

BE-Polar Conference 2025 abstract submission

Title: How to link science and policy for the environmental protection of the Antarctic continent ?

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Abstract (max 150 words):

Antarctica is a continent dedicated to peace and science since the signature of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. However, an elaborated environmental protection for the continent only dates from the Protocol on Environmental Protection, an annex which was signed in 1991. This Protocol includes 6 Annexes regulating the Environmental Impact Assessments and permits, the waste handling, the area and species protection, etc. During Annual meetings, the environmental questions are discussed between Parties, Observers and Experts, on the basis of the best possible scientific evidences. The scientists' role is important, and there are organisations (e.g. SCAR) and initiatives (e.g. Antarctic Environments Portal, <https://environments.aq/>) that aims to strengthen the link between scientists and policy-makers. A better communication of policy priorities would help scientists to better contribute with policy-relevant data, and to participate to the environmental protection.