Protection for a pristine area in the Southern Ocean - The Weddell Sea Marine Protected Area project -

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Background information

The strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity provides for the designation of at least 10% of coastal and offshore marine areas as MPAs worldwide by 2020 (CBD, 2010). Currently, the ocean covered by protected areas is almost 8%, but many MPAs are relatively small. The Weddell Sea MPA (WSMPA) project offers the opportunity to contribute a large MPA to the global network, and the unspoiled state of the Weddell Sea makes its conservation all the more urgent.

Relevant stakeholders

Perspectives

There is currently no consensus in the CAMLR Commission on the WSMPA proposal. Some CCAMLR members feel threatened by the establishment of the WSMPA in their fishing activities.

For the future, it is to be hoped that a scientifically sound and politically coordinated WSMPA proposal will be finally adopted by CCAMLR.