

Argentine Science in Antarctica

Scientific Strategy



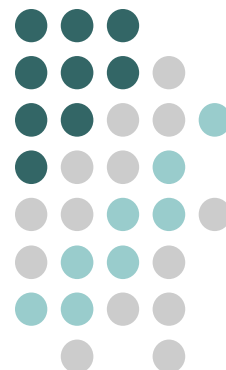
Instituto Antártico Argentino

Dirección Nacional del Antártico

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Background

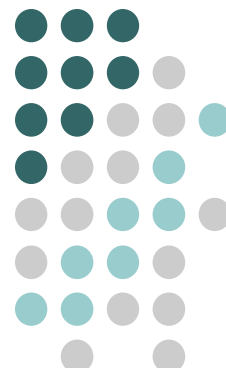
- The Argentine Republic claims, on the basis of solid historical, geographical, geological titles, occupation activities, administration and juridic acts, the sector comprised between meridians 25° and 74° West and from parallel 60° South until the South Geographic Pole. However, without renouncing to this claim, our country is one of the original signatories of the Antarctic Treaty and a foundational permanent member of Antarctic international organizations as the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Committee of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP), the Meeting of Latin American Countries (RAPAL) and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).
- The Instituto Antártico Argentino, created on April 17, 1951 as the first organism in the world to be exclusively devoted to Antarctic research, is the rector institution for the activity of science and technology carried out by the Argentine Republic in Antarctica.
- The Argentine Republic is the only country to have a scientific permanent station in Antarctica since 1904 and is the closest country to this continent. Our country has 6 permanent stations, a number of temporary stations, refuges, vessels, aircrafts, and the capacity of setting camps that allow to operate on the Antarctic territory in support to its scientific programme.



Our mission

The mission of the Instituto Antártico Argentino is:

- To provide and maintain the national capacity of carrying out scientific researches and technological developments in Antarctica
- To conduct and/or to coordinate scientific researches, observations and long-term monitorings, as well as cartography works in the Argentine Antarctic Sector
- To provide a national reference centre for the international cooperation and the coordination of scientific programmes in Antarctica
- To promote the knowledge of the Argentine Antarctic Sector and the development of new Antarctic technologies
- To create a staff of highly qualified researchers and technicians, recognised at the international level, being able to represent the country in international discussion forums on Antarctic matters and to counsel the different powers of the National Government on matters concerning their speciality and safeguarding the national interest on this matter
- To create in the Community an awareness of belonging of the Argentine Antarctic Sector through the promotion of the science and technology
- To represent the interest of the Argentine Republic in Antarctica through the Science and the Technology, by consolidating and increasing the titles that support our claim of sovereignty
- To reach through the Science and the Technology the international recognition on the activities carried out by our country in Antarctica
- To become a centre of professional excellence, including qualified human resources on Antarctic matters
- To promote the sustainable national development through Antarctic scientific researches and technological developments.



Strategic priorities

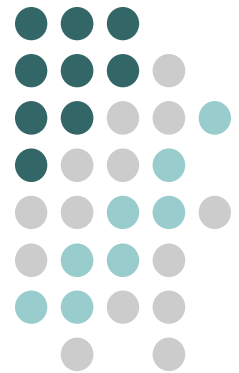
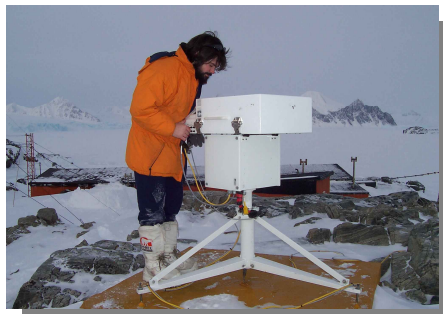
- To focus our work around the priorities and needs of our country in the field of science and technology in general and in the National Antarctic Politics in particular (Research priority lines)
- To address our effort in pursuit of reaching the political aims that our country has on Antarctica, in particular the recognition of sovereignty on the Argentine Antarctic Sector
- To head and/or to coordinate national and international research projects to be carried out on the Argentine Antarctic Sector
- To recompose a highly qualified staff of specialists in Antarctic matters
- To achieve the excellence in Antarctic scientific matters
- To maintain the Argentine scientific presence in Antarctica



Priority research lines

Accordingly to the Antarctic National Politics and the strategic priorities, the following research and/or action priority lines have been established for the 2003-2010 period

- Study of the Global Change phenomena, its causes and consequences on Antarctic systems and its impact on national productive systems
- Knowledge and conservation of the Antarctic Natural Resources and associated areas
- Development of alternative energies
- Geographic knowledge of the Argentine Antarctic Sector
- Development of the International Polar Year 2007-2008 programmes



Our organization

The Instituto Antártico Argentino depends organically on the Dirección Nacional del Antártico, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship.

Internally it consists of:

- Director of IAA
- Scientific Coordination and Antarctic Data Center, Publications and Printing
- Scientific departments
- Antarctic library
- Museum

Scientific and technological activities are conducted through Research Projects and Institutional Activities, which are submitted to a previous quality, factibility and pertinence assessment by external and internal qualified reviewers.

