

# Ant Eco

State of the Antarctic Ecosystem



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Milestones and deliverables of AntEco are structured around three overarching inter-disciplinary questions:

- How has Antarctic biodiversity evolved in response to past environmental change and what does this tell us about its capacity to respond to future changes?
- What are the systematic and environmental geographic features of Antarctic biodiversity, and what mechanisms underpin the current distribution and abundance of biodiversity?
- Given the evolved geographic distribution of diversity and forecast threats, what conservation actions are required for the preservation of biodiversity, and mitigation of, and adaptation to, change?



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AntEco answers these questions through 5 research sectors:

- Spatial ecology
- Molecular ecology and evolution
- Ecoinformatics and systems biology
- Paleoecology
- Impacts, trends and conservation



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## This year

- Cross-Program SCAR workshop on ‘Interactions between biological and climate processes in the Antarctic’ was held in September 2015 in Barcelona, Spain.
- SO-AntEco Expedition to the South Orkney Islands.
- Multiple Ant-Eco sessions and workshops at the OSC.
- Support for early career scientists at the ‘VIII Southern Connection Congress 2016’, the SO-AntEco expedition and the SCAR OSC.



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# SO-AntEco

- 22 participants, 9 countries and 16 institutes
- 8 dedicated places for early career researchers
- Research and monitoring required by CCAMLR to inform and support the management of Marine Protected Areas
- *#SOAntEco* hashtag reaching an audience of over one million twitter users



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## Budget

- 2015-16 funds fully spent
  - Cross program workshop - Barcelona
  - ANTOS workshop
  - ECR support for conference attendance
  - VII Southern Connection workshop
  - Supporting spatial analyses and microbiome workshops
  - Supporting mid career / established researchers to attend OSC
  - Supporting ECRS to attend OSC



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## External Review

- AntEco Received very positive reviews:
  - impressive publication list
  - exceptional value for money
  - good progress with the assessment of impacts
  - Biogeographic Atlas is an outstanding contribution to Antarctic science and conservation
- Emphasis on synthesis for the future





## External Review

- The AntEco committee believes that SCAR should centrally co-ordinate activities such as:
  - Collating education materials
  - Media & publicity
  - Stimulating interactions with members with less well-developed Antarctic Programs

And supports the provision of additional funds and person time to do so.





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## Future

- Supporting and adding value to existing conferences (e.g. SCAR OSC, SCAR Biology, Polar Gordon Research Conference and Gordon Research Seminar)
- We will continue to encourage and support early career scientists
- Supporting meetings and workshops that seek to build new collaborations
- A workshop or symposium dedicated to synthesis of the new information amassed by AntEco

