

South African National Antarctic Programme



HISTORY



- Earliest explorations of southern seas – Cape Town as departure point
- SA founder member of Antarctic Treaty with **CC** other countries (1959) – peaceful and scientific purposes only
- Only African country with a presence in Antarctica
- **Member country of SCAR**
- First expedition (SANAE) 1959/60 – takeover of evacuated Norwegian base.
- SA also maintains bases at Marion and Gough Islands (DEAT)

BACKGROUND



- Cabinet approved transfer of scientific research functions from DEAT to DST (2003)
- **DEAT retains responsibility for logistics and infrastructure**
- NRF responsible for grant making on behalf of DST and works closely with DEAT

Who's vision for nSj SI P

**S y' mogruphiwully vulunw' y r' s' urwh
programm' thut striv' s for int' rnutionully
womp' titiv' r' s' urwh2promot' s
int' ryiswiplinurity uny wr' ut' s links with
oth' r Sfriwun wountri' s:**

Antarctic Research Strategy for South Africa (ARESSA)



k v' rull ovj' wtiv' sP

- Generation of new knowledge
- **Development of research capacity across the 5 themes of ARESSA**
- Diversification of the research community – demographic representation and discipline base
- **Stimulation of a multidisciplinary understanding of Antarctica – inform national and international practice**

Antarctic Research Strategy for South Africa (ARESSA) -THEMES



C: s inyow into c ' ospuw' (e.g. SHARE, Polar Space weather studies during IPY, Lower/middle atmosphere interactions, Cosmic Ray studies)

D: Vlimut' r uriuvility (e.g. Dynamics of the sub-tropical convergence in the South Atlantic, Geomorphology and climate change)

E: Tioyiv' rsity m' spons' s to a urth nyst' m r uriuvility (e.g. Drivers of sub-Antarctic terrestrial ecosystems, Seals as oceanographic platforms)

Themes continued



- 4. Engineering a sustainable presence in Antarctica** (e.g. Development of a decision-support tool in order to optimise the life cycles of wastes in the Antarctic region & Wind generator and storage systems for polar research)
- 5. History, Sociology, Politics and Culture of Antarctic Research and Exploration** (e.g. Social science aspects of the Antarctic area & Integrated Legal Framework)

Representation of grantholders per theme (2005-2007)



	2005	%	2006	%	2007	%
s inyow into c ' ospuw'	2	17%	4	17%	5	17%
Tioyiv' rsity	5	41%	12	50%	16	55%
Vlimut'	2	17%	5	21%	6	21%
angin' ' ring	2	17%	1	4%	1	3%
nnhd	1	8%	2	8%	1	3%