

**Category**

EN Environment

**Session Number**

EN-4

**Session Title**

Conservation in the Polar Regions: Challenges, Strategies and Collaborations

**Session Description**

Conservation is important for both biodiversity and human well-being and understanding risks to ecosystems is fundamental to well-informed ecosystem management. Both polar regions are currently exposed to a variety of environmental threats, ranging from over-harvesting of living resources to pollution and from the spread of alien species to the broad overarching impacts of climate change. Even where the two polar regions differ, for example with regard to the intensity and governance of human activities, advances in polar scientific research have highlighted the need to promote protection initiatives for the conservation of particularly vulnerable species, habitats, ecosystems and/or regions both in Antarctica and in the Arctic.

The aim of this session is to highlight different approaches to environmental protection and conservation in polar environments and to facilitate discussion on the current state of affairs, and how further improvements might be made to the environmental stewardship of both regions.

Key areas of interest will include:

- The designation of terrestrial and marine protected areas,
- Biosecurity and the impacts of alien and non-native species,
- Spill prevention and other pollutants limitation programs,
- The application and utility of the IUCN Red-listing of Ecosystems in Polar Regions,
- Cross disciplinary communication and international conservation collaborations, and
- Use of different approaches to stimulate public engagement

**Keywords:** conservation, ecosystem management, environmental protection, cross-disciplinary, pressures, stewardship, Antarctic Treaty, Arctic council, communication

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