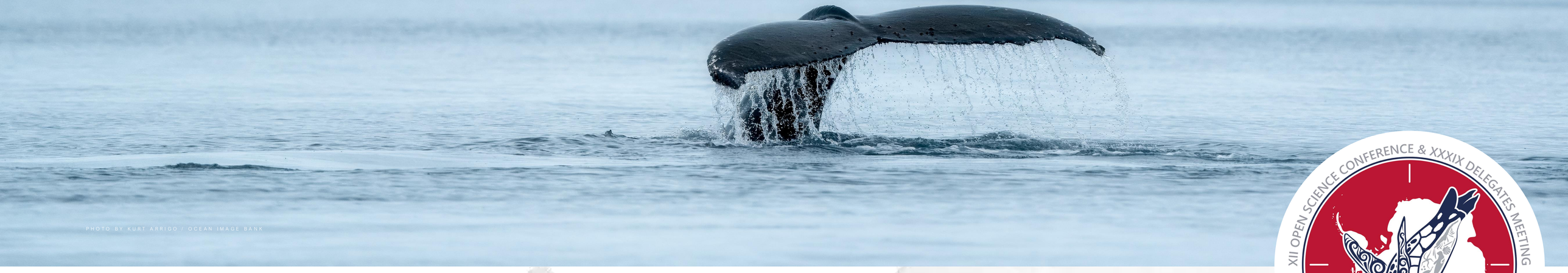
Climate-smart marine spatial planning in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean



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Are you an Antarctic scientist/ researcher?

ANTARCTIC
ocean use survey

developed by *SeaSketch* under EU project *PLAnT*

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PLAnT project

Project PLAnT, "Planning for Sustainable Ocean Use in Antarctica under Global Environmental Change", is funded by the European Union through an **ERC Starting Grant** (1.5 M €, 2024-2029), awarded to Dr Catarina Frazão Santos.

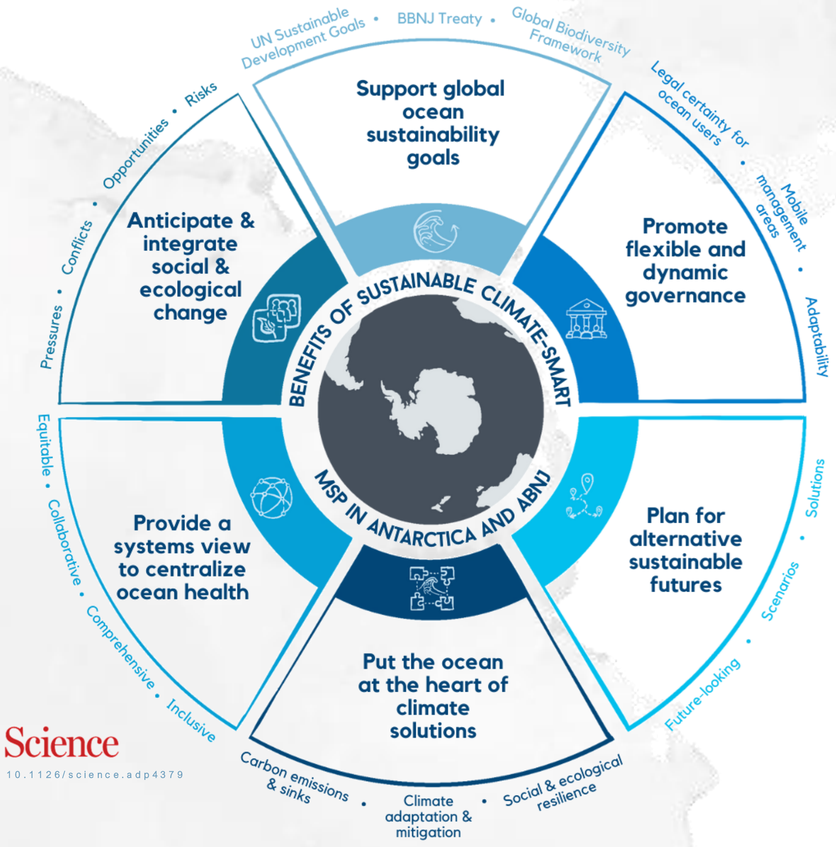
PLAnT is based at the University of Lisbon and investigates the benefits and challenges of developing comprehensive climate-smart marine spatial planning (MSP) in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. It has five building blocks, all of them deeply interconnected and using a variety of methodologies from natural to social sciences.

Building blocks

Benefits of climate-smart ocean planning

The Southern Ocean provides a unique opportunity to **pioneer climate-smart MSP** in international waters and serve as a groundbreaking model for the integration of climate change into comprehensive spatial planning both within and beyond national jurisdictions. Climate-smart MSP in the Southern Ocean can bring **several benefits** to the region and the planet, including:

(1) Supporting global ocean sustainability commitments (e.g., United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, BBNJ Agreement); **(2)** Promoting flexible and dynamic governance (e.g., enabling dynamic area-based management tools); **(3)** Planning for alternative sustainable futures (e.g., developing scenarios and future-looking plans); **(4)** Putting the ocean at the heart of climate solutions (e.g., supporting ocean-based climate mitigation and adaptation); **(5)** Providing a "systems view" to centralize ocean health (e.g., recognizing interconnections); and **(6)** Anticipating and integrating social and ecological change (e.g., assessing related risks and opportunities).



Science
10.1126/science.adp4379

Policy impact

2024

FIRST FORMAL DIUSCUSSION OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AT ATCM 46 — INDIA

Information Paper 167:

Marine Spatial Planning for a Sustainable and Climate-resilient Antarctic Ocean

Portugal, France, Italy, Canada, IUCN

For the first time in more than six decades of Antarctic Treaty meetings, the topic of MSP was formally discussed

2025

ATCM 47 — MILAN

Information Paper 64:

Towards Climate-smart Marine Spatial Planning in the Antarctic Ocean

Presented directly by the PLAnT Principal Investigator as a member of the Delegation of Portugal

2026

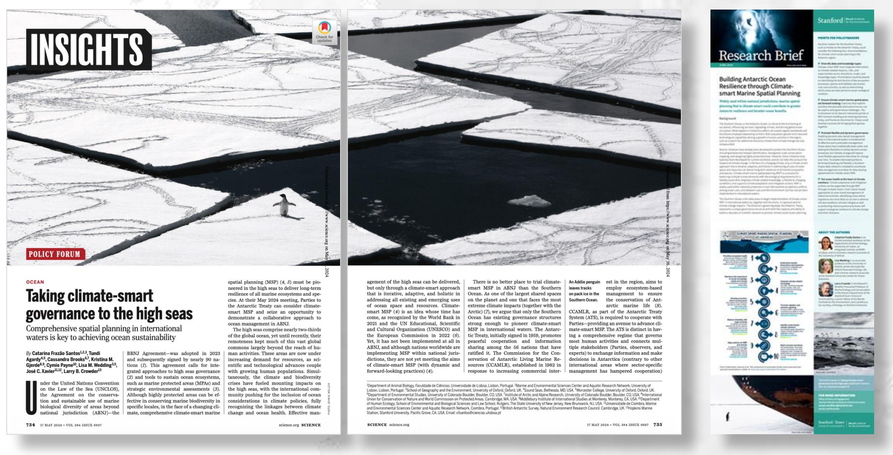
ATCM 48 — HIROSHIMA

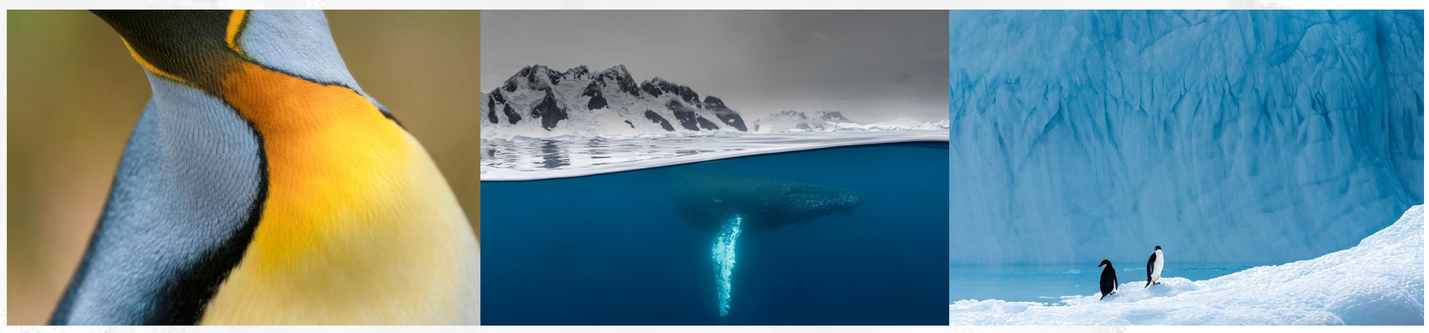
Information Paper 146

Towards a Climate-smart Pathway for Ocean Management in Antarctica

Research again presented directly to over 400 delegates from Parties to the Treaty and key organizations

Publications





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erc European Research Council
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MARE Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre
ARNET AQUATIC RESEARCH NETwork

22 PEOPLE . 14 INSTITUTIONS
(academia, research, independent organizations)

60 MONTHS
(2024-2029)

1.5 M€

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