

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

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Background:

The Protocol on Environmental Protection is an annex to the Antarctic Treaty. Policy decisions should be based on the **best scientific data available**, and policy-makers are eager to have access to up-to-date and high quality information. **Scientists are on the frontline** to gather relevant data, though their primary aim is to publish in international refereed journals. During the review process, the data are scrutinized and quality-checked, and thus, their usefulness for **policy-making** should be also considered. They might be useful to inform conservation measures or document processes that could impact biodiversity, for example.

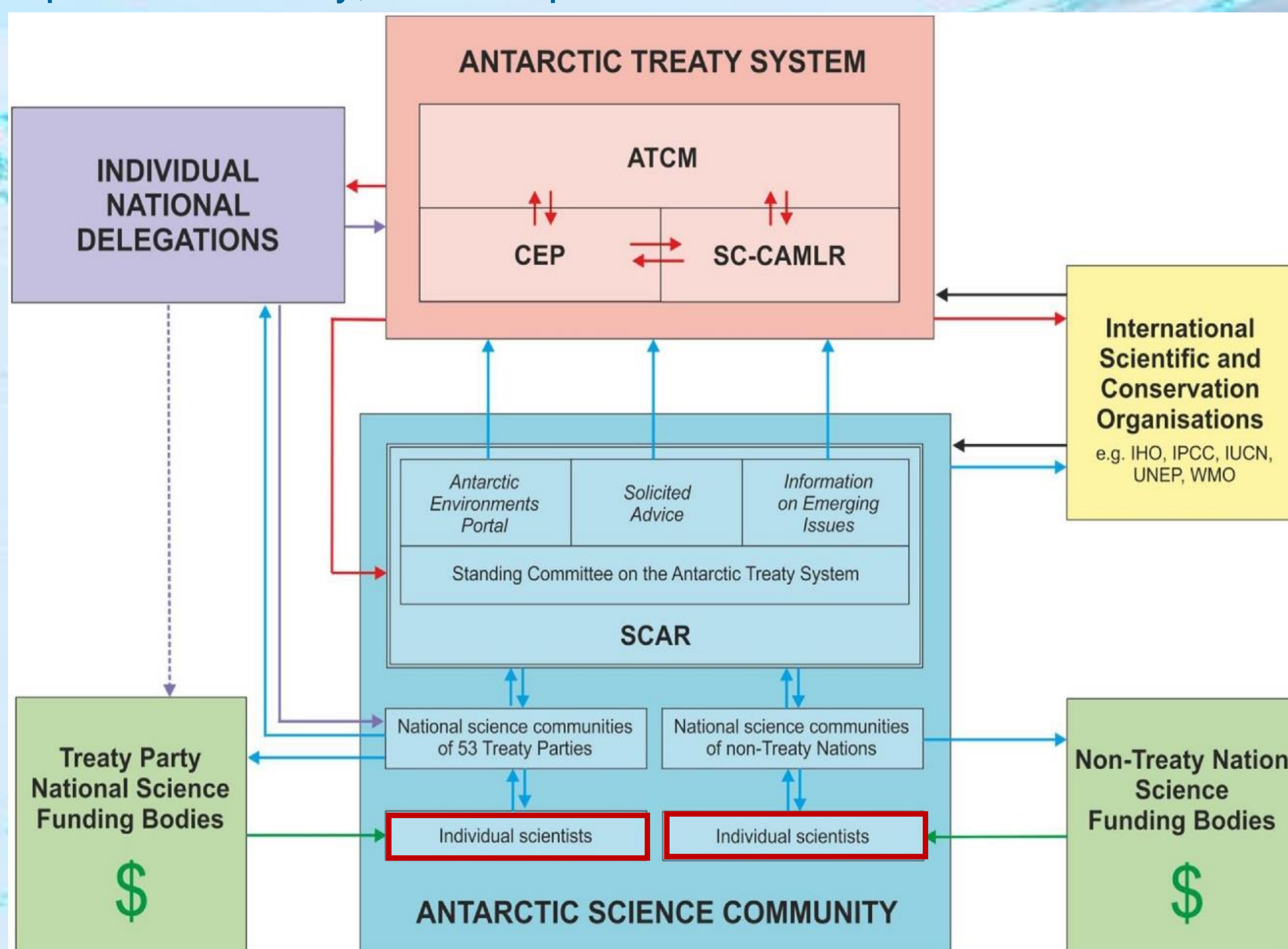


Fig.1. Structure of the science-policy dialogue in the context of Antarctic environmental protection.

Hughes et al (2018) Antarctic environmental protection: Strengthening the links between science and governance. *Environmental Science and Policy* 83 (pp. 86-95) - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2018.02.006>

Which are the strategies for an **effective science-to-policy link** within the context of Antarctic environmental protection?

Here, three main ways to reach policy-makers are presented (Fig. 1):

- ✓ Through the **Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)**. SCAR has a special committee for the interactions with the Antarctic Treaty System (SCATS - <https://scar.org/policy/sc-ats>);
- ✓ Through your **National Delegates to the Committee on Environmental Protection** (<https://www.ats.aq/devAS/Ats/ContactPoints?lang=e>).
- ✓ By writing a topic summary for the **Antarctic Environments Portal** (www.environments.aq) to help policy makers. These short texts should present the state of the art of the research data and be purely factual. They are submitted to a thorough reviewing process.

Do not hesitate to contact the authors of this poster who participated to the Belgian delegation at the 27th CEP meeting in Italy in 2025: Elie.Verleyen@UGent.be, awilmotte@uliege.be

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