gender, nationality, location, start and end, trip distance, trip duration, type of support used, if the trip was guided, whether it was held over multiple seasons (discontinuous) and whether it has any historical significance. The narrative should also explain any specific sub-classes of mode ie. fat-bike, wind-sled etc.
A Description should also include a map with intended route.
An example of a description for **Solo Ski Crossing Of Antarctica** could be, *Isabelle Da Rosa will ski 1452km alone from Hercules Inlet to the Ross Ice Shelf via the Reedy Glacier with a resupply at South Pole.*

EXAMPLE

AAA	MAP CODE	BBA
Solo Unsupported Full Kite-Ski Crossing of Antarctica	LABEL	Kite-Ski Crossing of Greenland
A solo Argentinian woman kite-skied 2800km in 73 days from Gould Bay to Ross Island via South Pole and the Axel Heiberg glacier without resupplies	DESCRIPTION	A Japanese team kite-skied 545km in 18 days from Point 660 to Isortoq without resupplies

3. LABELS AND LABEL ELEMENTS

a. Team or Solo
Refers to the number of people at the commencement of a journey

TYPE	DEFINITION - see Glossary for full descriptions	EXAMPLE	LABEL ELEMENT
Team	More than one person at the commencement of a journey	North Pole Expedition	-
Solo	A single person traveling alone for the entire length of a journey	Solo North Pole Expedition	Solo
NOTE	In the absence of Solo in the label, **Team** is assumed.		

b. Mode of Travel
Mode of Travel is the method/s used to move or propel expeditioners on a journey. A journey's Mode of Travel is the sum of its modes irrespective of whether the mode is used by all members. Sub-categories can be listed eg. Fat-Bike, Wind-Sled. Additional Modes may be submitted to PECS.

TYPE	DEFINITION - see Glossary for full descriptions	EXAMPLE
Dogsled	A Mode of Travel using dogs for propulsion	North Pole Dogsled Expedition
Kite-Ski	A Mode of Travel using wind and skiing as propulsion, irrespective of the % of each	Greenland Kite-Ski Crossing
Paddle	A Mode of Travel that uses a watercraft propelled by paddling, as a second mode	North Pole Ski Kayak Expedition
Pedal Drive	A Mode of Travel using a pedal drive device for propulsion	Fat Bike Crossing of Antarctica
Pedal-Ski	A Mode of Travel using a pedal device and skiing as propulsion, irrespective of the % of each	South Pole Bike-Ski Expedition
Row	A Mode of Travel that uses a watercraft propelled by oar-locked paddling	North Pole Row Expedition
Run	A Mode of Travel where a runner uses footwear or snowshoes	South Pole Run
Ski	A Mode of Travel using skis for the majority of a journey	South Pole Ski Expedition
Ski-Paddle	A Mode of Travel combining skiing and paddling for propulsion, irrespective of the % of each	North Pole Ski-Paddle Expedition
Snowkite	A Mode of Travel standing upright on skis and exclusively using wind for propulsion	South Pole Kiting Expedition
Snowsail	A Mode of Travel that uses a craft propelled exclusively by wind	Greenland Snowsail Expedition
Snowshoe	A Mode of Travel using snowshoes as a primary method of locomotion	Arctic Ocean Snowshoe Crossing

c. Margins

Margins are the start and end points of a journey and are characterised by geography.

TYPE	DEFINITION - see Glossary for full descriptions	EXAMPLE	LABEL ELEMENT
Coastal	An Antarctica crossing is a **Full Crossing** if it starts <u>and</u> ends at an opposing coastline fronted by sea or sea ice.	Full Crossing of Antarctica	FULL
	A South Pole expedition is a **Full Expedition** if it starts <u>or</u> ends (reverse) at a coastline fronted by sea or sea ice.	Full South Pole Expedition	
	An Arctic Ocean crossing is a **Full Crossing** if it starts <u>and</u> ends at a coastline or if it gains access to offshore start or end by sea-borne travel, and satisfies Path criteria	Full Arctic Ocean Crossing	
	A North Pole expedition is a **Full Expedition** if it starts <u>or</u> ends (reverse) at a coastline	Full North Pole Expedition	
	A Greenland crossing is a **Full Crossing** if it starts <u>and</u> ends at the sea or annual sea ice	Full Greenland Crossing	
NOTE	A Circumnavigation is regarded as Full if starts <u>and</u> ends at the same point	Antarctic Circumnavigation	
Inner Coastal	An Antarctica crossing is a **Crossing** if it starts and/or ends at an inner coastline	Crossing of Antarctica	-
	A South Pole expedition is an **Expedition** if it starts <u>or</u> ends (reverse) at a coastline fronted by sea or sea ice	North Pole Expedition	
	A Greenland journey is a **Crossing** if it starts <u>or</u> ends at or below the icecap perimeter and is above sea level.	Greenland Crossing	
NOTE	An Arctic Ocean journey is an **Expedition** or **Crossing** if forced to start <u>or</u> end offshore within 50km of land due to ice conditions		
Inland / Offshore / Mid-Ocean	An Antarctic journey is a **Partial Expedition** or **Partial Crossing** if it does not start <u>or</u> end on any coastline	Partial Crossing of Antarctica	PARTIAL
	An Arctic Ocean journey is a **Partial Expedition** or **Partial Crossing** if it starts <u>or</u> ends Mid-Ocean	Partial North Pole Expedition	
	A Greenland journey is a **Partial Expedition** or **Partial Crossing** if it starts <u>or</u> ends above the icecap perimeter	Partial Greenland Crossing	
NOTES	An Arctic Ocean journey is a **Full Expedition** or **Full Crossing** if access is gained to any Mid-Ocean points by sea-borne transport		
	Circumnavigations that do not start and end at the same point are **Partial Circumnavigations**		
	Margins must also satisfy Path criteria		

d. Aid

Aid describes two forms of man-made support - resupplies and use of roads/tracks - both of which facilitate progress irrespective of Mode of Travel.

TYPE	DEFINITION - see Glossary for full descriptions	EXAMPLES	LABEL ELEMENT
Unsupported	Does not receive any external resupply of food and/or equipment, other than caches laid by the expeditioner or team in the course of the journey.	Unsupported South Pole Expedition — Unsupported Crossing of Antarctica	UNSUPPORTED
	Does not use any type of road, vehicle track or marked route, including the Leverett Glacier*.		
NOTE	To be classified as Unsupported a journey must deny use of <u>both</u> types of support for the entire journey		
Supported	If any person receives any external resupply of food and/or equipment	South Pole Expedition	—
	If any person uses any type of road, vehicle track or marked route, including the Leverett Glacier*.	Crossing of Antarctica	
NOTE	A journey is classified as Supported if it receives <u>one or both</u> types of support		
	In the absence of Unsupported in the label, a journey is Supported		
NOTES	* The South Pole Overland Traverse (SPoT) route runs from McMurdo Station across the Ross Ice Shelf, up the Leverett Glacier and across the plateau to the South Pole. The road is permanently flagged and graded at the start of each season. Any similarly graded roads constructed in future will be added as support if used by a journey.		
	Use of satellite phones, weather and ice forecasting and advisers on standby etc. are accepted forms of aid and not deemed as support. In many cases an expedition will not receive logistical aid without multiple means of external communication.		
	A guided journey is not classified as aided as the guide is not being guided and is therefore not aided unless using resupplies or roads. However a journey Description must include reference to it being guided.		

e. Path

A Path is characterised by a journey's route, in association with its start and end points (Margins).

TYPE	DEFINITION - all PATHS must meet MARGIN criteria	EXAMPLE	LABEL ELEMENT
Crossing	A **Crossing** of Antarctica must include a minimum of 1500km in linear distance, reach an altitude of 2000m and have a minimum of 90 degrees of arc between start and end. A crossing may not start and end on the same ice shelf. South Pole is not a **Crossing** requirement however expeditions must travel at least half of their distance south of the 74th parallel	Kite-ski Crossing of Antarctica	CROSSING
	A **Crossing** of the Arctic Ocean must include the North Pole or other significant objective, a minimum of 1500km in linear distance and have a minimum of 90 degrees of arc between start and end. A crossing must start and end in a different country or jurisdiction.	Arctic Ocean Ski Crossing	
	A **Crossing** of Greenland must include a minimum of 400km in linear distance, have a minimum of 90 degrees of arc between start and end and spend half of the distance above 2000m elevation	Greenland Kite-ski Crossing	
Double Crossing	A **Double Crossing** of Greenland must include a minimum of 800km in linear distance, spend half of the distance above 2000m elevation and reach opposing coastlines	Double Crossing of Greenland	DOUBLE CROSSING
Circumnavigation	Antarctica Kite-Ski, Snowkite or Snowsail **Circumnavigations** must travel at least 2800km. All other Modes must travel at least 1800km.	Antarctic Circumnavigation	CIRCUM-NAVIGATION
	Circumnavigations on the Arctic Ocean must travel at least 1800km.	Arctic Ocean Circumnavigation	
	Greenland Kite-Ski, Snowkite or Snowsail **Circumnavigations** must travel at least 2000km. All other Modes must travel at least 1000km.	Greenland Circumnavigation	
NOTE	**Circumnavigational** Paths are also influenced by Margin criteria and distance rulings		

	A South Pole **Expedition** must travel at least 400km and at least 50% of its distance south of the 74th parallel	South Pole Expedition	

Expedition	A North Pole **Expedition** must travel at least 400km, must travel primarily north of the Arctic Circle and must cross the 86th parallel.	North Pole Expedition	EXPEDITION
	A Greenland **Expedition** must travel at least 400km with at least 50% of its distance above 2000m elevation	Greenland Expedition	
Alternate Return Expedition	An **Alternate Return** South Pole or Antarctica expedition travels out and back on a different route, must include a minimum of 1000km in linear distance, reach an altitude of 2000m and have less than 90 degrees of arc between start and end.	Alternate Return South Pole Expedition	ALTERNATE RETURN EXPEDITION
	An **Alternate Return** North Pole or Arctic Ocean expedition must include the North Pole or other significant point, a minimum of 1500km in total linear distance and have less than 90 degrees of arc between start and end	Alternate Return North Pole Expedition	
	An **Alternate Return** of Greenland must include a minimum of 800km in linear distance and have less than 90 degrees of arc between start and end	Alternate Return Greenland Expedition	
Return Expedition	A **Return Expedition** starts and ends at the same point or along the same line, reaching a significant point at its furthermost point. The first half of a Return Expedition must satisfy **Expedition** Path criteria.	Return South Pole Expedition	RETURN EXPEDITION
Reverse Expedition	A **Reverse Expedition** starts at the North or South Pole or other significant feature and ends at or near a coast. For example North Pole to Canada. It must also satisfy **Expedition** Path criteria.	South Pole to Hercules Inlet expedition	REVERSE EXPEDITION
NOTE	Path must also satisfy Margins and distance criteria		

If a pre-journey Label no longer applies post-journey it must be amended to reflect the actual journey.

4. DESCRIPTION - The Expedition Narrative

A Description is a narrative that describes the details of the journey. As well as making reference to Team Size, Mode of Travel, Margins, Aid and Path, a Description should include gender, distance, duration, nationalities, whether it is multi-season (Discontinuous) or uses any Mode of Travel sub-categories eg. Fat-Bike.

A Guided journey must make reference to its guided status in the Description.

If a pre-journey Description no longer applies post-journey it must be amended to reflect the actual narrative.

EXAMPLE Pre-Journey Description	EXAMPLE Post-Journey Description
Stefan Smith (Canada), Elias Gustavsson (Sweden) and Australian guide Sally Roberts will attempt an unsupported Arctic Ocean ski crossing from Cape Arktichevsky to Ward Hunt Island via North Pole.	Stefan Smith (Canada), Elias Gustavsson (Sweden) and Australian guide Sally Roberts skied 925km in 55 days unsupported from Cape Arktichevsky to North Pole.

Map

For clarity the description should also include a labelled map with a route between the start and end points.

Maps of Antarctica should display the ice shelves shaded the same as continental ice.

ANTARCTICA

Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf

Hercules Inlet — South Pole

Ross Ice Shelf

Imagery © 2019 DigitalGlobe, Inc.

ARCTIC OCEAN

North Pole — Ward Hunt Island
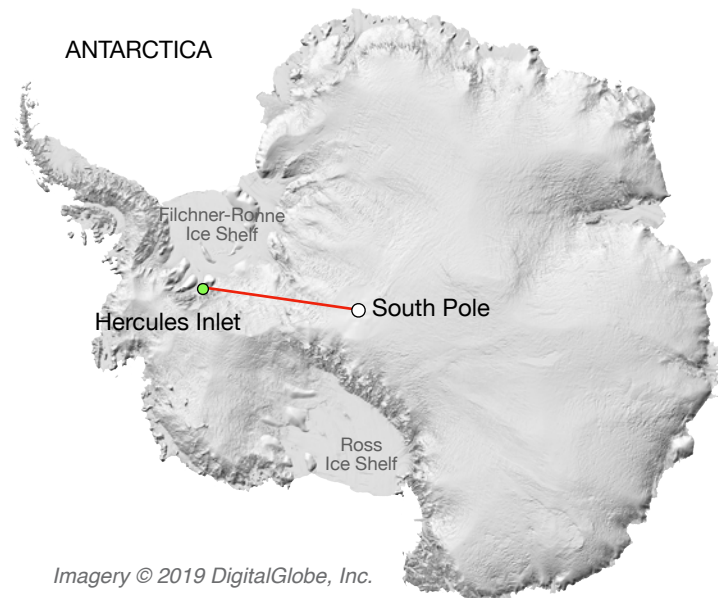
5.   M.A.P. CODE - A quick-reference classification tool

A MAP Code (**M**argin-**A**id-**P**ath) is a visual reference that compares journeys within their own Mode of Travel and geographical region. An individual or team can apply a MAP Code to their journey to determine how it ranks against previous, current and future trips.

If a pre-journey MAP Code no longer applies post-journey it must be amended to reflect the actual journey.

Component 1: M.A.P

A three-letter component indicates the journey's Margins, Aid and Path.

	MARGIN			AID		PATH					B	C	D
CODE	A	B*	C	A	B	A					B	C	D
ELEMENT	Full	(Not Full)	Partial	Unsupported	(Supported)	Crossing	Double Crossing	Alternate Return	Circumnavigation		Return	One-Way	Reverse

* Circumnavigations that do not start and end at the same point are considered Partial but use Margin Code B

EXAMPLE	
BAC	Unsupported South Pole Kite-Ski Expedition

Component 2: Discontinuous Journeys

Any journey conducted over multiple seasons or expeditions is Discontinuous and denoted with a forward slash symbol (/). Discontinuous journeys must be uni-directional.

A Discontinuous journey is Supported.

EXAMPLE	
BBA/	Greenland partial dogsled, ski and kayak circumnavigation

Component 3: Variant journeys

A Variant symbol may be applied after the completion of a journey, either for setting a record held in perpetuity, denoted with a Distinction symbol (+), or for conducting an unauthorised or environmentally reckless journey, denoted with a Misconduct symbol (-).

Variants may be awarded to guided teams.

A Variant may be awarded to a journey at the discretion of the PECS Committee.

	DISTINCTION (a record held in perpetuity)					MISCONDUCT
CODE	+					-
VARIANT	First Route	First Gender	First Mode of Travel	First Unsupported	Discretional	A journey was unauthorised or environmentally reckless

EXAMPLE			
LABEL	CODE	DESCRIPTION	NOTE
Unsupported Full South Pole Ski Expedition	AAC+	Pasang Gombu (Nepal) and Maria Gomez (Mexico) skied unsupported 1389km in 62 days from Bay of Whales via the Liv Glacier to South Pole	The Liv Glacier has never been traversed and represents a new route.

6. EXAMPLES OF PECS CLASSIFICATION (post-journey)

LABEL	DESCRIPTION - First Distinction is underlined	MAP CODE	NOTES
Solo Unsupported Kite-Ski Crossing of Antarctica	Dutchman Tom Kuiper kite-skied 2890km in 68 days solo across Antarctica via a new route from Ronne Ice Shelf (Messner Start) to Bay of Whales via South Pole and Nimrod Glacier without resupplies	BAA+	Not yet achieved
Full North Pole Ski Expedition	Englishman Richard Windsor and Frenchwoman Beatrice Olivier skied 780km in 54 days from Ward Hunt Island to the North Pole with one resupply	ABC	This journey has been achieved.
Unsupported Full South Pole Return Kite-Ski Expedition	Russians Yuri Popov, Bogdan Mendev, Evgeni Turgenev, Ilya Goncharov and Volodya Gorbachev kite-skied unsupported 4400km in 87 days unsupported from Lazarev Ice Shelf to South Pole and back	AAB+	Not yet achieved
South Pole Pedal-Drive Expedition	Jong-hyun Gam (guide), Oh-seong Nae and Sang-jun Hwa from Korea fat-biked 505km up the Leverett Glacier to South Pole without resupplies	BBC	Not yet achieved but supported journeys (use of road) are not awarded Distinctions
Unsupported Full Greenland Ski Crossing	Japanese women Akane Yamada and Fumi Hasegawa skied 570km in 36 days across Greenland from Isortoq to Kangerlussuaq without resupplies	AAA+	Not yet achieved
Ski Crossing of Antarctica	A team of three South African women - Roberta Hoofd (guide), Sam Peters and Carry Anderson - skied 1130km across Antarctica in 72 days from Hercules Inlet to the base of the Leverett Glacier with a resupply at the South Pole	BBA	This journey has been achieved.
Solo Unsupported Full North Pole Ski Crossing	Agustin Núñez from Chile skied solo and unsupported across the Arctic Ocean from Henrietta Island to Cape Columbia via the North Pole with no resupplies	AAA+	Not yet achieved
Reverse Solo Unsupported South Pole Snowkite Expedition	A solo unsupported 1100km ice yacht expedition from South Pole to Hercules Inlet by Australian woman Petra Holdsworthy.	BAD+	Not yet achieved
Full Dogsled-Kayak Circumnavigation of Greenland	A 6741km three-season full discontinuous dogsled and kayak circumnavigation of Greenland by Americans Lonnie Dupre and John Hoelscher	ABA/+	A supported journey (multi-year) but awarded a Discretional Distinction
Solo Unsupported Full North Pole Ski Expedition	Englishwoman Emily Gray skied 915km solo and unsupported from Cape Arktichevsky to the North Pole.	AAC+	Not yet achieved
Unsupported Full Crossing of Antarctica	American woman Xanthea Burgess and Canadian Bob Down skied unsupported 2820km in 88 days across Antarctica from Gould Bay to McMurdo via South Pole	AAA+	Not yet achieved
Circumnavigation of Greenland	Swiss duo Helmut Fischer and Jonas Müller completed a 38-day 2045km kite-ski circumnavigation of the Greenland summit, starting and ending at 68N,45W	AAA	This journey has been achieved.

7.   GLOSSARY

LABEL	MAP CODE	DEFINITION
AID / AIDED see also Support	B	A generic term for support or assistance.
ALTERNATE RETURN	A	A Path that travels out and back on a different route. The route has less than 90 degrees of arc between start and end or it starts and ends on the same ice shelf.
ANTARCTICA		Antarctica is recognised by the Antarctic Treaty System as 'the area below 60 degrees south latitude, including all ice shelves'. Ice shelves are an extension of Antarctic land ice and part of Antarctic geography and their outer perimeters, which are fronted by sea or annual sea ice, form part of the Antarctic coastline.
ARCTIC OCEAN		The Arctic Ocean (sometimes referred to as the Arctic Sea) is located mostly in the Arctic north polar region in the middle of the Northern Hemisphere and is almost completely surrounded by Eurasia and North America
ASSISTANCE / ASSISTED		A previous label used to describe the use of wind energy for propulsion. If Assisted is used by a journey the definition of 'Supported' will be applied.
CIRCUMNAVIGATION see also Partial Circumnavigation and Full Circumnavigation	A	A unidirectional Path that encircles a significant feature and starts and ends at the same point. Margins of a Circumnavigation are Not Full. Antarctica Kite-Ski or Snowkite Circumnavigations must travel at least 2800km. All other Modes must travel at least 1800km. Arctic Ocean Circumnavigations must travel at least 1800km Greenland Kite-Ski, Snowkite or snowsail Circumnavigations must travel at least 2000km. All other Modes must travel at least 1000km.
COASTAL / COASTLINE see also Outer Coastal	A	A Margin fronted by sea or annual sea ice. A nautical coastline. A Coastal Margin in Antarctica is an Outer Coastline. Sea or sea ice in Antarctica may not always be reachable. For example the edges of many ice shelves are sheer cliff or heavy crevassing may prevent access in which case a journey should start/end as close as practically possible and should be within 500 metres of sea or annual sea ice. A Coastal Margin on the Arctic Ocean is anywhere on land or ice-covered land A Coastal Margin in Greenland is sea level

LABEL	MAP CODE	DEFINITION
CROSSING see also Full Crossing	A	A Path that crosses from one edge to another via a significant point. Traverse is sometimes used as an alternative however Crossing is the preferred terminology and where Traverse is used, the Crossing definition will be applied.
		A Crossing of Antarctica is a Path that must include a minimum of 1500km in linear distance, reach an altitude of 2000m and have a minimum of 90 degrees of arc between start and end, except between the Ross and Flichner-Ronne Ice Shelves. A crossing may not start and end on the same ice shelf. South Pole is not a Crossing requirement however journeys must travel at least half of their distance south of the 74th parallel.
		A Crossing of the Arctic Ocean is a Path that must include a minimum of 1500km in linear distance and have a minimum of 90 degrees of arc between start and end. North Pole is not a Crossing requirement however journeys must cross the 86th parallel.
		A Crossing of Greenland is a Path that must include a minimum of 400km in linear distance, have a minimum of 90 degrees of arc between start and end and spend half of the distance above 1000m elevation
DISCONTINUOUS	/	A journey across multiple seasons. Not continuous. A discontinuous journey is Supported.
DISTINCTION	+	A Variant unsupported journey that has achieved a first gender, first route, first mode of travel or first unsupported. A Distinction may also be awarded at the discretion of the PECS Committee.
DOGSLED		A Mode of Travel using dogs for propulsion
DOUBLE CROSSING	A	A Path that crosses Greenland and returns to the original coastline or ice edge
EXPEDITION see also Full Expedition		A One-Way, Reverse, Return or Alternate Return Antarctic journey that satisfies Margin and Path criteria
		A One-Way, Reverse, Return or Alternate Return Arctic Ocean journey that satisfies Margin and Path criteria
		A Greenland journey that does not cross the island or icecap and satisfies Margin and Path criteria
		Expedition may also be used as a generalised term for a journey, such as used in Polar Expeditions Classifications Scheme.
FIRST MODE	+	The first person or expedition to complete a journey using a new Mode of Travel. Must also be Unsupported.
FIRST PERSON	+	The first person or journey to complete a new route or new mode of travel, or first gender. Must also be Unsupported.
FIRST ROUTE / NEW ROUTE / NEW PATH	+	In Antarctica a First or New Route is one that pioneers a glacier or ice stream of 40km minimum length between a coastline and the plateau or follows a line more than 5 degrees of longitude from any other route. Must also be Unsupported.
		On the Arctic Ocean a First or New Route follows a path more than 10 degrees of longitude from any other route. Must also be Unsupported.
		In Greenland a First or New Route is one that pioneers a primary glacier or ice stream between a coastline and the plateau or follows a line that is distinctly different to any existing route. Must also be Unsupported.

LABEL	MAP CODE	DEFINITION
FULL	A	A term used to denote an Antarctic, Greenland or Arctic Ocean Expedition or Crossing that uses only coastal Margins.
		A term used to denote an Antarctic or Greenland unidirectional Circumnavigation that primarily follows a coastline and starts and ends at the same point
		A term used to denote an Arctic Ocean unidirectional Circumnavigation that touches land in Greenland, Canada, USA, Henrietta or New Siberia Islands, Severnaya Zemlya, Franz Josef Land and Svalbard, and starts and ends at the same point
FULL CIRCUMNAVIGATION see also Partial Circumnavigation and Circumnavigation	A	A unidirectional Path that primarily follows the coast of Antarctica and starts and ends at the same point. May be discontinuous (multi-season).
	A	A unidirectional Path touches land in Greenland, Canada, USA, Henrietta or New Siberia Islands, Severnaya Zemlya, Franz Josef Land and Svalbard, and starts and ends at the same point. May be discontinuous (multi-season).
		A unidirectional Path that primarily follows the coast of Greenland and starts and ends at the same point. May be discontinuous (multi-season).
FULL CROSSING	A	A Path across Antarctica that starts <u>and</u> ends at a coastline within natural sight of sea or annual sea ice and travels at least 50% of its distance south of the 74th parallel
		A Path across the Arctic Ocean that starts <u>and</u> ends on land and crosses the 86th parallel. Crossings using seaborne access and exit must cover a minimum distance of 1500km.
		A Path across Greenland that starts <u>and</u> ends at sea level and travels 50% of its distance above 2000m elevation
FULL EXPEDITION	A	A Full One-Way, Reverse, Return or Alternate Return Antarctic journey that satisfies Margin and Path criteria
		A Full One-Way, Reverse, Return or Alternate Return Arctic Ocean journey that satisfies Margin and Path criteria
		A Full Greenland journey that does not cross the island or icecap and satisfies Margin and Path criteria
GREENLAND		Greenland is the world's largest island, located between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans. Three-quarters of Greenland is covered by the world's second largest ice sheet.
GUIDED		A guided journey is one that uses a guide or guides to manage and lead a team while the journey is underway. Guides often plan unique and committing journeys for their clients and as such a Guided journey is not classified as Supported unless it benefits from resupplies or roads. A Guided journey must make reference to its guided status in either the Label or Description.
INLAND ICE		A term often used too describe the Greenland icecap
INLAND / INSIDE	C	A Margin in Greenland or Antarctica that does not start or end on any coastline

LABEL	MAP CODE	DEFINITION
INNER COASTAL / INNER COASTLINE see also Coastal and Outer Coastal	B	A Margin in Antarctica bordered by ice shelf that is not within natural sight of sea or annual sea ice.
JOURNEY		A general term for an expedition or crossing
KAYAK		A Mode of Travel that uses a watercraft propelled by paddling. Only applicable when combined with an on-ice Mode
KITE (see also Snowkite)		A Mode of Travel exclusively using wind for propulsion and standing upright on skis
KITE-SKI		A Mode of Travel using wind and skiing as propulsion, irrespective of the % of each. If a Snowkite journey takes ski skins then it has prepared itself to be a Kite-Ski journey.
LABEL		An abbreviated description made up of Label Elements used to promote a journey
LABEL ELEMENT		A Label component ie. Unsupported, Crossing, Full, Ski etc
LEVERETT GLACIER	B	The South Pole Overland Traverse (SPoT) route runs from McMurdo Station across the Ross Ice Shelf, up the Leverett Glacier and across the plateau to the South Pole. The road is permanently flagged and graded at the start of each season. Any journey using the Leverett Glacier significantly mitigates risk and is therefore classified as Supported irrespective of whether it uses the SPoT road or not.
LINEAR DISTANCE		The distance between start and end points plus major deviations that does not include accumulated distances around obstacles such as sastrugi fields or open water. A direct line or accumulated circumnavigation.
MANHAULING		Traditional and common method of using human power to haul supplies and equipment on a sled, most commonly on skis
MAP CODE		A shorthand classification tool used to compare journeys within their own Mode of Travel and geographical region
MARGINS		The start and end points of a journey, characterised by geography
MECHANISED / MOTORISED		Journeys using engines or motors for propulsion, for any part of the journey. Such journeys are not covered by PECS.
MID-OCEAN		A Margin on the Arctic Ocean. If a journey gains a Mid-Ocean Margin by sea-borne transport it may be FULL if other Margins and Path criteria are met.
MISCONDUCT	-	A Variant journey that is unauthorised or environmentally reckless, denoted with a (-)
MODE OF TRAVEL		An unmotorised method of travelling across ice or snow.
NEW ROUTE	+	See First Route

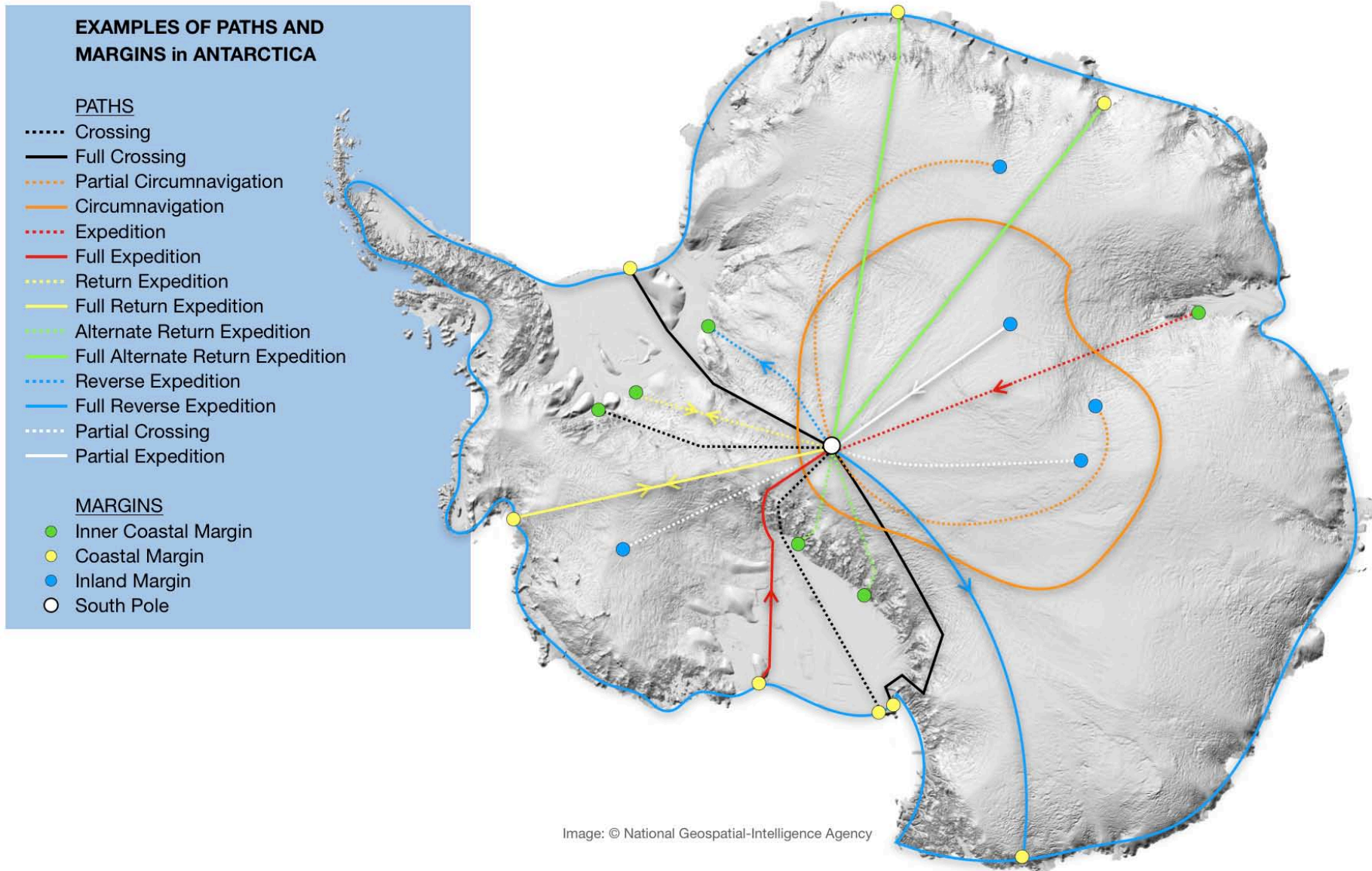| LABEL	MAP CODE	DEFINITION
NORTH POLE		The Geographic North Pole. Defined as the point in the Northern Hemisphere where the Earth's axis of rotation meets its surface.
OFFSHORE		A Margin on sea or annual sea ice
ONE-WAY	C	A Path that travels from a coastline to a pole or other significant feature
OUTER COASTAL / OUTER COASTLINE see also Coastal and Inner Coastal	A	An Antarctic coastal Margin fronted by sea or annual sea ice. A Nautical Coastline
		An Outer Coastline in Antarctica is referred to as a Coast or Coastline
		Sea or sea ice may not always be reachable. For example the edges of many ice shelves are sheer cliff or heavy crevassing may prevent access in which case a journey should start/end as close as practically possible and should be within 500 metres of sea or annual sea ice.
PARTIAL	B or C	A journey whose Margin does not start or end on a coastline. Also pertains to a Circumnavigation that starts and ends at a different point.
PARTIAL CIRCUMNAVIGATION see also Circumnavigation and Full Circumnavigation	B	A unidirectional Path that encircles a significant feature but does not start and end at the same point.
		Margins of a Partial Circumnavigation are Not Full
		Distance requirements are as for Circumnavigations
PATH		A journey's route between start and end
PEDAL-DRIVE		A Mode of Travel using a pedal-drive device for propulsion
PEDAL-SKI		A Mode of Travel using a pedal device and skiing as propulsion, irrespective of the % of each.
RESUPPLY	B	A form of Support where a journey benefits from an external resupply, cache or depot of food and/or equipment. Evacuation of a team member is a form of resupply.
RETURN	B	A Path that starts and ends at the same point or along the same line, reaching a significant feature or location at its furthermost point
REVERSE	C	A one-way Path that starts at the North or South Pole or other significant feature and ends at or near a coastline.
ROAD	B	Any type of road, vehicle track or marked route. Unsupported journeys may not travel on roads except for short distances when crossing such tracks or following regulated and directed routes into, out of or around bases, stations and camps. The most prominent road is the SPoT Road however there are often very obvious tracks left by ALE vehicles that run from Union Glacier to South Pole via Thiel Corner, much of it on the common Hercules Inlet to South Pole route.
ROUTE		A line of travel described by a journey's Path and Margins
ROW		A Mode of Travel that uses a watercraft propelled by oar-locked paddling. Only applicable when combined with an on-ice Mode
RUN		A Mode of Travel where a runner uses footwear or snowshoes

LABEL	MAP CODE	DEFINITION
SELF-SUPPLIED		A journey that caches food and or equipment en route that was part of the original load, and collects those same supplies on the return journey. Such a journey is Unsupported unless it fails to retrieve all of its caches, in which case it receives a Misconduct designation.
SKI		A Mode of Travel using skis for the majority of a journey. Use of footwear, crampons or flotation devices may be used for short portions of the journey.
SKI-SAIL		A Mode of Travel combining sailing and skiing as propulsion, irrespective of the % of each.
SNOWKITE		A Mode of Travel standing upright on skis and exclusively using wind for propulsion
SNOWSAIL		A Mode of Travel that that uses a craft propelled exclusively by wind
SNOWSHOE		A Mode of Travel using snowshoes as a primary method of locomotion
SOLAR		A journey relying exclusively on the sun's energy for propulsion
SOLO		A single person traveling alone for the entire length of a journey. Between start and end an expeditioner may not enter any buildings, vehicles or aircraft, or tents other than their own. In the absence of Solo in a label, Team will be assumed.
SOUTH POLE		The Geographic South Pole. Defined as the point in the Southern Hemisphere where the Earth's axis of rotation meets its surface.
SPoT ROAD	B	The South Pole Overland Traverse (SPoT) route runs from McMurdo Station across the Ross Ice Shelf, up the Leverett Glacier and across the plateau to the South Pole. The road is permanently flagged and graded at the start of each season. Any similarly graded and marked roads constructed in future will be added as Supported.
SUPPORTED	B	An external resupply, cache or depot of food and/or equipment. An evacuation of a team member is a form of support
		Use of any type of road, vehicle track or marked route, or travels within 2km either side of any such route, except for short distances when crossing such tracks or following regulated and directed routes into, out of or around bases, stations and camps.
		A journey using the Leverett Glacier route is classified as Supported irrespective of whether it uses the SPoT road or not
		A journey using resupplies or roads is Supported
		Terms such as Aid and Assistance are absorbed by this definition
TEAM		More than one person at the commencement of the journey. In the absence of Solo in the label, Team will be assumed.
TRAVERSE		An alternative terminology for a Crossing. Crossing is the preferred terminology and where Traverse is used, the Crossing definition will be applied.
UNAIDED		A previous label used to describe a journey that did not benefit from various forms of support such as resupplies. If Unaided is used by a journey the definition of 'Unsupported' will be applied.

LABEL	MAP CODE	DEFINITION
UNASSISTED		A previous label used to describe a journey that does not use wind energy for propulsion. If Unassisted is used by a journey the definition of 'Unsupported' will be applied.
UNMECHANISED / UNMOTORISED		Journeys that do not use engines or motors for propulsion, for any part of the journey
UNSUPPORTED	A	A journey does not receive any external resupply of food and/or equipment, other than self-laid depots cached during the course of the journey, and does not require any members to be evacuated. A journey does not use any type of road, vehicle track or marked route, nor travel within 2km either side of any such route, except for short distances when crossing such tracks or following regulated and directed routes into, out of or around bases, stations and camps. Any journey using the Leverett Glacier route is not classified as Unsupported irrespective of whether it uses the SPoT road or not. A journey must deny the use of both resupplies and roads in order to be classified as Unsupported. In the absence of the term Unsupported in the Label, a journey is supported. Terms such as Unaided and Unassisted are absorbed by this definition.
VARIANT	+ or -	Part of a MAP Code that denotes a journey with a Distinction (+) or Misconduct (-) symbol

8. MAPS

a. Examples of Paths and Margins in Antarctica

EXAMPLES OF PATHS AND MARGINS in ANTARCTICA

PATHS
- ...... Crossing
- —— Full Crossing
- ...... Partial Circumnavigation
- —— Circumnavigation
- ...... Expedition
- —— Full Expedition
- ...... Return Expedition
- —— Full Return Expedition
- ...... Alternate Return Expedition
- —— Full Alternate Return Expedition
- ...... Reverse Expedition
- —— Full Reverse Expedition
- ...... Partial Crossing
- —— Partial Expedition

MARGINS
- 🟢 Inner Coastal Margin
- 🟡 Coastal Margin
- 🔵 Inland Margin
- ⚪ South Pole

Image: © National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

b. Examples of Paths and Margins on the Arctic Ocean

EXAMPLES OF PATHS AND MARGINS on the ARCTIC OCEAN

PATHS
- - - - Partial Crossing
- - - - Crossing
───── Full Crossing
───── Partial Expedition
- - - - Expedition
───── Full Expedition
- - - - Return Expedition
───── Full Return Expedition
- - - - Alternate Return Expedition
───── Full Alternate Return Expedition
- - - - Reverse Expedition
───── Full Reverse Expedition
- - - - Partial Circumnavigation
───── Circumnavigation
───── Full Circumnavigation

MARGINS
- ○ Coastal Margin
- ○ Offshore Margin
- ○ Mid-Ocean Margin (not including North Pole)
- ○ North Pole

NOTE: A Full Crossing or Full Expedition may start Mid-Ocean if access is gained to any mid-ocean points by sea-borne transport

c. Examples of Paths and Margins in Greenland

EXAMPLES OF PATHS AND MARGINS in GREENLAND

PATHS
- Partial Crossing
- Crossing
- Full Crossing
- Double Crossing
- Full Double Crossing
- Partial Circumnavigation
- Circumnavigation
- Full Circumnavigation
- Partial Expedition
- Expedition
- Full Expedition
- Return Expedition
- Full Return Expedition
- Alternate Return Expedition
- Full Alternate Return Expedition
- Reverse Expedition
- Full Reverse Expedition

MARGINS
- Inner Coastal Margin
- Coastal Margin
- Inland Margin
- Summit

SUMMIT