



Antarctic Environments Portal - giving your research policy impact

Birgit Njåstad, Norwegian Polar Institute

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Linking Antarctic science with environmental protection: Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Madrid Protocol



Outline

- **Reminder:** The Antarctic Environments Portal (**environments.aq**)
- **Motivation:** The importance of evidence based policy making
- **Challenges:** Seen from the policy makers' perspective and the scientists' perspective
- **(one) Solution:** The Antarctic Environments Portal meeting the challenge





Overview

The Antarctic Environments Portal provides a link between Antarctic science and Antarctic policy. Science-based information on the priority issues identified by the Antarctic Treaty System's Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) is presented. Information in the Portal supports CEP discussions and the development of advice and recommendations to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on environmental protection. The Portal also supports Antarctic scientists, particularly through the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to provide independent, scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty System including to bring emerging issues to the attention of policy makers. The information available through the Portal is based on published, peer-reviewed science and has been through a rigorous review and editorial process.



The introduction of non-native species to Antarctica

Antarctica's biodiversity and its intrinsic values are at risk from the introduction of non-native species, ...

Interactive Map...

Information Summaries

Emerging Issues

What's Changed

Biodiversity knowledge	03/04/2014
Human disturbance to Antarctic wildlife	03/04/2014
The introduction of non-native species to Antarctica	09/04/2014
Special protection areas in Antarctica	09/04/2014
Special protection areas in Antarctica	04/04/2014

Current Priority Issues



The introduction of non-native species to Antarctica

[More...](#)

Global pressure: climate change

[More...](#)

Marine spatial protection and management

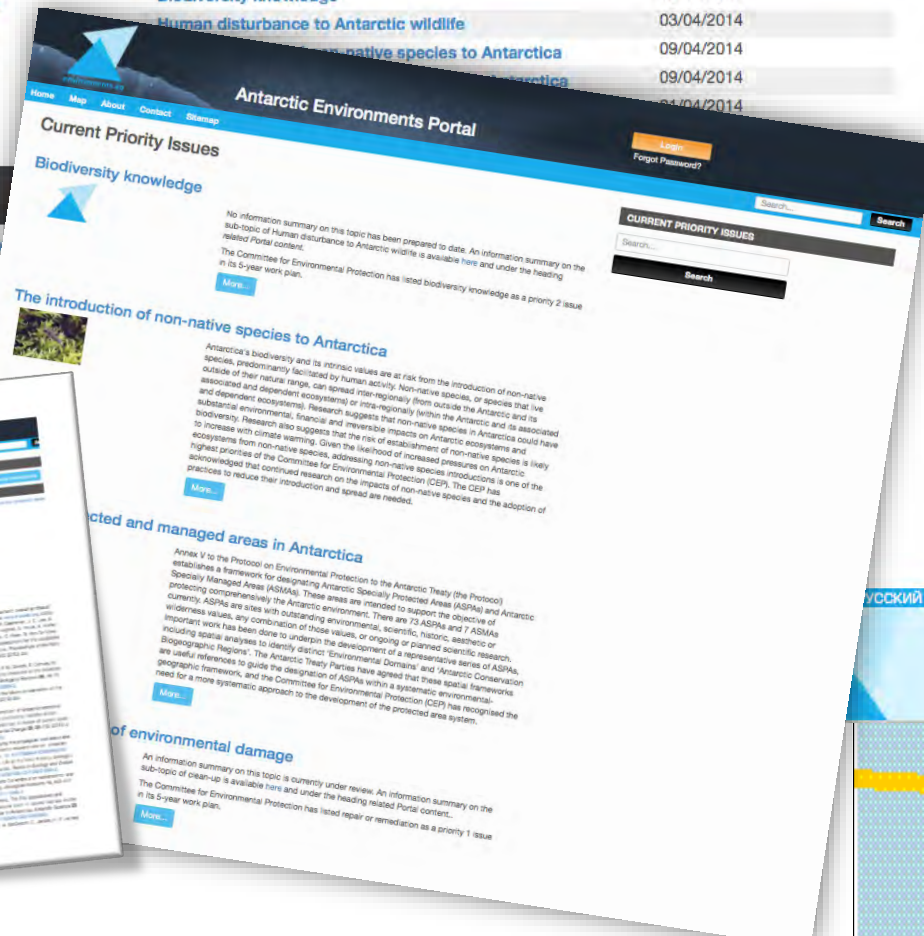
[More...](#)

Human footprint / wilderness

Tourism and non-go activities

[More...](#)

Special protection areas in Antarctica

[More...](#)

Current Priority Issues

Biodiversity knowledge

No information summary on this topic has been prepared to date. An information summary on the sub-topic of Human disturbance to Antarctic wildlife is available here and under the heading in its 5-year work plan.

[More...](#)

The introduction of non-native species to Antarctica

Antarctica's biodiversity and its intrinsic values are at risk from the introduction of non-native species, predominantly facilitated by human activity. Non-native species, or species that live outside of their natural range, can spread inter-regionally (from outside the Antarctic and its associated and dependent ecosystems) or intra-regionally (within the Antarctic and its associated and dependent ecosystems). Research suggests that non-native species in Antarctica could have substantial environmental, financial and irreversible impacts on Antarctic ecosystems and biodiversity. Research also suggests that non-native species in Antarctica could have to increase with climate warming. Given the likelihood of increased pressures on Antarctic ecosystems from non-native species, addressing non-native species introductions is likely to be a high priority for the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP). The CEP has acknowledged that continued research on the impacts of non-native species and the adoption of practices to reduce their introduction and spread are needed.

[More...](#)

Protected and managed areas in Antarctica

Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Protocol) establishes a framework for designating Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs). These areas are intended to support the objective of protecting comprehensively the Antarctic environment. There are 12 ASPAs and 7 ASMAs currently. ASPAs are sites with outstanding environmental, scientific, historic, aesthetic or wilderness values, any combination of those values, or ongoing or planned scientific research. Important work has been done to underpin the development of a representative series of ASPAs, including spatial analyses to identify distinct 'Environmental Domains' and 'Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions'. The Antarctic Treaty Parties have agreed that these spatial frameworks are useful references to guide the designation of ASPAs within a systematic framework geographic framework, and the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) has recognised the need for a more systematic approach to the development of the protected area system.

[More...](#)

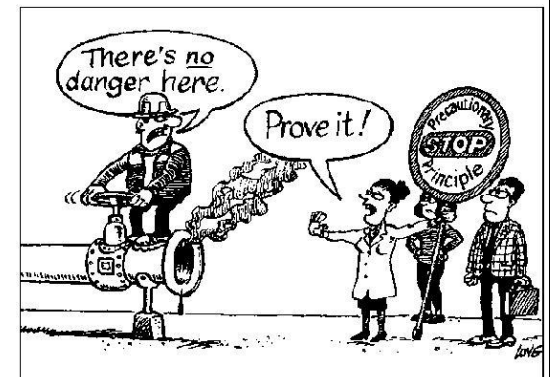
Repair of environmental damage

An information summary on this topic is currently under review. An information summary on the sub-topic of clean-up is available here and under the heading related Portal content.

[More...](#)

Policy making

- **Policy making:** reduce and extract from information, a policy or a set of policies which serve to promote the overarching aim
- **Policy framework:** the Environmental Protocol as an important policy framework in Antarctica
- **Balancing interests:** competing policy interests and competing user interests
- **Information requirement:** precautionary ⇔ experience ⇔ evidence based





Shaping Antarctic environmental policy

- The Environmental Protocol's **invitation** to the science community to contribute
- **SCAR**'s special role in moving science into the policy realm
- A high number of **adopted decisions** aiming to protect the Antarctic environment
- Continued strengthening of the **interface between science and policy making** is required

2. In carrying out its functions, the Committee shall, as appropriate, consult with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and other relevant scientific, environmental and technical organizations.

The policy makers' challenge

- The piecemeal production of knowledge
- The rapidly increasing amount of knowledge
- Scientific results being published for scientific use
- The need for the collated «full picture»





The scientists' challenge

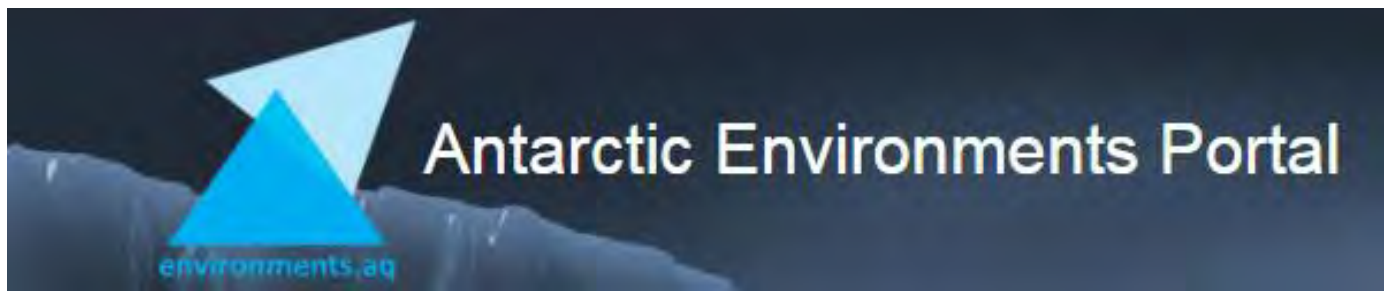
- Increasing scientific understanding is a step by step process
- Results are (visibly) credited through scientific publication and citation
- Incentives are few (with exceptions) to cater to other arenas
- Non-scientific users (eg. policy makers) ignore uncertainties and shy away from (important) details





AEP meeting the challenge

- Providing policy makers with a fuller picture in a format that can be used readily.
- Rigerous editorial process ensuring access to balanced scientific evidence
- Referable articles
- Visualizing policy impact





Contribute to the Portal – Give your science policy impact

- Scientific evidence essential for sound and robust management decisions
- It is a challenge to find efficient ways to communicate science for this purpose
- The packaging of the evidence is an important aspect of the art.
- Antarctic Environments Portal provides an already existing and accepted mechanism





Thank you for your attention!

